THE wire

January 1985

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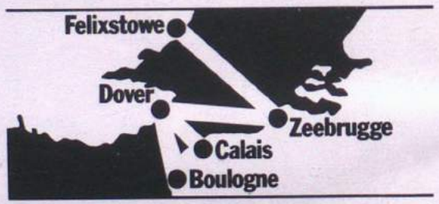
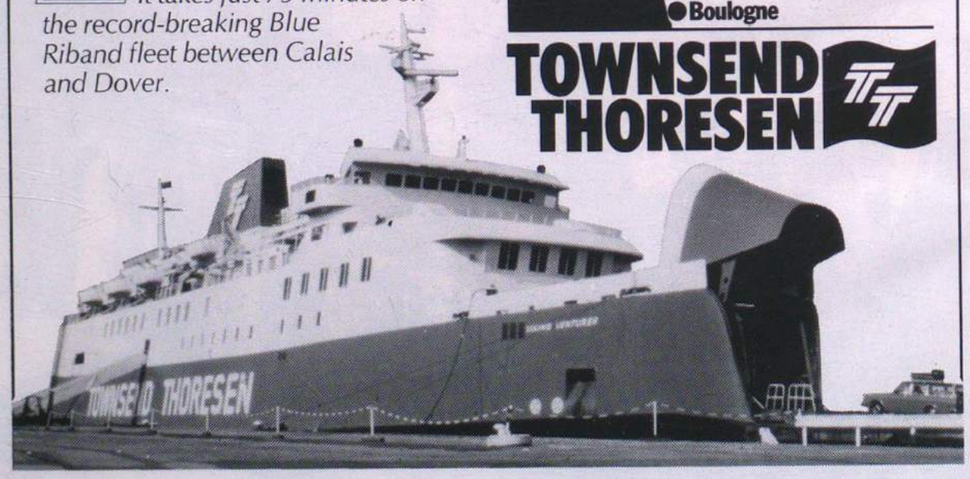


TOWNSEND THORESEN



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Forces Weekly
ECHO
Week commencing June 24
1984. Vol 5, Number 25
Price — 70 pfg.

DON'T MISS THE ECHO SHOW SPECIAL

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BAOR TO GET EVEN MORE CHALLENGERS

Pay up — and charges up

THE Armed Forces Pay Review Body has recommended increases in service pay averaging 7.5%.
The Government has accepted the ... recommendations but has decided to phase the ... approximately 3% increases will be implemented ... April 1st, 1984 with the remainder ... November 1st, 1984.
Rates of pay, etc., from April ... been released. Needless to ... as quarters and single ... increased. All details ... Paymasters.

THE Government believes in the ... equipped defence forces ... against aggression, ... State for Defence, Mr ... he opened the ... Exhibition in ...
And he ... further ... bru...

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Naafi man honoured

THE managing director of the Naafi, Mr Brian Whitaker, has been appointed a CBE in the Queens Birthday Honours List.

IF you were at the show you must have seen the Echo Bug — now we want you to name it. The Echo will present a bicycle to the person who sends in the most humorous or most inventive name. The competition is open to all readers on the continent of Europe aged 16 or below.
Write the name you have chosen on a piece of paper or a postcard, and say in not more than 15 words why you think the name is suitable. Don't forget to add your name, age and address.
The closing date for entries is July 9th.

Mail-a-Bug!

IF you were at the Rhine Army Summer Show then you will know how popular the Echo Bug man was giving out all the coloured Echo Bugs. If you were unlucky then don't despair. We have ordered a new batch and they should be with us soon. Look out for next week's Mail-a-Bug coupon and we will send you one free!

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The Wire

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Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

When our most excellent Corps Band issued their recent record 'Regimental Silver', the record sleeve was designed from a photograph taken in the Headquarters Officers Mess at Blandford. We gladly pay tribute to its quality and the music it publicises. Details of records and cassettes available from the School of Signals are given on page 5. *(Photograph courtesy of Douglas Morris on behalf of Droit Music)*

NEW YEAR HONOURS

We warmly congratulate those of the Corps named below whose awards were announced in the New Year Honours List.

MBE

Capt (QM) M. C. K. Smart
WO2 (FofS) S. M. Sims

BEM

SSgt E. M. Sutherland
Sgt H. B. Anacoura
Sgt R. C. Barker (V)
Sgt J. G. Braven (V)
Cpl D. Robertson

MVO

We also, extend our sincere congratulations to **Chief Yeoman Warder W. J. Russell** whose award was included in the Honours List. **Mr Russell** served with the Corps from 1936 to 1965.

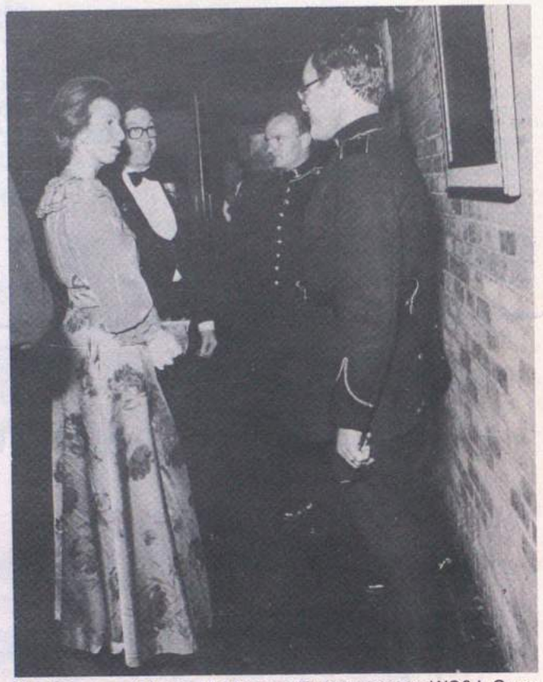
– From our "In" Tray –

THE MASTER OF SIGNALS DINNER

On 22 November, 1984, the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen John Badcock** re-introduced, after 12 years, a 'Master's Dinner' at the Headquarters Officers' Mess, School of Signals, Blandford in the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Anne.**

The Master of Signals, Maj Gen John Badcock presents Brig Tony Willcox, Commander School of Signals

As guests, the Master invited men and women of influence from all over the land, some 16 Lord Lieutenants, (some as far afield as the North of Scotland), leaders of major electronic firms, and Presidents and Chairmen of TA Associations who play an important part in the life of our Volunteer regiments. Co-hosts to these 45 guests were the SOinC, **Maj Gen Bob Benbow**, Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman** and others including Colonels Commandant, Honorary Colonels of TA Regiments and senior serving officers. The Corps Band played magnificently, the repast and wine were outstanding and there was a very happy atmosphere focused around our Colonel-in-Chief.



The Director of Music, Maj Gordon Turner presents WO2 I. Green to HRH. Also present Musn R. McBlane. (Cpl Vincent is hidden between them!)

'Now what was this all about?' you may ask. The Master's intention was not only to thank our guests for all they do to help the Corps but also show these important people a little more of what we do and what our Corps has to offer young men as a career. This was done at a special afternoon briefing in the school. As the Master said in a speech at Dinner.

'Your knowledge of our Corps and its responsibilities may be confined to the superficial and even those in the TA may not see some of the latest equipment and techniques. For we are indeed in the forefront of communication development. Two simple examples. It may well be that a Royal Signals Officer will be the first Englishman into Space. Secondly a brand new communication system just coming into service is so good that even the Americans cannot compete and may purchase it from us. Without the joint effort of the Corps, industry and the General Staff, this would not have come about.

The officers who have achieved this are, dare I say middle aged. There are younger ones to follow but we are concerned about those that follow them. We hope that from what you have seen at this afternoon's display or from your conversation this evening, you will know us better and that as you go about your affairs meeting young men or parents with young children, a word from you, who knows may lead to great things in future military communications. Anyway we couple this thought with our thanks for all that you do to support our serving and Teritorial Army Corps' . . .

Perhaps one of many letters received afterwards records the success:

'What a wonderful evening you arranged for so many fortunate guests on Thursday. It was all arranged quite beautifully. Both food and drink was superb and the Band to match! Technical standards amazed me and good luck with Ptarmigan, it sounds like there is no rival.

I will remember your message about officers—they certainly have to command high quality staff.

I had such a comfortable room, early call, splendid breakfast, all served by a cheerful staff.

So many thanks to you all.'

AT THE HELM

ACDS(CIS) Maj Gen Gordon Oehlers, SOinC, Maj Gen Bob Benbow and Comd Comms BAOR, Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, pictured here outside Joint Headquarters, Rheindahlen in November 1984 whilst attending Commander Communications BAOR's Study Period

THREE GENERATIONS

The photograph was taken at Rheindahlen recently at the 90th Birthday Party of Mrs Blanche Goodhead at the home of her daughter and son-in-law Nan and Lt Col Guy Rogers of HQ BAOR, together with her grand daughter and husband Jane and Capt Sandy Gallie of 16 Sig Regt

PRESENTATION TO DIRECTOR KENNEDY SPACE CENTRE

The photograph shows Maj Gen G. R. Oehlers presenting a 'Jimmy' to Mr Richard G. Smith the Director of the Kennedy Space Centre. The presentation took place in the Launch Control Centre Cape Kennedy shortly after the successful launch of Discovery on 8 November 1984

. . . AND SSAFA

Mrs Barbara Yeoman, wife of Comd Comms BAOR, presents Miss Nesta Mapp, SSAFA, with a cheque for DM12,563.99 which was raised during 1984 by Royal Signals Units in North West Europe for the Biennial SSAFA Christmas Market held in London in December

FANGS FOR THE MEMORY

Just a quick word of warning to anyone due posting to Blandford: please ensure that you receive dental treatment prior to your arrival.

The above photograph shows our Garrison Dental Officer **Capt Irene Brooks RADC** (alias 'Fangs'), treating one of her many innocent victims—who had actually only come in for a quick check-up! Unfortunately, a few too many 'drams' the night before, was the excuse given for the unfortunate slip of the drill, resulting in this rather gory scene.

The patient is presently appealing to the European Council for Human Rights for compensation, while **Capt Brooks** is busy raking in the profits that go with membership of the Army's only true 'Teeth Arm!' The latest acquisition in the surgery is a Sony Walkman, which **Capt Brooks** hopes will drown out the noise of her patient's screams. Ever since she declared that, in future, she will be treating patients, wearing little other than a Sony Walkman, she has been inundated with patients wishing to transfer to the Dental Centre at Bovington.

Capt Brooks is the only officer at Blandford, for whom the saying 'skeleton's in the cupboard' takes on a totally different meaning. She has certainly filled a great 'cavity' in all our lives, since her arrival. Her ambition before she leaves is to be able to say she's had every soldier on the Garrison in her chair! In fact **Capt Brooks** is seen here demonstrating how to treat facial and jaw injuries for a First Aid 'Teach-in' for members of the Blandford St John's Ambulance Section, last October. The 'patient' made a miraculous recovery when **Capt Brooks** peeled off her wound afterwards.

FORMATION OF A REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities OTC (TA) which was originally formed in 1746 and in the past was called Glasgow University Senior Training Corps, and Glasgow University OTC (TA) has formed a Regimental Association. It would like to contact all former Officer Cadets, Officers, or Permanent Staff Instructors who have served with the unit at any time in the past. An inaugural dinner (Black Tie) will be held in Glasgow on 18 May 1985. Those eligible and interested in joining the Regimental Association should write to **Maj N. E. Hudson** 1/52 Lowland at GSUOTC (TA), University Place, Glasgow W2.

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB

Dates for your 1985 Diary are as follows:—

CORPS DINNER at the London International Press Centre, Wednesday 8 May, 1985, Black Tie.

CORPS LUNCHEON at the Headquarters Officers' Mess, Blandford Camp, Saturday 15 June, 1985.

Ticket application forms will be circulated to retired officer members who pay the full £10 subscription to Corps Funds, in March/April 1985. Retired officers who do not subscribe must apply to RHQ for their form.

JULIET TROOP, 22 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Juliet Troop, 4 Squadron, 22 Signal Regiment reunion will be held on Saturday 20 April 1985. It will take place, starting at 2000 hrs, in SHQ 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot, and the cost will be £5 per head approx. Please contact **Lt P. J. D. Moloney** at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Montgomery Lines, Aldershot GU11 2AU.

THE MEMORY

From: Dennis K. Egan Esq

Dear Sir,

It is with considerable interest that I read the report by 8 Signal Regiment on RSARS. I was at Catterick the 4th TTB 1943 May so my AB64 says (yes I still have it), also AFX202/A, AFX202B with AFW5258.

The main reason for this letter is page 677 and 678 'Jordan Expedition'.

Aquaba, Amman, Petra, Dead Sea, (my name is in the visitors book, the Fort at Petra November 1946) are very familiar to me, but ice-cold in Aquaba we did not have.

The expedition at that time was mounted by one **General White** with his wife and daughter.

I have before me a yellowing and fragile front page and second page of the 'Egyptian Mail' Thursday 22 May 1947, a journey with Glubb returning to Amman, Petra, Aquaba, Valley of the Rumm etc; it seems only yesterday. I wonder how it is in Wadi Musa, The Dead Sea?

We went again in March 1947 and I have many photographs at Ein Hasab, Aquaba Mountains, Sand Flats, Sinai Track etc.

The photograph of the 'Treasury' Petra is as I saw it in 1946, (where have all the years gone?).

The desert is a place that can not be forgotten by those who have been and lived there and I see in my mind's eye Wadi Rumm, Petra Gorge (is the water fall still there?) and all these places (73 to King Hussain JY1) as well as (then) Palestine, Egypt, Port Said, Suez etc.

Once again thanks for your interesting report.

Yours faithfully
Dennis K. Egan

4 Hazel Grove,
Longmeadow,
Dinas Powis,
South Glamorgan.
CF6 4TE

From: Maj (Retd) R. T. M. Sharp

Dear Sir,

Having served for four months in Aquaba during the summer of 1942, I was most interested to read the excellent article by **Capt Rollins** in the November Wire. Things have changed quite a bit since then as regards creature comforts but the sheer beauty of the Wadi Rhum and the hospitality of the Jordanian people seem as firm as ever.

Incidentally while recceing off the beaten track, I came across some spent 303 cartridge cases dated '15 and have often wondered if 'Lorens effendi' had been there!

Yours faithfully,
R. T. M. Sharp

1 Glebe Court,
Bishop's Stortford,
Herts. CM23 5AB

THE SURE MEANS IN 1940

From: W. C. Brodie Esq MBE

Dear Sir,

The report by **Cpl Bob Hadnet MM** in the November 1984 issue brought back memories. His account of the formation of a Despatch Rider Section made me remember how much we owed those little bands of intrepid soldiers. I was not a DonR, but as a Sergeant Superintendant of 2 Corps Signal Office during the 1940 Battle for France, I often had cause to be grateful for the efforts of our D/R Section. In the closing stages of the campaign, when wireless sets were being jammed and trunk lines were non-existent these motor cyclists became our only sure means of communication. We loaded them with signals by the sackful and despite a marked lack of information concerning the location of scattered units, the messages were safely delivered, often under fire. In addition they were able to up-date our maps so that we could maintain contact. The contribution made by our Despatch Rider Section cannot be underestimated and as some recognition the OC of our D/R Section, **Lt** (later **Col**) **'Jumbo' Collins** was awarded an **MC** and the Section was given a 'communal **MM**', earned by them all.

Like **Bob Hadnet**, I too was 'enlightened' by reading **Nicholas Harman**'s book, 'Dunkirk, the Necessary Myth' but had difficulty in relating his journalistic swipe with the campaign I had been personally engaged in. The average age of Dunkirk veterans is now over 65 and the list of those who have 'faded away' grows longer. In the last two years 580 Dunkirk veterans have been reported in the DVA Journal as deceased (including 25 ex-Royal Signals). As one of those left can I crave the indulgence of your columns to refute some of **Harman**'s criticisms of the BEF.

Harman, who was eight years of age in June 1940, came to the following conclusions:—

'The British concentrated on evacuating their own personnel at the expense of French and Belgian troops.' In the early days of the evacuation the French poilus and the Belgian privaats had little enthusiasm for wading into the cold sea to be transported to a foreign country. On the other hand, 'Tommy Atkins' needed no encouragement to scramble into boats to be taken home; hence the disparity.

'The BEF abandoned the French Army.' **Harman** totally ignores that the BEF had been split in half and considers the fact that the British forces continued to fight the Wehrmacht south of the Somme 'is another story'. He was highly selective in choosing which survivors to interview and concentrated on those who were in undisciplined groups separated from their units. He did not mention those formations who were evacuated as complete regiments, with officers and NCOs maintaining discipline. My own unit, 2 Corps Signals, not only remained relatively intact but by Friday, 14 June (10 days after the fall of Dunkirk) was embarking at Southampton to rejoin the BEF in France. A somewhat disgruntled 4 Corps Signals had re-equipped us down to the last tin opener; perhaps some of your readers can enlighten us on how long it took for them to replenish their stores!

'The BEF left most of the fighting to the French and Belgians.' The BEF sustained over 68,000 casualties and most of these were not inflicted on the beaches. A major battle in the 2 Corps sector severely mauled the enemy and put an SS unit to flight. At the defence of Calais there were more British troops than French and on the Dunkirk perimeter British troops outnumbered the French.

All this is, of course, water under the bridge but young serving soldiers should realise that the BEF has little to reproach itself with; victory it was not, but neither was it a myth!

Yours faithfully,
Bill Brodie

45 Hawksworth Drive,
Formby,
Nr Liverpool L37 7EY

ARMY COLOURS FOR GLIDING

Congratulations go to **Capt A. O. Harkins** 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, and **Sgt M. F. R. Hardy** School of Signals on their award of Army colours.

NEW CORPS HISTORY—MORE HELP NEEDED

There has been an encouraging response from both serving and retired members of the Corps to the appeal published in *The Wire* and the Journal for stories to help build up the research for the new Corps History but more contributions are needed. The first deadline for contributions is **1 April 1985** and the professional author intends to start work on the book in **May 1985**. He hopes to complete the manuscript by **December 1985**. Accounts covering any Corps activities during the period 1945 to 1985 will be most welcome, but there is a particular shortfall of information on the Malayan campaign, operations in the Arabian Peninsular and Borneo. If you wish your war stories to grandchildren to look authentic, get them in the Corps History now!

If you have a story to tell, or contemporary reports or other relics whether concerning the Corps on operations or peacetime activities, developments (technical or otherwise) or any other facet of life in the Corps, please write to or contact by telephone:

Lt Col Robin Painter
c/o Royal Signals Museum
Blandford Camp
Blandford
Dorset DT11 8RH
(Telephone 0258 52581 Ext 267)

COMMANDER AIRBORNE

Brig P. R. Davies, Comd 12 Armd Bde, following a recent flight in a Harrier at RAF Gutersloh

RECORDS AND CASSETTES AVAILABLE FROM THE CORPS BAND

Marching and Waltzing (record or cassette) includes the march The Cheerful Signalman (John Judd). Price: £5.60 including p&p.

Regimental Silver (Music for a Dinner) (record or cassette) includes Begone Dull Care, Post Horn Galop, Loyal Toast. Price: £5.60 including p&p.

Regimental Music of the British Army Vol 1 (record or cassette) the first of four volumes of music of the regiments appearing in the 1939 Army List. Price: £5.60 including p&p.

Last Night of the Proms (Skaelskor Denmark) a live recording of the Corps Band in Denmark 1983 which includes: Sailors Hornpipe, Jerusalem etc. Price: £3.75 includes p&p.

Cheques payable to 'Central Bank' School of Signals should be forwarded to School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH.

— Movements —

Officers

DECEMBER 1984

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Brig J. H. Almonds	School of Signals
Capt E. Butterworth	33 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col H. M. A. Bonaker	HQ NORTHAG Sig Sp Gp
Maj C. J. Burton	JDSC
Maj J. R. B. Cook	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Lt P. R. Ford	22 Sig Regt
Maj H. Grenville Jones	School of Signals
Col T. W. Hackworth	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Maj H. A. R. Hancock	HQ NEDIST
Capt A. W. H. Harrison	28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Capt S. P. Hunt	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
Capt S. C. Johns	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (QM) J. V. Prees	8 Sig Regt
Maj V. J. Reed	7 Sig Regt
Lt Col W. Roper	ACDS Concepts
Lt B. H. Rose	11 Sig Regt
Maj L. R. Smith	DGGWL(A) (PE) (AE)
Maj M. S. Wallis	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col N. A. Walter	DGGWL

Officers

JANUARY 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj G. A. Allen	AA Coll Harrogate
2Lt A. J. Allman	School of Signals
Lt J. P. Armitage	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt N. H. D. Austen	7 Sig Regt
Capt R. Baxter	ASC Camberley
Capt A. D. Beach	ASC Camberley
Maj J. Blake	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt I. A. J. Condie	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt T. C. Cooper	School of Signals
Capt G. D. Corbet	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt N. R. Davies	633 Sig Tp (Belize)
Capt P. R. Day	Kenya GSU Team (BATT Ken 2)
Maj D. W. Dobson	21 Sig Regt
Maj J. McD Edgar	8 Sig Regt
Capt R. P. Etherton	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj R. J. Evans	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
A/Maj J. K. Ewbank	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
2Lt J. S. Field	HS School of Signals
Maj A. J. Grey	ACGS(OR)
Capt M. N. Grieves	ASC Camberley
Maj J. H. Griffin	JSDC
Capt I. W. Griffiths	RMCS Shrivenham
A/Maj K. J. Hadfield	ASC Camberley
2Lt J. Hands	School of Signals
Maj C. R. Harper	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. D. Hewett	APSQ Sutton Coldfield
2Lt A. G. Hill	School of Signals
Capt R. R. Holmes	ASC Camberley
Capt R. T. Hoole	ASC Camberley
2Lt G. P. Horn	School of Signals
Maj J. P. Hudson	HQ BAOR
Maj S. G. Hughes	4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Capt R. M. Hyams	HS RAPC Training Centre
Maj A. M. Jones	ACGS(OR)
Maj(QM) T. Keany	21 Sig Regt
Capt P. Kearns	21 Sig Regt
Maj S. J. Kidner	DIS
Maj S. Law	11 Sig Regt
Lt G. R. Leyland	266 Sig Sqn then 7 Sig Regt
Capt(TOT) A. C. Lynn	HQ BFFI
Maj P. L. Maloney	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
Capt R. H. Mardo	ASC Camberley
Lt Col A. R. Martin	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt C. S. Mason	35 Sig Regt (V)
Capt C. C. McColville	ASC Camberley
Maj M. J. McKinlay	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt D. P. Meyer	604 Sig Tp
Capt P. B. Neale	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj I. A. Noble	MOD DSS(A)
2Lt M. Nott	School of Signals
Capt(TOT) R. C. Offord	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
Capt G. Platts	40 Sig Regt (V)
Maj A. J. Poppleton	DS 6/7
Maj A. J. Raper	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj M. S. Reid	259 Sig Sqn
Maj D. C. Richardson	37 Sig Regt (V)
Maj B. J. Scott-Morton	RSRE(PE)(AE)
Capt I. W. R. Seraph	7 Sig Regt
Lt R. A. Sharp	11 Sig Regt
Maj C. M. S. Shipley	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt(QM) M. C. K. Smart	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt D. P. Spencer	School of Signals
Brig I. O. J. Sprackling	MOD
Lt A. E. Stiff	8 Sig Regt
Maj M. K. Stretch	1 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn
Maj I. M. G. Strong	HQBF Belize
2Lt J. E. Swindells	School of Signals
Lt Col J. W. Swindells	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Lt K. P. Thornber	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj C. R. Urquhart	ACGS(OR)
2Lt M. A. Walker	HS School of Signals
Maj M. C. Wilkinson	DSS(AD)

WOs and SNCOs

DECEMBER 1984

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) A. G. Taylor	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) J. Logan	264 (SAS) Sig Sqn
WO1 (FofS) D. R. Davey	22 Sig Regt
WO2 G. R. Back	31 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 D. Brown	55 Sig Sqn (V)
WO2 J. Carter	262 Sig Sqn
WO2 C. J. Conroy	Queen's UOTC
WO2 M. A. Kerr	259 Sig Sqn
WO2 A. J. Thomas	244 Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) R. L. Holt	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 P. Cambell	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (Supvr R) M. E. Ford	BDLS Australia
WO2 (FofS) D. P. Jackson	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) F. W. Gardner	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt P. J. Cuckow	13 Sig Regt
SSgt C. A. Clark-Darby	BR Cont UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
SSgt W. M. Kerr	13 Sig Regt
SSgt C. W. Cushnie	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. F. T. Lloyd	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) W. Tosh	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt J. N. Conlon	36 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt P. F. Budden	604 Sig Tp
SSgt (FofS) G. D. Crabb	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
SSgt A. W. Blackwell	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
SSgt J. Cole	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
ASSgt S. Hilton	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. T. Bates	10 Sig Regt
Sgt T. V. Scragg	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. J. Flintham	21 Sig Regt
Sgt M. W. Thomas	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. M. Frape	21 Sig Regt
Sgt H. Watkins	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Hunt	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. W. Milford	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. F. Kirkpatrick	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt J. M. Green	10 Sig Regt
Sgt T. P. Delaney	9 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Tomkins	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Fleming	29 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. M. Muir	7 Sig Regt
Sgt H. Barclay	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. D. Colley	633 Sig Tp
Sgt A. A. Wood	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. G. Chapman	13 Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Henvey	266 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. M. Thompson	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. J. Redstone	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. L. Moore	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. Butler	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt

JANUARY 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 B. T. Dearman	HQ 1(BR) Corps
WO1 (Supvr R) D. J. Luckett	HQ BAOR
WO1 (YofS) W. M. Rattray	BR Cont UNFICYP
WO2 T. K. Muir	Jun Regt R Signals
WO2 J. A. Tope	AA Coll Harrogate
WO2 B. F. Williams	71 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) B. C. Vanparys	Rocchan (Balado Bridge)
WO2 (FofS) D. Wooff	School of Signals (Cadre)
WO2 (FofS) M. R. Everett	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) G. A. Atkinson	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
WO2 (FofS) A. F. Cashen	BR Cont UNFICYP Sp Regt
WO2 (FofS) F. C. Running	633 Sig Tp
WO2 (YofS) J. T. Haycock	RMA Sandhurst
WO2 (YofS) J. Hindle	28(BR) Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) S. J. Howard	HQ UKLF
AWO2 M. E. Mutlow	244 Sig Sqn
SSgt P. G. Marven	Edinburgh UOTC
SSgt R. Meyers	240 Sig Sqn
SSgt (Supvr R) I. A. L. Dales	13 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) R. E. Hales	13 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) S. J. Parrish	13 Sig Regt
SSgt A. J. Birkett	Kenya — Loan Service
SSgt (YofS) N. J. Hammett	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) D. J. Manser	33 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) J. Stirling	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) J. D. Gorse	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt P. T. Connors	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
SSgt J. M. Jones	21 Sig Regt
SSgt J. Mullender	633 Sig Tp
SSgt J. Topping	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt S. G. Goslyn	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. Dalton	266 Sig Sqn
ASSgt D. Belshaw	262 Sig Sqn
ASSgt W. Ireland	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. D. Stemmer	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. V. Jones	30 Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Reid	32 Sig Regt
Sgt B. J. Geddis	602 Sig Tp
Sgt J. L. Andrews	2 Inf Div HQ Fwd Elem
Sgt T. Hayes	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. E. Maddison	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt A. Clark	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt R. A. Downie	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt T. A. Howell	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sgt R. G. Hagan	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt M. Whitley	11 Sig Regt Depot Tp
Sgt T. M. Terras	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt R. A. Bailey	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt A. Wilson	Ptarmigan Intro Unit
Sgt S. E. Hatfield	Ptarmigan Intro Unit
Sgt P. Rose	30 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Howe	31 Sig Regt
Sgt H. K. Copestake	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt D. A. Smart	Sennelager Trg Centre
Sgt P. M. Flint	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. A. Cooper	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Mardling	642 Sig Tp
Sgt B. Ashton	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. B. Roxburgh	16 Sig Regt
Sgt F. Hutchinson	565 Rear Link Det
Sgt G. A. Hancock	Sig Wing 12 RSME Regt
Sgt T. J. Harris	Army Apprentices' College Harrogate
Sgt A. Bisset	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. W. Campbell	233 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Williams	11 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Robinson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. McDonald	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. M. Bennett	AA Coll Harrogate
Sgt R. Wight	19 Cdt Trg Team
Sgt D. Taylor	640 Sig Tp
ASgt M. W. Halford	6 Cdt Trg Team
ASgt M. H. Tharme	21 Sig Regt
ASgt W. F. Abbott	22 Sig Regt
ASgt P. J. McElwee	Jun Regt R Signals

Welfare

OCTOBER 1984

Number of cases assisted financially:	74
Amount spent:	£8,382.24

NOVEMBER 1984

Number of cases assisted financially:	57
Amount spent:	£6,789.00

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

Ex-Sergeant served throughout the war is now registered blind and his wife is severely disabled with arthritis. He has been unable to work for many years and a grant was made to replace essential items of furniture.

An ex-Signalman with a young family was recently admitted to hospital for open heart surgery. Unfortunately he died following the operation and his wife was faced with a large bill for funeral expenses and transporting the body home. We were able to relieve the immediate problems of the family by making a grant to cover this expense.

An ex-Corporal now aged 80 and living alone suffering from angina and rheumatoid arthritis. Due to his disabilities he was in urgent need of a shower and a telephone extension which the Social Services were unable to provide. A grant was made to meet these costs and the local SSAFA was able to arrange priority installation for him.

Ex-POW(FE) now in poor health as a result of his wartime experiences and is virtually housebound. In addition to making a grant for winter clothing and bedding, an approach was made to the Army Benevolent Fund who awarded a weekly allowance of £4.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during November 1984.

7 Sig Regt	£265.25
Middlesex Yeomanry Ass	£134.00
33 Corps Sigs (FE)	£ 30.00
RSA Eastbourne	£ 25.00
R. S. Greenstreet Esq	£ 10.00
Mrs J. L. Power	£ 7.00
H. A. Simons Esq	£ 5.80
G. M. Lewis Esq	£ 5.00
E. D. Knight Esq	£ 5.00
G. A. Jenkins Esq	£ 4.00
Capt S. W. Creaton	£ 3.00
W. R. Harmsworth Esq	£ 2.40
Miscellaneous	£ 8.74
	£505.19

The following donations were gratefully received during December 1984:

Jnr Regt Royal Signals	50.00
F. C. Wilson Esq	£ 25.00
Maj H. H. Montgomery	£ 25.00
Capt B. T. Lord MSM	£ 18.00
St Johns PCC	£ 15.00
R. N. Hutchings Esq	£ 15.00
Mrs I. Harvey	£ 15.00
In memory of Brig E. V. McCormack CBE	£ 10.00
Maj J. A. G. Stokoe MSM	£ 10.00
Maj A. M. Lynch	£ 9.00
D. W. Gent Esq	£ 7.50
G. D. Webster Esq	£ 5.80
P. A. Tully Esq	£ 5.80
Mrs F. E. Stagg	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous	£ 3.85
	£220.80

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

Publications for sale:

Headdress, Badges and Embellishments of The Royal Corps of Signals *by Alan Harfield. Paperback £3.00, postage 35p.*

Only a few copies left of this limited edition.

Reviews of this book include:

'Military Modelling'

'Primarily for badge collectors, it could also be of value to military modellers. How often has one wondered what colour is that dark line running through a pagri; or that flash worn at the side of a helmet or slouch hat; that cut feather plume or shoulder flash? When one is faced with such a problem appertaining to a member of the Royal Corps of Signals, I would suggest you consult this meticulously-researched book which covers almost every known badge and insignia worn by the Corps. Copiously illustrated with photographs of the items it leaves nothing to guesswork, and is an important and interesting book. Recommended to all badge collectors and uniform enthusiasts.

RJM'

Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research

'A very helpful booklet not only from the historical point of view but also for students and collectors in the military field. The results should be an inspiration for other corps and units to record their distinctions in similar depth.

WYC'

The Military Historical Society's 'The Bulletin'

'This is a most useful book, a paperback, well finished in Corps colours and showing the Corps badges in use on all manner of hats—glengarry, caubeen, songkok, fur-hat (in China in 1929), beret, khaki and coloured fs caps. Details are also given of the Corps' buttons, titles, waist-belts, lanyards, hose-tops, etc. It would be good to learn that this book was to be the first of many in the same style. A little effort by other regiments and corps now would prevent their own dress-distinctions being lost. Perhaps Alan's example will pave the way for others.

JWFG'

British & Indian Armies in the East Indies (1685-1935) *by Alan Harfield. Cost of standard limited edition—£25.00, postage and packing £1.50.*

Blandford and the Military (including the history of Blandford Camp) *by Alan Harfield. Paperback with over 50 illustrations. Price £3.95 plus postage and packing 35p.*

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

Elston — Lt Col John William Elston was born at Aylesbury on 31 January 1919. He enlisted into the Corps as a boy soldier on 1 January 1934. After joining Man's service he served with 2 Divisional Signals and in August 1940 was commissioned into the Corps. **John** then moved to the Middle East and joined 4th Indian Divisional Signals. In February 1942 he moved to the Middle East Royal Signals Depot and School, after a year was appointed GSO3 to CSO 25 Corps serving in the Middle East and Italian Campaigns. He then joined 9 Army Signals in June 1944, in Italy, and remained with them until his return to the UK in May 1945. On return to England **John** spent three years on the staff of CSO AA Command and in November 1948 returned to the Middle East to serve with Cyrenaica Signal Regiment. In November 1951 he moved from Cyrenaica to Berlin and served with Berlin Signal Squadron for two years. His next post was with 5 Corps Signal Regiment where he stayed for two years moving on to another BAOR post at HQ1 (BR) Corps. In May 1958 **John** joined the Training Organisation at Catterick and remained there until moving to Singapore in December 1960. On arrival in Singapore he joined 19 Signal Regiment (Air Formation) at Changi and retired from that post in December 1962.

After his retirement from active service he joined the Blandford Project Staff as an RO in 1963 and was involved in the planning and organisation of the building of Blandford Camp, Phase I and in the move of the School of Signals to Blandford Camp in 1967. On completion of the move **John** remained in charge of the Project Staff and was very much involved in the Phase 2 rebuild. By the end of the 1970s **John** had served on the camp for 17 years and his excellent memory, coupled with his 'treasure trove' of paper work, enabled him to answer almost any question dealing with the camp. In 1980 **John** had, unfortunately, to retire due to ill health. At that time he was deeply involved in the planning of the Phase 3 build of the camp. His early retirement left a gap that was never to be filled, as no-one had the vast store of knowledge of the camp and its history as **John** had. His death in 1984 is very much regretted by all his friends.

Harris — LCpl Steven Paul Harris was killed by a lorry while hitchhiking to his home in Chard, Somerset, in the early hours of 11 October 1984. He was returning on leave from Germany prior to reporting to his new posting with 321 Company Electronic Ordnance Disposal in Catterick.

Steven joined 2 Sqn 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in July 1982 from 249 Sig Sqn. He had a pleasant personality with a keen sense of humour and was liked and respected by both his contemporaries and superiors.

During his time in the Squadron he gained promotion, was driver/operator to the Commander and became detachment commander of a rebroadcast vehicle. A keen sportsman he was involved in all sports at Squadron level and was a driving force in the rugby team. He had shown himself to be a skilled rock climber with the potential to achieve high standards.

A number of his friends from the Regiment attended the funeral on 18 October 1984 and provided a pall bearing party. They were able to express our sincere condolences to his family on their tragic loss.

Parrack — The Brighton Branch of the Association regret to announce the death of **Mr Len Parrack** on 22 November 1984. **Len** served with the Corps from 4 December 1920 until September 1945; he left holding the rank of WO2. **Len** was a founder member of the Corps who will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Sladen — Lt Col Asheton Thomas Sladen OBE was born at East Mosel on 8 December 1908 and was commissioned into the Corps on 30 August 1928. After a short period of service on 1 Divisional Signals at Aldershot he moved to India in 1930 where he spent the next six years serving with 6 Indian Divisional Signals, Waziristan District Signals and finally with 1 Indian Divisional Signals at Rawalpindi. He returned to the UK to join the Training Battalion Royal Signals at Catterick Camp where he remained until January 1939 at which time he returned to India. During his second tour of India he served with 6 Indian Divisional Signals and moved with that unit to the Middle East to serve with PAIFORCE. After the unit returned to India in November 1944 he was appointed OC S(Indian) LofC Signals and served with ALFSEA. He returned to the UK and then was appointed CO of 1 HQ Signal Regiment in BAOR, then OC 12 Air Formation Signal Regiment also in BAOR. In November 1949 he returned to the UK to take over command of 5 AA (M) Signal Regiment. His final appointment was as OC 63 LofC Signal Regiment a post he held until his retirement in April 1956. He died on 11 September 1984.

FOR SALE

CRESTED COFFEE CUPS AND SAUCERS

HQ Mess R Signals, Blandford is selling a limited quantity of Corps Coffee Cups and Saucers at £5 a cup and saucer. They are Lord Nelson Staffordshire ware, have been well used, black in colour with Corps Crest and edging in gold. Bids should be addressed to Mess Manager, Headquarters Mess, HQ School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH. Cheques made payable to 'R Signals Corps Fund' please.

ATTENTION EX MEMBERS OF 3 INFANTRY BRIGADE

Copies of the print, shown below, are available for £1.50 which includes postage and packing and a donation to BLESMA, from: **WO1 (RSM) J. J. Stanley**, 8th Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, BFPO 807.

SITUATIONS VACANT

A RETIRED OFFICER APPOINTMENT AT RHQ ROYAL SIGNALS

There will be a vacancy for a Retired Officer at RHQ Royal Signals in Central London in June/July 1985. It will be a new post, taking over some of the present duties of the General Secretary Association and the Secretary Institution.

Candidates should be Royal Signals Officers, serving or recently retired of the rank of Lieutenant Colonel or above.

Enquiries to **Colonel J. A. D. Francis**, Regimental Secretary, RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH.

VACANCY FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF MT WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 1

A Non Regular Permanent Staff NRPS WO1 (MTWO) is sought for service with 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V) in Glasgow. The appointment commences 1 December 1985.

The terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6 Part 4. The upper age limit for applicants is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post carries the rank of Warrant Officer Class One (TA) at a daily rate of pay of £31.13 on appointment.

The appointment calls for:

a. A sound knowledge of MT procedures, including POL issues, stores accounting and vehicle servicing.

b. The ability to co-ordinate driver training and driving instruction.

c. The ability to assist in such other unit training as may be necessary.

Applications, including two references and a curriculum vitae should be forwarded by 1 May 1985 to:

Adjutant
32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (V)
21 Jardine Street
Glasgow G20 6JU

Interviews will be held in late May or early June and all applications will be acknowledged.

VACANCY FOR A NON-REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 34 (NORTHERN) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

A vacancy for a Non-Regular Permanent Staff Administrative Officer in 81 Signal Squadron (Volunteers) based at Middlesbrough, will occur on 1 July 1985.

The terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 3.

The post carries the rank of Captain (TA) with an annual salary of £10,198 rising by six annual increments to £11,851.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army as an Officer or Warrant Officer Class 1. A sound knowledge of G1 duties and financial accounting is essential for this post. A good knowledge of stores accounting is also desirable. Short listed applicants will be required to appear before a Selection Board to be held on a date yet to be decided.

Applications, including a 'curriculum vitae' and details of two referees should be forwarded to:

The Adjutant
34 (Northern) Signal Regiment (Volunteers)
TA Centre
Brambles Farm
Middlesbrough
Cleveland TS3 8DS

Closing date for applications is 1 April 1985.

VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) RADIO/RELAY TECHNICIAN SERGEANT WITH 71ST (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

A vacancy becomes available for a NRPS Radio/Relay Technician Sergeant in April 1985 at either Bexleyheath (to cover London), Colchester or Aldershot.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the daily maintenance of Mould hill top site radio equipment. This involves close liaison with District Communications Staff, civilian sub-contractors and the Property Services Agency.

Applicants need no previous experience of the Mould communications system as the successful applicant will attend a Mould technicians course at Catterick.

The present salary is £8511 per annum.

CVs and the names of two referees should be sent, by 8 March 1985, to:

The Adjutant
71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment (V)
Hill House
Beckenham Lane
Bromley
Kent BR2 ODA

The Guernsey Royal Signals Week-End

Guernsey Branch is organising a 'Royal Signals Week-end in the island on Saturday, Sunday and Monday 20, 21 and 22 April 1985. The full programme has yet to be finalised but the principal attraction will be the Corps Band under **Major Gordon Turner**, Director of Music Royal Signals. Among other engagements the Band will perform The Retreat Ceremony at the St Peter Port harbour on Saturday afternoon and give public concerts on the Sunday and Monday evenings.

Guernsey Branch hope that many members from other branches will visit Guernsey for the week-end, combining the pleasures of hearing the band and meeting old friends with a Spring week-end in a holiday island. The Branch hopes to hold a social function on the Saturday evening which will be a general get-together open to any past or serving member of the Corps, together with wives. Special terms are available at some hotels, from £8.75 per person per day, half-board. 'Package' visits for the week-end (or longer) can be arranged by sea or on scheduled flights from many UK airports, all showing a substantial saving in total cost. Full details of these travel and accommodation arrangements are available from **Mr Michael Baker**, Guernsey Travel Services, Ashdown Lodge, Belmont Road, Guernsey, CI. Tel: 0481-21576. Those booking early may also reserve seats for one or both of the concerts.

KOHIMA CELEBRATIONS: 10-12 MAY 1985—YORK

2nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment plans to take part in the 1985 Divisional celebrations of the Battle of Kohima over the weekend 10-12 May 1985. The celebrations will take a similar form to those in 1984 with an Open Day on Saturday 11 May, followed by evening entertainment, and a Drumhead Service in Imphal Barracks on Sunday 12 May. We would be particularly delighted to hear from any former members of the Regiment who took part in the Battle of Kohima and who would like to attend the 1985 celebrations. Please write to:

The Secretary
Kohima 1985 Celebrations
2nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment
Imphal Barracks
Fulford Road
York YO1 4HD

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

HRH The Princess Anne is President of the Save the Children, and the Fund is officially recognised by the Corps Committee as a Corps preferred charity. Many units have made generous contributions to the Fund, and it is hoped that this support will continue.

It is helpful if your contributions can be sent to:

Colonel J. A. D. Francis
Regimental Secretary
Regimental Headquarters
Royal Signals
Cheltenham Terrace
London SW3 4RH

who can keep a note of amounts contributed, and this in turn can be notified to our Colonel-in-Chief.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

HQ Northern Ireland
BFPO 825

ARMY COMMUNICATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Regular readers of *The Wire* will be familiar with some of the activities of the three Royal Signals Squadrons in Northern Ireland but may not be aware of the Headquarters which controls the Army communications systems in the Province. It is some time since the staff of Commander Communications Northern Ireland received a mention. Thus, it seems appropriate that this issue of 'Report from Ulster' should start with a section on Communications Branch, Headquarters Northern Ireland.

Back Row L-R: Cpl G. Smith, WO2 (FofS) J. L. McIlree, SSgt J. I. Harley, Mrs R. Scarlett, Mrs M. Rice, Capt D. W. M. Conran, Sgt R. Coleman, Capt C. L. Le Gallais
Front Row: Maj B. C. P. Higson, Maj D. S. McLuckie, Lt Col M. R. Stephenson, Maj F. A. Smith, Maj B. J. Barton-Ancliffe

COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN IRELAND

Communications Branch, under the command of **Lt Col Rex Stephenson**, Comd Comms, fulfils its charter of providing communications to meet the requirements of Commander Land Forces in two ways. Firstly, it provides the support and central control needed to enable the Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadrons of 8 and 39 Inf Bdes, and 233 Sig Sqn (NI) to run the current communications systems on a day-to-day basis. Secondly, and most importantly, it is heavily engaged in planning the introduction into service in the next couple of years of much more modern integrated communications systems. There are three major projects currently at a vital stage in their development.

BRUIN at the halt. The C50 RADCEN of 233 Sig Sqn (NI)
Lt Paul Bailey, LCpl Bob Frew

GSR 3787 RADIO

The current range of commercial radios has evolved over the past 15 years to meet the constantly changing operational requirement. The technology is now old, some of the older equipments are proving increasingly difficult to maintain and not all the sets are mutually compatible. GSR 3787 provides for one integrated family of radios. These sets will bring many benefits including being more reliable and frequency synthesised. A joint Comms Branch, MOD and Projects Division plan is under way to ensure a smooth introduction into service beginning in January 1986. The NI Projects Manager is **Maj (TOT) Frank Smith** who is now something of an expert on Network Analysis and PERT charts. **WO2 (FofS) John McIlree** is running the current commercial radio and is an expert on unravelling knots.

PROJECT BRINTON

The SO2 Comms (Tels), **Maj Bernard Barton-Ancliffe**, supervises all Fixed Service Communications systems in the Province. These include DCN and internal telegraph circuits, communication links for computer terminals, secure telephones using dismounted BRUIN equipment and a vast number of BT telephone facilities; we are in fact BTNI's largest customer. Once again, however, our existing circuits have evolved over the years and have not been systematically planned. Project BRINTON will combine all Fixed Service Communications into one modern, digital, centrally controlled network by early 1986. The latest technology will be used and R Signals tradesman will have to learn the intricacies of systems management. Planning is well in hand with MOD, School of Signals and 2 Sig Bde.

ADP

The operational use of computers is probably nowhere as advanced as here in Northern Ireland where three systems are provided by R Signals, two of them operating Province-wide. In addition to the planned replacement of one of these systems in 1985 the SO2 and SO3 Comms (ADP), **Maj Ben Higson** and **Capt Doug Conran**, are busy putting into practice some very useful applications for micro-computers in areas where lives may be being saved. They are also designing and procuring a Communication Information and Management System (CMIS) linking Comms Branch with each of the three Signal Squadrons, which is due to enter service in early 1985. In their 'spare time' they are working on an ADP Strategy Paper which is a much needed statement of the responsibilities of various agencies and the future requirements for ADP in Northern Ireland.

CCTV FILM

Recently, with the help of the CCTV department of the School of Signals, a half-hour film on 'Army Communications in Northern Ireland' has been made. Hopefully many of you will have an opportunity to see it soon. In case you miss it a few stills are shown here, giving just a glimpse of the many fascinating, unusual and vital jobs being carried out by R Signals here in Northern Ireland. This film has been masterminded by SO2 Comms, **Maj Derek McLuckie**, who has discovered new talents.

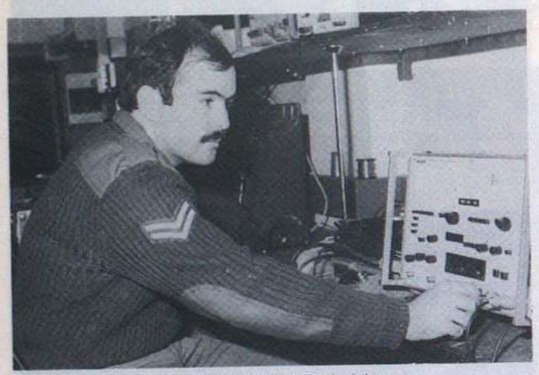
Instruction on Disc Drives on an operational computer (233 Sig Sqn)
Capt Ian Fielder, Sig Mark Langley

Transmitting a message into the DCN (233 Sig Sqn)
WPte Dawn Duncan, Sig Chris Smart

WRAC Technician in Systems Control (233 Sig Sqn)
Cpl Caroline Underhill

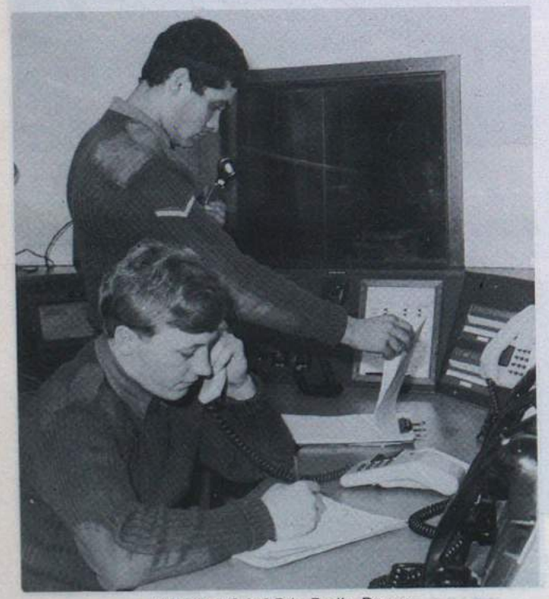
Commcen Lisburn receiving a message (233 Sig Sqn)
WPte Helen Gray

Briefing an antenna rigger in Londonderry (8 Bde Sig Sqn)
Sig Geordie Gray, 2Lt Alan Hill



233 Sig Sqn (NI) Technician
Cpl Willie White

Briefing the Brigade Commanders Rover Group (39 Bde Sig Sqn)
L-R: Sig Clive Hallet, Mick Stout, 'Tilly' Tillotson, Taff Mallaney and Dougie Easby, Cpl Ray Pickering and 2Lt Adrian Metcalfe



Manning 8 Inf Bde Radio Room
LCpl 'Chas' Tolton, Sig Danny Hart

Inside a Heli Tele Mobile Ground Station (8 Bde Sig Sqn)
Sig Frankie Faith, Cpl 'Fossie' Foster

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

OPERATIONS SUMMARY

Apart from the murder of an ex-member of 2 UDR who was shot whilst at work in Dungannon on 8 October and the attempted murder of an officer in 5 UDR, who was seriously injured in an attack near his home in Bellaghy on 30 October 1984, the majority of terrorist activity continues to take place in and around Londonderry and Strabane.

Several unsuccessful shoots have taken place in the Shantallow and Creggan against both Army and RUC patrols. These together with 'come-ons' and hoax IEDs have ensured that the SF have been kept busy. Blast Incendiary attacks against 2 Tyre Depots in Strabane destroyed one on 24 October and seriously damaged another on 27 October.

On 3 November a member of 2 QUEENS was seriously injured by a booby-trap bomb as he chased a suspect in the Rossville Flats following a hoax IED. The next day a number of shots were fired at the Hump PVCP at Strabane, no hits were recorded.

Another Blast Incendiary attack against a Cash and Carry in Strand Rd, Londonderry on 9 November caused considerable damage. However, two terrorists left the scene at great speed, following premature detonation, casting-off their burning clothing. The Gardai are waiting to interview a burns patient in the Letterkenny Hospital in the Republic.

On 17 November terrorists fired over 30 rounds at a mobile patrol as it entered the Rosemount SF Base, again no casualties were suffered. 2 QUEENS, who are in the process of handing over to 1 R ANGLIAN, are concluding their two year tour during an upsurge in terrorist activity and hopefully will leave without suffering any further casualties.

FAREWELL TO COMMANDER

The Commander 8 Infantry Brigade, **Brig C. G. Mattingley OBE**, made his 'official' farewell visit to the Squadron on 6 November. After a briefing given by the OC, **Maj John Kirby**, during which the Commander was reminded of all the improvements and changes which had taken place during his two years in post, the Brigadier visited all departments to say a personal goodbye to all those not deployed. To conclude, the Brigadier was entertained to farewell drinks in the 'Waterside Inn' where the OC made a presentation of a statuette of 'Jimmy', on behalf of all ranks of the Squadron.

Brig Colin Mattingley, Comd 8 Inf Bde, makes his farewell speech in the 'Waterside Inn' whilst the RSM looks on

On 9 November the Brigade WOs and Sergeants dined out the Commander. The surprise of the evening was a display given by Pipers of the KOSB, the Brigadier's old Battalion, especially flown in for the occasion. The officers of the Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 'Lunched Out' **Brig Mattingley** on 13 November during which he was presented with a cartoon of himself with all the Bde Officers depicted in a slightly humourous guise.

Brig Mattingley finally left Ebrington Barracks at 1200 hrs on 20 November, for the first time 'flying' his own helicopter escorted by Pipers from all the Bns and the Officers, WOs and SNCOs of Bde HQ.

OUR NEW COMMANDER

Brig M. I. E. Scott DSO, late SG, took command of 8 Brigade on the departure of **Brig Mattingley**. He met his escorts and Rover Group on the afternoon of 20 November and formally visited the Squadron on 26 November. The Brigadier was briefed on the role of the Squadron by the OC, **Maj John Kirby** and the Brigade's Comms by the 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, before being shown around by the OC escorted by the RSM, **WO1 John Stanley**.

NEWS ROUND UP

Once work on the new Bde Ops and Radio Rooms was completed the 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, was phoning the QM and PSA daily to find out when the contractors would be starting on the Sqn Ops Room. Needless to say the carpenters arrived to start work, having given the maximum possible notice, two hours, and everything was completed within a week. The transformation was so great that even the QM noticed the difference!

Visitors to the Squadron have included the SO2 Comms (ADP) and SO2 Comms (Tels) from HQNI, **Majs Ben Higson** and **Bernard Barton-Ancliffe, Col David Whitehead, Lt Col (QM) Ron Knight** and **Maj Tony Kimber** from PB11, who told the officers where they were not going!

The 2IC managed to get two flying visits to the UK; the first to see at first hand the Project 3787 radios undergoing trials at Blandford and the second with **Sgt 'Mac' McDermid** to brief 3LI who arrive in December to take over from 1 QUEENS in Omagh.

A gathering of all RSOs and RSIs of the Bde took place on 21 November during which they were updated by the OC, 2IC and YofS (Ops), **WO2 Alan Bodimeade**, on COMSEC, 3787, and proposals for the future.

Our Chief Clerk, **SSgt (ORSQMS) John Symes**, departed for Catterick on promotion whilst the RSM, **WO1 John Stanley**, makes his recent arrival known to the lesser mortals of the Squadron, in a style only known to RSMs!

CHANGES ON THE STAFF

Several changes have occurred during the past weeks, the DCOS, **Maj Jim Snape RE**, departed for Sandhurst and **Maj Peter Hughes R Hamps**, arrived from Berlin to replace him. **Maj Gavin Shakerley IG** has departed for Aborfield and is replaced as SO3 G1 by **Capt Hugh Colborn** from 14 Sig Regt and finally **Maj Humphrey Halford** 17/21L has handed over to **Capt David Proctor**, yet another 'signaller', from 2 Inf Div Sig Regt—thus the cry of 'too many Bleeps in 8 Bde' is now a reality to some members of the Staff.

SHQ FORMING UP

Report by SSgt (ORSQMS) Dave Barlow

The latest arrivals to the SHQ scene are **SSgt (ORSQMS) Dave Barlow** who joins us from a short stay in civvy street and the TA and **Pte Alan Hudson RAOC** who arrived fresh from trade training and who is now being taught how to do it properly!

Our team which is run by our 'Shot one over, Shot one out' boss **Capt Richard Walkin RA** does not aspire to any great fame but personalities we have: from **Cpl Ned Kelly** and his space machines, **LCpl Paul Baker** the only one to play Basketball with a Hockey stick, whilst still trying to pass his BFT. **Sig Willie Williams** who is still looking for a castle to keep his goldfish happy in, **Pte Alan Hudson** who despite being RAOC, seems to be enjoying his short stay with us. Our civilians, **Ginny** and **Anne**, deserve a lot of sympathy for they take an awful amount of ribbing from all members of the Squadron.

'Walkins Gang'
L-R: Sgt Bill Simpson, Cpl Ned Kelly, Mrs Anne Reason, Sgt Mick Leather RAPC, Capt Richard Walkin RA, LCpl Paul Baker, Ginny Webb, Sig Andy Williams, SSgt (ORSQMS) Dave Barlow, Pte Alan Hudson RAOC

All this makes life interesting and definitely not boring for the Supervisors: from the AO, CC, Trg SNCO **Sgt Bill Simpson,** to our 'Pay Master'—**Sgt Mick Leather.**

Congratulations to **SSgt Chris** and **Liz Rogan** on the birth of their baby daughter, **Rachel Anne.** We hope to see them back in Londonderry soon after the lengthy holiday in Blandford.

COMMS TROOP
Report by SSgt Dennis Rutter

In the shadow of 'old' Londonderry Comms Troop have been going through a number of changes, more than one troop member has been heard so say—'Here we go again'. At long last the new Bde Radio Room, now under the control of **LCpl Chas Tolton,** is working without too many problems, but please whoever disconnected the monitor system—don't do it again! The Standby Team comprising of **Cpl Graham Hughes** and **Sig Keith Lock** broke all records by being deployed twice in one week and will not allow anyone to forget it.

The 'Old'—Sig Slack under pressure

The 'New'—LCpl Chas Tolton and Sig Danny Hart

The deployment of Both Rover Groups at the same time nearly became a reality. **Cpls 'Fozzie' Foster, Vic Thompson** and **Jimmy Hacking, LCpls 'Scouse' Dawson, Kevin Neary** and **Taff Saies, Sig 'Nutty' Slack, Steve Schneider** and **Ptes Taff Owen, Shaun Fieldhouse** and **Eddie Mutton** managed to form up ready to go but were stood down at the last moment.

Our thanks go to the PSA for testing the Standby generators at one of our Hill Top Sites—there's really no need to dig the cables up though, poor old **LCpl Stevie Chinn** was most upset about missing Coronation Street.

FAREWELL VISIT OF THE COMMANDER

Brig C. G. Mattingley OBE made his farewell visit to the troop culminating in a display of troop vehicles in the twilight, lighting being provided by **Sig Des Carter** of the Power Section. A most successful visit which was enjoyed by all.

The Brigade Commander says farewell to Rover Group
L-R: Cpl Jimmy Hacking, LCpl Paul Davies, Pte Steve Kohut, Sig Steve Schnieder, Brig Colin Mattingley, Cpl Vic Thompson and SSgt Dennis 'No, I'm not Chinese' Rutter

CONGRATULATIONS

To **LCpl Mark** and **Lee Brunning** and **Sig Des** and **Carole Carter** on the birth of baby daughters—well done and plenty of sleepless nights. To **Sig Chas Fox** and **'Tredders' Tredwell** on their promotion to Lance Corporal, well done again and don't forget the 2IC takes two sugars in his tea!

FAREWELL TO THE RIGGERS

A sad loss to the troop was the departure of the Rigging Section to TM Troop. Thanks for all you have done and carry on the excellent work around the Province—**Cpl Mac McKittrick, LCpls 'Tank' Sherman, Paddy Gibbons** and **Sig Geordie Gray, Chris Sindall** and **Danny Hart**—see you all on 11 December.

WELCOME TO THE CHUNKYS

After losing the Riggers we have gained **Sgt Ron Fones** and his band of merry Pioneers who are settling down well to Troop life, BFTs, Troop runs and all the other things that go on in busy Comms Troop.

GOODBYES

As usual we have to say a sad farewell to some of the troop who leave for less exciting locations, thanks for your hardwork and professionalism and goodluck: **Cpl Dave Parry**—on promotion to Sgt and 21 Sig Regt, **Cpl Graham Hughes**—to 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt, **LCpl Stevie Chinn**—to 1 Armd Div and good luck for the wedding!, **LCpl Paul Rowley**—19 Inf Bde, **LCpl 'Scouse' Brisk**—Civvy Street, **Sig Chris Aspinall**—30 Sig Regt and last but not least **Lt Gordon James** to 30 Sig Regt—we'll send your bill on to you!

NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome: **Lt James 'Where's my phone' Bertram, SSgt Dennis 'Troop Funds' Rutter, Sgt Roy Holcomb, Cpl Chris Middleton, LCpls Paul Davies, Kevin Neary, Sig 'Tweety' Bird, 'Parky' Parkinson and Jeff Rees.**

STOP-PRESS

There is no truth in the rumour that **SSgt Dennis Rutter** left **LCpl Stevie Chinn** up the hill just to gain promotion to the No 1 spot in the Squadron football team—blame it on the weather!

Congratulations to **LCpl Ruth Walker** on her recently celebrated 21st birthday.

MIKE TROOP
Report by SSgt Om Chhetri

A hectic life is nothing new in 8 Inf Bde but things have been more than hectic of late, especially for the Radio Techs.

The new Bde Ops Room and Radio Room have at last been completed despite several 'last minute' alterations which kept being added to the original plans. There are doubts as to whether or not any 'original' plans existed or one was made up as things progressed. 176 Pro Coy RMP and 1 QUEENS at Lisnaskea have also jumped on the bandwagon and had their Ops Room renovated.

On the Radio side our new Mould Tech, **Cpl Rich Carey**, has at last managed to fit in his first 'Standby Radio Tech' duty since arriving here some months ago. It is also rumoured he's close to achieving his qualifying time in NI for the GSM. **Cpl Bob King** has, after several unsuccessful attempts, managed to get himself on a course, albeit an adventure training one in Wales rather than the Heli-Tele one at Chelmsford he was hoping for.

Sgt Mick Tucker has been seen scurrying around carting MFO boxes but all rumours of an early posting can be quashed, he is just tidying the Heli-Tele shed.

The TE Section is now overseen by **Sgt Phil** (two times) **Tait**. How he acquired his nickname is a long story but it relates to how many times he has to go to fix the same fault! The rest of the crew include new arrivals **Sgt Martin Leighfield** and **Cpl Colin Brown** and slightly older hands—**Cpl 'Tiny' Carter** and **'Baby-Tech' Toft.**

Over now to the Line Section who have nothing exceptional to report except to say that they occasionally manage to work for a living, after providing the back bone of the Squadron sports teams:

Soccer	**Sgt Butch Cassidy, Sig Steve Griffiths** and **'Jacko' Jackson**
Cross Country	**Sgt Cliff Swailes, Cpl Steve Bullimore, Sig Steve Griffiths, Steve Bickers** and **'Jacko' Jackson**
Rugby	**LCpl Steve Brown**
Basketball	**Cpl Steve Bullimore, Sig 'Jacko' Jackson**
Volleyball	**Cpl Ron Stephenson**
Hockey	**Sig Adrian Pierce**

Working hand in hand with the Radio Techs are the stalwarts from the Rigging Section, led by **Cpl Mac McKittrick.** With the onset of Irish Winter the province has been wrecked with gale force winds creating the normal havoc, thereby, keeping the riggers exceptionally busy and wet into the bargain. **LCpl 'Tank' Sherman** is busy packing his 'air portable' G1098 store for his move to 22 Sig Regt. **Sig 'Geordie' Gray** is recovering from his slip from 120ft; witnesses recall that he calmly assumed the 'Spider-Man' position and dangled by his safety strap. All he needs now is the suit and mask to complete the image.

At the time of writing, the FofS, **Normal Blavins**, is away at Blandford getting 'refreshed' as a Foreman and **SSgt Om Chhetri** is in the chair. There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that Mike Troop is having a 'whip round' to bring back the FofS early off his course.

Brig Mattingley's farewell visit to TM Troop

The farewell visit of **Brig Mattingley** took place and before he left managed to say such good things about everybody which boosted our morale.

Finally, on the goodbyes, we say a fond farewell to **Sgt Taff** and **Maggie Jones** who leave us after the New Year for Blandford, to **LCpl 'Tank'** and **Mrs Kaye Sherman** who will be enjoying the duty frees at Lippstadt and to **Sig Chris** and **Mrs Trish Sindall** who are posted to Recklinhausen. We welcome to the Troop **Sgt Cliff Swailes** and his wife **Jackie** and **Sgt Martin Leighfield** and **Cpl Colin Brown** and his wife **Anne** and wish them all and their families a happy and successful tour with 8 Bde.

QM DEPT
Report by Sgt Brian Donegan

Since our last contribution to *The Wire* the department has been kept busy with various inspections and visits, and as anticipated, came through them all with our reputation as a switched on department still intact.

On 6 November the Brigade Commander **Brig Mattingley** paid his farewell visit to the dept. The QM, **Capt Jimmy Akehurst**, was on leave so RQMS **WO2 Mick Braddon** (petal to his friends) welcomed the Commander and escorted him around the department.

The Brigade Commander pays his farewell visit to the 'covert' QM's Dept
L-R: Cpl Andy O'Shea, SSgt (SQMS) Bill Nimmons, WO2 (RQMS) Mick Braddon, Brig C. G. Mattingley, Maj John Kirby, Sgt Brian Donegan

Early in November **Capt Jimmy Akehurst** partnered by **Sgt Brian Donegan** rose to the challenge of a game of golf by **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Braddon** and **WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade**. It became quite apparent as early as the first tee that the two little 'uns, **Capt Jimmy Akehurst** and **Sgt Brian Donegan** were far superior to the two big 'uns. The final result was a win for the little 'uns seven and six. It is believed the big 'uns have decided to devote their sports afternoons to knitting and basketball.

Our congratulations go to **LCpl Mac McCormick** on passing his B1 course; we only wish now he would spend a bit longer on the ground rather than keep throwing himself out of perfectly serviceable aircraft.

Cpls Tony Bowen, Andy O'Shea and **LCpl John Anglesea** all continue to work well in their respective departments. **Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt**, as always, works well in everyone's dept, especially **WPte Carol Tubmans**!

Finally we take this opportunity to wish all ex-members of 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Quartermaster's dept all the very best for 1985.

MT TROOP
Report by Sgt John Gillan

A CQB Course was recently run by NIPG at Ballykinler for the benefit of all three NI Signal Squadrons; those participating from 8 Bde were:

LCpl Dave Cunningham RCT	Bde Comd Dvr
LCpl 'Nobby' Nevill	Bde Comd Escort
Cpl 'Fozzie' Foster	Bde Comd Escort (Desig)
Dvr 'Fingers' McCully RCT	Dep Comd Dvr

Training was given in anti-ambush drills, fast drawing and shooting skills, with a competition at the end. Overall a very enjoyable and useful course which was of value to all those who attended.

FAREWELLS

We say a fond farewell to the following members of the troop: **LCpl Derek Cross RCT, Dvr Stevie 'Barney Rubble' Page RCT, Cpl John Wilkinson RCT** and **LCpl 'Fat Cap' Spurling RCT.**

WELCOMES

We welcome the 'new blood': **Dvr 'Ugh' Marden RCT, LCpl Pat Conneely RCT, Cpl George** and **Helen Norwood** and **Dvr Geordie** and **Jacqueline Hurst.**

NOTICES

Sgt John Gillan would like to remind all RCT (Rice Crispie Tasters) members of the troop that the small matter of advertising his car for sale in the 'Visor' has not been forgotten and that revenge will be forthcoming!

EXERCISE *WELSH WADER*
Report by 2Lt Alan Hill

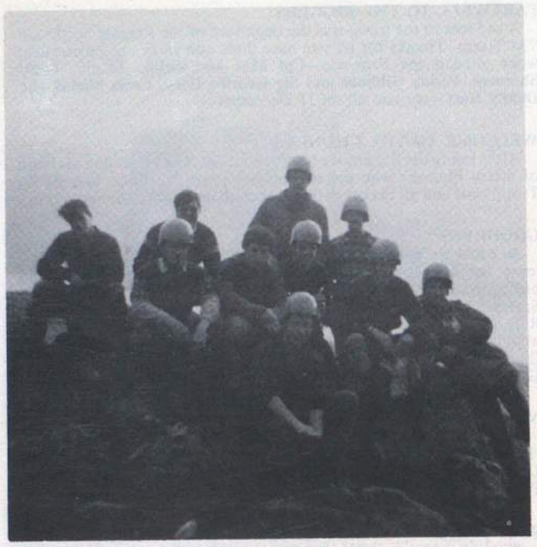
Our group of 11 volunteers left Londonderry on a quiet Sunday afternoon, packed like sardines into a minibus, kindly provided by MT. Light relief throughout the long journey was provided by **LCpl 'Harpo' King** and **2Lt Alan Hill.**

The route to Tywyn passed very close to **Sig 'Scouse' Hale**'s house so after a small detour we found ourselves being entertained to bacon 'butties' and tea, 'Scouse' then took bets on whether we would have enough petrol to make the nearest Shell Station.

On arrival at Tywyn **LCpl 'Woollyback' Crean** expressed great delight on discovering that the 0630 hrs dip in the sea had been cancelled. However the water wasn't too far away for **Pte 'Taff' Beecham** who was the first to capsize during the canoeing and spent most of the following three hours under water.

Sig 'Geordie' Gray led the way during the climbing and abseiling on Barmouth Slab and **Sig Frankie Faith** demonstrated how to abseil upside down by candlelight in the Friogs Slate Mine. At the second attempt we built a fairly sturdy raft on which the whole group paddled down the estuary whilst **Pte 'Taff 2' Owen** tried to paddle in the opposite direction to everybody else.

As the day of our departure dawned we packed our bags very early before leaving **LCpl 'Dickie' Tredwell**, together with **Mr Hill's case!**, in England, whilst the remainder of us returned to sunny Londonderry. A good 10 days during which everyone enjoyed themselves and rose to the many challenges set them with good humour and keenness.



The 'Waders'
L-R: Sig 'Scouse' Hale, Griff Griffiths, Geordie Gray, LCpl 'Harpo' King, Dickie Tredwell, Ptes 'Taff' Beecham, 'Taff' Owen, Sig Frankie Faith, Dvr 'Ugh' Marden and LCpl 'Woollyback' Crean

SPORTSMANS DINNER

The presentation of Colours to those who had represented the Squadron at summer sports, took place on the evening of 16 November.

Following an excellent dinner in the 'Waterside Inn' the Comd Comms HQNI, **Lt Col Rex Stephenson**, made the presentations.

Recipients of Squadron Colours

BASKETBALL
Report by WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade

A good season so far has found the Squadron unbeaten with two noteable victories against 2 QUEENS with whom we share Ebrington Bks. The improvement over last season has been due in the main to the arrival of **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Braddon** who has taken over as coach and to the keeness and experience of the younger players who train under the critical gaze of the RQ, YofS and **WO2 'Ginge' Walker.**

Those who have made valuable contributions to the team are **Sgts 'Foz' Foster** and **Steve Nickless, Cpls Keith Carter, Ash Ashley** and **Steve Bullimore, LCpls Paul Baker, Guy Barnet ACC** and **'Baby Tech' Toft** and **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson.**

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

OPERATIONS

The recent killing of **Gunner Utteridge** in West Belfast brought home to us all that the terrorist threat is as real as ever. This was the first Army casualty in West Belfast for over a year—a sign that the Security Forces are gradually wearing the terrorist organisation down.

In South Armagh, close to the Eire Border, the terrorists hijacked a large petrol tanker and booby trapped it—a large clearance operation for 42 Cdo RM which kept them busy for just about a week. More recently the gun battle in County Fermanagh in which one terrorist and a soldier were killed has kept the Province in the public eye.

42 Cdo RM have now completed their tour in South Armagh and have been replaced by 2 Para.

GOC'S VISIT

The GOC, **Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson KCB CVO CBE**, visited the Squadron on Wednesday 29 October. During the morning the GOC did a walkabout in the Squadron and shot the 'Bell Trophy' shoot. The Bell Trophy is an annual pistol shoot competition between the officers and warrant officers of 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. When the present GOC was Comd 39 Bde he was himself a Bell Trophy winner. **Gen Richardson** presented this year's winner, **WO2 Pete Tapsell**, with the Trophy.

Before lunch in the Sgts' Mess the GOC presented **SSgt Ray Shaw** with his LS&GC.

SSgt (now WO2) Pete Cuckow briefing the GOC on the delights of being posted to 13 Sig Regt

Cpl Steve Hughes NCOIC Comd Rover Group explaining the problems of looking after the Comd on his visits throughout the Province

Maj M. C. Wilkinson looks on as WO2 Fred Osmond the unit MTWO discusses the unit's transport problems

RSM'S FAREWELL

Our old RSM, **WO1 Dave Osborne** has now left us and handed over to **WO1 (RSM) C. J. Manning**. This was **WO1 Osborne**'s last posting in the army and all ranks of the Squadron were very sorry to see him leave. We offer him our best wishes for the future and hope he has every success in the new career ahead of him.

ALPHA TROOP

As the 1984 season runs to a close Alpha Troop are still working flat out. We finally succeeded in rebuilding our new Ops Room at Crossmaglen. The logistic problem of having to fly equipment, manpower and stores into the base each day and evacuate each evening made the task even more daunting for our intrepid South Armagh Crew. On completion of the project **Capt 'Crispian' Beattie, Capt Keith Durward** and **Capt Rob Fulton** 'consummated' the Ops Rooms with a bottle of champagne (specially flown in to the base in an ice box!).

Our base rewire programme is now well ahead of schedule. **LCpl Taff Boucher** and his gang of **Sig Dougie Easby** and **Clive Hallet** spent two weeks in the depths of doom rewiring the Crumlin Road Jail intercom system. Prison security prevented them working during the day so they spent their nights keeping the inmates company.

LCpl 'Scouse' Bradley is now well into his rewiring programme at the Maze Prison, assisted? by **Sig 'Cas' Graham** and **Sig Davy Morrison.** Recent high winds and foul weather are making their task much harder than usual.

Our troop 2IC, **2Lt Neil Stevens,** has now left us for his troop commander's course at Blandford. We wish him luck, and hope he meets as many women there as he did here!

We welcome our new arrivals **Sig John Crowe** and **Beaker Neild, LCpl Jim Rice** and **Sig Cross** and hope they all have a successful tour in Northern Ireland.

Finally, we wish **Sig Mick** (Matelot) **Stout** good luck on his two week spell with the Royal Navy. **Mick** volunteered for a quick sail with the Senior Service but due to a shortage of manpower he has ended up filling a sailor's slot on HMS *Alert*!

TM TROOP

The troop continues to do its sterling job of supporting the Brigade in matters technical with great success, as usual. The installation of the new Mould talkthrough system in South Armagh has kept everyone busy recently with our Techs and Riggers working in often foul weather conditions. **LCpl Kev Simmons** has just returned from his MOULD familiarisation in Catterick and is now looking forward to sweating over all those hot new radios.

The troop would like to welcome **Cpl 'Dinky' Tatman** who has made an immediate impression upon the Squadron by instigating the pickled egg eating contest at the Cpls' Dining out for the Squadron Commander **Maj Martin Wilkinson.** Unfortunately he couldn't quite live up to his boast of 15 eggs, but he did manage two in a minute.

We say goodbye to **Cpl Graham Tolton** who says he's going on to better things ('civvy street'); all the best **Graham**! Other recent departures have been Rigger **LCpl Mat McLeish** posted to 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Cpl 'Scotty' Stevens** to Catterick, to do his TI Course.

Special mention and thank you goes to **LCpl Paul Gaston** on detachment from 19 Sqn RCT who supplied the taxi service for our UHF Faults Team in West Belfast. He leaves us after five months and his gourmet cooking will be sadly missed.

We are soon to say farewell to **Sgt Les** (What do you want?) **Robinson**, our dedicated FATSO Storeman, who, having got his long awaited extension now moves to that great store up the corridor—the almighty QMs.

SGT RON TORRANCE

Aging model, almost vintage but reliable workhorse. High mileage and well worn parts should not give concern to potential buyer. As with most models of this kind fuel consumption is high but functions best on low grade fuel. Spaceous interior well suited to carrying golf clubs etc.

WO2 (RQMS) STEVE JONES

The sporting model in our range. Runs well over any terrain. Careful ownership has kept this model in top condition. The aggressive lines and the ability to be well ahead of all other models in the garage make it a natural leader in the sales division. Has held up well against the pressures and abuses placed on it by a series of careful but flashy drivers.

CAPT (QM) BOB VALE

A unique example of the early attempts to place the internal combustion engine on wheels which never quite worked out. The bodywork lacks the lustre of its former glory. The engine requires complete overhaul and only runs in fits and starts. The abuses placed on it over the years have taken their toll. Enthusiastic young female with money to spare may like to take time to restore this model. But performance cannot be guaranteed!

BRAVO TROOP

Recent changes have meant that the Troop has said goodbye to two personalities, the OC **Lt** (Ex Para) **Paul Hudson** and **Sgt Phil Crowther**. We welcome in our new OC, **2Lt Adrian** (Extra PT) **Metcalfe** and Tp Sgt, **Sgt Dave Norman**, who have both slotted into the groove and taken control (or at least they think so!).

A pairs Stableford Golf Competition was excellently organised by **Cpl (Slick Mick) Evans** and **LCpl 'Faldo' Hawley** which drew in a wide range of potential golfers. The competition was played on a local course with a 0930 hrs start by the first foursome, **Sig** (I know everything about golf) **Stewart** with **Sig 'Boy' Goodliff** and **Sgt 'Gregg' Norman** with **LCpl Hawley.** The whole day was enjoyed by everyone with **YofS 'Macho' Wood** nearly bringing the whole course to a standstill by doing a strange tribal dance consisting of a lot of shouting and waving of arms when his 30ft putt dropped neatly into the hole. The biggest cheer of the day must go to **Sig 'Boy' Goodliff**, who persevered all day for one solitary point, although he certainly let everybody know how he got it. The favourites for the prize were **Capt Bob Vale** and **Sgt Ron Torrance**, but to everybody's surprise **Sgt Norman** and **LCpl Hawley** ran away with the spoils. The British Open is just around the corner, lads.

We extend our congratulations to **Cpl Mick Evans** and **Diane**, and **LCpl Dave Richards** and **Christine** on their recent marriages. They seemed to have started a chain reaction in the Troop, with **Sig Steve Epps** planning to marry **Stephanie** and **Sig 'Tilly' Tillotson, Lorraine.** We wish all of you the best wishes for the future.

QM'S DEPT

If people were cars how would we sell the QMs Dept? With great difficulty, I hear you say!

SIG MAST

Recent model. Ex factory, 8 Sig Regt. New owner negotiating sale **(Cpl Hawley Forrest** 10 Sig Regt). Difficulty in starting in cold weather and early mornings, but runs very well between 1700 hrs and 0200 hrs with alcohol additive in fuel. Recent six day overhaul on ROP (Re-alignment of Plugs) has improved performance.

LCPL SIMON SLOMAN

Simple and easy to run. Changing hands in near future **(Deborah)** on a very reasonable exchange deal, new owner intends to overhaul and increase the performance.

LCPL PAUL CONLON

Requires a certain amount of maintenance. Moving parts tend to become sluggish and in some cases cease to function altogether if it does not receive correct fuel. Failed recent MOT (move on time) when checked by local constabulary. However, a £200 top overhaul may go some way towards curing the problems.

CPL ANDY HILTON

Flashy American Model recently used to tour most of the United States. Stood up well to this but bodywork did suffer abuses from over enthusiastic female drivers. Re-alignment to military specification took time but now appears to be none the worse for the experience.

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233 Sig Sqn
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ORIENTEERING

The steady improvement of the orienteering team over the past couple of years culminated recently in a good win in the Royal Signals Orienteering Championships. On a very tiring course, **WO2 Brian Libby, Cpls 'Edge' Sharp** and **Dave Alexander** beat all other major and minor units. Mention must be made of **WO2 (SSM) Benny Bingham** who, running in the second team, beat certain members of the winning trio. **Cpl Carol Underhill** also did well to finish fourth in the Womens' competition.

Royal Signals Orienteering Champions: Cpl 'Edge' Sharp, WO2 Brian Libby and Cpl Dave Alexander

RUGBY

With a nucleus of last year's cup winning side remaining, the team started as favourites for the NI stage of the Army minor units cup. Fortunate enough to be given a bye in the first round, the opening cup match was the semi-final, against our old rivals 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. Despite the early morning start demanded by our opponents, the team never really looked like losing and the final scoreline of 21—12 was achieved without too much trouble.

The NI final was regarded with mixed feelings. We had a stronger team than last year, reinforced by the likes of **Cpl Benny Kessel, Sgts Peter Williams, Steve Stevenson** and **Gus Hales**, and were expected to win. This can be a disadvantage. 19 Sqn RCT from Moscow Camp on a roulement tour, who were our opponents, had managed to include a fair proportion of the 4 Armd Div Tpt Regt side in their unit strength. The injured team captain, **Capt Tony Roberts**, agonised from the touchline as play, particularly obscured by Lagan Valley mist, leapfrogged in penalty kicks to a 19 Sqn advantage just after half time. As the local Forces magazine reported '233 had a slight edge in skill in both their backs and forwards. However, they were obviously keyed up for the game and made many mistakes which nullified their advantage'. Nevertheless, the last quarter of the match saw some slick handling in the backs and left winger **Cpl Mick Jones'** try in the corner was quickly followed by another from **Sig Shaun Hughes** on the right wing. Effective kicking throughout by **'Simmo' Simpkins** made the final score 22—12 and gave the squadron victory in the NI stage of the Army Cup for the second year running.

Again, for the second year running, the draw for the UK quarter finals gave us 24 Fd Sqn RE as our opponents. Through some twist in the system we had to play at Aldershot even though it was our home game. The weather certainly tried to make us feel at home; rain, which was rather unwelcome for a side whose strength lay in its backs. After a hard fought match, and despite putting heavy pressure on the Sappers for most of the second half, we went down by 18—3. A better effort than last year, and a credit to the side that the opposition didn't manage to cross our line. Finally, a big thank you to 5 Airborne Bde HQ and Sig Sqn for looking after us so well during our short stay in Aldershot.

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Electronics Engineers

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An Engineering degree, HND or HNC, with at least 4 years' post qualification experience is essential with experience of VHF, UHF, SHF radio/radio relay links which must include troposcatter systems. Ref. G049/01.

Technical Instructors

c£21,700 pa tax free

Must have full recognition as a senior technician with 2 years' experience as an instructor and be fully conversant with radio relay systems. Ref. G049/02.

Ground Radio Superintendents

c£20,500 pa tax free

You must be recognised as a senior technician, by either a military or a civil organisation with 10 years' experience in the maintenance field as well as 5 years' training experience. Ref. G049/03.

Radio Relay Technicians

c£18,100 pa tax free

You must be a qualified technician and have 7 years' experience in all aspects of maintenance and repair of radio relay systems, including troposcatter equipment. Ref. G049/04.

If you are thinking of leaving the Services soon contact your Resettlement Officer or write/telephone Jim Mcfarlane at IAL quoting the appropriate reference.

IAL Aviation Systems and Services

Aeradio House, Hayes Road, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 5NJ. Telephone: 01-574 5000.

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HOCKEY

Perhaps the most consistent of our winter sports teams, the hockey players look set for a repeat of last year's success. Victory in the quarter final of the cup, over 655 Sqn AAC, brought about a semi-final clash with our old rivals Depot Kings Div at Ballymena. On paper this looked to be a tough fixture, but the team threw media speculation aside and took the lead after just 10 minutes. Capitalising on this, team captain **WO1 Rod Goddard** and **Sgt Paul Stevenson** scored one each before half time. Spirits were high in the second half and the opposition were overrun by superior running, aggression and even, on occasion, skill. Two more goals were added by **Sgt Paul Massey** and **Cpl Ian Wade** giving the final creditable result of 5—0.

The final of the NI Minor Units Hockey Cup was played on 5 December against 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. Despite one early score from a goalmouth scramble, the team failed to capitalise on its chances in the face of a committed opposition, and by half time the scores were even at 1—1. Throughout the second half chances were made and missed by both sides, and both sets of defenders deserved praise. Despite frantic efforts just before the whistle, full time saw a draw and the teams changed round for a further 10 minutes each way. By this time, fitness was taking its toll and shortly after the whistle blew for play to begin, a goal by **Sgt Paul Stevenson** opened the flood gates. Realising that a one goal lead was not enough, the team put another three away, giving a hat-trick to **Sgt Paul Stevenson** and victory to the Squadron. 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn had been worthy opponents, but the speed of the forwards and the steadiness of the backs, particularly **Cpls 'Lofty' Wilkerson** and **Willie Whyte**, managed to win the day.

NI Minor Units Hockey Winners

Back Row: Cpls Chris Hartley and Willie Whyte, Sgt Paul Massey, Cpl 'Lofty' Wilkerson, Capt David Smith, Cpl 'Barney' Barnes
Front Row: Rod Goddard, Cpls Ian Wade and George Strachan, SSgt Dave Chalmers, Sgt Paul Stevenson and Cpl Geordie Lowes

FOOTBALL

The sceptical sports co-ordinator didn't believe a word of it when told that the footballers had a good side this season. Still, since the so-called 'Mean Machine' has only lost two matches so far, he has to admit that they were right. The season didn't start too well when the side lost 3—2 to Depot Kings Div, but with some new blood and reorganisation the team went from strength to strength. Notable results were victories over the arch-rivals 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn by 3—1, and 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn by 6—3.

In the cup, Depot Kings Div were put out by 7—5 in the quarter final. Sweet revenge! In the semi-final, also played at Ballymena, 33 Fd Sqn RE showed excellent team spirit and sportsmanship when they realised that victory was beyond their reach, and it is perhaps sufficient to say that the Squadron won comfortably. The final of the NI Minor Units Cup is in January.

Although the Captain didn't wish to single anyone out in what he rightly says is a team, it would be wrong not to mention the efforts of **SSgt 'Scotty' McDougall**, the striker whose boot imparts terminal guidance to the ball, causing it to home in on the back of the goal, also **SSgt John Boyd** who has enough experience for the whole team, and **LCpl John Wayman**, solid as a rock in defence.

HELLO, GOODBYE

Farewell to **Capt Catherine Palmer**, the outgoing OC Victor Tp, and best wishes for your job in Comms Branch Rheindahlen. Welcome to **Capt Richard Blum** who takes over in Victor Troop. We hope you enjoy your stay here.

— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

ALL CHANGE

The new Commandant, **Col Stephen Carr-Smith**, has now been in the driving seat since September—which is why there are so many Think Tanks springing up around the College. February 1985 heralds the arrival of our first Junior Leaders who will be dispersed around the four Squadrons and will not be forming their own Squadron as was first envisaged. A lot of work is still to be done to ensure the initial intake settles in as smoothly as possible, which is probably why the Squadron Commanders are producing one paper after another and can be seen working most days well after three o'clock in the afternoon!

FAREWELL

In the past few weeks we have said goodbye to: **Capt John Hughes** and **Pat** who are off to the Army Education Service (UK); **Lt Elspeth Mollison WRAC** to Army Education Service (BAOR); **Pipe Maj Willy Gordon** and **Margaret** to his Battalion, 1 A&SH; and last but not least **WO2 (YofS) Alan Knott** and **Jennifer** to 8 Sig Regt. We wish each and everyone good luck in the future.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome to our ranks: **Capt Louise** (I'm just off for a run) **Davies WRAC** from RAEC Centre; **Capt Jim** (can't stop I'm off on Exercise) **Doherty** and his wife **Ann** from 16 Sig Regt; **Capt Ken Pickles** and wife **Gillian** from RAEC Centre; **Lt Sally** (it's not very warm here) **Reaney WRAC** and husband **Nicholas** from the WRAC Centre; **Lt Dave** (it wasn't like this in the REME) **Alexander** and wife **Amanda** from the RAEC Centre; and last but not least **WO2 (YofS) Tony Cerqua** from 10 Sig Regt who returns home after 20 years.

ACCENT ON SPORT

RUGBY—ARMY YOUTH CUP

This year we were drawn against old rivals AA College Chepstow in the Semi Final in what was a repeat of last year's final. The luck of the draw gave us a home tie but the Pennypot weather again proved to be a decisive factor and the match was played in torrential rain. The team as usual came up trumps and played superb rugby to win by 22 points to nil despite the atrocious conditions.

And so to the Cup Final, this time against Princess Marina College Arborfield—The Rugby Officer **Maj Dickie Dyer** lost the toss for choice of venue so we travelled to Arborfield for the match. Again the game took place on a very muddy pitch with a large vociferous REME crowd in attendance. We took an early three point lead with an **Andy Williams** penalty, and were unlucky not to go further ahead before half time. Our opponents started the second half in great style and camped in our half for about a quarter of an hour. Eventually we worked our way downfield and came back into the game with a superb move from the pack with **Jack Anderson** and **'Hooker' Jakins** driving to the line before feeding **'Taff' Trehearne** who crashed over, **Sgt 'Andy' Williams** added the conversion to put us into a 9—0 lead. From the kick off we went straight back into the REME half and were further rewarded when **Cpl 'Taff' Jolly** our fly half wriggled through for an excellent try—**'Andy' Williams** again adding the points for a 15 nil win.

Every member of the team played well and were a credit to the team coach **Sgt Mick Uttley**. We now look forward to the Army Junior Cup after Christmas when we hope to complete the double.

Our congratulations go to **Sgt 'Andy' Williams, AT 'Jake' Jakins, AT 'Tom' Pickersgill** and **Cpl Bob Vowles** who have all represented the Army Colts this season, **Williams** and **Jakins** have also been selected for the Combined Services.

Army Youth Challenge Cup (Under 19s) Winners

Back Row, left to right: ATs Ogden, Pickersgill, Phillips and Tait, AT Cpls O'Rourke and Vowles, AT Anderson, AT Sgt Roberts, AT Trehearne and Sgt Uttley (Coach)
Front Row, left to right: ATs Forbes and Jakins, AT Sgt Williams (Capt), AT Cpl Jolly, AT Cassidy, AT Cpl Robinson, and AT Tombs.
Missing: Team Manager — Maj Dyer and AT Owen

COLLEGE SOCCER

There has been a completely new regime in charge of College soccer this season. The Soccer Officer, **Capt Barry Rees**, has left us for pastures new. **Capt David Bornstein** has been sunning himself in Australia on Ex *Long Look*, and **Mr Ken Purnell** is having a well deserved rest from the trials and tribulations of looking after the apprentices' team.

They have been replaced by **WO2 (FofS) 'Mac' McDonald** (Soccer Officer), **SSgt Chas Greig** (PS team coach) and **Mr Keith Bark** (ex YofS) assisted by **Cpl Gary Duffy** running the apprentices.

Both teams have had to be rebuilt, as is usual, and so we did not have the start to the season that we could have hoped for, but both teams have recovered well. The PS team have reached the final of the Yorks and Lancs Cup (NEDIST Minor Units Cup) beating a strong team from 11 Sig Regt 4—0 in the Semi Final. Although in the league we have played six games to date, winning three and losing three. New arrivals to the team have been **Sgts Ray Spencer,** and **Bill Barnett, Cpl Phil Grimes, LCpl Dave Clarke, Cpls Mark Elliott** and **Kev Wilkinson, LCpl Trev Harrison, Sgts 'Taff' Thomas, Peter Griffin** and **Phil Clifford** and **Cpl Gary Duffy**. We extend a hearty welcome to them all.

On the apprentices' scene we are at the top of our division in the league, having won four games, drawn one, and lost one. The team has had the usual difficulties of trying to get a settled side (due to exercises etc) but due to some juggling and cajoling of SSMs we have managed to overcome most problems.

We have had three players selected for the Army Youth team this season. **AT LCpl 'Swanny' Swanston, AT Jack McWilliams** (who incidently can't even get a game for the College or his Squadron, Penney, due to the great form of **AT Sanderson** who is too old for the youth team) and **AT Jock Welch** who will be representing the Corps soon.

The team must say a sad farewell to **AT Sgts John Whitty, 'Rab' Binnie, AT Cpls 'Jock' McQuade, 'Scouse' Moreland, 'Scully' Scullion** and **AT 'Sandy' Sanderson** who have all contributed so much to College soccer in the last two years.

Footnote: Penney Squadron have reached the final of the Apprentices Cup again in 1984. Best wishes from all the College goes with them for the final.

CORPS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Corps Championships were held in the Army Apprentices College Harrogate over the period 20/21 November, 1984. Although the attendance this year was disappointing (27 players entering the competition but only 20 turning up) the overall standard was extremely high with a notable number of young players coming to the fore.

The Open Competition was won by **Cpl Tom Pollard** of 30 Sig Regt with **Cpl S. J. Roberts** of Junior Regiment, Royal Signals, Runner-up. **Sig Gallagher** of 8 Sig Regt won the Plate Competition with **SSgt Orrell** of 604 Sig Troop BFPO Runner-up. The Veterans Competition was won by **Maj Marley** of The School of Signals Blandford with **Capt (QM) Ken Stewart** of the Army Apprentices' College Runner-up.

This year also saw the introduction of the Over 35s' Competition. Five players admitted to being over 35 and so were eligible to play. After throwing away their walking sticks and having a quick injection of Tetley Ale the competition got under way (medics were on hand in case of heart attacks). The eventual winner was a very fit **WO2 David Higginson** with **Capt John Newman** as Runner-up.

Lt Col C. A. Brown presenting the winner of the Corps Championships open competition, Cpl Tom Pollard, with his trophy. Capt K. C. A. Stewart (Corps Secretary) also present

The Trophies this year were presented by our Squash President **Lt Col C. A. Brown**. **Lt Col Brown** always likes to give his support to the Championships entering the Veterans Competition and also gives his support to the Corps team in the Inter-Corps Championships which follow shortly.

We are now in the process of rebuilding the Corps Squash team and the emergence of young players is most encouraging for the future.

COLLEGE 2ND TEAM

This is our Apprentice Tradesman Team, sometimes supported by **Mr Colin Smith** one of the civilian instructors, who also runs the team. Our main Squad members are: **AT RSM Budd, AT Sgt Swift, AT LCpl Humphries, AT Cpl Willson,** and **AT Farrel**. Unfortunately **AT Sgt Swift**'s appearances have been few due to his Volleyball commitments. Two members of the team **AT Sgt Swift** and **AT LCpl Humphries** have been selected to play for the Army Junior Squad at Aldershot in December.

As usual the team is in a 'strong' position holding up the Civilian League, however, we hope to improve on last season's performance and gain more points in a very competitive league.

CANOEING

The College Canoe Club has had a rather quiet term, with the College Squad training hard after a changeover of members at the start of term.

The highlight of the Winter Term being the first place gained in the team event at the 'Army Wild Water Championships', held on the River Swale near Catterick in November. The team consisted of **AT Cpl Arnott, AT LCpl McInnes** and **AT Moloney** 'Jnr'. A second place in the individual was achieved by **AT LCpl McInnes**, all round a very good result. The Club now looks forward to next term with the hope of Army Colours.

COLLEGE RIDING CLUB

The College Riding Club, although a small concern at the moment, is expanding gradually each term as more apprentices realise that riding is a sport which, at all levels, demands physical fitness and mental alertness. The joy of the sport is the relationship between horse and rider. Those ATs who have become regular members of the Riding Club have the reward not only of developing as a rider but also of achieving a growing understanding of the horse and the skills involved in taking care of the animal.

Normally the Club rides once a week using the facilities at the Army Saddle Club at Catterick. The Saddle Club has both outdoor and indoor arenas, the latter being well appreciated recently in the wet weather, but occasionally we hack out in the beautiful countryside surrounding the Garrison.

The apprentices are instructed by **Corporal of Horse Boyd** who combines excellent and thorough instruction with enjoyment. Despite our sometimes quite outstanding inability to understand instructions, distinguish left from right or jump a fence without demolishing it and simultaneously falling off, **COH Boyd** manages to show exemplary patience.

Recently the Saddle Club has begun to ride occasionally on a Sunday afternoon. The Sunday afternoon ride is reserved for those ATs who have attended regularly and who wish to progress rather more rapidly than is possible in a class which often includes complete beginners.

This Winter Term saw another innovation—our first riding exercise. Ex *Saddlesore* saw **ATs Mark 'Mobby' Whale, Glynn Wade, Mark 'Far Out' Pattison,** (I was my hair every five minutes) **Nickson, 'Jock' Dear, 'Nidge' Frith** and **'Jonno' Johnson** spending a whole weekend achieving the exercise title whilst developing their riding skills and learning about stable management. It is hoped that this exercise will be repeated every term.

We hope next term that the daily 'plugging' of the Riding Club during my lessons will result in a greater number of riders. Until then my thanks go to those ATs who have been the most regular attenders for the past two terms—**ATs Dear, Frith** and **Johnson**—and to Catterick Army Saddle Club for putting up with us!

ACCENT ON HOBBIES
COLLEGE AMATEUR RADIO STATION (G3HKR)

A flourishing hobby within the College. Band conditions allowing, daily contacts are made with many Royal Signals Amateur Radio (RSARs) stations at home and abroad. Contacts are of course made with other amateur radio stations throughout the world. The College offers an apprentice the chance to obtain his Radio Amateurs Certificate, together with the opportunity to experience practical propogation; various modes of transmission and reception; also construction projects.

The Commandant, Col Stephen Carr-Smith discussing Callsigns with AT Cpl Andy Sole and AT LCpl Craig Barrie

G3HKR has equipment covering the amateur bands between 160m and 70 cms. Modes used are: CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, DATA, ATV. We are at present developing our satellite access capability. This is a joint venture involving Amateur Radio and Education Wing. It is intended that the antenna will be driven by a BBC 'B' micro-computer. The aim is to give apprentices first hand experience of orbiting satellite working. We recently allowed the station to be used by 1st Penny Pot scouts with a special callsign GB2PP. This was during the annual Jamboree on the air event. It is believed that this is the first time that a scout troop has appeared on Amateur television during the Jamboree event.

RSARs stations interested in arranging schedules should contact G3HKR via the College. How about you Falkland Islanders? Our information is that a callsign can be issued in Port Stanley without having to take an examination.

AT Andrew Sole (G6XYW) graduates this term and is posted to BAOR where we hope that Celle and District radio club will welcome him.

ACCENT ON SQUADRONS
RAWSON SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. W. Cornforth**
2IC	**Capt B. P. Neillings**
SSM	**WO2 B. P. Matthews**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt P. Clifford**
	Sgt P. Griffin
	Sgt F. Tedby
SQMS	**Cpl G. R. Henderson**
Clerk	**Cpl D. Paterson**

HELLO AND FAREWELL

By the time *The Wire* is published we will have said goodbye to **Maj John** (no it wasn't me who was here as an Apprentice) **Cornforth** and his wife **Margit**, who leaves the Army to join the ranks of the self-employed millionaires. And to our Squadron Storeman **Cpl** (no it wasn't me, I was fishing) **Glen Henderson** and his wife **Janet. Cpl Henderson** leaves us to go to N. Ireland where I'm told the fishing is the best to be found anywhere. To you both go our good wishes for the future.

We say welcome to **Cpl John Rutland** who has joined us recently from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and who is now getting fitted up with a pair of ammunition boots. Something tells me he is going to do more than just be the Squadron Storeman.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S GOLD AWARD

On Tuesday 30 October **AT LCpl Bob Bray** made his way apprehensively to St James' Palace together with his mother and father to receive his Gold Award Certificate from **His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh**. The award was the result of two years' hard work which included a 50 mile trek across the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons National Park to being a member of the Bridgend Mountain Rescue Team. The latter activity proved to be the most difficult but also the most rewarding bearing in mind that **AT LCpl Bray** was only 16 years old at the time and this was before he joined the College. He is to be presented with his Gold Award Badge by the Commandant, **Col Carr-Smith** at the end of his Senior Term before being posted to 30 Sig Regt in Blandford. The Squadron is justly proud of this young man and wish him every good luck in the future.

AT LCpl Bob Bray seen here with his parents after being presented with his Gold award by the Duke of Edinburgh

CHARITY PUSH

On the morning of Sunday 17 July, **ATs 'Scouse Jones, 'Johnno' Johnstone** and **Bob Bazley** set off for their nine mile charity run at Carlton Miniot near Thirsk. At 1030 hrs the runners were on the line ready to go; the whistle was blown and we were off! One mile on and we hit the first check-point. Onwards we went for about 300 metres when we came across a young girl struggling with **Julia Harrison**, aged 14 years, in her wheelchair. Being the kind and considerate guys we are, we offered to push the wheelchair on behalf of PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied). After a hard slog of the final eight miles, we completed the race bringing young **Julia** into first place.

For our hard work and **Julia**'s determination, she received a well earned silver shield. For our help we received a £5 record token which we gladly donated to PHAB on behalf of the Pennypot Senior Youth Club.

Our thanks go to the National Association of Youth Clubs for arranging the event, and to **Mr Keith Thomas** for arranging the travel and other necessities. Overall the day was a great success and the Grand Total raised was £70. We are looking forward to our next event.

The winning Team and supporters *left to right:* ATs Ian Jewison, 'Johno' Johnstone, Bob Bazley and 'Scouse' Jones, AT LCpl Nick Stapleton (Scott Sqn) and in front Julia with her shield

RECRUIT TROOP ABSEILING

It was a glowing morning as the latest intake of Recruits, 84C, set off to Alms Cliff Crag to experience, for the first time, the thrill of going over a cliff face with only a thin rope to hold on to. **Cpls Glenn Henderson** and **Shaun Magee** had already set the ropes up by the time the party arrived, led by **Capt Bernie Neillings** and **Sgt Phil Clifford**. All the recruits were sat down at the base of the 80ft cliff and then they were given a practical demonstration of how to abseil by **Cpl Henderson**. This however didn't make them feel any easier until they realised that their OC, **Capt Bernie Neillings**, had never done any abseiling either. Of course the inevitable happened and the 2IC went over the edge with his knees knocking so loudly that the noise could be heard back at the College.

The award for the recruit with the most guts must go to **Recruit Paul Egan** who having failed to go over the first time summed up all his courage and, to the cheers of the rest of his troop, did a perfect abseil. The award of character of the day goes to **Recruit 'Johnno' Johnstone** who came down the rope head first, being unable to right himself, before he gingerly landed on the ground.

LONDON TRIP 17/18 NOVEMBER 1984
Report by AT Eldridge

The excited cries rang out at 1700 hrs after an arduous week's trade, and the Squadron looked forward to an entertaining weekend down in London. The two coaches left at different times because of the ATs on Warrior 3, which coach two had to wait for. The journey went quickly as we watched a film.

Many of the ATs were intrigued to see what a Guards Depot really looked like because rumour control had seen to that. We felt a tingle down our spine when we stopped at the sign saying Elizabeth Barracks, 1st Battalion Scots Guards. We were escorted to the Cookhouse and served some welcoming soup, yes, and it was real soup too! Then heads down for a good night's sleep.

Sgt Fitzmaurice did reveille on Saturday morning and we quickly got changed into our best clothes. The party was divided up into two groups one for the Ceremony of the Keys and one for the Changing of the Guard. Unfortunately the Changing of the Guard was not held publicly on Saturday due to the weather, so we were let loose on London. The main target was Soho, well, all the lads wanted a Peep round the Sights. The streets were full of foreigners; you had to ask ten people where you were before you were told.

Night descended on London and there were plenty of police cars and ambulances flying around as the fun began. So we began to visit various places of attraction. As we walked past Buckingham Palace myself, **AT 'Snap' Entwhistle, AT 'Scouse' Cardwell** and **AT 'Roy' Ward** decided to give the public a demonstration of how the Army Apprentices' College would change the guard. Somehow I don't think it was as good as the professionals. We then came across the Cenotaph and suddenly the fun stopped as we saw all the wreaths there; they came from all over the world. I think it touched us all and nothing was said for the next five minutes.

We all met up again at 2330 hrs at Horse Guards Parade to depart back to Pirbright. Sunday reveille 0800 hrs or thereabouts depending on how much you'd had to drink.

The lads who had been on the Ceremony of the Keys said it was enjoyable and they were glad to have gone. The lads on the Buckingham Palace Ceremony had the chance to see it on Sunday morning so we arrived in London for that. We were dropped off at the Barracks of the Gurkhas and Coldstream Guards, then we walked to the Palace and the Company Sergeant Major made arrangements for us all to go in, there's a waiting list of about four months to do this, so we were very honoured indeed. The crowd wondered who we were as we went through the gate into the forecourt and we felt proud to be able to do that.

Then the Gurkha Band came marching through the gates very fast and everyone was amazed at the speed and accuracy of their drill. The Company Sergeant Major gave a running commentary on what was happening and he and Sgt Fitzmaurice were not impressed when **AT LCpl 'Tex' Dallas** called the standard a flag! It was great to be there, everyone enjoyed it and it is an experience I will never forget.

On then to Speakers Corner and probably the funniest part of the visit, there were all sorts there, Communists, 'Gays', Facists. **AT Ward** voiced his and the Squadron's point of view by getting up and having an all in battle with two 'gays'. Then we gave the Communist speaker a hard time and it took him half an hour to realise we were soldiers but it was a great laugh. Speakers Corner was overrun that afternoon by the Squadron. People looked on amazed and the Speakers were certainly glad to see the back of us but I'm sure we will return one day and take the capital by storm as we did on that weekend.

Then back to Harrogate and a Monday morning cookhouse to bring us down to earth.

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For full details and an application form phone 0242 32912/3 or write to:

GCHQ

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

A PATTERN

It sounds very grandiose when one is asked to be the 'Editor for the Wire Notes'. Obtaining material, however, is more a case of 'ead 'itting than editing and, even then, the story contents often seem to make interesting reading only to those unit members who contribute them. Nevertheless, it is said that advertising breeds success and this month's contribution again reflects a continuation of a pattern of successful sport which is quite remarkable in such a small unit with a large female strength. I hasten to add, for the benefit of the senior WRAC Officer, that this is a reference to a large complement of females and not a complement of large females. When one gets to my age they are all little darlins . . .

THE PERILS OF PIERRE
Report by LCpl P. Harty

At 0800 hrs on a wet and windy morning in late October 1984, **'Powerful Pierre' (P. Harty)** took his first step on a 24 mile walk for charity. Trying, but failing, to convince himself that a good cause justified any suffering, he settled for the smug satisfaction which goes with relieving the RSM of 50p and set off. By the time this green-hatted hero had navigated the first ploughed field, and had mud up to his knees, he felt more like a frog than Kermit. However, the sight of a road for two miles spurred him on. After a couple of hours the rain stopped, the clouds parted, and the little adventurer began to feel quite good as he dried himself out. He started to recall what the walk was all about. It had been borne out of desire to show that soldiers are charitable creatures (it is a fact that inside every soldier there is a warm-hearted person trying to get out). Armed with this conviction the paragon of virtue decided to do a charity walk in aid of CAFOD.

'What is CAFOD'? one may ask. Research has eliminated anything to do with private beer funds. A furious argument in the workshops resulted in the conclusion that it is nothing to do with Thermionic valves (thanks Foreman) and it is certainly not connected with the writing of satirical poems in Cafes. It is, of course, the Catholic Aid for Overseas Development. Surprise! Some of us are Christians despite being defenders of the peace.

SHOCKING EXPERIENCE

After covering the first six miles our hero was walking through some lovely Leicestershire countryside but, during the afternoon, things began to get rather hairy. After entering a field and proceeding about a quarter of the way across it **'Pierre'** noticed some bullocks paying rather too much attention so, being a brave, but not heroic, man he edged closer to the hedge and began casually looking for a way over it. At this juncture, one of the bullocks began moving towards him and his searches for a swift exit became more frantic. Eventually, the offending animal decided that this was a good game and began to charge. At this point the 'day pack' was swiftly removed and slung over the hedge (in a smart and soldierly fashion of course), to be quickly followed by 'Yours truly'. Contact with the four-legged beast was avoided but, as **'Powerful Pierre'** fell to earth on the other side of the hedge he reached out to steady himself on a wire fence, only to find that it was an electric fence, to keep the sheep in an adjoining field. After this shocking experience, the rest of the walk proceeded quite normally. The sun was setting (probably in the West) as the tired knight reached the end of his quest, entering the gates of Garats Hay at 1620, just in time for tea.

The response to this effort has been very good—£104 was raised to be sent to CAFOD for their Ethiopian appeal. Having 'Sparked' once, next year's effort is already in the planning stages. Watch out for further adventures of **'Powerful Pierre'**!

WOS' AND SGTS' MESS HIGHLIGHTS

The new PMC, **WO2 (Supvr R/SSM) Bob Carty**, his PEC, **SSgt (YofS) Harry Brant** and the Entertainments Committee have got off to a flying start to their term of office. If the present standard is maintained, a good time for all is assured. Various sub-units have held Dinner Nights recently and 3 Company have booked to hold their first effort in January. The Mess has recently dined out **Sgts Pugh** and **Brown (Dave** and **Al)** on their completion of 22 (in one case hectic) years of service. It is rumoured that **Dave Pugh** has presented his working Beret to the local Steam Railway Society, of which he was a member, to be used as a portable Locomotive Shed.

When approached for any Mess highlights, **Sgt John Bishop**, the Mess Manager, exclaimed that 'on Wednesday 7 December the Swill man failed to arrive'. He also requested that we should not mention the Stewardess's New Uniforms so we are not going to.

Recently, an Officers versus Warrant Officers Shoot was organised. Many junior NCO's were sorely disappointed with what this title really meant. However, **WO1 (Supvr R) Andy Nex** won the 'Fun Shoot' with five balloons in only three seconds. **WO1 (Supvr R) John Thomasson** won the highest APWT score. They have specifically requested that it be mentioned that the RSM also took part in the competition!

RUGBY

It is regretted that there are no Rugby notes as the OIC has not been speaking to anyone since that match between Wales and the Wallabies. It is known that the team is doing very well so far and, subject to further success in the next round of the Cup a report will soon be forthcoming.

EASTERN DISTRICT SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY

Comms and Sy Gp entered two teams for the Eastern District Annual Sixes Competition, which was held on a cold, wet and windy day at Colchester on Wednesday 14 November 1984. Some last minute re-organisation of the teams was necessary on arrival but the line-up was eventually as follows:

The 'A' Team	The 'B' Team
WO2 Cleggett	SSgt Foley
SSgt Barber	Sgt Cutforth
SSgt McCreath	Cpl Cooper
Cpl Packwood	Cpl Dengate
Sig Malone	Sig Shaw
Sig Storey	Sig White

As usual when notes are requested, the team which does least well always submits the most copious notes. After amputation, it is reported that the 'B' Team were eliminated in the preliminary Leagues, having won only one of their four matches, despite playing some very good hockey and having one or two brilliant individual performances. No less than 25 Major and Minor Unit teams had entered and, by lunchtime, the Finalists were identified as the winning team in each of the Leagues. These were, 40 Fd Regt RA, QDG, 2RA and Comms & Sy Gp 'A' Team.

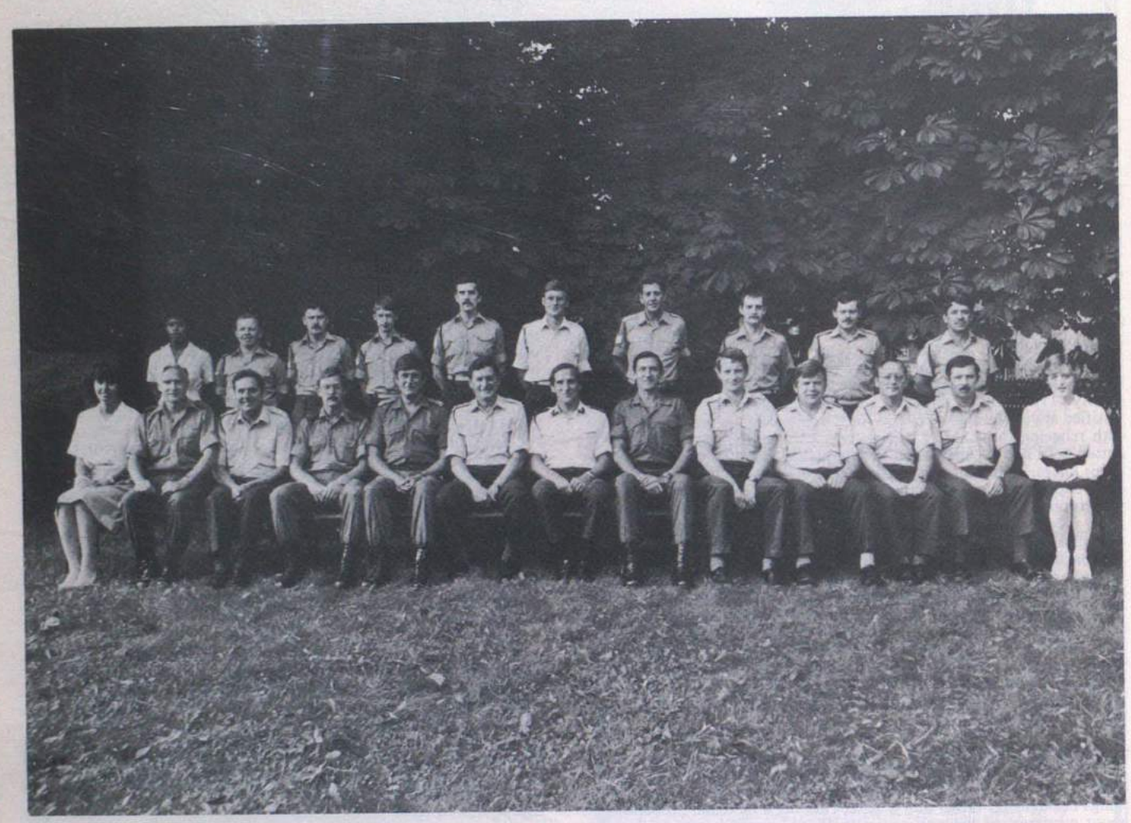
THE 'A' TEAM

Despite rumours to the contrary, the 'A' Team proved to be totally composed of male white caucasians who did not carry machine guns nor fly helicopters. Their first match against QDG proved to be a very close hard-fought game. **Malone** and **Storey** combined well at the front to give an early lead with a tremendous shot by **Malone**. QDG counter-attacked strongly, bringing some very good saves from Goalkeeper **McCreath** before the pressure paid off with a scrambled equaliser. **Barber** began to push forward in mid-field, eventually releasing **Storey** who slid the ball past the QDG Keeper for the winner.

The Final, between the 'A' Team and 40 Fd Regt, was a superb match with end to end attacking at high speed and both keepers making inspired saves. A questionable penalty decision led to 40 Fd Regt taking the lead just before half-time. In the second half, with **Barber** and **Packwood** dominant in mid-field, the 'A' Team scored an equaliser, when a short corner by **Packwood** was controlled by **Malone** and cracked in by **Cleggett**. With only 10 seconds to go, and extra-time looming, 40 Fd Regt made a sudden breakaway to score leaving the 'A' team as runners-up. Both of the Comms and Sy Gp Teams played very well. Hopefully, next year will bring a marginal improvement which is all that is needed to ensure complete success. Mention must be made of **SSgt Taff Smart**, who is responsible for organising all the Eastern District Umpires. The great deal of hard work on his part ensures that competitions like this run smoothly and efficiently and, despite what some players may claim on occasions, he does not get his volunteers from St Dunstans.

As we go to Press, our recent success in the Eastern District Cup semi-finals (winning 1—0 versus 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn) has again ensured our place in the Final for the third successive season. We hope to retain the Trophy in the Final which is to be played at Colchester in the New Year.

HQ 1 (BR) Corps
BFPO 39



PERSONALITIES

Brig R. F. L. Cook	**Comd Comms**
Lt Col I. J. Crouch	**SO1 Comms**
Lt Col D. G. Dudley	**SO1 Ptarmigan/Wavell**
Lt Col (now Brig) J. H. Almonds	**SO1 Comsec *Lionheart***
Maj S. S. Paul	**SO2 Ops**
Maj V. G. Strivens	**SO2 (Pers and Log)**
Maj F. J. Garrod	**SO2 Ptarmigan/Wavell/Proj**
Maj M. K. Stretch	**SO3 Ops**
Maj J. K. Ewbank	**SO3 Ops (Des)**
Maj D. Brown	**SO3 E Man**
Capt A. J. Whydell	**SO3 Freqs**
Capt J. F. Lovell	**SO3 Comsec**
Capt S. J. Harris	**SO3 Ptarmigan/Wavell/Proj**
WO1 T. J. Pengelley	**Staff Assistant**

GENERAL

Having pestered all Royal Signals units within 1(BR) Corps to promote themselves and the Corps in the public eye and to produce notes for *The Wire*, it was felt that it was high time Comms Branch HQ 1(BR) Corps put pen to paper. Firstly the personalities, so that the Corps can see who is to blame for the 'need it by yesterday' requests, orders, please and edicts. Also it helps aspiring Royal Signals flyers to know who to trip up to clear their way through the White List etc, or conversely who to steer clear of. As you can see there are quite a few of us, but that is only the icing on the cake. We are ably supported by our clerical staff (they would never forgive me if I left them out).

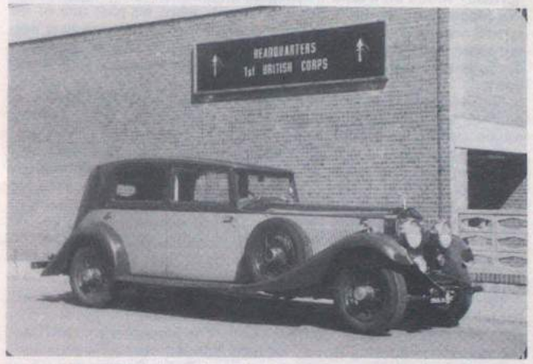
SSgt Alan Houghton	**Chief Clerk**
Sgt Merv Wright	**Ops Sgt**
Sgt John Shorter	**DBP Management *Lionheart***
Cpl Pat Keating	**Crypto NCO**
Cpl Russ Thomas	**Ops Clerk**
Cpl Brian Hibbert	**Draughtsman**
LCpl Trevor Glover	**G1/G4 Clerk**
LCpl Tony Cryer	**Comd Comms Driver**
Pte Dot Morgan WRAC	**Ptarmigan/Wavell Clerk**
Pte Sue Jehu WRAC	**G1/G4 Clerk**

In addition and in the Branch photograph, are **Mrs Nicole Jordan**, PA to Comd Comms, and **Mrs Lynne Knightley**, our typist, who has recently left us for UK.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

It will not escape the more observant, that the names and photograph do not match up. **Lt Col (now Brig) J. H. Almonds** has recently left us for the quieter life as Comd School of Signals, also **Maj M. A. Thorne** has moved on to command 10 Sig Regt, being replaced by **Maj S. S. Paul. Maj J. M. Ferguson** has also moved back to UK and has been succeeded by **Capt J. E. Lovell** as SO3 COMSEC. Finally, **Mrs Lynne Knightley** has been replaced by **Pte Sue Jehu WRAC**. We wish all those who have left the Branch the best of luck and thank you, hoping that the new boys and girls enjoy themselves.

COMD PTARMIGAN'S STAFF CAR



Answer the following questions, easy ones first, to win a holiday, for two years (all found including LOA) of your choice.
Outside which Headquarters is the car parked?
Where is that?
What type of car is it?
Who owns it?
Is the weather wet or dry?
Should it be parked there?
What time of day is it?
What is the power output of the engine?
Would it fit in a Hercules?
If it does fit, would the RAF play and fly it?
What is/was it worth?
Answers to the Staff Assistant, Comms Branch HQ 1(BR) Corps, who could influence your next posting.

NORTHAG C AND E WORKING LEVEL MEETING

On 22/23 November 1984 the Branch hosted one of the biannual NORTHAG C and E Working Level Meetings. Many thanks to 7 Sig Regt for making the meeting a memorable occasion. The above photograph shows **Brig R. F. L. Cook** and the principal staff officers of C and E NORTHAG and its Allied Comms Corps Staffs outside Corps Headquarters. Can you spot the British Officers?

CAPTION COMPETITION

A most discerning photograph. How can the Master of Signals keep a straight face? Officer recruiting is definitely on the up and up. Can you name the jockey, groom (something definitely fishy with him) and the farrier? Must be the air in Verden (a clue).

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Don't laugh. Father Christmas and Coco the Clown arrive at the Bielefeld Flower Club Christmas Fair. The things some people will do to gain publicity! Which one is Comd Comms (a clue).

Answers to be sent, confidentiality agreed, to the Staff Assistant, Comms Branch who will publish the winners, if he is allowed to live, in *Tatler, Paris Match* and *Time* Magazine.

EXERCISE *MAGNUM SPIRIT*

A beginner's eye view of the British Army Motoring Association's Annual Rally.

It all started through boredom or insanity, I'm not sure which.

'I've heard about a rally called Ex *Magnum Spirit*, fancy having a go?'

'What do we have to do?'

'Just drive around in a land rover for a couple of days.'

'Sounds like a good skive, yeah put me down.'

'We might be able to con some other idiots into it, then we can enter a team.'

This was the start of HQ Regt 1 (BR) Corps rally team. The instigators were **Cpl Pat Keating,** Comms Branch, attempting to read a map, and **Cfn Ian Achew** attempting to drive like Nikki Lauda. This crew was crew 46.

The other idiots that were conned were **Cpl Russ Thomas,** normally a clerk, for this exercise a driver, and his navigator **Cpl Mike Paton,** a member of the Australian Rag and Oil Company on an exchange visit. This was crew 47. Crew 48 consisted of **Cpl Bill Watson RAPC,** who at present is writing a book of excuses for when you drive into ditches. Navigating was **Cpl Ritchie Wilson RAOC,** a last minute replacement, who lied when he said he could not read a map.

After a visit to the RCT tpt office where such phrases as, 'you bend them and we'll bend you' were uttered, we had three ½ ton land rovers. The problem then was to prepare the vehicles. Fill it with petrol and oil, shouldn't take more than 10 minutes, think we. 'Wrong'. A week's hard graft by **Cfn Ian Achew** and they were just about ready.

22 November 1984—Final loading. Fit map lights and load the tools and spares, only a half hour job. As it took two hours for **Cpl Mike Paton** to finish we think he was planning an expedition back to Australia.

23 November 1984—Arrive at St George's Barracks, Minden. We knew we were going to do well when **Cpl Russ Thomas** tried to refuel from the diesel tanker. Just for you **Russ,** Yellow is diesel, Red is petrol, and land rovers run on petrol! Next we joined a long queue where people with white armbands came and did silly things, scrutineers I think they call them. They poked the round bits called wheels and made us turn the lights on, it seemed stupid really because it was daylight.

Then on to the signing in. Here they gave us large sheets of paper covered in red and green bits with lines all over. Somebody gave us a bit of paper and said, 'that's the route you want, go to the start'.

STAGE 1

The start point; a happy looking bloke in waterproofs, says 'its 1946 hrs—go'. We go, so does the weather. It is suddenly very dark and pouring with rain. The nightmare has begun. We are getting a year's supply of rain, the wind is gusting 100kph plus. We are travelling along dirt tracks no wider than a footpath which somebody seems to have greased and there is a dirty great ditch either side of us.

After much shouting of turn left here and right there, 'No not this one the next one', we are thinking this is no skive. Suddenly out of the darkness appears a shape, it's a land rover, funny way to drive a land rover with its wheels in the air. There beside it are two wet, forlorn looking creatures. 'It's OK' shouts one, 'someone is coming for us'. Idiots think we. Two minutes later I shout, 'turn left'. We turn, the headlights go out, there is a bang and a jerk, 'why am I lying on my side and what's this mud doing just outside my window?' says I, to the driver. 'The naughty lights went out and I didn't see that nasty ditch' says he. 'Silly person' says I, or words to that effect.

It's stopped raining. Another vehicle pulls up and offers to tow us out of the ditch. I crawl out and start hitching the tow, wondering what happened to the rain. I find out very soon, it was waiting for some idiot like me to appear with no jacket on. 10 minutes later doing a good impression of a drowned rat we are on our way. After another half hour of terror we reach the finish where a wet squaddie says, 'that's the end of Stage 1'. 'Stage 1!' says I, 'Yes, you've got two more to go'. 'Help'

It's 0200 hrs when crew 48 gets back but there is no sign of 47, so being thoughtful people we crawl into our maggots and gonk.

STAGE 2

0500 hrs—24 November 84. We crawl out of the maggot groaning, still no crew 47, maybe they have gone to Australia. We have breakfast and check over the vehicle. 0646 hours we are given the directions for Stage 2. There are a lot of pictures with arrows and lines, 'What's these?', 'Tulips', says an expert. Idiot, they don't look like flowers to me. It turns out that tulips are diagrams of road junctions on the map, they are all joined together to give you a route. A frantic hour later and we have almost planned the route. '0746 hrs' says the starter—'Go'. Stage 2 has begun.

At least it's not raining this time and we are in daylight. This section comprises of road and tracks again. The tracks seem to be of the type normally found on a tank training area. We seem to be doing OK on this Stage and even get a boost in morale when we pass one of the experts who is trying to see how fast a land rover can sink in a bog. We come across another pair of lemons (beginners like us) stuck in a ditch, we do our good deed for the day and they are soon on their way again.

1156—we arrive at the half way stage and find ourselves only 10 minutes late. We have bratty and chips for dinner from a bratty wagon that seems to follow the Army wherever it goes.

1246—and we are off again. After numerous turns and doing a mountain goat impression along the Tuetoburger Ridge we come to the finish. '1638 hrs', says a cheerful marshal. Great we are on time. Time for a meal and to check the vehicles. We find out the fate of crew 47, on Stage 1 they made 14 miles and their gearbox packed up. We also hear about a French crew who tried to live up to their national nickname and ended up in a canal!

STAGE 3

1916 hrs—we get the directions for Stage 3. More of these tulips. I think I hate flowers. We head for the start hoping the botch job on the lights will hold out. '1946 hrs—Go'. The landrover roars off and the rain starts pouring down; we have another storm. We are on a series of tracks that seem to have the River Rhine flowing down both sides of it. We take a right turn and there is a landrover doing its best to burrow itself into a ditch. The vocabulary from inside would not be found in the Oxford English dictionary. A quick soaking and he is towed out.

Suddenly we realise we are lost, which means the three landrovers that have been following us for 20 minutes are also lost. We stop to get a better look at the map and so do the other three. 'That way', I say, and all four vehicles go in different directions. We must have got the right one because we start finding checkpoints again. Visibility is down to five metres; we roar through a large puddle just as a torch waving figure leaps out of the way. We stop and this dripping body shoves its head through the window and calls us rude names. It is a secret checkpoint. 30 seconds later and we are on our way again. At 2224 hrs we reach a checkpoint, a head comes through the window. 'Congratulations, you've finished'. Stunned silence. No more terror, no more dark muddy tracks, we've done it. Park up, switch off, and crawl into our maggots.

A CREDITABLE RESULT

0600 hrs on 25 November 1984. We crawl out of the maggots to find crew 48 have appeared. It seems their wagon took a liking to a rather large ditch and they spent four hours waiting for a wrecker to pull them out. At 0900 hrs we go to the prize giving. Here we find that out of 140 starters only 85 have finished the course. We get a shock when we find we are 43rd.

Everybody thanks the officials who did a great job, some of them spent up to nine hours standing in the rain, having to cope with people like us coming up to them smiling and dry. They always smiled and encouraged us. How they did it I don't know, they had the hardest job of all. 1000 hrs and there is a Le Mans start and everyone, heads for home. Driver 'I enjoyed that didn't you'. Navigator 'yeah, let's do it again sometime'. Driver 'OK, I hear the RAC Lombard Rally starts soon?'

THE NEW YORK MARATHON

Two members of the Branch took part in the New York Marathon on 28 October 1984. They must be mad said the rest of the Branch and most of the Headquarters. Well, they had completed several beforehand, so they knew what was involved; found or made the time to train; cajoled the SO1, **Lt Col I. J. Crouch** for a week off work and finally disappeared to the Big Apple. **Maj M. K. Stretch** and **WO1 T. J. Pengelley** raced in 79F and 90% humidity (phew!), were watched by 2,000,000 New Yorkers, were filmed by American national TV, were feted by First Avenue Single's Bars (after the race) and were eventually interviewed by BFBS. Oh yes, the results. **Maj Stretch** came 2,294 in a time of 3 hours and 32 mins and **WO1 Pengelley** came 4,668 in a time of 3 hours and 55 mins. Both slower than previous times but the weather was against them. Total number running was 18,365, of which just over 14,000 finished. They have mentioned taking part in the Honolulu Marathon but everybody laughed. They were definitely entered in the London Marathon 1985. See you there.

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

248 GURKHA SIGNAL SQUADRON

OPERATION MERCURY 1984

Each year QG Signals organises a shooting competition against the local Swiss community in Hong Kong. It has a number of parts and involves British and Swiss service weapons and crossbow.

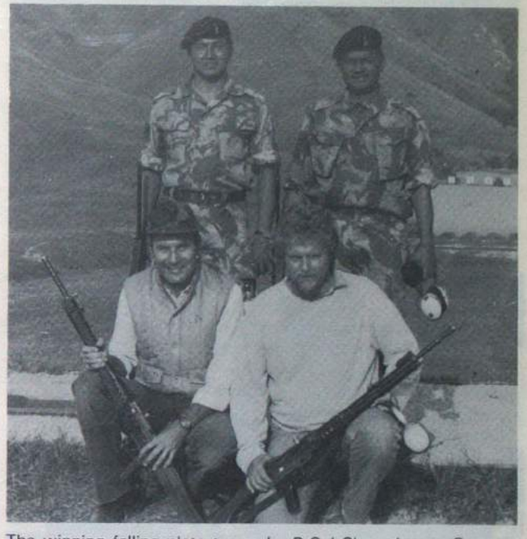
As well as QG Signals and The Swiss Rifle Association shooting in Hong Kong, a Swiss Sig Regt shoots identical practices in Switzerland, although not always at exactly the same time.

This year the competition was held on 24 and 25 November 1984. The 25 was designed as a families day with the more interesting shoots, lots of stalls, Nepalese children dancing, bhat and concluded with Beating Retreat by the Pipes and Drums of QGE and QG Signals. So that the organisers task, 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn, wouldn't be too easy, it was held on Stonecutters Island. This is a military island, to which only RN and RCT craft travel, and with limited facilities. Nothing like a transport problem of getting stores, food, bar stock and lots of people on and off the island at the right time, from lots of different mainland locations.

Shown below is a selection of photographs to sum up the event (and to save you having to read all about it).

Swiss weapon (Assault Rifle 57), Gurkha firer, English scorer/supervisor. 2Lt Greg Horn watching

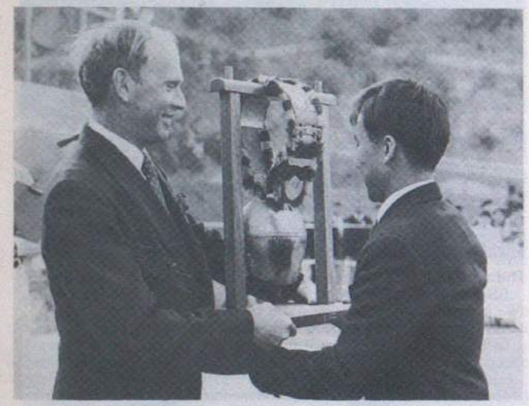
Freddie Ingold firing his own weapon—we made him take his sunglasses off



The winning falling plate team: *L—R* Cpl Shyamkumar Gurung, SSgt Hembahadur Tamang, Mr G. Von Berg, Mr K. Binggeli

'Bernie . . . the bolt'. WO1(GSM) Yeomans loading the crossbow for the Swiss Consul General, Mr Wolf. LCpl Hastabahadur Gurung checking that he does it correctly

Cpl Manikumar Gurung helping with the ladies .22 shooting



Sig Purbahadur Ghale collecting the Cowbell Trophy from Brig P. R. Duffell. The Trophy is for an annually shot practice between 15 Swiss firers and 15 QG Signals soldiers, and not as rumour had it, for getting the Sqn 2IC through his Gurkha language course

Brig P. R. Duffell presenting the Ladies .22 prize

VISIT OF THE CORPS BAND

The Band of our parent Corps, The Royal Corps of Signals visited Hong Kong for two weeks in October for early Christmas shopping (may be the truth about current Hong Kong shop prices will now reach UK!) Whilst out here, together with the Pipes and Drums of Queen's Gurkha Signals, they gave a performance of Beating Retreat. It was an excellent display, and we look forward to the Band's next visit.

Part of the Pipes and Drums of Queen's Gurkha Signals during the Retreat Ceremony

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
PB11

AG11 BECOMES PB11

On 31 October 1984, as part of the MOD Army reorganisation, AG11 moved from under the direction of the Adjutant General to that of the Military Secretary. Now all officer personnel matters fall within the responsibility of the Military Secretary. AG Branches retain their numbers but adopt the nomenclature 'Personnel Branch': hence PB11. As far as the customer is concerned detailed responsibilities of PB11 remain as before, only the sign boards and letter headings have altered! The 'new' Branch consists of:

Colonel PB11	**Col David Whitehead**
SO2(O)	**Maj David Collyer (Maj Steve Siddall designate March 85)**
	SSgt Jock Thomson
SO2(A)	**Maj Tony Kimber**
	Mrs Holly Gregory
Staff Quartermaster	**Lt Col Ron Knight**
	Mrs Peggy Leigh
	Miss Donna Robertson

The change in Branch title coincided with two other events: the promotion of the Staff Quartermaster and the departure of the Chief Clerk. **Maj Ron Knight** was promoted to **Lt Col** (Staff Quartermaster) and adopts the mantle of doyen of all the Quartermaster category officers. The Chief Clerk **WO2 Dave Stuart** left the service after 22 years and immediately started work as SSgt (NRPS) Chief Clerk of 31 Sig Regt (Volunteers). Out of the frying pan into the . . .!

The photograph records the modest office party held to mark the events.

Celebrations amongst the filing cabinets.
L-R: The retiring Chief Clerk, Warrant Officer Dave Stuart, SSgt Ken Durant (on loan from 31 Sig Regt)(V), Col David Whitehead, SSgt Jock Thomson, Lt Col Ron Knight, Mrs Holly Gregory, Mrs Peggy Leigh and Maj David Collyer. Miss Donna Robertson is out of the office and Maj Tony Kimber is taking the photograph

The Staff Quartermaster puts the finishing touches to the updated 'Colonels' Board

Cypher Officers

If you are aged between 21 and 50 and have good touch typing skills (and preferably previous cypher or telex experience) there are currently a number of vacancies for employment at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office either in Whitehall, London, or Hanslope, Bucks.

Shift work is involved, including weekend and public holidays duty. However, this attracts an allowance in addition to basic salary plus a premium for weekend work. There are also opportunities later to serve overseas in Washington, New York, Brussels, Hongkong or Paris.

Present National starting salary is £4785 rising to £6989. Additionally those employed in London will receive the London Weighting Allowance currently £1300. All posts are pensionable.

If you are completing your Service with the Army application forms and further information are available from:

Personnel Policy Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Room 314, 3 Central Buildings
Matthew Parker Street, London SW1
(Tel. 01-233-5224)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

WITH PROJECTS DIVISION
Report by Sgt Terry Hague

Shortly after arriving in Projects Division I attended an aerial riggers course at RAF Digby which proved to be both interesting and frightening. My knees trembled just as much as the next mans on the 360′ climbing test on the infamous Stenigot tower. One trainee froze and had to be dragged off the tower and another slipped and dangled on the end of a rope at 180′. Four weeks later I qualified as a rigger!

MY FIRST JOB

I arrived back in camp and visited my OC, **Lt Col (Pat) Soward**, who asked me how I had faired on the course. 'I passed' said I. 'Good, you can go to Canada next Tuesday' said he. I walked out of his office chuckling saying 'pull the other one sir'. That afternoon **Mr Chris Smith** one of the civilian employees visited me to explain what was needed in Canada. The job really WAS ON!

ARRIVAL AT BATUS

I arrived at BATUS suffering from jet lag and met **Chris McGhee RAOC** who instructed me to have a few beers and then sleep off the jet lag; I must have overdone the antidote because I felt terrible the next day.

THE JOB

The next day I was driven along Rattlesnake Road to a 200′ tower named Brutus and informed of what was required. The job had expanded from 'move a couple of aerials' to 'move two and install three new ones'! One was to go on top of the tower and I hadn't a clue how to get it there until **Capt McGhee** suggested that we could borrow a helicopter. This was my first rigging job, still inexperienced at heights and here I was at 200′ with a helicopter lowering an aerial into position. Everything went very smoothly (with a great sigh of relief) and I must thank **Capt McGhee** who came up to the top with me and without whose help there would have been great difficulties.

RETURNING HOME

The job over-ran the allocated time and I missed the returning military flight from Calgary, Canada. I would now have to stay overnight in Calgary at a hotel with heated swimming pool and sauna. There was also a TV and telephone in my room. The hardships of travel! That evening I bumped into a couple of cowboys, **Larry Stirling** and Tim Hein, complete with stetsons, who took me on the town. It proved to be a real red-neck night with them showing me the best strip clubs in town and not allowing me to buy any beer. They dropped me at the hotel in time for my transport to the airport at 0630 hrs. I boarded the civil airplane where I was served champagne breakfast and then slept all the way home. I now know why we receive X factor!

SHILLINGSTONE TO BLANDFORD RAFT RACE
Report by SSgt (FofS) Woffenden

Every year the annual Shillingstone to Blandford Raft Race takes place on the River Stour. The idea is not so much a race but to build and propel a home designed raft the ten miles and three weirs between Shillingstone and Blandford. All rafts are sponsored and proceeds go to the local hospital. In 1983, Projects Div entered a collection of oil drums and although finishing well down the running order we did win a trophy for highest sponsored raft. We were determined to do at least as well in 1984.

THE BEST DESIGN

Due to many commitments we started to build the raft only the week before the event. Many varied and outlandish designs were tossed around before **Sgt Steve Graham** convinced us all that his design was the best and work commenced. After a test launch on a quiet part of the river and a little last minute re-design the raft was named *Bee Gee Eye* and we were all ready.

BLAST OFF

Sunday 3 June arrived with heavy rain and a fair breeze. The luckless crew comprised **SSgt (FofS) Dave Woffenden, Sgts Nick Barlow** and **Dougie Laing** and **LCpl Bob McGarry**. What happened to the designer? Well he was able to slip into the admin party along with **SSgt (SQMS) John McGuinness**—they were to provide essential resupply at the many vantage points along the way.

AN ADMIN PROBLEM

We were drawn 74th to start and we spent a fun hour or two watching the first 73 slide down the launch band and sink or break up or actually start. Several looked very good and obviously going for speed, several looked very flimsy and obviously going nowhere! We soon got our rhythm and after several bumps we were manouvering through the meanderings and shallows around Shillingstone Village. After a long struggle both physical and verbal we passed the LAD raft at about Little Handford just before the Stour takes a long sweep right almost back to Shillingstone. It was here that we discovered our on board refreshments in the shape of a six pack or two had gone overboard. We pressed on knowing our stalwart resupply party would be by the old railway bridge only a mile ahead. We paddled on thinking of cool beer and perhaps a sausage roll or two. We passed the cheering multitudes and reached the old bridgef—not a sausage—not a beer—not even an admin party!

The weir was approached with another choice—either manhandle the raft over the weir or carry it around. We went over the weir and thankfully *Bee Gee Eye*, our raft, stood up to the handling well. We looked around for our support party and found no one. We ploughed on getting visibly slower and quieter as the complications of another mile before the bridge under the A357 could bring relief to our rapidly dehydrating bodies. We scanned the bridge anxiously looking for manna from above but this was not to be. It's a good job we were all experienced installers and quite used to doing without home comforts.

THE WORST STRETCH

The worst stretch loomed ahead, a long slow bend around Bryanston School and we were cheered only by an outrageous spoof entry, complete with smoking funnel, piped music and two propellors, crewed by four amiable regulars of the Three Choughs, a well known tavern in Blandford.

TRADITION

The second weir at Bryanston was higher than Durweston and we were advised to lift the raft out of the water and carry it around the banking. No mean feat after nine miles of back breaking rowing and no refreshments. We struggled and slipped in the steep muddy reaches but finally managed at last to relaunch down stream. Now for the final mile under Blandford bridge and the finish line. Tradition says all rowers go over the last weir, by the brewery, with the raft—so we stuck to tradition. Unfortunately it's about 12 feet deep at the other side and rafts never go straight, only **Bob McGarry** stayed on, the rest of us had a bath—the Badger Beer improved the following week!

The 10 mile challenge had at last come to a watery end some four and a half hours after starting and four weary oarsmen dragged the raft on to dry land for the last time, at least we'd beaten the LAD home.

The prize for the highest sponsored raft being presented to SSgt John McGuinness by Dr Prior from the League of Friends for Blandford Hospital. The 'Boss' Lt Col Neil Walter looks on

At a later presentation we learned we had finished a very creditable 28th and yet again received a trophy for the highest sponsored raft. Our grateful thanks go to all our sponsors including Plessey Office Systems Ltd and Pye Cambridge for their generous contributions helping us raise £233 for a worthy charity.

Next year I'm doing re-supply!

FITS

As many of you will already know the Division has had a team deployed to the Falklands to install Phase I of an island wide digital communications system, despite the rigours of the South Atlantic Winter. The team is due back in August and we hope their intrepid leader **Capt Danny Rotherham** will put pen to paper in time for our next feature.

BLANDFORD OPEN DAY

Blandford Open Day started bright, if not early, with an exciting programme of events in the offing. Among the many side stands around the central arena was one ably manned by **SSgt John McGuinness** and **SSgt Ian Dolby**. The idea was the public would pay good money to hit a golf ball with the intention of winning a prize by getting said ball into a bucket. Luckily few proved adept at this operation, (the least said about the hoopla rings the better), and the stand was able to make a modest profit of £25 for charity. Other efforts from the Division during the day included **Maj Danny McConnell** Garrison Karate Stand. Our thanks to the Poole WADO RYU Karate Club, for their assistance.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

We wish to say farewell to **Maj John Stuart** and his wife **Judy**, on their way to 13 Sig Regt and **Mrs Pam Wade**, our Clerical Officer who has left to work for the RAF in Henlow. We welcome **Maj Danny McConnel** and his wife **Liz**, and **Mrs Lillian Johnson** from Trials Division. Finally on his way to civilian life, after a notable farewell, is **Sgt Barry Sewell**. We wish him well in his new career.

SHAPE BFPO 26

THE PROBLEM

The Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), which is situated at Casteau near Mons in Belgium, has a large number of official visitors. Ministers of Defence, Chiefs of Defence Staffs and other VIPs are normally welcomed by a SHAPE International Honour Guard drawn from national representatives serving at SHAPE. Unfortunately, it has never been possible to establish a SHAPE band and it was often difficult to obtain musical support for the ceremony.

THE CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

Then in January 1983, when **Maj Mike Sheehan** arrived, the challenge was taken up. **Mike** and his wife **Ruth** are both music lovers who together own and play some 30 different instruments. With his experience of running bands at school and at University he got together some 30 volunteer amateur musicians from the military and civilians working in SHAPE and approached the Supreme Commander—**Gen Bernard W. Rogers.** As it happened, **Gen Rogers** had started off his distinguished military career as a bandsman playing the Euphonium and he readily gave his full support.

FIRST ENGAGEMENT

Several nations contributed instruments and music for the band. Christmas 1983 for the **Sheehan** family was spent in arranging and writing out the instrumental parts to the beginning of the band's proposed musical repertoire. In January 1984 the great day came and the band assembled for its first rehearsal under the baton of **Maj Mike Sheehan**. Although many players had not touched an instrument for years, through hard work and enthusiasm the band progressed and in May made its first public appearance. Twenty-eight musicians in a variety of military uniform together with some civilians (including **Ruth Sheehan**) marched proudly out in front of the Headquarters for a Reveille and flag-raising ceremony. Their first major engagement was at the Review Ceremony in late May for the retirement of **Brig J. F. Blake** from the Army.

WELL ESTABLISHED

The band is now a well established feature of SHAPE life. It has played for Honour Guards including the guard for the departure of DSACEUR (**Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry**) and for the initial visit of the new NATO Secretary General. **Lord Carrington**. Other engagements include playing at the SHAPE Village Fete, American Independence Day celebrations and Concerts in both SHAPE and at Brussels, but its most ambitious and successful engagement to date has undoubtedly been the Royal Navy Officers Trafalgar Night Dinner. The band played a specially prepared programme of music including the Sea Songs Fantasia, Sea Shanties for Community Singing and the Retreat Ceremony, which together lasted for over three hours.

JUSTLY PROUD

In January, 1985, **Mike** and **Ruth Sheehan** are due to leave SHAPE on posting to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in Herford. They will be leaving behind them some 32 musicians of all ranks, including 11 officers and 2 US civilians of Brigadier status. They can both be proud of what they have started. Lastly, if there are any amateur musicians who fancy a tour at SHAPE, we suggest they ask for a posting to SHAPE Signals Support Group!

The SHAPE Band
Maj Mike Sheehan (with baton), Mrs Ruth Sheehan (2nd from left of photograph)

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News from Regiments

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

OVERHEARD IN RHQ

Adjt to RQMS(A)	'The CO would like some new chairs—organise it please "Q".'
Later that day	
2IC to Supt Clk	'Have you seen my chairs Super?'
Supt Clk	'No Sir! Have you lost some?'
Much later same day	
2IC to RQMS(A)	'Q have you seen my chairs?'
RQMS(A)	'Well Sir! The Adjt said *!@* Chairs—, !!*@: The Col wants chairs *@!!..*@!* He'll *@! have **@! chairs!!'
2IC	'I want **@!! chairs'
A/Adjt to Adjt	'Sir—have you seen our chairs?'
Adjt	'"RQ"!!!'

REGIMENTAL CROSS COUNTRY
Report by SSgt (YofS) Allan

The Cross Country team has had a hectic two weeks competing in five races ranging from the Army Cross Country Relay Championships in Aldershot on 10 November 1984, to the 1 Armd Div Championships at Osnabruck on 21 November 1984.

Eight members of the team travelled to the UK for the Army Relay Championships which was held on the Rushmoor Training Area in Aldershot. The course was a gruelling two laps of two miles per lap. The teams were as follows:

A Team	B Team
WO2 (QMSI) Bob Duncan APTC	**Capt Derek Graham RPC**
SSgt Don Adams	**SSgt (YofS) Ron Allan**
SSgt Tony Buffrey	**LCpl Steve Norman RPC**
LCpl 'Ginge' Hurford	**Sig 'Knoxy' Knox**

Considering the strength of the opposition and the absence of some of our better runners, the A Team came a very creditable 13th out of 42 major Unit teams, a position which we will definitely better next year.

On the way back to Verden, we 'stopped off' at Brighton to compete in the Brighton half-marathon. Some creditable performances were achieved by the team especially from **SSgt Tony Buffrey** who ran a PB (Personal Best) time and was the first man home from our team. He actually beat 'The Q' **Bob Duncan** and he never let us forget this all the way back to Verden. A special mention must go to **Mrs Celia Duncan** (wife of 'The Q') who managed to beat most of the team.

A good team spirit was forged during this trip and an enormous amount of leg-pulling took place throughout. Some of the best quotes were:

SSgt Tony Buffrey	'It's hard being a Superstar'
SSgt Don Adams	'I must work up some enthusiasm'
The YofS	'Just watch me next season'
Sig 'Knoxy' Knox	'Put on one of my cassettes'

Although no prizes were won during the trip, the following awards were made at team level:

Capt Derek Graham	Cleanest running shoes
SSgt Don Adams	Best minibus driver
SSgt Tony Buffrey	Largest breakfast eater
YofS	Smallest breakfast eater

By the way there is no truth in the rumour that **SSgt Tony Buffrey** sold his ration pack on the way over to a German at an Autobahn Rastplatz or that he stopped halfway round the Brighton half-marathon to pick up a one pence piece.

NO RESPITE

On arrival back in Verden at 1200 hrs on the Monday morning and still half asleep we decided to have a training run at 1600 hrs (Keen eh'!). With a Div League match approaching on the Wednesday, we wanted to run the journey out of our system (The Q's theory?). The Div League race was held at Celle and was hosted by 94 Loc Regt RA. It was a blistery cold afternoon and a large number of teams entered. The Regiment came overall fifth with best performances coming from **'The Q'** who came individual third (Eat your heart out **Buffrey**). On the way back to Verden **'The Q'** kindly informed us of our next task—A German Volkslauf on the Sunday.

We set off for Syke (near Bremen) on Sunday 18 November with Celle mud still on our running shoes (except for **Capt Derek Graham** who as usual had clean ones). The course was an unusual one consisting of eight laps of 1Km which was very flat and very fast. Against stiff opposition the Regiment managed to take third; seventh and nineth positions coming from **'The Q'**, **SSgt Tony Buffrey** and **SSgt Don Adams** respectively.

CREDITABLE PERFORMANCES

The final race in this hectic period was the 1 Armd Div Cross Country championships hosted by 4 Fd Regt RA at Osnabruck on Wednesday 21 November 1984. The team and individual position (out of approx 300 runners) were:

2nd	**Sig Mark Davidson**
8th	**WO2 (QMSI) Bob Duncan**
12th	**SSgt Don Adams**
15th	**SSgt Tony Buffrey**
47th	**LCpl Steve Norman**
54th	**SSgt Berni Temmen**
72nd	**Capt Tim Pitcher**
94th	**SSgt (YofS) Ron Allan**
113th	**Sig 'Knoxy' Knox**
131st	**LCpl Mike Openshaw**

With the first eight runners to count, the Regiment came third and very narrowly failed to qualify for the BAOR Championships. One consolation was the fact that **'The Q'** and **Sig Mark Davidson** will qualify as individuals for the BAOR Championships to be held in December. We wish both of them good luck. Sadly our team Captain, **Capt Derek Graham** could not run in this event due to an injury but he still turned up to act as recorder/umpire and to provide 'moral' support at the halfway point. Special mention also to **Capt Bob Fortune** who ran as an individual veteran and managed to show up a few of the youngsters.

At the end of this period, the team has gained vital experience whilst achieving creditable performances and once our 're-inforcements' return from PTARMIGAN then the opposition will be in for a shock because the best is yet to come!

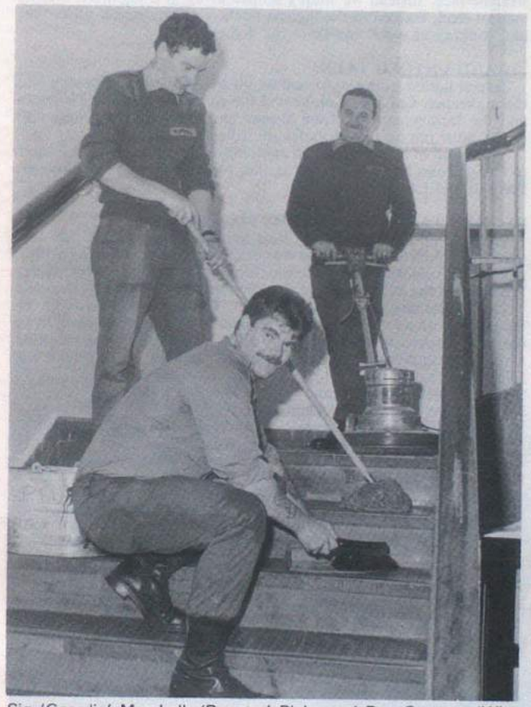
PIU AND SST (FWD)

The PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit and System Support Team (Forward)(PIU & SST (Fwd)) is alive and well and living (well, almost) in Sheil Barracks in Verden. The unit moved across to Germany during the first two weeks of October to take over quarters, move the families in, take over the office accommodation and (best of all)—get it cleared! Everyone set to the task, and ranks and trades were forgotten in an effort to make Block 35 ready for the Training Courses.

Whilst the PIU were working in Block 35, a skeleton staff of PWSST (Fwd)—headed by the OC, **Maj Helier Exon**—knocked their own offices in Block 28 into shape.

On 19 October, a VC10, chartered by the Plessey Company, took the PIU back to Blandford to pick up, again, the preparations for the Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE) Demonstration. The PWSST (Fwd) remained in Verden until 5 November when they also returned to Blandford.

A rear party (**Capt Jane Stockdale, SSgt Tony Buffery** and **Sgt Paul Griffiths**) has remained in Verden to continue with the preparation of the offices and accommodation, vehicles etc, and to handle as best they can any family problems which might arise—these range from arranging transport to the NAAFI and helping with BFG car Documentation, to walking the dog!



Sig 'Geordie' Marshall, 'Rooster' Blake and Roy Cowan—'Who said anything about trade pay?'

The unit will be operational in Verden on 3 January 1985 ready for the first course to start on 21 January. Even during their short stay in BAOR, the 'lads' found time for a bit of sport, and our orienteering Team (**SSgt 'Chippy' Wood, Sgt 'Chuck' Walker, Sgt Bob Drysdale, LCpl Kev Collins** and **LCpl Colin East**) came a very creditable second in the 1 ADSR Inter-Squadron Orienteering Championships, with **LCpl East** coming second on the 'B' Course. **Capt Miles Stockdale** (OC PIU) and **Sgt Paul Griffiths** trialled for the Rugby team and made the Garrison first side. **Sgt Griffiths** has since played nearly every game and seems to be having a very successful season with the Verden Vultures. **SSgt Tony Buffery** is off and running and working his way up the Divisional Cross-Country League.

THANK YOU

Since our arrival, we have received maximum co-operation, help and advice from so many key departments in 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and in Verden Garrison—in particular the QM (Admin) and QM (Tech) Departments; the RHQ, LAD and MT, the SSO's Office, the ASA and the Estate Wardens, the Pay Office ... the list really is endless—and our wives have kindly been taken under the friendly 'wing' of the 1 Sqn Wives' Club. To all these (and many more)—thank you—and we look forward to our next two years in Verden.

DAYBREAK WITH 2 SQUADRON

Daybreak on 1 November. A beautiful clear bright morning—it could have been 1 April. Alas, the ray of hope that exercise *Shesh Paryo* was not really about to happen (or so the OC kept saying) rapidly disappeared as we tabbed out of barracks.

The exercise had come right out of the blue (as was some of the language when the news broke) on the night of 31 October, and here we were at sparrow's the next morning on our way. 20 miles, full webbing just to remind ourselves why we hadn't joined the PBI (poor bloody infantry for the uninitiated). However, being the fighting first, who needs training? There were very few dropouts in the regiment and every man from the second squadron—motto *Nulli Secundus*, of course made it. The beer and meal at the end went down well so it looks as if the old saying 'if you can't take a joke etc etc, still applies.

What's Afoot?
L-R: LCpl Sloan, Cpl Cheshire, LCpl Clayton, Sig Perry, Sig Pollitt, LCpl McPhee, Cpl Wratten, LCpl Brown

THE 1984 CONKER CHAMPIONSHIPS

The highlight of the year's Divisional sporting and social scene is undoubtedly the 2 Sqn sponsored Conker Championships. Numerous VIP's are invited—they don't often come, but they are invited. This competition has been held annually since 1979. The 1981 winner was **Sig 'Taff' Shaw** tragically killed later in a traffic accident. A new trophy was purchased and named the 'Shaw Trophy' in his memory.

For the first time the trophy was won by someone outside the squadron—that well known hustler, the regimental 2IC **Maj Sam Saunders**. Obviously a dedicated professional, this guest entrant even brought his own nuts! This however, was against the rules (rewritten every year and sometimes from minute to minute) and he was issued with what turned out to be a real 'hard nut'. All opposition was literally smashed and despite a gallant effort from **Sig 'Ossie' Plant** in the final; he too went to pieces (the conker not **Plant**). The 2IC obviously a man of substance and delighted with his fine win *nearly* bought the beers.

'Just make sure you hit the right nut Sergeant Major!'
L-R: WO2 (SSM) Sutherland, LCpl Eamus, LCpl Dean, Sig Ferguson, Cpl Bunt, Maj Saunders and a Squadron guest at the Conker Championships

201 (22nd Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

EXERCISE *LONELY MOOSE*

Monday dawned, bright and clear, after a frantic weekend spent scouring Celle for compasses, plastic bags, waterproof matches and suspender belt clips (for basha building) although the queue in a large department store in Celle consisted at one time of a lot of embarrassed looking lads, intent on either bluffing it out or avoiding the cashier's eye altogether! We'd had an introductory lecture on the previous Friday by **WO1 (ex SAS) Tony Dicker** on survival and today was to be more lessons before the exercise proper began.

Lessons consisted of 'fungi-identification', basha building, killing a rabbit (we knew then that we'd actually get a chicken), how to RV with an enemy agent and survival navigation. There was also an introduction to two guard dogs which were intended to play a large part in the exercise later.

Our last meal that day was tea, no food just tea, and we realised that this was a cunning move to start breaking morale as was the rain which began as we were being herded outside the POW cage. The strip and search routine took eight hours for all 60 of us, the monotony being broken only by baiting the guards. Unfortunately just as we were beginning to get the upper hand someone had the bright idea of using the dogs to keep control. After that it was a case of 'OK I'll do it—after you!' Due to the cold not many had much to brag about during the strip before being bundled into the 'cage' itself. The reappearance of the DS in civvies looking warm and well fed was a clever move, but the POW's responded well and the resistance movement, led by **SSgt 'Slinker' Pete Smith** began knocking out the lights and fusing the generators. At one point in the chaos and confusion, **Capt Steve Marshall**, the 2IC, fearing a breakout, brought up his Merc to provide some light! Rumour has it that he scratched it in the process but one is reluctant to ask.

UNDER WAY

Morning eventually dawned and a rumour went round that the Chinooks requested to take us to the exercise play area, were grounded due to the weather. The amount of messing about during the morning supported this, so just to show that we could do it, a patrol led by **Cpl 'Ginge' Battle** escaped into the area and laid low. When the Chinooks arrived we had to declare them missing and watch as the dogs 'sniffed them out'. The handlers were subjected to a lot of abuse as the dogs weren't really trackers and our lads had to give themselves up. We were flown out at 1300 hrs just as the Foreman, **SSgt Tony McMahon** and **Cpl Dave Foster REME** were trying to share out the 'brunch' rations. We all felt replete after one tin of bacon grill between 12, it was the one odd tin between 60 that really caused the problem. Chinooks are more comfortable than Bedfords, but it's a pretty close thing.

AN ABRUPT END

After a classic case of 'turn left at Gutersloh' navigation, we landed at what a couple of people realised was Salamanca Barracks Soest, and disembarked into a couple of Bedfords for a two hour drive into the Sauerland. The journey came to an abrupt end at an ambush by two friendly agents, **SSgt Dougie Woodhead** and **Pte Karen Powell,** when each section had a map thrust at them, an RV Grid Ref and were promptly despatched. Most groups made their way, over the next few hours, to a site fairly near their RV and 'bashered-up'. The bashas were quite cosy affairs with only one poncho per section, so all five of us tucked in—'and the little one said' etc.

At the RV we were given another RV and a veritable feast. A whole tin of bacon grill and only five of us to share it. The next three days passed like that with only the odd assistance from friendly agents; as we had suspected it was a live chicken, and we hadn't even had a budgie to practise on!

GENEROUS SUPPORT

The locals in the Sauerland are generous, friendly and helpful people and most of us were grateful to them for various forms of help in the way of meals, drinks, barns, drying clothes and the odd lift. To those who didn't get a lift, **Cpl John Levins'** section had your share. The sheer luxury of riding up a mountain on a trailer-load of sugar beet—beats all, except perhaps the feeling of sitting by a fire having just eaten a couple of plump trout, supplied courtesy of the local 'fischteich'. At least **Cpl Mick Wray** assures us that he'd put the plug back in.

LESSONS

Several valuable lessons were learnt during the exercise about the preparation required before a 'real' operation and the points to consider should one ever become a real POW. The journey back was again by Chinook and we'd like to take this opportunity to apologise to 1 RHA for blowing their tents all over the sports field on landing. We did try to apologise at the time but it was too difficult to keep a straight face. Instead we simply limped away in a dignified silence, men of steel, trained to the highest pitch, also unwashed, unshaven, and stinking of wood smoke to the highest pitch.

... AND UNTOLD TALES

Several heroic stories must remain untold. **Cpl Alan Thornton** and the innkeeper, **Cpl Jock Lambe** and the chickens, **Cpl Bob Pickering** and the farmer and **Sgt John Dunne** and the wild pigs; these and others must not be told in order to protect the guilty.

At the end of a very close run competition the winners were judged to be **Sgt John Bennett** and his section of **Cpl Wynn, LCpl Connell, Pte Salt** and **Cfn Armitage.**

REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

The 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt Skill-at-Arms Meeting was held on the 23/24 October 1984 and was organised again by the Squadron. Admin ran smoothly under the watchful eye of the SSM, **WO2 Gerry Whelan** and the dulcet tones of the Yeoman, **WO2 Dave Bowden**. We welcomed the new CO of the Regiment, **Lt Col S. M. A. Lee** to the Squadron with a formal lunch in the field, and an excellent meal from the field kitchen it was too. Due to the high standard of shooting within the Squadron, 201 were again the overall winners with the following results:

Skill-at-Arms Winning Team	201 Sig Sqn A
Skill-at-Arms Runners-Up Team	201 Sig Sqn B
Regimental Champion at Arms	**Sgt George Musselwhite RPC**
Champion SLR	**Cpl John Levins**
Runner-Up Pistol	**Sgt George Musselwhite RPC**
Falling Plate Competition Winners	201 Sig Sqn B
Falling Plate Competition Runners-Up	201 Sig Sqn A

The CO Lt Col S. M. A. Lee awarding Sgt George Mussellwhite the Trophy on becoming Regimental Champion-at-Arms 1984

The Victorious 201 Sig Sqn Shooting Team
L-R: Sig Parr, LCpls Clive Adams and Dave Proudlove, Cpls Jock Lambe and Ginge Battle, Sig Mac McNabb, Sgt George Mussellwhite, Lt Scott Workman, Capt Steve Marshall, Sig Steve Towers, Cpl John Levins, Sig Basford, Cpls Alan Thornton and Dave Foster, Sig Richie Richardson and Pte Harding

The CO, Lt Col Mervyn Lee, awarding Cpl John Levins his medal for Champion Rifle Shot

EXERCISE *TACTICAL PICNIC*

While the Regimental SAA meeting was going on, a crack team consisting of **LCpls Phil Moffatt** and **Dave Buckingham, Sig Bamber Gascoyne** and **Viv Henry** led by the Foreman, **SSgt Tony McMahon** were setting up the PA and DEL for a 1 Armd Div Study period named Ex *Tactical Picnic*. This enabled us to have a preview of all the new equipment entering service shortly, the rifle, webbing, helmet, etc. Unfortunately the photos which were posed for, have not come back in time to be included with this issue. Thanks must also go to **WO1 (FofS) Dick Howes** and **Sgt Bob Goulding** and his team from 28 (BR) Sig Regt for their help and assistance with the simultaneous translation equipment for the same occasion.

WIVES' CLUB NEWS

Whilst the Squadron has been hard at work the Wives' Club have been working all hours to raise money for themselves and SSAFFA at the annual SSAFA Christmas Fair. For the last few weeks the Club have been incarcerated in the OC's cellars creating a masterpiece—indeed a new Art form—which was to form the centrepiece of the Club Stall at the fair. Saturday dawned and the masterpiece was revealed—a splendid model of 'Santa's Winter Wonderland' which stole the show at the fair. Thanks to everyone's hard efforts a lot of money was made which will, no doubt, be put to good use.

END OF AN ERA

As the end of 1984 approaches, we look forward to a real challenge as we get PTARMIGAN/WAVELL 2 in Dec/Jan and will soon say farewell to Bruin. As this will really be the end of the 'flexible equipment within an inflexible communications system' and the beginning of the 'inflexible equipment within a flexible area communications system' we are obviously going to have many lessons to learn, and as well as the PTARMIGAN vehicles we also get the AFV 436—the Ptarmiganised version of the AFV 432 with an improved Clansman harness and WAVELL 2 with the WPIT, so 1985 will present a real technical challenge to the whole Division.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Due to space limitations these must be brief but we all hope that the following who have left us recently, enjoy their next posting and take with them all our best wishes. **Cpl Don Boscoe, Cpl Bob** and **Mrs Mary Pickering, Sig Taff** and **Mrs Jill Davies, Sig Taff Doherty, Sig 'Ginge' Nield, Pte Homer, Sig Pete Swailes** and **Pte Bob Porteons.**

Now to those who have just joined us, we hope that you will really enjoy your stay with 201 as we go into 1985. **Sgt Steve** and **Mrs Sue Pallent (REME), LCpl Leon** and **Mrs Diane Jennings, Olwen** on her marriage to **LCpl 'Simmo' Symons, Sig Steve Phillips, Dvr Ralph Brough RCT** and **Pte Wayne De'ath ACC, Theresa** on her marriage to **LCpl 'Scouse' Robinson, Cpl Neil** and **Mrs Bianca Henly, Sig 'Baz' Basford** and **LCpl Phil Bird REME.**

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj A. J. Schuler**
2IC	**Capt R. T. Weston**
OC Oscar Troop	**Lt S. A. Leigh**
OC Papa Troop	**Capt S. P. Hunt**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) G. Harwood**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Williamson**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) P. Grist**
ORSgt	**Sgt R. G. Munro**
Squadron Cleaner	**Mrs Rachel Wembam**

Since our last contribution, the Squadron has been through an extremely busy period. Everyday life has been filled with PRE's, Site Guards, Border Patrols, to name but a few. Who thought Post Ex *Lionheart* would be a quiet time? Anyway here are a few of the activities that have recently occupied the Squadron.

EXERCISE *SAPPHIRE TROLL*

The Squadron sent a six man team to Norway during August led by **Capt Bob Weston** comprising of: **Cpl 'Legs' Stewart, Sig Kershaw, Battye, Innes** and **Whittaker**. The expedition was administered and equipped by BOBC Norway and included five days trekking in the mountains north of Kristiansand and five days Canoeing in the local fjords and coastal region. It provided a pleasant break from the vehicle park and for most was the first trip to Norway.

'Now lads, everyone is to wear lifejackets whilst canoeing'—Capt Bob Weston stamps his authority on the situation on Ex *Sapphire Troll*

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BAOR SEA ANGLING

The first BAOR Sea Angling Competition was held on 20 and 21 October. It was sponsored by the Danish Tourist Board and various Danish Firms. There were 35 soldiers taking part on the Saturday, and a RAF (G) V's BAOR Competition on the Sunday. The winner of the BAOR Competition was **Capt Bob Weston** using borrowed equipment which snapped in half during the day and was fixed with Army Black Masking Tape! On the second day the Army Team beat the RAF (G) team convincingly.

GARRISON GOLF COMPETITION

The Osnabruck Garrison Golf Competition was played on 12 November on a local German Course at Belm. After convincing the Squadron 2IC, **Capt Bob Weston,** that the Squadron actually stood a good chance of winning the Competition (and paying the entrance fees), a team of four (4) players: **Lt Simon Leigh, WO2 Jim Williamson, SSgt Peter Beavan** and **Sgt Dennis Petty**, was entered in the 18 Hole Team Competition. As a result of the recent heavy rain, the course was very soft in places and winter greens were in operation, but this did not handicap the Squadron's 'Happy Hackers' who played valiantly.

Scores of **Sgt Petty** 67, **WO2 Williamson** 67, **SSgt Beavan** 69 and **Lt Leigh** 73 and were good enough to tie for first place with a team of 'bandits' from Brigade HQ. The Squadron team was unfortunately relegated to second place on a count back, (we still got medals and a trophy though!).

In the afternoon a pairs Stapleford Competition was played. Again the Squadron played extremely well. **SSgt Beavan** partnered **Capt 'Shark' Priestly** (Bde HQ) to take first place with 45 points, **Sgt Petty** and his partner **WO2 Peaterson** (Bde HQ) took second place with 44 points and **Lt Leigh** and **WO2 Williamson** also with 44 points were relegated to third place on a count back. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and is now firmly marked in the diary for next year when we shall have our revenge and win outright!

SQUADRON ARU

It was decided that this year the Squadron ARU on 21 November 1984 should take the form of a Patrol Competition over 15Kms of Woodland, incorporating seven Military Training Stands run by the Squadron SNCO's and Officers. The reporting Officer was Comd Comms 1(BR) Corps **Brig R. F. L. Cook**. The troops were divided into 8 × 7 man teams and were set off round the course at regular time intervals, using their map reading skills to move between stands. The seven stands to be visited were Grenade Throwing, Section Attacks, Command Task, Weapon Handling, First Aid, NBC and Recognition. Some of the stands proved to be quite testing for the patrols, especially the fiendish Command Task, where some most unusual and intriguing methods were employed in order to solve the problem. Patrol G led by **Cpl Hogg** also found the map reading a little tricky on the odd occasion, but eventually managed to finish.

FIERCELY FOUGHT

The Competition was fiercely fought and when the time came to tot up 'Scores on the doors' Patrol D (Superheroes!) **Cpls Roose** and **Artus, LCpl Bekret, Sig Attersmith, Tyson, Whittaker** and **Kershaw** were declared the winners.

The finals order of merit was:-

1st	D	83 Pts
2nd	F	75 Pts
3rd	A	71 Pts
4th	C	69 Pts
5th	H	63 Pts
6th	E	51 Pts
7th	B	44 Pts
8th	G	32 Pts

Despite the rather poor weather conditions the day went well and all concerned seemed to have enjoyed themselves in one way or another.

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Finally we say goodbye to a number of personalities who have recently left the Squadron: **Capt Steve Hunt** whose parting gesture to the Squadron was to inspect the SSMs, **(WO2 Harwood)** parade on horseback—the SSM went 'Hoarse' with surprise! The Squadron wishes you the best of luck in the Falklands—don't eat too much penguin pie! Also farewell to **SSgt Tuffin, Sgt Boomer, Cpls Ogburn** and **Hayhurst, LCpl Leadland, Johnstone, 'Legs' Lincoln** and **Sig Jock Govan**—master of veiled speech.

The Squadron also welcomes **SSgt Hackett** as SQMS, **SSgt Matthews** as Oscar Troop SSgt, and **Sgt Fitzgerald** as training SNCO. We hope you'll enjoy your stay in Osnabruck. Finally congratulations to **Cpl Dave Slater** on receiving his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The Medal was presented by the Comd 12 Armd Bde, **Brig P. R. Davies.**

Brig Cook watches one of the patrols at the First Aid Stand on Squadron ARU

Maj Schuler and Lt Leigh hypnotised by the action at the Command Task

ADVENTURE TRAINING IN THE ALPS

0400 hrs on a Sunday, revving of engines, final loading of equipment and we were away, destination Chamonix, France. We arrived in this pleasant village, the focus of so much climbing activity at the turn of the century, to the news that we would have good weather for two days; the forecast after that looked gloomy. This put our original plans of walking the Alpine Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt (Switzerland), culminating in an attempt on the Matterhorn, in some jeopardy.

The following day we departed, after lunch, from Le Tour, a small village near Chamonix aiming for Cabane Albert first some 1,249m/4,100ft above us. In order to get as much training value as we could from the trip, the party of 10 diverted from the more normal well worn paths to venture onto the tongue of the Le Tour glacier. Coming off the glacier we had a novel climb out of a gully to reach the path higher up, and eventually reached the Cabane, our first mountain refuge at approx 2000 hrs that night very tired indeed.

0800 hrs the next morning saw us moving up the Glacier du Tour, now in the permanent snow line. Stopping to put crampons on half way up, we came across our first crevasses, small, but nevertheless dangerous. Roping up, we continued up under an unstable looking snow shelf, ever aware of the perils of avalanche, until finally the summit of Tete Blanche (3,421m/11,200ft).

DIFFICULT WALK REWARDED

Everyone had been surprised at the difficulty experienced walking on glaciers for extended periods, but we were greeted by a magnificent view over the Glacier du Tour, and Plateau du Trient. Unfortunately the view had to be appreciated all too quickly, due to pressing time. After a quick lunch stop, we moved from the summit onto a nearby col, in order to descend to the Plateau du Trient and cross the Swiss border. The col had to negotiated on ice axe belays, being too steep to simply walk down, even with crampons, and the threat of a crevasse made it unwise to slide down. Although enjoyed by all, the descent took longer than anticipated, making it necessary to revise our plans of moving to Champex that evening. A descent at 1400hrs would risk unnecessarily the dangers of an avalanche obliterating the party. So it was decided that we should cross the plateau and take refuge in Cabane du Trient that night. On reaching the Cabane, the base party due to meet us that evening in Champex, was contacted and informed of the change of plans.

CONTACT WITH BASE

A pleasant evening in Cabane du Trient gave the party an opportunity to adjust equipment and badly sunburnt faces. We descended Glacier d'Orny the following morning in thick mist and the beginnings of a snow storm. The forecast had been all too accurate. From Glacier D'Orny we traversed onto the rock route Aiguilles d'Arpette, making for La Breya, a 2,188m/7,200ft promentory overlooking Champex. The valley mist did occasionally clear to reveal some spectacular views of the valley floor far below us. On reaching La Breya, we stopped for a quick bite to eat, before embarking on a very steep descent that made the knees wobble and the legs feel like jelly; finally meeting up with the base party in Champex.

Base party drove us onto Boug St Pierre, a tiny picturesque village nestled in the Swiss mountains, where we had hoped to get back up to the high route. However, much consultation that evening concluded that due to the continued forecast of bad weather, and some members of the party falling victim to a mysterious stomach bug, we should drive on to Arolla the next day and try and get back onto the route there.

OUT OF ZERMATT

Thursday 9 August in dull and misty weather we drove to Arolla hoping to get back onto the route below Dent Blanche. Local guides advised us that the glaciers were too dangerous to attempt at that time, so after kicking our heels for the rest of the day it was decided to drive direct to Zermatt and base ourselves there. On arrival in Zermatt we were greeted with the disappointing news that fresh snow falls to a depth of 1m had closed the Matterhorn to climbers. It was apparent that with no let up forecast, we were to be restricted to one and two day trips working out of Zermatt.

Friday 10 August 0530 hrs saw the party starting up the 720m/2,300ft climb from Zermatt to the Trift Hutte to arrive at 0730 hrs; dump some equipment and push on up to the summit Platthorn (3,345m/10,900ft). Originally our intention had been to make for the Matterhorn but the final snow field was in such bad condition that we had to switch to Platthorn at the last moment. That afternoon we returned to the Trift Hutte for the night and the following day climbed to the summit of Unter Gabelhorn (3,391.7m/11,000ft). This was a most rewarding day. A pleasant climb brought us in four hours to the summit of this Alp. We were standing on a true apex, ridges rising towards us from all directions, and a magnificent panoramic view in clearing mist. Descending on scree we eventually reached the Arben path and the walk back to Zermatt under the Matterhorn which occasionally revealed itself through the mist and clouds, rightly described in the guide book as 'one of the most beautiful Alpine Valley Walks'.

AT ALTITUDE

We had decided to get some experience at altitudes, and consequently the next day, in cold weather, we took the cable car to Klein Matterhorn, everybody was experiencing some difficulty walking at this sort of altitude; where many stops had to be made, simply to catch ones breath. After a quick photo session on the summit we returned to Klein Matterhorn in steadily worsening weather to reach it in snow, with visibility down to 30m

PRACTICE

On Tuesday 14 August the party took the train to Rtenboden station, intending originally to attempt the Riffelhorn. However, on arrival it appeared from a distance to be too difficult to climb without the climbing nuts that we had left in Zermatt. We had to settle for a short walk to the Gornegrat restaurant before descending the 1,500m/5,000ft back to Zermatt. The day however was not entirely wasted, it had hardened opinion to have another attempt at Riffelhorn. To practise for this, on the Wednesday, we drove down the valley to St Niklaus and the Kettergarten (climbing garden) for some climbing and abseil training. Done in wonderful sunshine with peaceful valley views.

EXHILARATING

Thursday 16 August, our final day, saw an early start. Half the party set off up the path to Hornli Hutte at the base of the Matterhorn whilst the remainder caught the train to Gornegrat station; from where an enjoyable rock ridge scramble, occasionally in snow, took us some three hours later to the summit of Stockhorn (3,432m/11,500ft). Intending to 'go out with a bang' we had decided to do Riffelhorn as well so we pushed back down to Gornegrat for a quick lunch before moving to the base of the Riffelhorn. Donning climbing gear and feeling a little apprehensive we set off to tackle the Riffelhorn. We reached the summit in one and a half hours, a climb that had been considerably easier than anticipated and abseiled off the mountain in three exhilerating abseils.

A LOT LEARNT

A chance to relax and reflect that evening over a few wines produced the unanimous conclusion that it had all been worthwhile. Although we had been prevented from achieving our original aims by the weather, we had nevertheless moved from France to Switzerland on the Haute Route in two days, and by basing ourselves in Zermatt had managed to stand on the summits of five peaks. All of us had learnt a great deal and the experience has led to enthusiasm for a return trip and another attempt at the Matterhorn.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

As a member of the Regular Armed Forces you know the value and satisfaction of doing a job well. At the end of your engagement you will be seeking the best employment available to meet your qualifications and ambitions. The RFEA exists to help you to find that employment and to settle in civil life. You may use our services as often as you wish thereafter.

If you have served with good character in the non-commissioned ranks of the Forces for a minimum of three years, or less if you are being discharged on medical grounds, the Association is at your service.

Our Employment Officers, all ex-Regulars, are situated at Branches throughout the United Kingdom and are in close contact with local employers and Jobcentres.

Branch address and telephone numbers can be found from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Regimental, Corps and Service Associations; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

The Association provides all its services free.

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

1 SQUADRON REPORT

BATTLE CAMP

Report by Lt M. Dunn

Battle Camp sprung upon us rather like the proverbial mother-in-law's visit; but like a lighthouse anchored to its rock, **YofS Howard** guided us through the treacherous waters. He presented us with a detailed programme of events. First priority was to get everyone through their APWT/APWA's. This we managed despite the efforts of our 'marksmen' one of whom thought the SMG was an ornate bottle opener; however **Sgt Meggitt** had an excellent shoot.

Various other events were organised for the Squadron's delectation. We had the section attacks and, of course, the unforgettable section in defence lead by **Sgt Waters**, whose demonic persona whipped every one into line and saw 10,600 rounds disposed of in a matter of hours. The most anachronistic result was the end of camp test, it was won by 'Liney' **LCpl Martins**.

Some classic answers included:-

'What is the purpose of camouflage?'

Answer: 'To de humanize you, thank you **Cpl**'

'How long do you have to mask up during a gas attack?'

Answer: 'If you are cool, infinity, thank you **Cpl**'

Oh, **Cpl Bonner**, have you found your wobble sprocket extractor yet?

2 SQUADRON

1984 2 Sqn Battlecamp was in Catterick Training Area with the Squadron accommodated at Wathgill Camp. The programme was based on getting as many of the Squadron through their yearly mandatory tests as possible.

The first day included a night exercise! Each of the three platoons had made a patrol base for the night, which naturally turned out to be the coldest night of the year. Unfortunately for 15 Bde Sig Tp, led by **2Lt 'Higgi' Davis**, there wasn't enough wooded area in Catterick, so they spent the night on a wind swept hillside; not called brass monkey troop for nothing.

The rest of the week involved fun shoots on the IBSR and section in defence ranges. The IBSR went well. On the CFT the troops set off early in the morning; this nearly proved disastrous as the mists drew in. Having run eight miles up and down horizontal hills, it would have caused a sense of humour failure all round had we been unable to complete it.

On the night patrol, the Squadron seniors came to the conclusion that **Cpl Charlie Foster**, the Squadron clerk, could be identified amongst the rest, even by the IWS. On the last day, **Cpl Foster** made his mark by leading **Cpl Jimmy Johnston**'s section to win the march and shoot. **Cpl Johnston**'s section also won the overall section competition which saw the end of a very cold battlecamp.

SNOW

49 Bde Sig Tp went to battle camp under new management. At the end of November 1984 we said goodbye to **Capt Richard Davis** after his two year tour as troop commander.

The new troop commander is **Capt Johnny Rollins**, from 1 Inf Bde. Unfortunately for **Capt Rollins** the troop is undermanned due to Ptarmigan Trials and so he took over a troop at one third strength. Nevertheless we set off for battle camp with a two section platoon. One section was led by **Cpl Mick Hellewell** and the other by **Cpl 'Wobbly' Wainwright**, another newcomer to the troop.

On the first night out we moved into a patrol base and suffered the delights of snow for the first time this year. Regardless of this we could have had good night's sleep if **Sig Rob Harvey** hadn't kept us all awake with his incessant snoring. Luckily or unluckily for him, **Lt 'Alfie' Brand** was awakened by his rumblings and went to find out why snoring coming from the guard-post arriving just in time for the first attack. After this the rest of battlecamp went well with everyone getting a chance to fire the LAW sub-caliber and throw two grenades.

BOXING

Report by WO1 (RSM) W. N. White

As Ex *Lionheart* drew to a close so Boxing representatives assembled and trained their teams for the Inter-Squadron Competition. Initially the response was overwhelming so the numbers were reduced by sending a third of each team to Blandford for some Ptarmigan trials, some were sent to Cyprus on exercise and half the remainder were declared unfit to box due to a collection of ailments, the most common being brain damage!

We did manage, however, to get enough boxers to provide an excellent evening's competition for the Inter-Squadron event which was held on Wednesday 23 October 1984. To go into the details of each bout is unnecessary except to say all the boxers gave their best. Special mention must go to **Lt Jim Richardson** who was volunteered to box to complete 2 Sqn's team only days before the event but managed to beat **Sig John Connolly**, despite a very good performance by him. The final score was a repeat of last year's result with a win for 1 Sqn, trained by **Sgt Fred Waters**, who narrowly beat **Sgt John Leighton**'s Headquarters Squadron Team.

Using the results of the Inter-Squadron Competition Regimental Squad was formed and under the guidance of **SSgt Dave Appleyard, QMSI Tim Johnson APTC** and **Sgt Fred Waters**, they got down to hard training for the semi finals of the NE/NW District Championship, where the Regiment fought 49 Field Regiment RA at Topcliffe on 12 November 1984.

That evening proved to be a classic and although we were disappointed at losing by the closest margin, everybody who saw the competition agreed that it was a shame that a decision had to be made as both teams would have made worthy winners.

To go through the bouts the evening started with **Sig Hugh Little** representing us in a Bantamweight fight. It was a blow to see **Little** lose the decision after slowing down slightly in the last round, which was not surprising as he had returned from exercise in Cyprus only days before the competition. **Sig Jock Robertson** followed and narrowly lost his Featherweight bout but he showed great promise for the future, having only been in the Regiment three weeks. **Sig Phil Maddocks** was able to turn the tables with a fine win at lightweight; then came the fight that was later to become crucial when **Cpl Bob Hugill** only just lost a great match at lightweight by a majority decision. Two excellent wins by **Cfn Dave 'Jock' Brown** and **LCpl Dave 'Jock' Campbell** were followed by a gallant defeat by **Sig Mac McCullock** and then another good win by **Sig Anthony 'Taff' Bowen.**

This set the score for the final bout with the teams neck and neck at four wins each, when **Sig Dave 'Taff' Jones** met **LBdr Miller** who looked anything but a novice. Although **Jones** put up a great show he could not hide his disappointment at losing to what looked like the proverbial assassin.

After this bout, all the officials could not praise our boxers enough and, after spending the day recording the Krypton Factor for TV, they said how refreshing it was to return and see so much skill and battle in the ring. We now look forward to next year's competitions with what looks like the making of a very strong team.

The 2IC Maj George Finney presenting the inter squadron shield to Cpl Hugill of 1 Sqn

EXCHANGE VISIT
Report by Lt Barry Keegan

Possessing a penchant for continental food, Wagner, white wine and with an Austrian mother, I was delighted to be 'despatched' to Fernmelde batallion 130 for a fortnight's exchange visit during October 1984. The unit is a 1st (GE) Corps Signal Regiment responsible for trunk Comms only. Having braved the vagueries of Sealink and the English Channel, I arrived in Coesfeld on 8 October, five days after having left Germany from Ex *Lionheart*.

Once convinced that I was bona fide, the guards at the Freiherr Von Stein Kaserne admitted me, whereupon I was met by the 2IC 2 Kompanie—**OLT Hans Fehler**. (The OC—**HMN Kohler** was on an English course in Wiesbaden). As there was no accommodation in the Officers' Mess, I was billeted in an 'Offizier Wohnung' in the company lines. What luck! I had arrived just in time for Officers PT (five-a-side football) which, I subsequently found out, took place three times per week.

The first days were spent familiarising myself with the personalities and equipment of the unit, I accompanied the Kompanie throughout most of its training programme including 'plug-ups' and range days, where I managed to fire everything except the 'panzerfaust'. I learned that the Regiment would be going on Ex *Gordische Knoten* the following week and I was cordially invited to join them. The rest of the week was consequently spent in preparation.

I discovered that my host, **Lt Fehler**, was a keen hunter, so he took me hunting rabbits one evening before the exercise—inside the camp! Two rabbits were despatched from within his Audi 100.

UNDER WAY

Monday 15 October 1984 kicked off at 0415 hrs with company parade prior to setting off. It was to be a long drive as the exercise area was just south of Hamburg. The week was to prove enlightening and enjoyable. The equipment fielded by the unit AUTOKO, is similar to PTARMIGAN but without some of the frills. In order to get a feel for the area, I was given a 'Hiltis' (VW Kugelwagen) complete with map and driver. We covered 500Km in one day, 150 of which were spent trying to locate a Radio Relay det near Strade.

A PAUSE

Demonstrating a 'civilised' approach to exercise play, the CO called a temporary endex from 1800-2200 hrs on Wednesday 17 October 1984 so that the Regiment could watch the W Germany v Sweden match on TV (Germany won 2—0)!

IN STYLE

The high point came on what was to be my last day with the unit. Having reported that my return ferry would leave Ostende at 1700 hrs on Friday 19 October it was decided that this would be too early for me to see out endex. A helicopter was duly summoned (two were kept on call) and I travelled the 200Km back to Coesfeld by BO 105.

840 FERNMELDE BATALLION—NORTHAG
Report by 2Lt M. Davis

Not only does the Batallion do everything different from the way we do it, they also do everything differently from the rest of the entire Bundeswehr; everything from working hours, to discipline, to operational deployment. They do have a moderately reasonable excuse for all this, and that is they are a NATO unit providing trunk Comms from Corps Headquarters back to NORTHAG. This means they are well into the RCZ and feel they don't need to bother with trivia such as camouflage and tactical deployment! Of course, to a certain extent, this is valid, as it is very unusual for them to have to move during a 10 day exercise.

The unit's task is Radio Relay comms and multiplexers on a large scale. They have two different equipments with impressive capacity. Their main deployment is such that they have to use the CIP system, (Communication Improvement Program) a grid of static Radio Relay Stations up and down Germany. In simplistic terms they plug their shots in at one end of CIPs and tap off at another station some distance away. It sounds easy but the scale of such an operation is enormous.

To be fair, they do a good job considering the difficulty of having a large conscript component. The conscription period is 15 months, so it's easy to appreciate the difficulty in training operators and technicians to the required standard and actually getting service out of them. However, there seems to be an increasing trend for conscripts to sign up as regulars. This may be peculiar to this unit since it is in the middle of the Rührgebiet and most of the battalion live close to the barracks.

I couldn't help feeling that a lot of the old arguments about why a regular army was better than a conscript army were resoundingly true. Without blowing our own trumpet, suffice it to say I breathed a genuine sigh of relief when I got back to my own unit.

THEM V US (THE COMMANDER'S CUP RESURRECTED)

Everything portended for a 'good' competition as we set off from York. 2 Sqn led by **WO2 (SSM) Steve 'Flanelette' Harrison** and 'blown' along by **YofS Hammett** were in civvies; 1 Sqn (the linies) were in lightweights and combats. We (the linies) sat to the front, 'they' sat to the back. We hadn't got any rations because 'they' had taken them.

BATTLE UNDER WAY

The next day the battle commenced; two teams of Herculean stature stood resplendant in their winter torpor. We were ready for the photo call. They had opted for a nice little woolly pully and lightweight number (working on the one upmanship principle) where as we had opted for the, as per joining instructions, lightweights and combat jacket.

THE EDGE

The first event was swimming, we beat 2 Sqn in this event because, we had only four non-swimmers. Their team having been specially selected for their lack of swimming ability/common sense. Two of their members needed arm floats and **Steve 'Flanelette' Harrison** spent five mins trying to locate his brick in the obstacle race. Despite his vociferous protest when he claimed his brick had been camouflaged by us, the result was upheld. The next event was military knowledge, here our intestinal fortitude was put to the test and to mix a metaphor we 'trod in it'. They did very well winning that event outright. The line laying provided the most anachronistic result. We, with our professionalism and skill, were beaten by them.

The obstacle/assault course involved carrying the team captain on a stretcher; we beat them by a narrow margin. We also beat them at the shooting, losing in the orienteering phase.

We wish to thank **Col Hills** from the Army Apprentice's College who allowed us to use his training facilities, **YofS Howard** whose professionalism and organisational abilities were outstanding, and finally the organisers of the competition and **Maj Robertson** who allowed us the time off to train.

The teams were 1 Sqn: **Lt Dunn, Sgt Bird, LCpls Martins, Jubb, Hope, Andrews, Sig Greenwood, Mackenzie, Sells and Richards. 2 Sqn: SSM Harrison, YofS Hammett, Cpls Patterson, Foster, Johnson, LCpls Mott, Bergin, Sig Jones and Goddard.**

SOCCER REPORT

10 OCTOBER—2 DIV SIG REGT 3—RAF LINTON 4

Due to Exercise *Lionheart* the season 84/85 started late October/early November.

Our first game was a league match, at home, against RAF Linton on Ouse and, as always, the Regiment started well and within 30 minutes from the start we were two goals up on the opposition, both goals being scored by **LCpl 'Andy' Andrews**, having come close to increasing the lead, Linton, against the run of play, pulled on back. In the second half the players seemed to make life difficult for themselves, although we made it three goals to one (an excellent goal by **Sig 'Scouse' O'Connor**) Linton started to play some good entertaining football and we ran out winners by four goals to three.

17 OCTOBER 1984—49 FD REGT 1—2 DIV SIG REGT 1

The dull and wet Wednesday afternoon saw the Regiment travelling to Topcliffe. Not too despondent from last week's result the same team got off to a fine start and within 10 minutes from the whistle we were one up, a scrambled goal scored by **Sig 'Scouse' O'Connor.**

As the first half came to a close and still with the advantage, it became clear, we would have to work hard to achieve a result, some sterling work by **Sig 'Tony' Lowery** and **Sig Jim Wilkinson** still kept our advantage intact, until with 20 minutes to go, the Gunners scored an excellent goal.

Although some excellent goalkeeping by **LBdr 'Jock' Dixon** kept the Gunners at bay, the Regiment got the ball in the net, (forced over the line by **Sig 'Scouse' O'Connor**), only to have the referee to blow for full time. Although we might have won, on reflection, a draw was a fair result.

24 OCTOBER 1984—2 DIV SIG REGT 2—POLICE TRG COLLEGE 4

On that sunny warm October afternoon we were entertaining the Police Trg College from Dishforth.

The game started off rather fast and hard with **LCpl 'Steve' Arms** looking sharp and the midfield of **Cpl 'Ricky' Mills, LCpl 'Andy' Andrews** and **Sig 'Scouse' O'Connor** combining well. As always the Regiment scored first, a well engineered goal finally put away by **LCpl 'Andy' Andrews.**

It's always said that teams are vulnerable immediately after scoring, nothing proved more truthful; before we knew it the PTC had scored. All square at half time. The second half started off disastrously, within 15 minutes from the whistle it was four goals to one in favour of the PTC. From then on it was all up hill and a consolation goal from a free kick by **Cpl 'Harry' Harrington** was all we could manage by the end of the game.

7 NOVEMBER—ARMY CUP 2ND ROUND

2 DIV SIG REGT 0—KINGS OWN BORDER 2

Bit of an unknown quality Kings Own Border, but always optomistic, the game started off very slowly but it became evident the opposition's defence was vulnerable. Playing well the Regiment came close to scoring on more than one occasion. With a depleted side the defence (expertly organised by **Sig 'Tony' Lowery**) were playing well, but with the first half over the Regiment had nothing to show for its efforts. The second half saw the Regiment coming close to scoring, **Sig 'Scouse' O'Connor** and **LCpl Keith Milnes** being unlucky. Against the run of play the KOB had a quick break and scored, this goal changed the whole pattern of the game and our goalkeeper **LBdr 'Jock' Dixon**, on many occasions, kept them out. Time was running out and despite pressure from our forwards **LCpl Steve Arms, Sgt 'Lee' Scobie** and **LCpl 'Andy' Andrews**, the Infanteers scored again just on the final whistle.

210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Elford**
2IC	**Capt Nick Blampied**
OC HQ Tp	**Capt Henry Jennings**
OC O Tp (Temp)	**Capt Mark Edwards**
OC P Tp	**SSgt Gerry Knight**
SSM	**WO2 George Hedge**
YofS	**WO2 Mick Taylor**
FofS	**SSgt Chris Wilkie**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Campbell**

HANDOVERS

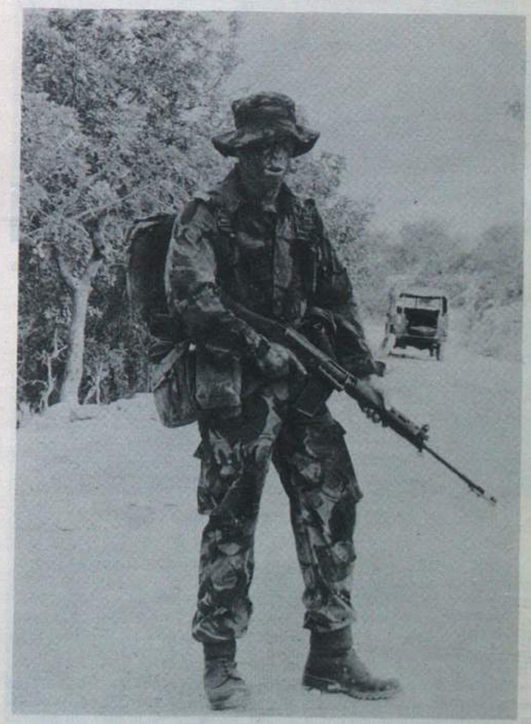
Since the end of Ex *Lionheart* we have had two handovers in the Squadron. We have said farewell to **Lt James Bertram** who has gone to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, and we were lent **Lt** (now **Capt**) **Mark Edwards** for the period from September until early December 1984. **Capt Edwards** has now left us to take over 656 Sig Tp in Lubbecks. Tp Sgt Oscar Tp, **Sgt Dave Edgecombe** will now be left to his own devices until a replacement arrives hotfoot from Blandford in March 85!

We have also said farewell to our Yeoman **WO2 Trevor Taylor** and his wife **Gill**. Many thanks for all your efforts, and good luck with your new empire—2 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt. The Squadron would like to know how the WRAC operators have treated you so far. Welcome to another **Yeoman Taylor**, this time **WO2 Mick Taylor** and his wife **Jennifer**—we hope you find the climate in Catterick more pleasant than Belize!

EX *MOONBASE 3*

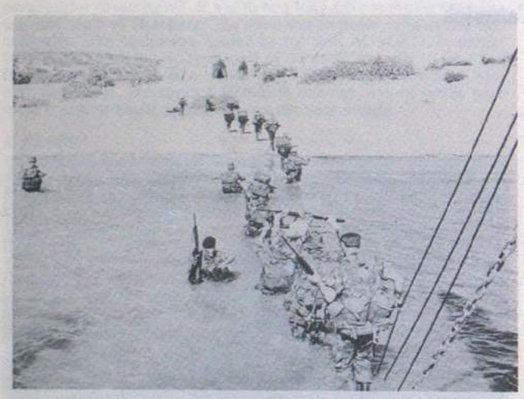
The Squadron came back from Ex *Lionheart* and three days later were en route for Cyprus to complete four weeks military and adventurous training. We were based at Bloodhound Camp, Episkopi although rumours were rife that **Capt Nick Blampied** and his Range Staff had set up an alternative holiday camp at Dhekelia! The exercise was planned and organised by **Capt Henry Jennings** and **Yeoman Trevor Taylor**, who treated it as his swansong. Such were the Yeoman's powers of organisation that whenever anything vaguely complicated had to be done, our **Trevor** took it upon himself to 'Yeomanise' it. He even managed to Yeomanise the weather for the OC's final exercise: the heavens opened every six hours, without fail, for the whole three days.

The exercise was a great success. We took a Platoon from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, and received invaluable assistance from within the Brigade including our own HQ Staff, 51 Fd Sqn Re, 2 LI, 2 RRF, 21 Ord Coy and 15 Fd Wksps REME.



Lt (now Capt) Mark Edwards earned the nickname 'Conan the Destroyer' during Ex *Moonbase*—can you guess why?

Ready to board the helicopter for the final exercise: Sgt Williams, Sig Murray, LCpl Meir, Cpls Fowles, Dennis plus A. N. Other. This was the last time they were seen to be so clean (or dry!)



Disembarking for a beach assault. Capt John Simmons (2 LI) gives a few tips to those who are wary of the water

2 Platoon in action on Evdhimou Beach during the final exercise—who is running away on the right of the picture?

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.

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3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 106

EXERCISE *IRON DAY*

Mid November 1984 saw the Regiment in warlike posture—two troops per squadron poised to compete in our first ever Regimental Patrol Competition. The aim was to test and practise low level skills and tactics based upon section work with an element of platoon work being included.

Over an 18 hour (or so) period all troop HQs and sections were inspected; fired a range practice; Puma'd to separate start points to advance to troop bases. During the advance the enemy from 'A' Company 1 GORDONS laid many a stimulating ambush to test the low level skills of contestants. Once in their bases, troops were required to defend, organise and administer themselves; to carry out night recce patrols and then a 'snatch' against a neighbouring troop.

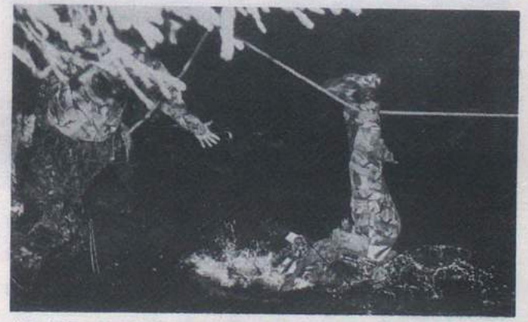
After the 'snatches' had been 'snatched' the military zealots of the Regiment were confronted with a modified, nocturnal, CFT (with more ambushes from 1 GORDONS). It was of interest to note the number of troops, awash with martial mania, who in the excitement of clearing an ambush galloped into the night—in quite the wrong direction!

The final phase—a command task—get your troop over this river—in the dark—amidst minefields—with but a length of rope and some trees—generated many remarkable incidents and variations on the theme of 'the military sloth' dragging himself over/under/through the water shedding a fascinating range of body and packet borne items (torches, binos, helmets, money, more helmets, more money, lighters and an eye popping assortment of oaths aquatic).

The competition was DS'd by members of the Regiment; 1 IRISH GUARDS and 1 GORDONS—all were impressed by the effort and interest of the participants but often 'gazed in wonder' at our 'variations' on a military theme.

The winning section was commanded by **Cpl Steve Frampton** from 1 Sqn; the winning troop HQ by **Lt Tony Rock** (1 Sqn) and the winning troop was **Lt Rock**'s troop from 1 Sqn (again)!

Cpl Mick Tindall and his MT Section prepare to Puma Off



LCpl 'Big Nose' Ginty winning the award for Sloth of the Year

'The Plot Thickens' LCpl Taff Connor briefs Sig Daisy Day and the Unknown Soldier

Sig Baz Brooks shows he can enjoy anything

TRIATHLON IRON MEN

First, a word or two about what makes up a Triathlon. All you have to do is to swim 800 metres across the Moehnesee, run 10 kilometres through the hills and woods surrounding the Moehnesee and then fire five arrows all within the space of two minutes on an archery range near St Sebastian Camp. That sounds very simple, doesn't it? And you're probably wondering why you didn't enter the event yourself! However, it was not as easy as all that, for the temperature rarely rose above 14 degrees centigrade, the wind howled all along the Moehnesee and the rain never let up all day. One competitor, took one look at the Moehnesee and said that he thought that Torvill and Dean stood a better chance than any of the swimmers.

Individuals from all over BAOR and RAF (Germany) entered the Triathlon. Many were in teams of five although there were over 30 individual entries including one officer from Sennelager who came down just for the swim! There was even one ladies' team from 101 PRO Company. The first three individual placings went abroad as follows, 1st **Lt Pearce,** 2nd **LCpl Monk** and 3rd **Pte Nichol,** all of 8 Regiment RCT.

The Regiment gave a good account of itself and achieved some very creditable placings with seven in the top 42 overall scores.

The final placings were:

LCpl Nutley	7
WO2 (SSM) Lumb	17
LCpl Granger	25
LCpl Murphy	30
Lt Davies	31
LCpl Dean	36
LCpl Cross	42

In the team competition the Regiment came 6th out of 13.

In the course of all this sporting activity over 2000 DM was raised for the stained glass window fund for St Luke's Parish Church in Soest. **LCpl Granger,** raised the most money by an individual and he got 359 DM worth of sponsorship for the Fund. The organisers would also like to thank the staff of the Moehnesee Yacht Club for all their help.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

After a long series of rehearsals it was finally the Regiment's turn to bid farewell to our GOC. On his last day in the office **Maj Gen Walker,** Comd 3 Armd Div, took the salute at a ceremonial parade.

This greatest gathering of the Regiment seen for many a long month was the backdrop for the presentation of three Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **WO1 (SMI) Jim Noble APTC, WO2 (SQMS) Tony Deaville ACC** and **Sgt Mick Kindness.**

Lt Col R. F. Baly and Maj Gen Walker after the presentation of LS&GC Medals to Sgt Mick Kindness, WO2 (SQMS) Tony Deaville ACC and WO1 (SMI) Jim Noble APTC

SSgt Phil Atherton leading the GOCs Tac Off Parade

Following a parade whose drill even Pirbright could be proud of, the Regiment marched off, behind the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col R. F. Baly.** Bringing up the rear of the parade was the GOCs Tactical Headquarters led by **SSgt Phil Atherton.** No sooner had we said goodbye than the Quarter Guard, led by **SSgt Gus Honey,** was parading to welcome our new GOC, **Maj Gen D. J. Ramsbotham CBE.**

WO1 (RSM) Stu Gray-Cowan and SSgt (SQMS) Gus Honey look on anxiously as the new GOC interrogates LCpl Taff Connor

INTER SQUADRON RUGBY

As a warm up for the largest battle that BAOR had seen for a long time, Ex *Lionheart*, the Regt decided to hold its inter Squadron Rugby Competition on the Monday, prior to deployment.

The Commanding Officer expressed some anxiety that if we had too many broken bones the Regiment would have problems deploying. Fortunately his fears were not realised and apart from a couple of broken ribs (**Lt Sheldon** now agrees he's too old to play Rugby) not only was the day very successful but we were now in very good spirit for the major Corps exercise.

As Rugby Officer and a member of 2 Sqn it is worthy of note that we performed with a great deal of skill and determination throughout the day, unfortunately winning nothing. The much fancied HQ Sqn team with nine, or was it 10, Regiment players found a gritty 1 Sqn team too much to cope with. The team of the day though was 204 Sig Sqn who came out deserved winners after a long muddy day's efforts. Our best wishes go to them in the Army Minor Units Cup.

Thanks must go to the two referees, **WO2 (FofS) Phil Vince** and **Cpl John Bryant,** a special thanks to **Phil Vince** who was refereeing his last game in the Army and he will be missed as a referee throughout BAOR.

Finally for those interested in results and to confirm 204 really did beat HQ Sqn:

1st	204 Sig Sqn
2nd	HQ Sqn
3rd	1 Sqn
4th	3 Sqn
5th	2 Sqn
6th	206 Sig Sqn

BOARDSAILING

The Regiment entered two teams in the BAOR Inter-Corps Boardsailing competition, which was held at the Mohnesee sailing club. The conditions were perfect for sunbathing and for boardsailing if paddles had been allowed. Some wind did appear eventually, albeit a breeze and although the teams did not win a prize, there were some notable individual achievements. **Cpl 'Pip' Terry** came first in the lightweight division (you don't find many lightweight linemen!) and **Lt Andy Higgs** was awarded the Novices trophy. Next year we hope to do better with the arrival of **Lt Graham Taylor** from 22 Sig Regt, if he survives his trip to Indonesia.

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

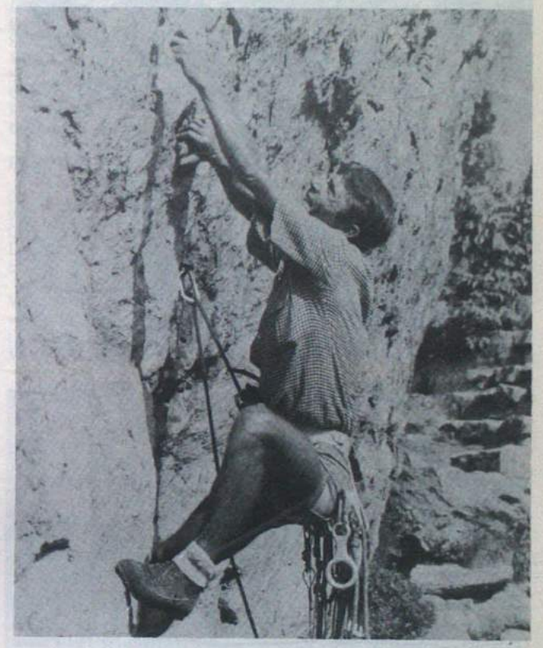
EXERCISE *EMU QUADRANT*

At the end of August, Alpha Troop, 3 Sqn spent two weeks Adventure Training at the picturesque area of the Diemelsee Lake. The Troop borrowed a Rock Climbing Instructor, **Sgt Mick Lumgair** from the Squadron MT and were lucky enough to have **LCpl Kerry Gill** as their integral canoe instructor before he departed on the Joint Services expedition to Antarctica. The Troop commander, **Lt Bob Sharp,** decided hillwalking was a far more enjoyable pastime and chose to instruct it.

The morning briefing. *Left to right: (standing)* Sig Paul Norris *(sitting)* Lt Bob Sharp, *(hidden)* LCpl Keith Laughlin, Sig David Quinnell, LCpl 'Cal' Hewitt, Sig Giles Etienne, Sig Martyn Roscoe, Sig Brian Harding, *(standing)* Sgt Keith Brownless

The two weeks were physically hard starting with early morning runs to the lake for a swim everyday. Having returned from a refreshing swim and having gorged a hearty breakfast, the day's briefing started. For the period of the exercise the Troop were divided into three groups. Each group spent at least four days on rock climbing, hill walking and canoeing. The physical and mental demands on the Troop became harder as each activity came to a close, but by the end of the exercise everyone was reasonably competent in all activities.

Sgt Mick Lumgair had almost half the Troop seconding him as leader climber to a standard of 'Mild Severe'. **Lt Bob Sharp, Sig Paul Norris** and **Martyn Roscoe** actually perfected a forward abseil. Having completed a strenuous day of activities the Troop then relaxed in a local Gasthaus and told war stories of their bravery and achievements throughout that day! As the days went on, the time spent in the Gasthaus decreased as the Troop felt too tired to go and were happy just to eat dinner and then retire to their tents. The exercise was a tremendous success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Troop worked and played hard and gained from the exercise; it was just a shame that all good things must come to an end. All photos courtesy of **Cpl Colin Hagan.**



Sgt Mick Lumgair stretches for a piton

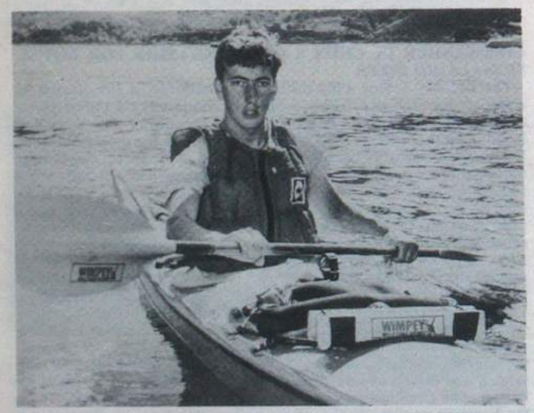
COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S COMMENDATION FOR ROYAL SIGNALS SOLDIERS

On Tuesday 1 May 1984 during Ex *Mainbrace*, a fire started in a factory location of Divisional Main Headquarters on the outskirts of Bad Nenndorf. The fire swept quickly because of the tinder dry location and soon was only 25m from **LCpl Chris Hardwidge**'s Radio Relay detachment. The alarm was raised and **LCpl Hardwidge** quickly woke his crewman **Sig Michael Newman.** They initially tried to fight the fire with hand held appliances but this was futile. Despite the fact that flames raged all about them, the two soldiers started to pack away their vehicles equipment. As time went on it soon became evident that the vehicle would have to be moved or lost. Showing admirable calmness and self-discipline, the two men then set about moving their vehicle despite the fact the paintwork was blistering because of the intense heat. The vehicle was slowly moved out with **LCpl Hardwidge** receiving instructions through the driver's window from **Sig Newman** outside. **Sig Newman** actually climbed onto the roof and dismantled a 40 foot antenna mast whilst the vehicle was moving and was feet away from flames. 30 seconds after the £200,000 vehicle was driven to safety out of the factory the roof collapsed in flames. The Commander-in-Chief commended **LCpl Hardwidge** and **Sig Newman** on their display of the highest standards of courage and unselfishness.

LCpl Chris Hardwidge and Sig Michael Newman stand proud in front of their Radio Relay detachment

JOINT SERVICES EXPEDITION—BRABANT ISLAND, ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

LCpl Kerry Gill is a member of the Joint Services Expedition to Brabant Island, Antarctica. Brabant Island is only 45 miles long and 15 miles wide and is 98% covered by snow and ice. The mountains rise to over 8,000 feet. Only four parties have visited the island before and then only briefly. **LCpl Kerry Gill** is a member of the expedition by virtue of his canoeing expertise. The expedition has been endorsed by the Joint Services Expedition Trust and approved by the Royal Geographical Society. The Patron is **His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.**



LCpl Kerry Gill proudly prepares for the Expedition to Antarctica

REGIMENTAL CANOEING TEAM

Regimental Canoeing has enjoyed a considerable upsurge since **Lt Julian Bunce** arrived in August 1984 to become the Regimental canoeing captain. With his team of **LCpl Shane Wright** and **LCpl Paul Hepworth, Lt Julian Bunce** has put the Regiment back onto the canoeing map. The Regiment became aware of their determination to succeed through their many cold hours of training on the local Herford waterways. Success and recognition of their efforts came in the 1st Division downriver race and later in the BAOR Championships on 8 and 9 November 1984, when the team came first. The team then travelled to Richmond in North Yorkshire for the Army Championships. Congratulations are in order for a well earned second place in the championships. Individually, **Lt Julian Bunce** came seventh and **LCpl Shane Wright** came eleventh.

The Victorious Three—Lt Julian Bunce, LCpl Shane Wright and LCpl Paul Hepworth

NEWS FROM BRIGADES

200 SIG SQN

LIPPISCHE RALLY 1984

The Lippische rally is an annual rally competition between 21 German Panzerbrigade and 20 Armd Bde. It is a military event open to invited military and civilian guests. This year it was held on Saturday 27 October 1984 at Hobart Barracks in Detmold. **Lt Charlie Miller**, who could not resist the chance of driving a vehicle that actually moved and wasn't prone to breaking down every 100 miles, decided to enter a team from the Signal Squadron. Two guest members from the Regiment at Herford were brought in to make up the three vehicle team. The team was:

Crew 1	**Lt Charlie Miller**	Navigator
	LCpl Rab Christie	Driver
Crew 2	**Lt James Harris**	Navigator
	Dvr David Gray	Driver
Crew 3	**LCpl Mark Taylor**	Navigator
	Cfn Bob Hamilton	Driver

After a few minor teething problems, such as no roll cages, total loss of power on Rover 2 an hour before the start and the eventual arrival of two slightly tired navigators, the rally got under way.

The first test on the rally was a timed wheel changing, for the drivers. **Dvr David Gray** asked me not to mention the fact he nearly broke Seb Coes' 1,500m record when he had to replace a jammed vehicle jack minutes before the end of the test. All the teams however did pass this first test. Final map marking was frantically done before being called forward to the start grid.

The 100 mile course was split up into four stages and each stage had a set time in which to complete it. Along the route in each stage there were 10-12 yellow boards or OK's with numbers on that had to entered onto the control card. **Lt James Harris** and **Dvr Gray** came close to having an OK board and the tree to which it was affixed being physically entered in the rover chassis itself.

Lt Charlie Miller and LCpl 'Rab' Christie pretend to mark their map

Lt Charlie Miller and **LCpl Rab Christie** employed the usual quickest route between two points is a straight line method; **Lt James Harris** and **Dvr Gray** used a well tried and tested method called 'Mapos Reados erroneous'. The method is employed by many it seems and is extremely popular among the Junior Officers.

It involves covering as much ground between points A and B in the time allowed thereby ensuring every OK is spotted. (At least once). This is also known as area saturation driving. While **Lt Charlie Miller** and **LCpl Christie** were doing battle with slippery slopes and trees, **Lt James Harris** and **Dvr Gray** seemed intent on trying to knock down **Sgt Bain** the photographer from the 4 Armd Div Public Information Cell.

Meanwhile, at the back of the field but carving it up furiously, came the deadly duo from the Div. **Cfn Bob Hamilton** and **LCpl Mark Taylor** proved that they were as good as they kept saying they were by coming first in Class 2. **Lt James Harris** and **Dvr Gray** proved that area saturation driving can work by picking up sixth place medals. **Lt Charlie Miller** was consoled by **LCpl Rab Christie** who promised faithfully not to go so fast next time!

THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO BELIEVE THIS BACK HOME

The OC, **Maj Steve Siddall** 'advised' me to put this in *The Wire* and then try and explain away what a Royal Signals Officer was doing standing next to (but not that close to!) a bunch of German Sailors during Ex *Lionheart*.

Lt Charlie Miller smiles sweetly, proudly standing by some German Sailors

During the second week of *Lionheart* we found ourselves in the delightful village of Eldagsen. Despite the noise of war and continual earth trembling rumble of Challengers and Chieftains going one way down the main street and hours later much to our horror Leopard 2's coming back the other way, we had a very good rapport with our German hosts.

Our unit's local civil defence representative was invited to a Naval Wedding in the village and asked to bring along two British gentlemen (we couldn't find any so OC Sqn, **Maj Steve Siddall** and OC B, **Lt Charlie Miller** attended), in full evening dress. The wedding was very nautical and tutonic and out of respect for Anglo-German relations, the OC temporarily relaxed the 'No drinking on Ex rule' (for the traditional wedding breakfast toast) . . . and that is why a Royal Signals Officer is standing next to a bunch of German Sailors!

211 SIGNAL SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

The Squadron has recently undergone several changes of its personalities. The current line-up is:

OC	**Maj Brian Chubb**
2IC	**Capt Andy Kendall**
OC A Tp	**Lt Andrew Trimble**
OC B Tp	**Lt Frank Riley**
SSM	**WO2 Derek Boyd**
YOS	**WO2 Bob Beebee**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Herbison**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Graham Pollard**
FOS	**SSgt Dave Murray**
OC Sp Tp	**SSgt John Tovey**

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

We recently said farewell to one of our longest serving members; that golfer, footballer, squash player and erstwhile writer of Wire notes— **Capt Brian Young. Brian** is currently attending the Quartermaster's course before taking up his next appointment in the Falklands. The Squadron wishes **Capt Young** and his wife **Judith** the best of luck for the future.

In August, the Squadron said farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Jim Coffey. WO2 Coffey** left, after almost four years, on promotion to RSM. We would like to take the opportunity to thank **Jim** and his wife **Sue** for the sterling work they have done during their tour, and to welcome **WO2 (SSM) Derak** and his wife **Sue** in their place.

WO2 Jim Coffey hands over the reins to WO2 Derek Boyd

PARACHUTING

Following the success of a recent parachuting course, **LCpl Jock Allen** and **Geordie McCarthy** were bitten by the parachuting bug and promptly volunteered for service with 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn. Both have successfully completed P Company and are currently undergoing Parachute training.

LCpl Jock Allen smiles after his first ever parachute jump

ANGLING

The Squadron boasts a small determined band of anglers. The team: **Sgt Geoff Robinson, Cpls Steve Hartley, Martin Lockyer, Mac McDonald, LCpl Simon Kay, Sig Taff Skey** and **Sig Stan Bruce.**

Although it has only been in existence since March, the team has attained several notable achievements. In July last **Cpl Steve Hartley** came second in the Royal Green Jackets Charity Match. At Verden **Cpl Martin Lockyer** became the new Royal Corps of Signals Angling Champion and the team were placed fifth overall. The team went on to compete in the BAOR Championships where they finished seventh. The team's most recent success was at Doktersee, where **Sig Taff Skey** who, arrived an hour late after a Squadron practice callout, convincingly won the 4 Armd Div Sig Regt Championship.

The Royal Signals Angling Champion, Cpl Martin Lockyer

202 SIGNAL SQUADRON

BATUS

Lt Nick Metcalfe, LCpl May and **Sig Bird** went to Canada to listen to the 3 RTR Battle Group nets on Medicine Man 5 in August 1984. After 19 days the group deployed onto the prairie. **Sig Dave Snowdon** (2 Sqn) seemed to enjoy his R and R in Calgary after the exercise and **Lt Nick Metcalfe** still insists that parked landrovers are easily obscured by the dust cloud of a passing Chieftain. Everybody enjoyed the visit to Canada and definitely considered it a worthwhile exercise.

EXERCISE *LIONHEART*

After much preparation of vehicles, equipment and military skills, the Squadron deployed on 13 September. The initial plan for the Headquarters was one of deception, to ensure that the staff would remain relatively uninterrupted during the first phase. However plans were changed, due to future locations being compromised and, **Capt Ted Banham** with **Cpl Colin Joseph** worked hard on recce.

Recce is definitely hard work

Many incidents are worthy of note. The OC, **Maj John Ewbank**, was extremely unlucky where visits were concerned; during the visit of the Master General of the Ordnance it was discovered that maps cannot be trusted all the time and that staff cars find the going tough on muddy tracks at a 30° Cant.

The biggest event for the Brigade was the demonstration attack, for the VIP party, to the west of the Hidersmeimerwald. **Sgt Paddy Flaghan** and **Sig Bird** deployed. Unfortunately the Bde Comd Net was unusually difficult and **Lt Nick Metcalfe** found that 'other enditis' does not work when confronted with angry Brigadiers.

To defend the Headquarters a platoon of reservists arrived. One was unfortunate enough to encounter an escaped bull whilst on patrol and **YofS Steve Watson** discovered that Sig Ops was indeed the place to be. In the same location **LCpls Kev Winkles** and **Ed Edminson** alcng with **Sig Monaghan, Fred Walker** and **Sean Lawes** managed a marvellous trout supper. The secret of where they came from has not yet been revealed!

In E2 Troop, **SSgt Graham** developed the RBD, the Residual Brew Detector. It was rumoured that **Sig Jones** could be heard rustling tea bags at 50m, and that **SSgt Graham**'s deepest sleep would be disturbed by the boiling of a kettle.

The Squadron welcomed to the exercise, for the first time, **Sgt Mal Colclough** and **Sig Ian Drysdale**. Both are frequently seen in camp yet never on exercise and **Sgt Mal Colclough** can be warned that his 'sticky bar' may become a feature of all exercises from now on.

The final five days of the exercise were spent parked up beside an ore mine. Activities in this period were numerous but two stand out. The officers and SNCOs vs Junior Ranks football match ended in a 5—5 draw. **Sgt Dave Kerr** played a magnificent game, and proved why he has previously been called 'wee bandy'. One evening's activity was a smoker with each section of the Squadron putting on a sketch. E1 Troop won with their version of the medics at work but **Sig Pete Dimmack** put on an excellent show as a lady of the night.

SPORT

During the period 22-28 October the three Troops in the Squadron and Bde HQ took part in a six sport competition sponsored by a firm of Insurance Brokers. The original idea was to involve as many people as possible over the seven days and this proved a success, with many previously unimagined 'stars' coming to the fore. The six sports played were football, basketball, volleyball, rugby, tug-o-war and hockey.

The football was won by E2 Troop. Their team was controlled very effectively by **Cpl Steve Barrington** who proved why he is an occasional captain of the Squadron XI. SHQ Troop won the basketball, mainly due to the shooting skills of **Sgts Paul Bishop** and **Paddy Grinnell**. In an extremely close fought final SHQ narrowly won against E1 Troop. The match was decided on penalty kicks which brought the final scoreline to 2—1.

Dvr John Clenaghan scored all SHQ's goals but the Sqn 2IC, **Capt Ted Banham** showed the form that once won recognition in an era long ago. E1 Troop triumphed in the volleyball, tug-o-war and rugby. The volleyball final was well fought by E2 Troop; of special mention is the demon performance by **Cpl Smith**. No points were scored against E1 Troop in the tug-o-war and rugby. Special mention should go to **LCpl Kev Winkles** whose strength and skill were evident in both sports. The overall winners were E1 Troop, with SHQ Troop coming a close second.

On the football field the Squadron XI are going from strength to strength. The calming influence of **SSgt Pete Alves** has strengthened the back four and **SSgt Bill Magee** has been called out of retirement to add punch up front; indeed, in his first match this season he scored. The results in competition matches so far this season are:

202 Sig Sqn 1—4 4 Armd Wksps
202 Sig Sqn 2—2 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

GOLF

This seems to be the most popular method of avoiding work. A large number of the Squadron hierarchy including: **Maj John Ewbank** (OC), **Capt Ted Banham** (2IC), **WO2 Steve Watson** (YofS), **SSgt Graham** (E2 Tp), **Sgt Dave Kerr** (Trg), **Sgt Paddy Grinnell** (MT) and **LCpl Ed Edminson** (Line), are often training hard. However the practice certainly pays off. Congratulations to **Capt Ted Banham** and **YofS Steve Watson** for winning the Royal Signals BAOR Golf Trophy for Regimental Pairs in the Autumn meeting, and well done in being runners up, at the Regimental Meeting in Sennelager, in the 'Inter-Squadron pairs'.

Capt Ted Banham and WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson with the Royal Signals BAOR Regimental Pairs Trophy

King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers

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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. Former officers and their dependants are charged £315 per week for a private room. The charge for other patients is £715. If, however, a patient can pay a sum nearer to the actual cost of his/her maintenance (now over £720 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, ( ), 6 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR, or phone 01-828 4454. Applications for admission should be made to the Matron on 01-486 4411.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

FAREWELLS

The Regiment wishes good luck to the outgoing 2IC, **Maj Steve Coltman,** on his way to new pastures in MOD (some say he is going to help Geoffrey Boycott during the next cricket season) and **WO1 (RSM) Bill Olive** on his commission.

The 2IC Maj Steve Coltman, grins as he is forcibly carried from RHQ by Lt 'Burt' Lancaster and Capt Peter Grogan *(front)* and Lt Davy Jones and Mark Beardsell *(rear)*. Perhaps he is thinking of the full 'In' and 'Pending' trays he left the new 2IC Maj Peter Richards

RSM Bill Olive presenting Cpl Jarwood PMC of the Cpls' Mess with a print on the occasion of dining out by the Corporals of the Regiment

WELCOME

We would like to welcome **Maj Graham Elliot, Lt Paul Wenlock, WO1 (RSM) Pete Whitehead, WO1 Mick Fogg** and **WO1 'Super' Kennedy** to the Regiment. It is hoped that they enjoy their tour with us.

EXERCISE *IRON ARROW II*

Report by Training Wing

Trg Offr	**Capt (Tfc) Ian Sleightholm**
Trg WO	**WO1 Jimmy Campbell**
Instrs	**WO2 Tom Charteries**
	SSgt John Hodges
	Sgt Ken Sheppard
Clerk	**Cpl Dave Parker**
Admin	**LCpl Allan Strike**

Ex *Iron Arrow II* encompassed the Regimental Patrol Competition (Phase 1) and a Battlefield Survival Exercise (Phase 2).

The Regimental deployment commenced on Friday 29 October 1984 with the Directing Staff (DS) departing by road for Reinsehlen Camp and on to Soltau and Luneburg Training Area (SLTA). The move went almost according to plan apart from the map reading/navigation stand not being located until the following morning. **SSgt (FofS) Terry 'The Tracker' Moorhead** reckons he was in the correct location (Germany); however, his excellent camouflage (like an empty wood) caused difficulty in finding him. If you believe that . . .

BY RAIL

The main party (364) departed from Maresfield Barracks, Herford at 2330 hrs Sunday, 21 October and marched to Herford main station at something approaching CFT pace. A special train (L'Expresse De Les Miserables) then conveyed the Regiment to Barrl railhead adjacent to Reinsehlen Camp, arriving at 0527 hrs on 22 October.

A brisk 600m march to Reinsehlen Camp for breakfast (provided by **Sgt 'Chippy' Wood** and a team from 'Rent a Buttie') followed by a quick aircraft brief was a welcome break after some four hours on the train.

. . . AND AIR

First light revealed two Chinook (single decker bus with flying capability) and two Puma helicopters from RAF Gutersloh ready to airlift 26 × 14 man patrols some 30Km to the eastern end of the training area. The lift began as soon as there was sufficient light for the crews to navigate and land the aircraft. Flying was to be fully tactical (fast and low) and was so effective that a few of the younger soldiers thought they were going by road! After some 75 minutes the RAF had completed three lifts of over 100 troops with full kit and most of the patrols were already moving to the area of the mil skills stands ready to start the competition.

A patrol disembarking from a Puma at the start of the Patrol Competition Phase (Ex *Iron Arrow II*)

The competition consisted of 20 stands (18 day and two night) to be covered in three days. Subjects ranged from NBC to Health and Hygiene, Physical Fitness (1,500m Assault Course) to general military knowledge. The two night stands consisted of a lake crossing in assault boats followed by a recce on a possible enemy location which was a mobile hawk missile site provided by friends from the Royal Netherlands Air Force. Patrols were totally self sufficient throughout and apart from a nightly re-supply of water and rations there would be no contact with normal Regimental logistic support.

COMMANDER VISITS

On 23/24 October, Comd Comms 1(BR) Corps, **Brig R. F. L. Cook** carried out the ARU supported by Staff from Corps HQ. The visit went very well with the Brigadier and his staff seeing and speaking to almost everyone involved in the exercise. Comd Comms was very interested in the Physical Fitness stand and joined two patrols during their run.

Phase 1 ended on the morning of 25 October as the last patrol completed their night stands.

A few anecdotes/comments heard during the competition:

During the night assault boat crossing:

Team Comd—Stand by to go about

Team —Stood up, turned about and paddled the boat backwards

A Patrol from 3 Sqn giving the Comd Comms a demonstration of how not to play Volleyball

Comd Comms (1 BR Corps), the CO and the RSM viewing the treatment of a casualty on the first aid stand with some amusement

A 4 Sqn team were getting up a fair head of steam before realising that the tree to which they were moored was not going to move. As a result of the general military knowledge test readers should be aware of a few additions to NATO: Poland, Rumania, Australia and New Zealand.

PHASE TWO

The start of Phase Two was signalled by an attack on our three patrol bases/bivvy sites at approx 0800 hrs on 25 October. Patrols then split into seven-man sections and began the long march through the training area in the general direction of Reinsehlen Camp, some 40Km to the west. Sections were moved through the area via a number of agents who would feed in new instructions as directed by the exercise controllers. Agents were acting also as DS and with the aid of a Comms vehicle somewhere close to their location were able to keep ex control up to date on the exact movement of the Regiment. This system proved invaluable when one of the sections didn't make the first contact, excon were able to react quickly and eventually gather in the lost souls and point them in the right direction.

By the end of night 25/26 a distance of some 50Km had been covered (including the patrol competition) and the weight of equipment was beginning to tell. A couple of patrols were late at their second agent and clearly Section Commanders were having to re-think their time and motion plot. In addition, the long distances and heavy packs began to slow teams down. Sections were not rationed for this part of the exercise and it soon became apparent that the lads had been hoarding food which, of course, made the packs even heavier.

PLATOONS FORMED

On 26 October sections were ordered to RV in concentration areas and form platoons of approx 28. The P1 Comd was tasked to carry out a recce on a possible en loc with a view to attacking it later that night. The tasks went fairly well but it was apparent that some personnel were becoming very tired as the reaction to the enemy heli patrols showed. It was decided to press on and agent three directed all sections to a final RV, some 5Km from Reinsehlen Camp where transport conveyed all to a welcome meal and a chance to recover prior to the train journey to Herford.

WEARY BUT WISER

At 2000 hrs on 27 October a weary (but much wiser) Regiment arrived at Herford station and were delighted to find transport awaiting to take them to Maresfield Camp. As soon as weapons had been handed in the Regiment assembled in the Gymnasium to hear the Commanding Officer's debrief prior to presenting trophies to the best overall patrol and the best Squadron on the patrol competition part of the exercise.

Honours went to SHQ Troop of 3 Sqn for achieving a good result on the patrol competition and going on to finish the Battlefield Survival with a complete patrol—congratulations to **Capt Gareth Smith** the Ptl Comd and **WO2 (FofS) Chas Dowie** the Ptl 2IC. The Squadron trophy for the best average score on the patrol competition was won by 2 Sqn and a very proud OC, **Maj Jim Stabler,** received the trophy from the CO. A special award was then made by the CO to **Sgt Dave Showell** of 6 Sqn for a great effort in leading his team through the whole week, intact.

All in all a very successful exercise during which everyone learned valuable lessons, not least Training Wing who had several nightmares during the six days. Thanks to all for making *Iron Arrow II* a worthwhile exercise.

PAGE TROPHY CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

Report by Capt C. Owen

This year's Regimental cross-country race cracked off to a fine start with 525 runners scrambling for a forward position on the line. The Operations Officer **Maj 'Oops' Hewitt** had arranged for fine weather and for once the elements complied. **Capt Pretsell WRAC** blew the foghorn and sent the Regiment hurtling towards the camp exit and out into the woods.

It must be pointed out that the traditional start of the Commanding Officer's run involves reducing a mass of bodies one hundred wide and five deep, to a wedge of inhumanity just under twelve feet across in slightly less than 100 yards. We are assured that this comes under the heading of 'Character Training'.

By the time the runners reached Heartbreak Hill, they were stretched over 1,000 yards, (one behind the other, 525 times), and at this point cries of 'Medic!' brought **Sgt 'Unsung Hero' Lock** leaping from his 'rover to check for cardiac arrests. (Unfortunately he only found a slight case of blisters). As the last man sprinted across the Autobahn (at a height of 50 feet), **Cpl Carr** loped calmly across the finishing line and asked to be dismissed until prize giving an hour later. It was fully five minutes later before runners were arriving at five second intervals,

and the mad task of allocating a time and position to runners arriving in groups of 100 began at the 30 minute point. Every Medex soldier in the Regiment assisted in this daunting task but just how fast can you hand out discs and call out times? Only **Cpl 'Medex' Pike** knows.

Mrs Wood presented the prizes for the second year running, giving the trophy to 4 Sqn who, strangely, only fielded half a squadron. 1 Sqn took second place even though **LCpl 'Blisters' Symmonds** came 525th (Good luck in HQ Sqn). Other squadron placings were 3, 6, 5, 2 and HQ in that order.

Cpl Carr of HQ Squadron came first (welcome to the cross-country team), **Cpl Pickup** took second place followed by **Cpl Sexby** who would have run faster had he not been on leave. **Capt 'Totty' Smurthwaite** was the fastest veteran and **WO2 (FofS) Morley** won the 35 to 40 race. **Sig Wilsey** was the fastest junior.

An unusual prize was awarded to **Cpl Divine** of 6 Sqn who attempted to include himself on 5 Sqn score.

NOTICE: Anyone wishing to take advantage of a new recipe for orange juice made with tea leaves should contact the Catering Troop, 7 Sig Regt!

INTER-SQUADRON NOVICE BOXING

Report by WO1 (ASM) Logue REME

The Regimental Inter-Squadron Boxing was held on Thursday 11 October and proved to be a most successful evening with some good hard bouts.

The evening started with a Bantam weight bout between **Cpl Dodsworth**, 4 Sqn and **Sig Tindale**, 6 Sqn, at first it appeared both boxers were evenly matched, until mid-way through the second round when **Tindale** took the upper hand and the referee stopped the contest. The feather weight bout went the full distance with both boxers looking for the KO punch, the result was a unanimous decision for **Sig Cunningham**, 6 Sqn. Bout No 3 proved to be a good Light Weight scrap with both boxers, **LCpl Rea**, 6 Sqn, **LCpl Henry**, 2 Sqn, trading punches but **Henry**'s class started to show in the second round when he forced **Rea** to take an eight count, the bout went the full distance and **Henry** won by a unanimous decision.

Bout 4 the Light Welter Weight also proved to be a hard fought contest between **Sig Weaver**, 6 Sqn, and **LCpl Wise**, 2 Sqn, **Weaver**'s fitness won through in the end the judges awarded him the fight by a majority decision. Bout 5 was an extra fight between two Regimental boxers, **LCpl Hutchinson** and **Sig Lambie**. These two, rather than go for the KO, showed the finer points of putting together more than one punch but after the contest both boxers were still bloodied and nastily bruised and the audience showed its appreciation for a skillfully fought contest. Bout 6 followed the interval with a Light Middle Weight bout between **Sig Charlton**, 4 Sqn and **Sig Carr**, 2 Sqn. Yours truly cast his eyes to his programme at the bell and missed the action, so that when I looked up Sig Carr was down and clearly not going to make the count so, almost before it started, it was over. Bout 7, a Middle Weight contest between **Sig Scoots**, 2 Sqn, and **Sig Wilson**, 2 Sqn, was a fine bout between a boxer and a fighter. **Scoots** had shown the big right on two previous occasions during the prelim bouts but **Wilson** proved himself to be a stylish boxer who boxed and scored off **Scoots** so the unanimous decision in **Wilson**'s favour was not totally unexpected. Bout 8 was for my money and, so it turned out, the referee's too, the bout of the evening between **LCpl Appleby**, 5 Sqn, and **Dvr Truepenny**, HQ Sqn, the fight was hard fought with both boxers taking eight counts during the first two rounds but **Appleby**'s fitness showed through in the end and he won by a unanimous decision but **Truepenny**'s flair and guts did not go unrewarded as in the referee's eyes he was the night's best loser. Bout 9 was the Heavy Weight contest between **Sig Baker**, 5 Sqn and **Cpl Hartland**, 2 Sqn, **Baker** proved to be too strong for **Hartland** and knocked him out. Bout 10, the final, was a thrilling three round Welter Weight between **LCpl Owen**, 4 Sqn, and **Sig Gifford**, 5 Sqn, with **Owen** getting an unanimous decision at the end of a fast, hard fought contest. **Lt Col Wood** presented the prizes and congratulated the boxers on a fine performance and 6 Sqn on winning the trophy, albeit by only one point, from 2 Sqn. Could it be that 6 Squadron's hold on this trophy is about to be seriously challenged? I think so.

BOOK REVIEW

HRH THE PRINCESS ANNE, A Biography by **Brian Hoey**. Published by Country Life Books August 1984. 208 pages, £8.95, (ISBN 600 357155)

A new biography of our Colonel-in-Chief is of immediate interest to members of her Corps. An inadequate volume would be quickly condemned, but have no fear, Brian Hoey serves us well. He brings to his task experience as a writer and broadcaster of many years standing, whose reporting has brought him into close association with royal occasions and personages. He sets out to inform a broad span of intelligent readers without at any time being intrusive. He presents a good factual record, with clear and interesting descriptions of the procedures, machinery and protocols set-up to manage royal events and information. He is fair, honest and intelligent in the assessments he makes and divides the material well into subjects worthy of concentrated attention.

The fly leaf of the book tells us this:- 'Princess Anne' has said of herself: "I never was a fairytale princess and I never will be." But to countless people, this Royal Princess, the only daughter of the Queen, sixth in line of succession to the Throne, who married a handsome officer amidst the pomp and pageantry of Westminster Abbey, who is an expert horsewoman and the mother of two lovely children, is just that. And to see the Princess, bejewelled and gowned, attend a State occasion or an evening function is to see the 'stunningly beautiful' princess of fairytales emerge. But, as she herself admits, there is much more to her life'.

The magic of royalty is well preserved but in no way conceals the very real person behind the panoply of state. For me the quality and qualities come out most strongly in the story of the astonishing series of equestrian successes and in relation to the Save the Children Fund. There is still room in a very full book for mention of the Corps and other Service connections though it is a pity from our point of view that the many excellent photographs do not include one of a Royal Signals occasion. As compensation a fascinating chapter is included on the subject of 'The Princess Royal'. This sets out a story I have not seen told elsewhere and of course includes information about Princess Mary, our first Colonel-in-Chief.

Like many books reviewed in these columns, this is one well worth reading. Unlike most others it has the merit that it will be well received by all members of the family.

D.R.H.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

THE BASIC TRAINEE VIEW

The Regiment's ARU Inspection took place on 11 October 1984. The Inspecting Officer was **Brig F. R. Maynard**, Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison. In the morning the Brigadier was given an insight into the Daily Routine of a Basic Trainee and in the afternoon he saw the Regiment paraded, and in some cases deployed, in its war role. Rather unusually the Brigadier's host for the morning was a Basic Trainee Radio Telegraphist. This dubious honour went to **Sig P. Van der Broek** of 2 Squadron. This is his account of the ARU:

'Only five days before the ARU, I was casually going about my trade training with hardly a care in the world, when my Squadron Commander informed me that I was to host the Brigadier during the morning of the ARU. There was a lot of preparation to be done and I kept being sent back to camp from my exercise with Schemes Troop for briefings and rehearsals. I was kept fairly busy and didn't begin to worry about the prospect until the big day arrived.

I had to be in the RSM's Office at 0950 hrs to meet the Brigadier at 1000 hrs; I was there 10 minutes early.

When you are waiting in the RSM's Office for 20 minutes to meet a Brigadier it's impossible to stay calm and collected. The RSM was trying to reassure me with words like "don't worry! The day will go quickly . . ." Only 19½ minutes to go, " . . . the Brigadier is a good man, very easy to get along with, you'll be alright". Only 19 minutes and 20 seconds. How quickly time flies when you're in the RSM's Office waiting for a Brigadier.

I tried to reassure myself by remembering the Commanding Officer's earlier words of advice. He said "Treat him as your father, show him round the Regiment as you would your father—but whatever you do don't call him Dad!" Very slowly the time dragged by until at last I was being introduced to **Brig Maynard**. The day had begun.

We first went to the Vimy Social Club, in his staff car, for morning Naafi break. I introduced him to the other members of my course and then went to get the coffees (14p per cup)! I had been very worried about what sort of things I would talk to the Brigadier about but he made it very easy by constantly asking questions about all aspects of life as a trainee in the Regiment. I was just getting into the swing of things when it was time to move on. Our next stop was Vimy A to look at the accommodation, we ended up in the Cookhouse to simulate a breakfast meal. I was just getting to what I thought about the food when the RSM coughed and then scowled. This was our prearranged signal that we had overrun on time and should move on. I moved. We walked across to the Trade Training School where I had to show the Brigadier as many aspects of Trade Training for an RTg as possible in the short space to time. We started in the Radio classroom where I was taught to set up a radio and establish communications. The Brigadier had obviously done it all before because he dived in and helped me set up. The same thing happened in the morse room where a demonstration had been staged. I talked the Brigadier through the system (with some help from the instructors) and then he had a go at taking morse. He began with primary morse and went up to 18 words per minute with interference!

Another cough and scowl and we moved to the assault course where I was able to stand back and explain whilst others were demonstrating. It was a job politely to move the Brigadier on to our next venue which was keyboard training. I explained how I had been taught to type and once again the Brigadier jumped in to have a go and see for himself.

Trainees demonstrate assault course techniques while Sig Van Der Broek explains to the Brigadier why they can't go faster

A . . S . . D . . F . . A . . S The Brigadier on keyboard supervised by Sig Van Der Broek while Maj Singleton looks on

Despite being a banking soldier the next stop was Pay Parade where I had to queue, to be paid £10, to demonstrate, the procedures. The Brigadier took the chance to talk to others in the queue while I took the chance to rest. I had been talking non stop for two hours.

Finally we moved out into the "Field" to join Schemes Troop. This was where I said goodbye and rejoined my course while OC Schemes Troop took the Brigadier around the detachments to show him the practical side of an RTg's job.

There are no rewards for being the host at an ARU. The £10 was deducted from my pay at the end of the month. Still it was a good day and everyone thought it had gone well. I enjoyed myself as much as the Brigadier who really is like a father when you get talking to him.'

WINNERS OF THE ARMY SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

8 Sig Regt won the Army (UK Six-a-Side Football Cup at Aldershot on 17 October, 1984. The competition had started the week before, with the North East/North West District Six-a-Side Football tournament. Originally two teams from the Regiment had been entered for the competition, but in order to make the day's programme easier to manage, a ballot was held to reduce the number of teams and the Regimental second team were unlucky not to be accepted because they could have done well in the competition.

THE PRELIMINARIES

8 Sig Regt progressed through the initial stages of the competition by beating: 2 RRF (2—0), 24 Fd Amb RAMC (6—1), QOH (4—2), 2 LI 'A' Team (5—1), 2 LI 'B' Team (3—2) but losing to 49 Regt RA (1—3). These results qualified us for the final against 38 Regt RE from Ripon.

THE FINAL

The final game was an exciting, end to end, battle with eight goals being scored in less than 20 minutes. The score was 4—4, with very little time to go, when **Sig Tony Redman** hit a thunderbolt shot, which beat the Sappers goalkeeper, but was prevented from going into the goal by one of the defenders punching the ball out. **Cpl John Sweeny** calmly took the penalty kick and scored a goal. The referee did not re-start the game after the penalty goal so 8 Sig Regt had won 5—4.

The North East/North West Six-a-Side Football Cup was presented by **Brig M. A. Aris**.

THE ARMY FINALS

Our success in the District competition gained us a place in the Army finals at Aldershot. We knew the standard of the opponents would be much higher and a long day of football was in store for us. For us, the early games went well, gaining victories over: Prince of Wales Division Depot (3—0), Scottish Infantry Depot (5—0). 1st Bn Scots Guard 'B' Team (4—1), 1 RTR (3—1), 1 RHF (5—1), 2 R Anglian (2—1) but unfortunately losing to Trg Regt RE (0—3).

Our results were enough to qualify for the semi finals of the competition where we were drawn against 1 Bn Scots Guard 'A' Team and after a hard fought game 8 Sig Regt won 4—3.

THE CUP FINAL

The cup final was between Training Regiment Royal Engineers and 8 Sig Regt. The Sappers appeared confident, as they had beaten us 3—0 earlier in the day. Our pride was hurt by the Sappers, as they were the only team to have beaten us. The stage was set for the cup final. The final was another exciting game, full of incidents, goals, misses and penalty saves. At the final whistle we were leading 3—2, we regained the title we had won in 1982 but lost in 1983. Two cups were presented to 8 Sig Regt, the Army Six-a-Side Football Cup and the Aston Martin Lagonda Cup by **Mr Michael Bowler** from the sponsors.

THE SCORERS

In the two stages of the competition, the goal scorers were **Cpl Billy Freear** (22), **Cpl John Sweeny** (11), **Sig Tony Redman** (6), **Sig Jock Erskine** and **Graham Hinman** (4 each) and **Sig Brent Holmes** (2). **LCpl Sid Payne** had played magnificently in goal with **Sig 'Scouse' Ashcroft** and **Robbie Whyke** contributing a lot of hard work and skill in a fine team effort.

NOSTALGIA

There were nostalgic memories for our Football Officer, **Capt Tom Guest**, who had been Football Officer of 16 Sig Regt in 1981 when they won the BAOR Six-a-Side Competition and this year had won the UK Competition with 8 Sig Regt.

Army Championships
8th Sig Regt Six-a-Side Football Team
Standing: Cpl Billy Freear, LCpl Sig Payne, Sig 'Scouse' Ashcroft, Sig Graham Hinman, Capt Tom Guest
Kneeling: Sig Tony Redman, Sig Brent Holmes, Cpl John Sweeny, Sig Robbie Whyke
Front: Aston Martin Lagonda Cup, Army Six-a-Side Cup, North East/North West District Six-a-Side Cup, 'Ben'

GOLF — ARMY CHAMPIONS

Our Regimental Golf Team won the Army Challenge Scratch Cup at Catterick on 6/7 September, 1984. Despite being on 'home ground' the team were far from favourites to win. However after two days of tough matches they deservedly found themselves in the final against the favourites, and last year's champions, the Royal Ulster Constabulary. It was a very close match with our 'gang of four' winning by one hole.

Winners of the Army Golf Challenge Scratch Cup
L-R: Cpl Gary Prince, SSgt Max Patterson, Lt Col John Elliott, Sgt Charlie Mitchell

FIGHTING COCKS BOXING COMPETITION

On 25 October, 1984, the annual Inter-Squadron Novices Boxing Tournament was held for the 'Fighting Cocks' trophy. All the hard work of the early morning runs, the evening training, the weigh-in and medical examinations were behind as the competition started in a crowded gymnasium. 3 Sqn got off to a good start with **Sig Dave Copley** and **Bob Garrett** winning their bouts before **Cpl 'Paddy' McGaughey** (2 Sqn) and **Sig Duncan Fielding** (1 Sqn) won to close the gap in the scores. 3 Sqn went further into the lead when **Sig 'Camel' Camilleri** won the Light Middleweight contest. The result of the overall competition was swinging between 2 and 3 Sqns. For 2 Sqn **'Noddy' Newman**, **'Smithy' Smith** and **Mark Derbyshire** and for 3 Sqn **Sig Gerry Browning** and **Harry Johnson** all had victories.

In dramatic style the competition result was to be decided on the final bout between **Sig 'Taffy' Evans** (3 Sqn) and **Sig Ian Stringer** (2 Sqn). **Sig Evans** got off to a wonderful start, for 3 Sqn. He knocked **Sig Stringer** down, with a flurry of blows, in the first round and it looked as if 3 Sqn would retain the trophy as **Stringer** returned goggily to his corner. This final bout had the audience on its feet, cheering for their respective champions and both boxers gave their best efforts in a display of courage, fitness and determination. **Sig Stringer** did better in the last two rounds to win the bout by a narrow margin and 2 Sqn had won the Fighting Cocks trophy.

Sig 'Camel' Camilleri (3 Sqn) received the best boxer of the competition award and **Sig 'Taffy' Evans** (3 Sqn) was awarded the best loser's prize.

Our congratulations go to **WO2 (YofS) Mel Watson** and **WO2 (QMSI) Dave Huffen**, for organising the competition and to **Capt Tom Guest, Cpl John Sweeny** of 2 Sqn for training the winning team.

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL

Mr Bryan Goudge was presented with the Imperial Service Medal by **Col B. Austin**, in recognition of 37 years service to the Crown on 30 October, 1984.

Many TOTs, FofSs and technicians will remember being taught by **Mr Goudge** in his 21 years as an instructional officer, but now he has retired to his home county of Cornwall and given up the exactitudes of upgrading mathematics.

The photograph shows **Bryan** explaining to **Col Austin** some obscure point of Boolean algebra—or is it pulse and magic?, in his well known enthusiastic manner. We did offer him another class, which he surprisingly declined, choosing instead to return to Cornwall with our best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

The CO presents Mr Bryan Goudge with the Imperial Service Medal

FIRST LADY OF THE SWITCHBOARD

LCpl S. Leitch has made history at Catterick. She has recently completed a Switchboard Operators Upgrading Course and has achieved the first ever A Grade on this course. A tribute from **Sgt B. J. Johnson**.

This is no task to envy
It's hard to find a word
To praise our A Grade student
The first one have you heard?

Lt Col Smith OC TTS presents LCpl S. Leitch with her A grade diploma

Switchboard is a doddle they say
Even a 'Liney' could do it
But to keep the subscribers happy
There's really nothing to it

A pleasant voice
A charming smile
Trying to connect you
Could you wait a while

So now we have our number one
She really takes the biscuit
Our first A Grade on a B1 Course
The instructors didn't fix it

When all hear this, they'll think we've gone soft
And then what would we do
If we're not careful with these girls
Next time there could be two

But seriously it isn't easy
To make it to the top
This girl did well to make it there
Well done, that's all, full stop.

2 SQUADRON

MAJ J. M. ROULSTONE WRAC

On 16 November, 1984 **Maj Joan Roulstone WRAC** handed over command of 2 Sqn, after more than two years in office. **Maj Roulstone** is posted to the WRAC Directorate in the MOD where we wish her every success and happiness.

Throughout her tour in 2 Sqn she has taken great care in administering the basic and upgrading RTg's and DTg's passing through this Squadron. Her attention to detail has been of benefit to them and ensured a smooth passage through their time in the Regiment. After the usual lunch, dinners, and office party **Maj Roulstone** left the Regiment with the route lined by members of the Squadron.

A HAT-TRICK OF SMITHS

Our other arrivals and departures are mostly to do with the name **Smith**. We welcome **Maj Lesley Smith** as our new OC, from HQ (BR) RCZ and wish her a successful tour with 2 Sqn. **Sgt John Smith** joins us as Alpha Troop Sergeant, having made the short journey from 1 Sqn. **Cpl Pete Smith** has left us to go to Schemes Troop. Incidently we also have five other **'Smiths'** in 2 Sqn and since 1 January, 1984 another 13 people named **Smith** have been in the Squadron.

We also welcome **Cpl Les Bostock** from the Military Training Wing, to his second tour with A Troop and **Cpl Don Capron** from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in York.

EXERCISES *DEVILS LEAP* AND *MAIDENS SCURRY*

Ex *Devils Leap* is a military skills competition for regular, TAVR and UOTC units in North East District. Ex *Maidens Scurry* is a similar competition for WRAC and QARANC units. The exercises were a number of tests, for a section size team on such military skills as night navigation, NBC, First Aid, Observation, Speed Marching, and Shooting. It took about 14 hrs to complete.

2 Sqn are particularly proud of the results achieved by our teams, which consisted of basic trainees, led by cadre and upgrading NCOs. The male team were 7th out of the 36 teams which completed the exercise, several teams did not even finish the course. This was a very good result considering the inexperience of our competitors and the fact that the teams who finished ahead of us were regular infantry soldiers or officer cadet teams. The 2 Sqn team was: **Cpl Phil Harvey** Section Commander, **LCpl Matt Simmonds** 2IC Section, and **Sig Ben Gunn, Chris Hickman, 'Nosey' Parker, Paul Robinson, Dave Roddie, Tony Smith, Andy Thompson,** and **Owen Worrall. Cpls Les Bostock, Ian Kirkpatrick, Kev Rattray** and **'H' Wells** trained the team.

Our WRAC team on Ex *Maidens Scurry* completed a similar course to the male competitors and achieved the excellent result of being first of the regular Army teams. The team was trained and led by **Lt Carol O'Nians, Sgt Liz MacLean, Cpls Linda Kemp** and **Terry Orford**, the members of the team were **Ptes Fiona Huchsten, Amanda Jane, Trish Lampon, 'Hartlepool' Moon, Pam Shaw,** and **Cindy Shuttleworth**. When they took part in Ex *Maidens Scurry* the Privates had only completed 11 weeks' service, this emphasises the magnificent result of being the first regular army team in the competition.

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

A LOOK BACK

Looking back on a summer which lasted from May until November and brought with it our usual flock of visitors, we were pleased to prevail upon **Maj Gen B. L. G. Kenny CBE**, DASD, to present Long Service and Good Conduct medals to six members of the Regiment. The presentation took place on Monday 22 October, 1984 and recipients were:-

WO1 Elliot, SSgts Dalton and **Parrish, Sgt Bell, Cpls Barker** and **Bryant**. Our congratulations to them all.

As ever, the Regiment has been maintaining a healthy profile on the sports scene. With the season of water sports behind us, we are now concentrating our efforts towards cross-country running, rugby, volleyball, squash and . . . horse riding.

It is a well kept secret that we support the last remaining Corps Saddle Club. What is more, the Famagusta Saddle Club (as it is known) recently hosted the All-Island Horse Show here in Ayios Nikolaos which, in addition to reminding Corps officers why they wear spurs on their mess kit, was a great success for all concerned.

MT TROOP
PERSONALITIES

WO2 Mick (I'm the Boss) **Moffatt**
Sgt Dennis (That's a Fishy Tale) **Downie**
Sgt Mick (5 Extras) **Compton**
Cpl Ian (I need sleep) **Webb**
Cpl Graham (I wish I was a millionaire) **Blondel**
Cpl John (I am a millionaire) **Fisher**
LCpl Steve (Look at my body) **Golton**
Sig Jack (Diamond legs) **Hill**
Sig Geordie (Ayia Napa bound) **Morgan**
Sig Andy (Let me out of here) **Moran**
Pte Andrea (I am a woman) **Prout WRAC**

The MT Troop underwent a management change towards the end of last year. **SSgt** (I'm playing golf) **Rawson** moved into the 1 Sqn SQMS slot, and has only got one job to carry out now (he must be bored).

Arrivals were **WO2 Mick** (JSP 341) **Moffatt** and **Sgt Dennis** (I had a whopper) **Downie** (you will gather that he is our fishing expert . . . ?) We recently had a Troop get together in the form of a fishing day at one of the local reservoirs. Not a lot of fishing was done but the wives talked and the men sampled the local beer.

Our next organised function is a visit to the Stavrovouni Monastery dramatically situated on one of the high spots of the island with an excellent panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. Strangely, no volunteers have yet come forward to tackle the hair-raising drive up there.

We welcome our new arrival **Pte Prout WRAC** (she likes to be called Sprout!). She will find working with men enjoyable and no doubt rewarding so we tell her anyway. She is the first WRAC driver the Regiment has employed, but she will soon be joined by another.

We said farewell to **LCpl Jack** (Diamond legs) **Hill** and **Jean** (not forgetting little **Roy**) your talent on the football field will be missed and of course 16 Sig Regt's gain.

A bit of bragging on the sporting side . . . the inter-troop seven-a-side rugby was played on 20 October, '84 and the MT Troop team managed to get through to the semi-finals. Not bad for footballers! We should also mention that our leader **Mick Moffatt** won the Regimental cross-country in the Cyprus heat, having been on the island for only a couple of days. What have we to live up to?

TM TROOP—GLIDING WEEK

Recently 23 members of TM Troop took part in a week long gliding course run by the Crusaders Gliding Club at Kingsfield Dhekelia. The main aim was to give as many troop members as possible a taste of gliding. At first, one or two of the troop were a bit reluctant to climb into the aircraft, but after overcoming the initial shock of the winch launch, they all claimed to have enjoyed their flights.

LCpl 'Brummy' Portlock was privileged to experience a cable break during the launch; he claims his face was pressed against the cockpit canopy by the 'G' forces as his instructor carried out the emergency recovery. He was even less impressed when later the same canopy slammed shut trapping his elbow! The troop OC **Capt (TOT) Field** also had a shorter than normal flight when the cable he was being launched on broke at 600 feet. His instructor, **Sgt John Andrews**, also of TM Troop, explained that cable breaks were normally quite a rare occurrence, but always seemed to happen when you least expect them!

Sgt Taff (Barnstormer) Cassells buckles in ready for the off

Most of the other flights went off without incident. Indeed **Sgt Keith Wilkinson** surprised his instructor with an obvious flair for flying, but later admitted to having tried his hand at it before.

All in all it was a very successful week with everyone having three or four flights, this was largely due to the efforts of the many Crusaders Gliding Club members who ran the course. Many thanks to everybody who helped and please note that 'Glider Pilots do it quietly'.

RPC DOG SECTION

As part of our security guard we have a dog section of the RPC. In the handler's spare time they are often involved in dog demonstrations and displays which abound in the summer months and are so popular with the public. On 10 March, three dog handlers represented the Regiment in the All Island Dog Trials and all acquitted themselves extremely well. **Pte Jay Leach** came second overall and he also won the best agility prize. **Pte Dave James** came fourth and **LCpl Derek Hayes** came twelfth out of the 25 competitors. The proud moment for them all came when they were selected as first in the Service team event. The enclosed photograph shows the whole of the team with their dogs.

Back Row L-R: Cpl Stevens (IC), LCpl Hayes (2IC). *Front Row L-R:* Pte 'Rex' Luke, Pte 'Bandit' Leach, Pte 'Shep' Thompson, Pte 'Butch' James, Pte 'Santer' Harrison, Pte 'Taz' Radcliffe

3 SQUADRON—BFC VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

On 13 October 1984, the BFC Volleyball Championships took place in our gymnasium, by far the best forces volleyball facilities on the island with its semi-sprung floor and international net and poles, as used by the 'professionals' themselves. There were only eight entries for this year's competition, but though we may have been a little short in quantity the quality was certainly there for all to see. The teams were divided into two leagues of four with each team playing three games. To make things difficult, the pressing time factor meant that games would have to take place simultaneously inside and outside the gymnasium.

THE HOUSE CARD

If you were lucky and drew the 'house' card, you played your game inside. The 'sun' card signified that you had to face the elements out of doors. Not a pleasant prospect with temperatures climbing into the 80s. At the end of the league phase, 3 Sqn, 12 SU, SRA Police and 2 Sqn had earned the right to fight out the semi-finals. By this time, faced with a mutiny of over heated players it was agreed to play both semi-finals indoors.

THE SEMI-FINALS

In the first semi-final, 3 Sqn gave the SRA Police a very searching examination in volleyball skill. The Police, for so long the masters of the game within the SBA, found that they were on their way out with a crushing 15.4, 15.2 victory to 3 Sqn. In the other game, 2 Sqn, fancied by many to win, were found wanting and lost to a delighted 12 SU team in straight sets.

CHAMPIONS FOR THE THIRD YEAR

In the final, 3 Sqn proved altogether too strong for 12 SU. The first two sets went to them 15.2, 15.4. After relaxing slightly in the third set, they eventually clinched the matter 15.10 and thus became BFC champions for the third year running.

Cpl John Wheater in flying form during the championships

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)
Wilton

WELL DONE

Congratulations go to the students who passed the unit leadership course held in Erskine Barracks between 8 and 12 October 1984.

The course started with 12 students from various Squadrons within this Regiment arriving for a four day 'swan'. By 1100 hours on the 8th you could see a few faces change as the revised programme was explained by the RSM, **WO1 Fred Winton**. The course was a four day mini RSDCC and all students were tested to the limit.

We spent the last day performing the quarter guard for **Lt Gen Sir David Mostyn KCB CBE**, MS MOD, the best guard ever seen in these barracks, I might add.

The night exercise on the 11th proved most of the points taught had sunk in. **Cpl Skimming** thanks **Sig Edlin** for an extremely interesting body search, when the pin was pulled the nerves and adrenelin shook poor old **'Skims'** to pieces. Thanks most go to our training crew, **Cpl Allan** and **LCpl Thistlewood** in particular, for all the advice on infantry tactics.

Sig Johnson passed out as best student, however, congratulations to all who survived.

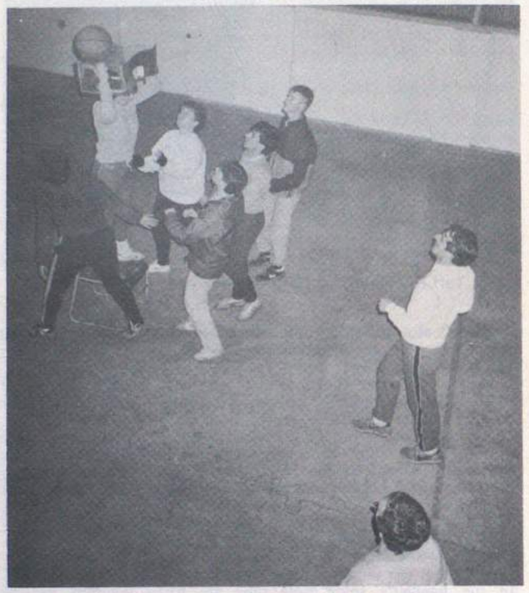
Back Row: Sig Jackson, Whiteway, Muir and Hicks
Centre Row: Sig Arnold, White, Petre, Thomas and Edlin
Front Row: Sig Johnson, Cpl Allan, WO1 (RSM) Winton, Cpl Skimming and LCpl Thistlewood

1 SQUADRON
EXERCISE *EVERGREEN '84*

The Regimental 'Summer' Camp this year was held in November in sunny Fremington.

PT every morning 0630 hrs, walking, map reading, NBC, first aid, fiendcraft, assault course, weapon training, sports and BFTs were among the activities on offer. Star attraction was an exercise called *Wet Walk* with an overnight stop in a muddy field under a poncho.

Amazingly enough, 1 Sqn enjoyed these varied pastimes and some even said they would like to return and do it all over again!



Evening games were on each night for all personnel

The End of the Assault Course was marked by a 12 ft wall—we saw several ways of getting over it, this being the most normal!

Adventure Training included a 'fun' ride on the mini motorbikes as well as the more serious combat driving. Here we see Pte 'Manely' Tucker negotiating a difficult 'slope'!

COMINGS, GOINGS AND WEDDINGS

We say goodbye and good luck in civilian life to **SSgt Leslie Tudor, Sgt Judy Crawford** and **Cpl 'Sammy' Samuel. Sgt Val Hart**, The **Cpls Williams, Pte Sharon Mallice** and **Pte** (now **LCpl**—congratulations) **Fiona Bakker** left us for sunnier climes and **Capt Peter White** is now busy instructing his favourite subject at the DNBC Centre. Congratulations on their promotions to **Cpls Dave Lee, Allan Keers** and **LCpl Kay Gibson**. Good luck to **Ptes Clair Mutter, Maria Hornsby** and **Vicky Sanderson** in Northern Ireland and to **Pte Laura Coleman** in her new trade of clerk. We hope **Pte Carol Halls** is enjoying her Falklands tour and look forward to seeing her next year (sometime!). Last but not least—farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Tony Cerqua** and all the best for Harrogate.

WEDDINGS

Lt Annabel Stiff arrived on Ex *Evergreen* as **Lt Annabel Macey**—straight from her honeymoon. **Pte 'Taffy' Robbins** became **Pte 'Taffy' Walters** and invited almost the entire Squadron to her reception. The OC is still recovering. Very best wishes to you both.

LETTER FROM LONDON

2 Sqn is now ready to fling itself wholeheartedly into the round of Christmas Festivities having survived a somewhat extended ceremonial season. In the last two months **HM The Queen**—and members of the squadron—have greeted the President of France on a three day State Visit, opened Parliament and attended the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph, albeit in rather different capacities.

The last year has obviously sapped the strength of OC Radio Troop, **Capt Nigel Moore**. At the end of 1984 'Captain Fantastic' as he is 'affectionately' known by members of the troop is moving down to the wilds of Wiltshire and RHQ. There, he will quietly spend his days as Adjutant.

The major event which cocurred in Hounslow in the last three months of 1984 was the Squadron ARU—three letters to strike dread into the heart of OC 2 Sqn, **Maj John Stuart. Brig Tower**, COS London District, was the Inspecting Officer and the morning went with a swing. Several stands were set up around camp and included Chariots of Fire (or who can tow a half ton trailer around camp fastest?), MASH (or should **Pte Di Craig** get an Oscar?), the Day After (surely it won't be as bad as the scene on the 2 Sqn square?), and a Bridge Too Far (RCB Command Tasks were never like this)! There were also demonstrations of the D11 Radios, PA equipment and the Regimental Recruiting and Information Team. The whole morning culminated in an obstacle/assault course through and over which participants struggled, hindered by their footwear—either a wellington boot or a flipper—worn on the wrong foot.

After a lunch in the Bruno Club the Brigadier departed, having been thoroughly convinced that there was definitely life under the flightpath. The following photographs record the day.

The Regimental Recruiting and Information Team Stand *From L to R:* Comd Comms London District Lt Col Mike Spence, Comd WRAC Lt Col Marriot, Capt Carolyn Wilding, Maj John Stuart, Lt Col Whitely, Lt Col Peter Webster, the COS and Cpl Ron Potter, NCO i/c RRIT

'So what is a D11?'
The COS, Brig P. S. Tower, talks to Sig (Biggles) Hicks at the D11 Demonstration

'That's the way you do it'
From L to R: Pte Glynis Roberts, Cpl Ally Hunter and LCpl Tony Glass approach the last obstacle

SUMMER CAMP

Like the rest of the Regiment, 3 Sqn played its full part in Ex *Evergreen* which was somehow transposed from 'summer' to 'late autumn'. Fortunately, whilst not particularly dry, the weather was not unduly cold and although sprains and blisters did occur no-one actually suffered from hypothermia. We are not sure whether the OC or **Lt Amanda Cooper** is the happier now that it is over—he because he now realises that she has got a job or her because a month of Boots DMS and haverbag rations can seem very long! The exercise was popular and it is surprising how even sprains and blisters seem to react to a tincture of alcohol taken on the last evening to the sound of Disco music!

During the next two days we had the chance to choose certain adventurous training activities either to improve our current expertise or to improve our non-existent ability, which was the case for many of us. A coastal walk turned out to be very popular which of course didn't have anything to do with the pub at the end of it. Along with other hopefuls I decided to attempt the rock climbing and abseiling. Thankfully we were attached to safety ropes but it is still a long way up and once there you then had to abseil back down—in my case, upside down. We then headed for the coast to abseil down the cliffs in the pouring rain, not to mention a force 10 gale. The going was very steep and slippery and with a big drop which fell away into the sea. Lots of jokes about falling down there never to return but I didn't think that it would happen to me! My foot slipped and in the long seconds before the safety line went tight my life passed in front of my eyes. **LCpl Cathy Benzie** thought that I was in the water but thanks to the safety harness I was dangling about doing nothing in particular. Everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly and it was definitely an experience not to be easily forgotton.

The cross-country driving was also great fun even for the non-drivers. There were a couple of landrovers and the three-wheeled sand bikes. Driving these bikes was much easier said than done as you can't just turn the handles to change direction but have to lean over to one side as we all found out when lying flat on our backs with the bikes on top. The idea was to go to the top of a slope, follow a trail and emerge two minutes later. After **LCpl Mandy Hayward** had been gone for over an hour we decided that she must have got lost but she turned up saying that she had known where she was all the time! Apart from a few bruises and tyre tracks down your legs caused by your own bike, everyone agreed that it had been another good day out.

Finally it was the last night disco where all the 'students' and staff attended. As usual everyone had a few well-earned drinks and a great night was had by all. Thankfully we didn't have PT next morning so, once we were all packed up, it was time to leave.

Thanks must go to the staff and the cooks for making it a really enjoyable week. My final opinion of the week as a whole is very definite—'it was great'.

EXERCISE *EVERGREEN*
Report by Pte Heather McNair

I found myself at Fremington camp again for another battlecamp although this year we were going later than in previous years. This time it was the second week and not the 'Guinea Pig' one so we had a few words of advice from our friends such as 'Don't go' and 'Good Luck'.

As soon as we arrived, it was straight off the bus and into a squad of three ranks. Then, to our disbelief, we had to run around camp to take in the sights (which were by no means very exciting) although it was handy to see that the NAAFI was within staggering distance of the block. We had prepared ourselves for the worst possible accommodation but didn't actually expect to get it. There was a lack of bedspaces as the Wilton and Hounslow girls had already arrived, so extra beds had to be brought in. **Pte Gillian Marr** was still hunting for a bed an hour later! That afternoon, once we had all been put into sections, it was our BFT run to look forward to. More exercise!

PT, now that was really something else! Out of our beds at 0615 hours, still pitch black and freezing, we all wondered if we had been set up for 'Game for a Laugh'. No such luck though as we zombied off to the parade square preparing ourselves for a run and a few thousand press-ups. Anybody still not awake after that could always have a cold shower and if you preferred it, a hot one, tough luck.

In the evenings we played hockey and boxball against the other sections. Boxball was more like rugby and the girls balancing the boxes on their heads didn't look so happy when a stampede of bodies rushed towards them with the ball. The hockey was won by Section 5 and the boxball by Section 4. We then had to play the DS in friendly (!) matches. After being knocked to the ground about six times each we decided that they meant business. The DS won the hockey by 2—1 after extra time although the refereeing left a lot to be desired! Section 4 managed to beat them comfortably at boxball although the RSM did have an advantage of two feet in height over everyone else, which only goes to show that cheats don't always prosper.

The first couple of days at camp were spent on military activities. Shooting was great fun although it was so cold it was hard enough holding a pistol straight out in front let alone steadying it to hit a target. Well, anyway, that was my excuse. Before getting back on to the four-tonner the RSM took us for yet another small run. Was this PT school?

The map reading exercise had to take in six checkpoints with our final one being in a village pub. The weather got better as the day went on and the routes were mainly on tracks and roads with the occasional short cut across a muddy field. We must have walked about eight miles although, once we were nearing our final destination, the pace definitely quickened!

NBC lasted the whole day, with the morning given to much needed revision and the written test which most of us passed. In the afternoon we donned our noddy suits and respirators and with our steel helmets we looked ideal for a part in the new Dr Who series. Suddenly a bomb went off to our left (it seemed like a bomb to me, anyway) then another to our right, so respirators had to be put on quickly. There was green smoke everywhere but before we had a chance to escape our section got rounded up and shoved inside the nearby gas chamber. Drill seemed to get done better in an atmosphere of CS! The miniature range was our next target where we had to shoot .22 SLR rifles with our respirators on. There were a lot of maximum scores although when we shot with them off, the scores were much worse. After shooting, we made our way around camp looking out for casualties which we found and treated. This marked the end of our NBC training which was worthwhile and a lot of fun as well.

Every section had to do the assault course in the quickest time possible and although it was a very basic course, there was still the prospect of the dreaded 12 foot wall to get over. After crawling through the tunnel on our stomachs we emerged at the other side caked in mud from head to foot and a sprint of a few yards got us to the 12 foot wall. With a lot of strength, determination and shouting, everyone eventually got to the top and dropped to the other side. The section with the fastest time was to get a prize of a crate of beer and no doubt due to **Cpl 'Nig' Richards'** love of beer his section came in first in our week.

Ex *Wetwalk* (an appropriate name) started after dinner on the Friday. With all our kit we scrambled aboard the four-tonners and headed towards Exmoor. We knew we were nearly there when we climbed higher and higher and the mist surrounded us. We started our exercise in the pouring rain but gave up singing as by then everyone around knew 'The Wheelbarrow' Song and we put all our effort into moving one foot in front of the other. The mist was now right down and it was getting dark but thanks to the map reading of **LCpl 'Taff' Williams** we managed to reach our rendezvous point. The other sections soon arrived, apart from one or two who turned up wet and cold a few hours later (another one of **Cpl Kelly**'s short cuts!). After brewing up some tea laced with bits of grass, we crawled into our waterlogged sleeping bags. Eventually it was time to get up and with **Sig Muir**'s cassette blaring away our spirits were soon raised.

After breakfast we set off to climb up Exmoor's version of Ben Nevis—not the best of things to do at 0700 hrs. The exercise finished at 1500 hrs and in that time each section had to get through as many checkpoints as possible. At each point there was a task to complete—the hardest one was to climb up a hill in as fast a time as possible, but with some choice words and a little help from friends we all eventually made it to the top. The most direct route to the fifth check point involved crossing a river. We hoped for a bridge but nothing so easy. Fortunately it was only knee deep but of course there was yet another hill to climb. Oh, to live in Holland!

SPORT

Our judo star, **Pte Anne-Marie Briody**, recently became the undisputed womens' bantamweight (48 Kg) UK Champion. *Wire* readers in Scotland may have seen her on TV recently when she was 'maltreating' some poor rugby forward only twice her size!

BIRGELEN GOLF CLUB

The Club continues to flourish under the beady eye of the Golf Officer and Club Captain, **Capt Len Yates**. Last winter a tremendous amount of work was put in by members to improve the greens, tees and bunkers. This has paid off as the course is now in excellent playing condition. Earlier this year a practice putting green was also laid. This green was officially opened by Comd Comms, **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman**, on the 23 October, 1984. The Comd made the first putt (which he holed!!).

The Comd retrieves his ball watched by *L to R* WO2 Mick Raybould (Handicaps), WO1 John O'Kell (Course Manager), Capt Len Yates (Captain), SSgt Paul Jarrold (Competitions) and Sgt Duggie Endean (19th Hole)

Despite terrible weather the Comd played 18 holes and was very impressed by the degree of difficulty and the high standard to which the course is maintained. Needless to say he was on the winning side and enjoyed getting his 'old' ball back from **WO2 Mick Raybould**.

REGIMENTAL GOLF

The Regiment has had its most successful year, reaching the final of the BAOR Inter Unit Competition, where they were narrowly beaten by only four holes. On the way to the final they played:

71 AC Wksp REME
1 Div HQ and Sig Regt
19 Fd Regt RA
Command Pay Office BAOR

The final was played on an exceptionally wet Sennelager golf course against 39 Hvy Regt RA. To the last hole the match was close and some fine golf was played by both sides. Our opponents are congratulated on their win. Their local knowledge of the course and their much higher handicaps were just enough to tip the balance in their favour.

In the RCZ summer league the A Team finished in 3rd spot and the B Team in 13th. The winter league has just commenced and both our teams are hoping to do better.

BAOR GOLF COLOURS

The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Gordon Howard** presented BAOR colours which had been awarded to **WO2 Mick Raybould** and another date bar to **Capt Len Yates**. On the table are the trophies that they have both collected this year.

The CO hands the date bar to Capt Len Yates.
('Did someone say Cheese or perhaps Tees'?)

WRAC VOLLEYBALL

Having qualified as BAOR (WS) Champions, arrangements were made for the WRAC Volleyball team to travel to UK as competitors in the UK (WS) Inter-Unit Volleyball Championships. This competition, the first of its kind, was scheduled to take place at Aldershot on 22/23 October.

Because two of the girls were already in the UK on courses, it was decided that the remainder of the team should travel to UK in advance of the competition. This would allow consolidated training as a team prior to the event. Finding suitable accommodation with training facilities in the South of England was by no means easy. In the end, the Navy came to our rescue in the shape of 2 Sqn's 'tame tar' **CPO Alec Irvine** and **Lt Cdr Howard** of HMS *Mercury*. With accommodation secured, the team left BAOR on 12 October.

Under the ever watchful eyes of the coach and trainer, **WO2 'Taff' Edwards** and **WO2 John Kirk**, the team underwent a week of rigorous training. A great deal of support and assistance came from the host unit including two matches against the ship's company, and one against the PT Staff. These matches gave the girls valuable match practice and a good indication of progress. Our team lost the first two games but won the third, an encouraging result considering they were up against mens' teams.

On Sunday 21st, the team left HMS *Mercury* having said goodbye to a lot of new found friends, and set off for Aldershot. The Championships were played on a league basis with a total of eight teams competing for the title—five UK District Champions, and the Champions from BAOR, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Having played seven games over the two day period, our team won five and lost two. Following a countback of sets and points, the girls found themselves runners-up to RMA Sandhurst, a team which lost only one game during the playoffs—against 13 Signal Regiment!

The girls are to be complimented on their achievement. They became BAOR Champions and gained Runner-Up position in the UK tournament after being together for three months only, as a team, a creditable performance. In addition to this, four of the girls have been earmarked as probables for the Army (WS) squad in 1985.

Our photograph shows the team in relaxed mood, they are: *Back Row L—R:* Sgt Dee Lidstone, Cpls Georgette Reid, Sandra Cullingworth, Sgt Carol Exley, Cpls Lauren Lilley, Suzie Julyan. *Front Row L—R:* Cpl Michelle Sutherland, Sgts June Malloy and Cathy Wood

RCZ MAJOR UNITS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Championships were hosted by 16 Sig Regt at Hulser Burg on 23 November 1984. The Regiment, fielding its strongest team available, surprised a lot of people by finishing second and thereby gaining entry to the BAOR Championships to be held at Korbecke.

L-R: Sgt Nick Nielsen, SSgt Rod Meyers, Lt Col Howard, Cpl Craig Turner, Sgt Larry Payne, Cpl Terry Lang, 3rd BAOR X Country (WS) Championship, note left big toe, Cpl Eric Clee, Cpl Dave Forbes, Sig 'Taff' Burdge, Cpl Billy McCreath checking on the length of WO2 John Smith's hair. Absent on Duty: Cpl 'Taff' James and LCpl Steve Peters

JRC FOOTBALL

In the past the JRC football fixtures have been limited to the odd game against the Sergeants' Mess, but in an effort to play a greater variety of opposition the team has recently been playing teams from local German and Dutch Leagues.

Until recently these fixtures have proved to be very close contests with the JRC rarely being beaten but this all changed with home and away games against SSV *Viktoria Wassenberg*, who play 5Km down the road from the Regiment. The first game was played on Wassenberg's ash pitch under floodlights and resulted in a 4—2 win for the JRC. The return game was played on the Regimental pitch and our lads ran out convincing winners with a score of 11—1.

Back Row L—R: 'Jez' Jezzard, LCpl 'Sav' Philips, Cpls Geoff Astill, Chris Gore, Willie McNaughton and Mel Hough
Front Row L—R: LCpls Eddie Glenn Edwards, and Tony Spellman, Cpls Nick 'Nice Kit' Williams, 'Tam' Malley and Dave Simpson
Other regular players not pictured due to being on duty include:— Cpls Davey Oakes and Eric Clee and LCpl Bob Fanning

ANNUAL INTER-TROOP TUG-OF-WAR

Once again the Unit Tug-of-War Officer, **WO2 'Geordie' Hennrie** held this event in his annual search for potential members to form a Regimental Team. Seven Departments were represented and apart from the weather it was a most successful day. The Final, between Bravo Troop and Oscar Troop, was hard fought with the result going in favour of Bravo Troop.

The Commanding Officer, **Lt Col G. Howard,** presented the trophies and thanked all those taking part for a most enjoyable day.

RHEINDAHLEN GARRISON HOCKEY FESTIVAL

The Regimental Hockey Team excelled themselves in reaching the final of the Rheindahlen Garrison Hockey Festival on the weekend of 13/14 October. This curtain raiser to the season is attended by the strongest teams in the RCZ together with invited civilian and Army teams.

The qualifying round on Saturday saw the Regiment beat 32 Armd Engr Regt in a close-fought game decided by a fine individual goal from **Sig 'Paddy' Williams**. A walk-over against RAF Bruggen, who failed to turn up, put us through into the Quarter-Final on Sunday where we were paired with CPO BAOR. In the first half we failed to convert numerous chances and early in the second CPO broke away to score a fluke goal against the run of play. Despite this setback we continued to create chances with sharp attacking hockey, which eventually produced two goals for **Mr Andy Todd**, and a deserved victory.

In the semi-final we were again matched with 32 Armd Engr Regt. We took an early lead, again through **Mr Todd** and increased the advantage just into the second half when **Sig Williams** rounded off another fluent attack. The Sappers then fought back to score a late goal, but solid defence in the last 10 minutes put us through to the final.

Our opponents in the final were Viersen HTC, a German Civilian side, who proved eventually to be too strong for us. Viersen put us under constant pressure with clever and penetrating attacking play and were a goal up at half-time. They maintained the pressure, forcing our new goalkeeper, **LCpl 'Jock' Milne**, into a series of fine saves at point blank range. Towards the end of the game tiredness began to creep in and the defence, which had performed soundly up to then, conceded three more goals in the last 15 minutes. Although beaten by the better side on the day, this was nevertheless a fine team performance. With this success at an early stage we can look forward confidently to the coming season.

3 SQUADRON

The Berlin Infantry Brigade Athletics Championships, held on 31 August, came at an unfortunate time for 3 Sqn as three of our star athletes were absent either on leave or on duty. A willing, if small, team consisting of **WO2 Robbie Seaword, Sgts Phil Gordon** and **'Mac' McCreedy, Cpls Dhugal Baker** and **Tony Patchet** and **LCpl Mark Littlewood** was formed under the management of **Sgt Ted Roberts. LCpl Littlewood** won both the Shot and Discus, in which he set a new Berlin Minor Units Record, and **Cpl Baker** was narrowly beaten into second place in the 100 metres, giving the Squadron an overall placing of fourth out of eight minor units competing.

Better luck was had by 3 Sqn's Colonel's Cup Team, who travelled for nine hours to Birgelen the day prior to the competition and beat the other eight teams into first place. This year the Regiment's annual Inter-Squadron Competition took the form of an orienteering exercise in full CEFO with written Military Skills questions being put to the runners at each checkpoint and an SMG shoot at the finish. Penalty points were awarded for wrong answers, missing kit and bad shooting.

The winning Colonel's Cup team: *Back Row:* Sgt Pearson, LCpls Vagg and Ruddock; *Front Row:* Cpl Patchett, WO2 (SSM) Heaney and Sgt Gordon

The 3 Sqn team which comprised **WO2 (SSM) Mal Heaney, Sgts Phil Gordon, Pete Pearson, Cpl Tony Patchett, LCpl Dave** (What's some detector paper between friends anyway?) **Ruddock** and **LCpl Nigel Vagg**, deserves particular recognition as they did not have the advantage of local knowledge possessed by the other teams. The team completed the course in third place, with the shooting results and military skills questions swinging the balance in their favour. The Squadron looks forward to retaining the Colonel's Cup next year.

3 Sqn currently heads the Berlin Minor Units Cross-Country, Orienteering and Squash Leagues, and contributes nine players to the Stadium Rugby Teams.

Congratulations go to **SSgt Jan Sykes** and **Sgt Rick Auton, Mick Thompson, Andy Ashwell** and **Pete Pearson** on their promotion. The Squadron would like to welcome all its new members, too numerous to mention here, and extend farewells to **Cpl Martin Gill** and **LCpl Hazel Budden**.

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Apply, quoting ref. CSPW to the Headmaster,
Mr J. M. Stevens, BA, CertEd.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

CONTRASTS

We have enjoyed extremes of life during the two months covered by this report. From the lazy, hazy days of August 1984 with cricket matches, angling competitions, leave and troop Summer Camps to the long, rainy days of September with Ex *Full Flow/Lionheart* and two marathons.

THE SUBLIME

ROYAL SIGNALS BAOR INTER UNIT ANGLING COMPETITIONS

The following article has been prepared by **LCpl Jan Pryke** one of the intrepid members of the Krefeld Rodbenders who make a practice of rising at weekends before dawn in all weathers to sit beside a lake catapulting live maggots into the water in an attempt to entice fish to hooks, merely to weigh them and then throw them back. Here goes: On 3 August a small party of anglers left Krefeld for Verden where the Royal Signals Angling Championships were due to be staged. **LCpl Jan Pryke** led the way in a 4 tonner containing all the necessary equipment, followed some time later by **Maj Ian Grant** and **Sig Ian Church**. They decided to go the 'pretty way' and arrived way after the 4 tonner.

On arrival and after a quick succession and a bit of instruction to the 'boss', the 12 x 12 was erected amid muttering from **Maj Ian Grant** that it would be different if only he had brought his bearer. Once erected the tent looked almost like home—well my front room is always full of fishing tackle. Leaving **Maj Ian Grant** to study 'Teach yourself fishing', **LCpl Jan Pryke** and **Sig Ian Church** departed for a pizza and the Verden night life. We found the pizza but no night life so returned to our temporary home for an early night. Just as well, for then followed a thunderstorm and the heavens opened. It was then that 'the boss' discovered that the tent leaked! It wasn't too bad as it was only on his side!

Saturday was spent making last minute purchases of tackle and by 'walking the water'. The other two team members, **SSgt Dave D'Silva**, a recent arrival in the Regiment and **Cpl Joe Elliott** from our LAD, both joined the party.

Sunday, the day of the competition dawned bright and early. An early rise 0530 hrs, so that the team could register and make the draw. The river was high and nobody expected large catches but the team fished well and everybody caught something down to **Maj Ian Grant**'s three eels. Individual weights were:

LCpl Jan Pryke	1 kg 850 grms
SSgt Dave D'Silva	1 kg 500 grms
Cpl Joe Elliot	850 grms
Maj Ian Grant	450 grms
Sig Ian Church	125 grms

The team finished overall fifth and would like to thank 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt for a well organised and enjoyable weekend.

EXERCISE *CYGNUS BACKSTOP*—JULIET TROOP SUMMER CAMP

Report by Sgt Stu Huntington and LCpl Kath Whiteley

After a lot of planning, by all concerned, Juliet Troop Summer Camp got underway with an early start on Friday 17 August 1984 for the advance party. The journey—long, with only one mishap—that of **Sig George Anderson**, deciding that a slight detour through Köln would go down well—(we got lost).

The party arrived late afternoon at one of the attractive camp sites by Cockel-sea—not far from the Austrian Border. After a quick beer and an introduction to the owner, the initial tentage (Army Green) was erected, much to the bemused looks from the locals; they must have thought a circus had arrived—(maybe that was very near the truth).

The weekend was spent erecting a camp and ensuring all the equipment was in good order, including putting the canoes through their paces. **LCpl Carl Crafts** could not understand why every canoe he tried kept going round in circles. After a fruitful time spent doing some good public relations with the locals, the way was ready for the main party to arrive and enjoy the camp.

The week began with the local areas being explored, and **2Lt Paul Glibbery** showing people how to run down walls (Abseil); **Sgt Stu Huntington** doing his impersonation of Sir Edmund Hilary, by showing people the peaks of Bavaria. Great courage was shown by two officer cadets, **2Lt Jan Frith** and **2Lt Kay Butterworth** of East Midlands University OTC, who toddled up the hills dressed in training shoes and tracksuits. At the same time **Pte Irene Mason** and **Pte Linda Fathers** moaned all the way up the hill as they thought they were just going hill-walking and not on an expedition to climb Mount Everest. Needless to say everyone else found it a very small hill and an enjoyable walk.

Towards the middle of the week there was a five hour trip down the river by canoe consisting of two experienced canoeists and six beginners. **Lt Alistair Ross**, one of the experienced, took the lead to pick out the easiest route and **Cpl Carl Marshall** brought up the rear, in case any of the other six got left behind or got into difficulties. Unfortunately **2Lt Jan Frith** got caught in some difficult water and as **Cpl Carl Marshall** rushed to help her, he hit a log and under he went. By the time he got himself upright (very 'red-faced'), **Jan** had sorted herself out and was merrily canoeing down the river.

The week proved a tremendous success and achieved good public relations with the locals, the owner and the Regiment. It was with great delight that we received the welcome invitation from the owner of the site to come again. Lastly Juliet Troop would like to thank **Cpl Bob Ward** and **LCpl Chris Swain** for running the SQMS side of the camp and keeping a well stocked bar—(Cheers lads)!

Juliet Tp at the end of *Cygnus Backstop* photographed with new friends made at the campsite

CRICKET

The Regiment have had success in a wide range of sports from Canoeing to Motor Cycling to Volleyball but last summer added yet another trophy to the cabinet, one which has long been absent. The Rhine Area Major Units Cricket League Cup. Stalwarts like **Sgt Billy Watts** (Captain) have kept a stiff upper lip for a couple of seasons during which defeat was the only word which echoed round the Regiment when cricket was mentioned. All that changed last season with some excellent bowling by **Cpl Stan Matthews** and **LCpl Tony Hoare** well supported by **Maj Willie Brewin** when we could extract him from the golf course, **Sgt Billy Watts** with ball and bat. **RSM John Bonnett** with bat, not forgetting the tail end that had to wag when the gladiators had received an uneven bounce, plus showing the enthusiasm to play all matches away from home.

Sgt (what's the hand signal?) **Alvey** changed from black strip to white coat and umpired all our games with good support from our scorer **Sig** (he can't do that) **Mike Rowland**. The only defeat of the season was to 28 (BR) Sig Regt in the Major Units Cup, a result which was reversed in the League fixture. With very few postings out (unless Records know different) before next season the Major Units Cup is a possibility. Look out 4 Div!

OFFICERS' MESS V SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET MATCH

The Officers' Mess fresh from the annual mauling of the PSA threw the gauntlet down to the Sergeants' Mess to meet them in combat on West Park in a trial of cricketing skills. Never being backward especially when the bar is provided by the Officers' Mess the challenge was taken up by 11 or was it 12 trusty members. Having won the toss the Officers put the Sergeants' Mess into bat and with early success in taking the opening pair for four runs were already planning their early attack on the bar. With the opening bowlers having completed their three overs there was little to follow except the CO's eccentric style which generated extras as well as taking wickets. What ensued involved the constant raising of **WO2 (RQMS) Brian Williams**' arms (the hardest exercise he had done in years) indicating that the Sergeants' Mess where rattling up a West Indies total. On completion of the longest over ever recorded, the innings came to a close at 224. Never down hearted and with a quick re-shuffle of the batting the Officers' Mess started their innings only to lose an early wicket but with **Capt Bob Pearce** and **Capt Mike Cost** digging in, it looked like being a close run thing. Then the devastating bowling of **SSgt Bill Martin**, ably supported by **WO2 Gary Mason**, took its toll; wickets fell at regular intervals as the thirst of the Sergeants' Mess built up. After facing all the overs to be bowled, the Officers' Mess finished with 183 on the board. An enjoyable afternoon which was supported well by both Messes and cries of 'wait till next year' being heard as the sun went down.

The Officers' Mess Cricket Team—all smiles prior to their defeat by the Sergeants' Mess

EXERCISE *FIGHTING FOX II*

Report by Sgt Chris Barlow

The summer weather was looking bleak as members of F Troop embarked on one of the most important Exercises of the year *Fighting Fox II*. The troop deployed to a farmer's field, which had been acquired by **Sgt Taff Jolly** and **Sgt Chris Barlow**, overlooking the picturesque town of Cochem in the Mosel.

Saturday was a busy day as tents were erected, and after a few hours the camp had been set up complete with a Volleyball court. At the end of this hard-working first day we relaxed with a few yellow handbags (for the uninitiated Herforder 10 pack) and then retired.

Sunday morning arrived with the start of a heatwave, which had been suitably booked a few weeks earlier, and the troop went for a short run. After breakfast the activities began and the troop were spoilt for choice.

Our resident canoeist **LCpl (now Cpl) Matt Mathews** was inundated with people wishing to float down river. Other activities included swimming, sight-seeing, shopping, wine tasting and doing lobster impressions. This exercise has been known by other names, the most common being Summer Camp. With everybody ready we set off for a day full of events (we hoped).

Sgt Taff (I only do line) **Jolly** decided to try his hand at canoeing and, after a quick course in the paddling skills required, could be heard at various stages of the day shouting Cap**size. **Sig** (I can't swim so I'm not going in) **Farrell** was amused by the extra life preservers left on the bank and managed to get his knee's wet. Alas after day one we already had one casualty **Cpl** (anyone got a spare crutch) **Williams** an impossible shot on the Volleyball court. Our first day on activities was rounded off by a superb salad produced on request by **LCpl** (have you seen this trick?) **Greig**, our on loan chef.

In the days that followed everyone passed the canoeing drills and enjoyed paddling up and down the Mosel. **Sgt Taff Jolly** is still trying to find out why the barges waited until he was in the middle of the Mosel before coming round the corner!

On Wednesday the stage was set for a superb boat trip from Cochem to Beistein, with a two hour stop over in Beistein. However the trip had a few hitches, the major one being that our adventurers didn't get off the boat at Beistein. Therefore the Gallant Crusaders had a round trip instead of a stop over and they ended up at Cochem with two to three hours to wait (what could they do?).

The evening was taken up by a barbecue to which we invited our German hosts. The night air was filled with song after song and chink after chink as we wined and dined our guests. It was a special evening as we also celebrated the birthday of **Cpl Vicky** (am I blushing) **Hill**. She was presented with a cake by the troop and our German guests provided a bunch of hastily picked flowers. Another reason for celebrating was the fact that **SSgt (YofS) Bob Marshall** had paid for two 10 packs for the troop and produced his cigarettes once (under protest). It was during this week that we welcomed our new troop OC **Lt Ian Westerman** and our new Troop SSgt, **SSgt Bob Taylor** both of whom had a good exercise.

The week progressed and **Pte Alice Downie** had begun to collect various items of clothing with the theme of tourism in mind and finished the exercise with a straw hat, plastic camera, plastic binoculars and a pair of sunglasses without lenses. Well, with the week coming to an end, the time came to pack up and return to Krefeld. We left with an invitation to return next year and the most unbelievable suntans.

MARATHON MADNESS

Apart from Ex *Full Flow/Lionheart*, September 1984 was punctuated by two marathons, the Verden and Berlin. Our growing band of marathon masochists were well represented at both events.

The Regimental members who competed in the Verden Marathon. Taken in Krefeld the day before the event

COMPETITORS IN THE VERDEN MARATHON

CO, Lt Col I. E. Kerr	**4 hrs 1 min**
Capt Bob Pearce	**4 hrs 51 mins**
Capt Ron Collins	**4 hrs 2 mins**
SSgt Ian Kirkpatrick	**3 hrs 18 mins**
Sgt Ian Tepielow	**3 hrs 43 mins**
Sgt Gus Guthrie	**3 hrs 13 mins**
Sgt Bob Bolt	**3 hrs 38 mins**
Cpl Davie Henry	**5 hrs 22 mins**
Cpl Geordie Leitch	**4 hrs 30 mins**
LCpl Vic Bates	**3 hrs 58 mins**
LCpl Les North	**3 hrs 53 mins**
LCpl Stig Withers	**2 hrs 50 mins**

LADIES HALF MARATHON

2Lt Diane Allen	**1 hr 48 mins**
Cpl 'Fred' Sleightholme	**1 hr 50 mins**
Pte Melanie Crowther	**1 hr 45 mins**

Berlin Marathon—Members of the Regiment prior to 'Check In'

Triumphant at the end of the Berlin Marathon—Cpls Andy Davie and Chris Higgins

COMPETITORS IN THE BERLIN MARATHON

Maj (Padre) Michael Ryall	**4 hrs 20 mins**
Maj (MO) Bob Jones	**3 hrs 36 mins**
Capt Ron Collins	**3 hrs 49 mins**
2Lt Alistair Ross	**4 hrs 31 mins**
2Lt Diane Allen	**4 hrs 23 mins**
Cpl Chris Higgins	**4 hrs 6 mins**
Cpl Andy Davie	**4 hrs 6 mins**
LCpl Les North	**3 hrs 31 mins**
LCpl Vic Bates	**3 hrs 50 mins**
Sig Ian Hodgson	**3 hrs 7 mins**

EXERCISE *FULL FLOW/LIONHEART*

Unlike the glamour boys from up country, the grafters from the RCZ/COMM Z were deployed on these exercises from 2 September until our final elements returned from the COMM Z on 6 October. It was a good, successful exercise but the weather was appalling. The following light hearted report is provided by the stalwarts of Commcen Kilo.

After a long wait and one false alarm Commcen Kilo deployed on Ex *Lionheart*, and true to form, it commenced to pour. In order to divert the river that started to flow through the Cookhouse, it was decided to fortify the Cookhouse by building a moat around it. **'Stumpy' Williams** thought this was a good idea and decided to fish in it. Taking advice from **LCpl 'Prick-Thru' Pryke** she just missed catching **WO2 (YofS) 'Cousteau' Hawkins.**

One morning, according to rumour control as no one had yet seen the sun, the Great Trench Digging Competition took place. The competing teams were:

POWER	**MT**
Sgt Steve Volklaf Penn	**Sgt Route Card 'Robbo' Robinson**
Cpl 'Chick' Callaghan	**LCpl 'Cactus' Custus**
LCpl Alvin Wallace	**Cpl Nightingale Miles**
LCpl 'Prick-Thru' Pryke	**Cpl Rab Horne**
Sig 'Pathfinder' Hughes	**LCpl Steve Woolridge**

LINE	**TECHS**
Sgt 'Trip Flare' Pickles	**Cpl Dave Young**
LCpl Phil Green	**Cpl Jim Melville**
LCpl 'Stig' Withers	
Sig 'Freebie' Freeman	

The result was a victory for the Techs despite their slide rules etc being in the way.

Then came the visits: uninvited guests were firstly a patrol from 21 SAS Regt (V) on their way down from the Corps area on a 'Camping and marching holiday', next came RAF(G) in the shape of several low flying aircraft, who with some umpires visited the Radio Relay site and declared we had been air-striked. **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** and **Sig 'Roggy' Dan Thompson** left as simulated casualties but returned as real ones!

Invited Corps guests were: SOinC **Maj Gen R. Benbow** who viewed the Commcen and asked 'What's with the Cam cream?' Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen A. Yeoman** who after focussing on Communications was fascinated by our chipping machine, and tasked his aide with getting the details. The COS BAOR **Maj Gen Gray**'s visit was, unfortunately curtailed. Finally came the CO of our affiliated US Battalion, the 43rd (US) Sig Bn, who enjoyed the new Commcen Kilo Bistro delicacy of sliced Giant Puff Ball fried in garlic butter.

The SOinC talking to Cpls Gaz Valentine and John Miles with Maj Ian Grant looking on. The CO shares a joke with WLCpl Ellie Garland

Cpl George Dalton looks worried by the approach of the SOinC. Cpl Dave Young hasn't a care in the world

REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING 1985

In dire contrast to the glorious weather of RSAAM 1984, the 1985 meeting was most unkind—a mixture of torrential rain, strong winds and very occasional sun. At least the final day was dry and gave a fitting finale to a most exciting and enjoyable competition. HQ Sqn had made a clean sweep of the prizes in 1984 but it was not to be so in 1985 with the prizes spread evently between 2 and 3 Sqns. Despite the bad weather and poor visibility the scores obtained were higher than 1984, especially the WRAC scores which were up this year by 50% overall. A special mention must go to our Champions-At-Arms, who were **Sig Mac McConville** and **Lt Jenny Chambers.**

The CO, Lt Col I. E. Kerr presents the Champion-at-Arms trophy to Sig Mac McConville

The CO assisted by Capt Jim Allen presents both the Association and Whitehead Cup to the 2 Sqn Team; *Left to Right:* Cpl Rick Extance, LCpl Andy Price, Sig 'Taff' Drakes and Sgt 'Tony' Hancock

TEN PIN BOWLING

Following our success in winning the Krefeld NATO Bowling League for the Second Year running the Regimental Bowling Team have struck once again at the Corps Championships held at Krefeld on the 27/28 October. The team came a creditable second place and **SSgt Bill Martin** bowled particularly well winning the Singles and the overall Master Events.

The team consisting of **Capt Mike Cost, WO2 (YofS) Sid Coleman, SSgt Bill Martin, Cpls Keith Hale** and **Mick Harrison** have just returned from the BAOR Bowling Championships in Bielefeld where we were narrowly pushed into second place Major Unit by 3 RTR.

With these results behind us we now look forward to the Army Championships in March, this year due to be held at Tolworth in London. PRI who have generously been paying our entrance fees may rest easy until then!

SSgt Bill Martin proudly holding the Singles and Master trophies won at the recent Royal Signals BAOR Championship

A WEEK IN THE COUNTRY—ALL EXPENSES PAID

This is the description given to our annual battle camp held last year as normal at Vogelsang in that massive reminder of Nazi architecture. Despite the Belgian Commandant's gleeful claim that the first week in November is the time of the first snows we were blessed with a fine fortnight with hardly a drop of rain and much sunshine. An ideal climate and setting for a fortnight's concentrated military training at which all male members of the Regiment, *Able Archer* permitting, took part. In addition, a group from our affiliated American Unit, 43 US Signal Battalion, took a full part and thoroughly 'enjoyed' a weeks 'beasting' British style.

A full week, every day started at 0600 hrs with a run and training and did not finish until 2100 hrs. All aspects of training were covered from NBC, to First Aid, Map Reading and Field Craft. All weapons were fired including night firing, grenade throwing and 66mm anti-tk. The final phase of each week was a 24 hr exercise which covered all aspects of training, in particular map reading, patrol techniques culminating in a company attack.

A new aspect of this year's camp was the eagerly fought over award of Duty Idler, Layabout and Dogsbody Orderly (DILDO). This white steel helmet easily identified the student who in the eyes of the DS had made the most 'cock ups' during the preceding day. Each morning parade was accompanied by the formal handing over of this 'coveted' award.

An excellent fortnight away from the industrial Ruhr to the beauty of the Eifel. Well done **Capt Jim Allen** and the other instructors.

The DS gives Sgt Dave Pope 'sympathetic attention' after exhausting himself during the Battle Camp assault course competition

LEICESTER TROPHY CROSS COUNTRY

A new venue for this year's event introduced a hilly arduous course, almost unbelievable in the flat featureless countryside surrounding Krefeld. After much rain earlier in the week the course was very muddy which made it even more gruelling. Nevertheless the race was hard and keenly fought with MT Tp winning the men's race and 2 Sqn winning the ladies' race. Individual winners were **Sig P. A. Buckley** and **Cpl J. S. McIntosh.**

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Immediately on return from either Vogelsang Battle Camp or *Able Archer*, it was a question of pressing uniforms and polishing boots in preparation for the Remembrance Day Service. The units of Krefeld station traditionally hold their Remembrance Day Service at the Rheinberg Military Cemetery. There, set among over 3,300 graves of young British and Commonwealth servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Second World War, 'We Remembered'. A poignant and moving experience for all those who attended.

COMD COMMS BAOR STUDY PERIOD

The Regiment was heavily committed last year in support of Comd Comms BAOR Study Period. The second day was spent within Bradbury Barracks where a number of demonstration stands had been set up depicting ancient and modern, Bruin commcen and commheads provided by us and 200 Sig Sqn, various Satcom stations provided by Royal Signals Research Establishment Defford and the Trend teleprinter. After lunch and the departure of 'the brass' the stands were open to the secondary school children from Rheindahlen and the infants from Krefeld. An afternoon of frenzied activity which was enjoyed by all.

Pupils from Kent and Queen's schools photographed at the Satellite Communications stand

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

On 24 November 1984 the Regiment was invited to take part in a Military Skills Competition organised by Verteidigungskreis Kommandeur 321.

There were 32 teams altogether from many nationalities, both regular and reservists. The Regiment entered three teams, two male and one female. Not surpisingly the WRAC team comprising of **2Lt Pauline Lucas, LCpl (now Cpl) Cath Truby, Ptes Louise Boorman** and **Dee Pugh,** being the only female team taking part, were the centre of attention from both the local press and television cameras.

The competition was basically an orienteering type event, requiring the teams to navigate their way through the woods and lakes surrounding Rheindahlen to various stands. During the day each team had to complete various tasks including Soviet recognition, first aid, Geneva Convention, rope courses, paddling across a lake, grenade throwing and firing common weapons.

Everyone, without exception, thoroughly enjoyed the day despite the miserable November weather but unfortunately missed the ARD TV show in which they starred.

CANOEING 1984 SEASON

Although heavily affected by the loss of many of the team stars, the Regimental Canoe Team has continued to feature prominently in the results of competitions at BAOR, Army and Inter Service level.

The canoeing year began in March with the Inter Service Wild Water Championships held on the river Nith at Sanquhar in Scotland. **Sgt Kev Truby** raced to sixth place (second fastest army team paddler), with the army narrowly losing to the RAF.

May saw the BAOR Slalom Championships with **Sgt Truby** taking top honours in the open K1 Class and second place in the open C1 Class. **LCpl Ian McKinley** of the LAD showed a lot of potential winning the Intermediate Class. The Ladies Class was shared by **Capt Gill Gibson** and **WLCpl (now Cpl) Cath Truby.**

Sgt Truby, LCpl McKinley, LCpl (now Cpl) Ian Matthews and **LCpl John Pallister** were all selected to represent BAOR at the Army Slalom Championships held at Bala in North Wales two weeks later. Although leading after the first run **Sgt Truby** eventually finished fourth in the open K1 Class and second in the open C1 Class. The other members of the unit, paddling for the first time on international standard water coped well with testing conditions and will undoubtedly have benefitted from the experience. Particular mention must be made of **LCpl Ian Matthews** who found it easier to dodge slalom poles in a canoe than to dodge Welsh sheep in a car.

The river Weser at Hameln was the venue for the BAOR spring and marathon championships in July with the Regimental team taking a total of 10 prizes in various classes. **Sig Glen Martin** (our resident sprint expert) did not help his promotion chances after falling in at the start of the third leg of the 4 × 500 metre sprint relay directly in front of the spectating CO. At this point the Regimental Team were holding a clear lead.

The sprint and marathon team then moved to Monmouth for the Army Championships. The Ladies Team regained their Army Ladies Champions Title and **Sig Martin** gained selection for the Army Marathon Team. He then travelled to Nottingham for the Inter Services Spring and Marathon Championships helping the Army Team to victory over the other two services.

The BAOR Downriver Racing League, which runs throughout the year, came to a close in November with **Sgt Truby** winning the open class with 399 points out of a possible 400. **Sig Martin** was placed eighth out of 228 competitors. In the Ladies Class, **Capt Gill Gibson** missing the last race of the season due to an Australian *Long Look* tour, took second place with **LCpl (now WCpl) Truby**, fifth. The Regimental A Team finished the League third out of 38 units.

The final event of the season was the Army Wild Water Championships at Catterick. After a week of spate conditions on the Swale the river disappointingly (for some) dropped to a rock bash for the race on the weekend. **Sgt Truby** and **Sig Martin** were placed second in the open C2 Class and **Sgt Truby** took third place in the open K1 event.

Overall 1984 has been a successful year for the canoeing squad with the Ladies Team regaining their Army Title, **Sgt Truby** winning the BAOR Slalom title, the BAOR Wild Water Title, and representing the Army and combined services, **Sig Martin** gaining Army Selection and all members of the team gaining experience at Army Championships level.

TO REST

1984 is fast approaching its end. So far George Orwell is wrong, but there is time yet, I suppose. The remnants of *Lionheart* reports are in which should see an effective end to the 'Ex *Lionheart*' saga. The Gurkhas, TA, Regular reserves have long gone, returning to the corners of the world from whence they came. *Able Archer* has gone to rest, the Harriers back in their large concrete sheds (for exercise purposes, that is).

THE FOCUS

Minds are now being focused on the preparations for the visit of a rotund gentleman in a red suit and black boots and the affiliated parties.

The Regiment has seen a number of new arrivals and subsequently a number of departures.

Our Second in Command left us in early November, on promotion to Lt Col, for a few months in the South Atlantic, and to **Lt Col** and **Mrs Steane** we wish all the best of good fortune in the future.

OIC MANNING

On 16 November 1984 the Regiment saw **Col M. F. H. Coleman** as part of his Annual visit to BAOR. During his visit, he made the customary presentations to the Regiment, at various levels.

On concluding his presentation to the Junior Ranks, **Col Coleman** then presented the LS & GC Medal to our MT Details NCO, **Cpl Deane**. This was witnessed by many Junior Ranks and **Mrs Deane** who heard the OIC Manning explain what an honour it was to present the medal, and how the award to **Cpl Deane** emphasised a point that **Col Coleman** had made during his presentation to the Junior Ranks. The Commanding Officer then joined **Col Coleman** for a photograph with **Cpl** and **Mrs Deane.**

'A happy day for Cpl Deane'
L to R: Lt Col M. Mc I. Ayrton (CO), Cpl Deane, Mrs Deane, Col Coleman (OIC RSMARO)

NEWS FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last contribution there have been many departures and arrivals. In July 1984 we said farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Dick** and **Marilyn Offord** on commissioning, **SSgt Mick** and **Bonnie Turner** to civilian life, **WO2 (ORQMS) Mick** and **Ingeborg Kennedy,** on promotion to 7 Sig Regt, **WO2 (AQMS) Ken** and **Marlene Benns** to the TA in London, **Sgt Keith** and **Angie Dunn** to Liverpool and **SSgt Don** and **Mary Stewart (RAPC),** to 28 Sig Regt, to all of them we give our best wishes.

A welcome to '21' to **WO1 Brian** and **Doreen Billsberry, WO2 Ray** and **Pam Smith, WO2 Jim** and **Dina McDonald (REME)** and **SSgt Steve** and **Kath Singers (RAPC),** hope your stay in '21' will be a good one.

27 July saw the Commissioning of our FofS in M Troop **Dick Offord**. After a superb meal **Dick** entertained those present with his speech relating some of the darker moments of his successful career. The dinner was rounded off with the traditional 'Court Martial' with prosecutor **WO1 Terry Newberry** getting the verdict he wanted, despite defending brief **Sgt Mike Duffin** producing much evidence to support the FofS plea of NOT GUILTY.

WO1 Dick Offord receives his silver tea service from RSM Geoff Northey at his commissioning dinner

RSM Geoff Northey presents 'Chief' Mick Kennedy with his Regimental plaque prior to his departure. WO Keith Bews RAF, FofS Dick Offord study their speeches. WO John Bateson (Mess Manager) wonders what is coming next

On 12 October we bade farewell to **SSgt Mal** and **Jackie Forster** who are leaving for civilian life. **Mal** and **Jackie** are settling in the area so we hope to continue to see much of them. A superb meal was produced by the Mess chefs and the dancing went on into the small hours. To **Mal** and **Jackie** we wish you the very best for the future.

WO2 Fred Barden, Elaine Barden, Pat Northey, RSM Geoff Northey, Jackie Forster, Bev Forster and SSgt (now Mr) Mal Forster pose after dinner

On the same night we said farewell to our 'Musclebuster' **Fred Barden** who with **Elaine** left us for AYSC Sutton Coldfield. **Fred** has been a stalwart of many of our sporting teams. To them both we wish a happy tour in Sutton Coldfield.

We welcome **WO2 Richard Wilson APTC** and his family from the Grenadier Guards in Hounslow.

HOCKEY

The hockey season started this year during Ex *Lionheart*, when RAF Station Wildenrath held the Battle of Britain 16-a-Side knockout cup. A team from 1 Sqn returned from the field for one day, and after an exhausting tournament in appalling rainy conditions, emerged as the cup winners. This was a great start to the season, and the 1 Sqn team then formed the nucleus of the full Regimental side.

The Regiment began its attack on the league by beating arch-rivals RAF station Wildenrath 2—1, and then drawing 5—5 against RAF Bruggen, and 3—3 against 13 Sig Regt. **Cpl Benny Bywaters** has started this season as top scorer, as he did last year, and must also be the most travelled player in the league, with a 300 mile round trip from Osnabruck for each game.

RUGBY

Due to the split locations of the Regiment we normally field two sides per week. One team in Osnabruck in the capable hands of **SSgt Bill Woodmason** and the other in Wildenrath managed by the intrepid duo of Sergeants from K Troop, **Martin Chapman** and **Billy** (Army proff) **Allen**. Both sides are kept in order under the critical eye of our Rugby Officer **WO2 (SSM) Trev Johnson**.

They have gone from strength to strength and the Osnabruck side especially have pulled off some good wins. Both squads have been brought together at times and have played as a Regiment side and have begun to play well pulling off some good results. A couple of good ones to remember are:

21 Sig Regt 29—13 Sig Regt 6 Army Cup

21 Sig Regt 54—Green Howards 3

Many of the Wildenrath based lads are now playing for the station side and, as **WO2 (SSM) Trev Johnson** is the station skipper, it is no surprise.

Following last season's success in having four players turn out for the Corps UK side, this year we have even more players considered by the Corps BAOR side for future games. They are:

WO2 (SSM) Trev Johnson, Cpls Martin Fielding and **Bobby Snow, LCpls Andy Dowdle** and **Archie Fulton, Sig 'Taff' Treeby** and **Eddie John**.

It is worth mentioning that a couple of our younger players are having an outstanding season, **Sig Eddie John** and **Sig 'Robbo' Robinson**, and to all those veterans playing with the Corps, **SSgt 'Harry' Worth** has made a come-back and we are looking good.

2 SQUADRON RUGBY CLUB

A barbecue was held on 7 October, 1984 to kick off the season and proved to be something of an event. The liquid flowed well but alas the solids failed to appear, due to a lack of P and P, by our beloved kitchen staff. All was not lost, however. After a fine run by the three quarters led by **LCpl Carter ACC**, and a scrum down in the cookhouse, food was requisitioned from the freezer and the barbecue went ahead.

Our first match was against 12 Ord Coy, which we won 11 pts—nil. It proved to be a very physical game, as became apparent the next day with half the team hobbling around.

We followed that with sweet revenge on 212 Sig Sqn by beating them 20 pts—nil, after they had beaten us late last year. The team started getting things together and even the old and bold **Sgt Don Blacklow** (now **SSgt**) stormed through to score a try.

The 1 BN Green Howards second 15 were our next victims 12 pts—nil in which **LCpl Phil Heaton REME** and **Sig 'Geordie' McAllister** both had trys disallowed due to poor pitch markings.

12 Armed workshops REME were next and were assisted by **LCpl Phil Heaton REME** who gave away a penalty which resulted in the first points scored against us. Needless to say he was fined a crate. However, we went on to win 42 pts—3.

We then played 2 Fd Amb and were beaten 28 pts—nil by a well drilled side, who played some good rugby. The rot had set in. We went on to lose matches against 23 Eng Regt 19 pts—3 and 5 INNIS DGN Guards 6 pts—3, but after a hard game against 1 Kings second 15 in which we produced some good rugby with fine runs by **Sig 'Jona' Jones** and **Sig 'Robo' Robinson** we came out winners by 24 pts—0.

203 Sig Sqn visited us from Munster and were well beaten by 54 pts—nil, in which **LCpl Andy Dowdle** scored a hat-trick of trys. In the third half 204 came back and even gave us singing lessons. A good time was had by all.

The RMP 115 Provs came next and with the Regimental Rugby Officer in the shape of **WO2 Trev Johnson** on the touch line, everybody played their hearts out and took the policemen apart winning 42 pts—nil. Nearly all these points came from back row play which was superbly run by our team captain, **Cpl Martin Fielding**.

1 BN Kings put out their first team against us next, and this proved to be one of our best games yet. We were unlucky early on not to go ahead when **SSgt Bill Woodmason** missed what looked like an easy penalty. However, with four minutes left the Kings kicked a penalty to win 3 pts—nil.

Our last game to date being against 25 Eng Regt RE in which **WO2 Trev Johnson** on a visit to Osnabruck was invited to play for the Squadron. **Cpl Spilling** our over-worked club secretary decided to lay down on the job as usual and was promptly walked over by two big packs. The Sappers scored 19 pts in the first half, but were held to that score to the final whistle.

With the Regimental side going into the final of the Rhine Area Major Units Cup with some eight of our players we are well pleased with our performances so far this year.

SOCCER

The Regiment's newly found stars have had a good start to the season, although experiencing an early exit from the Army Cup. We were beaten 1—0 by a very good side in the shape of 19 FD Regt RA from Dortmund. The game was action packed for 90 minutes and played with total commitment. The result could have gone either way and it was a tragedy that one team had to lose as both sides gave everything until the final whistle.

Success though for the squad has not been completely lacking as the Regiment made an assault on the Royal Signals (BAOR) seven-a-side competition at St Tonis in October and came away worthy winners having beaten 28 Sig Regt in the final.

At present the team have played six matches in the NRISFL and remain unbeaten having scored 30 goals for and conceded only six. Perhaps **RSM Geoff Northey** and **Joe Jennings** have got it right at last.

Congratulations to **Sgt Phil Welham** on representing the Corps in UK, and to **SSgt Alex Hamilton, Sig 'Geordie' Robinson, Sgt Neil Leyland** and **Eddie John, Cpl 'Tam' Tullock, LCpl 'Robbo' Robinson, Cpl Phil Rosslee** and **Sgt Phil Welham**, for being called-up to the Royal Signals BAOR Squad.

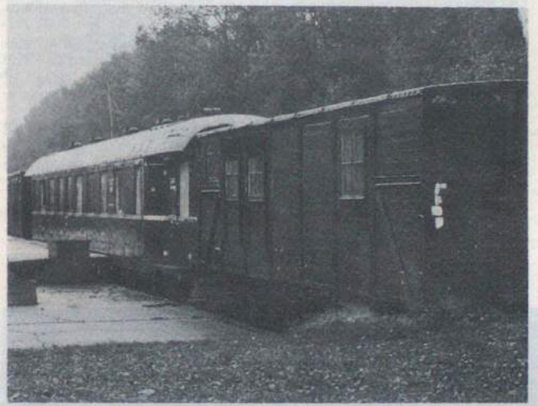
'THE TRAIN' MAKES ITS FINAL JOURNEY

As many ex-members of '21' will remember, tucked away in the corner of the Petersholtz Compound in RAF Wildenrath is the 'Train Bar'. The 'Train Bar' is an old Deutsche Bundersbahn carriage which was converted into a bar/club and was used as a 'watering hole' for entertaining sports teams after Regimental matches and by members of the Regiment as a social club.

The coach dates back to the mid-1940s and was presented to the Regiment by 79 (Railway) Sqn RCT in the 70s. But alas weather and old age have taken their toll of this fine piece of engineering as it is now past its best, and unfortunately 'The Train' and the Regiment must part company.

However, the memories of 'The Train' will live on as the Regiment are now the proud owners of a new club room and bar in a brick building. It was the wish of members that the new club be named after the aged rolling stock and so the new club will be called 'The Train' as a nostalgic reminder of bygone days.

Memorabilia from 'The Train' will decorate our new club as a permanent reminder for ex-members of '21' passing through, current members and for new ones who will arrive in the future. A photograph was taken of 'The Train' before its final trip.

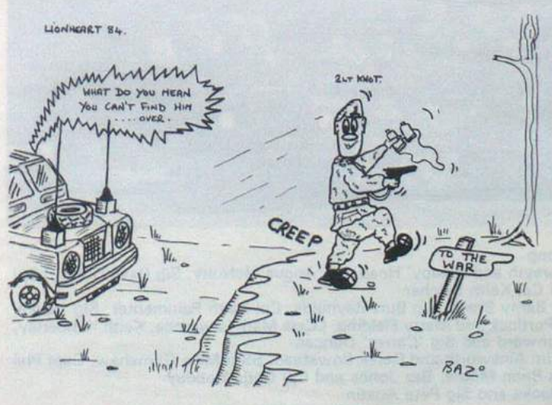


'The Train' now standing '. . .' 'The Train' Bar prior to removal

2 SQUADRON
EXERCISE *LIONHEART*

19 members of QG Signals visited Osnabruck from 5 September, 1984. They were a composite detachment from all QG Signal Squadrons.

Lt Tony Crane QG Signals and **Lt (QGO) Ratna Bahadvr** from QG Signals went with the Harriers and Helecopters respectively. With **Lt Crane** was **SSgt Tek bahadvr Gurung** and with **Ratna Sahels** was **Sgt Chandra Parsad Gurung**.



HARRIER FORCE 10-21 SEPTEMBER 1984

The Gurkhas were split between Romeo and sites 1, 3 and 4.

During the exercise they entertained the Harrier Force Commander to a Gurkha Bhat (Curry) at Comcen Romeo. The 2IC of 2 Sqn **Capt Mike Stanners** tried Khaini (tactical smoke), turned green and fell over. He had to be revived with some of the local brew, because there was no Gurkha rum available.

At site 4, **LCpl Gyan Prakash Rai** shot a Lieutenant Colonel on the Directing Staff when he tried to enter the site without identification. (He didn't do it again!).

At site 1, **Cpl Indra Kummar Gurung** provided several live chickens with a short 'huhri' lesson. Within an hour they were being served up, bones and all. (Chickens by kind permission of **Cpl Mike Stanners**).

GENERAL

The Gurkhas were employed as much as possible in their own trades as CBT, PMN, DVR, RTG and R Op. When off duty they visited, Hamburg, Holland, Fantasia Land (Bruhl), and Verden to barbecue with past members of their Regiment.

F TROOP
(OR AN AUSSIE'S VIEW OF HARRIERS)

Ex *Hazel Flute*, part of exercise Lionheart, started off as most Australian exercises, everyone was wet before leaving the barracks. For F Troop, it was a noisy, muddy exercise with Harriers (BUDDGIES) taxing 20ft from the camnet. Being an inquisitive Australian and hearing the worst about flying in a Harrier, I had to try it. Good for the stomach.

Each day, site 4 went to press and produced a local paper called the 'Daily Farce' which contained the new highlights of the day. Thanks to our 'roving reporters' for the stories and to our readers, it will be a regular occurrence.

There was new blood on the exercise with **Lt Tucker** and **SSgt Ramsay** on their first Harrier. The Troop being very experienced in these jobs once again completed the exercise without a hitch and to the complete satisfaction of the RAF. Well done fellas!

I TROOP
'EXERCISE *LIONHEART*'

A few days before the exercise we were joined in the troop by two Gurkhas, **LCpl Wan Dos Gurung**, and **LCpl Kharka Thapa**, who in turn joined the Rebro detachments. They soon settled into the way of life in the troop garages, and set about helping both detachments prepare for the big one! (*Lionheart*). It wasn't until the day of deployment that we realised what we had let ourselves in for, when they both turned up with kit bags full of spices, peppers and rice, and a few sordid books.

'Our first meal'. They asked if they could cook it, we didn't see why not, it was very nice, curried potatoes and curried lamb. Ten days later when all members of the detachment were going green and looking like a chilly pepper, the Gurkhas couldn't think why we wanted a change from curry. We managed to persuade them during a respite in the raging torrent of battle, and from being swamped with messages? (ONEST).

Sig Andy Keay undertook to teach **Kharka** 'SOM' (SOM meaning friend, one of the words we learnt), how to play mastermind, (little did he know), after losing to **Kharka** three times he thought, 'something's wrong here', and it was. Before they started the game **LCpl Kharka Thapa**, SOM, Mate, Friend, had counted all the colours in the tray, and by counting what was left after **Sig 'Andy' Keay** made his move he worked out what was behind the corner, 'And we never expected that'. Meanwhile, **LCpl Wan Dos Gurung** was on his third dirty, sordid, paperback, while watching over, 'yes, yet another curry'.

Finally after us learning a few necessary words in Nepalise, like, friend (SOM), Tea (Chia), Super (Chinee) and Milk (Dud), **LCpl Kharka Thapa** learnt the ultimate answer to every question, carefully coached by **Cpl 'Geordie' Craft**. 'Go forth and multiply' except that he had no scruples?

And then after a good exercise had by all, and to prove they were human and like Squaddies everywhere in the world, even the two Gurkhas laughed when I fell off my Rover decamming after end ex, and dislocated my shoulder, and broke my collar bone.

J TROOP

J Troop has had a period during which a large number of old timers have left for pastures new. **SSgt Mike Grimshaw** has gone to the sunny climes of Cyprus, **LCpls 'Rolly' Pearson, Jimmy Stretton, Al Kingdom, 'Mitch' Mitchell, Sig Pete Austin, Eddie Caulfield, 'Buck' Rogers**, and **'Carrot' Duncan** have all left. Others have just sidestepped to other Troops such as all the Techs (less **Cpl Barry Brash**), **Cpls Mark Bateman, Keith Belcher** and **Jock Orr**. We wish them all the best for the future.

On the plus side we welcome **2Lt Mike Nott** (briefly), **SSgt Eddie Marsh, Cpl Pete Old, LCpls Alan Churchward, Phil Horne** and **Brian Moore, Sig Nick Bearne, Tommy Handley** and **Nick Sharpe**.

In July '84, 230 Sqn RAF kindly provided a couple of Pumas for the annual trek to the Bavarian hills. The site of the Summer Camp was a rain blessed patch close to Garmisch Parterkirchen. The aircraft arrived early and surprised our neighbours (sorry 3 Div) as well as rearranging ours. Things were soon sorted out and folk then began to drift towards the 'briefing' tent. The first week proved fairly hectic but soon the pace relaxed. The weekend saw a games afternoon with our American friends. The showed us how volleyball was really played but they were not able to hold us at Superball or spoons! Our thanks go to the members of the AFRC for their help. A few more mountains were climbed, rivers paddled and friends made and then the end was upon us and we flew back to Osnabruck.

After a relaxing August Ex *Lionheart* appeared. Generally a quiet exercise, due to few of the Orange force being able to find us. The Gurkhas attached to us from the Queen's Gurkha Signals were **Cpl Kesharsing Rai** and **LCpl Thakbahadur Chand** who became master curry chef for **LCpl 'Baz' Jones** and **Sig 'Sleeping Bag' Little**.

Away in the NBC and cam cream free zone **Cpl Marty Fielding** and his merry men boldly fought off attacks from all quarters. Meanwhile at Fighting HQ budding authors with their verse and the others thought of 'otpot.

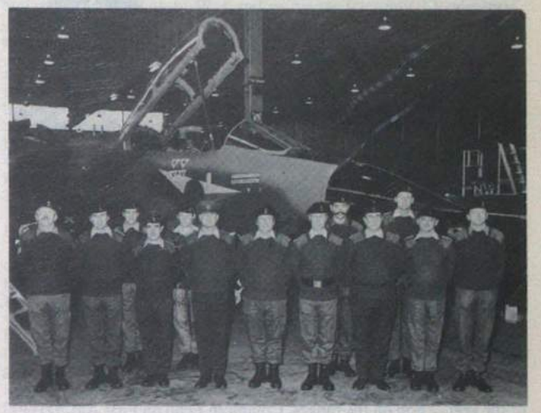
J Troop
R-L Back Row: Sig Nick Sharp, Shug Little, Tommy Handley, Dave Forsyth and 'Heapy' Heap, Cpl Angus McNulty, Sig Dave Duffy, LCpl 'Mitch' Mitchell and Cpl Keith Belcher
Centre Row: LCpl 'Beegee Booth' Guy, Sig 'Johnboy' MacLeod, Cpl Barny Brash, Sig Burt Reynolds, Cpl Keith Pammenter, Sig 'Spike' Kelly, LCpl 'Dusty' Miller, Sig 'Barty' Bartleet, Cpls Andy Hurley, Neil Portlock and Marty Fielding, LCpls Mark Lawrence, Keith Kimberley, J-R Ewen, Phil Horne, Alan Churchward and Sig 'Carrot' Duncan
Front Row: Sig Dave Logan, LCpl Al Kingdom, Cpl Nige Dixon, Sgts Tim Ainsworth and Derek Bowstead, SSgt Mike Grimshaw, Capt Phil Filby, Sgts Don Blacklaw and Ray Burgess, LCpls Brian Moore, Baz Jones and Cpl Chris Hobday
On Land Rover: LCpl Ian Flooks and Sig Pete Austin

The Queen's Gurkha Signals attached to I and J Troops 2 Sqn, for Exercise *Lionheart 84*
L-R Back Row: LCpl Thakbahadur Chand, Cpl Kesharsing Rai, Sgt Chandraparsad Gurung and LCpl Mandhoj Gurung
Front Row: Cpl Ainkumar Rai, LCpl Kharkabahadur Thapa and Sig Jagatparsad Gurung

3 SQUADRON
AIRFIELD CONFERENCE

RAF Bruggen was the location for the quarterly airfield conference and was hosted by H Troop under the auspices of **Capt Bob Bates** and **Sgt Rod Whateley**. Those attending had come from Rheindalen, Wildenrath, Laarbruch and Gutersloh. The meeting got under way after the opening address by the Squadron OC, **Maj Jack Fiskel**, and there followed lengthy discussions on a variety of topics associated with the communication support of RAF(G). This is a valuable meeting and has much significance for the tele mech trade and technicians working on the airfields. Many of the ideas and problems are forwarded to the LTA (line technical authority) meeting held in MOD and attended by OC airfield communications planning office **Maj (TOT) Cliff Webb**.

Once the hot air had abated there was a presentation on the MRCA TORNADO (being introduced into Bruggen) which included a 'sit in but don't touch'. Much impressed, the party then left for a technical inspection of the comms facilities in the Sergeants' Mess and a curry lunch. After a final debrief, the meeting closed with a promise of more to come in March 1985, at Roetgen in the Eifel.



Posing in front of the End Product
L-R: SSgt Ginty, Capt Longhurst, SSgt O'Callaghan, WO2 (FofS) Aquilina, Capt Miles, Maj (TOT) Webb, Maj (OC) Fiskel, WO2 (SSM) Collins, SSgt Schindler, Maj (TOT) Freeston, Capt Platts, Capt Bates and Sgt Whateley

N TROOP

Quite a lot has been happening in the troop since our last contribution, mainly the laying of over 34 kilometers of cable into the ground. All of which would have had to have been laid by hand, shoulder and any other available muscle. However, we managed to scrounge a loan of an 'Eager beaver' which, under the expert control of **Cpl John 'Atom Ant' Phillips**, helped us to get the cable in the ground with a lot less sweat than at first thought.

There has been quite an influx of personnel to the troop recently, **LCpl 'Taff' Bryant, Sig Ralph Biddulph, 'The Bear' Cooke, Ade Luckman, Jock Millar**, and **Fred Pontinand**, and **Cfn Ollie Swift** who we wish the best of luck and a happy tour here.

To balance out the arrivals we have had a couple of departures. **LCpl 'Noby' Clarke** to civilian life; our troop office will never be the same. **Sgt Mick Taylor** and **Cpl Cliff Swailes** have both been promoted and posted, we wish all three the very best for the future. Congratulations are also in order to **LCpls 'Taff' Morgan** and **John Phillips**, on promotion.

Four weeks after competing in their first Marathon in Verden, **Cpl Ian Godley** and the TOT, **Capt Bryan Gallagher**, set off to try another one in Berlin. They were joined by two other Marathon 'Veterans', **Capt Paul Oldfield** and **Sgt 'Gaz' Wilson** and one first timer, **Capt Paul Nicholson-Taylor**. Most of the runners had not been able to complete their normal training schedule due to being involved in Ex *Full Flow*.

BERLIN MARATHON

Everyone arrived at the start at 0730 hrs looking forward to an enjoyable run, as BFBS had forecast a dry day with a temperature high 17°c. By the time they eventually got under way, it was still quite chilly and had started to drizzle. After about five miles, it was pouring down and it kept raining the whole way.

Capt Nicholoson-Taylor was forced to retire after 20Km due to cartilage problems in both knees but everyone else completed the course and the TOT and the Adjt improved on their personal times. The times recorded were:

Capt Gallagher	3 hrs 5 mins
Sgt Wilson	3 hrs 7 mins
Capt Oldfield	3 hrs 14 mins
Cpl Godley	3 hrs 21 mins

Over 8,800 runners from 45 countries took part, which was a new record for the event.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1984

A peaceful couple of months after the excitement of *Lionheart*, with plenty of time to concentrate on the intricacies of CO's Days (?).

SOINC'S VISIT

The SOinC had a busy programme for his visit to the Regiment on 18/19 October 1984. The best 'brawn' was on show at the Inter-Squadron Boxing finals on the evening of the 18. Commcen Echo were declared winners, with some exciting and well fought bouts. The occasion was not without its drama, though, when **Sig Russ Parker** was laid out cold by the CO's driver, **Cpl 'Robbo' Roberts** (who doubles as his henchman). **LCpl 'HB' Higginbottom** of Commcen Echo was selected as most promising novice and **Sgt Roy Smith** of 2 Sqn as best loser.

The following day **Maj Gen Benbow** saw 4 Sqn on their (?th) CFT of the year, 2 Sqn on the ranges, Commcen Echo on First Aid, DTG's on skills training, HQ Squadron on NBC training and 3 Sqn in their new bar (how did they manage that one?) As if that was not enough, the Ski Team also demonstrated their skills on the new Regimental ski lift and discussed training with the SinC.

Commcen Echo Boxing Team
L-R Standing: Sig Colin Burnett, Ed Hudson, LCpl Derek Rankin
Kneeling: LCpl 'HB' Higginbottom, Sig Steve Mundy, 'Fass' Farrar, Clive Brown and the two officials, trainer Cpl John Black and Assistant Cpl Jim Smith

No, it's not a wheelbarrow race! 4 Sqn doing their press ups after the march phase of the CFT

Maj Gen Benbow talks to LCpl Davies about his Nordic Skiing training while Lt Peter Gillespie tries to outstare the camera

COMD COMMS HQ BAOR VISIT

The Regiment was privileged by visits from not one but two Major Generals of the Corps within the space of a month. **Maj Gen Yeoman** visited on 9 November when the Regiment hosted the Royal Signals bi-annual ski meeting. After the meeting, the General presented Corps skiing colours to two members of the Regimental Alpine team; they were **Sgt Steve Major** and **LCpl Andy Brown**. The General then examined the ski lift built by the LAD this summer from the back half of a 'Beetle' which someone had inadvertently left on a double yellow line outside the RSM's office. He was obviously impressed and tested the lift, using a pair of grass skis and boots borrowed from **Cpl Paul West**, for the occasion.

Maj Gen Yeoman presents Corps Ski colours to Sgt Steve Major and LCpl Andy Brown

LS AND GC PRESENTATION

Five members of the Regiment have been presented with their LS and GC medals over this period. **Cpl John Hall** received his medal from **Col Mike Coleman** during his visit to the Regiment on 18 October. The next day, the SOinC presented **WO2 (QMSI) Chris Christophers, SSgt Gerry Hegarty, SSgt John Larley** and **SSgt Norman Crossley** with their medals. Our congratulations to everyone.

WO2 (QMSI) Chris Christophers, SSgt Gerry Hegarty, SSgt John Larley, SSgt Norman Crossley and their wives with the SOinC, CO and RSM after their LS and GC presentations

1 (BR) CORPS STUDY DAY

On 20 November we hosted an Allied Nations Study Day on behalf of Comd Comms 1st (British) Corps. Visitors came from 1st (German) Corps, 1st (Belgian) Corps, 1st (Dutch) Corps, 3rd American Reinforcement Corps and HQ NORTHAG. After a Regimental lunch, equipment displays of RITA, AUTOKO, ZODIAC, BRUIN and by Plessey were inspected by the visitors. **Yeomen Tony Glover** and **Bob Waller** explained the mysteries of BRUIN and our display was provided by 2 and 4 Sqns.

HERBST WOCHE

This year, Lippstadt's annual carnival week, Herbst woche, had Berlin as its theme. Children of the Regiment (with some assistance) magically manufactured a very professional float depicting the Berlin Airlift out of the oldest RL in the Regiment, which thankfully kept going for the whole procession. On the Saturday, all the local dignitaries were entertained by 27 Field Regt and ourselves at a Cocktail Party and British Band Concert. On the informal side, too, the fair provided a marvellous (and popular) way of furthering Anglo-German relations, especially on the dodgems!

The station float for Herbst Woche

PAGE TROPHY

The Page Trophy, our inter-Squadron Winter Sports Competition, provided a welcome distraction from CO's Day preparations, this October. The competition included Rugby, Football, Badminton, Squash, Hockey, Tug of War and of course the annual Regimental cross-country race—each Squadron provided an enthusiastic, if not a skilful team, for every event.

Inter-Squadron rivalry came to the fore in a very competitive atmosphere, especially for the final event, the cross-country which was a 'three line whip' for the whole Regiment. Commcen Echo triumphed overall (surprise, surprise) and there were some fine individual performances from the stars in each event. To name a few:

LCpl Andy Lincoln	1st Cross Country
WO2 (FofS) Bonner Law	1st Veteran Cross Country
RHQ (has beens)	1st Hockey Team
2 Sqn	1st Tug of War

EXERCISE *WINTER STROLL*

Two CH 53 Helicopters of the German army broke the peace early on Friday 9 November, as the red and blue Platoons of Commcen Echo were whisked away to Vogelsang for a week's survival. A short while later the troops were rudely awakened from the soporific ride with the words 'Right you horrible lot, get your kit off!' as **Sgt Keith Phillips** prepared to search. After a thorough, but not conclusive frisking, the Platoons were put into two base camp locations and given two days to build adequate shelters. It only took a couple of sleepless nights to convince everyone that comfort should be the first priority.

Turkeys 'on the hoof' were the first dinner (and breakfast)—the problem being catching them. Practice makes perfect though, and they really tasted quite reasonable after a few attempts, in spite of the lack of stuffing!

Red Platoon board one of the CH53's at the start of Ex *Winter Stroll*

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

Boiled, roasted, or fried—it tastes the same! Cpl Tony Lucas, LCpl Tony Mee, Cpl Keith License, SSgt Eric Sharp and Cpl John Black slave over a hot stove in Red Platoon base camp

Once patrolling and offensive action started, food became even more difficult to catch. After splashing around in a freezing river, for what seemed like hours, some at least mastered the art of trout tickling while the rest managed to snare a few of the more docile rabbits.

Both Platoons then performed section attacks and a river crossing, which Blue Platoon decided was best done by a death slide. Having set up a magnificent contraption, their plan was foiled when the rope snapped and **Sig 'Fass' Farrar** took an unintentional swim, complete with LMG.

Other milestones in the week were a five mile stretcher task, and FIBUA training, during which Blue Platoon defended a village against a heliborne attack by Red Platoon (the AAC did at least manage to produce a PUMA for this part of the exercise).

After seven days, the exhausted and ravenous Platoons were again loaded onto two CH53's for the return trip to Lippstadt. The verdict was, hard work but very worthwhile—and it's great to be back home!

CO'S DAY

CO's Day fever took us over once again in mid November. In keeping with good old army tradition everything moveable was cleaned, including the troops, and everything fixed was painted. Not only that, but springs were greased, training figures produced and seemingly endless pre-inspections performed. The net result was an excellent set of inspection results—just reward for a lot of hard work.

SKIING

With the skiing season only weeks away, the Regimental Ski Team have been training hard away in Silberhütte and Norway. In mid-November, however, they found time in their schedule for a 24 hour Marathon Rollerski.

Maj Gen Yeoman started the first skier off on Friday 9 at midday, and 24 hours and 340Kms later exhausted skier rolled over the finish line. A total of DM1,300 was raised in sponsor money for the Uphill Ski Club, an organisation which helps disabled people learn to ski. The team members were: **Lt Peter Gillespie, LCpls 'Scotty' Scott, Andy Brown, Cpl Phil Philemon, Sgt Steve Major, LCpl Andy Bain, Cpl Paul West** and **Sig Steve Burke.**

CYPRUS IN SEPTEMBER

Last year the Regiment carried the banner for BAOR in the arena of competitive marching. Having done outstandingly well earlier in the season in the Hartz Mountain Marathon, **Capt Jeremy Ellis, Lt Nigel Gill** and **Sgt Roy Smith** were chosen as the premiere team from BAOR to compete in the 1984 Cyprus Walkabout. Arriving one week before the event they found that acclimatisation for this gruelling climb of 6,800 ft to the summit of Mount Troodos over a 70 mile course was something of a problem. However they finished an extremely creditable nineth out of a total of 80 starters and the swim in the Mediterranean after made it all worthwhile!

Capt Jeremy Ellis, Lt Nigel Gill and Sgt Roy Smith trudging up Mount Troodos in Cyprus

CANOEING

The Regimental Canoeing Team continues to strengthen as proved by the promising results achieved at the 4 Div River Race Championships. Here the 'A' Team of **QMSI Chris Christophers, Cpl Gary Jones** and **Sig Geordie Martin** finished in second place with **Sig Geordie Martin** winning the Individual Novice Class.

Unfortunately just before the BAOR Wild Water Championships the team was severely weakened when **Sig Geordie Martin** was posted earlier than expected and **LCpl Steve Higginbottom** could not paddle due to injury.

However the team did not return empty handed, **QMSI Chris Christophers** being placed third in the Open Class and **Cpl Gary Jones** finishing second in the International Class. Both **LCpl Dave Owen** and **Sig Taff Meaden** were all well placed in the Novice Class showing a lot of promise for the 1985 season. Look out 16 Sig Regt.

ORIENTEERING

The orienteering team has been travelling far and wide recently with promising results. In the recent BAOR R Signals event, **Lt Nigel Gill** came first on a very tricky course. As a team, though, we were not quite so successful. **WO2 (RQMS) Tom Wood** managed to disqualify the whole team by running on the wrong course (and ran an extra 10Kms for the privilege). The Adjutant, **Capt Nick Corbin**, displayed his command of the art of map reading by getting hopelessly lost. He was spotted later running with **Cpl Mal Eatwell**—where he found him no-one knows!

In spite of all the difficulties the 'cunning runners' have had a good season and look forward to a few more trophies next year.

CORPS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to our demon racquet sportsman, **WO2 (SSM) Bill Hutton** who was a semi-finalist in the recent Corps Squash Championships in UK.

So much for two quiet months—it's all part of life's rich pageant at 22 Sig Regt.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

KEY CHANGES

'All is change; all yields its place and goes'.

'Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or to the present are certain to miss the future'.

Since our last notes a number of key people in the Regiment have yielded their posts and gone. First to leave in October was **WO1 (RSM) Dick Hamilton**, who departed after much ceremony to the Shetland Isles. Highlight of this farewell came appropriately from his Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess. The arrangements were co-ordinated by **WO1 (YofS) Brian McAneny** who ensured, as usual, that everything went according to plan. One 'cuckoo' in the Sergeants' Mess for the occasion was Piper **Hamish McTavish** (alias the Adjutant, **Capt David McDowall**) who brought a touch of highland class to the proceedings. The job of controlling the 'Jocks' is now left to **WO1 (RSM) Pete Bawden** who arrived with his wife **Jill** and family from Celle. The best wishes of the Regiment go to **RSM Hamilton** and his wife **June** in the Shetlands. Lang mae yer lum reek. To **RSM Bawden** and **Jill** goes the best of luck and good fortune.

WO1 (RSM) and Mrs Hamilton arrive in style at Francisca Barracks for their farewell dinner

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Sergeants' Mess sobered up only long enough to change the place settings to dine out the CO, **Lt Col Brian Belton** and his wife **Anne**. In two and a half years of command the CO had made many friends in the Sergeants' Mess and it was fitting that **RSM Hamilton**, as his last task, said farewell to the Commanding Officer. After similar farewells in the Corporals' and Officers' Messes, the Commanding Officer handed over the Regiment in the traditional NATO manner on 16 November. The Regiment paraded in front of Senior NATO Officers, including the Chief of Staff NORTHAG, **General Zerling**. With 150 men and 14 Officers from the Regiment marching past the saluting dais, the CO formally yielded command to **Lt Col Cliff Walters.**

Lt Col Belton and **Anne** depart to Bielefeld for a well earned 'rest'.

They take with them the best wishes of a happy Regiment with many fond memories of their period in command. A warm welcome to **Lt Col Walters** and his wife **Judy**. We are sure they will enjoy their stay in the Regiment.

Finally, after only eight months in the hot seat, the Technical Adjutant has yielded under the pressure and departs for Staff College. Despite his short stay **Capt David Beach** and his wife **Jo** have been popular and hard working members of the team and we wish them well in Shrivenham. Welcome to **Capt Andy Harrison** and **Leslie** who come all 20Km from Rheindahlen. Some people have all the luck.

OC 1 Sqn—Maj Judy Webb invites the CO to inspect 1 Sqn. *L to R:* Cpl 'Scouse' Creighton, Sig Brian Hickinbottom, Cpl 'Gaz' Burton, LCpls Jim Clancy, Dave Tuck, Cpl Jimmy Frew, Sig Dennis Johnson and LCpl John Kirby await their fate

Col Belton has a few words of encouragement for Sgt 'Allie' MacKenzie, who captains the successful football team. LCpl John Mahon, Cpl Anne McNally and Sgt Terry Frankel are glad they have made the grade

The officers pull the CO out of camp on the UNIMOG vehicle that took two years to arrive in the Regiment. Lt Paul Hodgkiss and Capt Simon Green lead

A final salute from Lt Col Brian Belton

A NEW AGENCY

After a hectic Battle Camp in the summer followed by a, hopefully, refreshing period where most of the Regiment went to all corners of Europe on holiday, it was back to work with a vengeance with the run up of exercises to Ex *Able Archer 84*. Just to make things a little more exciting, the Regiment, in conjunction with our German colleagues from 840 Sig Bn, tested and refined a new command and control and engineering system for NORTHAG Signal Support Group (NSSG). This involved the integration of personnel from both units in a new Circuit Management Agency (CMA) co-located with CP NSSG and in a combined Technical Control at each of the Switches. This has been an unqualified success and was undoubtedly an important factor in a very successful Ex *Able Archer 84*.

1 SQUADRON

While the rest of BAOR was 'packing up' after Ex *Lionheart*, we were making preparations for Ex *Canary Caper* and Ex *Able Archer*. For *Canary Caper* the OC, **Maj Judy Webb** and the new SSM, **WO2 Terry Marsh** were both located at Switch (Commcen) Bravo. **WO2 Marsh** had, for the last few weeks, been trying to keep the OC's dog 'Murphy' off his bulled toecaps and was quite relieved to get away from him for a week.

However Murphy did appear in the field, but was unfortunately only the two-legged Signalman variety!

Nearly two weeks later we were all out again for Ex *Able Archer*. The exercise started off quite smoothly for both 1 Sqn Switches, except for Bravo's TARE (affectionately known as 'the beast'!). The beast refused to awaken in spite of the persistent efforts of **Sgts Glen Renshaw** and **Bob Ferris,** and the Foreman, **WO1 Dick Howes**. Even **Sgt Ben Nelson** came over from Switch Alfa to assist with the problem. Eventually and only just in time for the Staff Ex, 'the beast' stirred and decided it would play after all, much to the relief of **Sgt Mick Alcock** and his team of TARE operators. During the exercise there was no need to worry about security. **Sig 'Sef' Sefton** took care of that for us by keeping his eye on any suspicious looking civilians in the area, especially the good looking ones!

NEW FACES

The Squadron has seen a number of new faces arrive and old ones depart over the past few months. **SSgt Gill Cambell** and **LCpl Gail Reddington** to 16 Sig Regt, **Sig Billy Nelson** to 259 Sig Sqn, **Sig 'Sef' Sefton** to 1 Inf Bde, and **LCpl Roy Knight** to 'civvy street'. Last and by no means least, OC Bravo Troop, **Capt Steve Johns** departed for his JDSC course in the UK and his posting as Adjutant at 2 Division. We wish all of them the best of luck in their new postings. Recent arrivals are; the new OC Bravo, **Capt Therese Crook** from 29 Sig Regt and the OC Alfa, **2Lt Dave Kenyon** from Blandford. Other new arrivals are **SSgt Wendy Barton, Sgts Mick Laybourn, Tony Singleton, Cpl Dave Hart, Ptes Sue Vincent** and **'Blodwyn' Morris**.

2 SQUADRON
Report by SSgt (YofS) Duncan Manser
SWAN SONG

Just 10 days to push in the Regiment and in comes this delegation. 'Yeoman, we're looking for a volunteer to write the contribution to *The Wire* for the Squadron!' There is a smile on **Capt (Tfc) Colin McLoughlin**'s face, a knowing nod from the boss, **Maj Jim Heck**, and they are looking in my direction! A sigh of relief goes aroud the room from the Ops Yeomen, **Brian Alway** and **Sgt Derrick Styles**—'Whew! sentence has been passed'.

The Squadron has been in the thick of it these last few months leading up to Ex *Able Archer*. And during *Able Archer*, you know the normal exercise routine—eat, sleep and work. With regard to the communications nothing out of the ordinary happened, but in other respects some serious lessons were learnt.

Firstly, do not leave weapons unattended at ANY TIME. A pistol belonging to one of our German colleagues disappeared from inside the security compound, never to be seen again. As is the German practice, this pistol was fully loaded.

Secondly, do not go running around like a headless chicken shooting at non existing enemy. Mind you, it was comical. One conversation went something like this: 'Have you seen the enemy?', 'No', 'Then why are you shooting into the compound?', 'Well, they were shooting at me!'. Result, Enemy Forces 5, Friendly Forces 0.

I wonder if the SSM, **WO2 Bob Baggaley**, ever caught up with his clearing patrol, or did **Cpl 'Chalkie' White** just run out of steam?

The administration went well. **Sgt Steve Owen** kept us all well fed and watered, and even found enough cheese to satisfy the OC's ravenous appetite for this sweet smelling delicacy.

ORIENTEERING SUCCESS

Enough of *Able Archer* and on to other things. The Squadron entered a team in this years NORTHAG Orienteering Competition, and we won hands down. Well, we thought we had won, until someone discovered that we had had members of other Squadrons in our team. **Capt Simon Green** sounded quite convincing to us in explaining to the judge that we were not really breaking the rules. However, the judge took no notice.

Sig (eat you out of house and home) **Parry** received a prize for second place, even after posing for a cameraman at our first check point. I had to prise him away from the camera particularly after the cameraman told him the pictures were for 'Sixth Sense'.

29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
BFPO 45

THE FORM

Much confusion may still abound amongst Royal Signals circles as to what is happening in Berlin. Is it 29 Sig Regt (Berlin) or 229 Sig Sqn? The answer quite simply is that the Regiment has been born and that 229 Sig Sqn has become 1 (Comms) Sqn. RHQ has formed and HQ Sqn is building fast. We hope to have our third Squadron in the near future. For the independant—minded the disbandment (in nomenclature only at present) is a sad event but is seen as the best thing, and the Signallers in the Squadron may be proud of the fact that they are the foundation for the building of the Regiment, and a firm one at that. 1 Sqn will carry its new title with as much pride and enthusiasm as it did its old one.

INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING

In November, 1 Sqn were tasked with providing a team of Arena assistants to help construct fences, fill in the divots, shovel up the odd pile here and there, for the Berlin Horse Show. Much hard work culminated in the team having a hand in several practical jokes involving David Broome and Harvey Smith. The lads also brushed shoulders with other famous names—Liz Edgar and Ted Grimethorpe to name but two (Ted who?)

L-R: Harvey Smith and David Broome with the Arena assistants

VISIT OF COMD COMMS BAOR

Maj Gen A. Yeoman visited the Regiment on 5 December 1984 to see for himself the organisation of Royal Signals and communications therein. A tour of both static and mobile communications took most of **Gen Yeoman**'s time but he did manage to stop for lunch in the newly renovated 1 Sqn Club. Many of the soldiers will remember the visit as one in which they were able to talk freely with a General and many remarked on it afterwards. Unfortunately **2Lt Ian** (What's a landrover?) **Favager** wasn't able to talk at all after being struck dumb when **Gen Yeoman** insisted on inspecting one of the vehicle engines. After visiting the cellars and Brigade Command Post, the Regiment played host to **Gen** and **Mrs Yeoman** at a dinner in Edinburgh House, to round off a successful visit.

'. . . Anyway, I could see the blighter was trying to hide, so I stalked him, and then . . . ' Maj Gen Yeoman telling war stories! Sig Lloyd looks positively terrified and holds onto the ashtray for comfort. Sig Geoff Love and Cpl Gerry Brown look on, captivated and suitably impressed

CINDERELLA DAY

Preceding the judging of the pumpkin competition on 19 October, the brainchild of **Maj Sandy Lovatt**, Radio Troop took on a combined Commcen and TM Troop at football.

No one has a clue what the result was except for perhaps **Sig 'Ginge' Hunt** (now 249 Sig Sqn) who spent most of his time exerting his authority over the children who were watching the game. Post-match drinks and the judging of the prize pumpkin followed. Again the result was in much doubt. Cheats were uncovered . TM Troop even garnished their pumpkin in Christmas decorations, to make it look better, (No jokes about fairy technicians please). Even the TOT couldn't believe it, and he was judging. For the record, Radio Troop won (though many would contest the honesty in the production of the winning model).

'That's ours?' Capt (TOT) Gerry Sullivan, Chief Judge with an incredulous grimace on his face. Hardly worth putting a guard on was it?

EXERCISE *RAT CATCHER*

Midnight oil burnt in the Unit Orderly Room, as **2Lt Ian Favager** busily prepared the Admin for his Escape and Evasion Exercise on 6/7 November. The exercise followed the usual pattern of hunted and hunters except that here in Berlin, there is a third party called the Grunewald Pigs (Wild Boars). This only added to the excitement of the exercise and after long, weary, wide-eyed (look out for the Pigs) hours, many of the hunted came through safe houses to be presented with their live chickens to eat. **Pte Penny Lansbury** suddenly decided she wasn't hungry anymore. However her escapers-in-crime, **WLCpl Debbie Gosnell** and **WPte Jo McBroom** surprised everyone by being the only team to remain uncaptured at the end.

EXERCISE *HUNGRY BEAR 2*

In addition to the normal Brigade Communications, the Regiment was tasked with setting up a Base Camp for out of Berlin training for two Battalions in turn, on Ex *Hungry Bear* (24 November-1 December).

Capts Dryburgh and Fisher 'Filling Up'

Sig Stan Tivey drives out the 432 en route for Ex *Hungry Bear*. 2Lt Ian Favager plays a game of 'Simple Simon' in the Communications Hatch. He was later seen splashing around in a puddle

Having carried out a recce of Reinsehlen Camp and the SLTA the 2IC, **Maj Eric Carrel**, QM, **Lt Col Len Wilson RE and WO1 (RSM) John Walker** got to grips with the daily routine of Base Camp, ably supported by elements of HQ Sqn and a few attached personnel. As good a time as possible was had by all in the foul weather, the only mishap being the inability of the unpronounceable **Sig Iheagwaram (Sig Iggie)** to move his 4 ton vehicle. All returned safely to Berlin, even the 4 ton vehicle, courtesy of a tow by a 16 tonner.

The fighting elements started their battle on 26 November. For many of the lads, it was their first time on SLTA, and it wasn't long before **Sig Jeoff Love** and **Stan Tivey** took the Bde Tac 432 swimming and successfully bogged it down.

The Brigadier was so pleased that he promoted **LCpl Wally Pollitt** on the spot and told him to take the day off. **Cpl Wally Pollitt** went sick the next day, but the medics couldn't diagnose the migraine which **Cpl Pollitt** insisted had overcome him.

Sig Andy Armitage, Daryll Wallace and **Steele Lloyd** did stirling work driving the umpires from battle to battle. Several road safety lessons were learnt from the exercise. **Sig Paul Beattie** discovered that three stumps take out gear boxes when driven over at speed. **Sig Steele Lloyd** now understands the difference between a parking sign and a dual carriageway sign—he was driving the RSM when he overtook into the very short 'overtaking' lane. Overall communications were excellent, not that **Cpl Paul Carr** would know because he slept the whole time.

BOWLING

Last season Commcen Troop entered two teams into the Annual British Bowling League, the two teams consisted of the 'Berlin Bears' and the 'Barbarians'. The 'Bears' were captained by **Sgt Stevie Roberts**, with the rest of the team consisting of **LCpl 'Ginge' Baxter, Cpl Des Wheatley Sig 'Ginge' Hunt** (now with 249 Sig Sqn), **LCpl Mac McMillan** and **Cpl Colin Ibberson**. The Barbarians were captained by **Cpl Bob** (I can't the five pin) **Dodds, LCpl Bob Carrol, WO2 (YofS) Jack** (the lad) **Cowen, LCpl Chris Mountain, Sig Martin King** and **Sgt Brian 'Buck' Rogers**. The Bears came first in the League, with the Barbarians coming a close second. The League consist of about 15 teams, many of which are RAF teams. But with the enthusiasm and good humour of our two teams we managed to take the trophies. The League is held every Tuesday night, by courtesy of our allied friends, the Americans, who kindly let the British League use their Bowling Alley. Commcen have again entered two teams this season and with a bit of luck (and skill) we'll take the trophies again.

We also sent a team down to the Royal Signals BAOR Bowling Championships. It consisted of **Cpl Bob Dodds, LCpls Bob Carrol. Chris Mountain** and **Cpl Des Wheatley**. Although none managed to get through to the Masters, **Bob Dodds** was fourth in the Singles, and, teamed up with **Des Wheatley**, managed to come fourth in the doubles. Here's wishing both teams good luck in this season.

SOCCER

The Regiment played 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE in the first round of the Minor Units BAOR Competition on 9 November. In swirling mist, **LCpl Chris Mountain** scored a superb goal. In the second half the Sappers equalised and after extra time the score remained at 1—1. A replay saw the Regiment win convincingly 2—0 with goals from **Sgt Robbie Davies** and **Cpl Bob Dodds.** We now go onto play 3 BAD at Wildenrath in the second round and should win convincingly if **Sgt John Burgess** produces the same goal keeping skills we saw in the first round.

HELLOS/FAREWELLS

The usual high turnover of people. **Capts Kevin Fisher** and **Jim Dryburgh** join us as Adjt and 2IC 1 Sqn respectively. We also welcome **LCpl Tony Swift** and **Sig Lloyd, Wallace, Webb, Sweatman** and **Kirkpatrick. LCpl Neaves** and **Humphreys** both leave us to join The White Helmets. We say farewell also to **Capt Mike Spoors** and his wife **Diane. Capt Spoors** has bade the Corps farewell and is now wielding a ladle in anger in Aldershot, and we wish him well in his new career.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

REGIMENTAL BATTLE CAMP

The weather looked like being an ominous sign of things to come as the Regiment drove into the filthy mist of Dartmoor to start Battle Camp at Okehampton. As it turned out, however, we must have been blessed from on high as the weather turned out much better than might have been expected. This was a good job particularly for **SSgt Paddy Goslyn** and **SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' Evans** who within hours of arriving at Camp took themselves off to live on the Moor in preparation for the Survival stand they would run during the week.

Reaching a crucial stage in one of the Obstacle Tests is one of the 3 Sqn sections. Pictured are: Cpl Eric Wright, Sig Andrew Lilley, LCpl Stuart Edwards, Sig Richard Kettlewood, Vincent Boddy and Nigel Waters. SSgt Bob Hooper, stand DS, looks on

One of the 2 Sqn sections taking line equipment across the assault course. *L-R:* Cpl John Walker-Moorcroft, Sig Nigel Jones, Alan Richards and David Holt and Sgt Shaun Sutton

POPULAR ASPECTS

This turned out to be one of the most popular aspects of the entire Battle Camp. The actual teaching side of Survival covered setting snares, cooking, using the local flora and fauna, an observation lane and how to put a startlingly large amount of kit into a very small space—courtesy of **YofS Evans.**

Another popular stand was 'the initiative' put together by **Lt Nigel Harrison, WO2 (YofS) Derek McClelland** and **Capt Janet Castell**—the latter a 'colonial import' from New Zealand who came in handy for testing out any possibly dangerous component of the test.

Other delights of the Camp included the setting up of VCPs, anti-ambush drills, vehicle recovery, an assault course, NBC including vehicle decontamination, map reading and the 'fun' activities of abseiling and canoeing.

After this learning phase the camp shifted gear into the Superteam competition. This was a day long event which saw the sections doing various exercises involving manhandling vehicles and comms equipment across obstacles and a succession of 30ft rope climbs.

LCpl Baz Bailey astounded the assembled company by descending from the 30ft rope tower via the diagonal pole supports—others tried it but without the success of **LCpl Bailey.** The day ended with a hill run on to the Moor.

THE WINNERS

Overall winners of the competition were the team training for the Cambrian March Patrol Competition, led by **2Lt Rob Salvoni.** The team was: **SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' Evans, SSgt Pete Knight, Cpls Bob Witherstone, Ricky Dent, LCpls 'Chilly' Bridgewood, Chris Cairns, Sig Charlie Matthews, 'Jacko' Jackson** and **John Evans.**

ANOTHER PHASE

The Camp entered yet another phase in the second week. Sections undertook a competition which included both military and more specialised signals skills, which was to form part of the ARU. This was conducted by **Col Mike Marples** Commander 1 Signal Group.

A LONG ASSOCIATION

Other important visitors to the Regiment during this time were members of the Worshipful Company of Dyers, a livery company with a long association with 30 Sig Regt. Prime Warden of the Dyers Company, **Henry Christie,** Clerk to the Dyers, **Commander (Retd) Tony Boyall** RN, Assistant Clerk, **Charles Abnett** and **James Chambers**, were shown around the competition stands.

PRESENTATIONS

Battle Camp ended with a double presentation ceremony. Members of the Regiment who had served with the British Forces in Lebanon received their medals from **Col Marples**, they were: **Capt Philip Pratley, Lt Nigel Harrison, Sgt Glenn Walker, Cpl Neil Coatsworth, Cpl David Jagger, Cpl Graham Robsoq, Cpl Nigel Telford, Cpl Graham Wilson, LCpl Alan Buckmaster, LCpl Ray Orange, LCpl Ford, LCpl Anthony Rathmell** and **Sig David White.**

The second set of presentations were to the teams taking part in the ARU Competition. The winning team, led by **2Lt Neil Griffiths**, received the Dyers Cup, a trophy given to the Regiment by the Worshipful Company of Dyers. The winning team was **2Lt Neil Griffiths, LCpls Graham Gee, George Rahman, Paul Ellis, Cpl Mick Boyle, Sig Shaun Dulson, 'Dusty' White** and **Ray Pendrich, LCpl Steve Pettit, Cpls John Bland** and **Mick Sheehan.**

BATTLE CAMP 1984
AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF SECTION 10
Report by Cpl John Bland

What follows is a true account, well, the characters are all non-fictitious, but the events that happened may have been, or seemed so at the time. This is it, a definite account!

THE CAST

The cast: The Boss, **2Lt Neil 'Baby Face' Griffiths** and his followers, **Cpls Mick 'The Gurkha' Boyle, Mick 'Hairy' Sheehan** and **John 'Spic' Bland, LCpls Paul 'Peg-Leg' Ellis, Graham 'Crazy-Legs' Gee** and **Steve Pettit,** (newly arrived from 10 Sig Regt—did HE get a shock or four), **Sig George Rahman, 'Chalky' White** and **Ray Pendrich.**

And so we went to camp one bright (Huh!), early (extremely) Sunday morning and headed for the West Country and Okehampton, stopping off on the way to amuse a couple of coachloads of American Tourists at Exeter.

COOL

By the time we reached Okehampton, it was a bright, sunny day, something we wouldn't see again for quite a few days, once Dartmoor remembered where it had put its exercise issue of weather. We got ourselves into our accommodation and settled in and, at various times, all the patrols went off to do their swimming tests in a nearby reservoir. To say it was cold is putting it mildly, suffice to say that even the slowest swimmer took on the water-borne appearance of Mark Spitz at his Olympic best and the voices of many pitched one or two octaves higher.

During the following week, all the patrols partook of a daily round of shooting (on the very odd occasions when the ever faithful Dartmoor fog wasn't about), map-reading, ambushes, night-patrols, vehicle recovery, NBC, assault course and everyone's favourite, the Survival stand, run by **SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' Evans** and **SSgt 'Paddy' Goslyn.** This was quite memorable, quite a few people realising, for the first time, that chickens come in forms other than frozen, trussed, and lying in a freezer in Sainsburys. The look on a few faces as chickens went from fully-clothed cluckers, to naked and ready for the open fire, was, at time amusing.

The assault course is both interesting and testing at Okehampton, but not THAT interesting when you've been over, through, and under it four times in rapid succession. Yours truly decided to try and take a brick or two out of the top of the eight foot wall and got a broken rib for his trouble. On the monkey bars **LCpl Graham 'Crazy-legs' Gee** decided that taking the bars one at a time was old hat, and to the bemusement of all, including the attendant PT staff of **Sgt Larry Tullet** and **Sig Kev Fowler**, proceeded to take the bars two at a time. All claims that **LCpl Gee** was a stand-in for Clyde in the Clint Eastwood films are unconfirmed. The bars were also the site of many a premature ducking as tired arms and hands refused to suspend owners from the afore-mentioned bars.

THE SUPERSTARS

Saturday dawned, bringing with it the 'Superstars' competition, and a whole host of demanding events. The gym tests were the scene of some of the most gruelling physical displays, consisting of sit-ups, squat thrusts, press-ups and ski-jumps. Another strenuous event was the 'Ring-the-bell', where the contestant had to climb either the rope (for two points) or the ladder on the frame (for one point) and ring the bell, which had been placed on a cross member of the rope-frame, some 35 feet up. The lorry-pull was an interesting event, consisting of pulling a 4 ton Bedford along a slalom course of cones, downhill by the way, and then turn the lorry in a 180 degree turn and pull the lorry back up the hill into its garage. Time penalties were awarded for each hit—more than one team decided to take out every cone on the way to save the bother of having to take too much care in steering their run-away truck, only bothering with the steering-wheel at the bottom on the run to get the wagon turned around for its uphill struggle. OC 2 Sqn, **Capt (now Maj) John Thomas** was roped (or was it dragged?), both being highly suitable words in the event, in at the last moment to help one team, who had been left a man short, due to injury. His hernia is doing very well, thank you, and the truss returned from whence it came. After a very hectic day, one of the 3 Sqn teams, despite having numerous people hobbling around on crutches, turned out winners.

LAMBS

Now the Bible says that God made the world in six days and on the seventh he rested. There was to be no such rest in 30 Sig Regt. Due to injuries, the teams needed new blood, which was provided by a new crop of talent, newly arrived in Blandford from the 'factory' at Harrogate.

FofS Pat Baldwin was responsible for the safe carriage of the lads and whisked them away from Blandford at 0700 hrs on the Sunday morning down to our West Country hideaway. A phrase like 'lambs to the slaughter' springs to mind here. Sunday afternoon was hurriedly spent trying to inject our superior knowledge and tricks of the trade (who's he kidding?) that we had learned and revised the previous week into our new recruits.

Sig Ray Pendrich was extremely pleased with the new arrivals, as it meant he was no longer the 'baby' of Section 10, although he still looked it. Would the person who borrowed **Ray**'s Ladyshave please return it?

COMMANDER AND WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF DYERS

Now we come to the important part—the ARU, which was to be conducted by **Col Mike Marples**, Comd 1 Sig Gp, and also present during the proceedings were members of the Worshipful Company of Dyers, who donated an impressive Bowl that we were all to compete for. The ARU ran for two days, with a night out in Happy Valley, under the watchful eye of Messrs **Evans, Goslyn** and **McLoughlin**—more about that later.

2Lt Griffiths is presented with the hard earned Dyers Cup on behalf of his team by Henry Christie, Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Dyers

DAY ONE

The first day was spent, under brilliant autumn sunshine, haring around the Dartmoor countryside fighting off ambushes, capturing terrorists, treating casualties while climbing the North face of the Eiger, and crossing raging torrents without getting wet, among other military tasks and skills.

THE ISSUE

Then came the part everyone was looking forward to—well, **Messrs Evans, Goslyn** and **McLoughlin** were. As every team arrived, they were issued with chicken, one, live; rabbit, one, deceased; vegetables, assorted, and sheets of plastic, for sheltering under. They were also dispossessed of all bivvy making kit and survival bags. **YofS Evans** says he's sorry, but he completely forgot about the 10 man ration packs that were nearby. Evidently everyone saw them, but not he. As darkness fell on Happy Valley, the likeness to an Indian encampment was remarked upon. Tuesday morning dawned, eventually, and with it, again, the sun. And everyone went off to do the rest of the stands they hadn't already done (seems a logical progression if you think about it).

INITIATIVE

At the Initiative Stand, run by **Lt Nigel Harrison**, aided and abetted by his motley crew of 2 Sqn layabouts (YofS, FofS, SQMS, SHQ SSgt and Yours Truly) some truly awe-inspiring and unique ways of crossing a river-gorge, taking a load and 10 men across, were seen. As all good things do, Tuesday and the ARU came to an end with everyone rushing back to Okehampton for the prize-giving.

FINALE

All were congratulated in the gym, drawn up by teams. **Col Marples** presented medals to the lads from the Regiment, who had been in the Lebanon. Then the members of the Company of Dyers presented the prizes to the teams, every team getting at least one crate of beer. First place went to Section 10, led by **2Lt Neil Griffiths**, second was the Cambrian March team, led by **2Lt Rob 'Godfather' Salvoni.**

NB: Anybody who was there, will remember the 'special' soup prepared on two days for us all. The manufacturers will remain anonymous, but it certainly wasn't Heinz, and probably had its origins in a Calcutta back street. I've had my black plastic mug BLR'd and donated to science.

Cpl Graham Robson receives his medal from Col Marples. In the background are Cpls Neil Coatsworth and David Jagger. Foreground: Cpl Nigel Telford

OPENING THE CRAFT SHOP

Months of planning and hard work by the 30 Sig Regt Wives' Club has paid off with the opening on Camp of a Craft Shop. The idea of opening the Shop came about because so many of the wives make craft items as a hobby. Space was found in the Camp's Campbell Centre and the Shop was opened. It sells a wide range of items including handmade chess sets, cushions and soft toys; picture-framing is also undertaken. The Shop is run on a voluntary basis and proceeds will go to the Campbell Centre Funds.

At the opening of the Craft Shop: Mrs Keri Backhouse, Mrs Carol Hryhoruk, Mrs Gwenda Willcox, Mrs Sheila Robertson and Mrs Sheila Smith

THE LANYARD TROPHY

Six members of the Regiment were part of a 10-man Blandford Garrison team which came a very creditable second in the Lanyard Trophy Competition. The Competition run by 5 AB HQ and Sig Sqn, consisted of a 40 mile route march along the North Downs Way, carrying an SLR and a Bergen. Despite a rather short training period, mainly in lunchtimes and evenings, and a poor night's sleep on the floor of 3 Para gymnasium just prior to the Competition, the team performed extremely well.

SECOND OVERALL

2Lt Rob Salvoni and **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson**, together with **Sig 'Bev' Beverley** and **Sgt Ted Cartwright** (both of the School of Signals) came in a very respectable joint 10th position in 12 hrs and 22 minutes. They were closely followed by **LCpl Neil Roome. SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' Evans** cut a dash in his pea green Bergen and miners lamp, and despite an extremely muddy course and sometimes complex route marking, finished just after midnight putting the team into second place overall.

Cpls Bob Witherstone and **'Robbo' Robson, SSgt Alec Campbell REME** and **SSgt Des Ewers** (School of Signals) all finished in good times. 87 out of the original 200 entrants finished the course.

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HQ SQUADRON

As a rest from our strenuous communications camp on Ex *Calm Fence 84* our October weekend was based on a competitive Military Training Exercise organised by **SSgt Derek Gale** and ending on Sunday morning with BFTs supervised by the Squadron's tame PTI **Cpl Pete Farmer** and, due to his being exempt, TOT **Maj Jim Fowler**. They say a good weekend was had by all!

After victories of 7—0 and 6—2 in the early rounds our Regimental Football Team is once again in the semi-final of the Londist TA competition. **Sgt Jimmy Scoular** scored hat-tricks of goals in both matches and our goal has been well protected by TA QM **Capt John Robson** adopting the same control to prevent balls getting in the net as items getting out of the stores.

November saw us participating in Ex *Able Archer* in Belgium where we provided additional circuits for our masters and our Data Telegraphists assisted by members of 38 Sig Regt (V) handled voluminous quantities of traffic. **Capt (TOT) Roger Knowles** led the team proving new shots out of SHAPE while **SSgt (FofS) 'Lew' Lawton** and **SSgt Dave Fraley** got to work interfacing with Satcom. TOT **Maj Jim Fowler** spent 36 hours interfacing with SHAPE Hospital but survived the experience, we are glad to say!

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

The Christmas season began with a farewell to our RSM, **WO1 'Cas' Francis** and **Mandy**; we wish them well in their new home in Derby and job in Catterick. We welcome in their stead our new RSM, **WO1 Geoff Shergold** and his wife **Mary**. Arriving at this time they could be forgiven for thinking that all we do is socialise!

SUCCESSFUL FUNCTION

On 24 November the Social Committee showed their mettle by organising a thoroughly successful Christmas party. Due to building works it nearly became a 'Bring a loo' party but Portakabins saved the day. We still wish to know how the SSM, **WO2 Steve Bland**, manages to win so many prizes in the Draw, for his family!

41 SQUADRON

Remembrance services in November began with the Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Association service at Hammersmith on the 4th, attended by many 'old soldiers' of the Association as well as serving members of the Regiment, and on Remembrance Sunday we joined HQ Sqn to parade through Hammersmith.

Sadly, after three years, we say farewell to OC N Troop **Lt Linda Webber** but she is only moving down the road (well, 20 miles) to take over B Troop in 83 Sqn. Welcome to **Lt Diane Lilley** who takes over the job (yes, she comes from 83 Sqn). From Harrow we welcome the newly commissioned and married **2Lt Anthony Rose** who takes over J Troop.

At the same time the practical problems of trying to manoeuvre K Troop's 'heavies' (the vehicles not the soldiers) in and out of the garage and right-angled bend at Hammersmith have finally forced a solution. K Troop has moved to join its sister N at Coulsdon and J with its FFR Land Rovers has come to Hammersmith. OC K Troop **Lt John Ruske** is rumoured to be amazed and bemused to have all his vehicles in the same place for a change while 2IC **Lt Karin Doull** is still trying to fathom the shortest route to Coulsdon by the infamous public transport system.

All is not yet well for the refurbishment of the ablutions at Hammersmith means holes in the grounds, bricks and all sorts of equipment and a not-quite-so-mobile J Troop. We are told they will be able to get out of the garage before Easter!

47 SQUADRON

Late in the summer F Troop decided to adorn Studham Common, a well-known beauty spot in South Bedfordshire, for a field training weekend which included various team events such as equipment identification. A strange selection of items appeared for members to identify including real and replica weapons courtesy of **Sgt Anne Hancox** and some fairly weird medical equipment borrowed from 257 (E) General Hospital (V).

Others events were a Land Rover rally and a cross-country march as well as the source of some amusement, a personnel identification competition. A number of our officers and SNCOs took their places in a 12 × 12 shelter and team members, blindfolded, had to identify them by touch alone. How well do you know your Troop Officer?! **Sgt Anne Hancox** was there to ensure that the participants were only allowed to feel down to the waist! During this event the CO, **Lt Col David Strong** arrived, was duly blindfolded and set to proving how well he knew his management; the results have not been published!

On 14 October we marked Lafone Day with the annual ceremony to commemorate the heroic action of **Maj A. M. Lafone VC** of the Middlesex Yeomanry against the Turks in Palestine in 1917. Following a short service in the Church at St Martin's within Ludgate the Squadron, together with a sizeable contingent of Old Comrades marched up Ludgate Hill to St Paul's Cathedral where wreaths were laid on the Regimental War Memorial in the crypt. **LCpl Andy Hutchins** and **Sig Gary Cheshire** formed the wreath party and wore the traditional Middlesex Yeomanry hussar uniforms.

On Remembrance Sunday the Squadron, with the other TA and Cadet units of the London Borough of Harrow, marched from our TA Centre to the Civic Centre to take part in the Borough's Act of Remembrance. The differing sounds and paces of the Glen Trew Pipe Band and the Harrow Jewish Youth Band (not everyone in Harrow has the same length of leg) kept up to the mark.

We congratulate those most recently promoted: **LCpls Steve Cooke** and **Ray Peters** to **Cpl** and **Cpl 'Radar' Keefe** to **Sgt**.

83 SQUADRON

The building work at Southfields is progressing well and hopes are high that it may be completed ahead of schedule. The Squadron Office and Bar are now located in Portacabins on the square. Very cosy!

Wednesday night training has been varied and interesting. During October the Squadron split in two, with one half going to the local Fire Station in Putney and the other half going to the Area Control Centre in Croydon. Both visits proved to be of great interest. At the Fire Station we were shown all over the fire engines and treated to a demonstration of how to climb a building with a very flimsy looking ladder. Some, who shall remain nameless (!) can even say that they have tried on a fireman's helmet! The other training nights have been used to show a variety of useful films which have added greatly to our general military knowledge.

The Squadron weekend in October was held at Pirbright Camp. It was certainly a new experience for many as we were given a demonstration on mines and barbed wire obstacles by the Royal Engineers. A visit to the Airborne Museum at Aldershot rounded off a very good weekend's activities.

A visit to 4 Royal Tank Regiment was arranged for WRAC only in October! A group of 20 WRAC from the Regiment took up the offer and spent a very enjoyable day at Tidworth. Everyone was given a 'guided tour' of a Chieftain and then we all had a go at driving one on the Plain—some more successfully than others! Rumour has it that **LCpl Beverley Holley** is now trying to swop her HGV for a Chieftain.

LCpl Beverley Holley and Pte Jane Maslin testing a Chieftain for comfort as Lt Penny Rose is distracted (or distraught?)

Finally, congratulations go to our 2IC, **Capt Keith Bruce Smith**, and **Sue Bruce Smith** who produced a second baby girl in November.

32 Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

ANNUAL CAMP

Due to processing difficulties it was not posible to arrange for photographs of the military training week at Annual Camp to be included in the last issue. However, not to disappoint the heroes, we include below some of the photographic highlights of the camp. Results of the Annual Competitions held at camp were:

The Whistler Trophy—Best Squadron over the last year—61 (CofE) Sig Sqn (V).

The Whistler Bowl—Squadron with best aggregate shooting and BFT scores at Camp—51 (H) Sig Sqn (V).

Cup for Squadron with best overall performance at camp—52 (L) Sig Sqn (V).

Myers Cup — The most improved male and female soldiers over the past years—**Cpl Robb**—52 (L) Sig Sqn (V), **LCpl Ellington WRAC**—51 (H) Sig Sqn (V).

Comd 52 Lowland Bde, Brig Stevenson giving personal tuition to LCpl Elizabeth Williamson 61 (CofE) Sig Sqn (V)

Comd 2 Sig Bde, Brig K. Olds showing the RSM, WO1 Brian Peel what the right arm is for

The CO Lt Col H. A. Culley presenting the assault course competition shield to Capt Sadiq Ahmed—51 (H) Sig Sqn (V)

2Lt Fiona Farquharson (52 Sqn) *(Top Centre)* enjoys herself negotiating the scrambling net with the rest of her team during the assault course competition

Comd WRAC Scotland Maj Ruth Henderson *(far right)* talks to *(left to right)* Pte Carol Douglas (61 Sqn), Cpl Helen Anderson (61 Sqn), Sgt Lofy Coleman (61 Sqn) and Capt Joyce Rhind (51 Sqn)

Comd 52 Lowland Bde Brig Stevenson *(2nd from right)* talks to members of 61 (CofE) Sig Sqn (V) prior to them going on the range. The CO *(far right)* looks on with interest

TEMPO QUICKENS

October was spent recuperating from the effects of camp and the Regiment was fairly quiet. The pulse quickened in November, however, with another of our infamous weeks at Scarborough Trade Training Centre where trade training and PT were the order of the day. Congratulations should to go **Pte Pam Smith** (Commcen Supervisor) (61 Sqn) able assisted by **Sig Billy Kennedy** (69 Sqn), **Pte Pat Mutch** (61 Sqn) and radio operator **Sig Stephen Pike** (51 Sqn), of the Scottish Central Commcen who outshone the other Commcens that week.

PROMOTIONS

Before the usual focus on one of the out Squadrons, congratulations must be given to **Maj Liz Campbell** on her promotion and appointment as OC HQ. Other recent officers promotions include **Capt Fiona Dunn, Lt Willie Barron, Lt Brian Gilfether** (all of 61 Sqn), **Lt Janice McKee** (HQ Sqn) and **Capt Anne Sweeney** (52 Sqn).

FOCUS ON 61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIG SQN (V)
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Ron McNaught**
PSAO	**Capt Paddy Henry**
2IC	**Capt Alastair Hall**
OC A Tp	**Capt Fiona Dunn**
OC D Tp	**Lt Brian Gilfether**
OC S Tp	**Lt Willie Barron**
SSM WO2	**WO2 Brian Murray**
PSI SSgt	**SSgt Pete Wilson**

PREPARATION

Sgt Stuart Ferguson our Tech PSI prepares to depart, having spent the last two years (at least) preparing himself for the great leap into the cold world of civilian life while, from time to time, assisting **SSgt Pete Wilson** run the Squadron. One of his chief resettlement aids has been a set of plain clothes always within arm's reach. To compensate for these two years of worry **Sgt Ferguson** is planning to head for employment in the summer climes of Dunfermline or the Near East, no doubt putting to good use all he has learned in the Territorials.

COOL

TAVRA in its wisdom, arranged to have the Squadrons central heating turned off in November and the whole system replaced over the winter months. Well there goes the myth that the Army organisation is better than in civil life.

To rescue the Squadron from its cold Drill Hall, the Training Major arranged to take volunteer elements of the Squadron away to Scarborough STC, in company with some other elements of the Regiment, for a week's trade training. The final three days took the form of a plug-up exercise and both Squadron commcens performed extremely well. **Cpl Helen Anderson**, used her commcen training to warm up for the next two weeks she was spending on a course at Catterick and **Pte Pam Smith**, known to some as 'the cat' since her appearance as the smaller part of a ventriloquist's act on stage with **LCpl Gary Watt**, won a gold commstar for the best commcen.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

24 HOUR FIVE-A-SIDE

We all know the problems of getting money together for the Children's Christmas Party, but ours was solved by **SSgt John Morrison** from HQ Sig Sqn who organised and played in a sponsored 24 Hour Five-a-Side Competition. The sum collected was over £500. A total of 40 players took part, changing six approx every ½ hour. A hard but enjoyable 24 hrs with the Yellow Team scoring 496 goals and the Blue Team 374 goals, but after all that, the winners were the children at the Christmas Party. 'Well done **John**'.

KISSAGRAM

Surprise, Surprise, there was no one more surprised than **Sgt Dave Clarke** from 42 Sig Sqn, when after a small misunderstanding between himself, **SSgt John Morrison** and QTO **Les Gobles, SSgt John Morrison** decided to apologise in a proper way. On Saturday at a Centralised Trade Training Weekend at Alamein TA Centre, Huyton, he paraded all members of the Regiment involved in Trade Training, and called for **Sgt Dave Clarke**. As he arrived in front of the Squad, a man appeared in Top Hat and Tails to read out an apology and give **Sgt Dave Clarke** a special prize, 'A Kissagram' from delicious **Mable.** To his surprise a dainty young lady of 17 stone gave him his Kissagram; now they are all friends again, thanks to **Mable.**

ARU WEEKEND

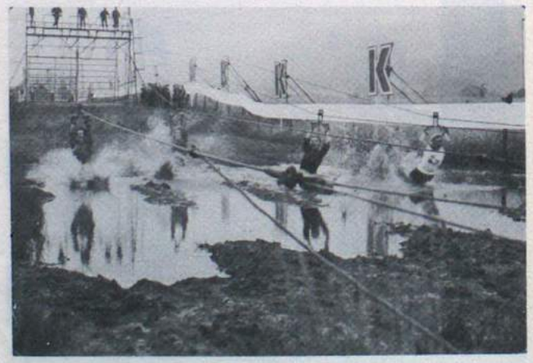
The Regiment's Annual Report on the Unit this year took the form of a Patrol Competition, which involved all members of the Regiment and was carried out on Holcombe Moor Training Area.

The Inspecting Officer, **Brig I. R. D. Shapter**, Commander 11 Sig Bde (V) arrived early on the Saturday morning and was invited by the CO, **Lt Col A. W. de V. Hunt**, to view the various obstacles and stands that made up the competition. There were 14 teams of 10 volunteer officers/soldiers.

The competition started at 0600 hrs on Saturday; the teams had two days to complete all the stands, part of which was the Krypton Factor Course which really made the competition worthwhile. One team of girls did very well finishing sixth. However, the weekend was not without its casualties with **Cpl Gary Fog** from 59 Sig Sqn (V) breaking his ankle, **Pte Dawn Smith WRAC** from 80 Sig Sqn (V) cutting her face and breaking three teeth and two soldiers collapsing with exhaustion.

After all that it was still a successful weekend with 80 Sig Sqn Team finishing first, LAD (REME) from HQ second and HQ Sqn Team third.

Hopefully the Brigadier left with a good impression!



'Down with a splash'
L-R: Lt Susan Mullineux WRAC (80 Sig Sqn (V)), Pte Alison Seaward-Birchall WRAC (80 Sig Sqn (V)), LCpl Jill Crab WRAC (59 Sig Sqn (V)) and Pte Kay Thurling WRAC (80 Sig Sqn (V))

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col G. C. Mitchell TD**
2IC	**Maj P. Sutherland TD**
Trg Maj	**Maj S. G. Falla**
Adjt	**Capt S. J. Long**
Ops Offr	**Maj M. J. Nicholson TD WRAC**
QM	**Maj R. Vasper**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) R. R. Coffill**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 23 November 1984 command of the Regiment changed. **Lt Col Hugh Bonaker**, after two years and six months in command, handed over to **Lt Col Graham Mitchell.** The Regimental messes dined out the CO in traditional style during November. A short report from the WOs' and Sgts' Mess follows:

WOS' AND SGTS' MESS DINING OUT

On Saturday 3 November, the WOs' and Sgts' Mess said farewell to the outgoing Commanding Officer, **Lt Col H. M. A. Bonaker.** The dining out was held at the Regimental Headquarters in Middlesbrough; approx 107 Senior NCOs sat down to the meal, quite an achievement considering that the Regiment is spread from Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, to Leeds and Hull. The meal was prepared to its normal high standard by **SSgt Ron Nelson, Sgts Des Dixon** and **Kenny Johnson** and their supporting staff. Only those lucky enough to have served with the Regiment will realise just how high that standard is. Supporting the cooks were our loyal stewards and stewardesses led by **Cpl Lee** and **Pte Waugh**. The whole dinner was overseen by our Mess Manager **Sgt Bruce Bassett**. It was a splendid meal—all credit to the staff.

After the dinner the drill hall was laid out for a games evening under the watchful eye of **SSgt Kerry** and his entertainment committee. The games continued until about 0300 hrs, when the CO awarded 'The Bonaker Cup' to the winning team consisting of **Sgts 'JC' Riley, Mick Ford** and **Bob Holmes.**

Then **Col Bonaker** was towed out of the TAC sandwiched between the two loves of his life, golf and skiing, on a float conceived and built by **WO2 Dave Sparks** and **WO2 Colin Dadson**. Credits must go also to **WO1 (MTWO) Dave McGurk** for planning all the games and advising the committee and to **WO2 Dick Grainge** the PMC, who lost a lot more of the little hair he had for overseeing and co-ordinating the evening. Finally we wish **Colonel** and **Mrs Bonaker** bon voyage and all the best for the future.

WOs' and Sgts' Mess—Dining Out the CO. Lt Col Hugh Bonaker receives a farewell presentation from WO1 (RSM) Roy Coffill

WOs' and Sgts' Mess—Dining Out CO, Lt Col Hugh Bonaker is 'seen off' the unit lines mounted on a float depicting the 'loves and hates' of his tour

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Captain BILL SCARRATT,
DFC, ATPL(H), AAC(V)
Ex Parachute Regt and Army Air Corps

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

BUSY AUTUMN

After the quiet of the 1984 summer holiday season we have had a busy autumn. We have completed both a Regimental FTX and CPX, a Patrol Competition and centralised trade training weekend.

PATROL COMPETITION

In order to select the two best teams to represent the Regiment in the Western District Patrol Competition, a Regimental Competition was held at Swynnerton in September. Each Squadron produced a team which had to march 12 miles through enemy patrolled territory, deal with a road traffic accident, react to an NBC threat, set up a trip flare, set up a patrol base, conduct a night patrol, cross a difficult assault course and fire on a 30m range. By the time this was completed, exhausted and somewhat blistered patrols arrived at their admin base to eat a competition lunch prepared by their cooks. The evaluation team included the CO, 2IC, Trg Maj, RSM and CO's driver (**Cpl Lester** has good taste!). The overall winners were declared to be 89 Sig Sqn, closely followed by 95 Sig Sqn. In the Western District competition held in November, 89 Sig Sqn came a very creditable 14th out of 22 teams which included stiff competition from TA Infantry Battalion teams .

'What do we do now—Staff?' Pte 'Foxy' Fox tries changing a wheel during the Regimental Patrol Competition

2Lt Chris Fidler giving First Aid to 'victim'

'Light blue touch paper and retire' RSM Geoff Marshall watching one team set up a trip flare

2Lt Philip Hassell, LCpl Stanley Pattenden and Sig 'Geordie' Clark during NBC drills

REGIMENT FTX

As a change from exercising on the hills surrounding Birmingham, we moved south west in October towards Hereford and Leominster. For some Squadrons, this involved long moves from their TA Centres on what turned out to be a cold and wet weekend. Despite some understandable rusty procedures, the weekend exercise went extremely well and, ended on a high note with everything working. This pleased the CO, **Lt Col Mike Louden** who spent many hours on the road visiting all the communications sites.

EXERCISE *ABLE ARCHER*

A handful of lucky people selected themselves to attend this exercise in Belgium, some say to collect their pre-Christmas duty free spirits and wine but **Maj Rollo Rumford** and **Cpl Lester** deny this. Attendance was low, mainly due to the large numbers that volunteered to participate in the more attractive FTX Ex *Lionheart* held in September.

Ex *China Graph* was our first Regimental CPX and turned out to be a resounding success. **SSgt (YofS) Lou Stevens'** long BATCO messages from HICON tried the patience of the RCP watchkeepers especially **Capt Derek McConnell** the new Ops Officer. **Cpl Mike Lort** and **SSgt Stan Adams** provided the charisma and colour to LOCON input that made the exercise so realistic. Two characteristic quotes were on answering the LOCON telephone.

Cpl Lort—'Who do you want—for this is him?'

2Lt Petra Roberts—'Hello—Who am I?'

The CPX weekend coincided with another centralised trade training weekend. This time was different; **SSgt Bob Heazelgrave** the NRPS SSgt from 48 Sig Sqn had borrowed a video recorder and he went around each TA Centre filming activities. Some people showed a natural flair to being filmed whilst others avoided such publicity.

COUNCIL HOUSE DINNER

The Officers' Mess annual Council House dinner at the end of November was a great success and was attended by 120 Officers' Mess Members and Guests. The Corps band played throughout dinner and were much admired by the Lord Mayor and our other guests. We said goodbye to our Regular QM, **Capt Tony Jones**, who has moved down the road to West Midlands TAVRA. Being so close, we are sure to see him frequently.

We also said goodbye to the Adjutant **Capt George Clark** and his wife **Marianne** who have moved to 227 Sig Sqn, and wish them well for the future. We welcome the new Adjutant **Capt Clive Mason** who has moved a mere 100 yards from the Army Personnel Selection Centre.

Congratulations go to **2Lt Philip Hassell** of 89 Sig Sqn on commissioning. He passed his course at RMAS in November.

WITH SOME TREPIDATION

It was with some trepidation that 14 members of 58 Sqn assembled at Chetwynd Airfield to participate in a sponsored parachute jump.

The tale started some months beforehand when volunteers were called for to take part in this 'extramural' activity. Initially, over 20 names were collected. However, as the date for the jump crept steadily nearer, various inventive excuses were made, and it was left to the brave, or rather barmy few, to go into action. The training comprised just six hours of lectures and painful practical sessions. These covered instructions on the parachute itself (confidence building); emergency parachute procedures (confidence destroying); aircraft exit drills, and last but not least, the landing position.

THE CRUNCH

The Saturday morning of the jump dawned hot, bright and windless—perfect parachuting weather. We would not have been allowed to jump if the ground wind speed exceeded 10mph. At the airfield we rehearsed some of the procedures learnt in the lectures especially concentrating on the aircraft exit drill which was practised on a training model.

Eventually, the small plane from which we were to jump arrived, and as it landed the tension began to mount. We had all been warned about the dangers of consuming alcohol prior to a parachute jump, as at altitude it is reabsorbed into the bloodstream causing drunkeness. However, I don't think anyone about to jump at that moment would have refused a double brandy—purely for medicinal purposes! Confidence had not been improved by one of the earlier students who was 'casevac'd' in an ambulance after breaking a leg on landing.

It was decided to let **Cpl Karen Ingle** have the honour of leading the Squadron into action. So with her helmet, parachute harness and reserve 'chute securely fastened (along with combat jacket para flap, just in case of accidents) she clambered into the aircraft with the pilot, instructor and two other Squadron members—**SM 'Sailor' Eccleston** and **PSI SSgt John Hyde**. This combination had the best jumps of the day.

Those of us left on the ground watched the plane gain height. At 2,500 ft over the DZ (Drop Zone to the uninitiated) the engine cut 'She's out on the wing', said **Cpl Robinson** (adding in a low whisper 'I hope she's well insured'). Then there was a loud cheer as a small figure appeared dangling beneath a perfectly rounded canopy.

Speaking from my own experience and judging from thoughts voiced by others who took part, the worst moment was definately that of having to climb out onto the wing. It's at moments like that, when people tend to become very religious. We had all been watching 'The Paras' attentively as they leapt out of the side door of a Hercules—a much less nerve racking experience.

I would also defy anyone to say that they were not absolutely terrified when the slip stream caught them as they came out through that door and then let go of the wing. I am reliably informed by **Sgt Harriman** that **2Lt Jane Hubbard**, instead of shouting out the statutory—'1,000 . . . 2,000 . . . 3,000 . . . 4,000 check canopy', uttered various mild curses on leaving the dubious security of the wing. She was not alone.

The feeling of relief and elation as one looked up and checked a perfect canopy is indescribable. All too soon, however, it was time to think about finding the 250 acres of airfield and to decide how the steering toggles worked. These actually proved very simple to manoeuvre and were amazingly responsive. At 200ft we had been told to adopt the landing position, and the mind buzzed with all the instructions—'feet together, knees bent, lean away from your direction of landing'. Suddenly, THUD . . . and it was all over. After a quick check for any broken bones, it was possible to review all that had happened in the last two breathtaking minutes.

All 14 members survived with just a few bumps and bruises. **Sig Cartwright** managed to make a two pound profit as a challenge had been laid down between himself and the two other members of this drop, **SSgt Lambert** and **Sgt Whalley** as to who could land nearest the orange cross in the centre of the field. **Cpl Barrington-Clark** had a longer walk back to the embarkation point from a nearby ploughed field.

Instructor

Don't be disappointed!

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All Smiles Before

O/Cdt Annette Holland 'After'

An activity which had started off as a worthwhile exercise in aid of charity has now, for some, evolved into a sport as they have completed more jumps. Those who have said 'never again' have at least 'had a go' and will have something to tell their grand-children about. I would recommend that anyone who has the opportunity to jump out of a plane—preferably with a parachute (and one the size of **LCpl Paddy Knowles** would be ideal) to do so. The feeling of freedom is unbelievable.

There are two members of the 'team' who haven't been mentioned. But for **LCpl Knowles** (the other one) and his skilful driving many members of the Squadron would not have been able to participate in the jump. And finally, I extend my own thanks to **LCpl Johnson** who encouraged me to jump. If he can do it, I can do it. There can't be too many people, though, who can claim to have been up in an aeroplane three times, but never landed in one, as **Sgt Whalley** can.

TA—GOD BLESS 'EM

'Your posting is in now', the Chief Clerk cried
'35 Regiment'—I nearly died
What had I done to deserve the TA
'It works two ways' I heard a wag say
Suitcases packed, to Sutton I came
To wield a big stick, to make my name
With so shiny shoes and a brand new cap
Now to put my name firmly on the map.

'They won't accept change', I'm constantly told
'Even you own will must inevitably fold
Under mafia pressure built up over years
Give up now and save yourself tears'
'We don't do it that way', a familiar cry
'You'll do it now', is my firm reply
A battle of wills to be fought to the end
To my own way you'll eventually bend.

When something's done twice in the very same way
It has to be right, it just has to stay
For now it's part of Regimental Custom
My God! How I've ranted, raved and sworn at 'em
With such subtle threats and words of sedition
Battling against Regimental Tradition
For that's what it becomes when three times it occurs
If I can just stop it now I'll have earned my spurs.

A constant parade of these changing faces
From every religion, all creed and races
Come every Tuesday and weekends to train
To practise their skills again and again
To serve their country should it be required
Part-time soldiers, Oh! yes they are hired
Don't ever knock them for they really do try
And on them your freedom may have to rely.

With stupefying keeness, a new trade they learn
All in their own time, and possibly earn
Hard won promotions over all the years
In what for them are only second careers
Constantly having to raise up their sights
As standards go up to much tougher heights
And suffer tongue lashings of cruel PSI's
Who look them all over with critical eyes.

The weekends are planned with meticulous care
Only 30 turn up, full 50 should be there
'It's the holiday season! Of that be aware'
From May to October? I still tear my hair
Frustrated—But oh it's so very worthwhile
For those that are there from the whole rank and file
Are the hard core of the unit, so steady and true
I'll always have time for those such as you.

On men such as these we build our foundation
In the cause of peace to defend our nation
One volunteer is worth 20 pressed men
There's truth in that now and still will be when
We're all called to the colours when a nation has dared
To throw down the gauntlet, see if we're prepared
To fight to the end, backs to the wall
They are in for a shock, we will answer the call.

Patriotism, such an unfashionable word
In these days of strikes, how completely absurd
It may take a war 'fore people will admit
Oh yes I am British and so damned proud of it
But we are quite different, we all know the threat
Training so hard that 'The Challenge' may be met
And that is why I'll never turn aside
From the Regiment I'm with and I'll serve it with pride.

TACHE
(No guesses as to who wrote this!)

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

FOCUS ON 57 (CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Camp 1984, centred on Okehampton for the first time since 1970, proved hectic for the Squadron. **Brig K. H. Olds**, Comd 2 Sig Brigade, had decided to make the exercise more realistic by injecting 'real' incidents in addition to the communications problems. Refugees, saboteurs and distraught relatives decended upon the exercise location, testing our vigilence and patience.

The Squadron soon got used to the daily routine of stand-to and prowler patrols, successfully apprehending several 'spies'. However, it was then that the CO **Lt Col Jean Blackwood** wrote the OC **Maj Norman Harvey**, Traffic Officer **Maj Robin Purkis** and TOT **Maj Fred Ward**, out of the exercise. The squadron lived on under the able command of 2IC **Capt Chris Eskell** and commenced the next phase of camp enriched by the experience.

SUPPORT FROM RNAS

The second week saw the remainder of the Regiment join us. The highlight of which was the arrival of helicopters from RNAS Yeovilton. Whilst our Orange forces helped in the training of the RN pilots and grappled with the problems of roping, the blue force battled with vehicle recovery, night navigation and survival in the field. The

Dinner for Two
Pte Kay Sweet makes the first incision with LCpl Alan Reed in support

elements were not on our side, the wind blew and the rain came and it rained and rained and rained. However, spirits were not dampened and the final patrolling exercise was voted a great success. Our commiserations go to **Cpl Phil Packer** suffering from rope burns and **LCpl Neil Jefferies**, a bump on the head.

Back in camp HGV and trade training produced three new drivers—including two WRAC and many B2 and B3s.

To capture the events for posterity **Capt Matt** (The Video) **Lott** recorded everything that moved, including the BFT. The result should prove good entertainment during the winter months.

REME to the Rescue
SSgt Alan Clemmet, our REME PSI, shows how it should be done

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to **LCpl Neil Jefferies** and **Pte Kim Havvock** who have recently announced their engagement.

WELCOME

Welcome to **2Lts Hughes** and **Roberts** who joined us immediately after camp. We hope that you tour will be a long and happy one.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

ANNUAL CAMP

38 Sig Regt's Annual Camp for 1984 comprised two main parts. The first, consisting of mobilisation and deployment drills followed by a major communications exercise, occupied the whole of the first week. The second started with a short but very refreshing break and long breath, then led into a programme of fitness tests, adventure and military training sessions, military skills competition and the usual informal and formal social events. A familiar pattern but with many new and novel facets.

The first week's major exercise was attended by a scenario-led sequence of events, entirely unexpected by the participants, requiring positive reactions. Each major component of the unit was accompanied by attached officers and warrant officers who provided simulated staff HQ elements and lower control and directing staff inputs. District training teams descended on various locations with scenario situations and, additionally, part of 69 Sqn of our sister unit, 32 Sig Regt (V), provided enemy direct-involvement incidents at each of our locations. The combination of 'real' enemy and a realistic sequence of major and minor events certainly made a red letter event out of this particular *Red Shoes*—so much so that most were sorry to see it end and were very reluctant to move back into a more comfortably accommodated second week at Nesscliffe Camp.

HONOURS TO 64 AND 93 SQUADRONS

In fact, the second week was even more challenging—both physically and mentally. It started with the Hawksworth Tickle Test Trophy competition, with 64 Sqn carrying off the Inter-Squadron honours. There followed two days of adventure and military training sessions which included PT management, demolitions, rally driving, watermanship, combat survival training, grenade handling, orienteering, marksmanship, driver recovery and emergency repairs, infantry training, abseiling, clay pigeon shooting, first aid and NBC.

Yeoman Alan Lingard, calm and poised as always, trying to persuade SSgt Alan Landesborough not to move from the middle of the craft in the watermanship session

Capt Jim Crotty leading his team of LCpl Harrison, Cpl Alan Whittaker, LCpl Rob Atkins, Sgt Jim Batchelor and LCpl Mark Adams triumphantly away from the command task in the Team Mate competition

Cpl Francine Dagnall and Pte Sherri Kershaw attending to their mess duties

The imaginative programme, conceived and executed by **Maj Richard Harrison**, was attended by very many imported experts to whom we were very grateful. Space does not permit the individuals to be named here but special mention must be made of **Maj Bob Barnes** 7LI who manned the combat survival and infantry stands—nicknamed immediately as 'Catweasle' he earned the admiration, respect and no little amusement of us all. There followed our annual military skills competition, Ex *Team Mate*. This two day competition resulted in a clean win for 93 Sqn with the individual honours going to **Capt Roger Davenport** (best overall), **Cpl Rod Bulmer** (best male), **Cpl Christine Bull** (best WRAC) and **Cfn Mark Wills** (best young soldier). We were honoured by many visitors during this last week of camp — most of all by the Brigade Comd—**Brig Keith Olds**, the DWRAC—**Brig Helen Meechie** and, for the very first visit by the Master of Signals to the regiment at camp, **Maj Gen John Badcock**. The last named was an enthusiastic consumer of some of **Maj Bob Barnes'** survival snails! As always, we were especially pleased to welcome our own Honorary Colonel, **Col John Francis.**

Maj Bob Barnes instructs Lt Hazel Solomon's section in culinary survival techniques

The combined HQ and 64 Sqn Rounders team who were placed second in the WRAC Zone 'E' Tournament at Edinburgh (Pts Jane Bullas, Shirley Taylor, Hilary Page, LCpl Peggy Brown, Sgt Janet Orton, Ptes Caroline Dempsey, Beverley Skelly,—*(Front Row)* Ptes Juli Moxon, Jacqueline Skinner, Cpl Kairen Baken, Pte Julie Whitham and Cpl Francine Dagnall)

AWARDS

The Regiment's congratulations are due to the following who received awards at a recent ceremony at Scarborough: **Maj David Wing** (clasp to TD), **Sgt Graham Reynolds** (LSGC medal), **WO2 Peter Bacon MBE** (2nd clasp to his Efficiency Medal), **WO2 Paddy Connors** (1st Clasp to Efficiency Medal), **WO2 Jack Naylor** (Efficiency Medal), **Cpl Ken Bolgere** (Efficiency Medal) and **Cpl Steve Lewis** (Efficiency Medal). At the other end of the service spectrum congratulations are also due to the Best Recruits at recent Regular Army TA recruit courses: **Pte Dawn Welsford** (87 Sqn), **Pte Heather Sims** (photographed here), **Sig Eric MacDonald, Sig Andrew Home** and **Sig Ian Strang** (the last four named all of 46 Sqn)—perhaps in 1996 we might see some of these names in the medal awards.

Sgt Noel Smith at work at 87 Sqn's power complex. (At a ceremony on 12 October '84 he was presented with a £30 Army Department technical award by Comd 2 Sig Bde, Brig Keith Olds, for his suggestion for a modification to the throttle linkage for the 40 KW AC generator)

Pte Heather Sims who received the Best Recruit award at a recent Recruit Course at Guildford
Photograph by courtesy of Leicester Mercury

46 (DERBYSHIRE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

OC	**Maj Terry Lea**
2IC	**Capt Dewi Treharne**
AO	**Capt Cliff Webb**
SSM	**WO2 Joe Bonser**
SQMS	**SSgt Alan Landesborough**
PSI	**SSgt Tony Davies**
PSI	**Sgt Hugh Sullivan**
PSI (Tech)	**Sgt Maurice Hancock**
PSI (Tech)	**Sgt Paul Archibald**
Clerical Officer	**Mrs Betty Smith**

We have decided to highlight one squadron in each *Wire* report and, first in line, here is 46 Squadron. Split between two sites at Derby and Leicester its immediate ancestor was 46th Sig Regt. One of its recent functions was a military and adventure training weekend organised by troops . . .

903 SIGNAL TROOP

OC	**Capt Dave Rigley**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Anne Legge**

The troop staged its weekend training camp in the Wirksworth area of Derbyshire. The main activity centred around map reading practice, and opportunity was also taken to explore the Matlock area including the Heights of Abraham and its caverns, and the Derwent Valley area. A real camp-fire 'smoker' followed in the evening.

875 SIGNAL TROOP

OC	**Capt Peter Smith**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Judy Willott**

875 Troop carried out a practical map reading weekend exercise in 93 Sqn's manor in Lancashire. A clear, crisp, cold day saw the troop moving over different routes from Rivington Moor to Lever Park. Many useful lessons were learnt, particularly by some of our new comrades. The activities were then followed by an equally instructive visit to the bright lights of Blackpool in the evening. Sunday morning provided the requirement freshener in the shape of a brisk, map-read movement to the Gisborne Forest.

876 SIGNAL TROOP

OC	**Lt Mark Cummins**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Bob Warden**

876 Troop spent an interesting weekend in North Wales. The troop stayed at a TA centre in Bangor and spent Saturday walking, hill climbing and mountaineering in Snowdonia. A suitable venue was found for some 'apres ski', or something like that, activities on Saturday evening before returning to Leicester the following day.

808 SIGNAL TROOP

OC	**2Lt Simon Blagden**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt John Dicken**

808 Troop's aim was to do something entirely different from sitting on hilltops and communicating. Directed by **Cpl 'Adi' Pearce** (Ex Controller designate) they set off to Magpie Mine Cottage, part of an old disused lead mine near Monyash in Derbyshire. Divided into four groups the troop was sent roaming over the Derbyshire countryside armed with maps and compasses, and a list of unusual items that had to be collected: an egg, two feathers, a white flower etc etc, within a time limit. After a lunch break abseiling was the next activity. It was staged over the side of the old railway viaduct. Although the 100ft drop looked somewhat daunting, with the aid of a rope and bit of 'bottle' all the members managed to throw themselves over the side several times. A traverse was set up between two high points and the crossing of this concluded the first day's activities. After a night in the haunted cottage the troop ventured underground in an old lead mine renovated by the Peak District Historical Mines Society, members of which also acted as our guides. Skills learnt on the previous day were put to good use, particularly traversing down or across old shafts. Fortunately all returned, including **Sgt Bob Banks** who was 'bricked in' and **SSgt John Dicken** who refused to take his pipe out of his mouth in order that he could continue to follow the glow!

CMHQ SIGNAL TROOP

OC	**Capt Ian Brown**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Carol Tunnicliffe**

Another commitment prevented the troop taking a full part in the weekend's activities. On the Saturday the troop was engaged on a Clansman HF radio exercise in support of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School CCF which also provided excellent communications skills practice for our own members. A similar skills exercise was held on the following day, this time in support of the Elveston Castle Horse Show. Both exercises provided good practice for the troop and also secured good 'PR' in our public eye role.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

A group of members of the Wives' Club raised £350 on a 10 mile sponsored walk for the Save the Children Fund. The cheque was presented to Lady Marjorie Stewart-Harris who accepted for the Fund (pictured are *left to right*) Mrs Vera Whiting, Mrs Mary Mees, Mrs Hilary Fowler, Mrs Anne Frost, Mrs Teresa Marsden, Lady Majorie Stewart-Harris and Miss Toothill

VALE

This photograph was taken on the night that **WO2 F. P. Bacon** completed 36 years continuous service with the TA. It shows him being presented with a bronze statue of 'Jimmy' to mark the occasion and also his retirement from 87 (Nottingham) Squadron and transfer to the East Midlands University Officer Training Unit, Beeston. The presentation, on behalf of all ranks, was made by the OC, **Maj R. Toft TD.**

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

HQ SQUADRON REPORT

Our notes come from HQ Squadron with **Sgt Darryl Leese** our RAPC Sergeant describing his team's experiences on one of our recent training weekends.

EXERCISE *FISHER BANK*

Every year the Regiment holds a competition to test military skills. Teams, varying in numbers from six to ten, were entered from HQ, 1, 2, 3 and 5 squadrons. For 1984 the format of the competition was six stands spread about Stamford Training Area, with one hour being spent at each stand and an hour spent marching to the next stand. The subject at each stand was not known in advance. One of the teams from HQ Squadron was made up of **Sgt Darryl Leese RAPC, Cpl Terry Wells, LCpls Julian Perfect, Suzanne Jackson WRAC, Sig Dave Davies** and **Pte Nicola De la Sierra WRAC**.

TO STAMFORD

After arriving at Stamford on the Friday night, team leaders were given a briefing and then left to organise their teams. Reveille was at 0600 hrs with teams ready to move at 0630 hrs. We were driven to our first check point where we had breakfast under the watchful eye of the DS. After breakfast there was an inspection to ensure we were all carrying the correct kit.

At 0730 hrs we set about getting across the confidence area. Tasks included rope walks, log walks, a scramble net and, at the end, a death slide. We were all pleased to have managed to cross all the obstacles with no refusals.

At 0830 hrs we were ready to march to our next stand happy feeling that we had already covered the potentially difficult area.

The next problem was Section attacks. We were required to flush out a known enemy position and return to our base position. Overall the attack didn't go too badly, but there were quite a few touches missing that would require additional training.

Our next area was relatively relaxing for the team as it involved a map reading written test and required each member to give bearings and grid references on specific points.

And then an extremely relaxing period for the team leader but not for the rest of the team. **Sgt Leese** had supposedly broken his leg in the Jungle and it was left to **Cpl Wells** and the rest of the team to administer first aid, get him onto a stretcher and return to base, via a bottomless ravine, which they managed to do without hazard!

After the next march we found ourselves at the end of the assault course. We were then led to the beginning of the course having each obstacle explained to us as we passed it. We then set about crossing the course in the fastest possible time without losing points for going out of bounds (ie staying in the muddy parts) and stepping on live frogs. We were well pleased with ourselves when we learnt we had the fastest time to date at just under nine minutes.

So we got set for our finale which was to be a river crossing. **LCpl Jackson** took control of the team and was given paddles and various planks of wood, plastic bottles and rope with which to build a raft. Our first attempt managed to seat us all and we floated but after a few

A team from HQ Sqn test their raft for stability! In the water *L-R:* LCpls Jackie Flaherty, Ron Clarke and Pte Jenny Hall. The Section Commander, SSgt Dave Wheeler shows his leadership qualities by keeping well away

WO2 'Tich' Reynolds and Sgt Stan Charles, the enemy on the Section attacks phase talking to the 2IC Maj Mervyn Sharp. The pipe is actually sticking out from the tree!

yards we found it was very sensitive to movement from those on the raft. We tried a different seating plan, but still we lost balance. Finally we managed to build two outriggers to stabilise the craft and we reached the other side of the bank with seconds to spare. With all complete we set off on our final march back to our drop down point where we were collected and returned to the central area.

On Sunday morning all TA personnel were involved in an orienteering competition whilst the male PSI's underwent their annual Combat Fitness Test.

BILLERICAY TOWN SHOW

Although quite a few members of Headquarters Squadron were in Dundee as the back-up/admin for a military exercise, on Saturday 1 September, bright and early, 25 members of HQ and a couple from 1 Sqn, were up, dressed and drawing weapons so that they could leave to get to Billericay in Essex in good time for the town show day procession to start.

The squadron led by **WO2 (SSM) Dave Williams**, dressed in No. 2 or combat dress and carrying SLRs and SMGs, marched through the town and arrived, an hour later, at Sun Corner, the site for the town show. The weapons then became part of the static display for the public.

The site had already been set up by **OCdt Luke, SSgt (FofS) Rob Hunt** and **LCpl Smyth** and two-way communications on teleprinters had been arranged to add interest in the display for the public.

The weather, although it threatened to rain quite a few times, kept fine and everyone enjoyed the day. The public seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and the Squadron enjoyed talking to them about the TA and, 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V), in particular. Hopefully a few recruits to follow, although we never will know the fruits of our labours!

CONGRATULATIONS

HQ Sqn were delighted to hear recently that **SSgt (FofS) Hunt** had been promoted and is now **WO2 (FofS) Hunt**. This rank is rare amongst TA FofS and we are, therefore, especially pleased.

PERMANENT STAFF CHANGES

There has recently been a large turnover in permanent staff. **WO1 (RSM) Ted Fendley, SSgt (FofS) Pete Higson** and **Sgt Jack Kendle** have left us for civilian life and **SSgt (YofS) Chris Aitken** is off to test the delights of the Falklands. We wish them all the best for the future.

New arrivals are **WO1 (RSM) Derek Biggs, SSgt (YofS) Bob Marshall, Sgt Jim Webster** (PSI 1 Sqn), **Sgt Brian Cowling** (PSI 3 Sqn) and **Cpl Taff Dallimore**. To them we extend a hearty welcome and we hope they enjoy their tours with the Regiment.

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

DIFFICULT WEATHER

The 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (Volunteers) arrived in Belgium on Saturday, 8 September to start setting up the communications network for the movement of Troops and vehicles into *Lionheart*. For three days and nights the Ulster men and women worked under all the worst that weather conditions could be. Erecting antennae and digging into woods with torrential rain might be enough to dampen most spirits.

Their wry humour has come through and in a relay station buried on the outskirts of a wood it can be summed up by the posting of a little note by one of the soldiers. If simply says: 'We, the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible, for the ungrateful. We have done so much, with so little, for so long that we are now qualified to do anything with nothing'.

'40th' prepare to board en-route to Ex *Lionheart*

In-flight entertainment, Ex *Style*, 1st issue *Lionheart* News

THE DEFENCE OF 'QUEBEC'

40 (U) Sig Regt's link with Commcen Quebec was in the hands of Charlie Tp, Commanded by **2Lt Kelly**, which is one of the reasons why the Troop got the name 'Kelly's Heroes'.

At this Commcen the Troop had to provide the defence for their own site plus man an observation post and send out patrols.

It was while manning the Op that **OCdt Dykes**, attached to the Regiment from Queen's University OTC, heard movement in the forest to the front of his position. Reporting this to the Detachment, **Sig 'Robbo' Robinson** was sent to assist him. 20 minutes later, with the Commcen command post being blown up, including the Commcen Commander, the Op reported that they had two prisoners. A Patrol, including **OCdt** 'No Mercy' **McKnight**, was then sent to bring the prisoners back to the detachment, this being accomplished without much resistance. They were tied up with cord, between their neck and hands, which on one of the prisoners was too short, nearly leaving us with only one to question.

While they were being questioned, the prisoners were shown to **Pte Hill**, the sole WRAC person on site, giving her quite a shock; luckily we had smelling salts on hand. The QRF were eventually able to take the prisoners away.

EVERYTHING FOR 66 SQUADRON

Ex *Lionheart had everything . . .*

Torrential Rainstorms that blew down masts and swept away pole crossings ('Honest Sir!, they are not ours, they belong to 16 Sig Regt').

The French SAS who were talked about more than seen. However some unfortunate people were found bound and gagged (although it was suggested that this was the work of a phantom pervert).

Funny Foreigners who will remain unidentified but organised such interesting games as 'Let's see how many forsters tins we can get in a 9" × 9".

Ludicrous Locals (of Ballyhackamore that is) who drove around in a newly acquired line laying vehicle greeting all and sundry with a friendly 'G'Day, G'Day, G'Day' (see funny foreigners above)—even the Aussies were shocked.

Editor's Note: After much deliberation, the linemen have now been renamed 'Blair's balloons' in preference to 'Clarke's Commandoes'.

Famous Film Stars that is, those of 'Kelly's Heroes'. Not Clint Eastwood, but **2Lt Robert Kelly** and his merry band who captured some regular paras.

Mighty Moles **Cpl 'Mick the Mole' Gillham** who thinks the order 'Dig Slit Trenches' is a licence to convert the Tielen countryside into a scale model of Watershipdown.

But seriously folks!—the Squadron had a successful exercise—putting into practice all that had been learned on the various 'Lion Cub' preparatory exercises. What's more, everybody enjoyed 'doing their thing' for real on the Continent. (Even if there was no-one to talk to!).

EXERCISE *AUTUMN PLEASURE II*

After the rigours of *Lionheart* the hardest working, best dressed, most cheerful Squadron in the British Army, decided to take R and R in Castle Kennedy. This featured such well known games as:

Miss the boat (by the advance party).

Double book the dinner nights (by the Adjutant).

Stay anaethetised all Friday night and still catch the boat on Saturday morning (by the Squadron Officers; see above).

Editor's Note: **Maj Ian Henderson** was *not* sick on the boat.

Re-administer anaesthetic on Saturday (66 Sqn) (under direction of **WO2 Carol Cameron**).

Try to dance in middle of airfield (most of 66 Sqn but excluding **SSM Loveday**—see above).

Try to find uniform in middle of designated disaster area on Sunday morning (those of the Squadron who could get up).

Start the landrover (elements of MT).

In Memoriam. All persons present managed to gain an insight into how the indigenous population managed to eke out a meagre existence on the barren Scottish Highlands and are much better informed citizens for it.

HQ Sqn Clerks, Happy Band of *Lionheart* Warriors. *Back Row L to R:* Sgt Murray, LCpl Wilson, Ptes Campbell and Wilson and Cpl Flanagan. *Front Row L to R:* Pte Johnston, WO2 Spence and Cpl Johnston

End/Ex Regimental Parade
CO Lt Col Rodney Clare reviews victorious troops!

BELGIAN SECOND WORLD WAR HERO

The most decorated war veteran in Belgium has been meeting his many friends in the 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (Volunteers). **Jef Mooris**, whose mother was British, was a leading resistance fighter in Belgium during the second World War and when British Forces fought inch by inch to Germany, **Jef** showed his British passport and enlisted in the Rifle Brigade.

On a Patrol he was wounded and had to be left by his colleagues. The Germans took him to a field hospital and later when they realised who he was, he was handed over to interrogators.

His horrific memories of crude hospitalisation and amputation of a leg without anaesthetic barely match the even more horrific treatment handed out by his interrogators.

Now, **Jef** who lunches annually with the Belgian Royal family and who has been awarded the MBE looks forward to renewing his friendships with the Regiment. The links were established in 1980 during *Crusader*; they have been reinforced during *Lionheart* and at the Officers' Mess in Olen Camp the men preparing for possible future conflict, chat with a man who has survived past conflict.

'**Jef** is a marvellous man who has become almost an honorary member of this Regiment', said **Capt Joe Mitchell QM(V)** 'We write to each other regularly when at home and always look forward to times like this when we can get together', he added.

Maj Crawford McMahon, presents Jef Mooris Belgian 2nd World War Resistance Hero with a Regimental tie during his visit to 40th on Ex *Lionheart* in Belgium

THE WEST COUNTRY ULSTERMAN

Exeter paper mill worker, **Roy Stevens**, has been packing his kit and setting off for training camps over a long number of years. At first sight he is like thousands of dedicated men and women who volunteer for the Territorial Army. There is a big difference though.

Roy, on re-organisation of Army structure in the late 60s, became a member of the 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (Volunteers) based in Belfast. 'I suppose I could have shouted a bit and maybe been transferred to a Unit based a lot closer to home', he said, 'but when I met the rest of the lads I knew I couldn't find better mates anywhere'.

This has meant thousands of miles of arduous travel for the soft spoken Devonshire man. 'If there is a camp in Scotland then I get a train up on Friday, stay with the lads and leave them on Sunday night to get a train back home'. I suppose some people might says it's a big daft getting trains and boats all the time to be with your mates, but then that is the way it is'.

Unfortunately, *Lionheart* will be **Roy**'s last big exercise. 'Age always brings on retirement', he said, 'but look at it this way, I will have more time maybe to get the boat over to Belfast to be with the lads on big nights at the camp'. And his wife and children? 'I suppose they also think I'm daft but they've got used to it and believe me, I couldn't have found better Comrades anywhere'.

Cpl Roy Stephens the West Country Ulsterman

APPRECIATION

The Commanding Officer 40 (U) Sig Regt (V) received the following messages on return from Ex *Lionheart*.

FROM COMD COMMS BAOR

'Congratulations on the high standard of communications provided for Ex *Full Flow*.'

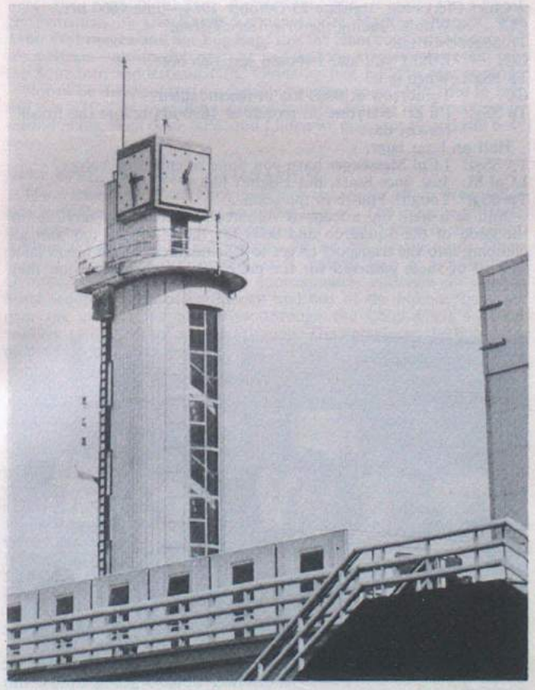
FROM COMD BRSC

'. . . I should like to thank you for participating in Ex *Lionheart* and particularly for your part in *Full Flow*, the BRSC exercise. As you know we rely heavily on the support of our Regular and TA Reinforcing Units, indeed without you we could not carry out our task of supporting 1 (BR) Corps. Ex *Full Flow* has given our plans a most worthwhile test. Obviously there are some improvements and adjustments to be made but I am confident that it would work in war. I was impressed by all that I saw of our Territorial and Regular reinforcing Units. Everyone was alert, cherful and intent on doing a good job. The enthusiasm shown at every level during the exercise pleased me greatly. Well done'.

EXERCISE *TIME ZONES*—**ECHO (PIGEON RE) TROOP STYLE**

Ex *Times and Zones* present plenty of scope for confusion, and 40th working within three time zones, Zulu, Alpha and Bravo, had no shortage of ideas on how to solve the problem. The most popular idea was two or three wrist watches set to the timings and the zone written on the skin of the wrist: sounds ideal, what happens when you have a wash or the watch slips off your wrist? Two breakfasts and no lunch? Not ideal.

Echo (Pigeon RE) Troop Commanded by the Hauptman Von Ostende, **Capt Jimmy Woods**, had the problem cracked in no time at all. The Ostende PMC (10) were located at Port Passenger terminal building which is surmounted by a magnificent clock tower with four clock faces and visible from the PMC provided the answer. Overnight and by means as yet unexplained, two faces of the clock were reading Zulu and two Bravo, much to the confusion of the locals and the satisfaction of the Troop: Problem solved.



Ex *Time-Piece*

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

BECOMING AN IN-PENSIONER

To be eligible for admission as an In-Pensioner, a candidate must be:-

in receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Military Service, or of the Victoria Cross or George Cross Annuity awarded in respect of bravery while serving in the British Army;

of good character;

normally at least 65 years of age: exceptionally, a candidate may be admitted between 55 and 65 if through disability he cannot earn his own living and receives a pension for an Army disability;

able to look after himself—that is, to wash, shave and dress himself, attend for meals in the Great Hall and walk around without assistance;

free from the obligation to support a wife or children;

passed medically fit for admission.

In addition, a man of good character drawing Service Retired Pay who had at least 12 years' full time service in the ranks of the British Army over the age of 18 may be eligible for admission after attaining the age of 65.

In-Pensioners are not allowed to marry, though they may leave the Royal Hospital in order to do so.

When the admission of a Pensioner is approved by the Commissioners he is given a free railway warrant for the journey to London. On admission, he surrenders his service or disability pension in return for free board, lodging, clothing and medical attention. Contributory retirement pensions are retained by the In-Pensioners as well as any other civil pensions or any private means they may have.

In-Pensioners are required to wear the medals to which they are entitled. If on admission an In-Pensioner has lost or no longer has in his possession the medals to which he is entitled, replacements will be obtained for him from the Army Medal Office, and he will be required to pay half the cost of these replacement medals.

In-Pensioners are not permitted to keep or drive a car within the precincts of the Royal Hospital. In-Pensioners are also not permitted to drive a car when in Royal Hospital Uniform or to drive a car with In-Pensioners in Uniform as passengers.

An In-Pensioner may be allowed to leave the Hospital and return to ordinary civilian life and resume the Out-Pension which he ceased to draw when he was admitted; if he leaves within six months of admission, he is liable to be charged for part cost of his uniform. Any man may be discharged by order of the Board for misconduct, when his Out-Pension may, or may not, be restored, either at the former or at some lower rate. Once a pensioner reverts to Out-Pension whether voluntarily or otherwise, he cannot be guaranteed re-admission as an In-Pensioner.

A form of application for admission to In-Pension may be obtained from The Secretary, Room 6, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SL.

News from Squadrons

Northag Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

EXERCISE *ABLE ARCHER*

This was the BIG ONE for us in 1984, but this time it was a little below its normal hustle and bustle due to Ex *Lionheart*. Friday 2 November saw the Squadron lifting, pushing, and cleaning with a will, preparing for deployment on the Saturday. This was to be a rather special occasion, the OC had decided that the Squadron was to practise its ability to move from one location to another. Sunday 4 November at 1930 hrs saw the Squadron dismantle its location and move to its new one at Eben Emael. All went so smoothly that we were located and open for communications by 2130 hrs. The move was deemed to be a resounding success. Thursday 8 November saw the 2IC, **Kapt Gerrit Palm, R. NL Army**, taking the SSM **WO2 Mick Gue** on a recce of the proposed Map Reading exercise route that was to take place in December.

Whilst he was away the remaining SNCOs set up a dining tent and **HFw Ricky Van Ess** (GE) and his erstwhile helpers **Cpl Kenny Phillips** and our extra cooks prepared a meal fit for a Sergeant Major dining out in the field. The 2IC had his instructions from the OC to keep the SSM busy until 2000 hrs thus keeping the dinner as secret as possible. Have you ever tried to keep a SSM busy for one whole day? At one point we were informed that the 2IC was contemplating taking the SSM to the red light district just to pass away some of the time—but all was well in the end—2IC with SSM arrived back at location at 1955 hrs just in time to sit down to their meal. The dinner was superb and the SSM left the location with a good many fond memories to carry him into old age.

Did you know that the cows in Belgium are toilet trained? When we moved into our location at Eben Emael the vehicles were dispersed around the area. All seemed well until **Sgt Ronnie Coosemans** returned to the Admin area to inform us that his vehicle had been sited in the local cows toilet!

Implementation of the New Cooking Trailer
HFw Ricky Van Ess is looking quite pleased with himself but don't let that fool you—he saw the camera and sent the cooks for a NAAFI break

Exercise *Able Archer 1985*
NASRS Command Post after a night attack—I'm sure someone will authorise the repairs as Exercise damage! (This is the entrance to the Eben Emael underground complex from World War 2)

NORTHAG ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Chief Clerks log, stardate 23 October 1984—time 1600 hrs.

CC: Who's running the orienteering team?
Tp SSgt: Not me!
CC: I think you and I should sort this out!
Tp SSgt: When is it?
CC: Tomorrow at 0800 hrs in Rheindahlen!
Tp SSgt: I'll get everyone on parade at 1630 hrs before the finish for the day.

Half an hour later:

Tp SSgt: **LCpl Messenger** have you done orienteering before?
LCpl M: Just once Staff, but I didn't like it!
Tp SSgt: Tough! You're in the team.

And so it went on, a team of volunteers offered their services for the good of the Squadron and 0600 hrs the following day saw all climbing into the transport to get to Rheindahlen. Some hours later saw all of them gathered for the prizegiving and this is what they heard.

NORTHAG Orienteering Championship—Winners
L-R: Sgt Mick Hague, SLD Tommy Janssen, LCpl Roy Messenger, Sig Dave Whincup, SSgt Paul Smith (not German), Sgt John Standen, Sig Bob Blythe and Maj Mike Anderson

RSM NORTHAG: 'And the winners of this year's event—and obviously all the time they devoted to their training has paid off—NORTHAG Air Support Radio Squadron!

That final statement by **RSM Moffatt** 1PWO was the culmination of a tremendous effort by the Squadron team. Four teams—**Maj Mike Anderson/Sgt John Standen, SSgt Paul Smith/LCpl Roy Messenger, Sgt Mick Hague/Sig Dave Whincup** and **SLD Tommy Janssen/Sig Bob Blyth**—all finished the course completely exhausted, having given their all—and the end result saw the team Captain—**Maj Mike Anderson** collecting the trophy on behalf of the Squadron—that's another competition for the diary for next year.

JOC FUN RUN

November was the month for the JOC Fun Run to be held on top of the St Peitersberg Hills just outside of Maastricht. The international PTI **Cpl Dave Wilkinson RAF** came to our Squadron Orderly Room to tell the SSM that he had 50 medals to commemorate the event. The SSM told him that we didn't have that many runners, and that we would only be able to turn out about 30. 'What?!' said the incredulous PTI. The 50 was for all the runners from every part of JOC? and he hadn't expected ASRS to turn out so many runners. The run was for just 5Km but it was a good sight to see so many people appear from their mushroom compartments in the caves, and I'm sure they enjoyed the day out too.

JOC CUP

The final event of the season was the Swimming competition held in the pool at Maastricht on Friday 30 November. The Squadron team were the winners and a tremendous one it was too. Great performances by **OG Ralph Emmenet, Gef Markos Stuttgen, Kpl Arno Verbruggen** and **Sgt Yog Bahr** saw the team comfortably win the competition—although it must be said that the Medley relay event saw the Squadron win it from NPC Glons by just 1/300th of a second.

Not to be disappointed by finishing second to us, NPC did in fact win the JOC Cup overall by quite a margin, leaving the Squadron in second place. Well done NPC and I hope we give you a good run next year.

NEW STYLE 'BUBBLE' GYMNASIUM

The weekend of 17/18 November saw the whole of our area under attack by the worst storms in recorded history. The damage to trees, property and personnel was something one doesn't want to see again. Ambiorix Kasserne was particularly singled out by the Gods—they decided to change our present style bubble into a 'convertible' Gymnasium. On that evening at approximately midnight the bubble burst sending pieces of equipment and bits of the bubble flying all over the camp. One piece flew through the Chief Clerk's office window giving instant air conditioning. The damage to the bubble is in the region of one and a quarter million francs.

NORTHAG CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

This championship was won by ASRS last year so it was beholden upon us to attempt to retain the cup. Having said that, it was going to be a good team that would take it from us. Wednesday 28 November saw the team at the start line outside Fransisca Restaurant in Rheindahlen. Sadly they were not able to field its best runners, but those who were selected gave their all, and a lot of personal best times were produced. Unfortunately this was not enough—the Netherlands Sig Sqn pipped us for the cup. Last year the Netherlands Sig Sqn said they would give us a better run this year, and so they did—well done! I'm sure we will do better next year. Notable performances were from **Sgt John Standen, Sgt Mick Hague, LCpl Roy Emblen** and **SSgt Paul Smith.**

SPECIAL MENTION FOR THIS MONTH

We intend to mention in this space every issue one member of the Squadron who has never had his or her name in *The Wire*—the name this month is: **Sig Geordie Embleton!**

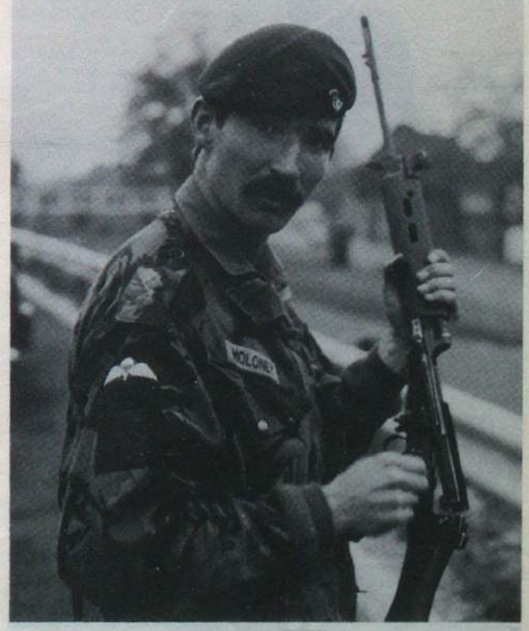
5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(205 Sig Sqn)
Aldershot

ALPHA TROOP

SSgt De La Haye continued to relive and remind us all about his role as a 'Pathfinder' (military Free Fall Insertion) on Ex *Vite Chute* where he acted 'worry' keeping in the HF link from the DZ to the mounting base and in the process not getting any sleep. We all have to admit he has aged, he is now totally grey. Another **De La Haye** war-story next time.

Welcome back to **LCpl 'Fats' Ffitch** who now resembles an overgrown pear after his sea-going days on HMS *Uganda*. Hello to **Sig Joe Walker** and **Sig 'PTI' Jones** both of whom are new out of the box. **Sig Jones** is trying to emulate **'Tash' Walker** of old, in the mouth at least, and is to try 'P' Company soonest, with a career as a PTI, as his aim. We also gain two posted sideways, **Sgt 'Strings' Stringer** (A Troop, Corporal) and **Cpl 'CB' Brown** who joins us from B Troop. Goodbye and good luck to **Sig Lloyd** who has gone to Berlin and to **Sig** (now Mr) **Culpan** who has plans to earn millions as a civilian!

Lt John (Stumpy) Lugg who has just left us, after his attachment to Alpha Troop, with his wings and beret. He can't get over his promotion from Troop mascot to Para and promised to 'show the boys' on his TCC at Blandford how hard he is . . . poser! **2Lt** (now **Lt) Andy Allman** is still with the Troop being watched and monitored by **Lt Knobel. Andy** says he will have another bash at pre-para and 'P' Company in January. He also wants to 'pose' on his TCC.

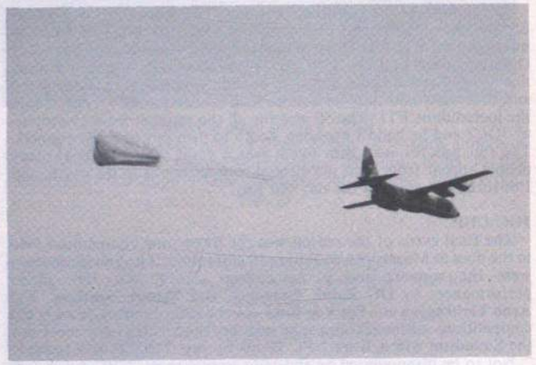


Lt Des Moloney 'QM Sir, I think it's broken'

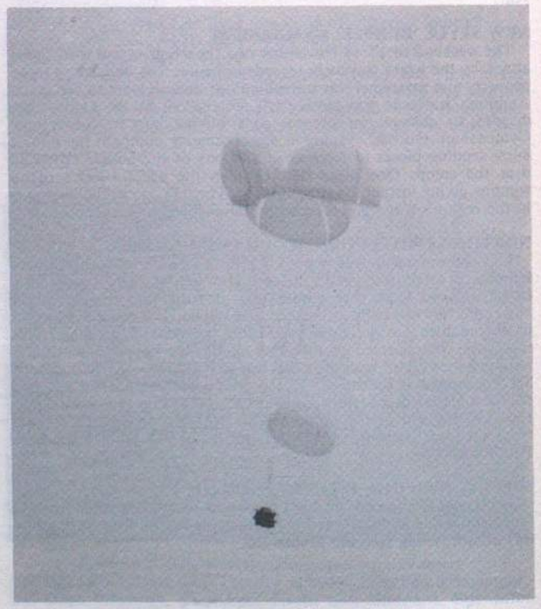
Cpl Mick Fleming 'Now where's my kit gone?'

LCpl Jack Hawkins 'Of course I know how it's done!'

Out come the Troops



The Heavy Drop



All Safe Now

BRAVO TROOP

The troop has been busy this quarter with Ex *Lionheart* being the main event. Having returned to barracks only 10 days earlier the Troop was plunged into a series of JOCOMEX commitments working to the Navy.

We welcome the following to the Troop: **Cpl Bernie Bernstein** from TACP, **LCpl Rod Cowan** from 566 RLD, **LCpl Dave Wood** from 7 Sig Regt, **Sig Mark Ward** from the factory and **Sig Benny Barrett** from 21 Sig Regt. Back from the Falklands we welcome **Sig Gaz Fivash** and good luck to **Sig Paddy Maxwell** who takes his place. The only member of the troop to have a dabble at 'P' Company for this quarter was **Sig 'Eye of the Tiger' Payne**. We wish him a 'happy flagstaff'. **2Lt Tim Cooper** and **Sgt Steve Clarke QGM** successfully passed their 'P' Company — well done! Congratulations to **Sgt Steve Clarke** on the announcement of a Bar to his QGM.

CHARLIE TROOP

Well Ex *Lionheart* was a great success as we always knew it would be. The score for Charlie Troop was 1 Company of German TA, 2 Companies of 2LI and 1 Ferret. This was all done with our bare hands and schermulies fired from the hip. There have been many goings since our return and unfortunately not so many comings: **Sgt (Tpr) Wilson** is on his Jungle Warfare Course in Brunei—keep the postcards coming.. **Cpl 'Taff' Leyman** is still on Ex *Long Look*—what's happened to the postcards? **Cpl 'Taff' George** is on his EPC, **Cpl Bob Banner** has just returned from his HALO course—this is where the action is! **Cpl 'Gaz' Cripps** and **LCpl 'Ma' Reynolds** are still on their A1.

We must also say goodbye to **LCpl 'Mat' Philbrick** who has just been posted to 21 Sig Regt. Don't worry, we will speak to you if you come back on Airborne Forces Day.

Cpl Hodgson has just been posted to 5 Div (ie Civ Div) to become a policeman. (I wonder if they will let him wear his wings?).

LCpl Jack Hawkins has been posted to 614 TACP just along the block from us and **Sig 'Rev' Revera** to 566 Para RLD.

The only coming we have had is **Sig Steve McNally** who takes up his new job as quarter of the 'Tom Force' of C Tp.

565 RLD

565 have been busy training with 2 Para for the forthcoming tour of NI. Congratulations to **Cpl Border** on his recent promotion plus a sad farewell to **Sgt Pickwick** who has gone to join 30 Sig Regt. The new line up is **Cpls 'Ginge' Border, Dave Cumming, LCpls Andy Dawson, Charlie Chalcraft, Sig 'Chesh' Cheshire, John Morris, Steve Hinton** with **Sgt Hancock** and **Sig Redman** due to arrive shortly to complete the team.

TM TROOP

Since Ex *Lionheart* the Troop has been busy again. We are now in the middle of 2nd line inspections with the added commitments of a couple of military competitions. The first being the Commanders Cup Competition held in the Tidworth/Bulford area. With good contributions from **Sgt Roger Taylor** and **Cpl Mick Fleming** from the Troop, the squadron won the Competition, returning victoriously with the Cup. The second competition is that of the Lanyard Trophy. The Troop will be represented, in this squadron effort, by **SSgt Ben Grossmith, Sgt Roger Taylor, Cpls Bob Elliott** and **Charlie Farrant**.

Congratulations to **Cpl Bob Elliott** and **Sandra** who were married recently and who now play host and hostess to the remaining 'singles' in the Troop on Sundays. **Bob** has also taken his T1 Entrance exam and expects his results by the end of 1984.

Congratulations to **Cpl George Murray** on passing his 'P' Company and who is now waiting for the 'jumps' course. He now makes our para-trained techs out number the non-para trained techs. By the end of next summer we hope to make it 100% Red!

We say farewell to **WO1 (FofS) Ken Underwood** who is already working for RACAL. We will certainly miss his cold-spray fault-finding techniques. Also leaving us is **Cpl Colin Pullen** who goes to 14 Sig Regt in the New Year. We wish them both every success. We welcome the new Foreman, **WO1 Dave Jackson** from Cyprus and are glad to learn that he is already para-trained.

COMMANDER'S CUP

The Commander's Cup was held at Bulford starting in Ward Barracks home of 249 Sig Sqn. The competition consisted of a swimming race, a line laying race, assault-course, five mile speed march with map reading, an SLR shoot and a written general military knowledge test. Due to Ex *Lionheart* the Squadron team did not have time to train together and had to rely on previous military training plus a good portion of enthusiasm. The team consisted of **Lt Moloney, Sgt Taylor, Cpls 'Nidge' Barnett, Mick Fleming, LCpls 'Jack' Hawkins, 'Chalky' Lang, 'Taff' Rowlands, 'Taff' Williams, Sig 'Rev' Revera, 'Scouse' Marsh** and **Mark Mogre**. Good results were recorded in all events except swimming and the written knowledge test. It wasn't so much the knowledge as the writing that was the problem. As for swimming well (. . . we are Airborne not amphibious).

Very good results were recorded in the March and Shoot. The result in the marching gave us the edge over 19 Bde Sig Sqn to win the competition, which we must admit came as a pleasant surprise. Overall a most enjoyable day.

SHQ TROOP

Despite what the rest of the squadron may think, SHQ continues to fight the 'paper war' on their behalf. The Chief Clerk, **SSgt Jim** (I'm starving) **Fowler**, continues to get thinner as he runs more and more, thereby cutting time spent in his office. The Orderly Room Cpl, **Bill McKenna** continues to look busy should anyone of any importance come into the office. The rest of the time he has his nose in his coffee cup and reads the Beano. **LCpl 'Ginge' Corbett**, (I'm the only one who goes on exercise), has finally won the Conker Competition, by a short nose. He obviously stuck it out a bit for the last time, but it should be out of the sling soon. **Sig Andy Butterworth** has found out that he is allergic to wine, after falling over, having consumed six bottles. (It's a good job they were only miniatures!) What with **Sgt Mitch Pegg**, the pay Sergeant, crying over the ups and downs of 'Pompey' football and **Sgt Alan Gay**, in the Training Wing, (who's got the key?) life is kept humorous, if nothing else. Congratulations to **Sgt Alan Gay** on his MID.

WO1 (RSM) Ian Campbell keeps the Troop on its toes, but what with the Lanyard Trophy, guards and MC at Unit Boxing, he doesn't have a lot of time.

We welcome **Capt Stan Young**, (our not so young, newish second in command), and say a fond farewell to **Capt Peter Day**, who is away trying to find Dr Livingstone, I presume. The only one to appear to have got it right is our Admin Officer **Capt Vic** (you know where I'll be at the weekend) **Zimmer**, calm and unruffled, one could say he allows it all to drift by him. But he has promised that he will have a decent conker next year, to challenge **LCpl Gine Corbett** 'elevener'.

The Troop said farewell to **Sig 'Del Boy' Delnevo**, who has left to open a restaurant. Those who know him, send names for a free meal. Good luck, **'Del'**, to you and your wife. **Sig Eddie Williams** continues to give sterling service in the Sqn HQ, and always a smile on his face. We think you are really laughing at all of us, **Eddie**, but keep up the good work.

BOXING

On Wednesday 21 November 1984, the Squadron boxed against 24 Fd Sqn RE, from Chattenden, in the District Finals of the UKLF Minor Units Novice Grade 3 Inter Team Championships. The Squadron won every bout and the team, comprising of:

Featherweight	**Sig Delaney**
Lightweight	**Pte Johnstone**
Lightwelter	**Sig Fearn**
Lightmiddle	**Sig Revera**
Middleweight	**LCpl Williams**
Lightheavy	**Sig Pruton**
Welterweight	**Sig Jackson**

are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and courage.

The Squadron boxes against either 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE or 19 Fd Amb in the UKLF Finals. We wish them luck.

Winners SE Dist Novice Grade 3 Inter-Team Unit Boxing
L-R: Sig 'Jacko' Jackson, Sig Andy Prutton, LCpl 'Taff' Williams, Sig 'Revs' Revera, 'Scouse' Delaney, Pte John Johnson, Sig 'Figgy' Fearn

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
(209 Sig Sqn)
Colchester

EXERCISE *LIONHEART*

Food!—Without doubt first prize for the great success of the exercise should go to the individual who decided that the main aim of *Full Flow* was to make us all fatter soldiers. In particular the L of C who provided a meal at every stop. Some keener soldiers, determined to keep the waistline down, took to running alongside the convoy to keep fit but were then left with long periods of waiting for their own packets to catch up! On the comms side Ex *Lionheart* was predictably slow moving and long periods of inactivity were enlivened only by the persistent attempts of Abrams MBTs to reduce 1Km lays of Lt Wt Quad to 1 metre lengths. The Squadron however performed admirably, with their usual sense of humour and even produced a couple of heroes, **Cpl 'Woody Allen' Halfpenny ACC** who challenged an M1 tank with a tin of carrots and **Maj (QM) John Richardson** and his men whose valiant efforts in the face of great adversity may well have saved the Western World as we know it. With great attention being paid by all to bridge crossings our morale was raised to a new high by demise of a cavalry CO into a deep dirty ditch just outside the Ops Cell.

Maj (QM) John Richardson discusses with WO1 (MTO) Angus Paterson and Sgt Dougie Ellis the training that enabled him to 'take out' an M113 and Bradley, armed only with a pistol

LCpl Frank Takacs RCT providing safety cover for the attempted break out from Fremington Camp by MT Troop during Ex *Panthers Trail*

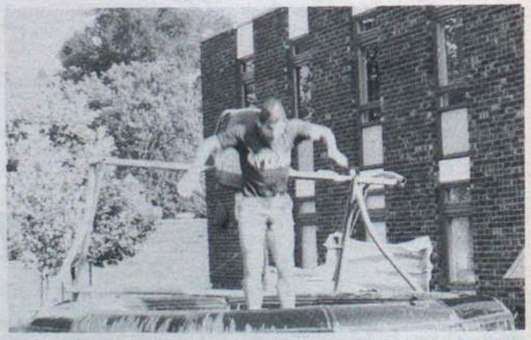
COMMANDER'S CUP

Once again the Squadron entered a team for the annual 1 Sig Gp Comd's Cup Competition. The intrepid warriors were: **Lt Andy Bristow, Sgt Tim Wynn, Cpl Ian Wylie, LCpls Paul Harby, Chris Drew, Dick Blacklock, Sig Sandy Blair, Ian Lines, Pete O'Brien, Gary Thomson and Sig Jim Tierney.**

After a valiant effort the Squadron team finished with equal points and an equal number of first places with the other joint leaders 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, the trophy eventually being awarded for the fastest march time. Watch out 5 Bde—next year!

ADVENTURE TRAINING

The annual adventure training camp for the Squadron was masterminded and controlled from a base at Fremington Training Camp in Devon. All ranks were introduced to a variety of activities including rock climbing, caveing, canoeing and walking. Despite the poor weather conditions a valuable and interesting time was had by all. Worthy of note was the 'adventure driving' expedition—led by **2Lt Jamie Compston**, the underwater canoe surfing pioneered by **WO2 (FofS) Graham Atkinson** and the great chicken massacre by **Sig 'Butcher' Yates.**



RSM Pat Gallagher (officially on leave) returns with a splash

GENERAL

The Squadron wishes to record a sad farewell to the OC, **Maj Derek Hadden.** We wish him all the best in future postings and look forward to seeing him if he is ever in Colchester.

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

THE MANAGEMENT

'What about the workers?' was the cry upon reading our last published Wire notes. Whilst it is impossible to list everyone in the Squadron by name, perhaps it is only fair to mention the other two stalwarts of the Squadron who were not listed last time, namely **SSgts Dave Letts** and **John Keohane**, both of whom cover too many jobs to mention in this month's issue, (or so they say).

Two major changes in the management which have occurred since July 1984 are the departure of **SSgt (FofS) Roy Wilson** and his wife **Trudi** who move on promotion to Cyprus, and the departure of **WO1 (YofS) George Stubbings** and his wife **Gill** who leave us for UK. To both we say congratulations, goodbye and good luck.

We welcome **WO2 (YofS) Brian Lawrence** and **SSgt (FofS) Steve Cadywould** and their families who come to fill the gaps.

MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

Quite apart from carrying out its own role of providing communications for Headquarters AFCENT, MCS has played a big part in assisting other elements of the Central Region Signal Group during last year. Most of our technicians have served in various parts of Holland, Germany, Belgium and France when on loan to other TCF's or workshops, and have been instrumental in the successful installation and trials of various types of NATO equipment for other units. The linemen in the unit under the leadership of **Sgt John Rose** have also served far and wide installing cables and frames, rewiring, and working on an airfield ring cable as well as managing to keep our fleet of ancient vehicles on the road. (Well, most of the time anyway!).

Sgt Jeff Smith's operators have also been filling in the time between exercises by helping out in various agencies around AFCENT where manpower shortages occur.

Needless to say, none of this could be achieved without the steadfast work of our SHQ and support Troop who somehow manage to fight off the 'paper shufflers' and allow the wheels to keep turning.

All in all 1984 has been a good year for the Squadron and one of which we should be proud.

BRITISH OPEN DAY

The British Sponsored Garden Fête took place at Tapijn Kaserne, Maastricht on Saturday 6 October, 1984. **WO2 (SSM) Neil Brown** was given the task of organising the event and even managed to have the perfect British weather delivered for the day!

The early morning 'work parties' arrived on the scene only to be dragged away by a red faced **Sgt Brian Thompson** who needed assistance in fitting a 'Noddy Train' shell designed for a short wheel based Rover onto our long wheel based vehicle! Eventually the 'quart' was fitted into the 'pint pot' and, although the tender was somewhat unlikely looking, the kids still managed to enjoy riding in it. Despite the atrocious weather conditions, the side shows and miles of bunting coupled with some street market selling techniques, soon got the proceedings going along in fine spirit.

Sgt Jeff Smith could be seen rubbing his hands together as he sat behind his cashbox watching with glee the soakings being handed out to various Squadron personalities as they took their turn in the 'celebrity shy'. The culmination was when **Maj Gale**, the OC, faced a ten-man firing squad suitably drilled by **WO1 (RSM) John Woolley**.

Sgt Derek Pocock, who had had us worried all week as he wandered around camp throwing bits of plastic and string up in the air and then critically announcing the result achieved, managed to reassure us of his sanity once his side show was set up and working. Whether anybody did actually land a parachute of supplies onto the raft that day is doubtful. After all there was a Force 9 gale blowing.

Capt Paul Holden tried his hand at 'Welly Tossing', but after very nearly decapitating **Holden Junior** with his first attempt, was then lead away by his wife **Sue** to try his luck at some of the less technically tasking stalls.

Sgt Bob Collin our 'Mr Fixit' from the REME won the moustache growing competition after a sudden death play off against **Cpl Terry Carter**. Within seconds the OC outbid all comers for the privilege of shaving off the prize exhibit. This privilege he then bestowed on the SSAFA Sister, who lost courage after only half completing the job and left **Bob** with 50% of a fine set of whiskers.

The day's events climaxed with a Chariot Race. **WO1 (RSM) John Woolley** suitably attired in Roman style helmet and a yellow and black jump suite (!) collected the prize on behalf of his team for the best chariot and then got off to a flying start as **SSgt Martin Richards** dropped the flag to get the race under way. The RSM's team was however unable to sustain the effort and at the final bend it was the Alpha Troop chariot piloted by **Cpl Mick Legg** that was leading and looked an easy winner. That was until they were ambushed by the dreaded **Pocock** and his gang. With only 25 metres to go to the finish the Alpha Troop entry disintegrated leaving the outsiders Bravo Troop to coast over the line as winners.

All things considered, the effort and hard work proved worth while as throughout the day a considerable amount of money was raised for charity.

TAPIJN SPORTS WEEK

Held annually, the Tapijn Sports Week is contested between Troops resident within Tapijn Kaserne, which includes American, Dutch, Belgian, German and British soldiers. Nearly all the Troops are of mixed Nationality and it leads to some interesting situations when a German plays softball and an American plays soccer.

Alpha Troop, last year's winners, again fielded a strong team and once more won the competition outright. They were winners in the soccer, three legged race (!), basketball, badminton and horse shoe tossing.

However a mention must be made of the National Troop, fielded by 227. They only had a team of seven and being all British, had no expertise in softball and basketball; however they still managed to win three trophies. **Capt Ted Butterworth**, the 2IC, doing his **Peter Shilton** in goal for the soccer, and the SSM, **Neil Brown** (fleet of foot) in the cricket, gained a lot of respect from the other nations for their gutsy performance.

THE SERGEANTS' MESS

October and November 1984 were busy months within the Mess keeping the PEC **SSgt Martin Richards** and his committee on the go. At a Ladies Dinner Night the Mess said farewell to **WO1 George Stubbings** and his wife **Gill** after completing 22 years service with the Corps. They left us to finish off their last few months in the Army at Cambridge, and we wish them all the very best in the future.

WO1 (YofS) George Stubbings presenting a decanter to the Sgts' Mess. WO1 (RSM) John Woolley receives it, and WO1 (FofS) Alan Hall gets ready to catch it

On the same evening the Mess dined out the Supervising Officer **Capt Ted Butterworth** and his wife **Enid**. Not only has the Supervising Officer kept the Mess on the straight and narrow, he has contributed considerably to keeping up the bar profit. We wish you well in your new posting to 33 Sig Regt (V).

Capt Ted Butterworth displaying the Sgts' Mess idea of what should be worn by all good officers; a light blue kipper tie signed by all members of the Mess

Comd Comms (BAOR) **Maj Gen Yeoman** visited the Mess during September 1984 and over a curry lunch and a glass or two of the local 'brew' managed to meet and speak to the majority of Mess Members. The General left us in good spirits and promised to return for a longer visit in the near future.

Comd Comms outstares WO2 Lou Hawarden RE during lunch in the Sgts' Mess. Others avert their eyes

Comd Comms addresses himself to Hauptmann Krall (OC A Tp) whilst Cpl Legg, Su Mende and OC look on

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) Bulford Camp

SQUADRON WELCOMES

The Squadron is going through quite a reshuffle at the moment, so we'll start by welcoming some of the new arrivals. Firstly, **Lt Frazer Grant**, who has just arrived from the Military College, Shrivenham, also to **Lt Mike Wise**, who has joined the Squadron after six months in sunny Belize. We would also like to welcome **Yeoman of Signals Charlie** (if you do that again, I'll be sorry) **Rodgers**, who has arrived from 22 Sig Regt, **Sgt Ivan** (No, I'm not KGB') **Shields**, who has just arrived from 1 Inf Bde and **SSgt Dave Beattie** who is exchanging his sea legs for ski legs.

SQUADRON FAREWELLS

With the arrival of two incoming Troop Commanders, we say farewell to two outgoing Troop Commanders, namely, **Lt Graham** 'I disagree' **Norris** (who is leaving the army), and **Lt Peter** (the Doc) **Holiday**, who is going to the Apprentices' College, Harrogate. We also say farewell to **Yeoman of Signals Mick Altham**, also joining the distant life of 'civvy street', and **Sgt Jameson**, who has gone to join 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. **SSgt Max Williams BEM** who moves to UOTC Cardiff, with much deserved promotion, to WO2. We wish those departing all the best for the future, and good luck in their new vocations or units.

LEADERSHIP CADRE

Once again the OC and SSM plotted their evil tasks for the pleasure of the Squadron Leadership Cadre. As per the norm, the week was packed with physical and mental challenges with a view to finding our 'Born Leaders', ha!

The first day was nice and hot, ideal for the BFT, on day three it rained, the day of the CFT, weather to order. The command tasks which the OC SSM **SSgt (YofS) Wykes** and **SSgt Williams** planned (plotted) for the course were not only mentally and physically demanding but they also produced a fair amount of comedy. The star performers being **Sig 'H' Higgins** the barrel walker and **Sig 'JJ' Johnston** who spent most of his time falling on his back.

When it came to the team task, the course showed the DS that whatever was put in their path, they could overcome it. The only casualty was **Sig Marshall**'s combat jacket which was swallowed up by one of the many swamps the course had to cross.

The final touch to the Cadre was a drill parade with **Col Marples**, Comd 1 Signal Group, as the inspecting officer. After watching a display of continuation drill he presented the trophy for 'The Most Improved Student'. The award went to **Sig (now LCpl) Banks.**

ATHLETICS DAY

It was a warm Wednesday morning when 249 Sig Sqn turned out for their annual athletics meeting. With almost 100% of the Squadron participating, the Bulford Stadium was packed to the brim. The track and field events were run in heats, with points allocated to competitors achieving either an A, B or C standard. In the track events, A, being the fastest time, received three points and B and C gained two and one point respectively, being slower times. Likewise in the field events the A standard was the longest or highest jump, or the farthest throw. The highest standard was based on the army qualifying times, heights and distances, and considering this, we had some excellent results within the Squadron. **Sig Les Crawford** produced some outstanding results in the track events, as did **LCpl Johnny Hamer, Sig Andy Hope, Nige Back** and **LCpl Mick Milne**.

It was a close competition, with each of the three troops giving their all. At the end of the day, however, the individual averages for each troop were as follows:

First	Mike and Admin Troop	6.04 points
Second	Support Troop	6.04 points
Third	Main Troop	5.04 points

The best individual scores were:

Cpl Mick Milne	16 points
Sig Les Crawford	16 points

On the whole, an enjoyable and energetic day was had by all.

KIWI COMPETITION

Having barely recovered from the athletics meeting the day before, the Squadron plunged straight into its Summer Biathlon, the Kiwi Trophy Competition. The course was somewhat longer this year and the total distance was about 15 miles. There was a break at the 10 mile point to fire 20 rounds from the 200m firing point, before completing the last five miles. It was a gruelling course over and around Bulford Down, with appalling weather conditions thrown in.

The competition started at 0815 hrs with four competitors on their way. Every five minutes thereafter a further four competitors left, until all 27 groups had gone. The staggered start meant that there were no bottlenecks at check points, or on the range. Just as during the athletics day, there was no shortage of effort and **Sig 'Dougie' Eaglesham** completed the entire course in a phenominal 1 hr 57 mins 26 secs. He did however incur 18.4 penalty points, which took his final time down to 2 hrs 16 mins 06 secs—but it must be remembered that the clock didn't stop for the period spent on the range shooting. The final results were:

First	(Awarded Kiwi Trophy) **Sig Eaglesham**	2 hrs 16 mins 06 secs
Second	(Awarded Kiwi Tankard) **Sig Ashton**	2 hrs 23 mins 50 secs
Third	(Awarded Kiwi Tankard) **Sig Johnston** (483)	2 hrs 31 mins 23 secs

Capt J. A. B. Lewis OBE Royal New Zealand Navy presented the trophies for both the athletics day and the Kiwi Biathlon.

EXERCISE *BOLD GANNET* 1984

The view of a newly commissioned YO.

Friday 9 September 1984 saw over 60 vehicles from the Squadron and assorted other units formed up ready to move to Colchester en route to Denmark and Ex *Bold Gannet*. With **Lt 'Doc' Holliday** leading, the move started well and everybody duly arrived, refuelled, ate and bedded down in Colchester Barracks. However, next morning it was clear that things would not be plain sailing when it was learnt that the ship which was to take our vehicles was strike bound in Rotterdam, courtesy of British dockers. Alternative transport was found in the form of an LSL, and the Squadron boarded the *Dana Anglia*, leaving our vehicles in Harwich docks, to be ferried across later.

NEVER AGAIN

It was very plain that by travelling in such a ship, amply stocked with Danish blondes and beer, that we were going to enjoy ourselves. Indeed **Sig** (I'm not really drunk) **Higgins** was discovered inspecting the radar from the top of the mast and after being coaxed down from his perch, decided that the top of the funnel was a safer vantage point. Hence the squadron arrived in Esjberg in good spirits, where the 'hurry up and wait' syndrome continued as we waited for our vehicles to arrive. On Monday the LSL arrived and we collected our vehicles accompanied by four very green faced members of the Squadron who swore never to travel in a floating garage again!

THE ROLE

The Squadron's role in the exercise was to provide communications and control for the Umpire Organisation, so after arriving at our deployment locations, we set about establishing the area of communications and testing radio paths. Once communications were established and the exercise phase begun, there was relatively little to do for those based in Rinstead or Skalstrup. There was thus much time for R + R and contact with the 'indigenous population' who were found to be very friendly and obliging. Most of the Squadron discovered the pleasures of Copenhagen more than once.

A DIFFERENT STORY

For the operator drivers who had umpires it was a very different matter. They found themselves charging across the countryside after hectic battles so that their Umpires could agree on the score. Ex *Bold Gannet* gave the Squadron much insight into the conduct of a major battle from both the staff side, and actually on the ground, as well as the opportunity to see much of Denmark.

THE RETURN

Yeoman (I know the way) **Wykes** saw rather more of it than he intended, and three subalterns all saw it sitting on the same bicycle (until it crashed!). After packing up we began redeploying to UK on Thursday 20 September. Moving via Skalstrup and Varde to Esjberg we once again discovered that movers not only 'do it all over the world' but that they also do it very slowly. The return boat crossing promised to be as pleasant and relaxing as before. Much fun was had and everybody enjoyed themselves; certain young officers being repeatedly woken from their bunks to return to the bar.

Whilst waiting to embark, **Cpl Chris Nutt** discovered that his trailer was no longer attached to his vehicle. Whilst he was away looking for it on the tow hooks of all the other vehicles. **Lt Frazer** (my name's Scottish) **Grant**, organised the man-handling of **Cpl Chris Nutt**'s landrover out of the packet and disappearance into a sea of green landrovers, much to the amusement of the rest of the Squadron.

ENJOYABLE AND WORTHWHILE

We completed the move back to Bulford with no major incidents, but a number of breakdowns. And as **Sig Bob Littlewood** put it after being towed into camp three hours after the main body 'There is always one Sir!' And so began the clean-up after an enjoyable and worthwhile exercise.

BATTLE CAMP

Our Annual UK 'Summer Holiday' was held in October 1984 in the now familiar Cinque Ports Training Area. Accommodated in the luxury of St Martins Plain Camp, the Squadron settled down to a 'gentle' routine of early morning runs, range work and evening lectures. Highlights of the ranges were the CQB Marksmen Underfire Range and CQB Fire Discipline Range. The experiences of selecting targets in a street scene environment and, reacting to enemy fire and returning it, were most illuminating. Potential terrorists have no fear, unless you come across **LCpl 'Snorky' Lynch**'s section who killed the highest number of terrorists without killing any 'civilians'.

LCpl 'Snorky' Lynch waiting for the order to move

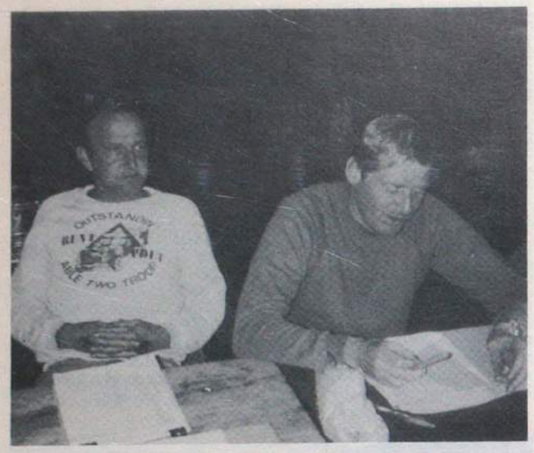
To change the pace of life our annual orienteering competition was held in Lyminge Forest courtesy of **WO2 (FofS)** (Come on run faster) **Fielding** and **SSgt Max Williams**. It was noted by all that whilst the Squadron was battling its way through brambles, rivers and gulleys the two Yeoman were 'working hard' recording our efforts.

DESERVING WINNERS

Col Mike Marples, having spent two days watching the shooting and orienteering, presented prizes to deserving winners as follows:

Orienteering Troop Winners	Main Troop
Individual Winner	**LCpl Osbourne**
Innocent Cup	**Sig 'Geordie' Brown**
Shooting Individual	**Cpl Leather**

The serious business started after the prize giving with the three platoon commanders, **Lt 'Ernie' Wise, Lt** (Where's your kit) **Grant** and **Lt 'Tiny Tim' Pender-Johns**, receiving their orders. After two days spent clearing an 8Km circuit involving at least six section/platoon attacks, comments such as **Cpl 'Brummie' Seaton**'s imperative 'Lets do the Biz' were almost a welcome relief from 'Grenade'. The task on the last night of the exercise was to ambush various strategic areas. 1pl, the 'Wise Guys', were to lay an ambush around a set of large sangers. Having carried out his final recce, the Platoon Commander returned to his FRV, muttering under his breath about Junior Leaders. In a typical 'double booking clash' the sangers were already occupied. However undeterred the platoon occupied their positions and the local umpire informed the Junior Leaders that they were surrounded, to shut up and keep out of sight. Which they did! The most amusing incident happened when the enemy **Sgt 'Marathon Man' Pinkney** and the two Yeomen, bumped a Jnr Ldr trip flare, fired their rounds and dramatically died!



WO2 (YofS) Dave Rodgers and SSgt (YofS) Pete Wykes exerting themselves in the orienteering competition

The QM Capt 'Nick' Nicoll on the Breksdalen Valley Norway. When we come back in January the snow will be up 'to here'

Col Mike Marples presenting the Troop Orienteering Shield for Main Troop to Cpl Salisbury

Having emitted theatrical moans and groans all that could be heard was, 'Charlie no one has come to search us', and 'Did anyone fire at us Charlie?, Charlie where is Pinkers?'. Eventually they realised their 'little mistake' and the ambush was sprung in all its glory a few hours later than planned. So ended Battle Camp.

EXERCISE *HARDFALL RECCE*

Whilst the rest of the Squadron were enjoying the splendid beauty of Salisbury Plain on a Commex, the QM, **Capt Nick Nicoll**, and the 2IC **Capt Steve Leach**, were facing the 'rigours' of Norway on a recce for Ex *Hardfall*. Unfortunately they had to stay in the four star Fleichers Hotel in Voss which presented some difficulty in decision making over such matters as menu, use of swimming pool/sauna and which night club to visit. However they survived their ordeal and are enthusiastically talking of snow hole digging areas and 30Km ski march routes for Ex *Hardfall*. Here we go again.

EXERCISE *ARCHWAY ENCOUNTER*

In November the Squadron moved to Southern Germany, south of Trier, for an AMF(L) CPX which proved to be interesting and a useful pre Christmas duty free trip! Whilst the exercise itself was fairly standard, the move, planned by UKLF and HQ RCT Comm Z, proved to be a marathon event. Led by **Capt 'Boogy Box' Leach** and **Sig 'Talkative' Crawford** the Squadron started its 26 hour move in Bulford at 1600 hrs on a Saturday and arrived in the exercise area at 1700 hrs on Sunday having had one two hour stage en route. Once arrived they immediately deployed to the exercise, that is, except for the fitters and three detachments who needed engine changes! However 'I'll fix/bodge it somehow' **McClune** and his team did an excellent job and even managed to arrive at the dock in Zeebrugge just in time to catch the boat. The most amusing event of the exercise happened when the OC **Maj** (Done it before) **Innocent** sent OC Main Tp to the General's 'O' Gp one evening primed with a question. At the end of the orders **Lt 'Why me?' Wise** stood up and asked 'Sir, which Headquarters will move first?'. General replied 'Step up'. 'Is that the present step up or will Command change before then' asked **Lt Wise** innocently, 'Sit down you ... and stop prying', replied the General. Hence the nickname **Lt** (I'm not a Moron) **Wise**.

MARRIAGES

For some unknown reason, but probably due to the weather, we have had five marriages over the last couple of months. We wish all the best to: **Lt Mike Wise** and **Rebecca, Lt Peter Holliday** and **Jane, Sig Dylan Jones** and **Nicola, Sig Joe Campbell** and **Claire, LCpl Bill Brannon** and **Yvonne** and **LCpl Mick Falls** and **Anne.**

Bets are not being taken on which will be the first happy couple to produce the 'pitter patter of tiny feet—puppies, hamsters and rabbits do not constitute the 'pitter patter of tiny feet!'.

CONDOLENCES

All friends of **Sgt Toby Slater** will wish to join the OC and all ranks of 249 Sig Sqn in offering their condolences on the death of his wife **Carol**, and wish him and his young daughter the best of good fortune for their future at Blandford.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

APPREHENSION

By the beginning of July, the temperature in Cyprus had soared into the 90s and mutterings could be heard around the Squadron. 'It's going to be very, very hot out there', and 'I'm glad it's only for a week!' A week's exercise out in the 'Bondu'—the scrubland here in Cyprus at the height of the summer is not something to which even the boldest at heart could look forward to without a slight sense of apprehension. Ex *Sandpaper 1* was a two week Squadron exercise, divided into two identical week's training, which all the able bodied members attended for one week.

The aim of the exercise was to test personnel in a hot climate environment, with a heavy emphasis on basic military skills, particularly navigation and movement. Each half of the Squadron was divided into two Patrols, each comprising of four recce sections of four men. During the week, various tasks were set for the Patrol and Section Commanders, involving fairly arduous moves across country into location, before tasks could be performed. Enemy forces were provided by the 2IC and his 'merry band', and a base admin camp was set up at the edge of one of the four training areas we were using.

Some of the more notable of the tasks involved, were a rapid descent from a Wessex helicopter 25 foot above the ground using a rope; abseiling off the side of a cliff; a beach landing; a command task involving the construction of a raft (which floated!); and the retrieval of pieces of enemy information and enemy weapons. A special mention must go to the girls from the Commcen who showed great determination and ability during the week, and even enjoyed some of it.

There were a few casualties—mainly related to the climate, such as blisters, heat exhaustion victims and cases of severe sunburn. However the exercise was generally enjoyed by all, (mostly in retrospect) and a lot was learnt about the requirements in hot weather and the determination needed to complete many of the tasks. The photos show some of the highlights.

Members of Patrol 2 listening to a briefing from RQMS Mick Turvey

'Roping down' drills from the Wessex

The Beach Landing

Sig Ian Watson, Mark Sherwood and Mick O'Toole

The OC, Maj Malcolm Emslie, watches one of the sections attempting the Command task

Patrol 1—before completing the final task of the week

Patrol 1 lead by FofS Jackson returning to Base Camp

The beach barbecue at the end of a hard week

FIELD TROOP

Troop OC **Lt Fiona Gibson**
Troop SSgt **SSgt John Gadsdon**
Troop Sgt **Sgt Brian Turner**

On return from the summer exercise, some of the more portly members of Field Troop have come back a shadow of their former selves. And so, with renewed enthusiasm and vitality we returned to our normal Troop activities, and a busy few months. Some particular mentions must be made.

Firstly, our troop 'Staffie'—**John Gadsdon** has just returned from UK where he was on his RQMS course which he passed with flying colours. Also just returned from UK is **LCpl Taff Twohigg** who successfully passed his A1 course—well done to both.

Congratulations are due to **Paul Bridon** on his promotion to **LCpl**, and his engagement to **Liz** (mad jock) **Duff** who has also just been promoted. Further congratulations to **Paul** who passed off the Cadre course he attended, run by 62 Cyprus Sqn RE.

We say farewell to **Cpl Chris Bean** and his wife **Kim. Cpl Bean** has left us to attend 'P' Coy, and then hopefully to join 5 Airborne Bde. Good luck **Chris.**

WE ARE SAILING, WE ARE SAILING

Report by LCpl 'Lofty' Jarvis

Imagine the caption: 'Mediterranean Cruise in luxury yacht—only five places left'. This was the information received from the 'Boss', so you can understand the sudden rush of volunteers for the troop's summer adventure training this year. **Cpl Dave Thomas** and **Sig 'Specky' Eccles**, and myself were the lucky members of Field Troop to be selected.

We arrived at Larnaca Marina at 0800 hrs in high spirits and went to find our luxury yacht—*The Brigand of Changi*. After some time, we eventually stumbled upon it. To say our initial impression did not live up to our expectations is an understatement! And so, our impressive sailing vessel was promptly renamed 'The floating sideboard'.

The first day was spent getting to know the boat and our skipper—**Cpl 'Biddy' Baxter** from 9 Sig Regt. At last we were off on our cruise, and felt we were becoming real sailors as we mastered various nautical terms such as 'Splice the main brace' and 'Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of . . .?' We sailed along the coast of the island, eastwards as far as Ayia Napa and Fig Tree Bay, battling with the elements and mastering the various skills involved. After five days, it was back to Larnaca, suntanned and minus **Sig 'Specky' Eccles** glasses which fell overboard during high winds. Considering he was half blind for some of the trip, **'Specky'** found his sea legs surprisingly quickly!

PS. On the second week, our intrepid leader, **Lt Fiona Gibson** and **Sig 'Boris' Cadwallader** were the troop members on board ship. **Lt Gibson**, had to return after two days claiming she had to leave due to exercise commitments. There is surely no truth in the rumour that she had turned a pretty shade of green and was seen leaning over the side of the boat trying to work out which way the wind was blowing.

RQMS DEPARTMENT

Report by RQMS WO2 Mick Turvey

WO2 (RQMS) Mick Turvey
Sgt 'Archie' Arnold
Cpl 'Large Jack' Grey
Cpl 'Billy' Hunter

I would like to start this report by correcting an error in the March issue of *The Wire*. **Sgt Arnold** was referred to as **Sig Arnold**—an oversight by the Squadron proof reader—apologies on his behalf **Archie**! July saw the Squadron on the Summer Exercise, and this department was fully committed for the month prior to deployment—in order to obtain all the equipment necessary during the two week period. **Sgt 'Archie' Arnold** spent two weeks on the exercise at the admin base camp—and I am reliably informed that by the end of the two weeks he could cook a 'mean' chicken curry.

I was a Patrol Commander on the first week, in charge of four sections of four. Unfortunately the WRAC members of my patrol were transfered to **FofS Jackson**'s Patrol, but not before they had been treated to ice creams—a definite morale restorative. Well done girls—I was sorry to lose you.

Cpls Graham Grey and **'Billy' Hunter** each spent a week as members of a section,—**Cpl Grey** spent his week looking after an accident prone **2Lt Stuart Miekle**, and **Cpl Hunter** spent *his* time trying to keep **Lt Fiona Gibson** awake! **Cpl Graham Grey** has recently been assisting 62 'Cyprus' Support Squadron Royal Engineers to run their cadre course. Well done to him for passing off the course!

NEWS FROM THE CAPE

Report by FofS Ratcliffe

Some people really do believe this is the sharp end of Cyprus. Well—perhaps it is—? A few weeks ago there was a fire in the kitchen here. The shift workers were alerted to this by bangs and other similar noises coming over the intercom. Not knowing what was happening **Sgts Martin Lamarsh, Mick Scull** and **LCpl Paul Davis** brought out the arms and ammunition! Fortunately it is not common practice to fight a chip pan fire with loaded SMG's—but at least they won the fight and the fire was extinguished!

On the sporting scene, **Sgt Duncan MacPherson** organised a soft ball competition against the RAF at 33 SU, which we won hands down. Unfortunately **Sgt Steve Anderson** is not having the same success with our team in the volleyball league.

Lastly, we recently said farewell to **Sgt 'Rab' Gentles** and his wife **Sue**, who have gone to Harrogate. Good luck and bon voyage to them both.

ALL ARMS AIR DEFENCE TRAINING (AAADT)

Report by WO2 (SSM) J. R. Farrell

In September of last year 40 members of the Squadron had an excellent opportunity to take part in the annual AAAD training during a visit to Cyprus by the MATS(A) Team (Model Aircraft Target System Type A). This team which is Gunner operated and is based at Larkhill provide realistic attack profiles with the use of a model aircraft that has a wing span of approximately five feet.

The flying of the aircraft is carried out on a field firing range and for our training purposes Pyla Range just East of Dhekelia was the venue for our LMG pairs to engage the model aircraft. We only had one day's dry training on the LMG which included weapon handling postions to be used whilst using the LMG in the AAAD role and finally the viewing of two very old films. These really brought back some memories for **Sgt 'Archie' Arnold**.

The aim of the firers is to destroy or damage the aircraft by firing complete magazines charged with Ball and Trace 1 for 1 in one 30 rd burst per magazine, a practice that the majority of the firers had never done before. It was found that to actually hit the aircraft was very difficult, in fact out of the total of some 10,000 rounds the aircraft was put down once. But of course the pilot of an actual aircraft would, I am sure, have been forced to climb and thereby been vulnerable to other air defence weapons or just simply deterred from completing a mission successfully. At the end of the day, apart from cleaning the guns, all who took part learned from the training and enjoyed the shoot which was both different and interesting. I would recommend it as a good training day for those who have the MATS A Team visiting your area.

Afternote: The SSM, **J. Farrell**, claims the hit!

LINE SECTION NOTES

The Doozer Construction Company, commonly known as Line Section 262, have been very busy of late. Since the results of the manning levels inspection have been known we have been putting in as much underground cable as we can get our hands on in preparation for the impending cuts in Tele Mechs levels within the next year or two.

SSgt Charlie Peach (soon to be promoted) and **Sgt Graham Tilley** (soon to be the subject of a sponsored slim) are masterminding the show ably assisted by the local PSA who supply the trenching. Once all the details are finalised and the trenching is done then it's all hands to the wheel until another area, office, complex, barracks our housing estate has a brand new cable to supply communications. Hopefully within a few months most areas on the Garrison will have a new U9 cable supply thus reducing the faults, possibility of lightning strikes and the inevitable back shot damage.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Cpl 'Stan' Stanton left us on posting to 10 Sig Regt. Lo and behold **Cpl Terry Hickey** arrived from 10 Sig Regt to take his place. **LCpl Neil Inman** and **Sig Mark Sherwood** are on detachment to 266. New arrivals are **LCpls John Leigh, Andy Elliott, 'Yogi' Cauldwell, John Witty** and **Sig Al Ritchie**. We wish them all a good and interesting tour with 262.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **LCpl Cauldwell** and wife **Jayne**, to **Sig Paul Cutts** and wife **Carol**, recently married, we wish them all health, wealth and happiness.

A SAD FAREWELL

A very sad farewell was said recently to two members of the section at a dinner attended by nearly 50 guests. **2Lt Stewart Miekle**, temporarily attached to Line Section whilst on a five months posting to the Squadron prior to attending Durham University. He was acting section OC when he wasn't on courses which wasn't often. Not many people can squeeze in the number of courses 'Sir' did in five months and still have time to organise and take part in a two week navex and have a week's leave in Israel. No matter! We wish him well and hope to see him some time in the future. At the same dinner we said farewell to **Sig Colin O'Brien** one of the Squadron Super Stars. He will be missed from many of the Squadron's sporting teams as well as by the Army Cyprus Hockey team. 262's loss is 21 Sig Regt's gain.

BITS AND PIECES

At the time of writing this contribution **LCpl John Leigh** and **Sig Paul Cutts** were on a local Cadre Course organised by the Sappers assisted by drill instructors from the Scots Guards. Rumour has it that it was not the happiest two weeks they have spent in sunny Cyprus. **Sig Bill Murray** and his wife **Val** were busy packing for their posting to 10 Sig Regt, yet another good man on his way. With the football season just starting we were looking for some great performances from **Sig Mick O'Toole** and **Billie McKeegan.** The same sentiment applied to our resident greyhounds, **Sig 'Mitch' Mitchell, LCpl John Whitty** and **Sig Dave Jenkins** in the Cross Country Team.

10 PIN BOWLING

We took over the 9 Sig Regt's A team, the Roadrunners, late in the season. Team members **SSgt Charlie Peach, Cpls Keith Thurston, Mint Cobban, Chris Ban** and **Mrs Kim Bean.** In last place and and many points adrift from the League leaders the team were faced with a daunting task. But, with usual 262 vigour they set about it, and with eight straight 8—0 wins under their belts things began to look much better. With only three games to go they were in third place, two games to go second place but only ½ point ahead of the third place team. The final game was against the league leaders who were too many points ahead to be over taken. After a long hard game 262 came out 8—0 winners and clear second place holders in the league. The first three places in this RAF sponsored league all come from Army Units!

SQUADRON FAMILIES DAY

Report by YofS Mick Bell

(Scene—outside **SSM John Farrell**'s Office) . . .
'Yeoman—Settled in yet?'
'Yes thank you, Sir'
'Next week we are having a Families' Day, followed by a thrash in the re-built Bitsa'
'Great idea, Sir'
'When you have organised it let me know what's happening'
'Pardon Sir?'
'You heard'.

Actually, the day went well. Thanks to all the willing hands. Pony rides for all the budding jockeys, rides in the Gemini sea craft (gratefully conned from the Royal Marines), and a helicopter display be 16 Flt AAC. (Can we have our volleyball net back?)

A Punch and Judy show, with an original theme, was ably provided by **Cpl Pete Latham** and **Sig 'Specky' Eccles** and **Billy 'MacBoddy' Keegan.** (Steven Spielberg, eat your heart out!).

Thanks to **Sgt Reg Hall** for the mini-obstacle course and **Cpl Phil Playford** for the volleyball competition, which was won by SHQ Tp, after a lot of blood, sweat and beers!

WO2 (SSM) John Farrell, SSgt Trev Jones and **Sgt Steve Anderson** are now volunteering for the Army Catering Corps as specialists in barbecues, **Steve Anderson** working on the 'one for you—one for me' principle.

The day was rounded off with a great disco supplied by **Cpl 'Donnie' Brough**, still wearing his volleyball medal, in the re-built Bitsa.

A special thank you must go to **Cpl 'Ginge' Grey** for all his hard work behind the scenes.

CYPRUS WALKABOUT OCTOBER 1984

The Cyprus Walkabout takes the form of a two day orienteering competition and is without doubt one of the hardest events, both mentally and physically, in the Sporting calendar. The first day takes the teams, each of three persons, from the start point in Episkopi Garrison through five check points over a distance of 35 miles and a massive climb of 5,150 ft to the Leave Centre on Troodos. The second day is the reverse but with different check points.

Last year Maintenance Troop provided both the Squadron teams. **Sgt Neil Holcombe** led the 'A' team with **LCpl John Whitty** and **Sig Mitchell** and **Sgt George Mayne** led the 'B' team with **Cpls Tony** and **Phil Playford** in tow. **Sgt 'Gaz' Stratton** was reserve and social member.

TEMPERATURE SOARED

Training had started way back in June but nothing could have prepared us for the first day. Not only was the course demanding but Cyprus provided its best weather for the occasion and, without a breath of wind, tempertures soared into the 90s. **LCpl John Whitty** in the 'A' team and **Cpl Phil Playford** in the 'B' team both suffered in the heat but both came through. The 'B' team were in 20th place overnight in a time of 9 hrs 36 mins with the 'A' team taking 35th place in 10 hrs 38 mins. Out of the 80 teams who started 35 had already returned.

The second day's course was once again long and with temperatures in the 90s we were glad of the slight breeze which made the going bearable. **LCpl John Whitty** suffered from the heat again but at the end of the event was the freshest. **Cpl Tony Piayford** got severe cramp 10 miles out but bravely carried on to bring the 'B' team home in 15th place with a total time of 16 hrs 40 mins. The 'A' team came in with a total time of 18 hrs 40 mins for 23rd place.

Cpl Playford recovered from cramp but then found himself in hospital for a week with a poisoned foot caused by his magnificent blisters. The rest of us recovered on Kochinelli.

WELL DONE

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders took the Golden Boot for the second year in 11 hrs 58 mins with the Marines and Scots Guards second and third. Only half the starters finished this walkabout so as you can see finishing was a marvellous achievement. Well done lads.

L-R: The 'B' Team—Cpls Phil Playford, Tony Playford and Sgt George Mayne

L-R: The 'A' Team—Sig 'Mitch' Mitchell, Sgt Neil Holcombe and LCpl John Whitty

264 (SAS) Sig Sqn Hereford

OUR HISTORY

264 (SAS) Sig Sqn can trace its ancestry back to 1951 when the Malayan Boarder Scouts were formed. The communications within the Scouts were provided by a Signal Troop consisting of 30 soldiers from the Corps. In 1952 22 SAS Regt was formed out of the Malayan Boarder Scouts and again the Signal Troop was an integral part of the unit. From 1952 to 1966 the SAS's commitments grew to such an extent that the communication support was too great to be provided by a single Signal Troop. In July 1966 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn was born as a fully independent unit, based in Hereford with 22 SAS. Today we have progressed from the WS62 patrol sets of 1952 to using the most modern and up-to-date communication equipment in the Army.

The role of 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn is to provide communication support for 22 SAS. In order to carry this out we have a wide range of equipment from Satcom and Clansman radios through to secure commercial sets. Within the Squadron there is a complete cross section of R Signals trades, from RTg's, DTg's and Techs to Cmt Pmn Dvrs, Tech Stmn and Telemechs. Twice a year the Squadron runs a 'probation course' at Hereford for those soldiers who have volunteered to serve with 264 (SAS) Squadron, to determine their suitability for service with the Special Forces.

264 (SAS) SIGNAL SQUADRON PROBATION COURSE

The probation course is five weeks long and consists of a number of tests of both a physical and trade nature. For those who are fit and well motivated a pass on the course is easily within their reach.

The first two days at Hereford are spent brushing up on a soldier's map-reading and introducing him to the Brecon Beacons. For those who have not prepared themselves properly the Beacons can be something of a shock. However after these two days the rest of week one is spent doing trade assessments plus morning and evening PT. The second week concentrates on weapon handling skills and covers a wide variety of arms in use by the Armed Forces. Since most of this week is spent indoors Friday is set aside for a testing Navigation Exercise in the Forest of Dean. Week three sees the volunteers back on the hills, this time loaded down with a 45lb pack and carrying rifles. This exercise, called *Long Haul*, consists of a day's march of 20Km, plus a small night march. Range work is also carried out during the week using the weapons taught during week two. Thursday and Friday are set aside for trade tests. Anyone who is unable to pass these tests is RTu'd. Week four is pre-para week and consists of speed marches, stretcher and log races, milling and an abundance of gym work. A pass on these exercises is mandatory for those who are going on to RAF Brize Norton for parachute training.

The final week takes place in the Brecon Beacons on Exercise *Brecon Wanderer*. The course is split up into four man patrols, each patrol is given a route to navigate themselves over in a set time. The length of the 'tabs' vary from 20-30Km. Each night the patrols 'basha' up and work schedules back to Hereford using Clansman Radios. On the Thursday afternoon of the fifth week the course finishes and the successful volunteers are given the Squadron beret and belt.

Every encouragement is given to those who come on the course, but in the final analysis it is up to the individual to demonstrate that he is an expert at his trade and that he has the required qualities to join the Squadron.

EMPLOYMENT

RADIO TELEGRAPHIST

Once an RTg has passed the course he will spend the next six months in Comms Tp. During this time he will learn how the Squadron operates. All communication is by hand speed morse over HF links, therefore, we need very skilled RTg's. The majority of a soldier's time in Comms Tp is spent in Hereford, however, there are a few static overseas locations to which he may be sent for a few weeks. After this probationary period the RTg is allocated to a Sabre Sqn Sig Tp, attached to one of the four Sabre Sqns where he will spend the rest of his time while with 264. Once in his Troop, which is commanded by a YofS, he can expect to spend about six months of the year out of the country either on ops or exercises. Some of these trips away may be for two to three months at any one time.

The Squadron is not established for Rop's or Spec Ops, however they may apply for 264 if they are prepared to CCE to RTg. For Rops Class II/III they must also arrive on the course with the ability to read morse at 7 wpm and an elementary knowledge of keyboard skills.

DATA TELEGRAPHIST

The Squadron runs its own Commcen within Stirling Lines and due to the nature of our job a large amount of sensitive traffic is handled each day. DTgs who join the unit will spend most of their time working on a shift rosta in the Commcen. However, when a Sabre Sqn is deployed one or two DTg's go with them. There are also various overseas locations which demand the presence of a DTg. A DTg can expect to be out of the country for 3-4 months each year.

TECHNICIANS

TE, Radio, and RR Techs are eligible to apply. We prefer that they are either Senior Class II or Class I tradesmen. This is because they will be required to work unsupervised 'remotely' on equipment with which they may not be totally familiar. The trade standards required of technicians are very high. Once in the Squadron there is no distinction made between a TE Radio and an RR Tech. Each has to be able to work unsupervised on any piece of equipment given to him, from a module on a TSC 502 Satelite terminal to matel telephone handsets. As with DTgs technicians accompany Sabre Sqns of 22 SAS on ops and exercises. They can expect to spend about three to four months of the year abroad. Due to the amount of diverse comms equipment in the Squadron each tech will do at least one course a year and sometimes two.

TECHNICAL STOREMAN—COMBAT POWERMAN DRIVERS

As with any other Corps unit, the Squadron has a QM and MT department. However, unlike other units Tech Stmn and Cmb Pmn Dvrs are cross-trained to operate the Racal 1860 and 1885 Txs. They are then used to run and man our Tx site and when 'deployed' help out in the running of the Comms back to UK. Again they can expect to spend three months of the year abroad.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

264 (SAS) Sig Sqn is first and foremost a R Signals unit, and we need well motivated, mature and knowledgable soldiers from the Corps. However, once in the unit there are opportunities to do non-signal specialist courses. For instance some RTgs in the Sabre Sqn Sig Tps are HALO trained (military free-fall), others are medics and linguists. Some members of the Squadron go on to do SAS selection and spend the next three years serving with 22 SAS. Everybody within the Squadron is para-trained and hence receives para pay. Promotion in the Squadron is very good, and you are able to serve with the unit for longer than the normal three year tour.

There are always vacancies for the right sort of person, in 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn. A tour with us enhances your career prospects. The Squadron is a major source of YofS for the Corps, and every opportunity is given to those who wish to progress up the trade ladder.

266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic)

PERSONALITIES

As always here, there has been a large turnover in population since our last article . Our current management is:

OC Squadron	**Maj Ian Grant**
2IC Squadron	**Capt Nigel Wood**
QM	**Maj Eric Le Quesne**
AO	**Capt John Hogan**
TOT	**Capt Dick Offord**
OC Radio Troop	**Capt Steve Hunt**
OC Line Troop	**Capt Grace Harrison**
OC RR Troop	**Lt John Luckins**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Hogben**
FofS	**WO2 Steve Churchman**
YofS	**WO2 Chris Aitken**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Dave Tarrant**

MOUNT PLEASANT MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Remembrance Sunday, 11 November, a memorial service was held on Mount Pleasant. Many members of the Squadron, including the Squadron Commander **Maj Ian Grant**, braved the bitterly cold winds to attend the service, held just below the summit cross. Soldiers from other units and several civilians also attended. The service was conducted by the Force Chaplain, **The Rev Tony Appleby.**

Mount Pleasant Memorial Service
The Force Chaplain, The Rev Tony Appleby leads members of the Squadron and soldiers from other units and civilians in a Remembrance Sunday Service on Mount Pleasant peak

VISIT OF CHAY BLYTH

Chay Blyth, the intrepid round-the-world yachtsman visited the Falkland Islands. His battery charging generator was in need of attention, and our Power Detachment, under the guidance of their boss, **Sgt Ray Webb** were pleased to be able to help. There is no truth in the rumour that he subsequently almost sank off the coast of Chile when the generator failed!

Chay Blyth (the civilian in the centre!) poses with members of the Squadron after their help in repairing his generator. From the left they are: LCpl Elliott, Capt (Tfc) Ron Chisholm, Capt Ian Condie (ex-OC Radio Troop who sneaked into the limelight), Sgt Ray Webb and Cpl Bostock

RADIO TROOP

Radio Troop are under new management, **Capt Steve Hunt** having taken over from **Capt Ian Condie** in little more than 24 hours, as **Capt Condie** was rather anxious to get home for Christmas! **SSgt Skip Redman** had a (very slightly) more leisurely takeover from **SSgt Bill Heelan** earlier in November. With such short handover times before the ship sails (or the airbridge for those lucky few) everybody is required to become an 'instant expert'. Radio Troop are lucky to have the ever cheerful **Sgt Keith Tubman** who held the show together whilst his new bosses settled in. It isn't only the hierarchy who have to learn quickly, the photo shows 'B' shift in the Force Radio Room, who all arrived within a couple of weeks of each other, and was **Cpl 'Scouse' Edwards** first time in the chair as shift supervisor.

The 'Gang of Three'—B shift in the Force Radio Room. On the right the Shift Supervisor, Cpl 'Scouse' Edwards tries to look as if he knows whats going on, whilst Sig Tich Reeds expression quite clearly shows he hasn't a clue, leaving Sig 'Barty' Bartleet in the background to monitor all of the nets, read the newspaper and reach over to plug in the kettle!

LINE TROOP

Line Troop as always, have been very busy. Their most recent major task has been the removal and re-installation of most of the telephones in HQ BFFI, the staff have been changing offices which has rendered the telephone directories obsolete. In between rewiring, members of the Troop have been assisting the remainder of the Squadron in filling sandbags for the Sergeant Major's pet sangar; they have also found time to give the new OC Squadron driving lessons on the Vermeer Trench Digger. OC Line Troop wishes it to be known that there is no truth in the rumour that the Trench digger is to be painted pink to match her telephone!

The new Squadron Commander being given driving lessons on the Trench Digger by LCpl Muppet Mabbott

TM TROOP

The Techs of the Squadron have been fully occupied in recent weeks in putting the Falkland Islands Trunk System (FITS) into service. The new Foreman, **WO2 Steve Churchman**, had a quick rundown on the current state of serviceability from his predecessor, **WO2 Bruce Wyllie** before the latter embarked for a well-deserved 10-day cruise to the Ascension Islands. **Foreman Wyllie** has done a tremendous amount of work during the installation of FITS, and was still heard muttering the FITS buzzwords as he was bundled aboard the *Keren*.

Sgt Colin MacIntosh (on the right) briefs his FITS Team, Cpls Geoff Thorpe-Willett, Gaz Steinmetz and Chris Roy before they fly out to begin work on one of the remote unmanned FITS sites

LOOKOUT CAMP

The break-away sections of the Squadron, based at Lookout Camp claim to have been as busy as everyone else. **Sgt 'Chalkie' White** says he was only discussing the vehicle repair problems with our resident Vehicle Mechanic, **LCpl Lee Creamer** from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. In truth there are no vehicle problems in the MT Section—no vehicles, no problems!

The Quartermaster's Department took a short break from their fishing trips to pose for a few photos. The smiles must be plastic, because they are having to bow to the pressures of 'normalisation' and begin keeping proper accounts. This is proving to be more difficult, as equipment has been cannabalised, moved, lent and 'borrowed' on innumerable occasions. If anyone knows the whereabouts of a 16/24 generator number 251, would you please inform the Quartermaster, who is looking for it for 'a friend'.

The posers of the QM's department pretend they are enjoying the process of 'normalisation', as Cpl Gaz Simmons (on the left) from 4 Armd Div Sig Regt is shown how to fill in the forms by Cpl Dave Evans of 7 Sig Regt

SPOTLIGHT ON LINE TROOP

Readers of the September issue of *The Wire* may well have been left with the impression that Line Troop is just a detachment of a certain airfield regiment. I can assure you that this is not so, the troop draws its men from 10 different units from UK, BAOR and Cyprus. On arrival at Port Stanley they all soon become hard working and cheerful members of Line Troop, 266 Sig Sqn.

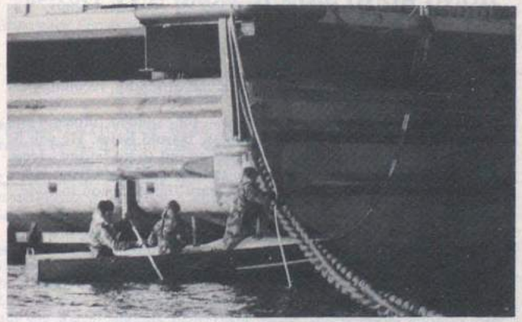
These past few months the troop has been kept busy with various tasks ranging from the recovery of old field cable to a major re-routing of the main trunk cables which run from, HQ British Forces Falkland Islands (BFFI) in Stanley Town to RAF Stanley.

Line Troop October 84 gathered on and around the beloved Vermeer Trenching Machine
Front Row L-R: Cpl Steve Wheatley, Sgt Mick Kelly, Capt John Kirkman, Sgt Geordie Deeming, Cpl Don Bascombe
Second Row L-R: Sig 'Bonnie' Tyler, 'Bing' Crosby, 'Twiggy' Twigg, 'Boogey' Bucknor, LCpl 'Paddy' Murray, Sig 'Cable' Joint
Third Row L-R: Sig 'Yorkie' Richards, LCpls Phil Lewis, 'Woodey' Wood, Cpl Roy Grimsley, LCpl Neil Inman
Back Row L-R: LCpl 'Jes' Gerrard, Sig 'Russ' Russell, 'Smiffy' Smith, Tim Moore, Cpls Bob Cook, Jim Parker, Sig Brian Hilton
Absent on Duty: Cpl D. C. Declancy, LCpls Dick Pollard, 'Smudge' Smith, Sig 'Jonno' Johnson, 'Quasi' Meade, LCpl Jock Blair, Sig 'Howie' Shaw, Kenny McQueen

Capt John Kirkman posing with Sig 'Bing' Crosby *(left)* and Sig 'Kenny' McQueen at a jointing pit during the re-routing of the 100 pair trunk cables

Sgt Mick Kelly keeping an eye on Cpl Steve Wheatly and Sig 'Bonnie' Tyler

Laying line at Navy Point. LCpl Dick Pollard leading Sig Tim Moore and Brian Hilton



Three men in a boat. Sgt 'Geordie' Tough (Stern) LCpl Dick Pollard and Cpl Roy Grimsley (Bow) 20 pair up the anchor chain to Coastel 2

LCpl Dick Pollard guiding Sig Tim Moore and the Troop Tractor plus cable trailer on to a Maxi float to go across Stanley Harbour to Navy point

Sig 'Yorkie' Richards doing an impression of Gracie Fields. Finishing off a heat shrink

RECOVERY AND REPLACEMENT

It can now be honestly said that all field cable, laid just after the war, has now been recovered from HQ BFFI right through the Canache to RAF Stanley. This was quite a task and everyone in the troop did their share of reeling in 10 pair and Light Weight Quad. 'There was miles of it'.

Navy Point came in for an extensive clean up when **Cpl Bob Cook** and his crew went across the harbour and set about recovering lots of old field cable and laying 2Km of 20 pair armoured. They did an excellent job and consequently the fault rate at Navy Point has now dropped to zero.

Just before he left **Sgt Geordie Tough** was tasked to re-lay a 20 pair cable to Coastel 2, the route chosen to be the best was to pass the cable up the very large anchor chain. After scrounging a row boat he set sail with **Cpl Roy Grimsley** and **LCpl 'Dick' Pollard**. Having put out from the shore and escaped a devastating barrage from a shore battery commanded by **Cpl Bob Cook** the crew managed to complete their task.

A ROAD PROBLEM

In September a team of contractors arrived to build the Stanley By-Pass. It was soon discovered that the centre line of the proposed road followed exactly the same path as the 2 × 100 pair underground trunk cable around the back of Lookout Camp. Working alongside the contractors Line Troop quickly set about excavating a new 500 meter trench away from the road centre line and laid in two new 100 pair cables. Being the quietest day on the telephones and circuits a Sunday was chosen to cut the old cable and re-join the new pieces into the system. The whole project went extremely well, the cables were rejoined by mid-afternoon and all circuits were restored by early evening.

CHALLENGING

Many other tasks have been undertaken by the troop but only the main ones have been highlighted here. The next major job facing the troop will be the activating of Mount Pleasant airfield in early spring 1985 and the eventual installation of all telephones and line equipment to make the airfield fully operational. That however is a story for someone else to write.

The troop remains in very good heart (see photographs) and continues to give good challenging work to Lineman and Tele-Mechs of the Corps.

Association News

FORMER PENSIONERS

We repot with regret, the recent deaths of the following former Members of the Corps who were in receipt of a pension:

2315298	WO2 R. E. Wood
23480948	Sgt K. R. Titman
2312097	Sgt T. B. F. Gladwell
5885466	SSgt R. J. Skudder

OLD COMRADES' MEET, 45 YEARS ON

The photograph shows ex **WO2 Bert Howell** and **George Shepherd** enjoying a drink together at the Union Jack Club, 45 years after their first encounter as recruits of 118 Recruit Training Squad, Catterick.

The now 'museum pieces' of 118 Squad are shown below, by courtesy of the Historical Officer. Can your recognise yourself?

Back Row L-R: R. Knowles, P. G. Golder, G. Shepherd, B. Barnaby, B. Howell and F. Greenwood
Seated: A. By . . .? E. Strickland, J. Hencher, W. Worsley, F. Janes and H. Borman
Front Row: F. Burden and S. Daniel
Instructor: Cpl Dugdale Cheshire Regt

BRIGHTON BRANCH

Report by Mrs S. J. Cogger, Secretary

I would like to welcome the following new members to the Branch, **Mr M. D. Kershaw** from Horsham, he is already a member of the Association and has just joined the Brighton Branch.

LCpl Cynthia Bedwell from Kidbrooke, London, she is a current serving member of 71 Sig Regt with 265 Sig Sqn. We welcome you both and hope your association with the Branch is a long one.

EAST LONDON BRANCH

NEW YEAR CHANGES

We start '85 by moving house. From January we will be holding our meetings on the 4th Tuesday of every month in the 36 Club, 36(E) Sig Regt, Selsdon Road, Wanstead E11 at 8 pm. We wish to thank all at 45(E) Sig Sqn, Ilford, Essex, for being our host over the past 14 years, and look forward to a long and happy association with all at Wanstead.

We are happy to welcome to our Branch six new members—all from 36(E) Sig Regt (V) **Cpl Kenny Hill, Cpl Pat O'Shea, Cpl Linda Cooper, Cpl Chrissie Crampton, Sig Ron Hill** and **Pte J. Payne**—We hope they enjoy a long and fruitful membership of the association.

On 26 October 30 members of the association were entertained at the Royal British Legion Club in Ilford, Essex. We all enjoyed our first social event there and look forward to future joint efforts.

HONG KONG SIGNAL COMPANY 1939-45

Report by F. C. Latter Esq, Hon Sec

On Saturday 13 October 1984, a Reunion Dinner, organised by **Frank Bennett**, was held at the Salisbury Hotel, Southsea, 26 members and friends attended and had a very enjoyable evening, recalling past times and remembering old comrades.

Sadly the weekend was marred by the sudden illness, and subsequent death, of one of our members, **Harold Bates**. He will be greatly missed by us all and our thoughts go out to his widow, **Jean**.

Next year will be the 40th anniversary of our departure from Hong Kong and we are hoping to be able to mark this occasion in style.

MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION

22ND ARMOURED BRIGADE

40 members of Headquarters Squadron and No 4 Squadron, 2nd Middlesex Yeomanry gathered at the Cock & Lion, Wigmore Street, London, on Saturday 6 October for their 39th annual dinner. Many who were present had served in the TA and remained together throughout the war, and since 1945 have rarely failed to meet on the first Saturday in October each year for this annual event.

The guests included **Victoria**, daughter of the late **Maj Gen Sir W. R. N. Hinde KBE, CB, CBE, DSO**, who commanded the brigade in Libya, Italy and Normandy during 1943-1944; **Mrs FitzGerald**, and **Maj W. G. Morris**, OC, 47 (Middx Yeo) Sig Sqn (V).

Maj W. Q. (Pat) FitzGerald MBE, who commanded No 4 Squadron, 2nd Middlesex Yeomanry from 1943 until the end of hostilities in 1945 donated a 22nd Armd Bde plaque which was dedicated and placed in the Alamein Memorial Church at Enham-Alamein, Andover, during the annual memorial service on 28 October 1984.

LAFONE DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

This simple and moving service attended by members and their families on Sunday 14 October is today not only the commemoration of the personal sacrifice made by **Maj A. M. Lafone VC**, on 27 October 1917, but is also a service of remembrance for all who served with the Middlesex Yeomanry and gave their lives in the service of their country.

The service was conducted by **The Rev Gordon D. Watkins**, Vicar of The Guild Church of St Martin within Ludgate, assisted by **Maj A. E. Crampton-Barden TD**.

Following the service members of the association together with a contingent from 47 (Middx Yeo) Sig Sqn (V) and preceded by the Middlesex Yeomanry Association Military Band (by kind permission of **Lt Col S. J. Williams MBE TD**) marched to St Paul's Cathedral for the wreath laying ceremony in the crypt.

The ceremony at the Middlesex Yeomanry Memorial was conducted by **Capt D. Manders TD**, and the wreath was laid by the Chairman of the Association, **Mr A. Tarbox**, followed by the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' sounded by a trumpeter of the Middlesex Yeomanry Association Band.

ANNUAL DINNER

The President, **Col Sir John Prideaux OBE TD DL** and 83 members and guests attended the 57th annual dinner held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Friday 16 November. The Guest of Honour was **Mr F. B. Brisley MBE**, Director of Music, Middlesex Yeomanry Association Military Band, who gave an amusing account of his service life with the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force over a period of 40 odd years. Amongst the guests we were pleased to welcome were **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE**, General Secretary, Royal Signals Association, **The Rev Gordon D. Watkins**, Vicar of The Guild Church of St Martin within Ludgate, and representatives from the Household Cavalry Regiment (Life Guards and Blues & Royals), 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V), and the Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Association.

All communications to **Mr E.T. Hawkins**, Hon Secretary, 27 Grosvenor Gardens, Kingston Upon Thames KT2 5BE.

READING BRANCH

PRESENTATION OF ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR
Report by A. E. Foot Esq, Hon Sec

On Friday, 12 October 1984, the Branch held a special Reception in Reading for the purpose of making the formal presentation of an electric wheelchair to one of its lady members who suffers with Multiple Sclerosis.

The Appeal to raise money for the chair was launched at the Branch's Annual Dinner in 1983 by **Maj Gen Max Sawers CB MBE**, the Branch President, and by dint of tremendous effort on the part of the Branch Members, together with some welcome donations from the Reading Branch, Multiple Sclerosis Society, the WRAC Association and the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, the required amount was raised within one year of the launch and the wheelchair was presented to **Gillian Howells** on the evening before the Branch's 1984 Annual Dinner.

The Branch Chairman, **Mrs Pauline Tennant**, presided over the Reception and, after welcoming all the Guests, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Reading (**Cllr** and **Mrs Ron Jewitt**), and the Senior Welfare Officer (**Mrs Moira Mason**), she introduced the General Secretary (**Lt Col Ron Murray OBE**) who made the formal presentation. **Gillian's** father (**Mr Dennis Howells**) replying, thanked everyone concerned for providing the wheelchair and expressed the view that it would be extremely helpful in assisting **Gillian's** future mobility. Bouquets were then presented to **Gillian** and to her mother (**Mrs Muriel Howells**).

12 years after having to leave the Territorial Army because of the onset of her illness, **Gillian** is now confined to a wheelchair. She was brought to the Reception by her parents and a number of other members of her family were also present. Also attending were **Maj Tony Verey TD**, the present Commander of 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V), of which **Gillian** was a member, and **Capt Eileen Carter TD, Gillian's** former Troop Commander, now serving as PSO at 47 (Middx Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V) at Harrow.

The assembled Branch Members and Guests were served with wine and delicacies by three serving WRAC members of **Gillian's** former Squadron: **LCpl Susan Hill** and **Ptes Debbie Atkins** and **Janet Dent**.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by Capt Jane Knight

In the past months we have had a full calendar of events. These included our annual visit to HM Tower of London, kindly arranged between our Secretary, **Cliff Wood**, and our good friend at The Tower, **Yeoman Warder Alan Copestake**. Once again **Alan's** wife **Joan** provided us with a most welcome buffet.

On 15 September we organised a concert given by **The Middlesex Yeomanry Association Military Band**, by kind permission of **Lt Col S. J. Williams, MBE**, which was most enjoyable and well attended by the General Public.

On the occasion of our Annual Dinner we were delighted to welcome as our honoured guest **The Master of Signals, Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**. We especially appreciated his presence as we are aware of the distance The Master travelled to be with us. We were also pleased to welcome **Maj J. R. Stuart, MBE,** Officer Commanding 2 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt, and **Mrs Stuart** to our Dinner. **Sgt Brian Murkin**, also of 2 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt, provided a very impressive disco for dancing following the Dinner.

The Ladies Section of the Branch spared no effort in arranging a very attractive Autumn Fayre on 6 October 1984. The New Branch Standard has now been dedicated, the Ceremony taking place at St Michael's Church, Ashford on Sunday, 21 October and preceded by a March to the Church. Following the Dedication Service, Members and Guests gathered for refreshments in the Church Hall.

YORK BRANCH

The Heworth Court Hotel, York was the setting on Friday 23 November for a pleasant gathering when members of the Branch with their Ladies 'dined out' **Lt Col G. R. 'Nat' Gould** on his relinquishing the Branch Presidency after 13 years. Following a sumptuous repast, our Chairman, **Johnny Varlow** paid tribute to **Col Nat's** long and distinguished service not only to the Association and the Branch, but also to the Corps. Together with our Secretary, **Tony Leavesley**, the Chairman made a presentation of a suitably inscribed silver salver to mark the occasion, with a bouquet for **Muriel** who has supported **Nat** and the Association so well. **Col Nat,** obviously much moved, responded with characteristic modesty.

Our November Branch Meeting was a bit different in that it was held at the WO & Sgts' Mess of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt at Imphal Barracks by kind invitation of the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col M. G. Taylor, MBE** and RSM **(WO1) W. N. White**, when we were honoured by the company of the Association Secretary, **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE**—always a welcome visitor to York. After introduction by our new Branch President, **Lt Col R. Plant** (who as a Retired Officer now fills the appointment of SOII (Comms) at HQ North East District), **Col Ron** addressed an audience of WOs and Sgts from the Regiment and the Branch members, on the aims and work of the Association. His interesting and informative exposé, followed by a splendid curry supper, was much enjoyed, and a closer link between the York Branch and the Regiment forged.

The annual City of York Remembrance Day Service, held on the nearest Sunday, actually coincided this year with the 11 November, and the Branch was well represented. Our wreath was laid by **Maj J. A. G. 'Bert' Stokoe** (his turnout, a credit to the Corps, as always). Traditionally the Royal British Legion marching column forms up at the Punchbowl Inn in Goodramgate (special dispensation for early opening!) and following the service in the City Memorial Garden, and the March Past with the GOC North East District and 2 Inf Div, **Maj Gen Peter Inge** taking the salute on the steps of the Mansion House; a rapid reciprocal manoeuvre was completed.

After the splendid summer, the Vale of York has enjoyed a mild autumn. One spell of heavy rain did however cause the River Ouse to cover over the Staithes, and the seasonal aroma of the Sugar Beet Factory adds variety to life! The attractions of York continue to grow—the new Coppergate Shopping complex is now operational. The complex incorporates the JORVIK Viking Centre which has attained international tourist status. **Tony Leavesley** our diligent Estate Agent Branch Secretary is always ready to advise on housing in the area—he even gives consultations whilst driving in the Roller to view properties!

– Sport –

FOOTBALL

THE LLOYDS TROPHY
Report from 21 Sig Regt

The Lloyds Trophy season 84/85 started on 2 November with the Corps team away to the RA at Lippstadt. The team was well under strength with 28, 16 and 7 Sig Regts' players out on exercise; all credit to those remaining players who showed up from the other Regiments.

The warm Friday afternoon was an ideal setting for the match. The game started, our players displaying an excess of enthusiasm. **SSgt Bob O'Hara** and **Cpl Tam Tulloch** controlled the back four and midfield respectively. After an exciting 25 minutes, a foul gave us a free kick. **Cpl Tam Tulloch** took the free kick, to which **Sig 'Tiny' Blatcher** got a foot and passed it to **Sgt Neil Leyland. Sgt Leyland** gently stroked the ball into the back of the net and the Corps took the lead. This appeared to have clinched the match as for the next 10 minutes we dominated the game. But then a mistake in the back four let the Gunners in and despite an initial fine save by **LCpl Steve Robinson,** the rebound was put into the net. One all at half time.

20 minutes into the second half a good through ball split our defence allowing the Gunners to take the lead with a fine goal. With time against us attempts were made to regain the initiative. Pushing forward left a gap through which the Gunners pushed a third goal. The final score did not reflect the good performance from the Corps side. The next game will be against the APTC on 7 December at Wildenrath when we hope to field our full team.

GOLF

CORPS GOLF 1985
Report by Maj (Retd) J. E. Gill

The Fixture List for 1985 is below. All golfers (serving or retired) of the Corps are eligible for selection and should let the Secretary know as soon as possible which matches they are available for. Serving officers and soldiers may be able to claim MMA @PTR for Corps matches under Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges Para 0568. All golfers should in any case register with the Secretary so that records can be kept up to date. Details required are: Rank, Name, Unit Address and Telephone Number, Handicap, Club.

The Secretary is:
Maj (Retd) J. E. Gill
Ministry of Defence
Army Security Vetting Unit
Royal Military Academy Woolwich
London SE18 4JJ
Tel: Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital (Civil 01 856 5533) Ext 2545

FIXTURES 1985

Date	*Event/Opponents*	*Venue*
Wednesday 27 March (pm only)	RMAS	Aldershot
Thursday/Friday 11/12 April	Corps Meeting (South)	High Post
Wednesday 24 April (pm only)	Staff College	Wentworth
Thursday 25 April	HMS *Mercury*	Southwick Park
Friday 3 May	Int Corps	Littlestone
Wednesday 8 May	RAPC	Tyrrells Wood
Tuesday 28 May	RE	Hankley Common
Thursday 6 June	RCT	Blackmoor
Thursday/Friday 6/7 June	Army Golf Association Inter Corps Championships	Catterick
Monday-Friday 10-14 June	Army Championships (AOGS Meeting)	Muirfield & Gullane
Friday 21 June	RAF	Catterick
Friday 26 July	RA	Berkshire
Monday-Wednesday 12-14 August	Army Association Individual Championships	Little Aston & Whittington Barracks
Tuesday 20 August	RAOC	Hankley Common
Thursday 29 August	REME	Blackmoor
Monday/Tuesday 2/3 September	Corps Meeting (North)	Catterick
Thursday 19 September	Ironsides	West Hill
Wednesday 16 October	RAMC/RADC	Farnham

SAILING

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) DINGHY SAILING 1984
Report by Lt G. M. Taylor

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) DINGHY SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Royal Signals (BAOR) Dinghy Sailing Championships took place at the Mohnesee Sailing Club on the 8, 9 October 1984. There were separate competitions for Major and Minor Units, each consisting of two leagues of four teams. The weather was dull and wet, but the wind blew consistently Force 3-4, ideal for team racing.

In the Major Units 'A' League, 22 Sig Regt scraped through to the semi-finals after narrowly beating 3 Armd Div Sig Regt by half a boat length, and 16 Sig Regt after a resail, though losing to 4 Armd Div Sig Regt.

In the 'B' League, 14 Sig Regt spearheaded by **Lt Col Bill Roper,** cruised through scoring three straight wins, with 7 Sig Regt as runners-up. Following the semi finals 22 Sig Regt and 14 Sig Regt met in the final. The first leg was an exciting tactical tussle and places changed constantly. In the end though **Lt Col Peter Pritchard** sailed through to the lead, and with **Lt Graham Taylor** in second place, the race and championships were secured by 22 Sig Regt. **Lt Col 'Dick' Baly,** Chairman Royal Signals Dinghy Sailing, kindly presented the prizes.

THE CANON CERTA (MAJOR UNIT)

Winners: 22 Sig Regt Team: **Lt Col Peter Pritchard, Lt Graham Taylor, Lt Vyv Thatcher, Cpl Paul Ratcliffe, LCpl Mark Bristow, LCpl Rick Greenland.**

THE RHINO CUP (MINOR UNIT)

Winners: 206 Sig Sqn Team: **Capt Mark Pincott, Capt Geoff Lumley, WO2 (RQMS) 'Mitch' Mitchell (Capt)** and **WO2 (YofS) Pete Tharme.**

THE MANSEL TROPHY (INDIVIDUAL)

Winners: **Cpl 'Chas' Cowell** and **WO2 (RQMS) 'Mitch' Mitchell.**

THE QUADRANGULAR REGATTA

The annual Quadrangular Regatta for which Royal Signals, Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery and REME compete, was held at the Mohnesee Sailing Club on 15, 16 October 84. The event was hosted this year by,Royal Signals, and organised by **Maj Dick Sanders,** Secretary Royal Signals Dinghy Sailing. The competition takes the following form: Each team races against each of the other teams twice, once on each day. The aggregate points of the two races decide the winners of the match. The regatta is won by the team which wins the most matches. After a highly competitive and absorbing first day's racing Royal Signals and Royal Artillery were tying with two wins and a defeat each, and the regatta was well poised for an exciting second day. The light but constant wind turned over night into a fitful, variable breeze which caused great anxiety amongst the two teams which had the most to lose. The Race Officer also tore his hair out as the wind swung 180 degrees and back again at random. He had to settle for two wind directions.

However through consistent sailing by the three Royal Signals helms, ably assisted by their extremely patient and vigilant crews, the Royal Signals team won all their matches. This was the first time Royal Signals had triumphed in the Quadrangular Regatta, and swept the board winning:

The Quadrangular Trophy vs RE, RA, REME.
The Triangular Shield vs RE, RA.
The Hadrians Cup vs REME
The team consisted of the following:

Lt Graham Taylor (Capt)	22 Sig Regt
Lt Vyv Thatcher	22 Sig Regt
Lt Scott Workman	201 Sig Sqn
Cpl 'Bas' Ennals	200 Sig Sqn
Cpl 'Chas' Cowell	3 ADSR
LCpl Mark Bristow	22 Sig Regt

INTER-SERVICE DINGHY SAILING

Royal Signals were represented at BAOR level this year in the Inter-Service Match versus RAF(G). The following were members of the BAOR team and were awarded BAOR Sailing Colours: **Lt Graham Taylor (Capt), Lt Scott Workman** and **Cpl 'Chas' Cowell.**

HERE AND THERE

21 REGIMENT

TO SHRINK OR NOT TO SHRINK

As a result of the 'clean-up' after *Lionheart* one of our erstwhile members decided that his combat gloves were in dire need of laundering. But alas, his talents at working the mechanical washing machine wonder were sadly lacking. The result a perfectly shrunken pair of gloves that look as though they were purchased from the equivalent of the SMURFS A & N Store. As the photograph shows the gloves are somewhat smaller. Any Corps unit who has in its ranks a soldier of height 2ft 6ins and hand size of a four year old apply to QM Dept.

The large and small. The shrunken gloves in the centre

227 SQUADRON

The Squadron Soccer Team
Back Row L-R: Fw Lehm, Sig Pole, Og Mahlig, Og Plum
Front Row L-R: Cpl Martin, Su Sauerbrei, Sgt Ridley, Sgt Blakley, Sgt Smith
Absent on Duty: Hg Sommer, Su Josten, Su Weintz

READING BRANCH

Wheelchair Reception 12 Oct 84
Present and former members of 94 (Berks Yeo) Sig Sqn (V)
L-R: Mr Alan E. Foot (ex WO2) Lt Col Jim Isaacs, Mr Jeff Hazel (ex WO2), Capt Eileen Carter, Miss Gillian Howells, WO2 Martin Stubbs, Maj Tony Verey (present OC) and Sgt David Norris
(Photograph taken by Sgt A. Cully (Y&LS))

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small	0.85	0.95
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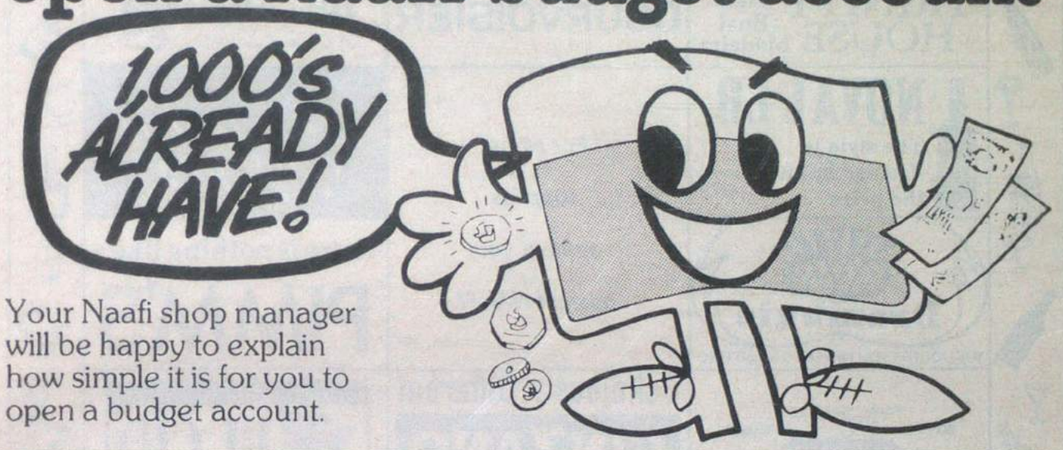

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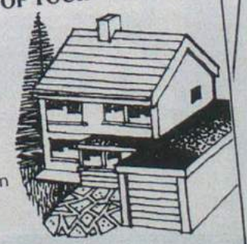

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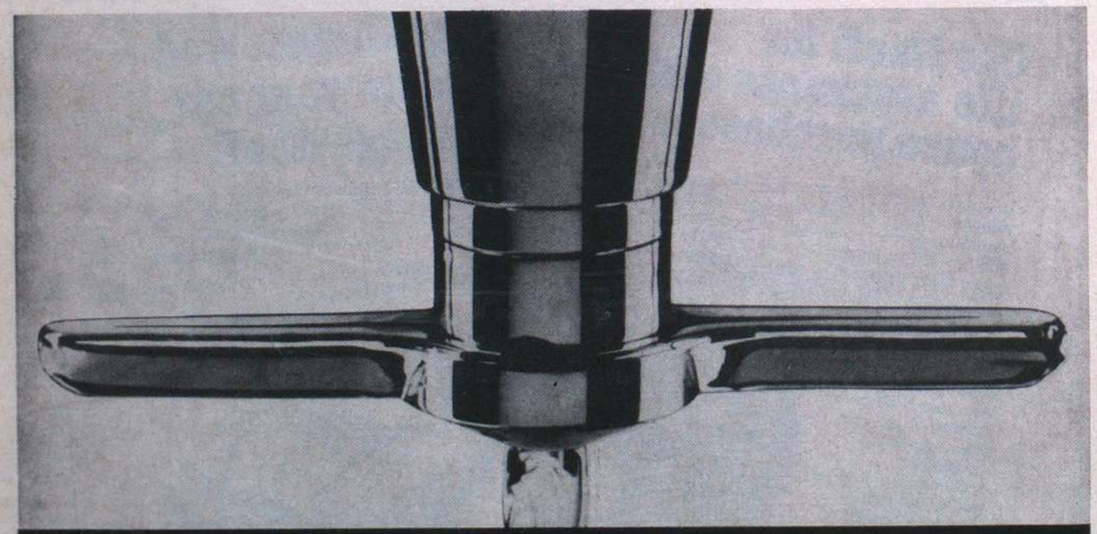

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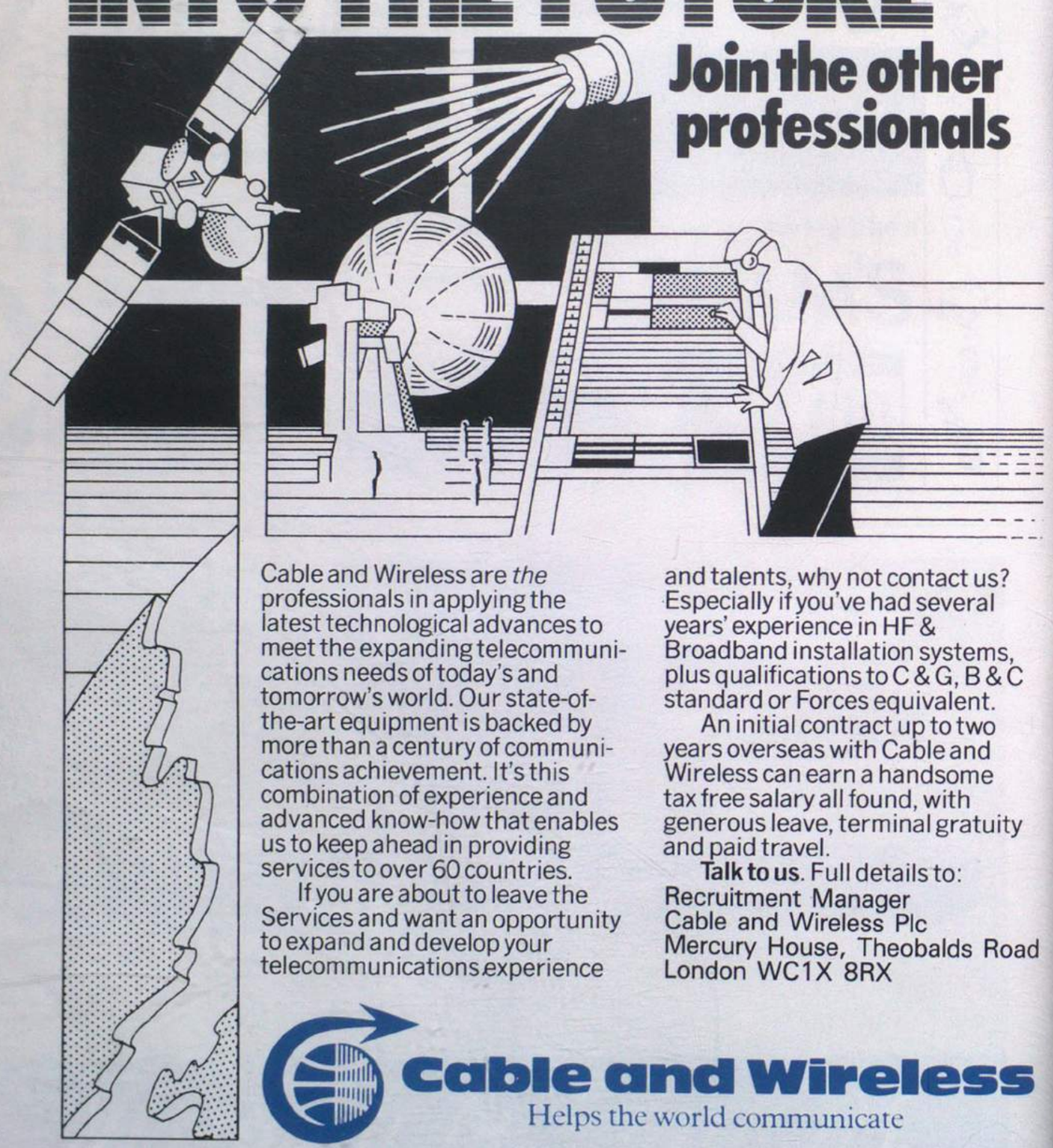

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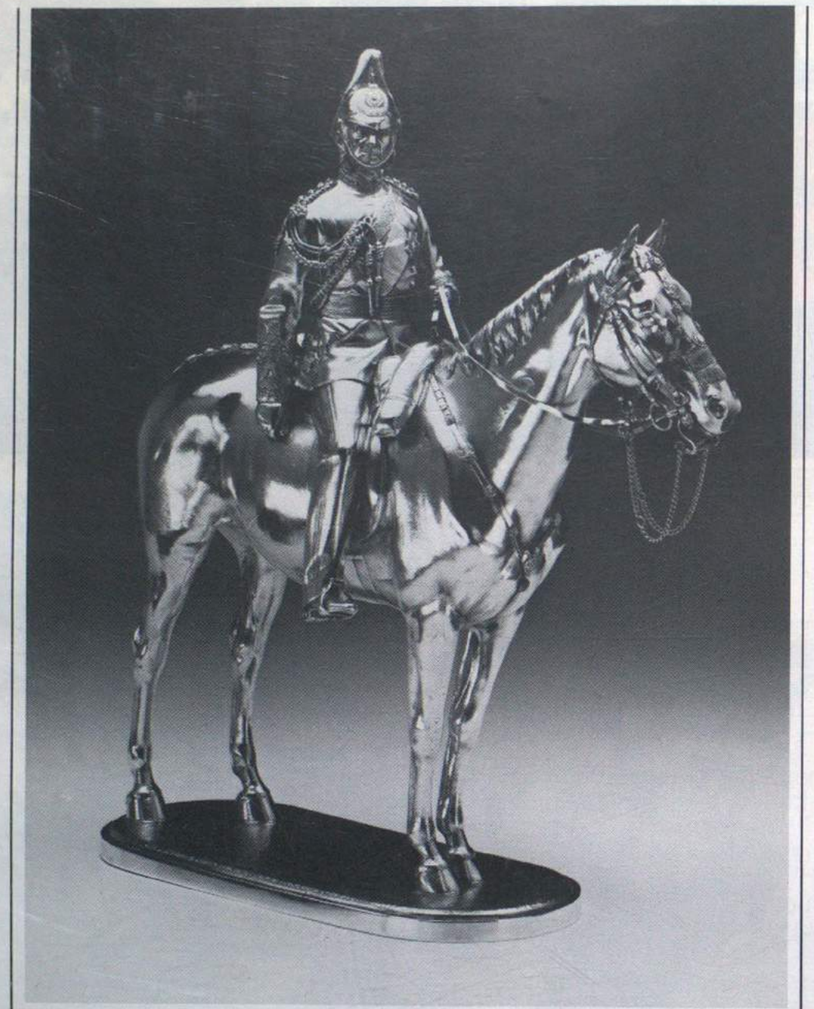
March 1985

THE wire

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE



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BAOR TO GET EVEN MORE CHALLENGERS

Pay up — and charges up

THE Armed Forces Pay Review Body has recommended increases in service pay averaging 7.4%.

The Government has accepted these recommendations but has decided to phase the approximately 3% increases will be implemented April 1st, 1984 with the remainder being November 1st, 1984.

Rates of pay, etc., from April have been released. Needless to say as quarters and single increased. All details Paymasters.

THE Government believes in the equipped defence forces against aggression, said State for Defence, Mr he opened the Exhibition in

And he further

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Refreshments are available all around the course. Entry fee is DM6.50 and you will receive a commemorative medal. Watch for the signs. The start is at Rhein Middle School, open from 8 am to noon.

Naafi man honoured

THE managing director of the Naafi, Mr Brian Whitaker, has been appointed a CBE in the Queens Birthday Honours List.

IF you were at the show you must have seen the Echo Bug — now we want you to name it. The Echo will present a bicycle to the person who sends in the most humorous or most inventive name. The competition is open to all readers on the continent of Europe aged 16 or below.

Write the name you have chosen on a piece of paper or a postcard, and say in not more than 15 words why you think the name is suitable. Don't forget to add your name, age and address.

The closing date for entries is July 9th.

Mail-a-Bug!

IF you were at the Rhine Army Summer Show then you will know how popular the Echo Bug man was giving out all the coloured Echo Bugs. If you were unlucky then don't despair. We have ordered a new batch and they should be with us soon. Look out for next week's Mail-a-Bug coupon and we will send you one free!

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The Wire

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Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
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EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

In January 1980, we gave some prominent publicity to the placing of the PTARMIGAN production contract, recognising that its impact on the Corps—and the Army—would be of great significance. We now record the first deployment of PTARMIGAN to 1st Armoured Division. Our cover picture was taken at Blandford in December. It shows Brigadier John Almonds (Commander School of Signals) calling Brigadier Bob Cook (Commander Communications Headquarters 1st British Corps) to report the departure of PTARMIGAN from Blandford to Verden (See page 126 et seq for full report).

YOUR ASSOCIATION

Some 1,030 individual grants were made from your Benevolent Fund in 1984. Included in these were 38 to serving soldiers or their dependants and £2,900 went to units of the Corps. The total commitment amounted to some **£96,000** (£78,000 in 1983).

The total expenditure of the Games and Yacht Club for the past year — approximately **£40,000** — was also met by the Association.

A grant of **£37,000** went to the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) in 1984. The benefits derived from the ABF may not be so well known and can be summarised as follows:-

- The ABF contributed with our Association in some 45 instances during the year. On this account, we received some **£28,000** to supplement grants from our Benevolent Fund. Additionally, 55 weekly pensions of £4 were established for the elderly in real need.
- 82 soldiers nearing discharge received interest free loans totalling some **£110,000**. The details of 'The Army Benevolent Fund Serving Soldier Loan Scheme' were provided to all units under RHQ Royal Signals letter reference SA/A/56 dated 9 November 1983.
- The ABF contributed a little over **£1,000,000**, on behalf of all Corps and Regiments, to over 70 charities who provide help to either the soldier, the ex-soldier or his dependants.
- The ABF arranged 38 holidays to deserving families — all formerly of the Corps — and met their travel costs.

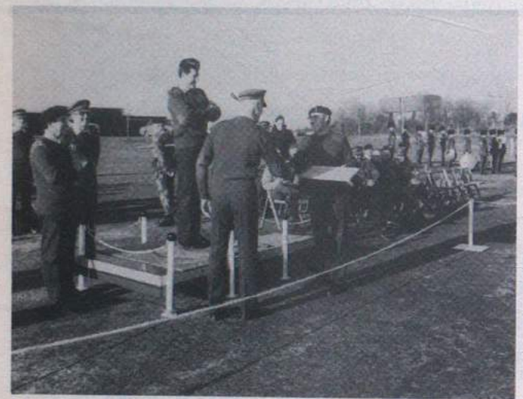
The close links which all Corps and Regimental Associations have with the ABF are both valuable and rewarding. The subsidy to '*The Wire*' in 1984 amounted to some £25,000.

PTARMIGAN ON THE ROAD

AN HISTORIC OCCASION

Friday 14 December was an historic occasion for the Corps. The first 31 PTARMIGAN Installations left Blandford Camp for their long journey via Marchwood and Antwerp to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. To celebrate this event a small ceremony was held in Blandford Camp which consisted of a parade, the formal handing over of the PTARMIGAN Installations by **Lt Col John Rose** (QM, School of Signals) to **Maj Alan Abbott** (QM, 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), the sending of a commemorative signal to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and a speech by **Brig John Almonds**, Comd School of Signals. The Corps Band played Begone Dull Care as the vehicle convoy departed under the command of **Capt Miles Stockdale**. On Monday 17 December **WO2 (FofS) Drew Robertson** departed in command of a further 40 PTARMIGAN vehicles for 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. All these vehicles arrived safely at their destination and we eagerly await the successful First Fielding of PTARMIGAN; the fruits of devoted labour during the past 18 months.

Capt Miles Stockdale (Convoy Commander) requests permission to move off from Brig J. H. Almonds (Comd School of Signals)



Formal handing over of vehicles from Lt Col John Rose (QM, School of Signals) to Maj Alan Abbott (QM 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt)

Packets leave Blandford Camp

VIA ANTWERP

The vehicles arrived from Blandford and Christchurch in three packets. A total of 100 'B' vehicles were collected by members of the Regiment who made the long trip to Antwerp to meet the first two consignments which arrived by LSL's RFA Sir Geraint and RFA Sir Caradoc.

The PIU also assisted in this move by providing escorts for the vehicles.

Packets lined up prior to the parade and departure to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

One of the SCRA Terminals arriving at Verden
LCpl 'Jock' Robertson looks absolutely 'delighted'

CHAMPAGNE LAUNCH

THE VEHICLES ARRIVE

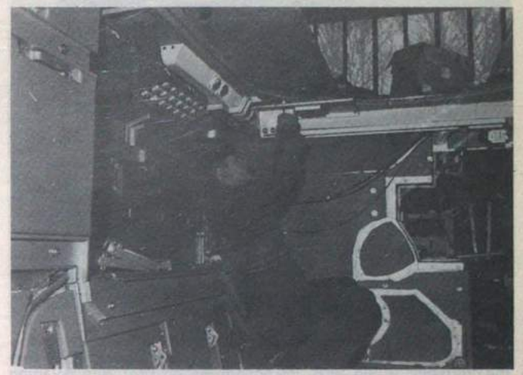
On Tuesday 18 December 1984 the first elements of PTARMIGAN arrived in Verden. The Regiment is the first to receive the equipment and will be fully 'PTARMIGANISED' by April 1985. PTARMIGAN will be fully deployed throughout the Corps by 1987. In a special ceremony to mark the occasion **Maj Gen Sir David Thorne**, Commander 1 Armd Div, 'launched PTARMIGAN' by cracking a bottle of champagne against one of the Armoured Staff vehicles. Also present to welcome PTARMIGAN were **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman**, Commander Comms BAOR, **Brig Bob Cook**, Commander Comms 1(BR) Corps and the CO **Lt Col Mervyn Lee.**

Maj Gen Alan Yeoman and Brig Bob Cook contemplating their cabaret act before the celebrations begin

CONVERSION UNDER WAY

These vehicles joined the 54 AFV 436's which are currently being converted to PTARMIGAN staff vehicles by CIAT (Communications Installation and Advisory Team) commanded by **Maj Alan Morton REME**. This highly skilled team of REME and Royal Signals tradesmen will be based in Verden until the conversion work is complete.

Cpl 'Hutch' Hutchinson REME (*left*) and Sgt Fred Broadhurst REME assembling an installation kit. Each installation kit consists of over 2,000 items



LCpl Martin Kelman attached from 21 Sig Regt fitting a mounting bracket on one of 54 AFV's being converted

THE TRAINING STARTS

Whilst CIAT convert the Armoured Staff Vehicles, PIU (PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit) are busy training the Regiment to operate the equipment. The PIU, commanded by **Maj Helier Exon**, will be based in Verden for the next two years. During that period they will be responsible for training the Corps and Divisional Signal Regiments.

Cpl 'Cass' Cassidy of PIU instructing LCpl Frank Nash, 1 Sqn on a SCRA Central

A PTARMIGAN Wheeled Staff Vehicle
From L to R: Sgt Dave Vince of 201 Sig Sqn, SSgt (FofS) Ken Thompson 3 Sqn and Sig 'Eddy' Eddelstone of 207 Sig Sqn pretending to be Staff Officers

SSgt (YofS) Ron Allan 3 Sqn (*centre*) being shown the 'Torpedo', the PTARMIGAN replacement for the 'Hedgehog'. Briefing him on the 'torpedo' is Sig 'P.B' Pakenham-Bishop of 1 Sqn. Waiting nervously to brief the Yeoman on the tracked SAS/MC is LCpl Mark Cartwright of 3 Sqn

LCpl Steve Gooding connecting a seven quad PTARMIGAN cable to the skin of his WPI(W)

Inside his SAS/MC Tracked, LCpl Mark Cartwright, 3 Sqn has obviously got everything under control. After working in this vehicle for a few days he has decided to study 'Ergonomics'

LCpl Steve James 'Playing with his new toy', an SAS/MC(W)

LCpl Nick Withers of 3 Sqn 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt being instructed by Sig Neil Whatley of the PTARMIGAN introduction Unit, on how to deploy a remote UK/TRC 481—the PTARMIGAN SHF set to be used in the 'down the hill' role

Photograph by Cpl Max Steele

Anyone want their Naafi pie heating up?
Sig 'Greg' Berry has already found a use for his new 20 KW genny

As Sig Simon Dobbins unreels seven quad cable from an SAS/MC(W) Sig Mark Giles remains alert to watch out for approaching Sergeant Majors who keep trying to learn about PTARMIGAN but are not being allowed to!

AND DONT FORGET WAVELL

Being introduced to the 1 Armd Div alongside PTARMIGAN is WAVELL 2. This is the Army's new Command and Control System which has superseded its prototype, WAVELL 1. As well as all the new processors and terminals, the other WAVELL arrival to Verden is **Maj Derek Robertson** who has come from HQ 1 (BR) Corps to assist the Division during the First Fielding stage.

Pictured here getting to grips with WAVELL is Brig Jeremy MacKenzie, Commander, 12 Armd Bde assisted by Maj Derek Robertson, SO2(W) Wavell, HQ 1 (BR) Corps

Inside the WPI(W), LCpl Steve Gooding 'talks' to the computer using his control teleprinter. Cpl Eddy Edwards (*right*) is trying to think of a way to interface his Commodore 64K home computer to the WAVELL processor which has 1,125 times the memory of the Commodore

— From our "In" Tray —

ANOTHER FIRST FOR THE CORPS
22nd SIGNAL REGIMENT ARE ARMY CHAMPIONS

SKI TEAM SUCCESSES

The 4 Armd Div Ski meeting, in Ischgl was the first competitive event of this season for the Regimental Ski Team. Both the langlaufers and the downhillers had trained hard and were armed to the teeth with waxes ready for the first races. In spite of bad snow conditions, the competition was fierce. The downhillers skied hard to take first place in the slalom and the Giant Slalom, but fell to third place in the Super Giant Slalom, which replaced the downhill event because of the poor conditions. Meanwhile the langlaufers were maintaining a solid third position against stiff opposition.

Next, to the BAOR meet, Exercise *Rucksack 85*, where the teams split—the Alpine to Fulpmes and the Nordic to Zwiesel. In Fulpmes we became Alpine champions, as our Alpine team dominated the competition, coming first of the Princess Marina teams in all three events. But for the QOH (competing in the Minor Units Competition) it would have been a clean sweep, however, in the team slalom event they beat us to first place by half a second (that's an eighth of a second faster each, next year boys!)

Fine individual performances, too, gained places in the Army team for **Lt Paul Ford** (as Captain) and **LCpl Andy Brown.**

In Zwiesel our Nordic Team achieved fourth place in the face of strong opposition, especially from 1 Armd Div Transport Regt, which put the Regiment third in the Princess Marina Trophy (a combination of both the Alpine and Nordic Disciplines). **LCpl Carl Davies,** too, skied his way to a place in the Army Nordic B team.

ARMY DOWNHILL SKI CHAMPIONS
From left to right, Cpl Steve Brian, Lt Paul Ford, LCpl Andy Brown and Sgt Steve Major

CONTACT, WAIT OUT

The latest Corps painting by Philip Archer has been entitled 'Contact, wait out' and depicts **Sgt Joseph Gordon Mather MM,** Royal Signals, attached to 22 Special Air Service Regiment in the Falkland Islands during May 1982.

The painting shows **Sgt Mather** observing an enemy artillery position in the Bluff Cove area. Enemy helicopters are carrying out a re-supply task and **Sgt Mather** is seen observing this operation and is about to signal his report back to the Naval Task Force which was some 120 miles off-shore.

There are prints of this excellent painting, the third Corps painting by **Peter Archer,** a well known military artist, available for sale from the Royal Signals Museum.

There is a limited edition of 100 copies signed by the artist which cost £16.00 each and unsigned copies cost £10.00 each.

Applications should be made to the Deputy Director or the Curator, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH. Cheques should be made payable to The Royal Signals Association.

THE TAKE OVER

Deep in the heart of North Yorkshire, Royal Signals have taken over the running of Headquarters 15 Infantry Brigade at Alanbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe. The photograph shows the team outside Brigade Headquarters. From left to right, **Capt Bob Brannigan** is OC of the Signal troop based with 2 Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment in York. **Maj Dick Hoyle** is SO3 G2 and. **Maj Philip Rouse** is SO3 G1/G4, prior to his move to Northern Ireland.

ADVENTUROUS OLD TYPE

Prompted on the attempt by **Simon Lowe** and **Tim Watts** to climb Mont Blanc in 1982 a recent attempt made by **Lt Col Len Rogers,** certainly amongst the 'older' generation, who at the ripe old age of 55 years reached the summit on 26 August 1984, may be of interest to Wire readers.

On this occasion the team consisted of **Lt Col Len Rogers,** his Belgian son in law, **Robert,** and photographer friend **John Pierre.** The photograph shows **Len Rogers** and **Robert,** in the background, at the summit of Mont Blanc, which at 15,781 feet above sea level is the highest mountain peak in Europe.

THEIR BEST WISHES

From: WO2 (SSM) M Davis

Dear Sir,

Last November my Squadron were fortunate enough to exercise in New Zealand. Before our departure I phoned my Father (ex **WO2 Henry Davis**) to tell him where I was going, and he immediately mentioned that an old friend who had joined the Corps with him in 1930 now lived in New Zealand. They had last met in 1940.

Armed with his address I arrived in New Zealand and, within 24 hours, ex **WO1 (RSM) Pat 'Tich' Cunningham** had found me, having heard from my Father of my impending arrival. **Pat Cunningham** was RSM of the Boys' Unit at Beverley when it opened (in 1947?) and served with the Commonwealth Brigade in Korea, also as RSM.

Having survived two wars he left the Service and having been impressed by the New Zealanders he had met in Korea, he emigrated and joined the RNZS, in which he served for six years.

Both my Father (who spent a lot of time in India) and **Pat** wish to pass on their best wishes to all old comrades.

Yours faithfully,
M. Davis

1 Sqn,
30 Signal Regiment,
Blandford Camp DT11 8RP

HM THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

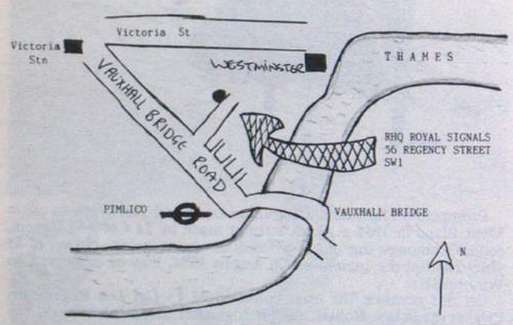
Our Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Anne** may attend **HM The Queen's** Garden Party on Wednesday 17 July, 1985.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend *on this date*, are asked to notify **Col Francis** at RHQ Royal Signals, Cheltenham Terrace, Chelsea, London SW3 4RH, in order that they may be included in the Corps organised party, and presented to **The Princess Anne.**

RHQ ROYAL SIGNALS TO MOVE

Regimental Headquarters Royal Signals has been located in the Duke of Yorks Barracks off the Kings Road Chelsea since December 1962, some 23 years. Now, because of the expanding accommodation requirements of the TA, RHQ is to move to a new home at 56 Regency Street SW1, near Vauxhall Bridge, in April or May this year.
The new location will be easily found by visitors and is not far from the Ministry of Defence. We shall endeavour to provide normal service during our move. We welcome visitors at RHQ from the serving and retired Corps, but it might be advantageous to both you and RHQ if you avoid April/May! More details of the exact date, new address and 'phone numbers will follow in our next issue.

CENTRAL LONDON



THE WHITE LIST

This was sent out to all serving officers and to those retired officers who subscribe in December 1984. If your copy did not arrive, please advise RHQ Royal Signals. Copies may be purchased by non-subscribing officers, and by Warrant Officers by application to RHQ with a cheque for £2 made to 'Royal Signals Corps Funds'.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION

Lt Col John Beale, the Secretary Institution retired on 22 February. He has handed over to the Regimental Secretary, **Col John Francis** who is now the new Secretary Institution. All future correspondence on Institution matters should please be addressed to **Col Francis.**

YOUR HELP IS STILL NEEDED — NEW CORPS HISTORY

In our previous request in the Wire and the Journal for contributions to help build up research material for the new Corps History, a first deadline of 1 April, 1985 was given for contributions. The professional author will begin during April/May 1985 his study of contributions so far received and will then start work on the manuscript of the book.

However, collection of research material will continue throughout the period during which the book is being written and we anticipate the final deadline will be December 1985.

Accounts covering any Corps activities during the period 1945 to 1985 will continue to be most welcome throughout the remainder of this year and preferably sooner rather than later. If you have a story to tell, or contemporary reports or other relics whether concerning the Corps on operations or peacetime activities, developments (technical or otherwise) or any other facet of life in the Corps, please write to or contact by telephone: **Lt Col Robin Painter.** c/o Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 8RH. (Telephone. 0258 52581 Ext 267)

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB

Dates for your 1985 Diary are as follows:—

CORPS DINNER at the London International Press Centre, Wednesday 8 May, 1985, Black Tie.

CORPS LUNCHEON at the Headquarters Officers' Mess, Blandford Camp, Saturday 15 June, 1985.

Ticket application forms will be circulated to retired officer members who pay the full £10 subscription to Corps Funds, in March/April 1985. Retired officers who do not subscribe must apply to RHQ for their form.

KOHIMA CELEBRATIONS: 10-12 MAY 1985—YORK

2nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment plans to take part in the 1985 Divisional celebrations of the Battle of Kohima over the weekend 10-12 May 1985. The celebrations will take a similar form to those in 1984 with an Open Day on Saturday 11 May, followed by evening entertainment, and a Drumhead Service in Imphal Barracks on Sunday 12 May. We would be particularly delighted to hear from any former members of the Regiment who took part in the Battle of Kohima and who would like to attend the 1985 celebrations. Please write to:

The Secretary
Kohima 1985 Celebrations
2nd Infantry Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment
Imphal Barracks
Fulford Road
York YO1 4HD

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER — 11 OCTOBER 1985

The next OWA Reunion Dinner will be held at The School of Signals, Blandford, Dorset on 11 October 1985.

The Reunion is particularly for No 5 and No 6 Entry but all other OWs are encouraged to attend.

Dress will be Dinner Jacket. Accommodation will be available.

Will anyone who wishes to attend please contact the relevant person below:

5 Entry:	**Lt Col R. D. K. Thompson** School of Signals Blandford Dorset	Tel 0258 52581 X 253
6 Entry:	**Lt Col M. J. P. Vann**	Tel 01 934 9327
All other Entries:	**Capt G. S. Lane** Welbeck College Worksop, Notts	Tel 0909 476326 X 30 0909 723291 (evening)

PRESENTATION

Sgt C. Savage receiving the LS&GC medal from Lt Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett, GOC SEDIST. Sgt Savage was posted to Army Careers Information Office Reading in March 1984

WIRE AND CORPS FUNDS SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription for *The Wire* was increased wef 1 January 1985 from £2.10 pa to £4.20 pa. This change was notified during 1984 in *The Wire*, and also by personal letter to those subscribing by Bankers Order (BO).

PROBLEMS: In many cases:

—*either* you have not instructed your bank to cancel the old BO (and perhaps start a new one),

—*or* your bank has not carried out your orders.

Those of you who are still subscribing £2.10 (the old rate) will not, sadly, receive *The Wire*. Your £2.10 will be refunded to your bank. We will also send you a 'stop order' for you to send to your bank. If this fails, contributions of the wrong amount paid in January 1986 will be considered a donation to the Benevolent Fund!

CORPS SUBSCRIPTIONS (RETIRED OFFICERS ONLY)

Some of your banks paid by BO in January 1985 at your *old* rate, (and there were several different rates); there is only one correct rate now, and that is £10 pa.

ACTION

Check your bank statement please. The *only* correct rate is £10. If you have paid the wrong amount it will be placed in a suspense account until claimed. If not claimed, it will revert to the general Corps Fund at the end of 1985.

If in doubt, please check *with your bank*, then write or 'phone RHQ (01-930-4466) Extn 372, 376 or 371.

DO YOU KNOW?

From: Lt D. P. Spencer, Royal Signals

GEBEL SHABRAWIT CUP

Dear Sir,

The Gebel Shabrawit Cup has been held by 259 Sig Sqn since winning it in 1966. All knowledge of its history and origins has unfortunately been lost except that the Cup was presented by the Officers of Royal Signals Middle Eastern Forces in 1946.

We would be particularly interested in finding out what the cup was awarded for with the possibility of reintroducing that competition, or using the cup for some other purpose. Any information would be gratefully received.

Yours faithfully,
D. P. Spencer

259 Sig Sqn,
British Forces Post Office 53

THE WHITE HELMETS

From Maj P. G. M. Lee (Ret'd)

Dear Sir,

I was most interested in ex **Cpl Bob Hadnett's** excellent article about the 48 (SM) Div Sig TA Despatch Rider Display Team because I had something to do with the beginnings of this splendid body of 'terriers'. Don Section OC was my great friend **Lt Bob Danielsen** and **Lt John Timings** was the DR (C) Section Officer, **Col F. E. B. Jones** was then the Company Commander. It may be truly said that practically all the organising was done by these TA Signalmen; the main function of us three officers was to turn up to meetings, such as the Dunlop Company Sports, in our blue patrol uniforms and briefly man a sort of saluting base as part of the act. No doubt we subscribed a modest 'sub' also.

We also had some very jolly 'hot pot' pub suppers after a weekend run with plenty of beer and singing. **Cpl Hadnett** may well remember the words of 'The Dirty Dashing Don Rs'! our special song. I remember also the help and friendship of **Graham Walker** who usually attended the parties and all the Displays.

The owner of the Bentley was **Lt Ted Fellows** who, as OC 'M' Section was one of the good friends of the DR Section. He left us before we went to France, I'm sure against his will, to continue his training as a doctor and transfer to RAMC. He was another great pal of mine but, alas, I have since lost touch.

In recent years I have had some contact in Malaysia with **Lt Col Jackman**, a regular officer who had much to do with the early days of the Blue Helmets. Sadly, he died not so long ago as, also, has **Bob Danielsen.**

I remember a time when the Regular Blue Helmets were committed elsewhere and our White Helmets successfully deputised for them at a Tattoo at the White City. In the true tradition of the best units in the Territorial Army, I, as OC 'A' Section was taken to see the show by my TA Sergeants who had amongst them at least one bigger car than I could afford.

Before ending this nostalgic memory of those happy days mention must be made of the other TA Display Team of First London Divisional Signals. Their OC was then, an enthusiastic young officer, **Lt Denison-Pender** whose father was the head of Cable and Wireless, which ensured for this keen bunch of riders some useful patronage. We had an excellent relationship with these Londoners.

All this was also valuable training for war as the record of our DR Section during the time of Dunkirk amply demonstrated.

Yours faithfully
P. G. M. Lee

13, Jalan Straits View,
Johore Bahru, Johore,
Malaysia.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of the Royal Signals Association, Aldershot Branch will be held at the Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants on Saturday 18 May 1985. Assembly 7.15pm for 8pm.

Applications for tickets to: **Mr A. V. Ient** MSM, 111 Gloucester Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3SQ. Tel: Aldershot 23658.

'4TH UIST OPEN' SEA ANGLING FESTIVAL

23/24 July 1985
Trophies and Cash Prizes

Details and entry forms from: Competition Members RARSAC, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula, Western Isles, Scotland. Please send your account to 'The Treasurer, RARSAC' at the above address.

— Movements —

FEBRUARY 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj M. O. N. Bird	HQ SE District
Capt G. J. Cary	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj (QM) A. J. Cowe	39 Sig Regt (V)
Maj R. J. Evans	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. A. Ewell	8 Sig Regt
Capt J. M. Gale	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
Capt J. J. C. Gareze	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Col S. G. M. Gordon	ACDS (C)
Lt A. J. Hall	240 Sig Sqn
Capt J. E. Hall	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt A. P. Hearn	Junior Regt R Signals
Capt C. E. Homewood	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt J. S. H. Johnson	10 Sig Regt
Maj D. B. Jones	HS School of Infantry
Capt (TOT) W. Lawson	ATT 266 Sig Sqn BFFI
Lt M. P. Llewellyn	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj R. J. Lloyd-Jones	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt C. W. Lockwood	8 Sig Regt
Maj M. L. Martin	22 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) B. McAneny	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Col E. Malley	School of Signals
Lt T. J. Pengelley	40 Sig Regt (V)
Lt D. W. Powell	244 Sig Sqn (AS)
Maj (Tfc) G. Powell	HQ NORTHAG (BAE)
Capt P. A. Pratley	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj M. S. Reid	259 Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) J. H. Richardson	22 Sig Regt
Capt P. Robertshaw	HQ Trg Gp
Capt A. W. Russ	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj M. A. J. Sheehan	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj I. C. Shuker	DSS (AD)
Maj M. K. Stretch	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt R. G. Thomas	16 Sig Regt
Capt D. G. Wood	7 Sig Regt
Capt B. Young	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)

Officers

MARCH 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
2Lt A. J. Allman	HS School of Signals
Capt R. D. Barfoot	Cambridge UOTC
Maj I. D. Bingham	10 Sig Regt
Maj R. S. Bresloff	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col C. A. Brown	HQ 1 Sig Gp
Lt J. J. M. Campbell	5 AB BDE HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj J. C. Chambers	Defence Sales Org (PE) (AE)
Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer	HQ School of Signals
2Lt J. A. Compston	HS School of Signals
2Lt T. C. Cooper	HS School of Signals
Capt M. A. Coupar	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
Lt S. Croft	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col I. J. Crouch	RSRE (PE) (AE)
2Lt P. J. Davies	30 Sig Regt
Lt E. A. Davis	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) J. Doherty	JFHQ BFFI (AE)
2Lt J. S. Field	HS School of Signals
Maj P. D. Garway-Templeman	HQ W Dist R&L Staff
Lt A. A. Goff	11 Sig Regt
Maj I. N. Greig	262 Sig Sqn
Capt P. J. Grogan	11 Sig Regt
Lt R. Hails	21 Sig Regt
Lt G. Hearn	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt A. Hill	HS School of Signals
2Lt G. P. Horn	HS School of Signals
2Lt R. A. Howie	22 Sig Regt
Maj E. W. Hunt	35 Sig Regt
Capt T. G. Inshaw	HQ NI
Maj L. A. Jeffery	33 Sig Regt
Col M. Marples	RHQ Royal Signals
Lt G. R. Mason	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt L. D. McCourt	22 Sig Regt
Capt J. R. M. McGrath	19 Inf Bde Hq and Sig Sqn
2Lt M. Nott	HS School of Signals
Capt (TOT) R. C. Offord	30 Sig Regt
Lt M. S. Olive	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt G. Park	School of Signals
2Lt P. D. Peel	7 Sig Regt
Lt T. N. Pender-Jones	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col E. Pickup	DCISS(C)
Lt J. Richardson	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Capt T. P. Rimell	HQ 1(BR) Corps
Lt R. A. Sharp	1 Green Howards
Lt M. G. Shaw	Jnr Regt R Signals
Maj S. M. Siddall	MOD (PBII)
2Lt D. Spencer	HS School of Signals
Capt M. R. S. Stanners	HQ Br Forces Belize
2Lt N. S. Stevens	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt J. E. Swindells	HS School of Signals
Lt V. J. Thatcher	Junr Regt R Signals
Lt S. J. Turnbull	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt M. A. Walker	HS School of Signals
Maj A. M. Wallace	School of Signals
2Lt D. B. Warne	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) J. White	7 Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Wood	29 Sig Regt
Capt V. T. Zimmer	35 Sig Regt (V)

WOs and SNCOs

FEBRUARY 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 T. H. C. Cartwright	22 Sig Regt
WO1 W. G. House	38 Cadet Trg Team
WO2 (FofS) M. J. J. Kelly	Int Centre Ashford
WO2 (FofS) S. M. Crowe	Royal School of Artillery Larkhill
WO2 I. Cairns	School of Signals
WO2 J. R. Farrell	Comms & Sy Gp UK
WO2 (YofS) L. R. Harvey	22 Sig Regt
SSgt R. G. Cartwright	22 Sig Regt
SSgt B. E. Mower	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt K. V. Hawke	NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
SSgt J. Neil	21 Sig Regt
SSgt F. S. Payet	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt J. R. Mountcastle	7 Sig Regt
SSgt A. Wilson	55 Sig Sqn
SSgt B. R. Robinson	ACGS (OR)
SSgt K. R. Counsell	21 Sig Regt (AS)
SSgt B. McSherry	11 Sig Regt
SSgt P. Aitken	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt W. Heelan	2 Inf Div Fwd Element
ASSgt W. J. Haslam	71 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt R. Marnoch	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
ASSgt M. D. Lumgair	AA Coll Harrogate
ASSgt J. Graves	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. Eyre	266 Sig Sqn
ASSgt M. Westrop	21 Sig Regt (AS)
Sgt T. D. Clarke	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Casey	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. H. Smithson	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. W. Martin	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt M. C. Ball	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt I. C. Parry	Royal School of Artillery
Sgt J. E. Storey	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. A. Townsend	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. R. Tyreman	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. Whitehead	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. Marshall	9 Sig Regt
Sgt A. P. Fullwood	Cdo Log Regt RM
Sgt M. J. McKenzie	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt D. F. Kirkpatrick	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt R. T. Archer	10 Sig Regt
Sgt C. A. Gemmell	Ptarmigan Intro Unit
Sgt A. Ridley	21 Sig Regt
Sgt L. D. Powell	63 Sig Sqn
Sgt W. J. Stack	30 Sig Regt
Sgt K. L. Turner-Howe	30 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Stone	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. G. Artus	Army Pers Selection Gp
Sgt R. G. Webb	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Ratcliffe	22 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Leech	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. O. Thomas	40 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt A. Bellew	7 Sig Regt
ASgt D. E. Hudson	259 Sig Sqn
ASgt P. Skinner	574 Rear Link Det
ASgt J. G. Johnson	546 Rear Link Det

MARCH 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) A. C. Doane	School of Signals
WO1 (YofS) D. A. Dunbar	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO2 (YofS) J. Haldane	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) S. J. Howard	HQ UKLF
WO2 (YofS) S. G. Watson	22 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) D. T. Wilson	633 Sig Tp
WO2 L. Collins	11 Sig Regt
WO2 M. Davis	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO2 J. B. McSherry	30 Sig Regt
WO2 R. K. Minty	7 Sig Regt
WO2 R. L. Gibson	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 C. Ramsay	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
WO2 H. J. Johnson	8 Sig Regt
AWO2 A. C. Ross	21 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) C. P. Aitken	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) C. A. E. Copestake	4 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) R. L. Secker	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) D. L. Walker	8 Sig Regt
SSgt N. B. Dean	7 Sig Regt
SSgt J. Fowler	Junior Regt R Signals
SSgt J. A. Pape	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt J. P. Martin	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt A. D. Duggan	Junior Regt R Signals
SSgt N. Colville	22 Sig Regt
SSgt J. E. O. McConnon	13 Sig Regt
SSgt C. W. Peach	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. C. Ross	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. Gaffney	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt A. Garvie	233 Sig Sqn
ASSgt T. Broomfield	AA Coll Harrogate
ASSgt K. J. Leighton	259 Sig Sqn
ASSgt D. Ellis	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. L. H. Lovejoy	Pontrilas Army Training Area
Sgt D. R. Tope	7 Sig Regt
Sgt T. F. A. Christian	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt A. J. Baron	4 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt

Sgt C. A. Coulthard	22 Sig Regt
Sgt R. P. Dean	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt D. Ellis	21 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Allen	28 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Forryan	16 Sig Regt
Sgt T. D. Gower	7 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Hall	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. MacTaggart	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
SSgt S. J. McMahon	14 Sig Regt
Sgt K. F. Pywell	28 Sig Regt
Sgt W. P. Ruthven	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Knights	30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. M. Massey	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt D. W. Tungate	40 Sig Regt
Sgt G. P. Frazer	30 Sig Regt
Sgt S. T. Wise	28 Sig Regt
Sgt I. G. Tepielow	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt D. G. Hughes	14 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Witchell	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. W. Shiels	AA Coll Harrogate
ASgt R. E. Boulton	8 Sig Regt
ASgt R. Dunleavy	9 Sig Regt
ASgt J. H. Lewis	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt R. P. Iley	22 Sig Regt
ASgt R. J. Pickering	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt K. Storey	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt S. A. McElreavey	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Welfare

DECEMBER 1984

Number of cases assisted financially:	48
Amount spent:	£8,206.66
Christmas grants:	310
Amount spent:	£3,210.00

JANUARY 1985

Number of cases assisted financially:	56
Amount spent:	£9,664.98

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

Ex WO2, now in his late 70s lives alone in Sheltered Housing.

He has had two replacement hip operations for arthritis and can now only walk with the aid of sticks. A grant was made for a special chair and essential clothing.

Ex Sig recently widowed left with two teenage children had a nervous breakdown following his wife's death. In order to pay for the funeral he had accumulated other debts. These were cleared to enable him to make 'a clean start' and get back to work.

Severely disabled ex Sergeant recently had his third heart by-pass operation. In view of his poor health he was rehoused by the local authority. Together with the Army Benevolent Fund and the RAF Benevolent Fund we made a major grant to furnish his home for him, so that he could be discharged from hospital.

The widow of an ex-POW(FE) was in difficulties following the death of her husband. He had been an invalid for many years and she had insufficient bedding. A grant was made to replace these items and also towards the cost of her winter heating bills.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January 1985

42 Sig Regt Officers Club	£125.00
WO2 (YofS) A. L. Hawkins	£ 70.00
N. H. Chadwick Esq	£ 50.00
J. D. Simon Esq	£ 25.00
H. R. W. Marsh Esq	£ 20.00
J. E. Neale Esq	£ 20.00
D. P. Mully Esq	£ 20.00
Sgt J. A. Shorter	£ 15.00
Capt A. D. Eraut	£ 15.00
P. M. Sparling Esq	£ 13.00
Maj Gen C. M. F. White CB CBE DSO	£ 10.00
Lt Col R. N. Houston	£ 10.00
Mrs F. W. P. Bradford	£ 10.00
L. C. Hall Esq	£ 10.00
A. R. Carter Esq	£ 10.00
Maj W. R. Wattle	£ 2.00
Miscellaneous	£ 32.04
	£457.04

The following donations were gratefully received during February 1985

J. B. McKissock Esq	£ 25.00
56 Div OCA	£ 20.00
R. D. Manning Esq	£ 10.00
In memory of Brig E. V. McCormack CBE	£ 10.00
Maj C. A. Smith	£ 8.00
J. D. Webster Esq	£ 5.80
O. R. Withers Esq	£ 5.00
Maj The Earl Kitchener	£ 2.00
Miscellaneous	£ 10.24
	£96.04

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TRG SERVICES
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London EC4R 9AA. Tel: 01-236 2661

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

Blackman—Maj George Blackman was born in London on 3 February 1917. From 1939-1944 he served in the Royal Artillery. On commissioning in 1944 he transferred to the East Surrey Regiment and became a Field Security Officer. On 5 August 1947 he transferred into Royal Signals as a Lieutenant. His first Corps units were 4 Air Formation Sig Regt and 1 AA (Group) (M) Sig Regt. On 1 June 1950 he was appointed SO HQ 3 AA Group and remained there until he moved to the Far East in March 1952. He served as OC Signal Training Squadron in Singapore until January 1955. On his return to the UK he spent two years with the Public Relations Pool of Officers. After a year as the Training Major of 43 (Wx) Inf Div Sig Regt he returned to the Far East as DADPR HQ 17 Gurkha Division. When **George** returned to the UK he spent his final months on the active list with the Public Relations service and retired on 18 March 1961. He died on 9 October 1984.

Clarke—Capt Harold Clarke was born at Walsall on 20 December 1911. He served in the Corps from April 1931 until August 1944 when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. During his service in the ranks, he served in India from 1934 to 1938 and returned in April 1942 and then served in Burma returning home in November 1945. After commissioning he was posted to No 3 Intelligence School at Harrogate and then to 10 WTS at Forest Moor. In January 1948 he went to Singapore and became Adjutant of the Singapore Dist Sig Regt where he remained until November 1950. On his return to UK he served first with Western Command Sig Regt and then Eastern Command Sig Regt. His final appointment was with 58th (M) Sig Regt and he retired from there in May 1962. He died on 3 September 1984.

Forbes—Cpl John Michael Moncrieff Forbes died on 6 January 1985 at Taunton General Hospital after a long serious illness. **Michael,** the name he was always known by, enlisted into the Corps in December 1964 and trained as a Communications Centre operator at Catterick. He was then posted to 3 Sqn 15 Sig Regt in Bahrain returning to England in 1967. He then saw service in UK, BAOR, Norway and a further tour to the Middle East. He was promoted to Corporal in December 1972. In October 1981 he joined 13 Sig Regt where he remained until March 1984 when **Michael**, unfortunately, became very ill and had to be returned to England with his wife **Sue. Michael** will always be remembered for his cheerfulness and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Goodhead—Mrs Blanche Goodhead died in Germany on 14 January and readers will recall the photograph published in the last issue to mark her 90th birthday. **Mrs Goodhead** had lived with her daughter and son-in-law, **Lt Col** and **Mrs Guy Rogers** for the past 21 years and was well known to many past and present members of the Corps in Germany.

Jobling—We sadly record the death of ex **Sig Richard Ostle (Dickie) Jobling** on 23 June 1984. He was born in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne on 21 April 1918 and enlisted on a Regular Engagement with the Corps on 29 July 1936.

After training as an Operator Wireless and Line, he served in India. During World War 2 he served with 4th Indian and 5th Indian Divisional Signals in Eritrea and Abyssinia, and later with the 8th Army in the Western Desert, where he was eventually 'put in the bag' at Benghazi, after which he was a POW for three and a half years in Italy and NW Germany until 1945. During his service in Eritrea and Abyssinia he was awarded a 'Mention in Despatches' for his excellent work as personal Wireless Operator to the General commanding his Division **(Gen Beresford Peirse)**.

After the War he was always a great supporter, through thick and thin, of the Newcastle and Gateshead Branch of the Association at its various venues over the years. His best weekend of the year was that spent at the annual Catterick Reunion, which he rarely missed. Unfortunately, due to failing health he was unable to attend in 1984.

Dick, incidentally was in the Boxing Team run at Catterick by the late **Ex WO2 (RQMS) L. F. Payne** during his early days with the Corps in 1936/37, and always made a point of contacting him at the Reunion.

Thew—Maj John Matthew Thew was born in Gateshead, County Durham on 11 May 1934 and was granted a commission in the Royal Signals on 6 June 1958. After completing his National Service he joined 338 Sig Sqn (TA) and when the TA was re-organised in 1967 he was posted to 34 (N) Sig Regt (V) where he became a Troop Commander in 90 (NR) Sig Sqn which he eventually commanded from 1975-1978.

In January 1979, **John** became the Brigade Signal Officer of 29 Engineer Brigade. **John** collapsed and died while doing his annual BFT on Sunday 26 February 1984 and at that time had been a member of the Royal Corps of Signals for 27 years and a TA Officer for 25 years. He was a very capable officer whose professionalism was always evident. His dedication to duty, maintenance of standards and above all his devotion and loyalty to his wife, three children and two foster-children were exceptional. Concern for the well-being of soldiers under his command was always in his mind and he was respected by his superiors, peers and subordinates alike.

John taught English at Heaton Manor School, Newcastle, and was very active in teaching junior boys rugby at Gosforth Rugby Club. He was a man whose qualities are needed as much now as when he first joined and he will be sorely missed by those who knew him. It is a measure of the very high esteem in which **John** was held that the civil and military congregation at his funeral service could not be accommodated.

Wilson — Ex WO2 (SSM) D. F. Wilson BEM died suddenly at his home in Blandford Forum on Sunday 20 January aged 58. **Don,** or **'Tug'** as many of his friends knew him joined the Corps in 1951 and served in Korea, Singapore, BAOR, Cyprus and Blandford. Prior to military service **'Tug'** was in the Merchant Navy where he sailed the world. On discharge, **'Tug'** continued to work for MOD as an ASA at Blandford Garrison and was a very keen Amateur Radio Operator under the callsign G4TVM. He was a dearly loved father of seven children and devoted husband of his wife **Cis**. After 28 years military service and a further 10 years as a Civil Servant, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

FOR SALE

.22 Rifle (Anshutz 1407) little used, vgc. Reasonable offer accepted. Ring and haggle **Lt Col (Retd) R. Davidge.** MOD Main Building Ext 3989 (01 218 3989).

Mess Dress. Jacket 40" (with SSgt badges of rank) trousers 36-38", waistcoat, bow tie, golfball shirt 15½". First offer of £60 secures (incl p&p). Apply to **SSgt Davies**, 42 Spilsby Road, Boston, Lincs PE21 9NS (0205-64638).

PERSONAL

SIGNALMAN HENRY GEORGE ASHLEY

The Rev Brian Ashley would be very pleased to hear from anyone who knew his father, **Henry Ashley**, who died in Shirikawa POW Camp in Taiwan on 21 January 1945. Please write to him at 'Starton', Church Hill, Horsell, Woking, Surrey.

DOUGLAS MAIN

Will any person who knew **Douglas Main** who served with the Corps and 4 Special Communications Unit from 1943 — 46 please write to **Neil McKenty**, 66 Somerville Avenue, Westmount, Quebec, Canada H32 1J5 or telephone collect (514) 486.8523, who is writing a biography.

DICK STUBBS

Ex Yeoman of Signals **Dick Stubbs** would be pleased to hear from former friends and colleagues with a view to meeting them when he returns to UK on holiday. Please write to: **Mr Dick Stubbs**, 197 Starke Street, Holt, Canberra, ACT, 2615, Australia.

SIGNALMAN J. A. EATON

Mr P. A. Eaton is seeking information on his late father, **Sig J. A. Eaton** who served with the Corps. In particular he would like to hear from anyone with knowledge of **Sig Eaton's** involvement in special operations in Casablanca and Algiers in 1943. From family records **Sig Shannon** was an associate. Any information would be gratefully received by **Mr Eaton** at 21 Lakeside Court, Lakeside, Brierley Hill, West Midlands.

SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (CHIEF CLERK) IN 35 SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

A vacancy will exist on 1 October 1985 for a SSgt (NRPS) Chief Clerk in 35 Sig Regt (V) based at Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regs 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4.

The present salary is £8,311 (Gross) per annum.

Applicants should ideally have served in the Regular Army as a Warrant Officer or Senior NCO and have a thorough knowledge of clerical and administration duties. Additional experience of working with civilian clerical staff is essential.

Applications, including two referees and a Curriculum Vitae should be forward by 1 May 85 to:

The Adjutant
35 Sig Regt (V)
Cateswell House
Rectory Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands

RO3 APPOINTMENT—HQ ROYAL SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

A RO3 appointment at HQ RSME Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent, will become vacant on 30 April 85. The post is for an SO3 G3 (Organisation and Deployment). Applications should be made to MOD CM(A)2, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY or ACSM Chatham, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

PROJECT MANAGER—NIGERIA

£28,000+ to manage installation of 285 station HF/SSB radio system. HNC/BSc/C Eng, F of S/T.O.T/Long Tels.
Contact **John Edgington**, ARA International, 17-19 Maddox Street, London, W1R 0EY. Tel: 01 629 2356 Ext. 205. (Agy).

WANTED

Will any reader who has photographs, historical facts and/or anecdote concerning the British Military Train which links Braunschweig and Helmstedt with Berlin please get in touch with **Capt D. J. Glossop** at 62 Tpt and Mov Sqn RCT (Berlin) BFPO 45.

It is hoped to issue a commemorative envelope to mark the 40th anniversary of this unique train and to produce a painting together with a short account of the train's history.

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

Publications for sale:

Headdress, Badges and Embellishments of The Royal Corps of Signals *by Alan Harfield. Paperback £3.00, postage 35p.*

Only a few copies left of this limited edition.
Reviews of this book include:

'Military Modelling'

'Primarily for badge collectors, it could also be of value to military modellers. How often has one wondered what colour is that dark line running through a pagri; or that flash worn at the side of a helmet or slouch hat; that cut feather plume or shoulder flash? When one is faced with such a problem appertaining to a member of the Royal Corps of Signals, I would suggest you consult this meticulously-researched book which covers almost every known badge and insignia worn by the Corps. Copiously illustrated with photographs of the items it leaves nothing to guesswork, and is an important and interesting book. Recommended to all badge collectors and uniform enthusiasts.

RJM'

Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research

'A very helpful booklet not only from the historical point of view but also for students and collectors in the military field. The results should be an inspiration for other corps and units to record their distinctions in similar depth.

WYC'

The Military Historical Society's 'The Bulletin'

'This is a most useful book, a paperback, well finished in Corps colours and showing the Corps badges in use on all manner of hats—glengarry, caubeen, songkok, fur-hat (in China in 1929), beret, khaki and coloured fs caps. Details are also given of the Corps' buttons, titles, waist-belts, lanyards, hose-tops, etc. It would be good to learn that this book was to be the first of many in the same style. A little effort by other regiments and corps now would prevent their own dress-distinctions being lost. Perhaps Alan's example will pave the way for others.

JWFG'

British & Indian Armies in the East Indies (1685-1935) *by Alan Harfield. Cost of standard limited edition—£25.00, postage and packing £1.50.*

Blandford and the Military (including the history of Blandford Camp) *by Alan Harfield. Paperback with over 50 illustrations. Price £3.95 plus postage and packing 35p.*

Cheques payable to **Alan Harfield** *please.*

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If you are completing your service, please write for further details and an application form, quoting reference TW/1 to: Miss M Andrews, Home Office, Directorate of Telecommunications, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, London SW1P 2AW.

Home Office

Directorate of Telecommunications

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

OPERATIONS SUMMARY

It has been a quiet period since the last issue of *The Wire* but with a few major successes on the security forces side. A total of four terrorists have been shot dead during operations in the Brigade area and there have been a number of finds of explosives and weapons.

SHQ

During the winter period the SHQ team have managed to deploy the various parts of the Squadron throughout the Brigade area in order to keep our customers happy. In the Squadron Ops Room, **Capt Mike 'Daddy' Dent** and **WO2 (YofS) Alan 'The Swerve' Bodimeade** have both found the pace too much and have retired to various courses on

Capt Mike (Daddy) Dent alone at last

the mainland. The very youthful 'second eleven' consists of: **LCpl 'Tricky Dicky' Tredwell**—Ops Clerk, **SSgt (YofS) Chris Rogan**—Acting Comms Officer, **2Lt Alan Hill**—Acting

Bilbo, the OC's dog is affectionately called 'little rat' by his master, **Maj John Kirby**. He is slowly being weaned off Tippex in case he thought he was a sniffer dog. He has also, due to the mutilated state of the OC's beret, been issued with his own.

WO1 (RSM) Stanley is thought to be in secret training for the Squadron Individual Challenge Competition as he has been seen running two circuits of the camp during lunch time. Could this vicious rumour be true?

If you dare to venture into the Orderly Room you may well hear the cry of the 'Lesser Haired Brummie' **SSgt Dave Barlow**, the Chief Clerk, as he tries to get out of his Santa Claus suit after yet another engagement in this covert role.

COMMS TP
Report by Sgt Bruce Payne and others

Life in Comms Tp is generally hectic. Although we have a working strength of about 64, it is rare to see any more than ten at any one time. The majority are widely spread. This may mean being detached to a RLD, or manning our main Hill Top Site, or one of many other tasks mentioned in this report. The key word in Comms Tp is 'Flexibility'.

Comms Troop Office?
Cartoon by Sig Tony Slack

NEW COMMANDER

The new Bde Comd, **Brig M. I. E. Scott DSO,** visited Rover Group on 23 November 1984 and the troop on 26 November. Our 'Green Vehicles' were on display; **LCpl Chas Tolton** dazzled the Comd on the incident veh, **Cpl Graham Hughes** expertly talked his way through the Rebro Veh. Special Tasks, the operators nightmare, was well presented by **Sig Corky Corcoran** and the 'all moving picture show', Heli-Tele by **Cpl Fozzy Foster.**

Bde Comd's visit to Comms Tp. *L to R:* Sgt Payne, SSgt Rutter, Maj Kirby, Capt Bradley, Brig Scott, Bde Comd

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE
Breakthrough to Gortin
L to R: Sig Danny Hart, Sgt Ian Richardson, LCpl Des Carter, LCpl Nobby Nevill, Sig Ian Tolley

LITTLE WARNING

Operational tasks tend to come at very short notice, due to incidents taking place with little, or no, warning. Heli-Tele has deployed three times during December, for the funerals of PIRA activists, and once during January, for the Bloody Sunday Anniversary March. These deployments have involved several members of the troop, including **Capt Trevor Bradley, Lt James Bertram, SSgt Dennis Rutter, Sgt Bruce Payne, LCpls Nobby Nevill, Chas Tolton, Jeff Richards, Sig Taff Rees, Rooster Staff** and an assortment of Techs from M Tp.

LCpl Tolton proves he can use a radio to the Bde Comd. Sgt Payne and OC Comms Tp look on

STANDBY TEAM
Report by Sig Corky Corcoran

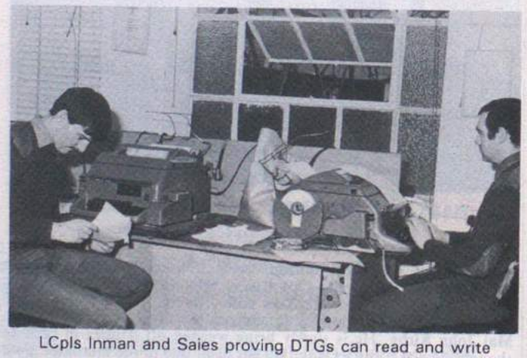
The Standby Team is the Comms Tp 24hr repair service, on call to deploy anywhere in the Bde TAOR at a moment's notice. We have been kept relatively busy over the past few weeks, putting new installations into the City and Lisnaskea as well as replacing equipment in places such as Dungannon and Omagh. More recently, we have taken to snow and ice climbing. A trip to Gortin normally takes one hour; during January, we had to dig a path up the track, taking four hours!

ROVER GROUP
Report by LCpl Nobby Nevill

Rover Group is established to be used by the Bde Comd or the D Comd, but the 'Foyle View Taxi Service' as it is affectionately known, is used by any of the Squadron involved in operational tasks in the city.

January has seen us visiting many locations. This has helped new members, **Cpl Chris Middleton** and **Mick Hunt** learn the routes of our lovely city, under the guiding eye of **LCpl Nobby ('Help the gear lever has come off!') Nevill** and ROP **Sig Andy** (Anglian) **Cameron. Sig Rooster Staff, Budgie Bird** and **Ian Tolley** have competed with our keen DTGs, **LCpl Saies** and **Sig Boogie Bougourd,** to go out as 'Third man' regardless of driving rain, sleet and snow from the sky and bricks and snowballs from the Bogside and Creggan.

Finally a mention to the Pioneer Corps lads who provide an important escort to Rover Group. They are a scource of endless amusement. It was reported recently that **Cpl Jimmy Hacking** was seen doing more spins than Torvill and Dean in front of Fort George! He claims it was due to icy road conditions, but, we know better!



LCpls Inman and Saies proving DTGs can read and write

BDE RADIO ROOM
Report by LCpl Chas 'Agreed' Tolton

The new radio room continues to purr like a finely tuned machine. It is true to say that our friends in M Tp are periodically required to carry out minor adjustments, but normally the seven nets we operate do not give too many problems. In general, traffic has been quiet in recent weeks, giving the lads little to complain about. **Sig Parky Parkinson** has been heard muttering about not seeing daylight since he started nightshift (what does he expect?). **Sig Rooster Staff** now understands that a Pegasus 'handbag' does not function without a battery (how embarrassing) and **Sig Scouse Hale** continues to serve tea to helicopter pilots 'at not too high a profit!'.

COMMCEN
Report by W/LCpl Ruth Walker and W/Pte Debbie Alcock

Life in Commcen Londonderry generally starts off very, very slowly, like its occupants, and works up to a crescendo by first coffee break. This is generally the most traumatic part of the day, trying to agree who is going to put the kettle on! Contrary to popular belief, we are a highly tuned team, trained by **LCpl 'I go on Rover Group' Saies** and our potential PTI, **Sig Jock 'Where is my tooth' Ramsdale.**

This intrepid band is led by **Cpl** 'Dolly Daydream' **Jowitt.** His merry men consist of **LCpl Scouse 'Yellow Mug' Inman, Sig Billy 'I'm never late' Johnson** and **Sig 'Humphrey' Bougourd.** The pretty side of the team being **W/LCpl 'Cinders' Walker** and **W/Pte 'Flash' Alcock**

PS. Request from the girls 'We desperately need more virile, handsome men to replace the ones we've worn out!'

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We would like to say a fond farewell to the following members of Comms Tp, who have contributed many hours of blood, sweat and tears into the efficient running of this department. **LCpl Jim McLaughlin,** retiring to a life of double glazing, **LCpl Scouse Nelson RPC** moving to Tidworth, **Pte Morgan** off to sunbathe in Cyprus, **LCpl 'Compo' Meehan** and **Sig 'Trigger' Durham** going to 21 Sig Regt.

We would like to welcome the following, hoping they have a pleasant and trouble-free tour.

Cpls Mick Hunt, Dave Jowitt and **Chris Middleton, LCpls Jeff Richards** and **Lofty Theakstone** and **Sig Bill Worsley** and **'Boogie' Bougourd.**

QM DEPT
Report by WO2 (RQMS) Mike Braddon

The QM department is in the middle of a great reshuffle, timed nicely to coincide with the PRE! We say a fond farewell to all the SNCOs in the department, namely **SSgt Billy Nimmons, Sgts Burton** (on promotion, well done), **Crawford** and **Donegan**. They are going to BRIXMIS, Hong Kong, Cyprus and Belize. Who says 'dream sheets' never work?

LCpl McCormick is taking a few months holiday with the 'Blue Helmets', so we look forward to some interesting notes and pictures from him, in future issues, on his return.

Finally, welcome to **SSgt Surman, SSgt Nimmon's** replacement.

CHRISTMAS IN FOCUS

SSgt Dennis Rutter teaching the Balloon Dance at the childrens Christmas Party

Padre Chris Ward and SSgt Dave Barlow helping at the local Old Folks Christmas Party

SSgt (ORSQMS) Dave Barlow in festive spirit

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

OPERATIONS

There have been few attacks against the Security Forces in the last two months. There have been two shootings against off duty UDR soldiers, one in Armagh and the other in Lisnaskea. A booby trap attached to the underside of a RUC Sergeant's car exploded as he attempted to reverse out of a car park in Craigavon, but he was not seriously injured. There has been one attack against a member of the legal profession; a blast IED was thrown into the car park of the Royal Courts of Justice in Chichester Street, Belfast but the device failed to explode.

The driver of a stolen car was shot dead and the four passengers were injured when their car collided with two soldiers and tried to burst through a UDR VCP on the Kennedy Way Roundabout in West Belfast. In South Armagh four blast IEDs were planted by armed men in a Cash and Carry Wine Shop in Newry. The devices exploded causing considerable damage but no casualties.

'Off we go' Capt Keith Durward tries to get Col Bill Robins, Lt Col Grannum, Lt Col Tony Boyle and Maj Ben Higson loaded up to go to Belfast. Squadron OC Maj Philip Rouse looks on

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On Friday 14 December 1984 **Maj Martin Wilkinson** handed over command of the Squadron to **Maj Philip Rouse**. After a Squadron parade where the keys were handed over, **Maj Wilkinson** was towed to the Horseshoe Club on a suitable vehicle kitted out in his MOD issue of Bowler, Brolly and Briefcase.

The Squadron sends its best wishes to **Maj Martin Wilkinson, Angela** and the boys in their new home in London and welcome **Maj Philip Rouse, Lalita** and **Alexander** to Lisburn.

ALPHA TROOP

The troop is now firmly back on the ground after the Christmas and New Year break. The troop Christmas party, organised by **Cpl Johna Jones, LCpl Pete Bauress** and **LCpl Scouse Bradley** was a great success and was the best held in the last two years! Alpha Troops funds have now been spent up until March 1985 to cover the cost! Congratulations to the committee.

LCpl Scouse Bradley and **Sig Dave Morrison** are busy installing a new Barkway intercomm system in our Bde HQ and in our Squadron lines. **LCpl Bradley**, since completing his week long course at Barkway last summer, has become our resident expert on the Barkway Intercomm System. **Cpl Eddie Pluskota** and his S Armagh crew are busy modifying Ops Rooms and intercomm systems to suit 2 PARA's often demanding requirements. Work is progressing on building a new Ops Room at Newtownhamilton which should be finished by the end of the month.

SSgt Roy Shaw has now taken on the job of Training NCO as well and rumour has it he's under a bit of pressure!

2Lt 'Ady' Metcalfe briefs Alpha Troop's West Belfast crew before deployment
L to R: Sig Clive Hallett, Sig Mick Stout, Sig 'Tilly' Tillotson, LCpl Taff Mallaney, Sig Davy Easby, Cpl Ray Pickering, 2Lt Adrian Metcalfe

Alpha Troop's West Belfast Crew in McRory Park
L to R: Sig Mick Stout, Sig Steve Epps, Sig Cas Graham, LCpl Taff Boucher and Sig Paul Cross

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We say farewell to **Cpl Shug Hughes** and **Pte Taff Richards** from Rover Group and welcome new arrivals **Sig Pete Clark, Sig Chris Davis** and **Pte Jappo Eaton**.

A SPECIAL MENTION

Finally a special mention for **Sig Mick Stout.** The Royal Navy had a sudden manpower shortage on HMS *Alert* in early December and **'Mick'** volunteered to help them out. He spent two weeks on HMS *Alert* as a matelot and as a bonus went out on patrol with the Royal Marines in Carlingford Lough. He enjoyed it so much he has volunteered to go back.

SHQ

Since our last contribution the troop has said goodbye to the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Pete Cuckow** and the Orderly Room Corporal, **Cpl 'Vinny' Vincent.** They both move on promotion and we wish them every success in their new posts. For the recent ex-members of the unit please note that **Cpl 'Vinny'** completed his hat-trick prior to departure. The new clerical team members are **SSgt Pete Deam** and **Cpl Ian Trask.** A warm welcome is extended to them and their families.

A rare sighting—Bravo Troop line up
L to R Standing: YofS 'Magnum' Wood, LCpl 'Sharky' Smith, Sig 'Sevvy' Stewart, LCpl Dave Richards, Sig Steve Epps, Sig 'Luigi' Dedman, Cpl 'Slickus Mickus', Evans, LCpl Angus Palmer, Sig 'Taff' Doherty, Sig ' Ronny Boy' Powell, LCpl 'Snapper' Snape, Cpl Joh Hynes, Sig 'Tilly' Tillotson, 2Lt 'Actionman' Metcalfe (OC B Tp)
L to R Kneeling: LCpl 'Winner by a nose' Hawley, Sig 'Ninja' Hardman, Cpl Cliff Knighton, Sgt Dave Norman, LCpl 'Arfa' Poole, Sig Paddy McCandless, Sig 'Perfect Pete' Goodliff, LCpl Steve Davies-Williams

THE SPORTING SCENE

On the sporting scene the troop continues to demonstrate its versatility by being runners-up in the units six-a-side football and volleyball competitions. The football team consisting of **Sgt Les Robinson** and **LCpl Paul Conlon** (both on a month's loan from the QMs Department), **LCpl 'Wally' West** and the two veterans **SSgt Pete Deam** and **Sgt 'George' Cook** were robbed of certain victory when the competition was brought to an abrupt end by another unit's impatience to get into the Airhall! The referee **Sgt Dave Norman** made a 'spot' decision and the competition was decided on penalties.

Alas the troop were no match for A Troop missing four out of the five kicks. Nevertheless if **Capt Duke** the AO, yet another of our new faces, can be persuaded to come out of retirement we will take on all comers.

No excuses are offered for our defeat in the final of the volleyball competition. Despite the newly found talents of **WO1 (RSM) Charlie Manning** and **Cpl 'Al' Smith** the team were no match for A Troop. Return matches are eagerly awaited.

BRAVO TROOP

The highlight of the last two months was our 'Intellectual Training Day' when, for once, the whole troop was in one place at any one time.

The training day was held in the form of a Method of Instruction competition, with each person in the Troop giving a 15 minutes lecturette on a subject of their own choice. Not surprisingly, the topics included drinking, drugs, sex and gambling! The lecturettes were all video recorded for posterity (and blackmail if necessary), and the final result given a 'triple X' rating. The winner of the day was **Cpl John Hynes** with a talk on 'Rally Driving' and the runners up were **LCpl 'Angus' Palmer** on 'The Sexual Signals' and **LCpl Nick Hawley** on 'Betting on the Horses'.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We say farewell to **LCpl 'Arfa'** and **Rita Poole** who have recently left for civvy street, and **Sig Stevie Epps**, who is on his way to 28 Sig Regt. We all send them our very best wishes for the future. We welcome to the Troop **LCpl John Mills** who has just arrived from 204 Sig Sqn and hope he has a successful tour.

TM TROOP

The Troop has been kept very busy recently with the installation of new talk through equipment in South Armagh. We have re-configured several nets, and installed new ones as well. All this has not left us much time for anything else! In addition we are doing various surveys connected with the new range of radios to be introduced into Northern Ireland early next year.

Even with this extra workload we cover our normal commitments. **Cpl Kev Smith** and his Riggers have been kept very busy checking all our antennae before the high winds and winter snows set in.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

It comes to us all; we say farewell to our TOT **Capt Ben Lawson** and his family on posting to 259 Sig Sqn. Hopefully to get more than his knees brown! We wish him all the best in his next posting.

Others who managed to join the escape committee are **Cpl Graham Tolton**, who has left the Army, **LCpl Mac McLeish** on posting to BAOR and **Cpl Marti 'I test drive for Renault' Webb**, moving to Catterick to attend his upgrading course.

The troop are looking forward to the arrival of our new TOT **Capt Jan Jasiok** and his family, and hope their stay will be a happy one. We also welcome to the Troop, **LCpl 'Peanut' Allan** and **LCpl Andy Hill.**

THE QM HAS PROBLEMS— BUT WHO CREATED THEM

PROBLEM 1

The two W's, one a Captain and the other a Staff Sergeant, stood on a station somewhere in West Germany waiting for a train. An innocent enough scenario you may think.

The fact that these two cavalier gentlemen were standing on a platform in Hamburg, when they should have been in Hanover, is more a question they must answer to their wives rather than the QM. But we transgress. In their possession the heros of our tale have a box containing a number of radio sets, which have hitherto been lovingly cared for by the QM and TOT. Much to the surprise of our gallant two an Express Train speeds its way through the aforesaid station and sucks into the slipstream the box containing radios.

Seeing the shattered remains laying between the rails, the stationmaster, a former Gaulieter of the master-race, breaks down in tears, reflecting on past defeats, wondering how it could have happened, surely not by design. He had seen this sort of thing happen so many times and always to a British Officer.

The question now, what to do! Like ET they phoned home. Unfortunately for the QM their first contact was the TOT. When they asked what to do with the remains the TOT being unable to face the tangled mess they were going to present, told them the best course of action was to place everything in a convenient rubbish bin.

This of course does present minor accounting problems, but as everyone agreed the QM will sort it out.

PROBLEM 2

A Cpl V sets off on a journey to Aldergrove airport in a Mini Metro to pick up his replacement, which he does with great efficiency. On return he tries to POL the said vehicle but is unable to do so because no key fits the petrol cap. This is not altogether suprising as he has come back from the airport in a Mini City.

But never mind the QM will no doubt explain to the irate owner how his car now has 70,000 miles on the clock when it only had 200 miles when he left in the car park! He will also explain to the RAOC how the conversion from Metro to City can be achieved with minimal expense.

PROBLEM 3

This problem is as old as time. The questions are often asked: Why are QMs bad tempered? Why do they always look 20 years older than their age? Why do they have ulcers? Why do they swear a lot? The answers? We do not know, but no doubt the QM will sort it out.

BY APPOINTMENT TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH NAVAL TAILORS & OUTFITTERS GIEVES & HAWKES PORTSMOUTH

BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN LIVERY & MILITARY TAILORS GIEVES & HAWKES PORTSMOUTH

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TEA WITH STILGOE

Utilising their well known powers of persuasion **Maj Pat Kington**, OC Squadron, and his wife **Cicely** managed to convince **Richard Stilgoe** that a show in Lisburn Garrison would be well received by the troops. So it was on Sunday 27 January that the versatile artist entertained some 180 people, from GOC downwards, with a repeat performance of the show he had staged in Belfast over the previous three days. Although no fee was charged, some £570 was raised for the Birthright charity from the sale of tickets, teas and advertising space in the programme. Most of the songs were topical and witty and subjects ranged from Terry Waite to telephone boxes.

The success of the venture and the enthusiastic response from the audience were not achieved without considerable effort from many Squadron members. Space does not allow all the names to be included, but publicity chief **SSgt John Boyd**, box office manager **Capt John Nichols** and the squadron wives Catering Club, ably led by **Mrs Sandra Connor**, shouldered much of the burden. Well done to all involved.

RIGGING SECTION

A few words now about the rigging section. 'Not before time' they cry.

Charging around the Province in van and Land Rover, the section are responsible for many of the military masts and antennae, and for

Danger! Riggers at work. Sgt Duncan Forteath warming things up at Magilligan ranges

all range communications in Northern Ireland. Recently the section completed the complete re-rigging of Crossmaglen masts and two months work on Magilligan ranges. There 14,000 metres of cable were laid to connect the telephone exchange to 18 subscriber positions. The section comprises **Sgt Mal Metcalfe, Sgt Duncan Forteath, LCpl Steve Powell, Sig Colin Usher** and **Sig John McMahon.**

COMMCEN TROOP
Report by Sgt Gaz Quick and C. Shift

After the quiet and restful Christmas/New Year period, packed with the Troop party (many thanks to **SSgt Joe McKenzie, Sgt Gus Hales** and their stalwart committee), Squadron party, and many not so impressive but equally important other parties, it's back to the finer things in life, such as, NBC, CFT, BFT, APWT and last but not least, manning the busy COMMCEN, TRC and Switchboard. Even busier is the rest room, which is full of day workers.

We say goodbye to far too many people to list, but we wish them well in their new postings, especially to **Sgt Alec 'Where's your clearance chit?' Bissett** who's doing his last six months in the Army at 8 Sig Regt. Contrary to popular belief, this man has a staggering turn of speed. Best wishes also to **Sgt Ian Waugh** who has left to start his own version of Fawlty Towers in the Bournemouth area.

Cupid has not been idle at all. Congratulations are in order to newly weds, **Cpl Mark Hamlett** and his wife **Christine, Sgt Jan Garnet** and her husband **John**, and we would also like to congratulate **Cpl George 'Part of the inventory' Strachan** on his recent engagement to **LCpl Helen Gray**, who has just been posted to Wilton, 'Bless em both'.

Rumour has it that **LCpl Lesley Young** is starting her own booking office service, with the Traffic Officer **Capt John Nichols** as her 'persuasive' odd job man. The Richard Stilgoe concert that the Squadron recently organised certainly benefited from their efforts.

These notes would not be complete if one historic occasion was not recorded for posterity, **Cpl Scratch Skinner** has finally left the Province, it is said he was here before Arthur Guinness, but nobody has been here long enough to confirm that.

SOCCER

The Yorks and Lancs Cup Final was an all signals affair between the Squadron and our old rivals 8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn. The game was played on 14 December at Ballymena on a cold and wintry day. 8 Bde started well and within 20 minutes led 2—0.

The Squadron team ably led by their skipper **SSgt John Boyd** fought back to score a goal through **LCpl Scouse Wayman** just before half time. The second half was a hard fought affair and both teams provided excellent football for the spectators.

With 20 minutes left **Cpl Mick Honeyman** levelled the score and the game finished even, after 90 minutes. Two periods of extra time failed to produce the winning goal and so the game was to be decided on penalties. The penalty competition was eventually won by the Squadron by two goals to one and **SSgt John Boyd** collected the silverware for the Squadron.

This was the last game for our coach and Centre Half **Sgt Joe Harris**. His efforts during the season played a large part in the Squadron's success and it is appropriate to say 'thank you' for all your effort and hope you can do the same for the College on posting in January 85. The Squadron have now reached the semi-final of the Army Minor Units Cup and spirits are high in our effort to lift the 'Big One'.

WINNERS OF YORKS AND LANCS CUP 1984-85
Back row: WO2 (SSM) Bingham, Sig Chapple, Sgt Small, Cpls Honeyman, Pulman, Sig Roger, LCpl Wayman, Sig Langley, Cpl Norris, SSgt Ward (Manager).
Front row: SSgts McDougall, Boyd, Maj Kington, Sgts Harris and Forteath

GRAND SLAM IN WINTER SPORTS

The victory reported above proved a nail biting finish to the Squadron's winter sporting successes in the pre-Christmas season. Having won the NI stage of the Army Minor Units Rugby Championships and the NI Minor Units Hockey Championships, the Soccer made a Grand Slam that has probably never before been achieved in the Province. The effort put in by all members of these three teams to fit in training and matches around a busy operational workload demonstrated the 'work hard, play hard' principle at its best. Congratulations to all concerned, whether still serving in the Province or elsewhere.

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

WINTER TERM

The Winter Term proved to be a busy period with many changes in routine to pave the way for the influx of Junior Leaders shortly to begin training in the College. The term also saw the RSM, **WO1 Eddie Lyne**, taking part in his favourite past time, sailing on Exercise *Sea Legs 10* and a good start to the 84/85 Hockey Season, reputed to be the Commandant's favourite sport.

Our congratulations go to **Capt Bryony Clough** on her forthcoming marriage to **Capt J. Ledbeter RCT** in March. **Capt Clough** has served in the College for some 15 months in Education Wing and has been affiliated to Rawson Sqn during this time.

VISIT FROM DOWN UNDER

Attached to the College for a four month period on Exercise *Long Look* as **Capt Bornstein's** replacement was **Capt Doug Hinchcliffe** and his wife **Glenda**. During their stay with us the **Hinchcliffes** were able to travel widely and see as many aspects of the British Army and way of life as possible in the short time available.

They made a great contribution to Mess life in the College providing the incumbants with many amusing anecdotes from down under. On departure **Capt Hinchcliffe** presented a plaque bearing the motto of 3 Training Group Royal Australian Army Education Corps to the Commandant, **Col Carr-Smith**, which now has pride of place in the Officers' Mess.

Capt D. Hinchcliffe presents the Commandant Col Carr-Smith with a plaque bearing the motto of 3 Trg Gp Royal Australian Army Education Corps

EXERCISE *SEA LEGS 10*

Report by WO1 (RSM) Eddie Lyne and Cpl George Hardstaff

This was an offshore Adventurous Training Exercise, sponsored by the College, from 26 October to 5 November 1984. The crew assembled at Harrogate in the very early hours of the morning of the 26th, or nearly all the crew as there was some difficulty in raising one senior member who shall remain nameless and who chose this particular morning to have a lie in. Despite this initial setback the transport departed from Uniacke Barracks, before the sparrows had lit their first woodbine, on route to the river Hamble (just off Southampton water) to take over our craft.

The Crew were:

WO1 (RSM) Eddie Lyne	**Skipper**
WO1 (YofS) Bob Badger	**Crew & Skipper's shipmate**
Cpl Derek Gwynn	**Watch leader**
Cpl George Hardstaff	**Purser**
Pte (WRAC) Tina Moor	**Crew (Brave girl)**
AT Sgt Bob Turner	**Watch leader**
AT Steve Morris	**Crew**
AT Ray Dunn	**Crew (when awake)**
Sgt Bob Hinson GREN GDS	**(Not his fault) Bosun**

Gladeye in St Peter Port Guernsey
A flashback to Sea Legs 8 (Note the Skipper posing)

The exercise took place aboard the Household Division Yacht *Gladeye* which is a Moody 44' Ketch (nine berth).

By mid afternoon all the kit was stowed, safety briefings carried out, and the voyage underway, despite **Tina Moor** trying to remove the companionway hatch cover with her head by coming up on deck without first opening it, the name she gave the hatch on impact is not recorded in any book of nautical terms, nor in the Oxford dictionary but was so colourful it was adapted by the rest of the crew for the remainder of the exercise. It also removed everyone's worries of letting a verbal clanger slip in female company.

The Crew

A HOLD

The first scheduled port of call was Poole, Dorset, and all looked good as we sailed out of the river Hamble into the Solent under No 1 Genoa, full Main and, Mizzen (three great big sails for landlubbers), however the wind dropped, the tide changed against us making any headway impossible and resulted in us putting into Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, for six hours, to await the turn of the tide.

The ship's company needed no encouragement to take a few hour's shore leave after a long spell at sea, wearing oilies and yellow wellies in an attempt to create the illusion of being rough, tough hardened sea dogs; their enthusiasm was quickly dampened when it was found that a tankard of strong ale was a couple of pence short of a pound (Long John Silver would never have stood for that).

THE DEEP WATER CHANNEL

At approx 0100 hrs on the 27th we slipped Yarmouth and sailed out into the night to continue en route to Poole. The overnight sail was pleasant and uneventful until when making our approach to Poole we found ourselves enveloped in pea soup sea mist, visibility 0 feet. Using echo sounder we edged our way into shallow water out of the reach of large vessels and dropped anchor, and apart from one man on duty as anchor watch, the ship's company settled down for a little 'shuteye' to await dawn. As dawn approached the peace was shattered by what was to become a common call from the master's cabin, 'Bring me tea, I need tea galley slave'; the skipper was awake. The early morning cuppa was interrupted by the anchor watch, **Steve Morris**, calling 'skipper, I can hear an engine sound like a lawn mower', as the skipper emerged on deck out of the companionway 'You stupid boy (pause), it is a lawn mower! Where the hell are we?'

Skipper I can hear an engine

The said lawn mower turned out to be a trillion ton tanker slipping by not a 100 metres from us in the deep water channel. (Thank you idiots guide to seafaring rule 1, always anchor in shallow water).

Dawn broke and visibility improved slightly enough for us to pick up the leading buoy (landlubbers, they don't say follow me and lead you to your destination) this allowed us to navigate from buoy to buoy until, when entering the narrow approach to Poole bay the bows of a huge sea going trawler who had not read the rules for the prevention of collision at sea loomed out of the mist heading straight for us at a great rate of knots, the skipper who was on the helm uttered words to the effect of 'good heavens look at that' and on throwing the helm to port spotted yet another craft heading for the same bit of water resulting in the need for further evasive action being taken, excitement indeed, but add to this the fact that the remainder of the crew had just settled down to a hearty breakfast which then had to be eaten off the cabin walls and floor. Playing dodgems with 17 tons of Yacht is definitely not fun!

ASHORE

By early morning we were alongside the town quay and after a clean up of the boat a run ashore, no move before 1300 hrs, 28th. **Tina Moor** took the opportunity to make her first purchase of cuddly toys, the first of many, they were to take over the boat and result in the skipper being renamed Noah by the end of the trip.

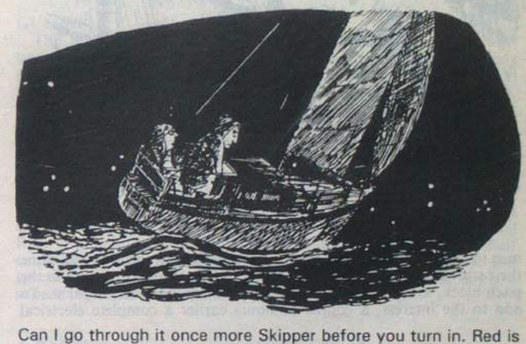
The evening saw a severe gale beating down on Poole and the crew keeping an eye on the boat from the window of a nice warm quayside pub, and feeling very smug and happy that they were not at sea. Before turning in for the night a visit to the local chip shop resulted in a new dance 'The chip shop shuffle' being invented, in time to a very catchy rhythm being generated by a basket of chips being shaken free of fat, the ship's company broke into a dance routine that was quickly taken up by all in the shop and passers by. Then back to *Gladeye* and after supper, 'kip' for all except a duty watch, to prevent fenders slipping and the boat being damaged on the Quay.

The following morning showed an improvement in the weather, but a forecast of force 6 or 7 later in the English Channel, exactly what the skipper had ordered for the crossing to Cherbourg to put the more experienced sailors to the test and to give the opportunity to practise some heavy weather sailing techniques.

UNDER WAY

At lunchtime as the tide turned in our favour the crew donned their yellow wellies and oilskins and made preparations to sail, hanking on the No 3 Genoa deep reefing the mainsail, and securely stowing all equipment in preparation for a bumpy ride across the channel, we were very privileged to even get some assistance from **Ray Dunn** who up to now had only risen from his bunk when food was served or to go to the heads (toilet) and there is some doubt as to whether the latter took place. His presence on this occasion may, however, have been due to the large audience of appreciative spectators who had gathered on the quayside to watch our departure (a superb posing situation).

At 1300 hrs we slipped our moorings, hoisted sails and hurtled out of the basin, by 1800 hs we were well under way when the wind freshened to the forecast force 7 and backed SSW resulting in us beating into very choppy seas. However all was well and with no chunks of land between us and the 50 miles to Cherbourg, the skipper headed for the bunk, being beaten to the pit by ? yes, you guessed, **Ray Dunn** and, now catching up rapidly on the kipping stakes, **Steve Morris.**

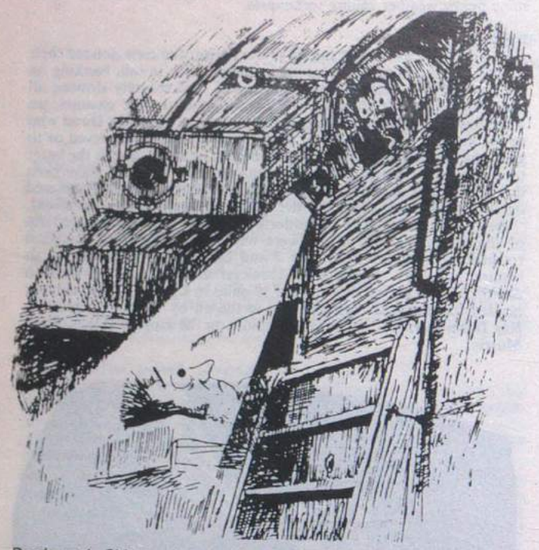


Can I go through it once more Skipper before you turn in. Red is left, Green right?

(YofS) Bob Derek Gwynn and **Tina Moor** were by now well into the competition to see who could turn the most attractive shade of green and **Bob Badger** beginning to have serious doubts about whether offshore sailing was really the off duty pastime for him, if a Sea Link Ferry had passed by he would certainly have had little hesitation in thumbing a lift. However **Bob Turner** and **George Hardstaff** were well in command of the ship and, after physically placing **Tina** in her bunk as exposure began to set in, on with the voyage.

Not on the Chart!

On approaching the shipping lanes mid channel, which resembled a motorway for ships, the skipper was called on deck and some minutes later arrived full of the joys of spring and of love for his fellow



Don't panic Skipper, but could you pass me my life preserver and the red flares

men to find a deterioration in the weather. **George** and **Bob** had done their stuff and changed down to the No 4 Gib, not an easy task in the pitch black, as waves were now regularly breaking over the yacht. To add to the interest, a couple of hours earlier a complete electrical failure resulted in no navigation lights, compass light, or log. Not knowing how fast, or how far, and where you are going, does make calculating a position rather difficult, and did result in the skipper having a very slight sense of humour failure.

There's a bit more to being a skipper than meets the eye isn't there?

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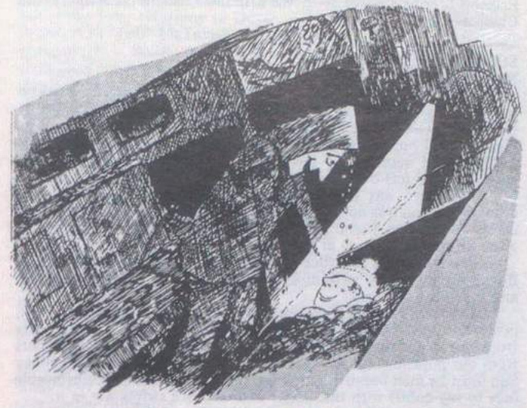
THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

Conditions remained very much the same, **Bob Badger** and **Bob Turner** took over the sleeping watch and **Bob** (the Bosun) **Hinson** was called on deck to give a hand.

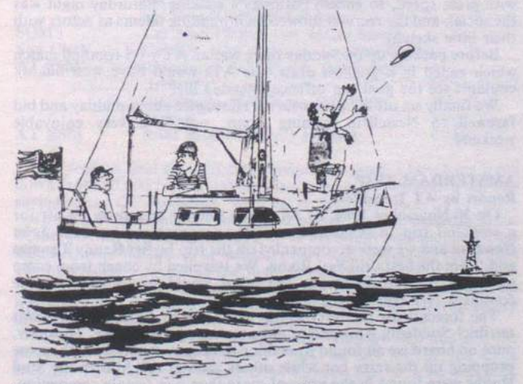


You're on Bob

On approaching the southern shipping lane with no navigation lights a potentially dangerous situation began to develop with a large vessel, resulting in us having to carry out a couple of quick tacks. This was at exactly the same time as **Derek Gwynn** decided to lay a kit check and of all the solid objects to hang on to on 44' of boat he had to choose the winch, in use at the time, which did not in any way shape or form improve the efficiency of the crew carrying out the manoeuvre.

Ray Dunn now wide awake and sitting securely tied down on the quarterdeck was completely disinterested in the whole proceedings and spent the next three hours learning and singing the 12 days of Christmas (in October?) but he seemed to be happy and no one bothered him.

On we sailed and by some miracle, despite the lack of navigational aids, we found the Cherbourg landfall buoy some 16 hours after departing Poole. A long hard sail indeed.



Sometimes I have doubts that the Skipper is the navigator he thinks he is

CHERBOURG

Into Cherbourg, clean up the boat, and the winner of the sea sick stakes was **Derek Gwynn**, marks being 9.9 for colour content and 8.0 for spray radius.

The day was spent sleeping, drying out the boat and equipment, and provided the opportunity to sample French food and wine with the exception of a couple of the junior members of the crew, who decided they were not into French nosh but were delighted to find a big 'M' hamburger bar and were happy with their lot.

The evening was spent in a café where the locals and the ship's company enjoyed a sing song to the accompaniment of the skipper and **Bob Turner** on the mouth organs.

1300 hrs the following day saw us slipping from Cherbourg marina where we very nearly lost a member of the crew, **Ray Dunn**. Everyone assumed he was below in normal horizontal position when in fact he had gone ashore to enjoy the luxury of a toilet that did not bounce about when in use. Luckily he was spotted just in time strolling along the pontoon to find *Gladeye* gone, and began to make strange sounds and signals as he realised he was alone in France with only a pocketfull of loose change, the clothes he stood up in, and no passport. He did appear somewhat relieved when picked up!

TO GUERNSEY

Conditions were perfect for the sail west along the Cherbourg peninsula with a good stiff breeze, sunshine and everyone in great spirits having gained their sea legs and recovered from the channel crossing.

Our progress at this stage was a little faster than planned and would have seen our arrival at the Alderney race when it was flowing in the wrong direction so therefore we hove to (a method of setting the sails to stop the movement of the boat through the water) and enjoyed a leisurely lunch of 'all in' stew produced by **Bob** the Bosun.

GUERNSEY

The remainder of the trip through the race to Guernsey was uneventful except for a thick mist descending once clear of Alderney and until Guernsey appeared out of the gloom, exactly where it should have been, to the relief of the skipper who was still navigating, without the aid of instruments, due to the power failure.

On arrival in St Peter Port harbour there was insufficient water over the sill to enter the marina resulting in a wait of a couple of hours for the tide to rise. Entertainment was however provided for the crew by a French yacht whose skipper had not done his tidal calculations and tried to sail over the sill (six inches underwater) at about 5 knots. Waves and shouts of warning were received as a greeting, all this was done to the accompaniment of one of his shipmates who was playing Rule Britannia on the saxaphone. The sight of him, with a half swallowed instrument after the impact, resulted in the crew and spectators on the marina wall rolling around on the deck doing a superb impersonation of the TV 'Smash' advert.

A PAUSE

Next morning saw the arrival of the marine engineer who diagnosed a very seriously ill electrical system, and predicted a three day repair period due to the lack of spares available on the Island. This did ruin our chances of a trip south to Jersey but the crew were not too upset at the thought of a few days relaxing in St Peter Port.

Mid repair we got the chance to take a short local cruise and visit the local little island of Sark, or as it turned out, to attempt to visit. About one mile off the anchorage a very severe local storm hit without warning, making landing impossible, and presenting us with the formidable task of tacking back the five or so miles to St Peter Port into the teeth of the gale which was force 8 gusting 9. The crew performed superbly, getting the mizzen sail down, deep reefing the mainsail, and fitting the storm gib, the latter being done by **Ray Dunn** and **Steve Morris** in very hairy conditions, where they spent more time under the water than on it; only occasionally coming up for air.

After about two hours we made our final tack to enter the harbour and in a blaze of glory hurtled past a French yacht who had abandoned sail and was motoring into the safety of the harbour and marina.

The ship's company displayed superb seamanship, and the incident provided the fuel for some possibly exaggerated stories that evening.

The evening before setting sail for home is by tradition the skipper's dinner party, the preparation of the meal however did have its setback, the cooker failed to produce more than half a candle power of heat and very nearly resulted in the Chef (the Skipper) throwing the cooker complete with contents over the side. At this time anyone returning to the ship upon hearing some very colourful comments exuding from the galley, did a swift about turn and made a hasty retreat out of the danger area. The party did go on, the ship's company in best bib and tucker complete with carnations dined, main course being beef wellington (fillet steak) and the loyal toast being proposed by **Ray Dunn**.

The morning of 4 November saw our departure bound for home, with fair wind and tide we cleared the Alderney race and out into the channel, here the wind veered due north, on the nose which made for a very long, slow, and very cold passage back to the river Hamble, where after customs clearance by some very unfriendly custom

officers we cleaned up the boat, handed over, and set a course for Harrogate.

We all thank Bosun **Bob Hinson** and the Household Division Sailing Association for the privilege of chartering *Gladeye* and look forward to further *Sea Legs* exercises in 1985.

PENNEY SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Bill (Bandit) Price**
2IC	**Capt John (No Money) Newman**
CSM	**WO2 Joe (Grumble Weed) Marshall GREN GDS**
OC Rct Troop	**Lt Peter (Roller) Holliday**
Rct Tp Sgt	**Sgt John (Dwarf) Riley**
A Tp Sgt	**Sgt Peter (Wersel) Rixon**
B Tp Sgt	**Sgt Ramond (Taff) Thomas**
SQMS	**Cpl Derek (Bone Idle) Gwynn**
Sqn Clerk	**Cpl Griff (Its dinner time) Griffiths**

Well, once again another term has finished and another Champion Squadron Competition has been completed. The Squadron effort to gain the title 'The Champion Squadron' began with a hiccup with Penney Squadron coming last in the Orienteering, Cross Country and second in the Assault Course March and Shoot competitions. However our glory day came in the Inter Squadron Senior and Junior Drill. Not only did we do the double again for the seventh time, we cleared the board winning:

Best Turned Out Junior	**AT LCpl Freeman**
Best Turned Out Senior	**AT Cpl Hudson**
Best Overall Squad Commander	**AT SSM Solomons**
Senior Drill	
Junior Drill	

What **Capt Bernie Neillings** (Rawson Squadron) said I'm afraid will have to be left to the imagination. This was achieved by many long hours on the square with 'I am the best drill Sergeant in the College' **Sgt Peter Rixon,** and we would like to thank and congratulate him on a splendid achievement.

AT SSM 'Solly' Solomons with the Senior Drill Cup

CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate the Squadron Football Team in coming runners up in the Army Apprentices Challenge Cup beaten by D Company Princess Marina College 3—2. We wish them luck in the Army Youth Challenge Cup.

SQUADRON WEEKEND
Report by AT LCpl Hornsby

'Twas a windy, cold, wet Thursday when the Penney Squadron made tracks to that budding metropolis of South West England, Nesscliffe. The journey in the College's white bus was not exactly luxury travel but bearable. We finally reached the training camp at 2330 hrs and were met by the aroma of ACC stew, that wonderful concoction of left-overs and something hairy. At the early hour of 0100 hrs there was peace amongst the 'campers'. Although the accommodation was not five star standard by far, it was comfortable, except for Section 1 who for some reason could not get their fire to go at all (here's looking at you lads!).

So began Friday's activities with a run? At 0630 hrs, good old **LCpl Bovan** decides relays were much more fun, so we began running up and down the car park.

After breakfast somebody decided it was a good day for a swim, (we would have been drier in the river), anyway after building rafts from barrels and planks, **Capt Newman** showed us how to make floats from our ponchos and we went for a quick dip, I've decided Penney Sqn must be mad because an eskimo would have been uncomfortable (not to say cold!) with that water and we were swimming in it.

When we returned to base, we had lunch and then had the Super Section Competition. This involved finding the budding masterminds, Robin Hoods, Billy the Kids and Kevin Keegans of Harrogate with the odd assault course and obstacle race thrown in. Friday evening was a relaxed occasion consisting of watching videos (of a military type presented by your friend and mine **Capt John Newman!**)

THE WALK

Saturday was a day never to be forgotten. We were told we were going to have a long cross country walk; alas, none of us realised how long and cross country it was! We were dumped in a very hilly part of Wales near the English border, given a map and told to start walking, and we walked and walked. The first hill Section 1 encountered was some 670 metres high, the first 70 metres was easy, it was the last 600 that really sorted us out, with the wind blowing us off our feet every 10 seconds. We tramped up the hill to meet the smiling face of **Colin 'Jimmy' Bleasdale** (Sergeant type) who had nothing but praise for the whole exercise (honest!). Anyway he sent us to our next checkpoint (which incidentally we never got to) because we met **Capt Newman** who told us pack up and go home which we did with great speed, so endeth Saturday's walking. Saturday night was the social, and the recruits showed their budding talents as actors with their little sketch.

Before packing up on Sunday there was an AT v PS football match which ended in a goalless draw, the ATs would have won but we couldn't see the goal, no offence intended Sir!

We finally set off back to costa del Harrogate about midday and bid farewell to Nesscliffe training camp, overall a very enjoyable weekend.

AMSTERDAM TRIP
Report by AT Ironside

On 30 November 1984, 51 ATs from Penney Squadron set off for a weekend trip to Amsterdam. This was organised by **Capt John Newman** and we were accompanied on the trip by **Sgt Randy Thomas** and 'I am the best drill Sgt' **Rixon.** We travelled by coach from camp to Dover for the Zeebrugge ferry that would let us loose on the continent. We relished the prospect ...

The forecast for the ferry journey was not so good, in fact it was terrible! Suddenly Amsterdam did not seem so attractive. However, once on board we all found something to occupy ourselves with, some propping up the ferry bar while others such as **AT Martin** the **Stud Hobbs** were found in the arms of more than one female companion.

By the time we left Zeebrugge the singing on the coach had ceased and everyone was asleep, preparing for the day ahead in Amsterdam. It was spent seeing the sights in the city, trying desperately to avoid getting knocked down by bicycles and numerous trams and deciding where to go for the nightlife. Others like **AT Alex 'Dozy' Hurst** found themselves spending the whole weekend fast asleep on his hotel bed, exhausted after a week's field exercise.

In the evening everyone descended on Amsterdam for the festivities; **AT 'Oggy' Ogden** in particular challenging, and beating, the locals at drinking litres of ale. Then it was back to the hotel for a couple of hours sleep before the dreaded early morning call at 0715 hrs which brought us back to reality.

On the return coach trip to Zeebrugge **AT LCpl 'Gads' Gadson** decided that the coach floor made a suitable bed rather than the hotel ones and he lay there, sleeping amongst the empty 'death pack' lunch boxes provided by the cookhouse. Before we knew it we were back on board the ferry returning to Dover. **AT LCpl 'Kel' Kelly** and **'Mal' Pryke, ATs 'Taff' McTavish, 'Scally' Ball** and **Sgt Rixon** were soon engaged in a battle of wills to see who would become 'world champion' at a simulated olympics video arcade game. A special mention goes here to the watching ATs who encouraged their competitors when the going got rough.

To take his mind off the rough going outside, **Sgt Thomas** became the co-ordinator for visits to the Duty Free shop on board, ensuring everyone was carrying their full quota of duty frees back into Britain. When this task was completed we found ourselves involved in a light hearted argument between the Welsh, Scottish and Irishmen against the English, over anything from Prime Ministers to sport, **Sgt 'Lloyd George' Thomas** in particular revelling in the almost 'House of Commons' atmosphere that was created.

However we were soon back in Dover and consequently on our way back to Penny Pot. It was then that reality struck home for some that they were due on exercise, in particular the Senior term members of the trip **(AT Cpls 'Spence', Willson** and **'Scouse' Morland, AT Daz 'the Chunk' Moore** and **AT SSM 'Solly' Solomons)** who were going on their final college exercise.

We arrived back at camp just after 11 o'clock at night, tired after the journey but everyone in agreement as to the success of the trip. We would like to thank all PS involved for making it so worthwhile and thoroughly enjoyable.

LEAVING

To the members of 82C who left us last term we wish them all the best for the future and thank them for their fine efforts whilst with the Squadron.

SCOTT SQUADRON ONE YEAR ON
Report by WO2 (SSM) R. G. Hunter BEM

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	(Incoming) **Maj Graham** (Ace Penguin Spotter) **Thomas**
	(Outgoing) **Capt John** (Mr Ski) **Armitage**
2IC	**Capt Louise** (How did Buckley do it?) **Davies WRAC**
Troop Officer	**Lt Mike** (Mr Smoothy) **Hancock**
SSM	**WO2 Ray** (I nearly won the drill comp) **Hunter**
Troop Sgts	**Sgt Brian** (The Screw) **Black**
	Sgt Brian (Supercool) **Caffrey**
	Sgt Pete (Courses) **Lawlor**
SQMS	**Cpl Sean** (Watch this space) **Magee**
Sqn Clerk	**Cpl Roy** (I'm nearly a signaller) **Clarke**
AT SSM	(Outgoing) **SSM Paddy** (Mr Good))
	Ireland) The Good
	(Incoming) **SSM Mark** (Mr Bad)) the bad
	Farmer) and the
AT RSM	**RSM Blod** (Mr Evil) **Roberts**) ugly

One year on, and the comments remain the same. I have now come down from 40,000 feet to stabilise, hovering at 10,000 feet. I am still saying to the OC Squadron 'we'll get it right next term Sir!'

There have been many comings and goings, and we welcome to the Squadron **Maj Thomas** after-his stint in the South Atlantic, and **Capt Louise Davies WRAC.** (The lads have been told to wipe the silly smiles off their faces). For ex ATs the Squadron's living accommodation has finally been refurbished, and we are living in comparative luxury, six men to a room, but all will be back to normal in June with an intake of both Apprentices and Junior Leaders.

Finally a word of thanks to **Capt John Armitage** who has held the Squadron together on a temporary basis as OC for the last three months. The conversion course from Rawson Sqn to Scott Sqn took all of five minutes. We wish him and his wife **Rosemary** every success in their new posting to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

INTER SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY
Report by AT Cpl Sturman

As usual the Cross Country competition was upon us before the Squadron had done any serious training. The course was the same as the term before except for a slight alteration. It was very wet and muddy and it was obvious that whoever could get to the front and stay there would win.

One important factor in the individual contest was the fact that most of the College Cross Country team were away at Chepstow leaving all the pressure on **Cpl Sturman** and **Sgt Jenkins** to win.

As usual the start was one mad rush to beat the bottleneck by the road. Once into the woods the Squadron started to move as this was the time to make most ground.

Halfway through the woods Scott had a pack of five in front leading the way. This gallant group consisted of **Sturman, Jenkins, Ireland, Cowie** and **Cassidy** pushed out the pace at the front until the steep climb by the stream where the SSM and **Sgt Wright** gave their much appreciated encouragement. Meanwhile the remainder of 'Zoo' Sqn were also doing well and some unexpected good performances were put in. After the steep hill the field started stretching then came the ploughed field. This is where the running stopped and the walking started, then came the final 'sprint'? to the finish with **Cpl Sturman** coming first, a late entry in **LCpl Moreman** from Rawson sneaking in for second and **AT Cassidy** (Scott) hanging on for third. 'Where is **Sgt Jenkins**?' we all asked. 'Behind **SSM Ireland'** came the reply (Red faces!). Congratulations to the Squadron for a fine all round performance and many thanks to the PS for supporting us.

INTER SQUADRON ASSAULT COURSE RACE
Report by AT Sgt Jenkins

Once again it was time for the Assault Course competition, the favourite of those 'warrie' ones amongst us. After some rather spartan training everybody was ready and prepared. Saturday came around and it was a dreadful day 'throwing' down with rain making conditions hazardous and very, very tiring. From the beginning it was obvious that Bradley Squadron were going to be run away winners as they were pushing out times two and three minutes ahead of everybody else. In the end they had the fastest section of the day completing the course in approximately 24 mins.

On the ranges the firing wasn't quite up to the usually very high standard, with only Scott 2 headed by **AT Sgt Cole** clearing all the targets. One incident to report **AT Sgt Holyoak** of Bradley Sqn managed to put a round in his magazine the wrong way round and he didn't progress any further from there on the range.

Well, the presentation came round and Bradley Sqn had won so our troublesome hero **AT Sgt Holyoak** went forward to collect the trophy a bit prematurely at which he got his leg pulled by the Commandant, **Col S. R. Carr-Smith.** On receiving the trophy our intrepid hero **(Al Holyoak)** promptly dropped and broke the trophy. Well done **Al,** and Bradley Sqn, better get some Bostick soon.

FINAL POSITIONS

First Bradley Sqn, second Penney Sqn, third Rawson Sqn, fourth Scott Sqn.

INTER SQUADRON ORIENTEERING
Report by AT Sgt Garrett

On 29 September 1984 the Inter Squadron Orienteering Competition took place. This time the event was held at Middleton Woods and there were three courses this term, unlike previous terms, which only had one course. The courses were fairly difficult due to ground and weather conditions although the check points were reasonably close together.

The competition results were very close, with Bradley Sqn winning the event with a total of 6,130 points, Scott Squadron were close behind with 6,115 points followed by Rawson and finally Penney, pulling up the rear. Individual winners were **AT Sgt Holyoak** of Bradley Sqn with a maximum score on the A course of 150 points. Winner of the B course was **AT Moore** also from Bradley Sqn. The individual winner of the C course was **AT Sgt Garrett** from Scott Sqn.

RAWSON SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Geoff Allen**
2IC	**Capt Bernie Neillings**
SSM	**WO2 Matt Matthews**
TP Sgts	**Sgt Phil Clifford**
	Sgt Pete Griffin
	Sgt Fred Tedby
Sqn Clerk	**Cpl Radar Paterson**
Sqn SQMS	**Cpl John Rutland**

WINTER TERM

During the Winter Term the Squadron fought valiantly to retain the Champion Squadron Trophy but alas it was not to be; however, there is always next term.

The Christmas period is always a busy one for any unit, especially a training establishment and we are no exception. Amongst the many parties and dinners that were organised, the highlight has to be the Squadron's Christmas Dinner held in the College restaurant. The

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apprentices were waited on by the Squadron Commander **Capt Bernie Neillings** who delegated the serving of the beer to himself and the Sergeant Major, **WO2 Matt Matthews**. After the dinner came the cabaret which included a troupe of dancing girls and a hypnotist. The hypnotist, **J. J. Barrie**, said he had never seen so many susceptable victims, but the prize must go to **AT Sgt Jonathan Sutton** who was put under whilst sitting in the audience and from then on entertained us all with his antics.

DR BARNARDOS

On 18 December 1984 several members of the Permanent Staff together with **AT Peter Lawn** presented a cheque to the Ian Tetley Memorial School for £400 which was raised mainly by a sponsored walk organised by the Squadron Sergeant Major. The School, which is run by the Dr Barnardos organisation, has been adopted by the Squadron as one of its charities. At the same presentation we also gave the children two large cakes for their Christmas party.

A cheque for £400 is handed over to Mr Bob Richardson by AT Peter Lawn on behalf of the Squadron

RECRUIT TROOP SMOKER

After much hard work and some discomfort the recruits of Intake 84C came to the end of their first term in the college. For some this was a sad time, as many of them enjoyed the long hard runs and the 'shouting down my earhole syndrome!'.

This therefore called for a celebration which took the form of a Smoker on 6 December 84. As you may well know the average party starts off with a social drink and of course the loud music. Well the 84C recruit troop party/inebriation was no exception. Many of the recruits were lovingly conned into buying drinks for the NCOs and Permanent staff, who had shown so much love and consideration for the lads.

A certain **AT Cpl Mac McInnes** managed to guzzle a pint of bitter in four seconds which just goes to show how amazing these apprentices can be. Well, after much drinking, the sketches that the lads had organised, began. To say that the sketches were funny would be an understatement. Many of the recruits made a valiant effort to get a laugh, and most of them succeeded. Not to mention **AT Cpl Chris** (I don't want to know you if you're not important) **Greaves** had the lads and PS in hysterics with his mixed version of 'I'm a lumber jack and I'm okay'. He was backed by recruits **Costello, Egan, Clarke, Haigh,** (Knobba), and **Collins** who did a grand performance. I must say at this point that the ATs and **AT Cpl Chris Greaves** would not have performed without persuasion by a certain **AT Sgt 'Jacko' Jackson** and a lot of alcoholic beverages. Room eight governed by **AT Cpl Rich Taylor** put on a grand performance of the three bears. Room six did a mind boggling performance of Bat Man and Robin (which has still to be understood).

But out of all the sketches Room four was the best by impersonating a drill squad being 'Beasted' around the square by a loud mouth drill Sergeant. Their prize for this was one of **Sgt 'Gripper' Griffin**'s pace sticks which had seen better days (no wonder he gave it away).

Before the buffet was served, the recruits presented **Capt Bernie Neillings** and **Sgt Phil Clifford** with a clock each and we're assured there was no hidden meaning; just a thank you for allowing them to finish their first term in one piece (well almost one piece).

HOCKEY

Report by WO2 (SSM) R. G. Hunter

A steady start to the 1984/85 season by both the PS and Apprentices' Sides. The Apprentices under the captaincy of **AT 'Taff' Maul** (Bradley Sqn), ably backed up by **AT Cpl 'Ollie' Campbell** (Bradley Sqn) and **AT LCpl 'Andy' Roberts** (Scott Sqn) have played against various local opposition on the sixth term schools net and managed to hold their own in the five matches played with two wins, one draw and two losses.

The Permanent Staff have managed a similar tally in the NE Dist League with a win and three losses (oops). But with the win against 2 Inf Div Sig Regt by three goals to nil under our belts we can look forward to our first match in the Army Cup versus 11 Sig Regt with greater confidence.

The latest addition to the team is the Commandant, **Col S. R. Carr-Smith**. Strange that there are no discipline problems for the team Captain any more!

On the College scene a very successful Inter Sqn Competition has just been completed with the following results:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Points
Bradley Sqn	6	6	0	0	14	3	13*
Scott Sqn	6	2	2	2	8	3	6
Rawson Sqn	6	1	2	3	11	11	4
Penney Sqn	6	1	0	5	3	14	2

*1 bonus point for a 5—0 win.

Well done to the winners Bradley Sqn!

At a representative level **AT Cpl 'Soots' Soutar** (Rawson Sqn) is the current Army U21 goalkeeper and U21 trialists are **'Taff' Maul, 'Ollie' Campbell** and **'Andy' Roberts** who also played for and represented North Yorkshire Schools with the addition of **AT Paul Eldridge** (Bradley Sqn).

STOP PRESS—PS NEWS

ARMY MINOR UNITS CUP

11 Sig Regt 1: College 1 (extra time played). Through to the next round after an exciting penalty flick shoot out (3—2).

FINAL NORTHERN ZONE

Depot Kings Div 0: College 1

Scorer, **Col S. R. Carr-Smith**, (penalty flick). The College are through to the Quarter Finals of the Cup.

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SCRIBE'S (FAREWELL) NOTES

A soldier's farewell to one and all! From now on all comments will have to be directed to my successor, though at present he or she is not yet identified. The delay may be attributed to either the difficult problem of selecting the right person from a long list of applicants for the job, or a dearth of volunteers.

Sadly, there are no reports of sporting achievements as the Hockey team's efforts in the Eastern District Final did not go quite according to plan. All right **Mr Cleggett!** I only asked . . . here is the news . . .

WOODHOUSE '10' AND FUN RUN

Report by WO2 RQMS Pete Dorans

I should have known that there was something coming my way when the CO, **Lt Col Ridger**, came into my office. He said, so casually, 'RQ, I would like you to organise a marathon for charity to take place at Garats Hay'. After consultation with the Amateur Athletic Association and Dave Lem (a noted County runner) it was decided to hold two open races on the same day. A 10 Mile Road Race and a Three-and-a-half Mile (Long Village) Fun Run. The runs were scheduled for 2 December, a mere seven weeks away.

Members of 3 Company Crusading in aid of the Mayor of Charnwood

RQMS Pete Dorans was instrumental in raising a large sum for the Mayor's Appeal. A Christmas day marathon organised by SSgt Dave Dolling realised over £3,000 for our local Cheshire Home — What lovely fellows we all are!

SNAGS

The first task was to mark out a course for the main race and **Sgt Mick McGrath** could be seen wandering the countryside for days with a measuring wheel. All other tasks were duly delegated; **Sgt Jimmy Bond** had to make some 40 signs and **Cpl Carr** had to mark out car parking for 1,000 cars. I was left with the advertising, sponsorship and all general admin. The response to the race was slow at first but, with only three weeks to go, the applications started arriving at the rate of 40 per day. The whole population of the QM department were turned into instant race organisers as the masses of paperwork started to build up. We were lucky; our sponsors were providing all the main prizes and the runner's numbers. The PRI was donating a shield for the team event. Everything was going smoothly—then the bubble burst! The Police informed us that they would not agree to us conducting the race but, by law, they could not stop us.

The AAA asked for 50 pence for all non-AAA Members running. (They didn't tell me that when I sent in my entry form for registration). The Sponsors had forgotten to order the Race Numbers and would only get them to me a couple of days before the race . . . It was all falling apart at the seams, or was I just dreaming?

ON THE TRACKS

Not to worry! An agreement was reached after much consultation with the Police, the AAA and the Sponsors. Everything was back on the right track. The Squadron and Company Sergeant Majors, **WO2 Bob Carty** and **WO2 Tony Orrell** both helped out with manpower, to erect tents and act as route markers. The soldiers started volunteering, by Courses, to run the race. They had worked out that it only takes one hour to run, but five hours as a road Marshal. The day of the race was drawing close when the Trent Water Authority decided to dig up all the road in Old Woodhouse; the Army decided to go to Alert Amber, just to make our job a little more difficult.

THE FINAL COUNT

At last the great day arrived. **Sgt Chris King** had all the Finish lanes marked out; **WO2 Tony Orrell** was practising on the microphone (Scribe says he could hear it on the Golf Course about two miles away) and **SSgt Cliff Lowe** was adapting to his new-found job, as IC recording late entries and results. **Cpl Chris Carr** had to adapt too! His car parking and entrance team were diverted to searching the 1,000 people coming in through the rear gate. At the final count, there were 525 runners in the 10 Mile race and another 350 in the Fun Run.

THE OFF

Lt Col Ridger started the race, which looked like 'ZULU' all over again! The runners had hardly covered the first mile when **SSgt (YofS) Harry Brant**'s roving radio reporters began giving race positions which were immediately passed over the Tannoy system by **WO2 Tony Orrell.** The race was fought out between **Tom Walker, M. Strange** and **Mick James** over the course from Camp to Swithland, up to Cropston Reservoir and over the Beacon, then back to Camp. **Tom Walker** was the individual winner in 50.46 with **Cpl Marjoribanks** from Comms and Sy Gp coming in seventh. The Leicester Corintanians won the Team event with Comms and Sy Gp coming in fifth place.

Our team members were **Cpl Marjoribanks** (53.22), **Sig Williams** (57.10), and **Sgt Mick McGrath** (59.21).

SUCCESS

The Fun Run was also a success, with some of the contestants running in Fancy Dress. It was quite an eye-opener, with some little tots doing the course in under 21 minutes.

At the time of going to Press, we have raised over £1,550 for charity. £834 profit from race admin and £716 from runners sponsorship. My thanks to all who helped. You are too numerous to mention but, without your help, it would never have happened.

WOS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS HIGHLIGHTS

Our thanks go to a very hard working PMC, Christmas Draw Committee and Entertainments Committee, for a well organised and enjoyable Draw Night. Several Honorary Members were heard to complain that they were late getting to the Buffet but it was noted that most of them were dizzy by the time they had finished going round for seconds!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers' Mess for inviting us for drinks.

MOVING HOUSE

No heating or hot water in the Mess; a week-old gas leak which meant no gas on camp; provided big problems for **SSgt Alec Jordan ACC** and his staff. His worries were not helped by the fact that we were having a Mess Dinner Night. His problems were also aggravated by the fact that the dinner was to dine out the RSM, **WO1 Bill House**, but the back of the Mess soon resounded to the roar of burners; clouds of steam were seen and the dinner progressed without any noticeable hitches. The RSM, obviously moved by the occasion, actually mentioned that he had enjoyed several aspects of his tour with 'us lot', but we put that down to the freely-flowing wine. We wish him and his wife **Anne**, all the best in their new posting to the 'Wooden Hut'.

GROUP SQUASH NOTES

During the month of January, there has been a bit of a racket going on next to the Gym. The Group was engaged in its annual Squash tournament; fought out this year by over 40 contestants. Due to the absence of the number one seed, **SSgt Gordon**, the Open Competition Final brought together the Number two, **Sgt Yeoman**, and the Number three, **Cpl Packwood. Cpl Packwood** caused something of an upset with a resounding 3-0 win, although it was not easy going, with the games scored 9-10, 6-9, 6-9. Now that the unit competition is out of the way, we look forward to the Army Minor-unit Cup. With the recent additions of **SSgt Thompson** and **Cpl Goring** to the team, we have expectations of beating the RAPC Centre, Northampton, in Round two. We won the first round against Chilwell Garrison by 5—0. Watch out Pioneers!

GSU Training School Embakasi Kenya

FARAWAY PLACES, UNUSUAL JOBS

General Service Unit Signals School,
Embakasi, Nairobi

PHASE 1: A Policeman's lot is not an 'appy one. (G. S. Gilbert)

Report by Capt P. R. Day

THE SCENE IS SET

Sitting in my office in Aldershot, recovering from the aftermath of Exercise *Lionheart*, my mind wandered to far off places and warmer climates—fastballs from Brigade Headquarters were few in those days as they were also recovering from the same exercise! Enter Squadron Commander on cue, 'Good News' he retorts. 'There's a posting in the pipeline.' 'Good News for whom', I muse as visions of the Falklands and Catterick loom large in my mind. 'It's only a slim chance,' he continues, 'but in any case your replacement will be here next week.'

The 'slim chance' duly arrived preceeded by two months frantic activity in Aldershot, finishing off the old job, preparing for the new, reorganising the social life (which had suddenly dramatically changed course), and fitting in a 10 day recce to the new job—Nairobi, Kenya.

The job entailed a six month attachment to the General Service Unit of the Kenya Police Force, to assist them with their comms training and organisation. The Team were due to fly out by RAF Tristar on 5 January but for personal reasons I wished to travel out before Christmas. The only RAF flight available was a Hercules Trainer on which I hitched a lift, together with the Team's 1,600lb of freight! Flying to Nairobi by Hercules is no small undertaking—when the flight includes overnight stops in Bahrain, Muscat and Mombassa it resembles more an American Tourist's dream holiday! I arrived in Nairobi somewhat lean after my four days with the RAF (as the ALM explained—crew are entitled to two cooked meals a day, passengers are only allowed one(?)). On arrival the baggage was quickly sorted out and taken into the safe custody of the GSU. Once satisfied, I continued on to Zimbabwe to acclimatise and see old friends from my previous African posting, and to mentally prepare myself to being a Policeman instead of a Soldier.

FORMING UP

Suntanned and refreshed I returned to Kenya on 2 January to spend three hectic days preparing for the arrival of the rest of the team. AM 5 January:— Team duly arrives; the Signals Team to help with the Comms; the Transport Team to paint the MT Park (and do a few other things); and the Infantry Team (to amuse the other two).

Work started at once, sorting out equipment and moving into the GSU Barracks at Embakasi and the GSU Headquarters in Nairobi. The rest of the week was spent in looking around and preparing for our various tasks, daunting and difficult as they initially appeared!

THE JOB

MISSION:

To build a GSU Signals School and train some GSU Signallers to Instructor level and design a Basic Signals Recruits Course for the Instructors to instruct and to train up a Mobile Communications Maintenance Team to maintain the Country-wide System and to analyse the GSU Communications System and Procedures, making recommendations and taking remedial action where necessary and to establish a GSU Signals Company, training its Key Personnel.

(RMAS Precis: The Mission must be simple, avoid double Aims).

EXECUTION:

General Outline: Use your initiative.

Coordinating Instructions: You've got six months!

SERVICE SUPPORT:

Use whatever you can scrounge.

So, with our well defined orders we set to work. The Signals Team was brought together and each member allocated a task as part of the Mission.

TO WORK

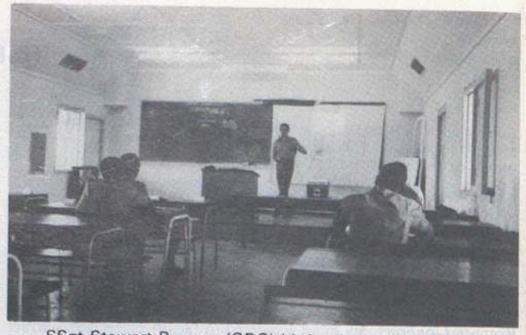
The Team is not as large as the Mission might dictate, in fact there are only three of us. Myself, **SSgt Stewart Burman QDG** as the Chief Instructor and **SSgt Alan Birkett** as the Team Tech.

Building the Signal School—workmen install the equipment benches

SSgt Alan Birkett wiring up the Solar Power Cells outside the Equipment Room

The first two weeks were spent supervising the building of the new GSU Signals School, which was being built by the GSU at an alarming rate, and preparing for the various courses. Collection of kit, writing Job Descriptions, Training Objectives, Block Syllabi and programmes, detailed weekly programmes and Lesson Plans took up every available moment in the early weeks. While **SSgt Burman** and I were busy preparing for the Instructors Course, **SSgt Birkett** had not only to amass all the items required to install in the new Signal School but had to prepare for the Second Course—his six month Operators' Maintenance Course.

The Instructors Course assembles



SSgt Stewart Burman (QDG) hitting 'em with the facts

Both courses started on time, two weeks after our arrival in Nairobi and despite the hiccups they are progressing on target. The Signals School was not completed until week four of the course (mid February) but fortunately the CO of the GSU Training School came to our rescue with the offer of alternative accommodation.

Perhaps **SSgt Birkett** had the most problems—he had to spend so much time supervising the building of the Signals School that he hardly saw his course in the early weeks. However the GSU Signals Officer, **Lawrence Kibunja**, was able to help by keeping them well occupied during the many periods of absence. Of the students themselves, no instructor could ask for a keener group (certainly keener than the Blandford Troop Commanders Course!). With first period starting at 0730 hrs and last period finishing at 1700 hrs it is a long day for students and instructors alike. It is however gratifying that the students are as keen to learn at the end of the day as they are at the beginning. Here's to the second half of the course!

POSTSCRIPT

At the time of writing England is gripped by the 'Big Freeze'. We are not so lucky here either—since the 2 January I have *lost* my sun tan and it has rained every day this week, despite the drought!

SATELLITE RECEPTION RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

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School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

2 SQUADRON (TRIALS)
SQUADRON MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj John Doody**
2IC	**Capt John McIntyre**
Tech Adjt	**Capt (TOT) Chris Payne**
OC R Tp	**Capt Mike Gilyeat**
OC PTARMIGAN Trials Tp	**Capt Peter Davis**
OC Dev Tp	**WO1 (FofS) Mike Woodhouse**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Brian Gibbons**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Butch Maycock**
MT SNCO	**SSgt Dave Knell**

Since our last report life in Trials has been as busy as ever. Our main activities have been:

Mobile Subscriber Equipment Demonstration.

PTARMIGAN/WAVELL Interoperability Trials.

Functional Testing of First Fielding PTARMIGAN Installations.

Deployment to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt of PTARMIGAN Installations.

MOBILE SUBSCRIBER EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION (MSE)

During September the Squadron began preparations for the demonstration of the PTARMIGAN system in support of Plessey's bid to sell PTARMIGAN to the US Army. This demonstration, was to involve the deployment of the largest PTARMIGAN Network to date, four Trunk Nodes, two Major Access Nodes, six Secondary Access Nodes, four SCRA Centrals and 25 SCRA Terminals.

To provide necessary support for the demonstration, over 300 officers and soldiers were attached to the Squadron from Regiments in BAOR and the UK. They went through a five week training period receiving instruction from 8 Sig Regt and PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit training teams. A demonstration rehearsal was held between the 26 November and 2 December followed by the actual demonstration, 3-7 December. During the rehearsal a number of senior UK and US evaluators assessed the PTARMIGAN system in preparation for the full demonstration. For the School of Signals, **Col Micky Topple**, Col (Engr), controlled the overall demonstration supported by **Maj Geri Maddren** on the staff side and 2 Squadron (Trials) for the equipment demonstration.

The actual demonstration saw a large PTARMIGAN network with all the subscriber facilities deployed in an area extending from Hurn Airport to Blandford and out to Salisbury Plain. 60 US military and civilian evaluators escorted by 20 Plessey representatives evaluated all the PTARMIGAN facilities which included: Mobility, Survivability, Flexibility, System Management, and Crypto Management.

The demonstration was a great success and all those participating are to be congratulated on their efforts. An article on MSE will appear in the Summer edition of the Royal Signals Journal.

EXERCISE *BINARY BOOT*

On completion of the MSE Demonstration, the Squadron once again deployed a PTARMIGAN network around Blandford Camp into which were connected six WAVELL Processors to evaluate the interoperability of the two systems using the PTARMIGAN Packet Switched Network. This was the last trial that the PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit were to participate in during their tour with the Squadron and we wish them well during their tour in 1st British Corps training personnel on the PTARMIGAN system. Their contribution to the trial ensured that the Packet Switched Network operated satisfactorily and at the end of the trial week there was much confidence in this aspect of the PTARMIGAN system.

FUNCTIONAL TESTING

All the PTARMIGAN equipment destined for 1 BR (Corps) has to be functionally tested by the Squadron and straight after Exercise *Binary Boot*, 30 major PTARMIGAN installations were functionally tested and given the 'Good Housekeeping' seal of approval by the Squadron.

DEPARTURES

On Friday 9 November the Squadron bade farewell to **Capt (TOT) Bob McKay** who departed for the sunny climes of Tels Branch at Malvern. **Bob** was seen off in style on the top of a Bedford QL Staff Vehicle which was proceeded by **Sgt Dave Milne** playing an appropriate tune on his bagpipes. **Capt Bob McKay** made a major contribution to the routine and PTARMIGAN trials and the Squadron wish him, and his wife **Audrey**, all the best in his next post.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **WO1 (YofS) Rod Wood, WO2 (FofS) John Oakes** and **WO1 (YofS) Mike Freedman** and **LCpl Jack Carpenter** on their recent promotions.

CROSS COUNTRY

SSgt Les Wood of the PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit once again demonstrated his athletic prowess by winning the annal Monty Truscott Cross Country Individual, Team and Veterans trophies. Ably supported by **Cpl Chris Wilkinson, Capt Chris Payne, WO2 (FofS) Gav West**, it was nearly a clean sweep for the Squadron.

PTARMIGAN TRIALS TROOP

The PIU (PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit) has now departed for Verden leaving PTT (Part Time Troop) to become PTARMIGAN Trials Troop Main who will continue to support PTARMIGAN activities in the UK.

A grateful farewell to those of the Troop who will also depart shortly. These include **Sgt Bill Richie** to Donnington on coaching for squash and BFT's, **LCpls Lofty Byrne** and **Chris Nelson** and **Sig Mark Compton, Paul Cullen** and **Prof McDermott** to Verden to join PIU Step-Up, and finally **LCpl Dave Ings** to 4 Div. We also wish **WO1 (YofS) Maurice Campbell** and his wife **Marian** all the best in civilian life and we expect to continue to see **Maurice** at Plessey, Christchurch.

Sig Guy Bugby recently got married and moved onto the patch, we wish them luck in their married life, and **Sig Ray Bridge** who is contemplating matrimony (rumour has it that he is getting wed to a panzer).

PTT now look forward to the more important things in life like military training, battle camp and vehicle inspections as well as some leave and the occasional PTARMIGAN Trials.

NEWS FROM RADIO TROOP

Since our last report the Troop has been kept busy with various tasks, the first of which was the Commercial Radio Trial. All members of the Troop were involved in the trial, which lasted for four weeks, plus some affiliated 'help' from 1 RHF, 1 D & D, 1 QUEENS and **SSgt (YofS) Chris Rogan** from 8 Bde, who spent more time on the phone trying to persuade his expectant wife to 'hang on a few days more' than he did on the trial.

Cpl Stan Sudron extends his thanks to **Sgt Taff Jones** from 8 Bde for proving once and for all that a shorting strap dropped across battery terminals does cause a few sparks to fly.

Just after the trial was completed our resident PTARMIGAN experts (?) were away again, this time for the MSE trial, and **Cpl 'Pedro' Mason, LCpls Ken Stirling** and **'Chippy' Wood, Sig Ian MacLeod, Paul Davies, 'Ros' Rosney** are all glad it's all over — for them at least, especially **LCpl 'Chippy' Wood** who still swears he's spent the last two and a half months working from six in the morning till nine at night 'and only one day off'.

We say farewell to **Sig Dave Kenyon** who goes across the corridor to another troop in the same squadron, **Sig Sam MacLeod** to 640 Troop, 30 Sig Regt and **LCpl Ken Stirling** who goes to the nether regions of Paderborn joining 25 Fd Regt RA.

Welcomes are extended to **WO2 (YofS) Dave Bartlett,** and everyone hopes his newly acquired canary starts singing soon.

We also wish the best of luck to **Capt Mike Gilyeat** on his joined-up writing course at Warminster and hope his many Hockey queries don't task his stand-in, **Capt Ron Chisholm**, to any great extent.

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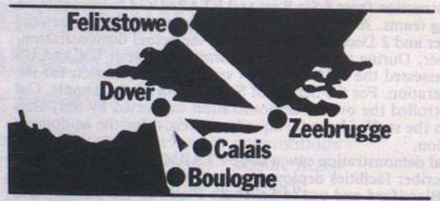

TOWNSEND THORESEN

CHRISTMAS

The single soldiers' Christmas Dinner was raised above the usual level of gastronomic ballistics trials by the presence, in the dining hall, of the Garrison silver candlesticks and cutlery. (As a gesture of good faith, none was chained down!) The dining hall staff excelled themselves by serving the meal in the style of one of the better Arab-owned London Hotels, by serving the meat at the side table. The traditional Christmas pudding was served with a little less brandy than might have been expected, although the Adjutant glowingly confirmed to us that a full bottle of French five-star had been used.

RAFFLE

The meal over, the assembled diners were informed that beneath their chairs were individual raffle tickets. **SSgt Bob Keen** then conducted the raffle from Radex Troop's ceremonial tombola drum, which some uninformed observers might have mistaken for a chemical toilet polished for the occasion. The prizes, donated by the CO and PRI, School of Signals, included an away-from-it-all weekend with **RSM Keith Russell**, enthusiastically won by **Sig Martin Hyett**, a steam iron (do the PT staff need one for track suits?) collected by **Cpl Gaz Waters**, and a pair of go faster NIKE training shoes won by **Sig Steve Gilyeat.**

The entertainment continued in the JRC with free beer and the promise of two young ladies disrobing for the lads; unfortunately, a promise was all they got, as the star attractions failed to turn up due to a mechanical problem. Into the breach stepped **Cpl Gaz Waters** (clutching his iron) who proceeded to entertain the crowd with an assortment of jokes old and new. He was soon joined by **Sig 'Rooster' Blake** in his comedy act, and both received a standing ovation. They were, in fact, so successful that they were preferred to the comedian hired for the occasion.

MT FOCUS

The School of Signals MT continues to be as busy as ever with people coming and going like hot dinners. We say goodbye to **Sig Carl Hales** who has gone to Bromley to show the TA how it's done. **LCpl Ian Winton** has now left the Army after marrying **Cpl Chris Medlam** who has been posted to RAC Bovington—near enought to still plague us.

Cpl Maggie 'I come from Merthyr Tydfil' Thomas will be leaving us shortly for civvie street as will **Pte Michaela Thompson**, who only joined us three months ago but decided that her love life would improve at Woolwich. New arrivals are **Sig 'Boris' Caddwallader, Sig 'Chippy' Wood, LCpl Phil 'I'm a Driving Instructor' Schofield** and **Pte Sharon Camwell.** Welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for **LCpl Gary Pickford**, recently promoted, and to **Sig Alan Dummer** and his wife **Tracey** on the birth of their daughter **Amanda** on 28 January, weighing in at 6lbs 10ozs. Well done to you all.

A number of us have ventured to such far flung places as Leconfield (ugh), Andover, Aldershot and Catterick to participate in upgrading and Military Qualification courses.

Successful passes on courses have been: **WSgt Pip Almond** and **Cpl Mick Arnold**—MT SNCO's, **Cpl Maggie Thomas** and **Cpl Mick Arnold**—First Aid Instructors, **Cpl Mick 'I should have been in the SAS' Heelan**—EPC and RSDCC, **Sig Steve 'The local yokel' Corner**—Staff Car, and finally **Sig Glenn Bennett** who obtained an 'A' pass on his B1 upgrading.

THE STATISTIC

With the onset of the cold weather our snow and ice kit was out, it seemed, non-stop, adding more hours on to the hard working drivers who incidentally have already completed 1,191,970 miles since March 1984. Who says we are not really a taxi firm operating incognito!

THE ALMOND SHIELD WELL WON

On Saturday 26 January the MT held their own Training Day, which consisted of First Aid, Highway Code Tests, Accident Procedures, Vehicle Security and Searching and culminated in a Safe and Skilled Driving Competition. A very good day where we found out some of our weaknesses. We hope nobody needs First Aid while we are around. The day was made into a competition with everyone competing like mad for the Almond Shield for Endeavour. The overall winner was **Sig 'Chippy' Wood.** Well done.

WO2 (SSM) Barry Gibbons 'You have enjoyed your dinner!'

FAREWELL TO THE BOSS

Lastly we must say a fond farewell to **Capt Frank** I keep vehicles in my back pocket **Atkins**, who is leaving the Army after 29 years' service. We would like to thank him for everything he has done for us as a Troop and as individuals and wish him all the very best for the future. Whilst we await the arrival of our new MTO, **SSgt Glenn 'I always say yes Sir' Morgan** will be in the hot seat. Good luck.

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Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

CHANGE AT THE TOP

Since our last report several changes have taken place in RHQ. The most important has been that **Lt Col Keith Turner** has handed over as Commanding Officer to **Lt Col Mike Powell.** We welcome **Col Powell** and his wife, **Anne**, to the Regiment.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Sadly we say goodbye to **Maj Ian Morris**, keeper of the bar and ring-leader of the Muppets (Subalterns), otherwise OC 1 Sqn, who

'Your problem now mate', says Maj Ian Morris (right) to new OC 1 Sqn, Maj Mervyn Johnston

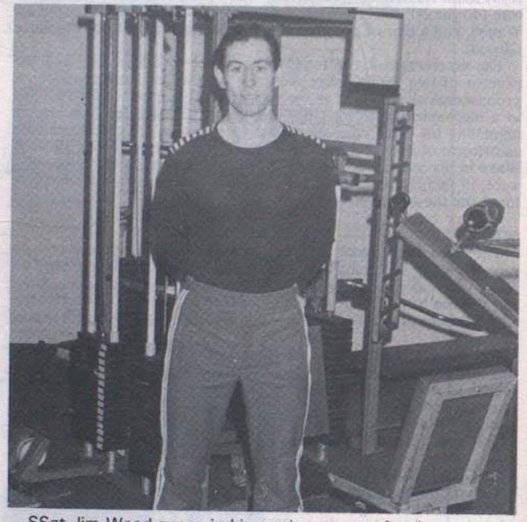
officially leaves the Army at the end of February for a career in the field of insurance. In his place as OC 1 Sqn comes **Maj Mervyn Johnston** fresh from Nepal and with his wife, **Molly.**

We also say farewell to **WO1(RSM) Tony Cartwright**, whose thunderous voice ('Lock him up'!) will no longer be heard across the Parade Square. His notorious wit will also be missed by those who worked with him. Incidentally, according to his wife, **Jeannine**, her **Tony** is not in fact planning to elope with the kissogram girl with whom he was caught by the cameras of ITV's News at Ten Team. (How much is the video worth, **Tony!**). To take over the responsibility for drill we now have the Scottish sanguine of **WO1(RSM) Tom Muir**, who is already making his mark on the Regiment.

Two RSMs? A nightmare! RSM Tony Cartwright (left) shakes hands with his replacement, RSM Tom Muir

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for our resident bionic superstar, **SSgt Jim Wood APTC**. In recognition of his achievement in the field of the biathlon and triathlon and, in particular, the 1984 Winter Olympics at Sarajevo **SSgt Jim Wood** was awarded the BEM in this year's New Year Honours List.



SSgt Jim Wood poses in his work-out room for the camera

TROOP NEWS

At present the Regiment has a full house. That means OC 1 Sqn has to deal with the problems of 373 Junior Soldiers and (worse still) 10 Troop Commanders. On a more serious note at the last Pass Off Parade on 11 October the second intake from the Armed Services Youth Training Scheme finished their time at Albermarle Barracks. All who successfully completed the rigorous ten month training course (on a daily rate of pay of £3.57) were offered places in the Regular Army and are now undergoing training at 8 Sig Regt.

COOL

Currently the intermediate and senior troops are in the middle of the External Leadership Training (ELT) season. Triangle, Beaufighter, Battleaxe and Kukri troops have been heading North to Scotland for ELT II in Grantown-on-Spey midway between the Lecht and Cairngorm Ski resorts. The stated aim was to learn the rudiments of skiing—however the medics have been on constant standby to deal with the less adept members of the Regiment. Meanwhile, Kohima, Whitespear, Iron and Lightning troops have been Stirling bound for ELT 1. Despite temperatures of $-15°C$, conditions more suited for skiing and the occasional whiteout, the juniors under the watchful eye of **Lt Neil Couch** have been experiencing basic rock climbing, abseiling, hill walking and mountain navigation.

Recently the troops were visited by **Brig Maynard**, Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison.

A short rest from PT whilst Brig Maynard chats with Juniors from Kukri Troop

PT Instructors *(top L to R)* Cpl Jimmy MacDougal, LCpls 'Scouse' Deary, 'Geordie' McDine *(Standing L to R)* LCpl Ian Roberts and Cpl Danny O'Brien pose with the girls in the Sunday Sun Supergirl contest. For contact numbers please send sae to Gym Staff, JRRS (26th)

FUN DAY

On Saturday 20 October the Regiment held a fun day during which a total of £1,000 was raised. There was a variety of stalls but the star attraction was **WO1(RSM) Tony Cartwright's** professionally organised 'You will buy now!' auction. The proceeds from the event were later donated to SSAFA and other local charities. In total the Regiment raised £2,500 in 1984 for various good causes.

Front L to R: Mrs J. Teasdale (Matfen Hall Cheshire Home), Dr P. Hamilton (RVI), Mrs Anne Powell (SSAFA) and Mr T. Falkingham (National Children's Home)
The cheques were handed over by *(Back Row L to R)* Mrs Anne Tranter, Mrs Jeannine Cartwright, Mr David Baldwin and JLCpl Paul Wright

A BEVY OF BEAUTIES

There was no shortage of volunteers to help assess the attributes of a group of well endowed beauties when the Regiment hosted the selection tests for a local Newcastle newspaper's Supergirl contest last July. As part of the whittling down process the girls had to tackle the assault course during which the PT Instructors gave them more than a helpful hand.

CHAMPION COOKS

Who says Army food is rotten?—well not so at Albemarle Barracks! In the recent North East District Championships **Cpl Steve Jackson ACC** partnered by **Miss Susan Miller** from the Officers Mess won the cook and serve event; while **Cpl Stefan Petrow ACC** was runner-up in the Chef of the Year competition.

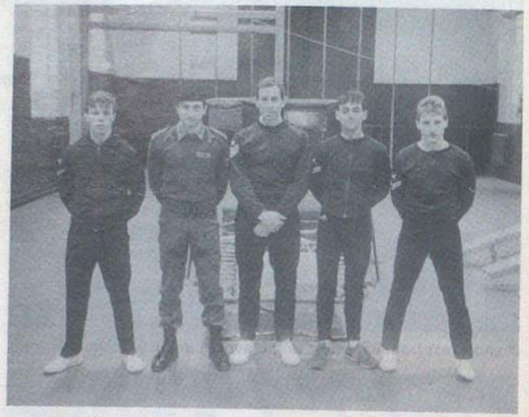
The triumphant trio at home in the kitchen
L to R: Cpl Steve Jackson, Miss Susan Miller and Cpl Stefan Petrow

PANTOMIME

After weeks of argumentative rehearsals and frantic efforts backstage the Hadrians Hams opened with Cinderella to rapturous applause for their first (and last) production under the direction of **Lt Eric Heritage** on 12 December. **Capt Nigel Austen** was the perfect Prince; whilst **Sgt Les Thompson RAMC** was a natural for the camp Dandini. Star of the show was **Kay Munro** whose previous acting experiences shone through as she commanded the stage as the Fairy Godmother. In the meantime, husband, **Cpl Andy Munro**, was typecast as Fatima. Special thanks go to **Mrs Anne Alden** who sacrificed many hours to produce a wardrobe of magnificent costumes for the cast.

SPORT

On the sports front the winter weather has taken its usual toll on home fixtures and a thaw in conditions is hoped for in the near future. Despite the snow **Lt Lucy Forsythe WRAC** has been making the journey South regularly to play for the women's Army hockey team at Aldershot. Last November **Cpl Steve Roberts** was runner-up in the Corps Squash Championships held at Harrogate. Whilst more recently **Lt Peter McKenna RAEC**, star of last season's victorious Sandhurst Rugby Team, was selected to play for the Army Rugby Team against Surrey and has high hopes of being picked for the Squad for the Inter Services matches later this season. On 26 January the Regimental Cross Country Team triumphed at the North East District Championships winning the minor Units Trophy, with **SSgt Jim Wood APTC, Cpl Ian Wigglesworth** and **Sgt Andy Smith APTC** taking the first three places respectively. The team will now go on to represent the District in the Army Championships at Aldershot.



Winners of the NEDIST Cross Country Minor Units Trophy
(Less Capt Nick Bateson and Sgt Andy Smith APTC)
L to R: LCpl Ian Roberts, Lt Stuart Hodges, SSgt Jim Wood APTC, Cpls Earl Wigglesworth and Danny O'Brien

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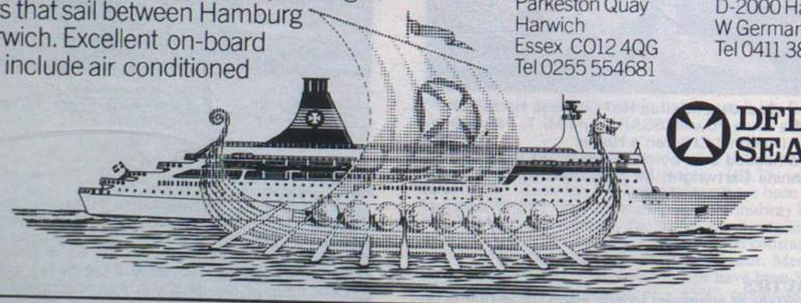


DFDS SEAWAYS

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

1 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj** 'The Boss' **Wright**
OC Falcon Troop	**Capt** 'Sometimes the Boss' **McGrath**
OC Hawk	**Capt** 'Canada' **Gravel**
OC Eagle	**Lt** 'Very rarely the Boss' **Griffiths**
SSM	**WO2** 'I lead the escape committee' **Crabtree**
SQMS	**SSgt** 'Im posted' **Mower**
FofS	**SSgt** 'So am I' **Rogers**
YofS	**SSgt** 'I just arrived' **Boxall**

SOME MONTH

Well what a month December was. Let me begin with the social side of life.

EXERCISE *PEAR TREE*

This exercise is both held and hosted annually by 1 Sqn. An Anglo German social event against our sister Regiment, The Fernmeldebataillon 1, from Hannover. This year, for the first time being held exclusively, by the kind permission of **WO1 (RSM) J. Illingworth,** in the Sergeants Mess. The evening consisted of games, carol singing and the traditional Dinner. It was thought by Mess Members to be a one horse race with the Germans providing little or no opposition; this however was not the case. All games were fiercely contested only to produce the eventual winner from Headquarters Squadron, which were duly presented with the Exercise *Pear Tree* Plaque by the CO **Lt Col S. M. A. Lee.** A great night was had by all.

The Organisers L to R: WO2 (SSM) Crabtree, Sgt Reith, SSgt Cox, Sgt Wood, 2Lt Walker, SSgt (FofS) Rogers, Sgts Smith, Graham *Kneeling:* Sgt Bailey *Lying Rear:* SSgt Patterson *Front:* SSgt Hayward

With Exercise *Pear Tree* behind us it left little time to sober up for the Wives Club Christmas Dinner, and what a night that turned out to be. Held this year in the Junior Ranks Restaurant it provided the Officers and SNCOs with the opportunity to dress up in Mess Kit and wine and dine the Ladies. **SSgt 'The Smurf' Hayward** led the 1 Sqn male voice choir in a rendition of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and was, as usual, booed for it. The evening concluded with the ladies retiring to the Squadron Club for a Disco (mixed of course). What was **Mrs Wright**'s pressie?

Having had the Sergeants' Mess Grand Christmas Draw on the 15 December few of us had eyes open during the Anglo German Carol Service on Sunday 16 in the local Town Cathedral. Most of us actually made it; however, the absence of **SSgt** 'I nearly made it' **Boxall** and **SSgt** 'So did I' **Mower** were duly noted by the SSM, who was seen in the pulpit, counting heads.

The Children's Party went down well on the 17th but it might be remembered in the future to hire the ever popular 'A' Team for riot control. The 18th was set aside for the Squadron Commander's Smoker held in the Squadron Club. This turned out to be a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. Who will forget the sketch provided by **SSgt 'The Smurf' Hayward** of the Bomber Raid with **Mrs Babs Rogers** acting as the Rear Gunner?

The social functions ended on 20 December with the Squadron All Ranks Christmas Party held this year in the Corporals' Mess and superbly organised by **SSgt 'I've got a monk on' Patterson** and **SSgt 'The Smurf' Hayward** and **LCpl 'The Joker' Stobbs.** The Commanding Officer, being the Chief Guest, hasn't been to see us since.

AUSTRIA

January found the snow capped peaks of Austria being graced by half the Squadron on Exercise *Snow Queen*, but life goes on and those who didn't make it to Austria were being 'snowed under' in a different way compliments of RHQ. Talking of snow—Verden has had more than its fair share where temperatures of −20 were recorded but it didn't seem to bother **Sig 'Arctic' Nightingale** and **Sig 'Antarctic' Herbert** who thought that a romp in the snow with **Sig 'Its always me' Conway** was a bit of fun until caught by the SSM.

LONG TERM

Moving indoors provided us the opportunity to view with overwhelming pride a demonstration on how to install intercomms, courtesy of the Foreman **SSgt 'Its all in hand' Rogers** and his motley crew **Sgt 'Let me hit it' Lee, Sgt 'I don't understand this' Graham, Cpl 'I've had enough' Ward** and **LCpl 'It's not my fault' Openshaw.** The OC has been promised it will be in and working by Spring! 1985/1986/1987?

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for:— **Cpl 'See, I told you I would get it' Comyns, Cpl 'I like this' Hill, LCpl 'Stickman' Brunton, LCpl 'Fingers' Darlow, LCpl 'SSMs' Pett, LCpl 'Genkis' Khan, LCpl 'I don't drink' Nash,** and **LCpl 'The Bopper' Stealy,** on their recent promotions.

FAREWELL

Sadly we say farewell to those who have escaped.

WO2 Van Parys to 242 Sig Sqn Edinburgh, **Sgt Mower** to 3 ADSR, **Sgt Ireland** BEM on promotion to 21 Sig Regt, **Sgt Gemmel** to PIU/SST, **Cpl Gregory** to 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Fisher** to HQ Sqn, and **Sig Bailey** to 16 Sig Regt.

WELCOME

. . . and we say welcome to the new arrivals.

Lt Griffiths from 3 Sqn, **2Lt Billingham** On Loan, **SSgt McGarry** from HQ Sqn, **SSgt Wyse** from HQ Sqn, **Sgt Churcher** from HQ Sqn, **Cpl Brown** from HQ Sqn, **LCpl Dill** from HQ Sqn, **LCpl Tunstall** from 10 Sig Regt, **Sig Ganley** from HQ Sqn, **Sig Swords** from 'The Factory', **Sig Ridley** from 'The Factory', **Sig Stewart** from 'The Factory', **SSgt Bruce** (The new Q) from 7 Sig Regt, **Capt Condie** from 266 Sig Sqn, and **Stephanie Eddowes.**

MANY THANKS

Finally **Maj C. L. G. Wright** would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the Corps who sponsored him in the 1984 Verden Marathon. This enabled a cheque of £200 to be presented to the Jubilee Sailing Trust—Many Thanks.

2 SQN

Since our last report we have endured exercise *Stag Rat* and the Christmas and New Year festivities. Rover Troop were our representatives in the misty bogs north of Bremen. Their morale was saved from too bad a battering by their task, which was Umpire Comms. Thus they were spared the hardship suffered by the fighting soldiers! In fact the troop commander actually claims that his soldiers enjoyed the experience.

Once the work was cleared out of the way the Squadron set about celebrating Christmas. The most notable event of the many was the Squadron Party where each Troop presented a short play. The SHQ team were: the OC **Maj Jack Wraith**, the 2IC **Capt Gus Boag**, the **SSM Pete Sutherland**, the **SQMS Al Gibbons** and the MT Sergeant **Roy Gratton**. Rover Troops leading thespians turned out to be **Sig Chas Fisher** and **Mark Carver** who were nearly defeated by one of the rules of the event; 'No obscene language or acts, either real or simulated. Despite this challenging obstacle **Sig Fisher** and **Carver** produced an entertaining mime.

At that point the Christmas festivities started in earnest though little detail of what went on has emerged so far. All the 'livers-in' were entertained on Christmas day by the 'Pads' and the Regiment's most experienced Orderly Officer entered the New Year in a manner guaranteed to earn the goodwill of everybody else on the Orderly Officer roster.

3 SQN
THE 'HIT SQUAD'

OC	**Maj David Elson**
2IC	**Capt Colin Lawrence**
OC C Tp	**Lt Gerry Peck**
OC N Tp	**2Lt John Williams**
OC L Tp	Post Vacant
SSM	**WO2 Ben Britton**
YofS	**SSgt Ron Allan**
FofS	**SSgt Ken Thompson**
SQMS	**SSgt Stan Taylor**

DEPARTURES

The Squadron would like to say a big thank you and farewell to the following:

Cpl Dave King and **Mrs King** to 11 Sig Regt, **LCpl Steve James** and **Mrs James** to 233 Sig Sqn, **Sig 'PB' Packenham-Bishop** to 1 Sqn, **'Geordie' Martin** to 22 Sig Regt, **'Dai' Evans** and **Mrs Evans** also to 22 Sig Regt, **Mark** 'Oh what a lovely body' **Davidson** to 8 Sig Regt, **'Jock' Tulleth** to HQ AFCENT, **'Archie' Archibald** to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **'Sticks' Pritchard** to 1 Sqn.

ARRIVALS

We welcome the following:

LCpls Nick Withers from 16 Sig Regt, **Eddie Gajny** from 207 Sig Sqn, **Mark Cartwright** and **Mrs Cartwright** from 233 Sig Sqn, **Stevie Chinn** and **Mrs Chinn** from 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Sig Mal Toon** and **Mrs Toon** from 8 Sig Regt, **'Rosey' Rose** from 8 Sig Regt, **Steve Turner** from 8 Sig Regt, **Rick Camilleri** from 8 Sig Regt, **Gary Bailey** from 7 Sig Regt, **Paul Oliver** from 7 Sig Regt, **Ron Reeves** from 8 Sig Regt, **Steve Bishoprick** and **Mrs Bishoprick** from 7 Sig Regt, **Andy Graham** from 7 Sig Regt, **Sammy Caughey** from 8 Sig Regt, and **Cpl Gary Haslam** and **Mrs Haslam** from HQ Sqn

PROMOTIONS

The following are congratulated on achieving the following promotion:

To Cpl—**LCpl Steve Davis**

To LCpl—**Sig 'Selwyn' Froggat, Nathan Jennings,** and **Alf 'War Stories' Garraty.**

PTARMIGAN ARRIVES

The 'dreaded phone call' came from QM(T), 'Come and sign for some PTARMIGAN vehicles'. Our dreams (nightmares?) were suddenly to become a reality and within 24 hours we had received our first slice of PTARMIGAN. The slice consisted of an SAS/MC (W)—Secondary Access Switch/Message Centre wheeled, a WPI (W)—WAVELL Processor Installation wheeled, an SCRA Terminal landrover and 4 box-body PTARMIGAN Staff vehicles. These vehicles together form a complete Div Rear HQ except for the Radio Relay which has yet to arrive.

The 3 Sqn were actually the 'first' Squadron to receive and plug-up PTARMIGAN in the Regiment, as the SAS/MC and the WPI are being used to supply WAVELL terminals for Staff training and are being manned by operators from the Squadron.

Certain trades are now undergoing PTARMIGAN training under the expert guidance of the PIU. Then preparations will begin to meet the exercise season.

Despite all this 'flurry' with PTARMIGAN issues and training, the Squadron continues with the day to day routine of PT, ranges, servicing vehicles, trade training etc. The Bruin vehicles are being prepared for backloading and it will be a nice sight to see them drive out of the camp gate for the last time; 3 Sqn is ready for the 'Quantum Leap'.

PIU AND SST (FWD)

The PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit and System Support Team left Blandford (again) for Verden in December 1984. The PIU provided escort for the first two packets of PTARMIGAN vehicles to travel to BAOR. This proved a restful three day cruise on LSLs *Sir Geriant* and *Sir Caradoc* for most of the unit, although **Lcpl Kev Collins** failed to gain his sealegs. The crew now believe he feels ill when he takes a bath! Our thanks go to both Royal Fleet Auxiliary crews for a pleasant trip. Both road moves from Antwerp to Verden went smoothly despite various packets reversing their order, and all the PIU were able to spend Christmas with their families, to everyone's relief!

COLDER THAN CATTERICK

After Christmas the training centre was put into order under the watchful eyes of **WO2 (SSM) Chris Stone** and **SSgt (SQMS) Tony Buffrey** who are on attachment to us from 14 and 22 Sig Regt, respectively. This was completed in time for **WO1 (YofS) Keith Hall** and his team to travel from Catterick to teach Level 1 to the students of 1 ADSR. To their horror they found that Verden is actually colder than Catterick. On 28 January we started Level 2 training and are now well into the swing of things. The Support Team are well settled in across the square and are waiting to pick up the pieces as a result of field deployments!

SPORT TOO

Despite this work the Squadron has still found time for sport. 1 Sqn were beaten 6—1 at football with all seven goals being scored by PIU and SST (Fwd). They are reputed to be buying **Lcpl Stevie Dickson** a crate for his efforts on their behalf. **(FofS) Bob Bradford, SSgt Colin Nash Reme,** and **Sgt Eric Clarke** have all played Basketball for the Regiment, and **SSgts Tony Buffrey** and **Les (Chippy) Wood** continue to sweep all before them on the Cross Country scene. All skiers have now found the route to the Harz Mountains and all the cheap ski hire places.

STOP PRESS: **SSgt Scotty Handibode** has put in extensive research to discover that the German translation of Ptarmigan is Alpenschneehuhn.

FOOTNOTE: The author to this unit's last *WIRE* notes wishes to apologise to **LCpl Colin East** for misquoting the orienteering results—he in fact came first on the 'B' course!

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

As a member of the Regular Armed Forces you know the value and satisfaction of doing a job well. At the end of your engagement you will be seeking the best employment available to meet your qualifications and ambitions. The RFEA exists to help you to find that employment and to settle in civil life. You may use our services as often as you wish thereafter.

If you have served with good character in the non-commissioned ranks of the Forces for a minimum of three years, or less if you are being discharged on medical grounds, the Association is at your service.

Our Employment Officers, all ex-Regulars, are situated at Branches throughout the United Kingdom and are in close contact with local employers and Jobcentres.

Branch address and telephone numbers can be found from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Regimental, Corps and Service Associations; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

The Association provides all its services free.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Howard Ham**
2IC	**Capt Paul Eaton**
OC A1	**Lt David Sullivan**
OC A2	**2Lt Huw Wareham**
SSM	**WO2 Ivor Noble**
YofS	**WO2 John Floyd**
FofS	**SSgt Dougie Brisco**
SQMS	**SSgt Jim Neil**
Chief CLK	**Sgt Norbert Clark**

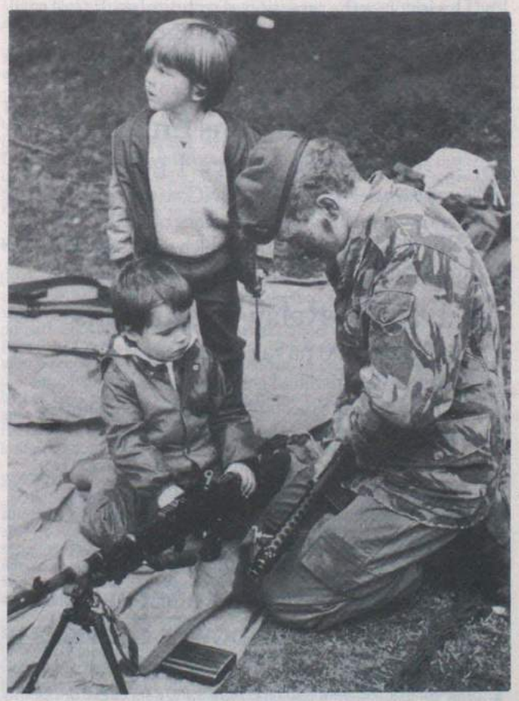
NO CHANGE

Since our last notes there has been no change in our hectic routine which has seen us involved in two major FTXs, a Battlecamp and a visit by the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS).

SPEARPOINT 84

'Not Umpires again' was the cry as out came the white paint and on went the white crosses, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt received the unwelcome attentions of the Squadron as the battles raged around Hildesheimer Wald. Highlight of the exercise for us was the inaugural meeting of the Herford Sub Aqua Society held by 4 Div's RSM and COS in the duck pond of a well known gut.

Our two Commheads however did see some action donning red crosses and playing for the enemy. The joint commands of **Sgts Bell** and **Snell** aided and abetted by the two linies **Jim** and **Wendy McNaught** (no, they aren't related) so confused the German High Command with their delaying tactics that the war was over before Christmas.



Pte Allen RPC shows the kids how to do it, at the Squadron's Open Day

SQUADRON OPEN DAY

On 11 October 84 the Squadron held its Annual Open Day on the nearby Soltau Training area. The aim of the day was to show the wives and children what 'Daddy does at work', an aim not welcomed by the Recce Team of **Capt Paul Eaton** and **SSgt Tom (no clutch) McKnight** who had to be dragged away from their favourite cream cake shop.

At 1000hrs the transport carrying the wives and children arrived bringing them as close as possible before it was a case of, all out, wellies on (another choice site), and walk the rest.

The Demo began with the squadron moving into location and setting up. Cam and Comms had rarely been so quick, for it's surprising what the boys will do when watched by the ladies. The enemy suitably briefed then appeared, only to be convincingly repulsed, much to the delight of the children with lots of smoke, thunderflashes and blanks.

As the bodies were being dragged away, the families were invited to look over the vehicles and equipment with most interest being shown by the youngsters in the Pioneer weapons demonstrated by **Ptes Alderson** and **Allen**, and the 434's crane playing pick-a-stick.

Then came lunch in the field provided by our chef **Sgt Tom (have you heard this one?) O'Rourke** and his able assistant **Pte 'Black Adder' Barker.**

The day was rounded off by a demonstration of 432 driving skills by the Squadron wives. Some loved it while others looked positively ill, not the least being the two vehicle commanders **YofS John Floyd** and **SSgt Fred Kirk.**

When at last it was time to depart everyone agreed that it had been a very enjoyable day and well worth repeating.

CONGRATULATIONS GALLERY

Congratulations to **LCpl Colin Dear** for achieving top student on his Det Comds Course.

LCpl Dear receives his plaque for Top Student presented by Brig Davies, Comd 12 Bde, with Capt Blood, OC Trg Wing 13 Sig Regt looking on

Congratulations to **Sig Eddy Gajny** on the presentation of his Army Boxing colours.

Brig Swinburn, Comd 7 Armd Bde, presents Sig Eddy Gajny with his Army Boxing Colours

Congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Ivor Noble** for getting into the photo and to **SSgt Jim Neil, SSgt Fred Kirk, Sgt Ginge Wheatley** and **Cpl Mick Tharme** on the presentation of their LS and GC Medals.

Prior to their LS and GC presentations, from *L to R:* Sgt Wheatley, SSgt Kirk, SSM Noble, Cpl Tharme, SSgt Neil

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2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

HQ SQUADRON FOCUS

Since our last report, the Squadron has seen many changes, the most important of which was the arrival of our new OC, **Maj Peter Mitchell**, Royal Engineers. **Capt Jo Chisholm WRAC** has taken up the post of Sqn 2IC, following the departure of **Lt Liz Caddick.**

The past few months have been taken up preparing for the coming exercises, with **ASM (WO1) Les Soper** and his mechanics working hard to keep the Regiment's vehicles on the road. Meanwhile in the Tech Workshops, **Capt Matt Campbell** and the 'illustrious' technicians, led by **SSgt Jim Seddon** (whom it is rumoured is three days older than the GOC!) have been busy tackling the new CFT course. A good time was had by all, although **LCpl Geordie Milburn** was heard to comment 'why do this when we have a perfectly good bus?' The Troop have said farewell to **WO1 (FOS) John White** in the form of a hike along the Cleveland Way, ending up at a suitable public house in Osmotherley!

The Squadron was again successful in retaining the Regimental Cross Country cup, with **WO2 Pete Dring** leading from the front, as usual.

Meanwhile, **SSgt 'JJ' Thompson** has been reorganising his stores yet again, ably assisted by **Cpl Billy McKnight** and **LCpl Terry Allan**—it is believed this is a deliberate ploy by the SQMS to confuse staff officers!

We welcome the following into the Squadron and trust that their stay will be a happy one. **WO1 (FOS) Alec Taylor, WO1 (Supt Clk) Ray Duffy, Sgt Gerald Stickland** and **Cpl Alan Bullock.**

15 INF BDE SIG TP

'*Wire* Notes!' said the previous Adjutant. 'Hmm! thinks I, he's leaving soon and he'll not remember . . .'

New Adjutant: 'Hello! **David** left a note saying you were writing some *Wire* notes!' RATS! Thank you **Capt David Proctor** for your efficiency!

For those with only a vague knowledge of what a Brigade Signal Troop does, (are you reading this 49 Bde Sig Tp?), we are a Regular troop who support one of the TA Bdes of 2 Inf Div. We work during the week for the Regular Army and for the TA at the weekends. During 1984 it was just like that as all the Brigade Units did their run-up training for *Lionheart*. We had a series of weekend exercises that put everyone through their paces. During the week the Regiment kept the pressure up on us so we didn't get bored.

FULL CIRCLE

Lionheart loomed and the advance party set off for South Cerney to fly to BAOR. The following story will be familiar to many; you report to be told that your flight is delayed and go away. Then you are told that it is now early and why are you not ready? You then prepare the vehicles in the first hangar under the watchful eye of the RCT; then enter the second hangar where more RCT members take all the prep off to check levels; then you re-prepare the vehicles. You drain the fuel tank to the regulation level, then it is filled up to the top by the RCT for a few miles drive to the airfield where, Yes; you've guessed it, you drain the tank yet again! And then you find that your flight has been delayed and you wait for five hours in the departure lounge at Lynham. Beware the wheel of death!

SPEED

On *Lionheart* we were rear Corps defence, I say were because someone decided the 15th Motor Rifle Brigade should push forward and we went to the front. The speed of our advance caught many by surprise. I wish I could have seen the GOC's face when he learnt that our recce elements were through the Hartz and heading for the IGB and the Bde HQ had called forward a helicopter to lift the TAC HQ and could they have maps of East Germany please!

MANY CHANGES

We returned to the UK for five days before our next deployment. Other exercises filled the time before Christmas, nothing we couldn't handle though; that is apart from the grenade that **Sgt 'Moss' Wright** dropped in the bay after he had pulled the pin! Imagine his surprise later that month when he found that he was on a grenade range authorising course.

We have had too many departures and arrivals to note them all here and only a few 'oldies' now remain. These all move on this year. It seems that the Troop will continue as it has escaped the MOD axe for the moment.

STOP PRESS—FASHION '85

Never mind the Black Lace Bikini for the summer, what's the vogue for tented HQ complexes for sizzling 85?

I have it on good authority that sometime in December last year those trend setters, 15 Inf Bde Sig Tp, gave an exclusive showing of the very latest in 'Complex Nouveau'. Without giving away too many secrets, the display left the competition wide eyed and gaping (not to mention biscuit and coffeeless). The Troop were a runaway success as usual, and seem certain to maintain their number one position.

1 Bde and 24 Bde went absolutely wild and the phone chez 15 Bde hasn't stopped ringing for construction details. I also hear that the 'Square Bears' of 49 Bde liked what they saw but are trying to be subtle in their own way about copying the design.

THOUGHT FOR 85

'If you want to be square—follow the Bear!'

QM (TECHNICAL) DEPARTMENT

QM	**Maj Jim Thornton**
RQMS	**WO2 Pete Dring**
Control Office	**SSgt Pete Walker**
	Sgt Gerry Rose
	LCpls Colin Carvell
	Dave Lilliman
R and I	**Cpls Alan Bullock**
	Bob Pickering
	LCpl Chris Smith
	Sig Mick Dullaghan
	Pete Hawkins
	Chris Twigg

I'll sign it when you've got the correct address on it!

FATSO/FAMTO	**Sgts 'Tich' Edwards**
	Tim Kelly
	LCpl 'Wurze' Curnow
Detached to the BFM	**LCpl Jim Hutton**
	Sgt 'Badger' Bage
Expense Store	**Mr Harry Morgan**

To begin on a sad note, January sees the departure, after 32 years in the army, of **Maj Jim Thornton**. Arriving back in York six months before the Regiment, he was responsible for smoothing the way in order that the units move from BAOR would be as simple and trouble free as possible. Before sorting out the York end, he spent six months with the unit in Bunde re-writing the equipment table. A tribute to the QM's organising qualities, and to all the hard work done by his advance party can be summed up by the fact that within three months of the unit arriving in the UK, they had taken over all offices, stores and accommodation, unloaded and checked all vehicles and equipment, taken two week's leave, contributed greatly with the arrangements for the visit from **Her Majesty The Queen** and spent three weeks in BAOR on Exercise *Summer Sales*.

We wish **Maj Jim Thornton** and his wife **Pat** the best of good fortune in Scarborough running their hotel. The tea consumption in the department should now be drastically cut; the local supermarket has been informed!

The QM's replacement, **Capt Mal Smart MBE**, arrives from Northern Ireland in mid-January. Elsewhere in the Department the work load never seems to ease, and cries of 'It'll slacken off soon lads' are very seldom heard now.

INTER SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

After three changes in dates, several hastily arranged conferences and many great aunts becoming ill, 288 volunteer competitors finally lined up at 1400 hrs on Thursday 13 December. With the first 20 in each squadron to count a keen contest was anticipated. The course consisted of one small lap of the playing fields and one longer lap of the adjacent common land, taking in Loh Moor and Walmgate Stray. The unusually heavy rain fall in November and early December made the going tough to gruelling, and the majority of runners were thankful the course was flat and only four miles.

WO2 (RQMS) Pete Dring, in his first serious race since injury in June, was first home with almost a minute to spare, and in second place came **Cpl Charlie Foster**, a runner to watch on the track in 1985. Third place was filled by **LCpl Hugh Little**, who just over a month ago was displaying his other sporting talent in the boxing ring. **Capt (TOT) Matt Campbell** was first veteran in a very creditable 14th position. HQ Squadron won the team competition for the second year, and look forward to the hat-trick in 1985.

The first three home, in their finishing positions

WO2 (SSM) Taff Skinner RRW, looking for sheep

The rose between the thorns. Capt Jo Chisholm WRAC chief timekeeper looks for the runners and her feet

CANOEING

ARMY WILD WATER UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONS 1984

The units preparation for the Army Wild Water Racing Championships started early with the ordering of new boats, repairing old ones, building canoe trailers, juggling posts and forcing the RSM out of retirement.

After a period of hard training on the River Ouse in York the team made the short journey to Richmond for the competition on the River Swale. Fortunately the heavens opened at the same time providing a course with plenty of wild water. In the event our 'A' Team consisting of **WO1 (RSM) Bill White, Sig Taff Reed** and **Sig Slim Collins** won beating the BAOR Champions 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt into second place and local favourites 8 Sig Regt into third.

In the individual events the RSM was placed second overall in the Army and first veteran, **Sig Reed** was ninth and **Sig Collins** 16th.

Our 'B' team also paddled well to come eighth in the Slalom Boat Class and gaining the following Individual Placings, **Capt Mark Edwards** seventh, **LCpl Andy Zuppinger** 44th and a very good result of 62nd for **LCpl Simon Windus** who had not had much experience on wild water before the competition.

The above results have firmly put the Regiment on the map as a canoeing unit and we are now well into our preparation for the Army Slalom Championships to be held next May.

CHAMPIONS OF THE WHITE WATER
Sig 'Taff' Reid, RSM Bill White, Sig 'Slim' Collins

NEWS FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS

Report by SSgt Eddie Woodthorpe

The sounds of Christmas merrymaking had barely faded into the ancient woodwork of our Mess before we were all to meet again, resplendent in Mess Dress, at the behest of **WO1 (RSM) Bill White**. The occasion was the Dining Out of the Army, on Friday 18 January, of two of the Regiment's stalwarts in the persons of **Maj (QM) Jim Thornton** and **Sgt Jim Woodall**, the scion of the Orderly Room.

Jim Woodall had expressed the wish to make the transition to civilian unemployment quietly and with no fuss. The RSM respected his wishes to the extent that **Jim** was not called upon to make any tearful speeches, but nevertheless insisted, quite rightly, that any man having completed 22 years service should be dined out. We wish **Jim** and **Jean** all success in civilian life, and assure him that his record of non-participation in such minor events as Exercises will stand for years.

Maj (QM) Jim Thornton leaves us at the beginning of February after almost 35 years in the Corps to become the owner of a Licensed Hotel in Scarborough.

Your correspondent will not name the establishment in question as doubtless by now every unit in the Corps will have been inundated with trade brochures. It is however evident from the 28 day Resettlement Course which the Quartermaster managed to obtain from the previous owner, and the fact that there are still persistent rumours that none of his staff has as yet had a leave pass signed for any destination other than Scarborough that **Maj Thornton** is determined to rival the Forte Empire!

THE TOP TABLE
L to R: WO1 (RSM) Geoff Marshall (35 Sig Revt (V)), Maj (QM) Jim Thornton, WO1 (RSM) Bill White, WO1 (RSM) Sid Crumbie (Cadet Training Team), Sgt Jim Woodall

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210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Elford**
2IC	**Capt Nick Blampied**
OC HQ Tp	**Capt Henry Jennings**
OC O Tp	**Sgt Dave Edgecombe**
OC P Tp	**SSgt Gerry Knight**
SSM	**WO2 George Hedge**
YofS	**WO2 Mick Taylor**
FofS	**SSgt Chris Wilkie**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Cambell**

NEW COMMANDER

On Tuesday 4 December the Squadron bade farewell to **Brig The Rt Hon Boyd-Carpenter** after nearly two years close association both on and off exercise. The band of the Kings Own Borders played the Brigadier out of Brigade HQ while the Squadron provided a decorative touch by lining the exit route. Good luck in your new post Brigadier, and welcome to the new incumbent at the head of 24 Infantry Brigade, **Brig Baskerville-Glegg.**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We seem to have 'turned over' about half the Squadron in the past few months and have said goodbye to the following. **Sgt Geoff 'Snapper' Williams** who has taken a short walk down the road to 11 Sig Regt, **Sgt Dave Chrystal** who felt the urge to jump out of fast moving aircraft again, **Sgts Colin Warnes** and **Paul Milner** who both leave us on promotion. Goodbye also to **Cpls Mick Jenkinson, Dereck Hopcroft, Paul Bolton, 'Sandy' Rennie, LCpls Bob Duff, Jock Adams, Keith Baron, Sig 'Boogie' Bougourd, Martin Kendall,** and **Bob Pye.** Good luck in your new postings, we hope you will remember us with affection.

For the newcomers we say hello to **Sgts Neil Wadey, 'Robbo' Robinson, Tom Burns, Cpls 'Polly' Perkins** and **Allen Oakman, LCpl Mick Dyer, Sig 'Gupta' Singh, 'Fitz' Fitzgerald, Simon Wallis, 'Dicky' Bird** and **John Fisher.**

EXERCISE *DEVILS LEAP 84*

After arduous training and roughing it in Cyprus the Squadron returned to Catterick with one thought uppermost in their minds, 'Am I in the *Devils Leap* Team?' Audible sighs of relief came from the non-participants as the team was announced. This year's team leader was eager to volunteer but slow to learn **Cpl Gary Lee, Lt (now Capt) 'Cherry Berry' Edwards** gave technical advice and moral support to the team, and in the process gained for himself some new unrepeatable nicknames. **Sgt Dave Chrystal** came up with a really good idea for a training exercise and took the team on a night NAVEX across the Yorkshire moors in driving wind and rain. Walking in cold water and darkness no longer features in the Squadron's top 10 favourite pastimes. On the day of the competition the team did well and achieved a good result. Not only did we participate in the 'walk' but we also provided communications and ran many of the stands. Quote of the week came from **Cpl 'Boxhead' Bolton** who, after taking an independant route, said to his own team at the finish, 'Who are you lot, then?' Their reply was graphic and explicit.

MAGNUM SPIRIT 84

This was to be 210's first foray into the world of motor sport. **Sgt Pete Goddard REME** and **SSM George Hedge** took a ½ ton Land Rover, borrowed from the Brigade BOWO, to BAOR to enter the event and collect their Christmas Duty Frees.

With 36 hours to spare after arrival in BAOR the time was spent double checking all that could be checked, including a quick recce on the NAAFI. At last came the start of Stage one, with 180 miles to be plotted in one hour. **SSM George Hedge** and **Sgt Pete Goddard**'s lack of experience as a team, combined with foul weather showed up at the start but by the end of Stage one things had started to click, including a heater motor that could not cope with the rally conditions.

Stage two and 200 miles to plot in one hour. By now **SSM George Hedge** was more relaxed with his furrowed brow looking less like a relief map of the Alps but **Sgt Pete Goddard** was seeing double from the strain behind the wheel. The weather was causing some real problems with many tracks almost impassable, as **George** discovered to his cost when leaping out to put his shoulder to the wheel without removing the intercom headset first. The whole venture nearly came to a sticky end towards the finish of Stage two as a front wheel attempted to remove itself. Quick and muddy work with a wheel brace remedied the problem and Stage two was successfully completed.

Stage three, not many miles and even less time to plot them. Mud and rain threatened to bring everything to a halt, so it was decided to 'cut and run' as time was now at a premium and press on as fast as possible through the last few stages. The finish control was a very welcome sight with the chance to clean bodies and vehicles and rest aching eyes.

From 139 starters we finished 45th, a very creditable position for a first attempt. Congratulations must go to all the organisers of *Magnum Spirit 84*, they did an excellent job. We now look forward to improving our performance on *Magnum Spirit 85*, can anyone spare a Rover?

WIVES CLUB

The Squadron Wives Club wound up 1984 with a super Christmas dinner prepared by our resident chef **Sgt John Wykes ACC. SSgt Mick Cambell** and **Sgt Stu 'Barney Rubble' Rickard** serenaded the ladies with their vast repertoire of songs followed by **Mrs Dawn Knight** and **Mrs Denise McCauliffe** who raided the dustbins and paint store in order to attire themselves for a raucous little 'punk' number. Their combat boots were very chic, but not quite the thing for tripping the Light Fantastic. **Mrs Pat Walker** kept the entertainment in a suitable low key by doing a comedy strip-tease—an awesome sight not to be forgotten in a hurry. Well done girls, it took more than a little courage and a bottle of wine to get up and do a turn.

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REGIMENTAL BOXING

On 6 December 1984 the Regiment hosted 27 Fd Regt RA at home, in the second round of the 4 Armd Div Major Unit Team Boxing Championships.

The evening started well when **Dvr Robert Griffiths** at Bantamweight stopped his opponent in the first round, and **Sig Jerry Greeves** at Featherweight well deserving a unanimous points win. The

'Take That' Sig Jerry Greeves (*left*) closes

Lightweight bout saw **Sig Douglas Craig** stopped in the second round by a much stronger boxer but **LCpl Kevin Winship** at Light Welterweight won on points. At the interval the score was 3—1 to the Regiment. In the second half of the match 27 Fd Regt won the first two bouts and so drew level at 3—3. The Light Heavyweight bout was the hardest bout of the evening. **Sgt Les Bennett** took a lot of punishment and only marginally lost on points. The scores were levelled a second time when **Pte Paul Martin** had a walkover at Heavyweight. The last bout of the evening was the one at Welterweight. **Cpl Roger Thompson** knew the scores were level and that he needed to win. **Cpl Thompson** concentrated on staying out of trouble and building up a good lead through quick and accurate left jabs. He was awarded the bout by a unanimous decision. The Regiment won by five bouts to four and go forward to the Semi-Finals to meet 2 RGJ.

VOLKSLAUF

For those not familiar with the word Volkslauf, its literal translation is 'people's run'. Runs take place most weekends and cover various distances ranging from 5Km to a full marathon. The event takes the form of a run or jog through undulating forest tracks. The sport is extremely popular in Germany and attracts many people from all ages. The sport is also popular with this Dept and is well attended. This is due to an offer from the RQMS that only the bravest refuse!

This year alone runs have taken place in Dortmund, Gelsenkirchen, Paderborn, Detmold and Lage. The Highlight in 84 was a charity run organised by the dept in aid of the 'Ethiopian Famine Relief Fund'. This Volkslauf took place at Bad Salzuflen and DM 1155 (approx £310) was raised for the charity.

VISIT OF COMD COMMS 1(BR) CORPS

During a recent visit to the Regiment the Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig R. F. L. Cook** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to two members of the WOs and Sgts Mess. The recipients were **WO2 (SSM) George Fitzgerald** and **WO2 (SQMS) Bill Peden.** The presentation followed by luncheon was attended by **Mrs Margaret Fitzgerald, Mrs Mary Peden** and fellow Mess members.

Brig R. F. L. Cook presenting the LS and GC Medal to WO2 (SSM) George Fitzgerald

. . . and to WO2 (SQMS) Bill Peden ACC

FOCUS ON THE QM(T) DEPT

October and November saw a change in the Department. We said goodbye to the QM and his wife **Christine** who departed for Hereford, a place to which **Capt (QM) Jerry Jarrett** has longed to return. We thank them both for their contributions to the Regiment and the Dept and hope that they will enjoy 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn as much as they did Herford. The RQMS, **WO2 (RQMS) Archie Hambling** says that the boxes are on their way!

In their place we welcome **Capt (QM) Ian Buckley** and his wife **Julie**. PB11 must have worked hard to prise **Capt Ian Buckley** out of the Training Brigade. There is no truth in the rumour that the new QM refused to come to Herford until the squash courts had been re-furbished!

It was also time to say farewell to **Cpl Peter Collinson** and his wife **Carol**. We thank them for their sterling work in 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in Paderborn and offer our congratulations to **Cpl Collinson** on his well deserved promotion to **Sergeant**.

THE QM(T) DEPT
L to R: Back: Sig Geordie Graham, Cpls Erich Ridley, Mac McDermaid, Sgt Mick Swallow, Capt (QM) Ian Buckley, WO2 (RQMS) Archie Hambling, Sig Gary Kee, Geordie Gray, Sgt Jed Nuttall, Pte Don Hallgate
Front: LCpls John Grimshaw, Shane Wright, Phil Latimer, Sig Neil Frank

ANGLO/GERMAN FRIENDSHIP

In a recent presentation ceremony 1 Sqn presented a cheque for DM1000 to a local Herford Orphanage, the Deutsche-KinderSchutzbund. Presenting the cheque on behalf of the squadron **Mrs Joanna Galpin,** wife of the squadron commander **Maj Stephen Galpin**, said 'We hope it will put a little something into the stockings of the children over the Christmas period'. The DM1000 was raised by the combined efforts of squadron members, wives club and an auction.

The Presentation
An ecstatic Frau Tscearer receiving the DM1000 cheque from an equally ecstatic Mrs Joanna Galpin
L to R: WO2 (SSM) John Wooders, Frau Tscearer, Mrs Joanna Galpin, Mrs Elizabeth Wooders, Capt Paul Taylor

THE MIKADO

December saw the closure of the Globe Cinema which was marked in January by its re-opening for the first major production to be staged by Herford's latest extramural activity; The Herford Musical Society. Determined to make their mark on Herford Society and set a standard for all future productions the Society presented a lively and colourful production of The Mikado which amused and entertained audiences for three nights.

The society has a very strong representation from both the Herford-based Signal Regiments and the sharp eyed might be able to pick out the CO of 7 Sig Regt and the Adjutant of the Regiment both of whom hid their talents in the chorus under layers of make-up!

Can you spot CO 7 Sig Regt and Adjt 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt?

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211 (11 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

EXERCISE *LONG LOOK* (NEW ZEALAND)

A Short Report by LCpl Tony Wilson

The Exercise *Long Look* party assembled at RAF Gutersloh on 12 August 1984, not really knowing what to expect. The RNZAF kindly provided us with a C130. The flight itself was quite an experience. It took a total of 48 hours excluding the overnight stopovers in Canada, Washington DC, San Francisco, Hawaii and Fiji. We finally arrived in New Zealand on 19 August 1984. After an overnight stop in a camp just outside Auckland on the North Island, we flew southwards to Christchurch. There I joined 3 Sig Sqn who were to be my hosts for the next four months.

The NZ Army has only four Sig Sqn, three of which are based on the North Island. The Sqn I joined was based on the South Island. In addition to training for its wartime role, 3 Sig Sqn also has a peacetime commitment—providing land, sea and air comms for the mainland.

I found the New Zealand people particularly friendly and hospitable. Apart from differences in equipment the NZ Army is very similar to our own. I went on several exercises and enjoyed the experience of operating various comms equipment.

I spent quite a lot of time touring and saw most of the South Island. I also tried my hand at white-water rafting and jet boating. Without doubt it was a very enjoyable and rewarding tour which I would recommend to anyone. I omitted to mention that I also got married whilst in New Zealand, and thank the Squadron for the congratulations and welcome given to **Sue** and I.

Exercise *Long Look* — LCpl Tony Wilson seen relaxing on the beach in Hawaii

SKIING

In preparation for the Div Ski Championships Exercise *Pipedown 20*, the Nordic Ski Team led by **Capt Andy Kendall** has been training in Norway. Meanwhile the Alpine team under the direction of **Sgt Chris Pugh** has been hurtling down the slopes of Austria. Both teams returned briefly to Minden for Christmas, before they all headed down to Austria to continue training.

The whole team then moved to Ischgl and Galtur in Austria for the Ski Meeting that took place from 14 to 24 January. The downhill team started in fine form and came first in the race that counted towards the Minor Unit Shield. **Cpl Eddy Grattidge** and **Sig John Thomas, Mich Harman** and **John Balshaw** all skied well. The langlauf team had a rather harder fight but **LCpls Tony Slaney** and **Keith Goddard** with **Sig Russ Jardine** and **Tony Ellison** worked hard in the 15Km race and achieved third place that again counted towards the Minor Unit Shield. These placings of first and third meant that overall the Squadron took first prize in the 4 Armd Div minor units championship.

The victorious Langlauf Ski Team in Norway
L to R: Sig Tony Ellison, Russell Jardine, LCpls Keith Goddard and Tony Slaney

BOXING

On 29 January 85, the semi-final of the BAOR Minor Units Novice boxing championships was held in the gym at Clifton Barracks Minden. The Squadron met 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in a very exciting all Royal Signals semi-final. Both teams brought along bus loads of enthusiastic supporters. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was **WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence,** of 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. The evening got off to a good start when **Sig Kev Cooney** convincingly beat **Sig Tommy Thomson** in the first bout. However 207 soon recovered when awarded the second bout, despite a brave effort by a very tired **LCpl Simon Kay**. The last bout before the interval was very closely fought but the judges were unanimous when they awarded the fight to 211's **LCpl Roy Turner.**

Cft Pete Fish then won the fifth bout for 211 Sig Sqn whilst **Sig McGlashan** had some difficulty settling down in the sixth bout and after a really gruelling three rounds, the fight was awarded to **Dvr Mac McMahon** of 207 Sig Sqn. The evening culminated in a knock out by **LCpl Dave Stewart** of 211 Sig Sqn (his third in only three fights!)

It was a tremendous occasion. Both teams demonstrated skill, aggression and determination but the experience and hard training of 211 Sig Sqn paid off. Both teams were congratulated by the referee and cheered by a very appreciative audience.

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200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

Since the last issue of *The Wire* there has been a vast number of personalities posted in and out of the Sqn. **Capt Gerry Corbet** was selected for the Army Staff Course and handed over to **Capt Kevin Barrett. WO2 (YofS) Bob Holt** left on promotion to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and his place was taken by **WO2 (YofS) Bill Tosh.** By the time this is printed **Maj Stephen Siddall** will have handed over to **Maj Jim Evans** who joins us from Washington DC.

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj R. J. Evans**
2IC	**Capt K. P. Barrett**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) D. Simpson**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) W. Tosh**
OC A Tp	**Lt J. E. Harris**
A Tp SSgt	**SSgt J. Hall**
OC B Tp	**Lt C. W. S. Miller**
B. Tp SSgt	**SSgt G. Armstrong**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) M. Kidd**
SQMS	**SSgt B. Evans**

EXERCISE *MAGNUM SPIRIT*

After the successful completion of the Lippische Trophy the Squadron rally team was back for more with Exercise *Magnum Spirit*. The rally was based in Minden over the weekend of 23-25 November 84. The crews were **Lt James Harris** (Nav) and **Dvr David Grey** (Dvr); **Lt Charlie Miller** (Nav) and **Cpl Macluskie** (Dvr). Both crews did well to actually complete the course as the conditions were very bad and many did not. However **Cpl Macluskie** decided things were a little too easy for him so he thought it would be more fun not to bother with four wheel drive. **Lt Charlie Miller** was not of the same opinion after having to push the rover out of a handy ditch with his shoulder! The final placings were **Lt Harris** and **Dvr Grey** 30th overall and **Lt Miller** and **Cpl Macluskie** 50th overall—these were both very respectable placings considering this was their first major rally for both crews.

CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS

The Sqn participated in its usual round of Christmas festivities, but careful thought and planning was put into this so that it would not interfere with anybody going on leave. The functions were extremely well organised by the SNCOs; it started with the wives Club having dinner in the newly renovated Gauntlet Club and culminated in the All Ranks Christmas Draw where **Cfn Billy Espie** won no fewer than five prizes; **Cpl Carl Strefford**, who organised the function, knows where his future lies in making sure that the OC, 21C, SSM, Tp Comd and Tp SSgt all won prizes—he certainly knows how to make himself popular.

The new laundry NCOs—Cfn Billy Espie and Sig Duane Stokes

Special mention ought to go to **Lt Charlie Miller** for his flair and imagination in organising a Revue after the soldiers' Christmas dinner. The following photographs show how the evening progressed.

Lt Charlie Miller piloting the Lancaster to disaster

HELICOPTER TRAINING

One of the advantages of being in Detmold is that we share the garrison with 4 Regt AAC. The 'Lynx Flight' of 654 Sqn AAC just happens to be commanded by **Capt Mike Anderson** R Signals and his Flight Sgt is **Sgt Hemingway** also R Signals—maybe this is unique in Corps history and, you never know, the Flight could be redesignated 'Certa Cito' Flight. **Capt Mike Anderson** and the 2IC organised a programme of helicopter training which was supposed to start off with marshalling drills; this soon proved impossible in the arctic conditions as all the marshallers would have managed to achieve was a face full of snow from the down draught of the Lynx. Nevertheless two very enjoyable afternoons were completed and we hope to continue the programme over the next year.

A Lynx of 'CERTA CITO' Flight, 654 Sqn AAC

Sig Alister Cole with his new friend

SKIING

For four members of the Squadron, skiing started as early as the end of November last year. This lucky bunch were the Sqn Cross Country ski team who went off to Norway to train in the 22 Sig Regt Ski Hut. The team composed **Lt James Harris, Cpl Derek Livesey, LCpls Stuart Archer** and **Dave Gill.** Much was learnt in Norway with **Cpl Percy Percival** and **Derek Livesey** passing on much valuable information.

At the beginning of the New Year the team travelled to Bavaria to continue the training. With them they took the downhillers comprising **Cpl Bazil Ennels, Sig Wiggins** and **Cfn Paul Cox.** The OC **Maj Stephen Siddall** turned up half way through the camp to give his professional advice on the training.

We all then travelled to the Divisional Ski Meeting in Austria where we hoped to regain the Minor Units Trophy. However it was not to be. The Nordic team were unbeaten in the Minor Units but unfortunately the downhill team were beaten by such a margin that 211 Sig Sqn just managed to grab the trophy. The Team would like to take this opportunity to thank 22 Sig Regt Nordic Team for all their help and encouragement.

Nordic L to R: Cpl Derek Livesey, LCpl Archie Archer, Lt James Harris, LCpl David Gill.
Downhill L to R: Maj Stephen Siddall, Cpl Basil Ennals, Sig Gary Wiggins, Cfn Paul Cox

FAREWELL TO MAJ SIDDALL

After two years up at the sharp end, we finally say farewell to **Maj Stephen Siddall** and his wife **Jill.** Thanks for all your hard work within the Squadron.

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202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

OC	**Maj Gordon Hughes**
2IC	**Capt Ted Banham**
OC E1 Tp	**Lt Nick Metcalfe**
OC E2 Tp	**Lt Alan Madsen**
SSM	**WO2 Rick Licence**
SQMS	**SSgt Ron Woodger**
YofS	**WO2 Steve Watson**
FofS	**SSgt John Mayson**
SSgt SHQ Tp	**SSgt Dave Gaffney**
SSgt E1 Tp	**SSgt Peter Alves**
SSgt E2 Tp	**SSgt Gus Graham**
OC LAD	**SSgt Bill Magee**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On January 11 the Squadron held a parade to mark the change of command from **Maj John Ewbank** to **Maj Gordon Hughes.** After the handover of the Squadron Pennant **Maj Ewbank** was sent on his way to 1(BR) Corps in a bed which was mounted on a 432, accompanied by a volley of snowballs from members of the Squadron who lined the route out of camp. We would all like to take this opportunity to wish **Maj Ewbank** and his wife **Denise** all the best for their tour in Corps HQ and to extend a warm welcome to **Maj Hughes.** We hope that both he and his family enjoy their time with 202 Sig Sqn.

Cpl Allan Hollingsworth presenting a plaque from all the Junior Ranks to Maj John Ewbank

SQUADRON PHOTOGRAPH

Fourth Row L to R: LCpl Winkles, LCpl Cowen, Sig Beavers, Cpl Crinson, Cpl Owen, Sig Edmiston, LCpl Spence, LCpl Lee, Dvr Clenaghan, Sig Pani, Pte Willmott, LCpl Daniels, Sig Pitchforth, Sig Dimmack, Cpl Hollingsworth, Pte Olive, Sig Jones, Sig Egan, Dvr Boyle, LCpl Bamford, LCpl Sykes

Third Row L to R: Pte Parmer, Sig Harrer, LCpl Edminson, LCpl Terry, LCpl Gouldsmith, LCpl Rowland, LCpl Naylor, Sig Quin, Cfn Heaton, Sig Morris, Cpl Smith, Sig Wilson, LCpl Clark, Sig Gemmell, LCpl Fairhurst, LCpl McDonagh, Sig Drysdale, LCpl Geddes, Sig Lawes, Cpl Jackson, Sig Parry

Second Row L to R: Sgt Duffy, Sig Goodwin, Cfn Moore, LCpl Bentham, Sig Wright, Sig Atwell, Cpl Green, LCpl Chapman, Sig Dowdell, Cpl Cooper, Cpl Annison, Pte O'Meally, Pte Hull, Sig Anderson, Sig Walker, Cpl Clark, Sig Bird, LCpl Hughes, LCpl Parrish, LCpl May, Cfn King, Sig Phillimore, Sig Salmon, Sgt Ridler

Front Row L to R: Sgt Singh, Sgt Colclough, Sgt Croft, Sgt Rylance, SSgt Magee, SSgt (FofS) Mayson, SSgt (SQMS) Woodger, SSgt Alves, Lt N. P. Metcalfe, WO2 (SSM) Licence, Maj J. K. Ewbank, Capt E. J. Banham, Lt A. J. Madsen, WO2 (YofS) Watson, SSgt Graham, SSgt Gaffney, Sgt Grinnell, Sgt Kerr, Sgt Webb, Sgt McLeod

Look out Bielefeld here he comes . . .
Maj John Ewbank departs 202 Sig Sqn

The Squadron Pennant is handed from Maj John Ewbank to Maj Gordon Hughes

SSM Rick Licence tries, for a *second* time, to raise the Squadron Pennant after the handover

EXERCISE *BULL SHINE*

A long time before Christmas, 27-30 November, the Squadron held its annual Battlecamp on Sennelager Training Area. The Exercise was completed with only one minor hiccup—Exercise *Active Edge* was called within one hour of commencing the ranges on Day One. Once this minor hinderance was over we returned to Sennelager to complete our military training.

Special mention must be given to **Sgt Paul Duffy**, our Chief Clerk, who not only confounded all his critics by recognising the Bedford taking his Section to the training area but also managed to open his 24hr ration pack without asking **Sig Ian Drysdale** to do it for him! **LCpl Alyn Edminson** also demonstrated admirable calm when his location was attacked during the early hours of the morning by responding with 'Away man let a bloke finish his sarnies first'.

Exercise *Bull Shine*, Soviet Recognition
Back Row L to R: SSgt Gus Graham, Lt Alan Madsen, LCpl Andy Terry, LCpl Tom Bamford
Front Row L to R: Sig Michael Hudson, LCpl Mick Parrish, LCpl Eddie Wareing

SPORT

The Squadron is presently passing through a lull in its normal hectic sporting calendar. We have however seen a number of important presentations recently, including the Quadrangular Trophy, presented to the winning Troop in the annual inter-troop competition. This year the competition was won by E1 Tp and the Trophy was presented at the Squadron Christmas party.

The following have also won their Squadron Sports Colours this year:

Capt Ted Banham **WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson**	Golf
LCpl Kevin Winkles	Rugby
Cpl Derek Leach **Cpl Steve Barrington** **LCpl Mel Clark**	Football
SSgt Gus Graham **Cpl Colin Joseph**	Shooting

WELCOMES/FAREWELLS

The Squadron has had quite a few new arrivals recently and we would like to welcome the following and hope they enjoy their stay in Paderborn: **Sgt Dave Ridler, Cpls Pat Keay, Graham Preece, Tony Gaston, LCpl Robert Nelson, Sig Terry Smith, Nigel Medford** and **Steve Davies-Morris.**

We say farewell to **LCpl Hugh Daniels** who departs for Cyprus and **LCpl Bruce Lee** who leaves us to go back to the Regiment on promotion. Finally we must say farewell to **Cpl Colin Joseph** and his family who leaves the Squadron after seven years and on completion of 22 years service. We all wish him all the best in his new job as a civilian working for the Signals Works Services here in Paderborn.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

FOCUS ON 5 SQUADRON
Report by Capt Peter Grogan

SHQ	
OC	**Maj Graeme (G'day) Chester RA Signals**
2IC	**Capt Peter (just going on a recce) Grogan**
SSM	**WO2 Terry (Crops) Jinman**
YofS	**WO2 Dave (salty Sam) Watson**
FofS	**SSgt Terry (tracksuit) Moorhead**
SQMS	**SSgt Colin (it's on permanent loan) Ager**
Clerk	**Cpl A1 (only if you sign for it) Young**

The 'Australianisation' of the Squadron continues as our second 'down under' OC, **Maj Graeme Chester** embarks on his second year in Europe. Having introduced many new, original and often unprintable words to describe European weather, he also enjoys head butting T-bars on ski slopes and modelling multi-national forms of dress. A belated welcome to you, **Heather, Brett** and **Kim.**

Lt Dick Strawbridge takes over as 2IC in February as I head for summer climes in Catterick. I hope this 'empty wharehouse' detector is working, and that his German is up to salesman standard!

SQUADRON PENNANT

On arrival, the OC kindly presented a pennant to the Squadron that now flies proudly outside SHQ. Whilst being identical with any pennant, the boomerang underneath the Jimmy makes it unique within BAOR! We have it on good authority that we will not be wearing Australian cap badges though!

Maj G. Chester RA Signals presenting WO2 (SSM) Jinman with the Squadron Pennant

SQUADRON ADMIN INSPECTION

For 1984 CO's inspection, an inter-troop military skills competition was held, competing for the inter-troop trophy. The activities consisted of the assault course, recognition, first aid, two command tasks and a three mile run, all in full CEFO. A lot of originality and organisation went into the stands, with **Sig 'Para' Bailey** simulating a fast flowing river, by pulling people trying to cross an imaginary obstacle, **LCpl 'Sheff' Appleby** designing some assault course 'extras' which lost him all his friends, and **Capt Ian James RE** insisting his stand was surrounded by liquid acid! Despite **Sig 'Mad Dog' Thorpe** impaling his parts on an SLR, first place went to Corps Lighting Troop RE who finished with a very impressive score, thus taking the trophy for the first time.

Corps Lighting Troop RE
The winners of the Inter-Troop Military Skills Competition
Back Row Left to Right: Spr Lillywhite, Spr Hicks, Spr Farr. Front Row Left to Right: Cpl Heywood, LCpl 'Brummie' Fellows

LCpl 'Brummie' Fellows looking as though he is actually enjoying the assault course
'And I thought bell ringing was a doddle'

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's party was held in the Spearhead Club and proved to be a great success. Perhaps happiest of all was **LCpl John Harling** who had spent hours before the draw persuading everyone to sell him the first prize if they won it, only to find that he had won it himself! Coincidence continued when **Sig 'Spike' Fryer,** not renowned for his Bo Derek waistline, won the Christmas hamper, containing 90% compo rations with the odd box of chocolates! **Sig 'Lurch' Larkin** enjoyed it so much he denies being there and **Cpl 'Geordie' Tough** was convinced he was lying on his bed after a few hours! The 2IC gave up after 10 minutes trying to explain to **Sig 'Super' Stanier** why you can't have a Christmas party every month!

PAPA TROOP

OC	**Lt Dave (one leg's longer) Jones**
2IC	**SSgt Dave (Hong Kong) Rudd**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Dave (on a course) Leyland**
DTg Sgt	**Sgt Jimmy (on leave) Shiels**
TE Tech Sgt	**Sgt Sandy Sanderson**

With two first team rugby forwards at the helm, the Troop has begun to experience a positive drive towards good behaviour! During an extremely busy year with many exercises, the troop has had eight promotions. Congratulations go to **Cpls 'Para' Owen, 'Wendy' Barker, 'Tuckshop' Price, Jim Macrae** and **'Cookey' Cooke** (now 29 Sig Regt), **LCpls 'Frodo' Nichols, 'Grandad' Jones** and **'Arfur' Smithson**. Perhaps the saddest farewell recently was that of **Cpl 'Shirley Temple' Burt** who after nearly seven years in the Regiment left for 2 Div in October. I'm sure all at York now understand what it means to get a 'wendy on'!

DELTA TROOP

OC	**Lt Dick (just a quick one) Strawbridge**
2IC	**Sgt Neil (Stumpy) Thomas**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Wilf (the snail) Wheatley**

For once the troop is approaching full strength, especially within the MT Section. **Sgt Wilf Wheatley** is still recovering from the fact that he can now deploy all of his vehicles without borrowing drivers. Rumour has it that the linemen are currently debating who to kill first: OC Landing Site Lima (for changing location hourly) or 2IC Radio Sqn, whose aim seems to be to site his location a minimum of 10 miles away.

CORPS LIGHTING TROOP RE

OC	**Capt Ian (never here) James**
2IC	**SSgt Ian Douglas**

Unbeknown to many, 5 Sqn includes a troop of Royal Engineers, responsible for powering 1 (BR) Corps Main, Step Up and Rear. Last year saw them away solidly from early May until October at Mons Camp Hildesheim, maintaining the camp, whilst this year sees them away for a further three months (apart from exercises), involved in the Bielefeld Massed Bands Concert, Rhein Army Show and various parades. **SSgt Ian Douglas** refuses to relate the decline of his hair to the lack of days off!

A HINT TO SUBALTERNS IN 7

The CO's monthly 'fun runs' are rarely fun, as you negotiate mountain passes and yawning crevasses, but **Lt Dave Jones** decided to dress up for December's and earned himself a 'credit' for his trouble. Whilst **Lt Jones'** dinner jacket needed a good clean afterwards he confirmed it was worth it and is now anxiously awaiting his next 'extra' to see whether the credit is valid.

Lt Dave Jones leading the way in the CO's fun run'I wish I hadn't missed that bus!'

THE MAN THAT CAN

Just like the rest of the Corps, 1985 will be a busy year for us, as we 'change' from BRUIN to PTARMIGAN whilst meeting a host of exercise commitments. It will be farewell to the 'Commhead that Cares' and hello to the 'Man that Can' (Major Access Node for the ignorant!)

EXERCISE *HIGH QUADRANT*

Report by Lt Bruce Rose

TEAM

Lt Bruce Rose, Cpls Rob Jenkinson, Keith Fisher, LCpls Joe Mogre, Rick Nolan, Rob Marshall, Sigs 'Blackie' Black and **'Frankie' Frankland.**

THE AIM

Exercise *High Quadrant* was an adventure training exercise in the Himalayas of Nepal, carried out by eight members of 4 Squadron, 7 Sig Regt. The aim of the exercise was to give us an opportunity to trek at high altitudes in the Himalayas. To do this we intended to walk from the lower slopes of the mountains to our objective, the Base Camp on Everest (18,200ft).

UNDER WAY

Having spent two weeks training in Norway during August, we left Heathrow airport on 7 October and headed for Bangladesh. We arrived there the next morning believing that we would be bound for Kathmandu within the hour, however, due to an airlines mix up we were to spend the next four days in Dhaka waiting for a flight out. Well, what does one do for four days in Dhaka? We ate at the best restaurants, including the Sheraton, swam in the swimming pool, went sight seeing and generally amused ourselves until Thursday. We finally arrived in Kathmandu on Thursday afternoon. Kathmandu is a fascinating city, the locals are friendly and although it may be one of the dirtiest cities in Asia, this does not detract from making it a place of everlasting interest. One can spend hours wandering through the back streets, browsing through the local stalls and visiting the temples, of which there are over 2000.

On Monday 15 October we left Kathmandu on the bus and headed NE towards our start point at Maina Pokhari. Having spent the day on the roof of the bus, (a great way to see the countryside), we arrived at our destination after dark and spent the night in a local tea house.

WE BEGIN

The following morning we began the first of many miles towards Everest Base Camp. For the next few days the routine was much the same. We would get up at 0600 hrs, have a breakfast of tea and porridge and begin walking at 0700 hrs. We would then walk until around 1100 hrs, stop for lunch, which was either soup or more porridge, and continue walking throughout the afternoon until 1700 hrs. If we weren't sleeping in a tea house, we would set up a tented camp, cook the evening meal and then relax with a refreshing drink of chang (rice beer) or ruksi (rice whisky), before settling down for the night.

THE APPROACH MARCH

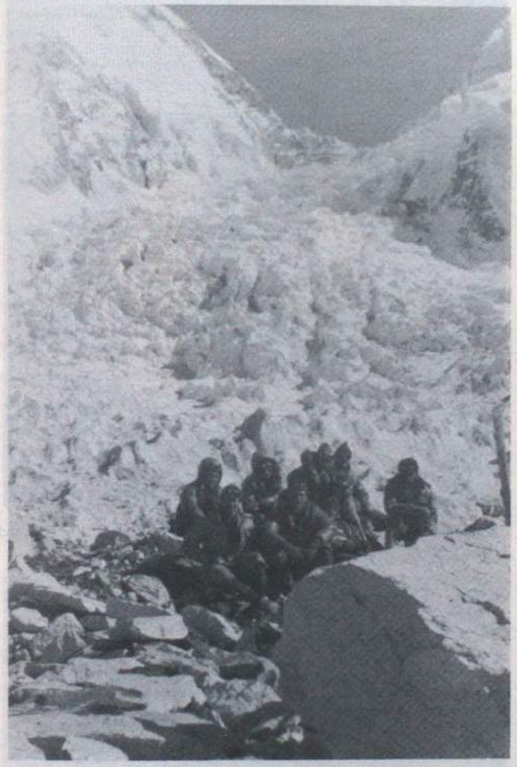
The trek had been divided into two halves, the Approach March and the Everest March. The Approach March took eight days to complete. With loads of up to 25kg each, we trekked through the remote, massive hills of East Nepal towards the Dudh Kosi, the river that takes the melted snow waters of Everest to the lowlands of Nepal. The heat was unbearable at times, especially when climbing some of the passes. However, the countryside and scenery was beautiful and the people fascinating. The local children were very 'cute' and it was almost impossible not to give in to their constant demands for 'mitti', sweets.

We arrived in Namche Bazaar on Tuesday 23 October. This is the gateway to the Everest region and the home of the famous Sherpas. It also marked the end of the Approach March. Namche was not a place that endeared itself to us so we left there the following day, preferring to stay at Khumjung (12,400ft) a small village a couple of hours above Namche.

On the approach to this village we also had our first glimpse of Everest (29,028ft) just behind Lhotse (27,840ft) and Nuptse (25,800ft).

THINNER AIR AND THE OBJECTIVE

The next 11 days were spent walking through the Sagarmatha National Park. The need to acclimatise as the air becomes thinner meant that we had to ascend slowly but this proved to be a bonus as it gave us the chance to appreciate fully some of the most magnificent and breathtaking scenery in the world. We spent two days at Dingboche (14,300ft) exploring the Lhotse glacier before continuing up the Pheriche valley towards Lobuche (16,200ft). Here most of us developed headaches and found difficulty in sleeping, (early symptoms of altitude sickness) however, by the morning everybody was fully recovered so we set off, in the fog, towards Base Camp. Once the fog disappeared we had yet another perfectly clear sky and as one member of the team said 'the views were great'. We passed through Gorak Shep and for the next six hours clambered over the Khumbu glacier, becoming more and more exhausted as the altitude took its toll. However, the aim of the trek was to reach Everest Base Camp and nobody was going to quit now. So we plodded on and in the early afternoon of 29 October we reached our objective. After a rest and some posing for photographs we returned to Gorak Shep, reaching there late in the afternoon.



At Everest Base Camp with the ice fall in the background from left to right: Cpl Rob Jenkinson, Lt Bruce Rose, Sig Frankie Frankland, Blackie Black, LCpl Rob Marshall, Cpl Keith Fisher, LCpls Rick Nolan and Joe Mogre

VIEWS OF THE TOP

The next morning four of us climbed Kala Pattar (18,750ft), while the other four, still suffering from altitude sickness, descended to Pheriche (14,000ft). Kala Patter is a small peak mid way between the Khumda and Changri Shar glaciers. From the tip of it, one gets the most amazing view of the top of the world. We could see Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse, Makalu (27,825ft), Ama Dablang (22,500ft), Kang Taiga (23,340ft), Tramserku (21,730ft), Pumori (23,440ft), Changste (24,500ft) and Lho La (23,500ft) plus many many more. We spent half an hour up there before reluctantly descending to Pheriche where we were to meet up with the rest of the party.

At Khumjung with Ama Dablang in the background. From left to right: Sig 'Blackie' Black, Cpl Keith Fisher, LCpls Rick Nolan, Joe Mogre, Rob Marshall (with Khumjung, our adopted puppy), Pasang (our Sirdair), Cpl Rob Jenkinson, Sig 'Frankie' Frankland and pillow

NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

The next morning we headed towards Thyangboche Monastery (12,687ft). This is one of the more famous landmarks of Nepal, and is the site of a Buddhist monastery, presided over by a reincarnate Lama. We visited the monastery where children are sent at an early age for the rest of their lives, never to taste the delights of 'wine, women or song'! What a thought.

Two days later we were back in Khumjung and the next day we reached Lukla, the end of the trek. We had covered nearly 200Kms, over very difficult terrain, climbed over 39,000ft and reached an altitude of 18,750ft. Although we hadn't been to the top of the world we hadn't been that far away, and all the team felt they had had an experience never to be forgotten. We flew out from Lukla on Sunday 4 November, and so 21 days after leaving, we were back in Kathmandu.

WATER AND RELAXATION

Not for long though because before the trek, we had arranged a river trip to do some white water rafting. Thus, on Tuesday morning we left Kathmandu and headed west towards the Trishuli river. For the next two days 16 'would be' oarsmen (and women) plus a couple of experts, floated down the river in two rubber dinghies. We had a continuous sea battle between both boats, went through many hair raising rapids and had an exhilarating time. We slept on the beach under the stars, caught up on our suntans and got very wet. It was great fun and a fitting way to relax after the arduous trek.

A GREAT SUCCESS

Alas, as with all good things they have to come to an end, so on Wednesday 7 November we returned to Kathmandu to prepare for our departure the next day. We finally arrived back in the Regiment on 13 November, having had a marvellous time. We had had no injuries, although we did have a couple of cases of food poisoning (as it's politely called). Apart from the four day delay in Bangladesh, which wasn't so bad, everything had gone according to plan.

The exercise had been a great success.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

It is difficult to mention everyone moving to and from Herford, however during this period we have said sad farewells to **Capt Wally Lockwood** and **WO1 Jimmy Campbell**. We wish them and their families good luck in their new postings.

Capt Wally stayed with us for a whole nine months (including his QM's course) before being called back to the 'sharp end' in Catterick. Rumour has it that he didn't get on with the TV antenna erectors from SSVC and that his stories at Mess Functions were not only getting longer but failed to mention Nigeria. Hence the quick posting.

After some 19 months with the Regiment **WO1 Jimmy Campbell** (ex 216 Sig Sqn) returns to 'Airborne' on commissioning . Some (those who attended Ex *Iron Arrow*—see last issue) are convinced that he just wants to attend P Coy every three months; others know he wants to get his golf handicap below 36. He's fed up with playing from the Ladies/Juniors tees.

We welcome **Maj John Reed**, our new 2IC and we wish him and his wife **Jean** an enjoyable tour in the Regiment.

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ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION LECTURE

This year the Corps had the privilege of being addressed at the Institution Lecture by The Home Secretary, **The Rt Hon Leon Brittan MP.** He gave a very interesting lecture on three Home Office departments namely, The Police, Fire and Prison Services.

After his lecture he answered questions from the floor of the house before adjourning to the Officers' Mess for an informal dinner.

Lt Col Dick Smith invites the Home Secretary to sign the Visitors Book

AN UNUSUAL TASK

Our next photograph shows the CO engaged in a very unusual task:

Col B. J. Austin, presenting the United States Meritorious Service Medal to SM William P. Roberts at Catterick in December. SM Roberts is at present an exchange NCO assigned to 'PTARMIGAN WING' of the TTS. He is the second serving member of the regiment wearing this high award, the other recipient being WO1 (YofS) Trevor Evans who gained the honour whilst on an exchange tour at Fort Gordon, Georgia

BASKETBALL

The Commander Catterick Garrison, **Brig F. R. Maynard**, has introduced a series of Garrison Inter Sub-Unit sports competitions held throughout the year. The first Basketball competition was held on Wednesday 16 January when 15 teams from within the Garrison keenly contested the Bass Trophy.

Because the competition was played on a weekday the students which comprise, 1, 2, and 3 Squadrons could not participate, therefore the Regiment was represented by three teams which came from HQ Sqn, The Royal Signals Demonstration Team (RSDT) and the Trade Training School (TTS). All three teams battled (who said basketball was a non-contact game!) their way through the tough elimination matches held in the morning and qualified for what turned out to be a Regimental play-off in the afternoon.

The HQ Squadron team, spearheaded by **Sgt Chas Mitchell** and **Sgt Jim Clace**, lost the opening match of the play-off to the superior skill and experience of the TTS team which contained such old hands as **Capt Andy Locke** (there really is life after 40!), **SSgt Barry Lewis** and **Sgt Tom Dooley**. However, the HQ Squadron team held their own against the RSDT despite the skill and determination of **Cpl Gas Crouch** and **Cpl Neil Pennington.** In a nail-biting final game the TTS team beat RSDT by a single point to win the Bass Trophy with HQ

Squadron worthy runners up. The Garrison Commander presented the trophy to **SSgt Barry Lewis.**

The Winning Team
Front Row L to R: SSgt Barry Lewis, Lt Col R. B. Smith OC TTS, WO2 (SSM) Brian Wilson, Capt W. A. Locke
Rear Row L to R: Sgt John Rolls, Sgt Taff Jones, Sgt Scouse Yarwood, Sgt Tom Dooley

SNOOKER VERSUS THE WORLD CHAMPION

SSgt Jimmy Smart had the honour and privilege of representing the Regiment in a challenge match against Steve Davis. **SSgt Smart** was one of seven local soldiers, airmen and civilians who each played one frame against the World Champion in a challenge match sponsored by John Smiths' Brewery.

SSgt Jimmy Smart receives some momentoes of his big night from Steve Davis

KISS-O-GRAM FOR SGT BILL

In appreciation of their message handling Instructor, upgrading course DT7OU arranged a special surprise for **Sgt Bill Coltman.**

Sgt Bill Coltman practising practical message handling

NORTHERN AREA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Northern Area Group 5 eliminating race of the army championships was run concurrently with the district championships on 26 January. The race was hosted by the Regiment and, organised by Schemes Tp, in between turning out class 3 tradesmen.

The field comprised some 270 male and 65 female runners from the TA and Regular Army from as far apart as Liverpool and Benbecula. The weather conditions were perfect, cold with blue skies and sunshine when **Brig Maynard** fired the starting pistol for the off in the Women's Services' race.

Cpl Rolt of 8 Sig Regt led home the field to take the Winners trophy and secure her team in first place. Unfortunately in the mens race we were narrowly beaten into third position so the Regiment will be relying on the girls at Aldershot on 13 February for the Army Finals. Two trainees of note for the future were discovered in **Sig Vile** who came second overall and **Sig Gerrard** eighth, both qualified as individuals for the Army finals, they are also still only Juniors.

Seb Coe, Steve Ovett beware!

2 SQUADRON
IN TRAY

Both of the new arrivals on our Cadre are in B Troop. **Lt Katy Munnoch WRAC** joins us from School of Infantry, we welcome her back to our Corps as she has previously served with 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. **SSgt John Topping** has crossed the road from 11 Sig Regt. We wish them the best for their tour with us.

OUT TRAY

2 Squadron have said farewell to **Lt Carol O'Nians WRAC**, after her one year tour with the Corps, and also to **SSgt Ken Counsell** who is now enjoying life in Osnabruck with 21 Sig Regt.

FAREWELL

Sgt Terry Speight is about to leave the Corps on completion of his 22 years service. We thank him for his loyalty and keen sense of humour, not only in 2 Sqn but also throughout his years of service. In February he starts a second career as an inspector with the RSPCA. We wish him every success.

ARMY MOTORCYCLING COLOURS
FOR CPL (now Sgt) CLIVE THORSBY

Cpl (now Sgt) Thorsby started motorcycling in 1982 in BAOR where as a novice rider he rode in trials and Enduro events on a Corps owned machine. He soon started to show promise and on his return to UK with 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt was selected to ride for the Corps Enduro team based at 8 Sig Regt. Throughout 1983 he rode on Clubman Schedule ending as the 250cc Clubman Champion of Great Britain. He was selected to represent the Army in the 1983 'International Six Day Enduro' and the 'Scottish Six Day International Trial'.

During 1984 he had to move up to 'Expert' schedule where he picked up six gold, three silver and one bronze medals. Again he was selected to represent the Corps and the Army in the 'Welsh two day Enduro' where Team Royal Signals won the services team award for the first time.

Our picture shows Cpl (now Sgt) Thorsby being presented with his Army Colours by Col B. J. Austin, chairman of Corps Motorcycling

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FAMAGUSTA SADDLE CLUB

As mentioned in the last issue, it is a well kept secret that we maintain the last remaining Royal Signals Saddle Club. Not that the Famagusta Saddle Club, as it is known, has deliberately striven for obscurity, just that the 35 members (mostly dependants with a smattering of Service personnel) have trotted along quite placidly through the orange groves of Ayios Nikolaos without wishing to shout about their presence. Then, someone decided that it was time to put the Famagusta Saddle Club on the map and it suddenly found itself with the task of hosting Cyprus' most popular three-day event, the All-Island Horse Show.

The prospect was not an easy one. Amongst other things a cross-country course had to be built from scratch; show-jumping fences and dressage rings assembled; arenas and paddocks levelled and re-fenced —all to cope with the demands of the 40 or so horses that would be competing there. **Capt Geoff Cary** drew the short straw and found himself directing the show. Without more ado, he went into action and, before long, the Saddle Club echoed not to the sound of galloping hooves, but rather to the cruder sounds of hammers and cement-mixers as club members began the transformation.

ALL READY BUT . . .

Out on the cross-country course, a highly successful 'adopt-a-fence' scheme was run where families spent long afternoons wrestling with telegraph poles and tyres and a diagram of what the completed jump ought to look like. In the meantime, back in the paddocks, not only the horses eyes were rolling at the bright turquoise paint that was being slapped over everything immobile.

After twelve weeks of frantic activity, the club was ready and waiting. Everything was prepared down to the last rake of sand across the arena just as competitors began to arrive for the following morning's start. That night, the Cyprus summer which had produced barely a cloud for six months decided to call it a day and torrential rain swept across the island, reducing the dusty ground to a sea of mud. Two horse-boxes were involved in road accidents and the power supply failed.

THE SHOW GOES ON

Faced with imminent disaster, the club nonetheless decided that The Show Must Go On. So, despite three days of atrocious weather, the events continued and the final day brought satisfied smiles of relief and achievement all round.

Amongst the prizewinners were **Gail Parker, Julie Palmer** and **Kim Blondel**, daughters of **WO2 (RQMS) Parker, Sgt Palmer** and **Cpl Blondel** respectively. They ensured that at least some of the trophies were returned to the host club.

The hard work of many club members must not go unrecognised as without their efforts the Show would not have been possible. Thank you to all concerned for slaving throughout the summer and helping to create the excellent facilities which the club enjoys today.

Mrs Cathy Barfoot, the Adjt's wife, clearing a cross-country fence

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

The Mercury Theatre Group set its sights particularly high for the 1984 Festival Production by staging Dale Wasserman's 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' at the Silver Barn Theatre, Ayios Nikolaos. The choice of play, it must be said, was not unanimous, and a number of the more senior members of the Group were amongst the doubters. On the nights, however, the faith of the selectors was completely vindicated, when the MTG provided excellent all-round performances and a very polished rendering.

The play concerns the conflict between a wide-boy convict and the domineering mental nurse. McMurphy, who had worked a flanker and had himself committed to an institution from the more severe regime of a penitentiary runs healong into a battle of wills with the well established nurse; a battle he is doomed to lose. In the process of self destruction he awakes in the other inmates awareness of their own personalities; awareness that the nurse had worked hard to suppress.

The key characters were portrayed magnificently. **WO1 (RSM) Mick Besant**'s 'McMurphy' and **Mrs Linda Hughes'** 'Nurse Ratched' were acted superbly — he the hardman with his bluff and blustery, almost Bilkoesue man-of-the-world approach, she fluctuating between honeyed wheedling, crisp starchiness and out-and-out bullying as they vied for leadership of the pack.

The pack itself was a rich mixture! **SSgt Eddie Grisdale** played the verbose Dale Harding, lofty ideals, intellectual ramblings and all, with commendable patience and dedication. **LCpl Frank Dalton** stuttered his way through the part of Billy Bibbitt with sensitivity and humour. It would have been easy for him to overdo it, but to his credit, he achieved a fine balance. **Sgt Phil McSorley** (Martini) had little to say but a lot of acting to do; something he achieved splendidly — his furtive glances and 'road runner' gait were amongst the more humourous highlights. **Cpl Dave Carvell's** Chief Bromden, a difficult role, was also well handled — he was the physical size to match the towering presence of the giant Indian and carried it off very well. **Sig Mark Jordan** (Scanlon) and **LCpl Dave Cameron** (Cheswick) completed the set with fine performances as supporting nutcases — **Jordan** a quite convincing mad 'bomber' and **Cameron** a sycophantic hanger-on.

In the smaller roles, **Sgt Geoff Taylor** was delightfully vague and malleable as Dr Spivey, and the interplay between him and the dragon Ratched was subtly achieved. **Cpl Sue Abercrombie** came over well as the fluttering, virginal Nurse Flinn, while at the other end of the scale, **Cpl Elaine Brady** and **LCpl Debby Lyons** were marvellously trollop-like as the wanton Candy Starr and Sandra.

Sig Steve Spencer and **Cpl John Wilkinson** played the 'straight' aides very well, sneering at and bullying the inmates, while **LCpl Rod Nicolson** shuffled and snuffled around as the sly, 'bent' Aide Turkle.

Pte P. J. MacLean (Ruckley) hung massively on the wall for most of the play slavering! He had no difficulty mastering his script! **Mrs Sheila Taylor**'s nursing skills were exploited in her brief appearance as the technician.

The play was most competently produced by **Cpl Dave Carvell**. Stage manager **Cpl Andy Cawley** certainly brought out the best in his backstage team and deservedly won the Chairman's Trophy. Words of special praise must go to the stalwarts of lighting, sound and wardrobe. The efforts of **Sgt Dave Lawrence** and **Sgt Dave Daymond** in their particular fields have advanced MTG's capabilities considerably since the acquisition of new technology. **Mrs Julie Tomlinson**'s team coped magnificently with the demands of the wardrobe under sometimes appalling conditions. Finally, a small, but neat touch to the performance was provided by the recorded voices of the children of Ayios Nikolaos Primary School. A most entertaining enterprise!

FOUR MILE SKITTLES LEAGUE

Once again, during the summer months, the Four Mile Inn Skittles Leage was in action, arranged by **Capt David Poole**. Of the 16 teams entered, Comms Tp managed to enter two teams, such was the interest. Playing in the Red League were the 'Extra Specials' (aptly named only a few weeks before) captained by **Pte Paula Carson** and in the White League 'The Commstars' captained by **Sgt Phil McSorley**.

After many hard fought games by both teams, each managed to win first place, on points, in their respective leagues. Then came the knockouts and the semi-finals where luck and skill eventually ran out. Competing in the finals were the 'Berri-Berris', winning overall to get the Trophy.

Many people entered into the spirit of things (mainly brandy sours) and this year for the 'Extra Specials' LCpl **'Stan' Stanley** managed not to get banned, whilst **Pte Sally 'Spike' Thorne** got a few 'Sunshiners' just to amuse the supporters, **LCpl Dawn Standaloft** just failed to get highest scoring lady with 52 points. Other team members included **Linda Stanley, Sgt Tony Bottomley** and wife **Diane, Cpl Ian 'Super Tech' Smillie** and wife **Liz, Cpl Norrie 'Team Coach' Small, Cpl Rob 'Where's my crisps?' Lawes, LCpl Geoff Head** and wife **Adele, LCpl Tim Blake, Sig Kev 'Goldilocks' Smith** and **Pte Sarah King.**

Due to the odd hours that the Troop works, the teams changed constantly throughout the season, however the Commstars managed to retain a nucleus of players including the top overall scorers, **LCpl Gina** 'Its only a game' **Cutts** and **LCpl** 'It takes me a couple of games to get warmed up' **Main** (borrowed from the Med Centre in case any of the spectators got over-excited). The remaining mere mortals were **Cpl** 'Big Nose' **Mitchell, LCpl Eck** 'Arab' **Hardie, Sig Baz** 'I'm going to Ayia Napa after this' **Stark, WO2** 'I'll use my driver' **Tait, Pte Jane White, Cpl Lottie** 'I can't play' **Drew, Sgt Phil McSorley** and many others making guest appearances.

Both teams enjoyed a successful season. The Carlsberg flowed freely and the local Kebab stall did a roaring trade. Roll on the glories of next season.

Extra Specials
Left to right: Back row: Mrs Smillie, LCpl Stanley, Mrs Stanley, LCpl Blake, Cpls Small, Lawes, Sgt Bottomley, Sig Smith, Mrs Bottomley. Kneeling: LCpl Standaloft, Ptes Carson, King

COMMSTARS
Back Row: WO2 Tait, Cpl Mitchell, LCpl Hardie, Sig Stark, Cpl Baker. Front Row: LCpl Cutts, Pte Williams, Cpl Drew

DHEKELIA DASH 1984

The 'Dhekelia Dash', a traditional 15 × 1 mile road relay race from Ayios Nikolaos to Dhekelia took place on 10 November 1984. The race which is organised each year by the RAOC drew over 750 runners from all over the island to take part in what has become a great fun event for all the family.

Lt Col Galloway presented the prizes and with great pleasure awarded first prize medals to 1 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt who ran an extremely good race against fierce competition. The ladies were not far behind either with the WRAC team and the wives team coming second and third respectively in the ladies section. Pictured below are the victorious teams.

Left to Right (Standing): LCpl Power, Sig Daly, Capt Cary, SSgt Middleton, Sgt Smith, Ptes Radcliffe, Harrison (Kneeling) WO2 Moffatt, Cpl McDowell, LCpl Preston, SSgt Havlin, LCpl Grant, Sgt Corfield, LCpl Hayes

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Q Troop posed for a quick snap prior to completing their annual CFT (why weren't they pictured afterwards . . .?) Note to QM, **Capt Frank Worrall**, sitting fourth from left keeping a watchful eye on his stores with **WO2 (RQMS) Dennis Parker** and **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Grimshaw** alongside. Q Troop have recently said farewell to **LCpl Tom Collins** and his wife **Heicke** who happily return to Germany and greet **Sgt John Brown** and his wife **Margaret.** The photograph was taken by **WO1 (RSM) Besant** showing a hitherto unsuspected talent for photography.

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)
Wilton

RHQ

The Regiment having welcomed its new CO, **Lt Col M. A. Thorne**, late last year has now assembled a steady and industrious RHQ. **Capt Ian Griffiths** has left the Regiment for RMCS Shrivenham hopefully to gain another degree. His replacement is **Capt Nigel Moore** who has relinquished ceremonial duties for a more sober employment.

In the Orderly Room **Sgt Senior WRAC** is busy creating a solid team of supporters including **Cpl Topley WRAC** and **Ptes Holt WRAC** and **(Sgt** Designate) **Greetham WRAC.** However the important position is held by **WO1** (Supt Clk) **Dave Bell** who ensures that things run smoothly and everyone gets down to work.

NEWS FROM 1 SQUADRON

It seems only a few weeks since the whips were out to gather newsworthy articles for the last issue of the magazine. 1 Sqn, having recovered from the Christmas Break is limbering up for a whole variety of activities planned throughout the year. 1984 should not, however, slip into oblivion without at least mentioning a farewell to the last 2IC Sqn, **Capt Peter White** who now takes post as the Corps resident spy at DNBCC Winterbourne.

AWARDS

It appears that **Pte 'Kibs' Kibble** is not satisfied with entering her own reports (see November 84 issue—Exercise *Northern Light*). She now appears to be gaining quite a following and making friends outside the Army sphere. In a recent British Heart Foundation sponsored event held in the local area, she achieved the best female sponsored entry and is pictured along with **Pte Joy Shelmerdine**, receiving her award from **Mrs Lunn**, the local 'chairman' of the BHF.

We should not go into print without mentioning the sterling and loyal service of our civilian element (by far the largest) and reporting their achievements:

Pte Kibble receives her trophy from Mr and Mrs E. J. Lunn of the British Heart Foundation. Also present Pte Shelmerdine

COMSTAR AWARDS

January was a good month for COMSTAR AWARDS, with Silver Awards made at Army COMMCEN Marchwood and Middle Wallop, and a Bronze Award made at Exeter. At Middle Wallop (the champions, at least, ours) they added their award to five gold, five silver and three bronze awards already held. Taking into consideration the terminal is quite busy their record is enviable. At Exeter the Award was presented by the Station Commander Troops Exeter, **Col K. S. B. Wintle CBE**. The photograph shows from right to left **Mr. Fowler** 1st Line Supervisor, **Mr Elston**, Telecom Op, **Col Wintle** and **Mr Garnsworthy**, Telecom Op.

Bronze Comstar awarded to Exeter COMMCEN by Col K. S. B. Wintle, Stn Comd Tps Exeter. Also present Mr Fowler, Mr Elston and Mr Garnsworthy

VISITS

The Squadron had a surprise visit by **Brig Keith Olds** Comd 2 Sig Bde on 23 January 85. He visited Wilton COMMCEN and Exchange meeting the new members of U Tp, OC **2Lt Ogden** and YofS **Taylor.** After lunch he toured Bulford and Tidworth with the Sqn Comd, **Capt Stuart Lockie**, meeting OC SWS Tp, **Maj (TOT) Peter Steeples** and his staff, and the COMMCEN and Exchange staffs at Bulford.

EXERCISE *LONG LOOK* AUGUST—DECEMBER 84
Report by Cpl M. Shergold

My eagerly awaited departure was at last upon me, and it was with a combination of subdued anticipation and trepidation that I finally left the Regiment on Sunday 5 August 1984 on the first stage of my journey to the Air Mounting Centre, South Cerney. As we gathered during the day, tension mounted and it was an enthusiastic contingent that departed for Brize Norton to begin the 'real' journey. The route to be taken was: Brize — Hannover — Bahrein — Colombo — Singapore — Australia.

The first leg to Hannover was to pick up the BAOR complement, this would complete the party, approximately 120 personnel contemplating at this early stage what the ensuing four months would bring. The first thing to strike me at Bahrein was the intense heat and humidity, something common also at Colombo and Singapore, our other two fuel stops. Once we had deplaned at Singapore, we were met by members from 1 RNZRI, based at Dieppe Bks, some 50 minutes drive from Changi Airport. We were to be hosted by the friendly Kiwis for almost three days, most of which were spent sight-seeing or sleeping. On Thursday 9th having had a brief encounter with the purveyors of a 'Good Time' along the streets of Singapore, the contingent set off for Australia. We arrived initially at Richmond, where customs etc were taken care of; at this point, those going North embarked on a different plane, the rest headed off in various directions, and at 1650hrs Friday 10 August, I arrived at the Army Apprentices' School, Bonegilla.

The school itself was opened as recently as 1982, and the facilities are very good; the school actually holds half the test equipment allocated to the Army. The sporting facilities were exceptional catering for most of the tastes and hobbies of the 'Appy's'. The only problem at the school being, that it is run by and the curriculum decided predominantly by members of the Victorian Education Dept. The major difference between the British and Australian 'Appy' system, is, the lads don't primarily join a Corps; they decide on a trade. As an Electronics Technicial, an 'Appy' wouldn't know which corps he was going to until the final term of a three year Basic Course. In Signals, it is then necessary for the 'Appy's' unit to send him to Watsonia (School of Signals) where he would attend a Conversion Course, learning the various equipments necessary to suitably fulfil his position in his unit.

On 17 August, the first year Appy's were to attend the Land Warfare Centre at Cannungra (one hour north of Brisbane QLD), the idea being to put into practice, those military skills they had learnt over the previous two and a half terms. Whilst there, they took part in the following:

SLR, AR, M16, Survival Trg, Bulk Physical Work, Assault Courses, Section Attacks and various tasks as a Section, River Crossing and a day at the Gold Coast.

The situation of the school was ideal for all sorts of sports, less than one hour away was a ski resort, and also ten minutes from the school was a large reservoir where I participated in such sports as water skiing, wind-surfing and parascending.

Also, being three hours from Melbourne, the cultural home of 'Aus Rules', I was able to view some of the top games, and found it to be a very entertaining spectator sport.

I visited various units in Australia including: 1 Sig Regt, 4 Sig Regt, 2 Sig Regt, 6 Sig Regt, 126 Sig Sqn, School of Signals.

I feel I must thank the Regiment, particularly those Techs who had to cover my absence, for affording me this opportunity to go to Australia to broaden my military and cultural horizons. I feel I have benefited a great deal from the visit.

2 SQUADRON—LETTER FROM LONDON

The Squadron paused in its preparations to move into Chelsea Barracks in April/May and proceeded to fling itself wholeheartedly into Christmas festivities as might be seen from the following photographs. Father Christmas, the OC in disguise, made a surprise appearance at the final Squadron Parade before Christmas. However, the SSM, **WO2 Tod O'Brien**, had been warned off and briefed the Squadron 2IC, **Capt Carolyn Wilding** accordingly. What he was not prepared for was a 2IC dressed as a Christmas fairy, resplendent in purple leotard and tights. His greeting was unprintable!

Various characters were presented with a small gift from Santa. In the photograph **LCpl Craig**, the Squadron PTI, has just become **Cpl Craig**. Other presents included a new car for **SSgt Kath Corrigan**—

Recently promoted Cpl Di Craig holds her new tape aloft

Matchbox of course—'and suddenly I was upside down in a ditch', a tub of body filler for **Pte 'Elsie' Tanner**—'not all five accidents have been my fault', a damaged water bottle for **Sig 'Biggles' Hicks**—'it works better this way' and two gift wrapped bricks for the **SSM**—'there aren't any five bedroomed quarters in London District'!

The festivities continued that evening at the Christmas Dance in the Bruno Club and the OC, **Maj John Stuart's** generosity of the morning was reciprocated. A Roly Poly Gram arrived and smothered him in kisses. Her ample proportions can be assessed from the fact that her not inconsiderable fee worked out at 50p per inch!

Finally the squadron said a rather special farewell to one of its members in January, **Sgt Steve Jackson** left to report to RMA Sandhurst for Officer training. It is widely rumoured that at the moment even 2 Sqn would be preferable—he is still in the initial five week stage where he is not allowed to venture outside the gates!

Sgt, now OCdt Steve Jackson, being presented with a farewell tankard from Maj Roy Lund

3 SQUADRON

Like everyone else 3 Sqn is settling back into a routine after the Christmas rush and awaiting the next onslaught. The New Year is only two month's old but we have already had a large turnover of personalities. **Cpl Sara Hunt**, our PTI, left us early in the New Year to put another tape up at the School of Army Physical Training, Aldershot. Not a very big move but we wish her all the best. Welcome to her replacement, **Cpl Karen McGrath** who has come all the way from York to keep us in shape.

Then our Chief Clerk, **Sgt Irene Storey**, decided she'd had enough and got herself a posting to sunnier climes—in Cyprus! And that's not all, she was one of our star hockey players. Our new chief, **Sgt Alma Coull**, has come from the Army Information Services in HQ Northern Ireland.

Latest to leave us was the 2IC, **Capt Sarah Rawlings**, she has gone to Rheindahlen, BAOR from when the new 2IC, **Capt Eilean Cunningham**, has arrived.

During the past month we have also said goodbye to **LCpl Shearer, Ptes Oats, Ferry, Jones, McKay, Marr** (SBO)!

Our new arrivals are fewer in number but are **Cpl Robson** and **LCpl Lawton** of the COMMCEN and **Ptes Millard** and **Hooper** of the Exchange.

FOOTBALL

In this predominately female unit, two of our male members manage to escape the humdrum of COMMCEN life most Wednesday and Saturday afternoons to represent their various organisations at football. To look at them, your last thoughts for these two 'Stars' would be that they were not capable of anything more vigorous than making a cup of tea, but don't be fooled by appearances. For **Cpl Andy 'Haircut' Edwards** is much in demand by both the Corps and Army for his unique skills as midfielder, whilst **Sgt Chris 'Kojac' McTernen** (not quite up to 1st Division standards) plays for the local side of Bagshot as winger/striker. Both are experienced players, **Cpl Edwards** having played for Carlisle Apprentices while **Sgt McTernan's** claim to fame is beating non-league Dagenham 2—1, although he has been known to play in the occasional charity match, the team comprising of members from all walks of life ranging from 'Brickies' to Customs Officers. As both members of the team are keen on keeping fit, they tend to turn the PT lessons into a training session, which for the poor unsuspecting females can result in several days discomfort with bruised and aching limbs. Through their efforts to become experts in their sport, **Cpl Edwards** has managed to furnish his home quite effectively with several trophies and medals, while unfortunately, the illustrious Sergeant is still awaiting his first.

JUDO

The Squadron congratulates **Pte Anne-Marie Briody** on gaining the Women's British Judo Championship (48 KG) making her the British No 1 in her class. She flies out to Germany this month to compete in the German Open Championships. She was interviewed by Scottish Television and has had a seven minute film made about her by Scottish TV Scotsport.

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

NEW GROUND

Since our last contribution we have seen history made at 11 Sig Regt. After just over a year as the Admin Officer of 1 Sqn, **2Lt Jill Turner** took over as Troop Commander 6 Troop. She saw a full regular recruit course through and on the day of the pass off parade the Regiment received the attention of the press, both local and national. It was the first time a WRAC officer had commanded a Royal Signals Recruit Troop. Now for history of a lesser scale. We managed to get all seven Troop Commanders together for a picture before **2Lt Jill Turner** left for Northern Ireland.

Back Row L to R: WO1 F. A. Bancroft (OC 1 Tp), WO1 G. Scott (OC 7 Tp), Lt N. D. Gibson (OC 2 Tp), Lt G. R. Leyland (OC 5 Tp), WO1 C. G. Francis (OC 4 Tp), WO1 P. Clarke (OC 3 Tp)
Front Row: 2Lt J. M. V. Turner (OC 6 Tp)

1 SQUADRON
2 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp Cmdr	**Lt N. D. Gibson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt B. J. Spiers**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl P. D. Cox**
	Cpl D. Cummings
	Cpl A. Craig
	Cpl A. F. Verdon

STATISTICS

Number of recruits at start course:	42
Number of recruits gained:	11
Number of recruits relegated:	14
Number of recruits who passed out:	39

On 29 October 1984, we received our latest batch of Regular Recruits. They soon looked fairly uniform after visits to the barber and the clothing store. The first four weeks were very hard work, for the Troop Corporals in particular, who have to teach them, out of hours, how to wear and look after their uniforms. After the Saluting Test at the end of the third week of training, life becomes a little easier for the recruits, and more privileges are given to them.

FIFTH WEEK EXERCISE

The recruits got a two day introduction to living in the field, with instruction in Bashas, Compo, Patrol Bases and Map Reading. There were interesting moments when certain recruits did not get up for 'Stand To' and others followed blindly when a recruit was leading the field in completely the wrong direction during a map reading exercise.

As a culmination to the fifth week the whole troop gathered for a 'smoker'. Here the recruits got a chance to show, by acting out small sketches, what they thought of the Cadre. It was interesting to see which mannerisms were picked up!

THE FINAL BUILD UP

The last three weeks of the course were spent preparing for the Pass Off Parade and the final exercise. Part of the exercise was cancelled due to snow and very low temperatures.

On 25 January the whole of Catterick was deep in snow and ice and so unfortunately the Pass Off Parade had to be held in the Gym, the only consolation being that the troop had paraded on the square twice as back up troop. The drill had to be especially good that morning as the spectators were much closer.

Lt Col E. M. Powell talking to Sig Harrison while Lt Neil Gibson, Lt Col P. J. R. Brown and Maj Jack Boyle look on

Prizes were awarded to Sig **Clarke-Brown** for Best Recruit, to **Sig Carbonell** for Best Shot and to **Cpl Craig** for the Best Section (One Section).

Best Recruit—Sig Clarke-Brown with his family

Best Shot—Sig Carbonell with his parents

Cpl Alex Craig collects the section Prize from Lt Col E. M. Powell. 'No it's nothing serious Sir, tore a muscle slow marching on the Square'

CHANGE OF CADRE

Cpl Fitzpatrick was in 2 Troop for the first half of the course before he was promoted. We wish **Sgt Fitzpatrick** the best of luck in the future. We welcome **Cpl Cummings** to the Regiment and hope he has an enjoyable tour.

EXERCISE *SPARTAN HIKE* 13

It was decided back in July 1984 that we would enter a six man ski team in the 3 Armd Div/(UKLF) Championships due to take place in Fulpmes, Austria during January. The reason for attending the meet was to prepare the team for the UKLF Ski Championships in Scotland due to be held at the beginning of March. As several members had not raced before, the two and a half weeks in Austria would be invaluable experience for them.

Being a UKLF team the paperwork for the exercise was fairly extensive, having to do such things as civilianise the vehicle, arrange ferry tickets and sort out accommodation. By 4 January all plans were complete, the minibus packed and the six team members ready to head for Austria. Thirty four hours later we arrived in Fulpmes. We quickly settled into our accommodation and prepared ourselves for skiing as early as we possibly could the next day.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

We had nine days to practise our racing technique and then the races began. The seeding races came first. Sadly the course was in a bad condition due to a lack of snow with sheet ice at both the top and bottom of the course. People were falling left right and centre just negotiating the start gate!

The next day we had the team giant slalom, which was as exciting as the seeding races, again people putting on a good imitation of 'Torvill and Dean'. Of the UKLF teams we came fourteenth, a result we were well pleased with.

Sadly we then had to return to Catterick, all a lot fitter and healthier for the exercise and feeling we had gained valuable race experience.

The Team Members: **Lt Col P. J. R. Brown, Lt Neil Gibson, 2Lt Jill Turner, Sgt Chris Wooff, Cpl Mick North,** and **Cpl Steve Barr.**

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. Former officers and their dependants are charged £315 per week for a private room. The charge for other patients is £715. If, however, a patient can pay a sum nearer to the actual cost of his/her maintenance (now over £720 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, ( ), 6 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR, or phone 01-828 4454. Applications for admission should be made to the Matron on 01-486 4411.

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

RHQ

Report by WO2 Pete Cuckow

After less than two months in the unit of 39 Brigade I am aware of brisk activity. Not only from the military side, but also the social and leisure scene.

Arriving mid morning one December Sunday and with only just time for a wash and shave after an overnight drive from UK, I was thrust into the midst of the Christmas activity. In the afternoon my takeover from **WO2 Pete Campbell** began. After many promises of 'I'll clean out my cupboards and drawers before I go', **Peter** left to take up the job of Supt Clerk in 3 Armd Div Sig Regt. Our congratulations to him and best wishes to the **Campbell** family in their new posting. In January we lost **Cpl John Harrison RAPC** on posting and **Sgt Larry Payne RAPC** who moved to our Squadron in Berlin. **John's** wife, **Fiona**, was a typist in RHQ. All will be missed for their cheerfulness and hard work. We shortly lose **Pte Carol Dobson** who is changing her name, c/o **Sgt Mac MacKenzie**, our PRI Sergeant. We welcome **Sig Steve Underhill** into the Orderly Room, **Pte Nick Marsh** into the Pay Office and **Debbie**, daughter of **SSgt Wally Kerr** (QM's dept) as **Fiona's** replacement.

After studies and leave our Adjutant **Capt Peter Walker** is currently learning joined-up handwriting on his PQS course.

ANGLO-GERMAN CHRISTMAS DINNER

On 11 December 1984 the Regiment hosted its annual Anglo-German Old Age Pensioners' Christmas Dinner in the Mercury Hall. 60 German pensioners from villages and towns in the Heinsberg and Wassenberg areas were invited by the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Gordon Howard**, to a traditional English Christmas Dinner.

The function was organised by our Regimental Anglo-German liaison officer **WO1 Pete Westwell**. Several notable VIPs attended the function, amongst whom were the Heinsberg County Director **Herr Doktor Leo Thonnissen** and the Wassenberg Town Clerk, **Herr Walter Windeln**. Both were accompanied by their wives. Special thanks and a mention must be made to **SSgt Gordon Scott ACC** and his team, who put on such an excellent meal, also to the Major Demo, **CSgt Jack Cooke R Hamps** who, in grand style orchestrated the waitresses (all volunteers!) provided by the WRAC and the Officers' Mess.

Our most junior German speaking host Sig Paul Williams

The CO accompanies Frau Thonnissen as they distribute the Christmas presents to each of the Old Age Pensioners

Herr Doktor Leo Thonnissen presents a bouquet to Mrs Elizabeth Howard

ONE SQUADRON NOTES

The Winter has seen considerable upheaval in the change of Squadron personnel, unfortunately too many to mention, and it would be unlikely that anyone posted six months ago would now recognise the majority of the Squadron. However, locations of personnel remain the same, with the Squadron Commander, **Maj John Stuart,** being found on the hockey field or in the Squash courts, **Capt (Tfc) Len Yates** is still on the Golf course (but which one?), and **WO2 Geordie Hennrie**, our erstwhile SSM, occasionally comes in from the range (presumably complete with Trigger).

For a while the rigours of military training were laid aside as the troops relaxed at their Christmas parties, although some Squadron personalities found it more of a stamina test as they had been invited to attend every function, but fortunately some of the Troops decided to join together for their celebrations. Judging by the slipped discs and torn ligaments in evidence after these parties, it would appear that some people are not doing the proper exercises to prepare for the dancing.

THE YEOMANS CUP

In 1979, the then **SSgt (YofS) Haycock** presented a trophy to O Troop, which was designated the Yeomans Cup. It was to be awarded to the Signalman or WRAC Private who is considered to show the most outstanding and consistent all round improvement in dress, self-discipline, trade skills, military skills and sporting prowess. This year the trophy was awarded to **Sig Taff Burge** at the O Troop Christmas party, to whom we all give our congratulations. There are, however, many of the troop who are determined that **Taff** only keeps it for a year.

BIRTHS

The Squadron wishes to extend their congratulations to the following on the new additions to their families: daughters to **LCpl Gaz and Jo Payne, LCpl Paul** and **Tracey Fyfe** and **Cpl Paul** and **Tracey Edon.** A son to **Sig Jim** and **Audrey Dyer.**

3 SQUADRON NOTES

On a visit to 3 Sqn, the GOC Berlin (British Sector), **Maj Gen B. C. Gordon Lennox MBE** presented **Sgt Ron Watson,** our long suffering Orderly Room Sergeant, with his LS and GC medal. Our warmest congratulations.

Sgt Ron Watson, our long-suffering Orderly Room Sergeant, receives his LS and GC medal from the GOC Berlin (British Sector) Maj Gen Gordon Lennox

In June 1984, the Minister for the Armed Forces, **Mr John Stanley** visited us in Berlin and his wife took the opportunity to visit some of the Squadron wives for coffee.

The Squadron wives meet Mrs Stanley

H TROOP

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt A. Field**
OC (Des)	**Capt W. P. Coupland**
2IC	**Capt T. A. M. Romanis**
SSM	**WO2 R. J. Bowman BEM**
FofS	**WO2 B. P. Gardner**
OPSWO	**WO2 D. Green**

Life in H Troop has continued to be as hectic as ever both at work and socially. At the beginning of this period we held one of our biannual military training exercises, Exercise *September Leaves*. The exercise organised by **WO2 (SSM) Bob Bowman,** was very successful and we then continued with an exercise in Anglo-German relations in the form of our Anglo-German cocktail party held at the Camp. We invited some 200 German guests and under the direction of **Cpl Shaun Wilde** and his cocktail recipe book we managed to have a very pleasant evening.

AMBITIOUS CONCEPTS

Into November and the Troop Bonfire Night promised to be more spectacular than usual since it had been left to two technicians to organise, **LCpl Brian Davidson** and his assistant **Cpl Shaun Wilde,** who might have done better to stick to mixing cocktails. The highlight of the evening was to be the lighting of the bonfire using a rocket, guided by wire, from halfway up the tower into the base of the fire where suitable inflammable material was to be ignited. All went well until our intrepid heroes discovered that at 150ft the wind is quite strong and it takes more than a compo book of matches to light a rocket. However, 15 books of matches later the rocket eventually ignited and signalled the start of a very convivial evening.

Early December saw the start of the Troop Christmas festivities beginning with the Troop Draw, organised this year by the technicians. It was based on a home computer programme put together by our resident RCA technician **Harry Reay** together with **Sgt Tom Robinson**. After many months of pushing football cards, pontoon tickets and various other fund raising ideas the technicians became known as the Mafia of H Troop. The efforts were effective however, and we managed to raise just over DM7000. The first prize was a DM2000 holiday won by a 'singly', namely **LCpl Steve Davis.**

IMPORTANT LINK

In December we held the H Troop ball in downtown Dannenberg. It was organised by **WO2 Dave Green** and his committee. We took the opportunity to invite some of our German friends who have helped us so much during the past year. Past members of H Troop will remember how much we value our good relations with our German friends.

SPORTS REPORT

The main sport for H Troop is football. We have a team playing in the local league every Sunday throughout the season and so far our results have not been as good as we would like, but we still managed to provide a major upset in the Cup by beating a well fancied team from a higher league.

The team has seen many new faces this year. One or two of the more famous members of the team are **LCpl Lev Haines,** our goal keeper renowned for his quiet, polite approach to all problems, **Cpl Kev Sargent** who has been with the team for so long he now wants a testimonial season, **Cpl Dave Randle,** top goal scorer and team comedian and finally **Cpl Gary Melding** once an unheard of rugby player now famous, infamous even, for scoring spectacular own goals.

Way back in October the Troop held an inter-troop rugby match. Training started two weeks before the match in order that those who had never played before could be taught the basic rules on safety and tactics. The two teams were selected on past experience and the match turned out to be great fun, the final score being 16 points to 13. Unfortunately the only person injured was **Capt Field** the OC Troop and this was in training when tackled by **Sgt Lobb** (who has had no leave since)!

CATERING TROOP

'And now from Catering Troop!'

From the pen of **W/Cpl Conroy,** otherwise known as 'Inch High' (I cannot imagine why!).

Having served in the Regiment for some three years with all the ups and downs of restaurant life I thought I would start by putting the Catering Corps and the WRAC cooks on the map.

Catering Troop on parade at the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw
L to R: Pte Paddy Bennett, Cpl Gill Conroy, Mr Jochen De Klerk, Mrs Gerlinda Griffin, LCpl Tony Spellman, LCpl Julie Strangways, Pte Brian Lappage, Mrs Aida Marques, Frl Trixi Hennebruder, Cpl Colin Knight, Cpl Karen Francis

At present we have eight military and seven civilian cooks. The military consists of **SSgt** (Timmy Toad) **Scott, Sgt** (Benny Hedgehog) **Hill, Cpl** (Codger) **Knight, W/Cpl** (Inch High) **Conroy, W/LCpl** (Strangers) **Strangways, LCpl** (Look at me I'm good) **Spellman, Pte** (Spud) **Bennett** and **Pte** (Stud) **Lappage.** We take a full part in military, sporting and social life of the Regiment (when we are not producing buffets) with **LCpl Spellman** playing for the Regimental Football Team.

We recently welcomed **Sgt Hill, W/Cpl Westcott** and **Pte Lappage** to the troop and said farewell to **W/Cpl Francis** and **LCpl Adlington** with my turn coming in May.

Our last farewell was to our Messing Officer **Capt M. Hopkins,** who is succeeded by **Maj (QM) J. M. Haydon.**

There is a rumour that the whole Regiment put weight on during *Lionheart* when they all lived in barracks—that must say something for the hard work which we all enjoy doing, especially when it is appreciated, as it is in this Regiment!

SERGEANTS' MESS

The major social event in our calendar was the Christmas Draw. This was held on Friday 7 December in Mercury Barracks. The general view was that it was the best organised and most smoothly run Draw that had been held for many a year. This was obviously due to the hard work and endeavour of the Draw Committee led by **WO1 (YofS) Nick Naylor.** A full evening's entertainment ended in the early hours of Saturday morning with a champagne breakfast. Our commiserations to those who had to attend the Junior Ranks Christmas Draw that night.

CAMERA CLUB

The Regimental Camera Club continues to flourish, with many new members. A competition was held recently to find out if we have any photographers aspiring to be potential 'David Baileys'. The two most popular categories were Portrait and Sport. **Capt Gordon Blood** of Training Wing was awarded first prize for his portrait photograph and **Sgt Mac MacKenzie** came first with his photograph on Sport.

The Judge was **WO2 Andy Jones** from HQ BAOR who commended all entrants on the high standard.

Sgt Pete Goddard REME shot at speed by Sgt Mac MacKenzie

JUNIOR RANKS CLUB

In December last year the JRC challenged the Sergeants' Mess to a Snooker match and the stalwarts of the Mess rose to the occasion by sending round their Mess team who also play in the RCZ league. The JRC table was duly brushed and ironed and play commenced. After three black ball games the JRC led 2—1. The JRC then increased their lead by winning two out of the next three games but **CPO Len Fairclough** RN pulled the Mess back into the competition 4—3. The JRC then ran out winners 5—3 with a fine doubles performance, the teams were:

JRC	SERGEANTS' MESS
LCpl Al Hodgson	**SSgt (YofS) Dave Bowman**
LCpl Tony Spellman	**Sgt Vinny Hunter**
Sig Colin Tomlinson	**SSgt Dave McNulty**
Cpl Dave Simpson	**Sgt Taff Evans**
LCpl Eddie Edwards	**SSgt Geoff Carter**
Cpl Geoff Astill	**CPO Len Fairclough**

In a JRC Knockout Competition **Cpl Dave Simpson** won the champion's laurels four frames to two with his second win in three years. Our commiserations to the loser, **Cpl Geoff Astill.**

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

CHANGE OF BARRACKS

After yet another extremely busy period (will it ever stop?) the Regiment is now getting down to the business of changing barracks. We will be moving down into Celle to take over Taunton Barracks in early February.

. . . AND COMMAND

There have been some significant changes in the Regiment—the most notable being the departure of **Lt Col Bill Roper** to MOD and the arrival of **Lt Col Mike Shaw** from Shrivenham. **WO1 (RSM) Mick Fogg** has also left us, on his commissioning, and **WO1 (RSM) David Pimm** arrived amid a flurry of visits, exercises and the usual Christmas socialising. The 2IC **Maj Chris Urquhart** is about to leave us to follow **Col Roper** to MOD.

COMD COMMS VISITS N TP

On Thursday 29 November 1984 Commander Communications BAOR, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman** paid a brief visit to N Troop in our small camp at Wesendorf. Although he has seen the troop in the field this was his first visit to us in barracks. To mark the occasion, Cmd Comms planted a tree outside the camp. This is becoming something of a tradition as previously trees have been planted by **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield** who was CSO BAOR in 1970 and **Maj Gen H. A. J. Sturge** in 1977. By coincidence not only had the three Generals been Comd Comms BAOR at seven year intervals, two of them previous commanders of 12 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and all three had previously commanded 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Perhaps there is a lesson there for prospective Comd Comms!

Maj Gen Yeoman admires his handywork while WO2 Tony Bird is obviously in extreme pain and Capt Bill Mawer and Maj John Burnage carry out the drill movement 'Pullovers Straighten'

3 SQUADRON

After we had recovered from yet again playing on the baddies side in Exercise *Lionheart* ('Sorry mate, you can't replen here, we're Blue Forces') we looked to the next item on our calendar, the Mayor of Gloucester's visit. The buck was passed for writing an account of the day until it reached one of the most junior signalman. This is his account:

'As I have just joined 14 Sig Regt the Mayor of Gloucester's visit was my first parade with the Regiment. The Regiment marched on to the parade square at 1030 hrs in the morning. The parade consisted of all the Squadrons in the Regiment led by HQ Squadron. The weather was ideal although one of the puddles left from the rain the day before did mean a shower for some of us as we started on the 'Advance in Review Order'.

The Mayor inspected the parade while the Band of the 9/12 Lancers played background music. Before we marched off the Mayor made his speech. He was obviously impressed with the drill and turnout as he congratulated us during his speech.' (The USLO didn't take part in the parade although we wondered if he arranged the 'flypast' by two A10s during the inspection.)

The Mayor inspects the Parade

The Mayor presents the South Atlantic Medal with Rosette, to LCpl Steve Harrison, for service in the Falklands

RECENT DEPARTURES

Capt H. N. S. Colborn to Northern Ireland, **SSM Stone** detached to PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit for six months, **SSgt (SQMS) C. W. Cushnie, SSgt P. E. Marven** to Edinburgh OTC, **Cpls W. F. Abbott, R. Clarke, G. Yeomans, LCpl A. J. McAuley, Sig Hawes, R. J. McFarlane, M. G. Hearn** and **Mrs. Jean Hopla** (Sqn Clerk).

RECENT ARRIVALS

Capt T. J. P. Bryning, SSgt (YofS) H. Elkan, SSgts D. Mann, I. D. Blacklaw, J. Doak, Cpls K. O'Riordan, M. P. May, LCpl N. Hayden, Sig S. Burns, G. Donoghue, P. A. Moulson, E. A. Pearson.

Many of the Squadron thought **Sgt Catterall** had also left us as he has been on so many courses. This is one of the stories he has told to explain his absence:

EXERCISE *FIRST STEP*

'Busy **Sgt Catterall**? No, good, then your orders are to feed a lion; Oh take **Cpl Brown** with you — he can interview a stripper at the same time'. This was an example of two tasks given for an initiative weekend from Catterick. Our other tasks were: interview a DJ, make a speech in a city centre and interview a sex shop manager.

SIMPLE RULES

The rules were simple, don't spend any money, do everything in the best possible style and don't get arrested. So bags packed we set off to the A1 to hitch a lift to wherever. Almost immediately we got a lift, destination Manchester. On arrival our first priority was to find accommodation, we spotted the lights of the Grand Hotel and agreed that that would do for starters. Strange looks from the doorman, not to worry, straight up to the desk and ask for the manager. He was intrigued with our story and agreed to put us up, but as payment we had to scrub the walls of the kitchen ('Done this somewhere before' mumbled **Mick**).

NO PROBLEMS

Next day we were introduced to the Hotel PR rep, **Miss Linda Wateley** and promptly told to report to Piccadilly Radio to be interviewed by their DJ, **Suzy Mathis**. We had been granted three minutes air time, but the tables turned, we had to interview her. We got a lot of 'ers' and 'ums' into three minutes and we were not offered permanent employment. Back to the Hotel, only to be told that a journalist from the Manchester Evening News wanted us to keep in touch as he wanted to do a story on us.

Next task, off to the nearest strip club. There we encountered **Julia**, who was really overjoyed at being interviewed. We in turn learnt quite a bit about the business but I couldn't see why **Mick** was sweating. At the end of the interview we were given a coffee and invited to watch the rest of the show. 'Lots of gaberdine macs in here **Steve**' Temperature outside 80°.

Not wanting to outstay our welcome at the Grand we decided to change hotels. Piccadilly five star was next. No problem at all, they had heard us on the radio, so we booked in there and agreed to help dress a float for them for the Lord Mayor's Carnival the next day. 'Have two tickets for our disco tonight, complimentary of course'. So we felt obliged to attend, that was after our five course meal and brandy.

THE PUSH

Next day having been wined and dined (and given a couple of Asprin from the porter) we completed our bit of work and set out to the City Square where I gave a lecture on 'The values of Communism'. **Mick** was employed as chief heckler, the only problem was a couple of rather large gentlemen who asked us to move on!

VERY WELCOME

We had decided to move on to Blackpool, armed with free tickets thanks to National Coaches. We bought a copy of the Evening News, and on page three was our story 'The Toffs of War take City by Storm'. Smiles all around, we felt jubilant and confident that we could do no wrong. The Metropole Hotel in Blackpool accepted us eagerly as the doorman had seen the story that morning. Again we were made very welcome. We enquired if they had any personalities staying, 'only Status Quo in the morning I'm afraid, be in the lounge at 0630 hrs'.

To while away the time we went on to Blackpool Zoo so I could feed the lion. It must have been a common occurrence as the manager said 'Not another one'. We spent the rest of the afternoon talking to and being entertained by **Lenny Henry**. He invited us to join him on stage and for a few moments we felt the experience of appearing in front of thousands of people — fantastic.

Unfortunately Status Quo were very late and we had an early start the next day for our trip to Torver in the Lake District and the end of our weekend.

I'm pleased to say that everyone we approached was exceedingly helpful. If anyone reading this has the opportunity of attending a Leadership Course at Catterick, then do so. It gives you the rare opportunity of not only learning about yourself, but other people as well.'

EXERCISE *WHITE LIGHTNING*

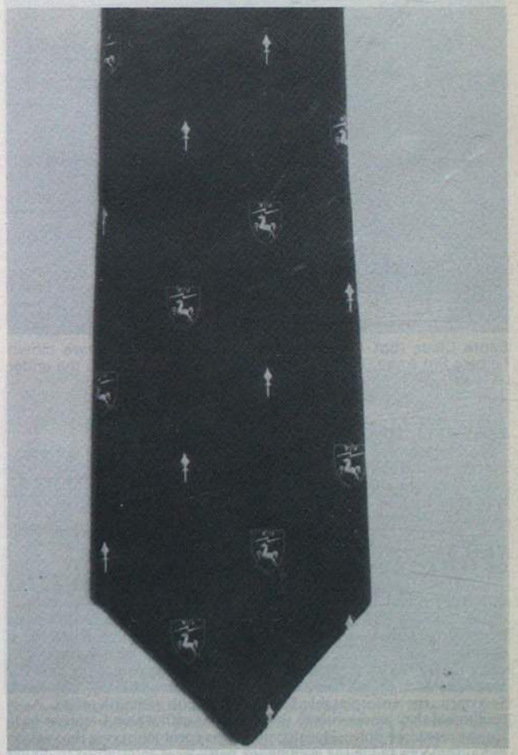
A Regimental FTX, passed quietly apart from the attacks by the live enemy and **Sgt Grogan** getting two box bodies to 'mate' in the dark. As the live enemy prompted the issue of blank and pyro the USLO, **Capt 'Frost' Haenchen**, was given a full working demonstration of the thunderflash and now knows exactly how long the fuse will burn.

PREPARATIONS

The Squadron is now preparing for two major events. Firstly, a mass of lectures and range work to prepare for our ARU. Secondly, planning for our move into Taunton Barracks in the centre of Celle in early '85 and the occupation of the accommodation block, the 'biggest brick-built building in Europe' (try saying that when you've had a few beers).

NEW REGIMENTAL TIE

There is now a new approved 14 Sig Regt (EW) Regimental tie. For past members interested in purchasing one, contact PRI, 14 Sig Regt (EW). The cost of the tie is £4.50 (including p&p) and is a most wearable design, unlike its predecessor!



16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

CHRISTMAS JOY AND RUHR SMOG

The hectic full days leading up to Christmas were followed by the lazy days of a prolonged break and then into icy January. Throughout the month we were subject to freezing temperatures, heavy snow and, to cap it all, three days of smog. The filth of the Ruhr hanging over us like a foul smelling blanket.

The first smog alert in West Germany's history went as quickly as it arrived with mild south westerly winds dispersing the smog and snow and heralding the arrival of Spring—we hope. Meanwhile life in the Regiment went on apace—preparations for *Wintex*, pre ARU inspections, interspersed with a busy sporting programme, despite the weather.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Of all the Christmas festivities, perhaps the liveliest, noisiest and hungriest are the children's parties. On the afternoon of 20 December three simultanous parties for the different age groups took place. As is now traditional the children from Marianum Orphanage joined the Regimental children for an enjoyable afternoon of games, dancing and eating which led up to the arrival of Santa Claus by helicopter. A triumphant and exciting end to a riotous afternoon.

Santa Claus (Sgt Andy Chalmers) accompanied by two clown helpers Sgt Anne Gillan and Cpl Kath Foster en route to the under seven year old party

FAREWELL TO LONG SERVING ADJUTANT

In December we said our farewells to our long serving Adjutant. **Maj Richard Hoole** has been Adjutant of the Regiment for over three years—perhaps a Corps record? We wish him and his wife **Muriel** the best of luck in the UK where **Richard** will be attending Staff College course at Shrivenham and Camberley.

VISIT BY LORD MAYOR AND LADY MAYORESS OF LEICESTER

For those readers who are past or present members of 16, the fact that Krefeld and Leicester are twinned will not be news. As a result of this active twinning arrangement, there are regular reciprocal visits by the Lord Mayor of Leicester and Oberburgermeister of Krefeld to each others cities. In mid January, at the height of the big freeze and smog the Lord Mayor, **Mr M. Cufflin OBE** accompanied by the Lady Mayoress **Mrs M. Cufflin**, Councillor and **Mrs Hill** and the Town Secretary, the unforgettable **Mr Stanley Smith** visited Krefeld. As is traditional they paid a visit to the Regiment with whom Leicester have forged very close links. The afternoon was spent in touring the various establishments and in the evening the party were entertained to dinner in the officers mess.

The CO Lt Col I. E. Kerr greets the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester on their arrival in the barracks. Sgt 'Big John' Berry assists

BASKETBALL

At the time of writing the 1984-85 season is still in full swing. Fortunes have been mixed in the RCZ Div 1 league. At long last however, the making of a good team are there under the guidance of team captain **Sgt Dave (three pointer) Pope** and **Sgt Andy (Thug) Horn**, team trainer and sadist.

Our biggest success to date has been winning the RCZ stage of the BAOR championships held at Caernarvon Barracks, Dusseldorf on 23, 24 January. The Regiment last won this event in 1976-77. Our first game against 21 Sig Regt proved to be a hard fought affair with the Regiment 26—16 down at half time. By sheer hard work and an avalanche of scoring from **LCpl Eddie (Rubber lips) Williams**, the team won through 45—35.

The next match against Rheindahlen Garrison proved to be a more comfortable win by 69 points to 21. **LCpl Andy Baughan** scored 26 of the total. The final drew us against our old neighbours and rivals, 28 Sig Regt, from St Tonis. In the event the Regiment won 73—29 after some sterling work in defence by **Cpl Alex 'I can score my own' Alexander, Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** and good fast breaks from **Sig Eric Ross** and **LCpl Eddie Williams.**

Sgt Dave Pope cunningly advertising PRI tracksuits whilst collecting the RCZ Basketball Championship cup from a familiar face Col P. S. Reader

The outcome of the competition means that we now go forward to the Pool B stage of the BAOR championships in Sennelager. **LCpl Eddie Williams** has been selected for BAOR trials.

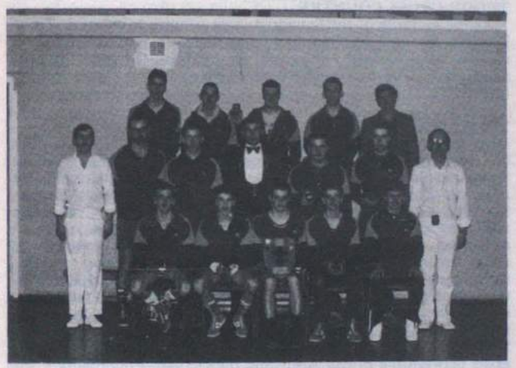
Finally **Sgt Andy (Thug) Horn** has asked me not to mention the fact that he accumulated so many personal fouls in one match that he had to go off, so I won't!

BOXING—HQ (BR) RCZ NOVICES GRADE THREE BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP

This year proved to be our year for a Boxing success. On 25 January our small squad of boxers took on last year's winners 28 (BR) Sig Regt. The squad of 14 trained very hard for about four weeks and on the night only two of the boxers had boxed before, (we had a bye to the final). 28 Sig Regt who beat 21 Sig Regt in the semi-final looked confident, but this was soon shattered when the first three bouts went to us including a 16 second KO by **Sig Jock Gunn**. Bouts four and five went to 28 Sig Regt on close decisions. The sixth bout looked to be going to 28 Sig Regt when **Sig Bob Malvern** finally got inside his opponents long reach and produced a vicious right, which resulted in a KO for us. The seventh went to 28 Sig Regt on a decision and then in came the heavyweights. **Sig Jock Lindsay** (16 SR) took about 15 seconds of continual pressure from 28's **Sig McTague** and then proceeded to bury **McTague** in an avalanche of punches which resulted in a KO (and unfortunately a broken thumb for **McTague**). The last bout was a good exhibition of boxing which the Regiment's **Sig Nick Collins** won on a decision.

Final result: 16 Sig Regt RCZ Champions six bouts to three.

The standard of Boxing was 'of a very high standard' considering so many had no previous bouts. Both teams were congratulated on their sportsmanship, aggression and effort. A special mention must go to **Cpl Mac McIntosh** (and his assistant **WO2 Gary Mason**) for the training/beasting and we look forward to the match against the Hampshires for a place in the BAOR semi-finals.



Our victorious boxing team photographed with the RSM WO1 J. Bonnett shortly after defeating 28 Sig Regt

BRADBURY BARRACKS HISTORICAL ROOM

About 12 months ago **Lt David Burden** and **Lt Phil Osment** were given the task of starting a Bradbury Barracks Historical Room which is now taking shape. In their quest for material they have unearthed a wealth of fascinating information and photographs of Krefeld and the barracks, both before and after the Second World War. They have also made contact with the original occupants of the barracks, then known as Adolf von Nassau Kaserne. They were 6 Panzer Division Aufklärung Abteilung who saw service in Poland and Russia during Second World War. The Chairman of their Old Comrades Association **Oberst (Retd) D. Müller** has taken a particular interest in the venture and on 28 January 1985 accompanied by other old comrades visited the Regiment and presented a history of 6 Panzer Division to the Regiment. We look forward to April when over 200 ex members of the Division visit the barracks, which is largely unchanged since their days, for a trip down memory lane.

Oberst (Retd) D. Müller (*extreme left*) and other ex members of 6 Panzer Division with the OC Lt Col I. E. Kerr after the presentation of their Divisional history

PRESENTATION BY MINISTER

As reported in the last issue, our WRAC team which competed in a military skills competition organised by WBK 3 were invited to the W German Ministry of Defence in Bonn where they met the Minister of Defence Herr Manfred Wörner MdB. The photographs show Herr Wörner meeting the team. *From L to R:* Cpl Cath Truby, Pte Dee Pugh and 2Lt Pauline Lucas

CANOEISTS

Our very successful canoeists photographed with the CO and their many trophies: *Back Row:* Sig Glen Martin, Al Northcott, John Harris, LCpl Cactus Custus, Sgts Steve Penn, Kev Truby *Front Row:* Cpl Cath Truby, Pte Anne Lindsey, CO and LCpl Melanie Crowther

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

A SOBERING THOUGHT

The Christmas Decorations are now away in the cupboard for yet another year. The pants and groans can be heard amongst those trying to 'lose' the evidence of too much Christmas Fayre. The holiday brochures are out, recces are being planned for Summer Camps, all evidence of the fact that 1985 has arrived. Still there are only 327 action packed shopping days to Christmas. A sobering thought!

SKI-ING IN MONSCHAU

Members of 1 Sqn decided to take advantage of the recent snowfalls and spend Saturday on the slopes of Monschau. Our intrepid driver, **Sig 'Moz' Morris**, eventually got us to our destination in spite of many stops to play with the windscreen wipers. After the inevitable 'pre-ski', which involved much swopping of skies and boots until they all matched, **LCpl Ken Jarvis** was the first to test whether the complete assembly worked. It will never be known whether his sudden disappearance was intentional. **Lt Johnson's** skis didn't work, so she gave a quick demonstration of how easy it is to go all the way down without using skis at all.

LADIES TOO

The other two ladies in the group, **Pat Jackson** and **Chris Morris**, managed to retain their dignity, and by the end of the morning were a lot drier than **Sig 'Nobby' Hall**, who had developed a particular style all of his own. He did leave some snow behind for the other skiers, and **LCpl Brindle** and **Sig Hepple** demonstrated their skills at 'egging it'. In spite of a good night the night before, **Sig Brennan** still made it as far as Monschau, we can but say he was there in spirit.

BRAVO TROOP

Now that we have all returned from too much turkey and Christmas Pud, the Troop has settled back into the routine of preparing vehicles for Exercises or the multitude of inspections (Is it UMI tomorrow or the Troop OC's or even PRE?).

For the first day back, the Squadron Commander, **Maj Tim Bushell**, decided that the Squadron should work off some of the Christmas excesses with just a 'little' exercise and so, at 0800 hours on an icy morning, we found ourselves entrusted to the tender mercies of **QMSI** 'Just a little jog lads' **Wilson.** Six miles later after various members of the Troop had compared breakfasts we all decided that the OC had made a grave mistake!

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Desperate Dan' Jenkins** on his forthcoming promotion on posting to 7 Sig Regt. We hope that he likes it there—their gain is our loss. Also we say goodbye to **LCpl 'Fag End' Fagan** (the Corporals' Mess will never be the same without him!) and **Sig 'Ginna' Davies**, both on their way to sunny 1 Div. We welcome **Cpl 'Boss' Hogg** and his family to the Troop and hope that they enjoy their stay with us (OC Troop has been told that you are good with a typewriter so watch out when the next *Wire Notes* are due—no, you can't leave then!—OC).

DELTA TROOP

January saw us return to work full of mince pies, turkey and beer. Looking back over 1984, it was a good year highlighted by Exercise *Lionheart* with lots of effort put in by everyone.

It also saw some old faces leave and some new ones arrive, **Sig Dunn** and **Brennan** have left and we wish them well in their new posts. **LCpls Thacker** and **Thrumble** (sounds like a double act) and **Sig Graham** and **Pollard** arrived to join us, and we hope that they enjoy their stay with us.

What lies ahead for us? Looking at the diary it promises to be quite busy with Exercise *Wintex*, Exercise *Frosty Comfort*, Exercise *Flying Falcon*, and many more. There is not a lot to say about this year yet but if hard work is required I can see 1985 being a very rewarding year.

2 SQN CHANGEOVER

Maj David Richardson has now left us and 2 Sqn now 'belongs' to **Maj Pat Maloney**, late staff HQ 1 (BR) Corps. We wish **Maj Richardson** well and welcome **Maj Maloney** to Osnabruck.

NEWS FROM ECHO TROOP

The Troop has said farewell to several old hands including **Cpls Phil King, Ritchie Cousins, LCpl Pete Allen** and **Sig Pete Primarolo.** We have had a lot of new lads posted in over the last few months. The most recent arrivals are **LCpls Andy Dowdle, Morgan, McGirr, Sig Lloyd** and **Bob Hope.**

EXERCISE *WINTER ECHO*

Winter Echo was a Troop training exercise in early December. It started with **Sgt John Bowers** looking very green as he jumped out of a Puma. He claimed the pilot had 'L' plates—we believe you! Everyone dug a defensive position which was attacked throughout the night. Who needs sleep anyway?

The only casualties of a dawn attack by F Troop were the sleeping bag of **Sig Erroll Ricketts** and **Sully Sullivan** which received 50% burns from smoke grenades. **LCpl Grizzly Sanders** suffered heart failure after the Troop OC **Lt Mark Baines** sneaked up on him in a patrol base. By this stage everyone was getting into the swing of things including **Cpl Shuggy Cowan** who kept his 'fighting hat' on his head 24 hours a day. This two and a half day jaunt finished with a gas attack and a tab back into barracks. The smell of free beer kept everyone smiling.

TROOP CROSS COUNTRY

As the majority of the Squadron cross country team are E Troop lads they deserve a mention. The squad members are OC Troop, **Cpl Cowan, LCpl 'Splash' Longworth, Sig Sullivan, 'Bopper' Bromiley** and **Greaves**. The team regularly gains high placings in the Westphalia league.

WE MARCH ON

We have been in Osnabruck for over a year now. During that time we have established ourselves as members of the community. Our last foray into the local landscape brought success on two fronts. Five members of the Squadron **Lt Mark Baines, LCpl 'Backpack' Bergen, Sig 'Pip' Giddings, 'Flounder' Anderson** and **'Bopper' Bromiley** under the expert tutelage of **Capt Paul Nicholson-Taylor** took part and won the 5th International Voxtruper Marschwettberb in December of last year. The photographs show the winning team and their prizes, and also the trophy being presented to **Lt Mark Baines** by **Oberstleutnant Der Reserve Bernd Oschmann.** The second facet of the success revolves around previous and future participation, by the members of the Squadron, in local military and sporting activities. Such participation actively enhances the friendly relationship that exists between the British Army and the German Community.

THE WINNING TEAM
Standing L to R: LCpl 'Backpack' Bergen, Lt 'Mark' Baines, Sig 'Pip' Giddings, 'Bopper' Bromily and 'Flounder' Anderson

REGIMENTAL RUGBY TEAM—BRCZ CHAMPIONS 1984—1985
Standing L to R: SSgt Woodmason, Sgt Chapman, Sig Lewis, Cpl Loveridge, Sig John, Sgt Allen, Cpl Tully, Sig Devitt, Cpl Gabb, Sgt Baker, Sgt Garrett
Kneeling L to R: LCpl Fulton, Cpl Fielding, LCpl Rock, Sig Jones, LCpl Bailey, Cpl Snow, WO2 Johnson, Sig Robertson, LCpl Heaton (REME), Cpl Pritchard, LCpl Dowdle

RUGBY

12 December 1984 saw all of the Regiment's Rugby players together for only the third time in the Rear Communications Zone final against the undefeated 28 (BR) Sig Regt. Straight away from the kick off all players and spectators knew that a good hard game was forth coming. In the eleventh minute **LCpl 'Andy' Dowdle** cleaned up on one of 28 Sig Regt's loose balls and passed the ball to the threes. **Sig 'Eddy' John** on the wing made 40 metres before passing to the team Captain, **WO2 (SSM) 'Trev' Johnson. Sig 'Johna' Jones** supporting well, finished off with a try, **LCpl 'Bill' Bailey** failed to convert. Midway into the first half saw the Regimental team getting their game together with good supporting play and hard tackling. They were unlucky to find themselves trailing 4—6 at half time.

Four minutes into the second half **LCpl 'Archie' Fulton** cleaned up from a line out and sent **Sig Jones** on a run down the wing after poor tackling by 28 Sig Regt he was finally brought down five metres short of touch. Good firm set play enabled **Cpl 'Marty' Fielding** to score a try. Score 8—6 **Cpl 'Bill' Pritchard** became injured and after treatment from **SSgt 'Bill' Woodmason** was replaced by **Cpl 'Bob' Snow.** Midway into the second half we were proving to be the fitter side. **Cpl Fielding** after winning the ball from a short line out distributed the ball and then supported well to enable himself to score his second try, **Sgt 'Bill' Allen** converted to widen the gap to 14—6. 28 Sig Regt got a penalty in front of our posts bringing their score to nine, this was to be their last scoring chance of the game.

We went on to win 29—9, with **Sgt 'Billy' Allen** scoring one more penalty and converting two tries taking his tally to nine points. **Sig 'Ginge' Divett** scored a good individual try between the posts. Finally **WO2 'Trev' Johnson**, with what he claims was the majority of 28 Sig Regt's team on his back, scored the final try in the thirty ninth minute of the second half. This was a fine all round performance by the Regiment. The next round of the BAOR Cup sees us being drawn against the might of the 1 Bn RRW. Although a home tie for the Regiment, a hard game will obviously be the order of the day.

CROSS COUNTRY—RCZ CHAMPIONSHIPS

We had our biggest field of the season for the championships at Krefeld on 23 November 1984, on a strenuous muddy course. With seven from Osnabruck and several first times from this end, we fielded three teams of ten. Although one or two runners were below par, several had their best run of the season. Once again **Gaz Wilson** was our first man home at seventh, **Les Drage** had an excellent run to finish fourteenth and **Neil Allamby** came sixteenth in his first race of the season.

The two top runners from 2 Sqn also had fine runs to come thirteenth, young **Sig Greaves** and twentieth was **Jock Gowan.** Some of our middle order men who had a good race were **Dave Purnell, Neil Johnstone, Hank Potts, Nick Dalton** and **Billy Reilly. Derek Coker** made sure that all our tail enders finished the course by chasing them up the last hill! In fact he expended so much energy doing this, he was unable to face a consolation beer on the bus. Unfortunately the Regimental Team could only manage third and therefore had to relinquish the trophy they have held for the last two years.

Lt Johnstone had another fine run in the WRAC race to come a very creditable thirteenth.

The last race of 1984 took place on a slightly modified course at AFCENT on 19 December 1984. With so many people away on leave and involved in Christmas activities, the total field was reduced to around 120 and as such, produced a good chance of obtaining a good finish position.

REGIMENTAL SOCCER

At the halfway stage in the season the Regimental Team have had a fair run of success. Despite an early exit from the Army Cup at the hand of 19 Fd Regt RA, the team have gone from strength to strength.

The first major success of the season was the winning of the BAOR Royal Signals Seven-A-Side competition at 28 (BR) Sig Regt in St Tonis. The final against the hosts was a close match with the Regiment winning 1—0 from a **Cpl 'Jimmy' Millar** goal.

The Regiment has completed only six of its 16 fixtures in the NRISFL Division Two league, but at this stage of the season are third in the league with 11 points from 12, five points behind the leaders with five games in hand, and only three points behind the second team with three games in hand. However, with a long way to go and many hard fixtures to come, nobody is getting over-confident.

BRCZ MAJOR UNITS KNOCKOUT CUP

Saturday 15 December 1984 saw a crisp sunny morning in Rheindahlen where the home team, Rheindahlen Garrison, were hosts to the Regiment in the first Semi-Final of the Competition. Garrison were confident after their 9—7 victory over 13 Sig Regt in November in the previous round. However, '21', with their League form giving them an unbeaten run for six games were not to be over-awed.

Good work by both midfields confirmed that a fine game was on the cards. The mid field trio of the Regiment **Cpl 'Shents' Shenton, LCpl 'Les' Drage** and **Sig 'Tony' Blatcher** soon got into gear and in the 23rd minute, skipper **Cpl 'Shents' Shenton** hit a hard, low shot from just outside the 18 yard area which **Sgt 'Gaz' Wilson** slotted into the net. A penalty from **Cpl 'Jimmy' Millar** followed by two fine solo efforts, with **Sgt 'Gaz' Wilson** getting his second saw the Regiment go in at half time 5—0 up. Only an expertly executed 'off-side' trap and good work from **WO1 Dudding** in the Garrison goal kept the score down. In the second half, the Regiment came to grips with the 'off-side' trap and goals, from **Sgt 'Gaz' Wilson** (two) and **Cpl 'Jimmy' Millar** (one) in the first eight minutes of the half saw the Regiment 8—0 in front. Although trailing 8—0, Garrison made plenty of running and kept the pressure on the Regiment's back four. But with **Cpl** (now **Sgt**) **'Phil' Rosslee** in good form in goal, **Sig 'Jimmy' Dahlstrom, 'Geordie' Robinson, SSgt 'Alex' Hamilton** and **Cpl 'John' Richards** all playing well the Regiment kept a 'clean sheet'. With **Sgt 'Gaz' Wilson** getting his fifth, **Sig 'Tiny' Blatcher,** and **LCpl 'Les' Drage** getting their first and **LCpl 'Adey' Rose** a deserved first the Regiment ran out 12—0 winners. We now play the winners of the other semi-final between 16 and 28 Sig Regt.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

FROHE WEINACHTEN!

Father Christmas came rather early to Churchill Barracks this year! On Christmas eve he flew in, not in a sleigh with reindeer, but a seasonally decorated helicopter which parked on the sports field (owing to the lack of suitable chimneys). In fact our special Christmas visitor was **Herr Joseph Raulf**, the Landesrat Kreis Soest who brought a Christmas hamper for all those on duty over the festive season. In true British style, the Landesrat was entertained with sherry and mince pies, courtesy of the duty Chef, before departing again in his festive helicopter for the North Pole (via Soest).

Later the hamper was donated to a local old people's home.

'Mince Pies, 'shun!' The RSM, WO1 Phil Daisey commands the festive reception for Herr Joseph Raulf on Christmas Eve. IC sherry is Sgt Paul Ratcliffe and IC mince pies is Pte John Rennie

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Over the last few months we have said goodbye to:
Maj Brian Lawry (OC LAD), **Capt Gareth Vincenti** (our doctor), **Capt Rod Thomas, Lt Julia Hands, WO1 Eric Rose, WO2 (YofS) Dave Weston** and **WO2 (YofS) John Haycock.** We wish them well in their next postings.

We also welcome the new arrivals over this period:
Maj Mike Martin (2IC). **Maj John Richardson** (QM(A)), **Capt Chris Jones** (OC LAD), **Capt Mike Jackson** (the new doctor), **WO1 (FofS) Russ Davey, WO1 Tony Cartwright** and **WO1 (YofS) Len Harvey.**

INTER SQUADRON BADMINTON COMPETITION

Just before the Christmas break, there was a welcome distraction from the festivities—the inter squadron badminton tournament. It was run as a league (to give us plenty of practice) over ten days, and showed a remarkable improvement in the standard of play towards the end.

The results were: First: Headquarters Squadron; Second: Commcen Echo.

BAOR BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to **Capt Peter McLoughlin** and **Cpl John Patterson**, whose performance in the BAOR Badminton Championships earned them second place in the doubles event, against extremely tough opposition.

A COOK'S TOUR OF EXERCISE *SNOW QUEEN* 85
Report by WO2 (SQMS) BMV Jones ACC

Although called an exercise, *Snow Queen* is nothing like any exercise I've done in my time in the Army. I wouldn't go so far as to call it a holiday, although it was most enjoyable, for as one instructor said, 'There are a lot of tired teddy bears about', he doesn't know just how right he was.

After the long journey we were allocated a bed space, (double and shared) and given a satisfying meal. The course was then briefed and kitted out with boots and skis, ready for the following morning. With a substantial breakfast inside us, we headed for the slopes, to be split up into two, skiers and non skiers. Myself being one of the latter we were led away, walking like penguins, to the gentle slopes to begin our training. Gentle! I hadn't worked so hard or perspired so much in a long time.

The basics we were being taught and practising at great length proved to be very necessary later on. After a hard morning's graft we were taken further up the Dorf by way of the T Bar, an event in itself to us at this stage. As we gingerly lined up we couldn't help but notice three and four year olds hurtling past us at breakneck speeds, wondering when we could perform our Banzai runs. Slowly our skiing improved and we began to negotiate the slopes with confidence, mainly due to the excellent teaching we received. Our progress was to be halted though, for the changeover to Langlauf.

Despite what we had heard about it, Langlauf turned out to be quite enjoyable though very tiring. It was on the Sunday the fun began, with the arrival of an SSVC Video Team. Had I known I was to inadvertently be the star of the show, I would have gone sick or defected, especially as our CO had joined us. Anyway after warming up on the skis we were asked to perform gentle snow ploughs for the camera, on those thin planks! What a disaster. Having craftily put an extra coating of wax on my skis to help me grip on the uphill sections I then found I couldn't go down and I really fell for the camera, several times in fact. Everyone else found it hilarious and were left with tears in their eyes. So despite the odd burst of professional looking Langlaufing it was all ups and downs for me.

The second week began with us all eager to hurtle down like Klammer clones, with a schuss and a pose at the bottom. Having had a bad nose dive the previous week, I was ready to attack the slopes and we certainly did. We were well prepared for it and were soon skiing quite proficiently. However by Wednesday we were still waiting for a snowfall and the slopes were getting bare. Rain came and we grudgingly left the slopes, to find alternative activities. With friends, I made for the Nebelhornbahn (Cable Car) and a trip to the top of the mountain, followed by a sauna and 'jaccusi' (how the other half lives).

There are plenty of activities for the evenings including an evening 10 Pin Bowling at Kempten which was very reasonable. Ice skating was cheap as well. So alas with no snow on the way the three of us decided to return to Lippstadt and work. 'Mugs!' They had seven inches of snow the next day. Still it was a good course and due to the teaching I feel confident I can tackle any slope I'm likely to come across. I shall most certainly be doing a lot more skiing from now on and would say to anyone, if you get the chance of going on Exercise *Snow Queen*, go!

INTERNATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY!

As a result of recent successes in BAOR Cross Country events, the Regimental team were selected to represent BAOR against the French Forces in a race at Rheindahlen.

Hardy, as ever, the team set off at 0730 hrs on the day of the race, with plenty of time to warm up on the start line—or so we thought. An hour and a half later, stranded in Dortmund in sub-zero temperatures thanks to the ever reliable PRI minibus, enthusiasm was beginning to wane. Fortunately we were rescued by a minibus from 19 Field Regt and managed to complete the journey.

In spite of the bitterly cold conditions, not conducive to good times, the international standard field ensured that the race was fast. BAOR came an honourable second, with 22 Sig Regt runners placed as follows:

8th	**SSgt Gerry Hegarty**
20th	**Master Richard Wood**
25th	**Cpl Tony Mee**
27th	**WO2 (FofS) Bonner Law**
40th	**Sig Paul Wicks**
41st	**Cpl Steve Geater**
43rd	**Cpl Gordon Whale**

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

BOXING—RCZ SEMI FINAL

On 11 December the semi final of the RCZ Boxing Championships against 21 Sig Regt was held in Bradbury Barracks. What promised to be an excellent evening's boxing was slightly marred by three walk overs, two for us and one for 21 Sig Regt. The first bout was stopped in the second round due to a bad cut above **Sig 'Lt' Tait's** ear. The remainder of the evening produced mixed results with **LCpl 'Spike' Forbes, Sig O'Hara** and **LCpl Clancy** winning their bouts. At the end of a close contest 28 Sig Regt finished on top with five bouts to four.

RCZ FINAL

After beating 21 Sig Regt we were through to the final. From our success in last year's Championships we were favourites to win against 16 Sig Regt. However, both teams started the evening of 25 January confident of winning. **Maj Gen A. Yeoman** was present at the contest and met both teams before taking his seat at the ringside.

Maj Gen Yeoman meets the boxers before the contest. *L to R:* Sig Leyland, Sig Tait, LCpl Forbes, Sig Launchbury

The evening started off badly when our first three boxers were beaten—**Sig 'BL' Leyland** lost; the referee stopped the contest in round two; **Cpl 'Dill' Dillon** lost on points and **Sig 'Lt' Tait** was knocked out in the first round. Morale was high in 16 Sig Regt camp, but started to dwindle as the next two bouts were taken by us. **LCpl Forbes** boxing against **Sig Richardson** produced the most exciting bout of the evening, with **Richardson** putting **Forbes** down in the first round. **Forbes** recovered well to box a very cool bout, winning it by a unanimous decision. **Sig Rick Thorne** won the next bout with a majority decision over **Sig Evans**

The good fortune was not to last for the sixth bout.

Sig Dave Cox, who appeared to be winning the first two rounds, was caught by a good right from **Sig Malvern** and was down for the count. In the light/heavyweight bout **LCpl Tony Walls** boxed a very good bout against **Sig Northcott** and ended up a worthy unanimous winner. The Regiment needed to win the last two bouts to take the Trophy home, but unfortunately all hopes were lost when **Sig Bob McTague** was knocked out at the start of the first round. Although the winners of the evening were decided, **Sig 'Launch' Launchbury** fought the final bout as though there was still a chance of winning. In spite of a hard fought bout, when **Launchbury** seemed to be on top, he lost the bout on points.

COMMANDER COMMS PRESENTS PRIZES

Maj Gen A. Yeoman presented the prizes to the winners and runners up, and commented on how fit both teams were. Congratulations to 16 Sig Regt on their victory, and well done to all the 28 Sig Regt team, including those who did the training but were not in the team on the night, and to **SSgt John McGonigle** for all the hard work involved in training and motivating the team.

The Boxing Team. *L to R Back Row:* Sig Imrie, Parry, Tillyer, Johnston, Garlick, O'Kelly
Centre Row: LCpl Forbes, Cpl Dillon, Sig Thorne, Tait, Launchbury, McTague, LCpl Walls, Sig Cox
Front Row: Sig Leyland, SSgt McGonigle (trainer), Capt D. Rimmer RPC (Boxing Officer), WO1 (RSM) P. Bawden, Sgt Richards (asst trainer), Cpl Shergold

SUPPORT SQUADRON GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

It started off as any other day, with me entering RHQ to start telling people why they hadn't got their 1985 Diaries yet (it was late November), when all of a sudden there came a cry from the Chief's **(WO2 (ORQMS) Bob Davies')** office closely resembling a Walrus giving birth. It was in fact one simple word, **'Reid'** (that meant me). On receipt of the command I streaked into his office (as one would) and said 'Who me? What have I done now Chief?', expecting the worst, I stood braced. The Chief looked up from his desk at me (I quivered) and said in a very pleased voice **'I've just lemoned you for** the Support Squadron Christmas Draw Committee'. Much as I pleaded and begged, it soon became apparant that I was stuck with it.

Approximately four weeks from the day, I along with the other members of the committee, were released from incarceration within the bowels of Support Squadron **(Cpl Dave Winter RAPC, Cpl 'Bomber' Leigh,** MT Troop, **LCpl 'Robo' Robertson REME, Ptes 'Mos' Mostert** and **'Geordie' Gilchrist RPC, Sig Jim Shepherd** (Now 2 Sqn), **Cpl 'Ralph' Nichol REME,** to name but a few) to be moulded into an effective team of swindlers and con artists (we had to be to get the money off **WO2 (SSM) Phil Lee)** by **Sgt Rubin Lynch,** our pet RPC SNCO. We then started on the not so small task of transforming Mountbatten Hall from its normally bare and forbiding interior (with help from the other Squadrons) into a warm and welcoming cavern, with a few cleverly concealed Camnets and Flags.

All too soon the night was upon us, and at 1830 hrs the band arrived and set up. It was then that we noticed the lack of liquid refreshments or 'Sherbets'. Just as we were about to call in Sherlock Holmes, the bar (complete with 'Sherbets') arrived. From then on everything went smoothly, with all the guests seated by 2030 hrs.

The music was ably provided by the very good Cabaret Band (**Pete Kelly** Band) and the disco was very well presented by **WO2 (Boggie) Marsh.** An excellent buffet was provided by **Cpl** (now **Sgt**) **Jeffery** and his buffet team and as usual it was of a very high standard. All too soon the night began to come to an end but it was around one o'clock in the morning.

The next morning the committee was left with a hollow feeling as we surveyed what had once been a very nice setting, which now looked as if a bomb had hit it. But all the hard work had paid off, because, to quote an Officer in the Squadron, 'It was one of the best Squadron level draws he had ever been to'.

Thanks to everyone who made it a night to be remembered and enjoyed by all. See you next year.

1 SQUADRON
EXERCISE *FRAN FREEZE*

On 7 January, amid some of the worst weather Nord Rhein Westfalia had seen for many years, a highly motivated group of men from the Squadron paraded at Francisca Barracks with the aim of deploying on Exercise *Fran Freeze.*

The exercise, planned by the Squadron 2IC, **Capt Les Plumb**, was designed to practise personnel in minor infantry tactics and basic skills, whilst operating in winter conditions. In day temperatures rarely above −9°C we prepared to deploy to Haltern ATA amidst rumours that the exercise had been cancelled. Morale was high. Our sister Squadron, 2 Sqn, were not deploying (Had they got 'cold feet?') The change in weather had caused the Ex OIC and SSM (**WO2 Terry Marsh**) to rethink the aims. The Sqn Tech Storeman, **Lcpl** 'Yashimoto' **Kendall** collected together the stores for plan B. Tents, heaters, camp beds, No 1 burners, parkas and the rum ration. All were loaded to ensure a sufficient level of comfort in what promised to be severe weather.

At lunchtime the Squadron deployed. For many the journey in the back of 'windproofed' vehicles proved too much. Led by **2Lt Dave Kenyon** Alpha Troop were seen leaping and jumping about to the merry tune of 'Sunshine Mountain'. A detour by **Capt 'Miss T' Crook** WRAC saw B Troop and the REME FRT heading towards the skiing resort in the Eifel, some 200Km south of Haltern. However, by 1630 hrs all had arrived safely at the Training Area.

COOL

To everyone's relief a collective sleeping area was erected in record time. Meanwhile **Cpl 'Scouse' Naylor** and **Sig Tim Bowbrick** prepared the evening's 'all in one'. Night temperatures were rapidly falling. The Ex OC decide that there would be no night activity. Just as well, the temperature fell to −20°C that night. The SSM's rum with coffee mix helped to keep out the chill throughout the night.

SELECTED TALKS

At dawn the Squadron was briefed to carry out selected tasks. Alpha Troop deployed mobile patrols and Bravo Troop foot patrols to try and winkle out the elusive enemy section led by **Cpl Frank Davies.** It was whilst on the vehicle patrol that OC A earned the nickname **'Boggy' Kenyon.** Giving directions to the patrol commander **Cpl 'Poncho' Steve Rogers** over the radio the lead vehicle driven by **Sig 'Foggy' Dewhurst** drove into an ice and snow covered water hole. A plea of 'Help' activated **Sgt 'Geordie' Dale** and his weather team to come to Alpha Troops aid.

Whilst waiting for recovery the enemy section attacked the bogged-in patrol. Greatly assisted by the patrol's LMG gunner, **LCpl 'Audie' Prowse**, the enemy successfully wiped out **Cpl Rogers** and his section.

WE SURVIVE

Throughout the remainder of the day the patrols encountered enemy activity, gathering useful intelligence with a view to locating their secret base. At dusk **Cpl 'Dill' Dillon** planned to ambush an enemy vehicle patrol.

Unfortunately A Troop sprung it before he had time to fully set it up. A Troop 1, B Troop 0. However, a carefully laid machine gun put paid to A Troop. A well earned rum and tea enabled everyone to sleep happily.

With the weather worsening and the failure of the helicopters to arrive, **Capt Plumb** (who had done well to get this far without losing anyone on a snow drift) decided that as most of the exercise aims had been achieved we should move back to the comfort of Francisca Barracks and an 'early bath'. Well done to all those who survived!

A TROOP

In November Alpha Troop bade farewell to **Lt Malcolm Llewellyn** who moved to RHQ, prior to his posting to Harrogate. In his place **2Lt Dave Kenyon** joined the Troop.

In December the Squadron Christmas party enabled all of us to let our hair down. The festivities continued throughout the month, so it was with great relief that we welcomed in the New Year and the 1985 season of exercises.

A sad farewell to **Sgt Mick Northcott** and his family who left for 10 Sig Regt. Troop 'Do's' won't be the same without him. A hearty welcome to **Sgt Tony Singleton, Cpl 'Nobby' Clark** and **Sig Rob Garlick.** Hope you enjoy your stay with us.

Congratulations to **Cpl Clements** and **Cpl Kirby** on their promotions and also to all the Troop boxers for their success in the Rhein Area Boxing semi-finals.

B TROOP

After a very successful Exercise *Able Archer* it was all systems go towards perparing for the Christmas parties. There were, however, a couple of minor tasks to complete prior to the festivities. Firstly, the Inter Troop March and Shoot competition. The main part of this involved a forced march (ie run!) in which certain members of the Troop attempted to finish off their Troop Comd, **Capt Therese Crook WRAC**, by trying to make her run as fast as them! Well done to all the team in coming joint third with Alpha Troop, especially **Sig Elliott** whose 'encouragement' ensured that the OC passed the finishing line!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

For a change the last few months have seen more arrivals than departures in the Troop. Welcome to **Cpls Dave Hart** and **'Ginge' Parker** and families, **LCpl Dave Merricks** and the newest arrival **Cpl Sandy Rennie.** Farewell and the best of luck to **LCpl 'Leroy' Maycock** who departed in the new year for the School of Signals.

COMPENSATION

No Troop notes would be complete without relating the story of **LCpl Dougie Kee** and the fluffy slippers. Amidst the extremely boggy location of Switch Bravo on Exercise *Cactus End* **LCpl Kee** was quite happily drying out his boots in his wagon when the generator failed. He rushed out into the darkness to assist the powerman **Sig Ian Hurt** and found the deep boggy puddle that most other people had managed to avoid. When he eventually fought his way out he was most distressed to discover that he had lost one of his slippers in the bog. On returning to camp he was presented with a very small pair of pink fluffy slippers kindly donated by **LCpl Terry Smith.** Never mind **LCpl Kee**, perhaps you could put in a claim for exercise loss!

MORRISON'S ACADEMY

As the school prepares to celebrate its 125th birthday it continues to provide education for boys and girls from Primary 1 - Secondary 6. Of its 850 pupils 200 are in the Primary and 300 are Boarders (from Primary 4).

The school prepares secondary pupils primarily for the Scottish Higher Grade examination though the post-higher work includes CSYS, A level, Associated Board work in Music, Portfolio preparation in Art while RSA examinations in typing are taken at different stages. Results in all external examinations have been highly commendable.

Situated in a most attractive Perthshire location and with extensive playing fields, the school offers a wide range of co-curricular activities to both Primary and Secondary pupils.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from the

Rector
Morrison's Academy
Crieff PH7 3AN

NOTES FROM 1 SQUADRON
RADIO TROOP

All has been quiet since Exercise *Hungry Bear* 2. One very successful squadron exercise held to keep us on our toes and a number of visit demonstrations, at which we are becoming expert, have kept us ticking over. December being the season of good will, seemed a good time to have the Troop Christmas Party. This was held in the Imperial Club at Summit House and was thought by all to be a resounding success. **Sig Stan Tivey** won the Star Prize, a computer, and accessories including a monitor and printer. We organised the children's Christmas Party with **Sgt Freeman** at the helm. The children had a marvellous time and the Troop had two weeks off to recover. We say goodbye this month to **Sig Stan Tivey, Nigel (Mr) Harris** and **Ginge Bonser**; we wish them all good luck in the future.

TM TROOP

Having survived the Christmas and New Year festivities, two call outs brought us back to our senses and life carries on in the usual hectic fashion. The workshops have now been into the field deploying the ERV for the first time. Next time we'll even get the generator started! The line section have been working on the new CP and it should be opened any day now.

Everything is done at the double now since **Sig Clive Smith** came back from his AIPTC course itching to make fatties thin. Welcome to **Cpls Pete Bagnall, Nigel Green** and their families.

SQUADRON CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Squadron held their Christmas Party in St George's Hall this year. The highlight of the night was the 'Smoker' with each troop taking their turn at giving 'Flak to the Establishment'. Particular attention was paid to the Adjutant, **Capt Kevin Fisher** who promises us that he now has a babysitter.

2Lt Ian Favager won a driving licence and a handbag and **LCpl 'Pud' Marshall** did such a convincing imitation of **YofS Jack Cowen** that people are now booking courses through him. Special guest was **Benny Hill**—who did a fine impression of **Capt Jim Dryburgh.**

ARU 30 JANUARY

Much changing of minds by the Berlin Infantry Brigade staff as to allocation of tasks on ARU day finally culminated in 1 Sqn deploying into the wilds to test communication skills. **Maj Sandy Lovatt** brought his men into work at 0600 hrs and after initial and final checks all had a hot meal before first light and deployment. The day ended successfully with a cookhouse style meal and the Brigadier's address to 1 Sqn. The photographs show the aftermath.

Sig Smith, recently returned from his AIPT course prays that Brig Stone won't notice his lack of head dress

LCpl Peter Jowitt (background, in glasses) trying to state his case to an enthralled and captivated audience—he got nothing but black looks

'Sorry Smith, just don't understand your banter—neither by the look of it does Sig Charlie Etienne and LCpl Mac McMillan

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

SPORT

The winter soccer and rugby fixtures have been badly set back by the heavy snow in Berlin. However, congratulations to the Regimental Skiing team who this year participated for the first time in the 1 Armd Div Nordic Championships. After much hard work, both from the training and the admin side, the team brought home the Swingfire Cup awarded to the Minor Unit winners.

In all there were four competitions in which the team took part. The team were placed first in the Minor Units 4 × 10Km relay, second in the 4 × 7.5Km biathlon and first in both the Minor Units 15Km race and 25Km patrol race. This is a startling achievement as the team Captain, **2Lt Ian Favager**, had not been on skis at all before Christmas and the team had only managed to train from mid December due to other commitments. Our congratulations go to **2Lt Ian Favager, Cpls Mac MacFarlane** and **Brian Clark** and **LCpls Stuart Tough, Pud Marshall** and **Biddy Baxter.** Thanks also to **Capt Jim Dryburgh** and **YofS Jack Cowen** who arranged all the admin.

The Regimental Nordic Ski Team: *Back Row:* LCpl Marshall, Capt Dryburgh, LCpl Tough. *Front Row:* Cpl Clark, 2Lt Favager, Lt Col Budd, Cpl Macfarlane, LCpl Baxter

Cpl Brian Clark receiving the minor units Nordic Trophy from Brig Brian Pennicott, CRA 1 Armd Div

30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

EXERCISE *GAME SPIRIT* 84

October brings the onset of winter to the rolling hills of beautiful Blandford, overcast dull days with wind and rain in the air. However, for a select few of 2 Sqn it was time to pack the malaria tablets, suntan lotion and prepare to tread Livingstone's footsteps. Yes! Kenya calls, from Oct to Dec, six Radio Telegraphists had the enviable task of providing comms for the Kenya-Cyprus-UK rear link. Oh! and one Technician who provided everything; well, not quite everything. The Det for Exercise *Game Spirit* consisted of the following:- **Cpl (please send Crystal Ball) Martin, Cpl (how much are your coconuts?) Soward, (Tech), LCpl (Hallo Pippa) Bolam, Sig Lang and Basford (Golfers), Sig Wood** who seldom received any mail, and **Sig McHugh** who received sacks of it.

The Detachment arrived at Nanyuki showground in company with 1st Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers, whose signals, after translation from the Scottish, they were to handle. The location within the shadow of Mt Kenya was comfortable if a little rudimentary. The climate can only be described as unusual; hot, cold, wet, dry though not humid because of the altitude. After a short acclimatisation period the Det settled down to some hard work.

Sig Chippy Lang and **Nick Basford** could be frequently heard on the adjoining Golf course ricocheting from hole to hole. **Cpl Andy Soward** struck up a reputation in his dealings with the local 'Black Mafia' and **LCpl Rev Bolam** improved his tan and pined for his beloved **Pippa.**

WELCOME BREAK

After all this hard work R&R came as a welcome break midway through the exercise with the delights of Malindi Beach, Mombasa and Nairobi a mere bus ride down the road.

All good things must come to an end and with the arrival of **2Lt Neil Griffiths**, enquiring as to the whereabouts of the nearest 'watering hole' and 'how do I get to the Ark'? we knew our time had come.

So it was with some regret and much relief the intrepid band closed comms, bought many souvenirs and boarded the Tri-Star for bleak Blandford, wooden elephants and all! As an exercise in communications it was very successful. We learnt a lot.

GARRISON SERGEANTS MESS FAREWELL TO THE GARRISON COMMANDER

The Sergeant's Mess gave a fitting farewell to **Brig Tony Willcox** at his formal dining out. It was a fine occasion which will be remembered by all who attended.

Brig Willcox is met on arrival by WO1 (RSM) Brian Smith (30 Sig Regt) and WO1 (RSM) Keith Russell (School of Signals)

Photographs by courtesy of G. Parselle, School of Signals

SSgt (SQMS) Nick Knight issues civilian kit to prepare the Brigadier for his new life outside the Army

EXERCISE *INSTANT MERCURY* NOV-DEC 84

One Squadron and part of Tactical Communications Wing RAF went to New Zealand on Exercise *Instant Mercury* during Nov-Dec 84. This offered an excellent opportunity for the squadron to travel around the world and combine a lot of work with even more pleasure.

Just getting to New Zealand was a major event. Those who went on the advance party or with the equipment stopped in some interesting and exotic places. It is unlikely that many of us will ever get to Bahrain, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Darwin or New Zealand at the Firm's expense ever again. The stories that **Maj Peter Hryhoruk, Capt Paul King** and **YofS Terry McLoughlin** can and have been telling about Singapore's infamous Bugis Street if not true must at least rate for £100 in Readers Digest Magazine!

It seems that the Squadron's arrival in New Zealand was expected by more than just the New Zealand Army. The Christchurch press were at the Christchurch International airport to record on film the arrival of the main party's VC10 and within 3 hours we had been tracked down to our remote location at West Melton by their defence correspondent **Miss Linda Harrison**. Defence matters in New Zealand are presently a political 'Hot Potato'.

Not deterred, the squadron went to work and communications were quickly established. The communications phases of the exercise went well. They were basically the same as a Squadron exercise anywhere else in the world. The area which offered most variation on the military norm was adventure training.

WARM HOSPITALITY

The New Zealanders proved to be very hospitable. The local at West Melton was well supported by off duty personnel. Before we left, Peter, the Landlord at the West Melton Pub held an 'Hungie' (a Maori traditional feast) at which, for a nominal sum, everyone eats and drinks as much as possible.

Romanovs Night Club has offered the Squadron an amazing discount scheme, should we ever return. Our custom is no doubt sorely missed. The Squadron's equivalent to the Egon Ronay guide will be available in paperback form under the counter of good PRIs shortly.

SPECTACULAR

The New Zealand countryside and scenery are spectacular. We took full advantage of all the country had to offer by climbing some 'small 7000ft mountains' and carrying out some impressive white water rafting and canoeing.

FOUR DAY EXPEDITION

Each of the four shifts on South Island carried out a full four day adventure training expedition. The North Island personnel missed the climbing phases but did get some good white water rafting.

All of the four day expeditions were held in the Queenstown area, and were a lot of fun, even if rather arduous at times. The outline for each was to deploy to Queenstown on day one by road, a distance of some 300 miles, carry out a little warm up training that afternoon and during the evening set up a base camp. The next day was a hike and climb of Mount Lomond (7000ft approx). Despite the effort and rarefied atmosphere there were still some smiles at the summit. After the descent the next day was a drive right out into the wilds to start the white water activities. The initial task was to raft and canoe the Kawarau River, grade 3-4 white water. Then a really 'interesting' drive down some unbelievable roads to nearly the source (or so it seemed) of the Shotover river. This offered grade 4-5 white water.

The river expeditions were run by Skippers Canyon River Expeditions and it appears that each one was more riotous than its predecessor. The Commanding Officer **Lt Col Bill Backhouse** and the Officer Commanding took part in the ultimate expedition. Other members of this expedition decided that this presented an opportunity too good to miss. In between stretches of white water, acts of piracy, kidnappings and water fights ensued. Unfortunately for the perpetrators of these heinous crimes they were unaware of **Col Bill Backhouse's** former prowess as an Army Rugby player. The CO launched himself from one raft, leaps across a second and took no fewer than three members of a third raft overboard. The CO was recovered by his own crew, along with one hostage, to be held against further attacks!

OUR SINCERE THANKS

The hospitality of the New Zealanders cannot be over praised, and to our hosts, 3 TF Sig Sqn and all members of 3 Task Force we pass on our sincere thanks for all their assistance, without which the exercise would not have been the undoubted success that it was.

The CO, Lt Col Bill Backhouse (Black/White striped shirt) leads the final white water expedition

A long climb ahead . . . 7,000ft. 'Who said this adventure training lark would be easy?'

On top of the world, but it's still 7,000ft down

An early morning brew of the worst tea ever made!

Going . . . going . . .

Gone! Nine men in that boat! . . . What boat?

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

HQ SQUADRON

The Squadron Football team had the pleasure of entertaining the Regimental team from 21 Sig Regt, Wildenrath in a friendly match at Caterham Barracks on Saturday 2 February. The occasion was an opportunity for 'old' acquaintances to be renewed. The HQ Team Captain (geriatric **WO2 Steve Bland**), Player/Manager (**Capt John Robson**), **SSgt Tom McCarthy** and **Sgt 'Ollie' Oliver** used to play alongside **WO1 (RSM) Geoff Northey** of 21 Sig Regt when he played for the HQ team during his tour with 31 Sig Regt as a PSI in the mid-70s. The score of 6—1 (or was it 7—1)? to the visitors was quickly forgotten by us in the post-match social. They looked upon it as good training for the TAVRA Londist Cup semi-final they were due to play the next Sunday.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

A total of 39 members of the Regiment in Fancy Dress mobilised for a Sponsored Pram Race in aid of a Guide Dog for the Blind. On a sunny December morning on the banks of the Thames, the brief was as follows:

Distance/Course—Five miles through the back streets of London.

Check Points/Obstacles:—A total of 12 checkpoints where each member of the team of three must overcome 'The Obstacle', this being to sup in one, one × ½ pint of Courage Trophy Ale (Yuk).

Time Factor—All day if necessary, Guide Dogs would be available at 'H' + four hours.

Object:—To have fun, enjoy oneself immensely and get back in one piece with no FMT3 reports to complete!

The whole regatta was led by our illustrious **WO1** (MTWO) **Dr Harry Lund**, on the day with the majority of back-up teams coming from the shiny Bs of 'B' Troop, Cobham, Surrey, strongly supported by 47 Squadron, (Middlesex Yeomanry) from Harrow and the happy gang from HQ Sqn, Hammersmith.

A grand total of £811 has been collected and officially handed over by our popular Training Major, **Maj Peter Williams** to the Hon Treasurer to 'The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association' **Mrs Ann Painter.**

This was the second Annual event and we are optimistic that we will produce even more teams to support such a worthy cause and pass the £1,000 target for December 1985.

WO1 (RMTWO) Dr Harry Lund giving Cpl Brenda Prater her pre-medical examination before pram race departure. His very able assistant, Cpl 'Klondyke' Nurse Bashford is ensuring patients' special 'Bacardi' drip feed is in good working order

Some of the wild, but very original fancy dress participants of the Regiment before departure on the Sponsored Pram Race

47 SQUADRON

As Orwell's year drew to a close,
The Squadron's hopes and 'spirits' rose,
With eighty five about to start,
And exercises to take part.

The Dinner Dance in November
Was such a night to remember,
Such joyous times were had by all
It could have been a famous Ball.

When eighty five at last arrived,
The *Plug-Up* was the one we tried,
With such success whilst all on line
And Corporal Chapmans' 'ripping' time.

Major Morris, who is our boss
Would like to welcome Sally Cross,
She is attached for just one year
From 'EMU' OTC we hear.

The main event of the New Year
Was BFT which most do fear,
Most did triumph with creaking joints
Corporal Hancock went point to point!

So eighty five is here to stay
And Camp is not too far away,
With relish we look to the task,
Our reputation will stand fast.

83 SQUADRON
'A (BIGGER) BOMBSITE LIKE SOUTHFIELDS'

Despite the recent grim weather the contractors have pressed steadily on, rapidly demolishing the block formerly the home of QM/M Troop who are now established in their temporary home at the thoroughly refurbished TAC at Lytton Grove, soon to be the short-term base of 83 Sqn itself until the main Southfields building is ready in mid-summer. Meanwhile it's business as normal for the permanent staff with storeman **Lou Hermels** trying to keep the maps from going mouldy and Caretaker **Norman Curtis** dodging the pile-drivers and wondering where on earth his caravan home will be moved to next.

Luckiest of all are the Squadron's latest recruits who are currently training at Hammersmith under the eagle eye of **Cpl Peter Trewin**, still smarting from his survival test of a Rolls Royce—and talking of Rolls Royce treatment, it is rumoured that the documentation of **Pte Sarah Bentley** (daughter of our civilian clerk **Mrs Sally Bentley** and herself a former SNCO of C Troop) has been the fastest in the Squadron's history.

ON PARADE

The Squadron's traditional Remembrance Sunday march to church through Putney will certainly not be forgotten by **SSM Chris Mahony** in a hurry—when the quiet suburban road in which his parade was forming up suddenly turned into a very busy diversion route for the main A3 trunk route. Fortunately the local police prevented the expected carnage and once on the move the only problem was to step as short as the Boy Scout band, serenading the parade down the High Street. Once back at the TA Centre **Cpl Ali Matabdins'** excellent Curry lunch cured all aches and pains assisted by the last pints to be pulled in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess before its destruction a day or so later under the rebuild programme.

TAKE YOUR PICK

October saw almost 60 members of the Squadron at Pirbright Camp for a weekend of military training; Saturday was spent on basic field engineering including mines, and wire defences, followed by the entire Squadron 'diggin in' against the clock. Sadly some picks and shovels fell on stony ground and OC **Maj Paul Whittle** was surprisingly reluctant to boast the merits of the SHQ trench.

Being at a Guards Depot a drill competition was a must and on Saturday morning **LCpl Mark Blackfords'** team carried off the honours, whilst the SNCO Squad under **Sgt Derek Cattrall** put up an equally memorable display. (Have you ever seen a Guardsman actually crying?—SSM)

OF BUBBLE BATHS AND ROMAN GALLEYS

Thanks to the scene of destruction at SHQ the Squadron moved to B Troops' TA Centre at Cobham for its annual Christmas Party and thanks to much hard work and even more white cam nets the drill hall was rapidly transformed and a good time was had by all. **SSgt** (retired) **Ron Dart** was again a most welcome visitor presenting the Dart Trophy to **LCpl John Ingham**. The OC Squadron won the coveted raffle prize of a 'Thomas the Tech Figure' Bubble Bath, and when the disco descended to floor level for a boat dance what male present would not have given his back teeth to be a galley slave on the vessel on which **Cpl Linda Dominguez** was the whipper on!

Lt John Ruske and Pte Hammond (41 Sqn) extracting camouflage material (so they say!) from a fertiliser sack. OC 41 Sqn says 'No sacks please, we're British'

WO2 (SSM) Peter Lovett and LCpl Paul Konstantinou (41 Sqn) checking their pools on Exercise *Plug Up*

Sig Barry Woolgar (41 Sqn) wondering why it was called Exercise *Plug Up* and taking it all very seriously. Sig Woolgar was a Class 1 technician Sergeant in 41 Sqn and rejoined recently after five years as a full time civilian

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

CULTYBRAGGAN TRAINING CAMP

We are now into the swing of things at the new training centre at Cultybraggan rooms. Built exclusively for our own use, representing TAOR's Brigades and an AFHQ provide excellent opportunity to practise Home Defence Communications under one roof and at only an hour's drive from Glasgow. Initially it was hard to get used to the idea that the room next door was an imaginary 200 miles away but this was soon overcome by 'locking' people in their rooms thus stopping the traffic of bodies who had decided that it was easier to communicate on a house call basis. We look forward to many more happy weekends deep in the heart of Perthshire.

L to R: Pte Susan Davidson, LCpl Valerie Ellington, Cpl Harry Buck

Pte Catherine Pringle and Sgt David Downie

OFFICERS' SYMPOSIUM CRIEFF HYDRO

This year's annual visit to Crieff Hydro tested out the superb facilities of the new Conference Centre with a variety of lectures attended by GOC Scotland, **Lt Gen Sir Alexander Boswell**: Comd 52 Lowland Bde **Brig P. I. B. Stevenson** and Comd 2 Sig Bde **Brig K. Olds.** However, the lectures on BRITFORLEB and PTARMIGAN unfortunately had to be cancelled. Not to be daunted, **Lt Col H. A. Culley** went ahead as scheduled with his half of the BRITFORLEB presentation, keeping those who had over-indulged in the ladies dinner night and the subsequent swimming pool party, awake with an interesting talk and many colourful slides.

PSIs CONVENTION

It all started last winter when someone said to the Training Major, **Maj Pat MacCulloch**, 'why can't we combine a convention with a week's skiing'. No sooner said than done. So after much gnashing of teeth over grants and accommodation the PSIs eventually arrived at Rothiemurchus Lodge on Monday 21 January, only to find very little snow. This soon changed for on Tuesday we had more snow than we could cope with.

The Commanding Officer had to return to Glasgow by Thursday, and as more snow was predicted the RSM volunteered to drive the CO to Aviemore Railway Station; as can be seen by the photograph on page 235 it was decided to test the local recovery system en route.

Much to the delight of the Warden, **SSgt Arthur Curtis** managed to repair the portable Ski Tow, and under the supervision of **Pte Chic Doyle** assisted by **SSgt Pete Wilson**, all the PSIs managed to stay on their skis, and travel in the right direction, sometimes. The PSIs thanks go out to the Admin Staff, led by **SSgt Tom Padden** and **Eddie Braid**, ably backed up by **Sgt Jackie Dollen** and the Cooks **LCpl Hugh McLean** and **Pte Chic Doyle**; yes, also the Ski Instructor.

FOCUS ON 69 (NORTH IRISH HORSE) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES:

OC	**Maj John Pinkerton**
Trg Off	**Capt Jimmy Moore**
AO	**Capt Dave Roy**
OC H Tp	**Capt Sam Clarke**
SSM	**WO2 George Wylie**
PSI	**SSgt John McAveety**
SQMS (NRPS)	**SSgt Malcolm Baillie**

Red Shoes exercises have in the past tended towards the tedious especially where there was no movement involved so **Brig Keith Olds** decided last year that Exercise *Red Shoes* IX should contain an element of realism in the form of 'enemy' participation. The North Irish Horse being the nearest thing 2 Sig Bde possess to Spetsnaz we were straight away tasked with causing alarm and despondency amongst our erstwhile allies.

The Squadron was divided into four Troops each with its own area of responsibility. The Troops were commanded by **Capt Sam Clarke, Capt Heinz Tittmar, WO2 (SSM) George Wylie** and our PSI **SSgt John McAveety**. The distances covered were considerable (like the whole of England and Wales?) and communications with En Con at Aldershot depended upon a supply of 10 p's and unvandalised public call boxes. However, given the limitations of working to a plan and the constraints of normal behaviour (an entirely subjective standard!) our budding David Stirling managed to achieve a remarkable degree of penetration and disruption. In fairness to the 'other side' it must be said that they were pretty stretched although it was soon established that their reaction fitted neatly into the formula

$$H = \frac{I}{P + D}$$

where H = Hostility
(expressed in swear words per sec)
P = Penetration
(metres)
D = Damage
(expressed in Fubars per sq mtr)

The remainder of Camp 1984 was occupied in qualifying on the ranges, NBC and basic fitness and as such was very successful.

Since camp we have had a successful trade training week at Scarborough and the usual round of social activities at Christmas. At the social front our latest venture was a Burns supper on 1 February which looks as if it will become an annual fixture. Perhaps next year we will get the date right!

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col A. W. de V. Hunt**
2IC	**Maj A. C. Leach TD**
Trg Maj	**Maj P. A. Hallett**
Adjt	**Capt T. Butterworth**
RM	**WO1 (RSM) R. Lockwood**
RMTO	**WO1 G. W. T. Hunt**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt J. G. Roberts**

The Regiment entered 1985 in the same manner in which it finished 1984, with a flurry of activity, full of enthusiasm and a determination to take on all commitments and pack them into the limited time available to volunteer soldiering.

The Permanent staff, fresh after the Christmas Break tackled the problems of preparing for the first Regimental Exercise of the year Exercise *Cold Bed* which as it turned out was aptly named with temperatures falling below the 'comfy' limit.

In addition to these preparations, each Squadron Commander felt that some 'limbering up' exercises should precede the Regimental exercise and consequently the weekend of 12/13 January was spent either practising military skills, or physical activities like March and Shoot competitions. This was also a good time to find our how many volunteer soldiers had got over the heavy training programme of 1984 and the Christmas activities and could meet the challenge.

Should we have had any doubts about attendance figures, (perish the thought) the response from all Squadrons was tremendous, with HQ Squadron throwing themselves into the spirit of a 24 mile march early on the Saturday morning in bitterly cold weather conditions.

Inevitably, we had the odd patrol who felt that the DS staff had not picked the most favourable route (or the shortest) and had decided to put their map reading skills to the test. (It is rumoured that it was the cook's team) God bless them! In any event they got a little lost and finished up marching an extra 5 miles. (The scenic route I believe).

Withstanding all that every member of the Squadron returned unaided and although **Sgt Almond, LCpls Kemp and Birkett** (The A Team) were on hand to give medical support, the only demands made upon them was for the supply of tea, coffee and biscuits.

The day also highlighted a few personalities, namely **SSgt (FofS) (Pentathlon) Poland** and his newest, fittest technician **Sgt (I can march faster than you) Young.** Being regular professionals they started off last and during the course of the march, overtook all and sundry to lead the way home. There were times when I believe the Foreman wished he'd never taken up the challenge, and who forgot to tell him that **Sgt Young** was a qualified PT Instructor?

HIGHLY COMMENDABLE

Also behind the scenes **SSgt (MT) Morrison**, had linked the march to a sponsorship for handicapped children and a six man team raised some £600. A commendable effort by so few. Well done.

The weekend finished off on the Sunday, practising weapon handling, NBC skills and Drill (for those who could still walk) so as a starter weekend to the New Year it was very successful and rewarding.

EXERCISE *COLD BED*

Ex *Cold Bed* was the Regiment's first communicating exercise of the year and took place between 18—20 January, 1985.

The area covered ranged from Woodvale (South of Southport) and Delemere Forest (NE of Chester).

The Regiment deployed on Friday night from TA Centres at Manchester (42 Sqn), Chester (80 Sqn) Edge Lane, Liverpool (59 Sqn) and RHQ & HQ Sqn from Huyton in Liverpool.

The turnout by the volunteer soldiers was extremely good and a worthwhile exercise was achieved practising comms, defence and military skills. The weather was not kind to us and with the previous day's snowfall our camouflage techniques were somewhat wasted due to contrasting colours of snow and green cam, however, the objects of the exercise were achieved including at least one move per comms element.

Our PR Team was also out and about in the shape of **WO2 Snaps Jolliffe** who had been given to understand that during our Regular QMs reign (only three years) that no photos had been taken of **Maj (QM) John Ient.** It is not therefore surprising that the writer now has a stack of photographs of the now infamous **Maj Ient** and is spoilt for choice, however, here is one of **Maj John Ient** showing how much he enjoys his exercise.

WO2 (SSM) Jones and HQ Sqn 'looking after' Cpl Eddie Buchanan during Exercise *Cold Bed*

'Is it my turn to issue the rum again?' Maj (QM) John Ient on Exercise *Cold Bed*

The Stalwart members of Defence Platoon ably commanded by Capt George Townley *(Third from right)*

RECRUITING WEEKEND

The first recruiting weekend took place on 2/3 February at Altcar, where potential recruits were put through their paces by the selection team.

We started off the weekend with 36 candidates who reported on the Friday night and were suitably prepared for the 'Early' Saturday morning start.

SSgt (Muscles) McAlister, our resident PTI put them through the gruelling three mile run and assault course which definitely weeds out the men from the boys. Written tests, Drill and weapon handling is certainly a welcome break after all that and is looked forward to by the recruits. By Saturday evening results were being correlated and it was decision time for those who didn't quite make it. On this occasion we lost seven, but all credit to those who passed.

HQ SQN: Pot Sig **R. Atkinson, W. Smith, A. J. Laudrum.**

42 SQN: Pot Sig **J. Cartwright, A. S. Rolfe, K. Kelsall, P. Atkinson, S. C. Nuttall, K. G. Westall, D. G. Locock**

59 SQN: Pot Sig **S. Ashley, S. A. Lowe, P. A. Hinds, L. E. Turner, W. Knowles, K. McKinlay, D. J. McBride, P. A. Brown, W. B McGuinness, S. Walton, P. Richardson, S. Robinson, S. M. Hague, S. J. T. Jones, A. Speechney, A. Jones, G. P. Watkinson, M. Hodgkins, S. T. Madeley.**

Welcome to 33rd Signal Regiment (V) and good luck to you all in the future.

PRESENTATION OF TERRITORIAL DECORATION MAJOR H. BUDWORTH TD REME

Maj Harold Budworth was presented with his Territorial Decoration by the Director General Electrical and Mechanical Engineers **Maj Gen D. G. Palmer** on 28 October, 1984 at Huyton.

Maj Budworth has served with the Regiment as OC LAD since August 1982, and has served in the TA since 23 March 1950, both as a National Service and Volunteer Soldier.

He was commissioned in 1972.

Maj Harold Budworth TD REME being presented with his Territorial Decoration

NEWS FROM OTHER SQUADRONS

59 SIG SQN (V) EDGE LANE, LIVERPOOL

Elements of 59 Sig Sqn departed early on 5 January from their TAC at Edge Lane nervously anticipating the weekend's Military Training Exercise. The five 10 man teams were dropped off at various points along the A565 Formby By Pass and the main Haskyne road; each team having a series of nine checkpoints to navigate around to answer a series of pertinent questions. Fortunately for them the weather kept mild thus enabling all teams to complete the 15 mile course by mid afternoon. On arrival at their final RV all patrols had to arrange themselves into all-round defence including digging in. All proved that in addition to communication they were very able to defend themselves.

A night patrol commenced with a pre supposed defence of a Beach-Head to exercise skills of observation and attack. On arrival back at base and taking into account the 5°C temperature everyone well deserved the break at the 'Red Rose' canteen based in Altcar Training Camp.

To add insult to injury, the following morning, the Squadron was woken up by **Lt Neil Thomas** and **SSgt Steve Donoughue** and taken on an extended BFT to freshen them up before falling into NBC Kit for a gas alert. Everyone came up smiling and thoroughly enjoyed a most successful exercise.

Royal Corps of Signals

LEAVING THE REGULAR ARMY?
MAINTAIN YOUR LINKS WITH THE CORPS
(AND YOUR PAY GRADING)
BY JOINING THE TERRITORIAL ARMY!

IF YOU ARE GOING TO LIVE IN THE SOUTH WEST, WEST MIDLANDS OR WALES 37th (WESSEX and WELSH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V) HAS SQUADRONS IN BRISTOL, BRIDGWATER, CARDIFF AND STRATFORD-upon-AVON WITH TROOPS AT EXETER, BRECON and STOURBRIDGE.

There are other TA Units throughout the South West, West Midlands and Wales if these are too far from your home. Details from:

RHQ 37 Signal Regiment
TA Centre Horfield Common
Bristol BS7 OXL
Telephone: Bristol (0272) 519898

TAVR Association for Western Wessex
2 Beaufort Road
Clifton, Bristol BS8 2JS
Telephone: Bristol (0272) 734045

TAVR Association for Wales
Centre Block Maindy Barracks
Cardiff CF4 3YB
Telephone: Cardiff (0222) 20251/2

TAVR Association for West Midlands
Tennal Grant, Tennal Road
Harborne, Birmingham B32 2HX
Telephone: 021 427 5221

34 Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON FOCUS

OC	**Maj David Kerr**
2IC	**Capt Judy Walker**
SSM	**WO2 Ron Garrett**
PSI	**Sgt Mick Ryder**

As readers will know, a Headquarters Squadron has a finger in many Regimental 'pies'. Here is a brief sample of some of our recent activities. Only a week after our return from Exercise *Lionheart*, the Regiment, holding proudly 'The Freedom', assisted the Borough of Middlesbrough by hosting a band concert for visitors from Oberhausen, Germany, who were taking part in the 10th anniversary celebrations of the twinning link between the two towns. The concert, attended by the visitors and their Middlesbrough hosts, as well as a number of members of the Regiment, was a great success. The Regimental Band, under the direction of Bandmaster **WO1 Derek Farrington** gave a performance which was up to their usual high standard. And as usual much hard work was put in by the organiser-in-chief, the Adjutant, **Capt Stan Long.**

The Oberhausen—Middlesbrough link was again to the fore on Remembrance Sunday when the official Oberhausen delegation, led by **Oberburgemeister Friendhelm Van den Mond,** took part in the service and then attended the reception and lunch at RHQ. This occasion was also marked by the presence of two Commanding Officers—the departing CO, **Lt Col Hugh Bonaker,** and the shortly-to-assume-command, **Lt Col Graham Mitchell.**

TO SCARBOROUGH

The beginning of December saw the annual Christmas training weekend at Burniston Barracks, Scarborough. After military training co-ordinated by **Major Sid Falla** and his staff, **YofS Roger Secker** and **Sgt Jane Riley**, the Annual Regimental Christmas Dinner was served by the Officers and Senior Ranks. The Sunday morning church parade was followed by a medal presentation in which the Squadron featured prominently. They were; the Paymaster, **Maj Jim Smiles,** with 31 years service with REME, Royal Signals and RAPC; **Sgt Hilda Fisher,** one of our cooks, with 36 years service; **Cpl Bill Forest** with 24 years service and **Cpl Matt Thompson** of the band with 12 years service. Congratulations to them all.

The CO, Lt Col Graham Mitchell congratulates the Pmr, Maj Jim Smiles on the presentation of his second clasp to the TD

Sgt Hilda Fisher after the presentation of her medal at STC Scarborough on 9 December 1984

CONGRATULATIONS

Everyone in the Squadron and indeed the Regiment was delighted to hear that **ex-Sgt John Braven,** who until recently was the Officers' Mess Steward, was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours List, for his loyal and dedicated contribution to the Service for over 40 years. Although he is, alas, no longer serving with the Regiment **Sgt Braven** still assists at many Mess functions and continues to pass on his knowledge and experience to junior staff.

Another recipient of an award is **Sgt Les Dixon,** one of the hard working band of cooks who have been involved with most of the above events who has recently been presented with a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate by the Lord Lieutenant for Cleveland County, **The Lord Gisborough.**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

And, finally, news of a departure and an arrival. **WO2 (RQMS) Ron Fairhurst** has now left the Regiment and has been succeeded by **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Lloyd** who joins us from HQ 4 Signal Group. **RQMS Fairhurst** has served twice with the Regiment (he must like us!) and has now left the Army. We welcome his successor and hope that he has an enjoyable tour with us.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS REPORT

Although it perhaps does not qualify as sport, but rather a form of masochism, teams from the Regiment took part in the NEDIST march and shoot competitions, *Devils Leap* and *Maidens Scurry*. We were unable to repeat our success of last year, when we won the *Devils Leap* trophy, but both teams did complete the course—and are keen to try again next year!

For the first time we entered the Army Wild Water canoeing championship. An intrepid team of four, **Sgts Steve Wilks, Colin Riley, Cpl Mick McConaghy** and **Sig Colin Finnigan,** braved the turbulent waters of the Swale and emerged as leading TA team.

The HQ/90 Squadron football team under the direction of the Football Officer, **Maj Jim Smiles,** and cigar-smoking team manager **Sgt Davie Rowe,** reached the semi-finals of the NEDIST Minor Units Cup. They are still alive in two other non-military cups. Recently they beat a team from HMS *Jupiter* which was on a goodwill visit to Middlesbrough.

And finally the Regiment competed in the North East/North West District and Scotland Cross Country Championships at Catterick. Although the male team finished down the field the girls team won the TA WRAC event and **Pte Dawn Widdrington** came in first overall ahead of all the Regulars.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

45 (ESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
SQUADRON CHANGE

The return from Exercise *Lionheart* marked the start of a period of change for 45 Sqn. We are fortunate to have had a purpose built TA Centre constructed for us in the centre of the garrison area in Colchester. This was ready for occupation as we returned from BAOR. As a result of this SHQ moved from Brentwood to the new building. Also 817 Troop moved from Ilford to Brentwood. All this moving around was a signal for a reshuffle of personalities. 715 Troop was handed over from **Lt Val Jepson** to **Lt Phillip Penfold** whilst 817 Troop was taken by **Capt Ron Wilkinson** who doubles as centre commander Brentwood.

Lt Jepson is now centre commander Ilford. Meanwhile at SHQ **Capt Mike Stewart** joins us from 54 Sqn as Ops Officer. 817 Troop have gained **SSgt David Dunn** and **Sgt Ray Simmonds** from SHQ while **Sgt Ken Blackman** takes over as SQMS and **Cpl Peter Stockwell** acts as MT NCO.

No sooner had these changes been assimilated than we had some changes in the permanent staff. Our AO since 1969 **Capt Arthur Beeton** retired in December. We are however pleased to welcome **Capt Bill McMorris** as his replacement. Also after camp we said farewell to **Sgt Dave Cherry** who has been posted to 30 Sig Regt and welcome **Sgt Taff Lewis** from 29 Sig Regt as PSI Brentwood.

DINING OUT OF CAPT A. E. BEETON

The officers of 45 Sqn held a ladies night on 8 December when they dined out our AO **Capt Arthur Beeton.** This event was held in the new mess at Colchester TAC. It was fitting that **Arthur** should be able to sit down to dine in the new TAC for which he had done so much.

In his speech after dinner Squadron Commander **Maj Douglas McLay** recalled **Arthur's** 42 years of service as a wartime infanteer, a TA soldier and quartermaster and finally as Squadron AO. **Arthur** fought in the Italian Campaign with the 8 Army before being wounded. After a distinguished career as a TA soldier he was commissioned in 1962. He was appointed adjutant of the 4/5 Battn the Essex Regt before transferring as AO of 45 Sqn in 1969. He has served as Squadron AO since then.

In reply **Arthur** particularly mentioned how pleased he was that two of his previous Squadron Commanders as well as **Lt Col Willie Allan,** who has Commanded the Regiment were present. He then presented several useful gifts to the Squadron but pride of place went to his Essex Regiment trumpet banner which he presented to the mess. This gift is particularly appreciated as it signifies the Squadron's position as one of the Essex Regiment successor units.

Finally **Arthur** was chaired out of the mess on 'a mobile throne' and pushed around the TAC grounds by his fellow officers.

The Rogues Gallery foregathers at Arthur Beeton's dining out. *L to R:* 2Lt Paul Hill, OCdt Andy Wilkinson, 2Lt Nigel Thomson, Lt Philip Penfold—in expansive mood, Mrs Karen Hill and OCdt Andy Wise

Arthur Beeton is towed out of the Squadron by Squadron OC Maj Douglas McLay and 2IC Capt Roger Buston. Assisting in the background Capts Mike Stewart and Ron Wilkinson

ILFORD CENTRE

Recently, The Ilford Centre put forward a team in the London District six-a-side competition. After a very hard first round, in which they beat 289 Commando RA by default, they were defeated in the quarter finals by a solitary goal. The venue was Woolwich Garrison and the team enjoyed a good day out.

WANTED:— Please will the person who took our new £10 ball let us have it back!

RANGE WEEKEND

56 Sig Sqn kindly invited 45 (Essex) Sig Sqn to share their range weekend, so on Friday night coaches left the 3 Essex TAC's bound for Sandgate. While the Squadron sorted out the accommodation and investigated the bar, **Capt Bob Carter** finalised the plans for the weekend activities.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny in fact, almost too sunny, as it was extremely difficult to see the 300m targets on Hythe Ranges. The SLR Range run by **Capt Carter** and **WO2 Howell,** the zeroing range **(SSgt Mike O'Brien)** and the SMG Range **(Sgt Ken Coales)** were all used to such good effect that everyone was able to fire their personal and secondary weapon by the end of the day. The black eye patch was much in demand and **Pte Sue Bean** was delighted at the improvement it made to her shooting.

Various background activities added to the interest, and **Sgt Owen RAMC** seemed to enjoy putting the groups through their paces on the assault course.

Was he looking for casualties to practise on? There were plenty of these on the First Aid stand, where **SSgt Roy Cooper** and **Sgt Edna Sisseam** were running the First Aid Bounty Test. **Sgt Ken Blackman** gave some refresher training on fieldcraft, and 56 Sqn arranged for 66mm LAW and LMG drills to be taught. 56 Sqn had laid on an excellent buffet that evening and a good time was had by all. Sorry for drinking the bar dry—we'll have to leave **Cpl 'Smudger' Smith** and 817 Troop behind next time!

There was an inter troop march and shoot competition on Sunday, with the marching aspect being from the TAC to the ranges, about four miles away; 56 Sqn did it in style, and came in with the fastest time, having run most of the way. 750 Troop were some 10 minutes behind them, but aided by their long legged pace setter **Lt Nigel Thompson** set the best 45 Sqn time. Well done **Pte Tina Hack** who did the whole course suffering from pins and needles, and **Ptes Liza McMillan, June Simmonds** and **Sue Bean** who doggedly refused to slow down—it must have been all those cries of 'Keep Going' from **Capt Jackie Allan** that inspired them, (though that's not what they said at the time). The good shooting score was greatly helped by **Sig Dave Green's** 100% on SLR.

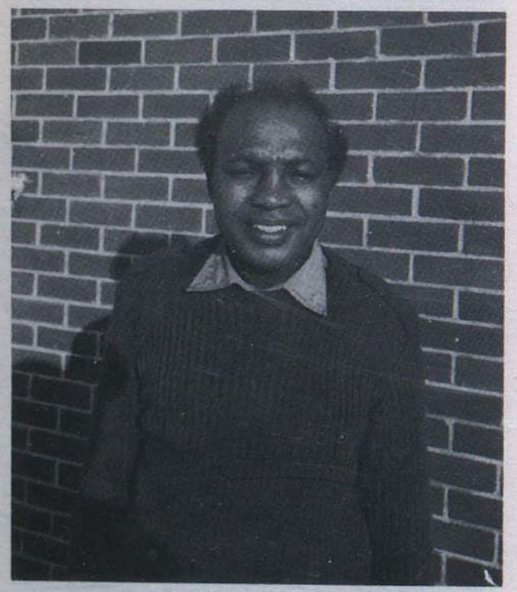
The OC's SHQ Team tied on timings, but had fewer rounds on the targets. **SSM Pete Minshall** assured the Squadron that this was all due to **Maj Douglas McLay's** contribution (or lack of it). The OC blamed it on his new Belgian Pistol. It's just as well there were some real shots like **Sig 'Jim' Jamieson** and **Cpl Pete Stockwell** in their team. The Brentwood and Ilford teams both put up some very good performances and everyone agreed that 56 Sqn had laid on a most enjoyable range weekend for us.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

VALE—SIG JACK JOHNSON COFIE

Often in this magazine, and in its sister journal, we see richly deserved tributes to retiring senior officers of the Corps. As a change we would like to switch to the other end of the 'rank spectrum' to pay an equally deserved tribute to one of our junior soldiers who is about to leave the TA after 25 years of sterling service. Combat Sig, **Jack Johnson Cofie** is known to many past and serving members of the Regiment and appreciated for his cheerful and dedicated service in performing some of the essential but often unrewarding tasks of army life. His work behind the kitchen scenes on pan bashing, his stewardship over 15 years in charge of the regimental water bowser, his field hygiene duties and his cheerful willingness to take on any and every task set before him has always been accompanied by the widest and warmest grin and happy disposition. A regimental character of the very best, he will be sorely missed.

However **Jack Johnson Cofie** has a wider public. Born in the Gold Coast (now Ghana) in 1934 he took up professional boxing. He became Middleweight Champion of the Gold Coast by beating Dick Tiger who, after emigrating to UK and then the USA, later became undisputed World Champion. **Jack Cofie** came to the UK in 1952 to seek fame and fortune in the ring. He became a very popular near-top and top-of-the-bill boxer fighting the best in the land. He fought 110 bouts in the UK, losing only six—and those on points. Those losing fights denied him the final championship accolades but his great struggles, particularly his three epic drawn battles with the great Pat McAteer, are well remembered by boxing buffs. His last fight in 1959 earned him a draw against the mighty Terry Downes who later went on to become World Middleweight Champion. **Jack Cofie** achieved the fame which drew him to UK but, sadly, no great fortune to take into boxing retirement. The next year he joined the TA, 337 Sig Sqn in Nottingham later to become 87 Sig Sqn. Married with five sons he looks forward to maintaining contact with his TA comrades. Those comrades have been privileged to have served alongside this very happy soldier and warm human being.



Sig Jack Johnson Cofie

87 (NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

OC	**Maj Ron Toft TD JP**
2IC	**Capt John Sydney**
PSAO	**Capt David Shakespeare**
RMO	**Maj John Hunting TD**
Ops Offr	**Maj Mike Wright TD**
Ops Offr	**Maj David Wing TD**
SSM	**WO2 Brian More**
SQMS	**SSgt John Wade**
PSI	**WO2 Jessie Provan WRAC**
PSI	**Sgt Bill Kelly**
PSI (Tech)	**Sgt Sean Kent**
PSI (Tech)	**Sgt Ian Buick**
Clerical Officer	**Mr John Cox**

This issue gives the opportunity to introduce our Gateway Sqn which is based at Nottingham and was born out of 377 Sig Sqn in 1967. Recently troops of the Squadron were given the opportunity to exercise on their own, combining military training with the sharpening of trade skills.

Cpl Paul Gator on 'indoor lineman' and switchboard duty in the Gateway complex

Cpl Chris Bull proudly displaying her 'Best WRAC' award in the Regimental Team Mate military skills competition

Congratulations to Pte Dawn Welsford who gained an 'outstanding' grading on her recent recruit course at Guildford

87 Squadron's mascot, Cpl Snoopy, latterly attached to 144 Para Fd Amb, Nottingham where he completed seven parachute jumps earning his wings before returning to the Squadron in time for Annual Camp. Cpl Snoopy's minder is Sgt Beverley Swift

COMBAT POWER TROOP

OC	**SSgt Fred Waldram**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Noel Smith**

The Troop spent its weekend on a map reading exercise in Derbyshire, using their vehicles in a treasure hunt. They made full use of their trade skills by powering a microwave oven in the middle of a field, providing a very well received meal!

LINE TROOP

OC	**Lt Mike Evans** (now succeeded by **Capt Jim Crotty**)
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Bas Read**

The 'lineys' also opted for Derbyshire. They chose a location on the moors close to Matlock. The theme was radio operation, using Clansman equipment, brushing up on voice procedure. This apparent new trade training departure for 'lineys' did not detract from their instinct in also finding the best drinking hole for miles.

TRANSMIT TROOP

OC	**Capt John Turner**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick Piechota**

The Troop, now in its new uni-sex state, also headed for Derbyshire where they practised basic military skills involving map reading combined with fell walking. A full scale Barbecue was held on the Saturday evening.

RECEIVE TROOP

OC	**Capt Colin Slaughter** (who is now OC HQ Sqn)
2IC	**2Lt Chris Jenkins WRAC**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Carol Whitehead**

The Rother Valley Country Park in South Yorkshire provided the venue for a troop mix of sailing, canoeing and a radio exercise.

TM TROOP

OC	**Capt (TOT) Ian McGowan**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt (FofS) Mario Chomicz**

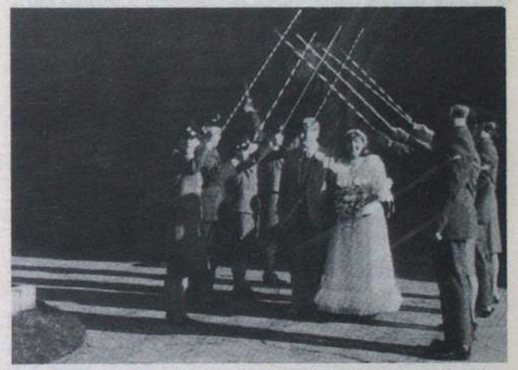
The Troop elected for fell walking combined with an orienteering exercise on the North Yorkshire Moors, close to Osmotherly.

SQUADRON MATTERS

The Squadron was very happy to go 'greenfields' at Annual Camp, the first time for many years. This set the scene for the busy communications phase when the Squadron earned its spurs in its key gateway traffic handling role.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to **LCpls Alex Jackowska** and **Neil Timms** who were married in the Polish Church in Nottingham. And to **Sgt Jane Little** and **Sgt Ian Buick** who were married in Lenton Parish Church.



A guard of honour for Sgt Ian Buick and Sgt Jane Little after they married at Lenton Parish Church

Colleagues flank LCpl Neil Timms and LCpl Alex Jackowska after their wedding in the Polish Church at Nottingham

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

A Report from (QOOH) Signal Squadron (V)

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Maj C. J. Laurence TD**
PSO	**Capt A. Burns**
2IC	**Capt C. Hill**
Tp OC	**Lt G. Grainger**
Tp OC	**Lt Z. M. Francis WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 K. Wheatley**

The Squadron has been actively involved in the three Regimental exercises which have taken place since Annual Camp 1984:-

Fisher Bank	Military Training, Thetford
Dogger Bank	Communications, UK/BAOR/Gib/Cyprus
Runnel Stone	Communications, UK/Denmark

EXERCISE ***FISHER BANK*** took the form of a military skills team competition and the final result was a win for 5 Sqn.

EXERCISE ***DOGGER BANK*** was a fully deployed communications exercise with the majority of 5 Sqn amalgamated with 3 Sqn from Tunbridge Wells providing the main radio base and commcen at South Cerney (courtesy of 29 Regt RCT). Mention should be made of the excellent performance of **Cpl Sue Gray** in running and organising the commcen. **Lt Marianne Francis** took a very happy detachment to Gibraltar to run an HF link back to UK.

EXERCISE ***RUNNEL STONE*** was all set up and ready to go, with the parachute section looking forward to a drop into Denmark, when the sad events in Ethiopia forced the Royal Air Force to reschedule the C130 deployment. **Maj David Jessett** Training Major 39 Sig Regt, burnt the midnight oil and the exercise went ahead—by water rather than by air.

PRESENTATIONS

27 November 1984 saw 5 Sqn provide a guard of honour for the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, **Lt Col Sir Ashley Ponsonby MC Bt** when he presented his certificate of outstanding service to **WO2 Brian Higgs BEM,** and medals and clasps to other Squadron members. Other guests that evening were **Col T. May**, chairman of Eastern Wessex TAVRA, and **Col V. Wallace**, Deputy Secretary of Eastern Wessex TAVRA.

The Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire inspecting the guard accompanied by Maj C. J. Laurence TD, the CO Lt Col M. V. Upson TD, and Capt C. Hill

FAREWELL

Maj Harry Warde, the Regiment's Senior PSAO, said a sad farewell to the Army in December 1984. **Harry**, accompanied by his wife **Shelagh**, was dined out by the Officers of the Regiment at RHQ in November and a very emotional experience it was for all concerned. Like all gallant men **Harry** is reticent about his active service years so we will let his double MC say it for him. Farewell and a happy retirement to a fine gentleman.

LORD MAYOR OF LONDON PROCESSION—10 NOVEMBER 84
Report by Lt J. F. Abell R Signals (V)

Things were not looking very good with six days to go. The 'volunteers' for the Lord Mayor's Guard of Honour had gathered at Armoury House for their one and only rehearsal, and the RSM, **WO1 Derek Biggs**, was not a happy man. The Guard of Honour should have consisted of four equal squads from our own regiment, C Coy 4 RGJ, Int and Sy Coy, and University of London OTC, a total of 90 personnel. As it was, only ourselves and the one other unit turned up. Despite the speed with which the Green Jackets learned to cope with orders from a Royal Signals RSM and the male members of the guard learned to march with the female element, things just didn't seem quite right.

The following Saturday, boosted by the arrival of **Cpl Lamb, LCpls Doig, Black** and **Wiseman** from Dundee, the detachment added polish to their drill in the hour that was available before departure. Rumour has it that **Maj Ian Fisher**, who was to command the parade, had been taking elocution lessons to ensure that things ran smoothly, but the RSM still didn't look convinced that 'it would be all right on the night'.

The police escort arrived to ensure we arrived safely at the Guildhall Yard where we met up with the other three units for a little more drill. Unfortunately, some horses had been to the Guildhall Yard before the Guard, so **Lt Abell**, with great regard for his own shoes, steered a clean course for the centre rank. The other two ranks were not so fortunate, and **SSgt Dave Wheeler** and **Cpl Tony Wells** were heard comparing their officer with the substance they had just marched through.

The big moment arrived at last and **Maj Fisher** took command of the parade to march us, with the aid of the WRAC Staff Band, to our position in front of the Mansion House. It was the first time that many of us had stepped out into the public eye, particularly **Sig Gregory** from Tunbridge Wells who had passed his Recruit selection weekend only three months before.

The Guard of Honour at the Mansion House passed with few hitches, and even fewer that were noticed and reported by our spies in the crowd. Being part of such a great occasion is certainly more memorable than watching it from the sidelines, and you get the feeling that perhaps a tiny part of the goodwill and cheers of the crowd are for you.

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

HERE AND THERE

Shortly after camp finished last year the Officers Dining Club held their annual dinner celebrating the Regiment's 15th anniversary and welcoming new members including the Honorary Colonel, **Col Peter Orchard,** the Squadron Honorary Colonel of 265(KCLY) Sig Sqn, **Col Robin Leigh-Pemberton** and the CO **Lt Col Mike Yolland.** The dinner was held at the Draper's Hall with whom the Regiment has a bond of association.

We have been very active over the winter so far with the Regimental Trade Training Weekends at Longmoor Camp in Surrey and are building up to a 10 day course there in February covering all trades and a Detachment Commanders Course.

FAREWELL

We bid farewell to RSM **(WO1) Mick Lavery** who is leaving us after three years with the Regiment and 22 years with the army. He has made a significant contribution during his time with us and has ensured amongst other things that the standard of the recruits coming into the Regiment is consistently high by dint of a thorough Recruit Selection Weekend. He has been very active in the refurbishing of The Bisley Pavillion and in particular has shown a talent for roofing and drain clearance. Those that attended the second weeks of Camp 1983 and 1984 will not forget his enthusiasm for persuading us to do things we did not think possible. We wish him and his family every success in the future.

RSM (WO1) Mick Lavery sailing off into the sunset after three years at the helm

INNS OF COURT AND CITY YEOMANRY

Some of the more interesting of the Squadron's activities in recent months are as follows:

71 Sig Regt (V)
Bromley

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

For many years the Squadron has taken part in the Lord Mayor's Show entering a mounted detachment of five officers and eight ORs, providing a number of route marshals and in more recent times running a radio net for The Pageant Master. For all it is a long cold November day particularly for the riders who present themselves early at Knightsbridge Barracks and mount at 0830 hrs. After a chilling inspection by the Corporal of Horse and the Orderly Officer the Squadron joins the main party consisting of detachments of Life Guards, The Blues and Royals and the Mounted Band of The Household Cavalry, all magnificently attired in State Dress.

This splendid entourage leaves Knightsbridge and trots via South Carriage Walk, past the Palace and down Great George Street to the Embankment. In the city the Police make way for the riders, and the HAC ground is reached in good time. This is the FUP for the mounted marching contingents. Smartly dressed marshals persuade the participants to move to the assembly areas and then at 1108 hrs they are off, or rather the head of the show is off because by the time they reach the law courts the tail end has yet to move!

This year the Squadron's detachment was privileged to provide an escort for **Lady Traill** who, unusually, for the Lady Mayoress, chose to ride the whole route side saddle; but then she is an accomplished rider.

Although the show finishes in the afternoon with the return past Mansion House the riders have still to trot back in formation to Knightsbridge leaving in their wake a mass of snarled up West End traffic. The incredibly smart present arms by The Guard at Buckingham Palace, however, well makes up for the aches and pains of a long day.

UNIFORMED SERVICES JUMPING COMPETITION

For the first time the Squadron entered a team in the USJC held in the Indoor Riding School at The Barracks of The King's Troop RHA at St John's Wood.

The team members were: **Maj Andrew Collins, Lt Nicholas Morant, 2Lt William Mackesy** and **2Lt Jeremy Fern.** The other 17 teams included stiff opposition from abroad. The course itself was tight and not a few experienced riders encountered map reading disasters and

2Lt Jeremy Fern and 2Lt William Mackesy in intense conversation during the USJC

were retired. **Lt Nick Morant** did brilliantly and was one of the few riders to achieve two clear rounds. The French team, however, put in four splendid riders and as in past years scooped first place. The Squadron though, achieved sixth place and received some pretty rosettes from **Lady Traill.**

BERKSHIRE YEOMANRY

It all began slowly, with the OC's determination to take the Squadron overseas. For a home defence Squadron this seemed at first a hopeless aim; and yet as each obstacle was overcome what had been but a dim hope turned slowly and inexorably into reality. Not everyone believed it of course, and even as MT Sgt **Barry Hearn** supervised the loading of the Squadron's 31 prime movers on board the ferry at Southampton there were still some doubters giving voice to the idea that it was all a hoax. Yet less than one hour later we were there: Cowes, Isle of Wight—overseas at last!

On serious reflection the move from Windsor to the Isle of Wight went very smoothly and the only drawback was the difficulty of queueing at the bar on board the ferry. This arose only because the ferrymaster had loaded all the 'heavies' onto the starboard side (note the proper use of naval jargon) of the ferry causing a very definite list to starboard. A sense of balance was restored only when **LCpl Dave (I can push a K9 out of a ditch singlehanded) Hopkins,** 6ft 3in and 200lb, solved the problem by standing by the port rail.

The Squadron deployed to various locations in the Isle of Wight including Newtown Training Area and we spent a happy week practising communications on Exercise *Red Shoes* 9. The Squadron circuits achieved a staggering 90% availability and much credit goes to Technicians **Sgts Bob Ingram** and **John Pilags. Sgt Pilags** has not forgiven us over his name first appearing on Squadron orders as 'Pilgas' later corrected to 'Pilage'!

ANTICIPATED

Some clever intelligence gathering by **Sgt Barry Hearn** (again!) enabled the Squadron to anticipate attacks by live enemy from 40 Sig Sqn. All of them were captured on attempting to infiltrate our locations.

Perhaps one word of warning to those planning for the Isle of Wight in the future. The island's four corners each have a different weather pattern and for instance, the south east has had no rain in summer for the past eight years I'm told. Contrarily the north west corner often has summer rains. Yes! you guessed it. Newtown training area is in the north west.

TO STANFORD

At the end of the week the Squadron packed up, left the island paradise and moved north to join the rest of the Regiment gathering on Stanford PTA for a week of fun, fitness and 'panache'. Panache is the Regiment's watchword but the second week of camp was very wet and needs the emphasis of a few 'Fs'!

Sgt John (Break a leg) Lamb was in his element running the assault course. In truth he is not known for his sympathetic attitude to animals or soldiers but can it be that he likes hamsters? I only ask because otherwise it seems so strange that **Lt Geoff** (I eat hamsters) **Hornsby** broke his hand on the first obstacle of the assault course and, unable to give up because of the gentle persuasion of **Sgt Lamb**, he continued and broke his ankle on the next! Perhaps all this was mere coincidence. Anyway it provided a 'cracking' start to a water logged week of intense activity! In fact the Squadron performed very well gaining top places in both the male and female inter-Squadron competitions.

Towards the end of the year **Sgt Lamb** was presented with his long service and Good Conduct Medal by **Brig Peter Tower,** CofS London District. His citation did not mention the assault course.

FAREWELLS

In February the Squadron says goodbye to PSO **Capt Les Graham** who first joined the Army in 1940 (at the time of the big Exercise when they shot back at you with real bullets—he keeps reminding us). Since then he has amassed some 45 years service in 10 different regular and TA Units. We shall undoubtedly miss his good sense of humour which, together with his administrative expertise, has made him the ideal PSO. We wish him every success in the Punjabi Hussars Home for Retired Officers, Somerset (An in joke I'm afraid).

Actually the Squadron lost quite a few longer serving members during 1984 including **Sgt Billy Walker,** ex OC's driver, renowned for his store of hot peppermints which provided a desperately needed distraction whilst he was driving! **Cpl Di Willis** also retired and she was the first ever soldier invited to dance by the current OC (who was at the time a LCpl). A lot of important questions spring to mind: Did the OC learn to dance specially for the occasion and if so why has he forgotten how to? Did **Di** dive at the chance, or did **Di** die when he asked her? Indeed how did I dare write this? Notwithstanding these issues all our best wishes to everyone who left during the year.

KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY (SHARPSHOOTERS)

Annual Camp saw us deployed in Stanford PTA where the rain that fell on the rest of the Regiment in week two fell on us for the whole of week one. The common cold was to be seen liberally spread amongst us all and the PSO did a roaring trade in packets of tissues. To keep us dry the Army kindly provided for our wooded location, marquees voluminous, several, which had the advantage over most of us, as few of us had seen them before. However the LAD 'recovered' the position and under **SSgt Ron King** and his assistant 'Kurch's guidance, the WRAC soon had the marquees erected.

Comms were good but the weather was monotonous and various people devised different ways to brighten up the day. **SSgt Terry Bodman** and **LCpl Cynthia Bedwell** built a highly efficient garage door to our car park out of cam nets and in the mess tent the soundtrack of the film 'M*A*S*H' lent a hint of unreality to the quagmire that had become our site. It inspired 'Q' and his helpers erect a signpost with 'Distances to . . .' marked on it outside the mess tent which had its own pond and garden gnome in residence.

Ptes Delyth Williams and Alison Miller cavorting round our garden gnome with a blank sheet of paper?

Raft builders extraordinaire—Sgt Babs Gallafent, Pte Alison Moulton, SSgt Cath Tickner, Cpl Debbie Castle, Pte Jo O'Brien and Pte Jackie Lane

Brig Peter Tower and Lt Col Mick Yolland show their confidence in the knotting ability of 265's WRAC

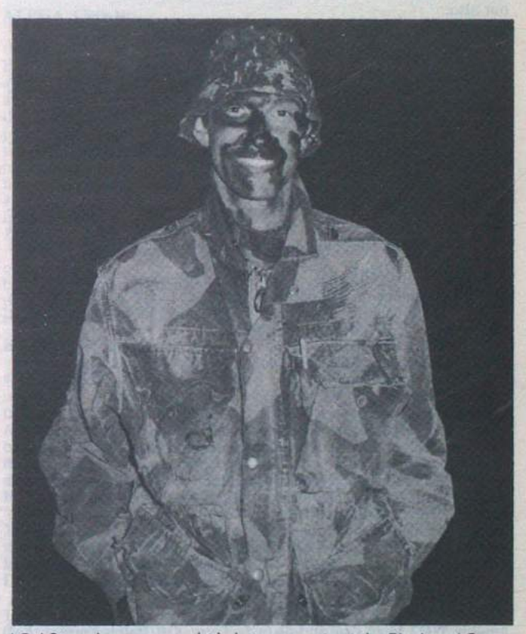
HECTIC

However by the end of the week the success in all departments meant that we were sad to leave our 'home' and move the five miles back to Bodney Camp. This had nothing to do with rumours about the programme that the RSM had planned for us. The second week was hectic and tiring and revolved around bounty tests and various military training activities. The high spot during **Brig Peter Tower's** visit was when he and CO **Lt Col Mike Yolland** took to the high seas on a raft designed, built and tested by the WRAC of 265. They both survived despite the close attention of the wake following **SSgt Ron King's** safety Launch.

The girls achieved another high in winning the Inter-Squadron Assault Course Competition led by **Capt Judith Appelby.**

WO2 (SSM) Tony Allibone and SSgt Gordon Holloway cooking a 'C' for 30 with extra rice in Pippingford Park

Maj Gen Eyre GOC Londist visiting 890 Troop's COMMCEN Exercise with Troop OC Capt David Hewer and Sgt Maureen Edwards



LCpl Steve Lawson caught in between acts at the Black and Green Minstrel Show

TRADITIONAL

Camp finished in traditional style with **2Lt David Hannam** and **Sgt Mark Penny** breaking down on the way home. Something they have between them managed to do on every camp for the last four years. However, this was the first time they had done it together.

The rest of the year saw a joint 884 and 890 Troop Exercise. In Pippingford Park where all out war was declared by the WRAC on the gentlemen. No one is admitting what the final score was, but a good time was had by all.

In November **Maj Gen Eyre**, GOC Londist visited Bexleyheath TAC to see the Squadron at work on a drill night. He visited all departments and the evening finished with a buffet in the mess.

After several years as London District football champs the Squadron team started their defence against 4RGJ at Woolwich. However this year was not to see our retaining the trophy as we went down 4—2 in a lively match. More training required for next year!

The year finished with a night at the TAC where the officers and SNCOs served a huge, traditional Christmas Dinner to the assembled gathering. Fun, games and music ensued until the early hours led by **Sgt Bert** and his Forties Forces Band.

News from Squadrons

Northag Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

SQUADRON WINTER TRAINING WEEK

This was the Squadron second such training week for this time of the year, and it took place from the 3 to 7 December. The first four days were spent in barracks updating all the previous months lectures and demonstrations by the Squadron instructors. Thursday 6 December saw the Squadron split into teams of six and given maps and grid references to use. The idea being to send each team out at spaced intervals to follow routes over 20Kms at night.

So that no favouritism could be claimed—a SNCOs team was sent out also.

Quite a few of the younger soldiers were a little apprehensive but with regular check points along the way, especially the one run by **WO2 Ron Burrell, Adjt Maurice Engelen** and **Sgt Mick Hague** which provided hot soup, bread and Bockwurst, all was not as difficult as at first thought. Every team excelled itself during the walk and the younger soldier especially benefited greatly from the older soldier's experience.

The winners of the walk were—the Senior Citizens—well, thats one opinion anyway!

SQUADRON CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday 13 December was a night to remember. And a good time was had by all! Cliché after cliché describes this excellently organised evening. **Sgt Dick Clegg** and his merry men should be justly proud of the result.

Wine-women-AND song was the order of the day. Even the OC, **Maj Mike Anderson** walked away with the star prize—he was seen leaving the Club clutching the colour TV saying 'marvellous, just what I have always wanted for the bedroom'.

Well **Dick** I am afraid you made too much of a good thing, so you are nominated for next years also!

SQUADRON SKI CAMP

Sunday 13 January was 'They're Off' the temperature at Tongeren was minus twenty degrees centigrade, but no one seemed to worry—they were off to Bavaria for the annual Squadron Ski Camp. The roads on the way down were treacherous but thankfully all arrived safely. Monday saw everyone being fitted out for boots, skis and sticks. Flashing off the new ski attire—very nice! **SSgt Paul Smith**, our instructor, soon had those beginners slipping and sliding (and falling) around the nursery slope. A notable pair of fallers were **Miss Sabine Bijnens** (typist) and **Sgt Dick Clegg, Sabine** fell and **Dick** seemed always to be on hand to fall as well. By Friday **Paul** had most of them licked into shape—or as **Sabine** said 'battered them into shape'. Saturday and Sunday were rest days, and much needed ones too. I think the beginners used to look at the other members of the camp, notably **WO2 Mick Gue** and his wife **Terry, OC Ralph Emenet, Kpl Harold Van Buggenum** and especially **Sld Tom Janssen** (The Stars), and think how many times do I have to fall before I also become a star. On the Sunday the **SSM WO2 Mick Gue** organised a trip to the frozen valley—beautiful—I can only say that it is something I must see again! Monday and the beginners slid forward to the nursery slope—Slid—not fall. I think they were all impressed that the fallers were now becoming fewer and fewer—but **Dick** was still there just in case!By the end of the week all had a great debt to pay to **Paul Smith**—his instruction was faultless and his patience was as Job. Thanks **Paul**. Parting words—we'll be back next year.

MARATHON TRAINING

We are in training for the London Marathon which takes place on 21 April. We also have nine names for this year's Berlin Marathon, and I am trying to get more.

MENTION OF THE MONTH

Well worth a laugh—not much else (or so his best friend? says): **Sgt** 'I'm in Green' **Dennis Morgan.**

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EXERCISE *BOLD GANNET*

Refreshed after a good summer block leave, the Squadron returned to find itself only two weeks away from Exercise *Bold Gannet*. This was the United Kingdom Mobile Force's (UKMF) FTX in Denmark, and as such it was the climax of two years' training.

In the event all went well. However, there are still a few members of the Squadron who are a little unsure as to why they were out of Tidworth for 3½ weeks for the sake of a five day FTX!—an obvious handicap of being based in UK and yet having a deployment role in the BALTIC. For the QM (**Capt Ron Brodie**) this was all too much and he retired ill after two weeks. (We had to mention the QM as he keeps telling us that he hasn't been mentioned in 'The Wire' since 1963). The 2IC couldn't 'hack it' either and bailed out early—some excuse about getting ready for Exercise *Moonbase* 4, our battle camp in Cyprus.

The remainder of the Squadron soldiered on, however, and endured the real problems brought about by FTX play—like the chaos caused when an SDS vehicle carrying a map showing all the Squadron locations was captured by an enemy patrol. This particularly upset B Tp who had to crash out before even taking command, having spent two days making themselves really comfortable in their first location (A typical B Tp trait). Returning in dribs and drabs (and completely at the mercy of 'the movers', who were having the time of their lives!) we eventually regrouped in Tidworth and began some work up training for Exercise *Moonbase* 4, which was due to start in three weeks.

EXERCISE *MOONBASE* 4

One of the advantages of being based in the UK is that we have the opportunity to take part in military training exercises in Cyprus. In Oct/Nov 1984 we spent four weeks based at Radio Sonde Camp in the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA). The training covered most aspects of basic infantry skills and included live firing section attacks, assault beach landings, and an escape and evasion exercise. All was not work, however, and **Capt Steve Garrick** (Brigade HQ) and his team of bronzed instructors ran a three day beach camp for each of the troops. Here, all had the opportunity to have a go at windsurfing, dinghy sailing, sea canoeing and snorkelling. A Tp thought this was a great idea as they glided across the warm, clear, flat Mediterranean basking in a temperature of 80°F, with a rudder in one hand and a 'Brandy Sour' in the other. However, C Tp were not too impressed when a three day storm with winds of up to gale force nine, mountainous seas, hail (believe it or not!) and water spouts greeted them every morning. Still they are now very good at digging drainage trenches and think back with affection to their time spent at the 'Swamp Camp'.

Special mentions to:

Cpl Fitzehorswell—Cpl 'Fitz' and his section from A Tp won the Squadron's annual patrol competition, the Turner Trophy, held on the WSBA training area. When the RAF agreed to fly (!) each section flew into the testing area, and completed a patrol, during which they were tested on map reading, first aid, anti-ambush drills and fitness. Well done **Cpl 'Fitz'**.

Cpl 'Doc' Holliday—The only section commander to fall down a 15 feet deep ravine and still lead his section to the finish. (He now also boasts the only SLR which can shoot round corners!)

Cpl McLaughlin—Congratulations to **Cpl 'Mac'** and his section from A Tp who won the inter-section competition which was based on results from various shoots, the live firing section attacks, and an orienteering competition.

VISIT OF BRIG J. F. W. WILSEY OBE

Brig Wilsey took over command of 1 Infantry Brigade on 10 December 1984, and he visited the Squadron on 18 January. The OC showed the Comd round displays put on by the troops. C Troop earned valuable brownie points by offering the Comd coffee when he arrived at their display.

CHANGE OF OC

On 1 February **Maj Chris Shuker** handed over command of the Squadron to **Maj Martin Stretch**. The occasion was marked by a Squadron parade and a drive past of most of the Squadrons' 100 prime movers. **Maj Shuker** is moving on to bigger and better things in MOD; we wish him and his wife **Audrey** best wishes for their new tour.

The new year has also seen a change of adjutant and we say goodbye to **Maj Bill Lloyd A** and SH and welcome **Maj Simon Firbank LI.**

ALPHA TROOP

Alpha troop have found themselves afloat with a Royal Marine at the helm. **Lt Nick Kendall-Carpenter RM** joined in August just before Exercise *Bold Gannet* and since then has been trying to teach the troop a new language. 'Drafts', 'Heads', 'Galleys' and 'Runs Ashore' have all become part of the everyday vocabulary although it is unlikely that the RSM holds much with his objection to the stamping of feet on parade. He might have managed to con a few people into believing that he knows a little about radio comms but it is obvious that he must have caught up on a lot of sleep during the trunk comms lectures in his training. Still with a bit of gentle guidance from **SSgt Dave Jennings**, and a lot of amusement from the troop, things might just hold together until his replacement arrives from the 16/5 Lancers in June.

Until then the troop will presumably continue with its exercise role of scattering all over the countryside trying to avoid Bde HQ and its barracks role of thrashing all the other troops on the sports field—or perhaps we'll just keep on winning all the inter-section military skills competitions.

BRAVO TROOP

At the beginning of the last exercise season the Troop was tasked with providing the new Bde Step Up HQ, a task which we took in our stride. During the past year, apart from the normal exercises, we have operated in Denmark (Exercise *Bold Gannet*), and Cyprus (Exercise *Moonbase* 4). We also managed to send members of the troop away on an expedition to Jordan, Exercise *Monte Bianco* (a climbing exercise in Italy) and Exercise *Trimcraft* in Jamaica. Other detachments have included **Cpl George Fraser** to Sinai and **LCpl Tony Barker** and **Sig Taff Owens** to the Falklands.

We welcome new members—**2Lt Derek Wood**, who took over the Troop during Exercise *Bold Gannet*. We hope that he will stay longer with us than his predecessor did—**Cpl 'Scouse' Tiernan, LCpl Steve Burrows, Sig Adrian Blakes, 'Killer' Kinnear, Tim Brady, 'DP' Davidson-Page and Sam Royles.**

Fond farewells go to—**Lt Dunc 'The Lad' McAllister**, the former Troop Commander. We wish him success at Shrivenham.—**Cpl Gunter Weeks** (BAOR be warned), **LCpl 'Sting' Ray** to 30 Sig Regt to cause chaos, **LCpl Taff Baughan** to Antwerp and **Sig 'Basher' Bates** and **Taff Day** to civvy street. We wish them all the best.

To conclude we have had a few notable successes in winning the inter-troop Cross Country, Athletics and the Kay Cup. We were runners up in the inter-troop Squash Competition.

CHARLIE TROOP
EXERCISE *MOONBASE* 4

We arrived in Cyprus at the second attempt, having been forced to dump tons of fuel over Oxford on our first abortive flight. (Nobody's quite sure what happened to it all). We were greeted at Akrotiri Airport by the warm weather and the 2IC. After a day's acclimatization (!), 3 Troop, which consisted of Charlie Troop supplemented by a few technicians, were thrown into rigourous section training under section commanders. This took place on the local training areas and due to the heat these were subject to a no smoking ban. This caused all sorts of problems (not to mention the effect on morale!). 2 section under **Cpl Calvin Lambert**, having decided to ban smoking completely, were subsequently known as 2 'No smoking' section. The section training culminated in section attacks and finally in a troop attack, which took the form of a beach landing. This involved a start at 0130 hrs (!) and two 'dry runs' before assaulting the beach at dawn.

The next two days were taken up with the Whittaker Cup shooting competition. This highly competitive inter-section shoot was won by 1 Section led by **Cpl Gary 'Indiana' Elliston**. The hawkeye shots were **LCpl 'Taft' Howells** and **Sig Jim Grimes**, who excelled in the SLR shoot. Fun was had by all, including the range sentries, as they could observe the BMH from one tower and a nudist beach from the other!

Next on the programme, was the 'Swamp Camp'. This had been a paradise three days earlier (ask Alpha Troop!) but for us it was well and truly water logged. This gave rise to many comments, the best of which was—'Dear Mum, please send Red Cross parcel as am now a refugee', (signed **Cpl 'Taff' Dennis**.)

OC 2 Tp briefing his section commanders

Cpl Sands and his section smiling *before* training started

Members of the Bradley Club Committee meet the Brigade Commander

LCpls Howells and Sgt Woodcock earning Brownie points

After the first of three days the 'Swamp Camp' was punctuated by a day's R&R, which was spent at Paphos, a delightful, small fishing town, steeped in history, where it rained solidly all day! On return to the 'Swamp Camp' we found the weather had improved slightly and we were able to orienteer and actually get out on the water. Snorkelling proved to be a troop favourite and many members bought their own snorkelling equipment. **Sig Ted 'Suntan Oil' Hodgson** preferred fishing, however, and he proved to be particularly successful in bringing them to the surface in the Kyrenia Bar!

Next was Turner Trophy day, during which 2 'No Smoking' Section endured the somewhat unusual experience of being attacked by a pack of wild dogs. All thought of maintaining patrolling formation was forgotten, as self preservation became the order of the day. **LCpl 'Paddy' Simpson** would have given **Carl Lewis** a good race and **Sig Harry Harwood** managed to knock down a fence in his haste to get away. There was some discrepancy (in our minds) as to who won the Turner Trophy. **Cpl 'Indiana' Elliston** claimed victory but was placed third (obviously a fix!)

With little rest we then embarked on a journey to Dhekelia. For the next three days we were 'beasted' by the Royal Marines of 40 Commando. This training covered range work and culminated in a live firing section attack narrowly won by 2 Section. The highlight of this final day was when **Cpl 'Taff' Dennis**, founder member of the Troop Whelsh Choir, carried out a lone attack on the enemy position much to the suprise of his section commander, **Cpl Dave Toombes**, and the Royal Marines.

As the exercise began to draw to a close, we tried our hands at watermanship training. This proved to be rather hazardous for some, due to the fact that they were suffering from a bout of diarrhoea! But much fun was had by all.

FINAL PHASE

The final phase of the exercise was an escape and evasion exercise. This began when we were somewhat rudely awakened at 0130 hrs by the enemy (accompanied by several dogs), thrown onto a Bedford and driven several miles before being ambushed, when we made our escape. (**Cpl**Elliston and his linemen would like to apologise for biting the guard dogs, but they just could not stand the constant barking any more). The next two days saw people being captured and released. Amongst these were **Sig Rab 'The Winge' Barrie** and **Cpl Dave Pick**.During this phase, **Cpl 'Indiana' Elliston** and his merry men managed to commandeer a landrover, which they reluctantly gave back in the end.

And so came the final three days R&R. The Troop persued its various activities such as sight seeing, water sports, and sunbathing. Disaster struck **LCpl 'Paddy' Simpson** who lost his teeth while snorkelling. Great efforts were made to find them but they were to no avail. (The only man to leave a souvenir *in* Cyprus!)

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj J. N. Allan**
2IC	**Capt S. J. S. Young**
QM	**Maj R. L. Danells**
Admin Officer	**Capt V. T. Zimmer**
Comms Officer	**Capt D. J. Whitby**
OC A Tp	**Lt P. B. Knobel**
OC B Tp	**Lt Cooper**
OC C Tp	**Lt P. J. D. Moloney**
RSM	**WO1 I. R. Campbell**
FofS	**WO1 D. Jackson**
YofS	**WO2 G. Thomas**
RQMS	**WO2 G. S. Air**
Chief Clk	**SSgt J. Fowler**
SQMS	**SSgt M. Hendley**

BUSY END TO 84

The latter part of 1984 was as busy as ever with plenty of planning for the year's training ahead. JOCOMEX's abounded in November, with links to no fewer than ten RN Ships and establishments, with varying degrees of success. November also saw Radio dets deployed to Catterick to provide vital comms links for Para ex's on Salisbury Plain; it's always nice to pay a visit to the old 'stomping' grounds and even better in a live comms capacity. 'Thank you 8 Sig Regt'.

YEAR AHEAD

1985 sees the introduction of the new Squadron selection course with volunteers arriving from within the Corps with the ultimate aim of joining the Squadron and wearing the coveted 'Red Beret'. For those of you out there who are thinking of volunteering for 'P' Coy, we look forward to seeing you in the near future and hope that when you receive your 'joining instructions' it will give you a fair idea of what is in store for you at the 'Happy Para Place'.

SPOTLIGHT ON SHQ

The tale of the background boys is rarely told, so in order to redress this situation, it is appropriate to mention some of the faces behind the scenes. **Capt 'Vic' Zimmer** is the man of many hats who proudly displays a list of unit appointments as long as your arm. Working in close proximity is the 'Chief'—**SSgt Jim Fowler**, he's the guy who looks about 70 but is in fact 26. Seriously though, we wish him all the best on posting to Ouston in March. **Capt Stan Young** has recently arrived and is now firmly ensconsed as the Squadron 2IC, in between organising synthetic training and jumps (Para terms) his avowed intention is to use up the Brigades stationary entitlement in one month. **Sgt Mitch Pegg RAPC** enjoys the privileged position of paying out **Capt John Whitby**'s RTPD claims each month, although he flatly refuses to push the wheel barrow to the bank for him.

The Orderly room staff and civilian typists continue to provide excellent clerical support, **LCpl 'Mr Plod' Corbett, Sig 'Did you miss me?' Hopkins, Sig 'Wrong file' Butterworth, Cpl Jock McKenna, Sue, Margarette, Shirley,** Uncle Tom Cobley and all to mention but a few. **WO1 (RSM) Ian Campbell** continues his campaign for improvements to the Sergeants Mess and who, incidently has swanned off to BAOR to recruit potential Airborne signallers to join our ranks. **Sgts Alan Gay** and **'Chippy' Monk** continue to battle against the odds in the Squadron training wing, at present they are hastily producing a list of all the previous lists they have made. Where will it all end!

Last but not least is a cry from the wilderness:— WANTED—One para trained Yeoman, preferably still able to jump, must be able to carry the Bde Comms on his back and wear a permanent smirk while nodding and smiling. Apply in writing to Manning and Records soonest. (PS Must be WO2).

LANYARD TROPHY

The Lanyard Trophy is an annual march, which was instigated by 6 Fd Force HQ and Sig Sqn (216) and continued by 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (now 215). 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn now has the honour of wearing the Lanyard and so will run the competition for the foreseeable future.

40 MILE MARCH!

The competition consists of a 40 mile march in full Battle Order (including back packs) along a route following the North Downs Way starting south of Caterham and finishing at Arnhem Barracks. This year the competition was open to units of 1 Sig Gp and was sponsored to raise money for the Stoke Mandeville Foundation with considerable TV/press coverage arranged.

COMPETITION

The competition for 1984 took place on the 29-30 November with competitors following a signed 40 mile route with the aim of completing the distance in as short a time as possible. The route was sprinkled with comms CP's to provide up-to-the-minute information on how the 'lads' were progressing. Out of some 200 competitors entering, 84 finished the course, with the remainder withdrawing with various ailments, along the way.

INDIVIDUAL SQUADRON PLACINGS

Place	Name	Time
1st	**Sgt 'Ginge' Whittick**	10hrs 10mins
2nd	**Lt 'Des' Moloney**	10hrs 10mins
3rd	**Sgt 'Rog' Taylor**	10hrs 47mins
4th	**LCpl 'Dave Spr' Pollock**	11hrs 05mins
5th	**LCpl 'Bri' Wellard**	11hrs 42mins

UNIT PLACINGS

1st	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2nd	30 Sig Regt
3rd	249 Sig Sqn
4th	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
5th	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

PRESENTATION

Col M. Marples OBE, Comd 1 Sig Gp presented certificates and medals to successful participants with special congratulations to **Lt 'Des' Moloney** and **Sgt 'Ginge' Whittick** on achieving an outstanding time and so setting the norm for future competitions.

The 'Winners'—Sgt 'Ginge' Whittick (left), Lt Des Moloney

Certificate being presented to Cpl John Cakebread by Col M. Marples Comd 1 Sig Gp, with the OC Maj John Allan in the background

ALPHA TROOP

November saw Alpha Troop providing comms for the Lanyard Trophy and having a good laugh at the competitors. **Lt Knobel, LCpl Pollock** (our tame RE), **LCpls Rowlands** and **Lucas** competed and did very well. The Troop was particularly 'chuffed' with **LCpl Lucas**, one of the two non-para runners from the Squadron.

December saw utter confusion within the troop with Brigade Sports and Rear Details Leave accounting for the whole troop. Everyone staggered back from Block Leave in January straight on to Comms Cadres, Patrol competitions and Exercise preparation.

Lt Allman stood in for OC A whilst he went on a binge in BAOR for one week with **LCpl Rowlands** plus two on a Recruiting tour. **LCpl Rowlands** was so keen to pose in BAOR that he forwent some of his leave!

The Troop has lost **Cpl Williams** to civvy street and will soon lose **LCpl 'Los' Cefai** who wants to chase the girls in 'Mounted Troop' 160 PRO RMP, and is trying to transfer. Good luck in the pen 'LOS'. We have in the same period lost **LCpl Jones** to Bravo Troop, a sad loss but he is enjoying himself doing nothing.

Joining the 'Professionals' are **Cpls 'Smudge' Smith, Chris Brown, Sig Duncan Cullen,** and **'Geordie' Maughan.** Welcome to Alpha Troop.

Congratulations to **Sig Rosser** and **LCpl Santos** on passing their A1 and to **LCpl 'Pete' Ffitch** on getting married. Best of luck to **Sig 'Jolly John' Walker** in P Company.

CHARLIE TROOP

So that was Christmas, and it's over! Charlie Troop have many hellos and goodbyes for the period. Welcome back to **Sgt Wilson** from his jungle course looking slim and fit, also to **Cpl Taff Leyman** from his swan in Australia. **Cpl Leyman** is on his way to 3 Div, best of luck (they will need it). **LCpl Jack Hawkins** has gone go 614 TACP but they are only next door; have a good tour in Belize. Good luck to **LCpl Chris Newman** who is going into civvie street to search for the meaning of life. Finally welcome to **Cpl Chris Bean** who obviously does not know what he has let himself in for as he is still smiling.

It has been a busy period socially with Christmas and farewell parties. We would like to take this opportunity to thank **'Trish'** and her marvellous staff at our official haunt 'The George'.

The troop have been quite busy on an individual basis with pre para training, boxing training, recruiting, patrol training and comms cadres. These activities will, hopefully, bear fruit in February when we have Troop, Squadron and Brigade exercises. There is plenty to look forward to in the new year with hard work ahead for all and, hopefully, some lighter moments as well, including trips to Cyprus and Canada. On a final note congratulations are in order for **LCpl Horan** and **LCpl Revera** on their recent promotions.

565 Para RLD have only days to do now of their tour with 2 Para in South Armagh. Keep smiling lads; we shall see you soon.

566 Para RLD are in barracks at the moment working hand in glove with Charlie Troop.

BOXING

The Squadron boxed in the finals of the UKLF Minor Units Novice Grade 3 Inter Unit Team Boxing Championships 1984/85 against our adversaries of last year, 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE on Thursday 17 January in The Army Boxing Centre.

Despite a very courageous effort by the team, we lost every bout. Because of a weight problem, (the team must still be growing), **Sig Fearn** boxed in a special welterweight contest, which he won on points, very convincingly.

The team consisted of: Lightweight **Sig Delaney** and **LCpl Pinto Dos Santos**; Lightmiddle **LCpl Revera**; Middleweight **LCpl Williams** (did not box injured); Lightheavy **Sig Prutton**, and Welterweight **Sig Jackson.**

Despite losing, the team wish to continue boxing, and every effort will be made in the coming year to ensure that they get the training to do so and perhaps, who knows, win the competition, next year. After being Runners Up on the UKLF Final two year's running, they deserve to win next time.

THE BLUE HELMETS

BACK AND FORWARD

The winter period is a quiet time for the Blue Helmets. A time for looking back at the last season and for looking forward to the coming summer displays. During 1984 the parachute team was, as previously reported, fairly busy with displays and competitions. On the display side things went very well with only the last venue, at Portsmouth, being cancelled. On the competition side the team had a very good season, winning its first trophy, the Daily Telegraph Cup, in the Rhine Army parachute Championships. **WPte Chris Clements** came back from France, having represented Great Britain in the World Style and Accuracy Championships, with some excellent stories and photographs. **Sgt Mick Thurman** returned from Australia in early November '84. He had been taking part in the Third World Cup in Canopy Relative Work. He had travelled as part of an Army Parachute Association Team which formed the Great Britain C Team in the 4 way Rotation event. The Royal Marines formed the A & B Teams having won the National Championships at Netheravon in September. The APA team travelled down to Australia not having done as much training as they would have liked but with more enthusiasm than was necessary. **Sgt Mick Thurman** was so full of it in fact that on his first jump in the competition he managed to go so fast he wrapped his parachute canopy around a fellow team member **SSgt Steve Clarke RE** and had to cut away and use his reserve. This did not deter the team though and after a quick repack they were back in the air. Bad weather for eight days meant that the competition ran right up until the last day. Even so that mad cap enthusiasm was still there. This time, on the last round of the competition, **Spr Chris Lynch** managed to go through **Steve Clarke**'s canopy as it was opening. Having totally destroyed the end cell of the canopy the team still built their four stack and started rotating. Little did they know they were going to get a rejump because the judges had lost them in cloud. The rejump was completed with **Steve Clarke** using another team member's kit but this time getting away unscathed.

THE GAIN

In conclusion the team came 15th out of 19 teams in the Rotation event. They managed though to gain a lot of knowledge and experience by competing at World Championship level. This experience will be the basis on which the next Army crew squad will build ready for the National Championships next year.

A GET TOGETHER

At the end of November the team members in Aldershot held a get together in the Squadron Club. This was to present **Sgt (Mr) Rodger Key** with a small memento of the Blue Helmets. **Sgt Key** had been the team's commentator for the 1984 season and did an excellent job throughout. During the evening the team members watched videos of parachuting. These included, **Sgt Mick Thurman** eating jelly in free-fall and **Capt Peter Day** on his 200th sport jump. The piece where **Capt Day** gets thrown into the lake being the funniest.

A CHALLENGING YEAR AHEAD

Looking forward to 1985, the team has bookings for venues up and down the country, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Weymouth. Hopefully this will be the busiest year yet and it is hoped to cover 20-30 venues.

Sgt Mick Thurman is compiling a list of current known parachutists within the Corps and would like to hear from anyone who is interested, even if it is just to help out on the ground with commentary etc. He also has the dates for the three week and weekend one jump courses to be held at the Joint Services parachute centre at Netheravon. The three week courses are for regular military personnel only and should be booked through units. The one jump courses are for anyone military or civilian.

Congratulations must go to **WPte Chris Clements** who completed her 1,000th parachute descent on 25 November. The jump itself although only from 5,000 ft is a great achievement. Well done **Chrissie.**

NEW MANAGEMENT

Lt Des Moloney has taken over the management of the Blue Helmets from **Capt Peter Day** and can be contacted through 5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn.

The team at work

Sgt Key being presented with his decanter by Capt Peter Day on leaving

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) BFPO 18

MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON (MCS)

The MCS, HQ AFCENTs Mobile Comms Squadron, has been busy since its last appearance in *The Wire*. With a number of minor exercises under our belt, including a deployment during Europe's coldest spell in January when temperatures at some sites were recorded at – 22°C, and a major staff exercise with full representation from HQ AFCENT and HQ AAFCE. Preparations are now well in hand to participate in *Wintex* and at the end of that exercise MCS temporarily ceases to exist when we start backloading all our comms equipment in readiness for the '1985 Buy'. This consists of a purpose built stepped up COMMCEN using microwave radio relay and interconnected with HF radio all connected into the CIP/PTT systems. The Squadron will be mounted in 80 × five ton Daf and Mercedes trucks and 'on paper' is due to increase in size from its present strength of 124 to 200 though at the last official count it seems we will probably have to make do with about 164. The equipment begins to flow from August 1985 and in September we start six month's intensive training in Maastricht when the civil sub contractors move into barracks to assist with equipment familiarisation and to set a common training standard. This is necessary when you remember that the Squadron consists of 58 UK, 38 GE, 22 US and 7 NL personnel and that they are fully integrated into one command structure so that a radio team can consist of four men, one from each nation. You will no doubt understand when we say that working in MCS, which is about to change its name to the Alternate War Comms Squadron (AWCS), is certainly challenging!

THE MANAGEMENT

The Command Structure is outlined below:

OC	**Maj Andrew Gale**
Deputy Comd	**Hauptmann Wolfgang Griessler,** GC
Ops Off	**Capt Paul Holden**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Brian (Roadrunner) Lawrence**
OC A Tp	**Hauptmann Karl-Heinz Krahl** GC
OC BTp	**SSgt Dave Letts**
OC Support Tp	**WO1 (RSM) John Woolley**
SQMS (Self Appointed)	**SSgt John Keohane**
OC RR	**SFC Carl Foster,** US Army

Power Section
L to R: HFW Schuele (GE), Uffz Radziejewski (GE), LCpl Hitchen

One of our RR Crews
L to R: SP Kidd (US), Uffz Mende (GE), Sgt Jones (US), Sgt Legg (UK)

WOs AND SGTs' MESS DINING OUT

On Friday 11 January the mess dined out **WO(FofS) Alan Hall**, accompanied by his wife **Margaret**, in the AFCENT International Dining Hall in Tapijn Kaserne, Maastricht on commissioning. It was an unusual function. Everything went according to tradition until the dessert stage of the dinner was reached when the ladies produced four puddings in size 38D which were presented to the FofS for his special dessert and served on silver platters.

After dinner, the RSM asked the top table to remain seated as others left the dinner table. He had arranged for a sledge, fitted with an arm chair, to be waiting outside in the deep snow, to take **Alan** and **Margaret** to the Sgts' mess. The transport had been made by **Sgts Jim Copland** and **Bob Hailstones** and was pulled by our faithful reindeers (yes, you have guessed—**Jim** and **Bob**) and several other mess members.

Our photograph shows **WO1 (RSM) John Woolley** (with sleeping partner on his right) presenting **WO1 (FofS) Alan Hall** with his gift from the officers, WOs and SNCOs on the occasion of his commissioning. We are sorry to say farewell to **Alan** and **Margaret** and wish them and the family every happiness and success in their new posting and career. Good luck!

ARRIVALS

We welcome the following new arrivals:

Capt and **Mrs G. Clark, WO1 (FofS) G. A. Atkinson, Sgt** and **Mrs T. M. Terras, Cpls C. W. Allen, C. J. Ballantyne,** and **Cpl** and **Mrs N. Brockett, Cpl** and **Mrs K. Stewart, Sig** and **Mrs R. Kenny,** and **Sig** and **Mrs J. Moriarty.**

Thank you and good luck in your next posting to:

Capt and **Mrs E. Butterworth, WO1 (FofS)** and **Mrs A. Hall, SSgt** and **Mrs J. Cole, SSgt** and **Mrs W. Johnston, Sgt** and **Mrs B. Leech, Sgt** and **Mrs P. A. Owen, Cpl** and **Mrs A. T. Bullock, Cpl** and **Mrs T. C. Carter, Cpl P. Edwards** and **Sig** and **Mrs. C. D. Marsland.**

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

NORWAY

The middle of November signalled the start of the Squadron's annual fixation with Arctic Training. With the focus of people's attention now definitely on Norway all of the Squadron sat through a two week course of lectures run by our own Norway veterans. Numerous NCOs left to attend Arctic Warfare or Skiing Instruction Courses ready to run the Squadron training in Norway. By mid December most of the classroom work had been done and troop Christmas parties were the order of the day. At the last of these an excited **Lt 'Ernie' Wise** was told he had won the star prize in the raffle—a three day cruise. His excitement soon wore off, however, when he found out it was on an LSL as OC of the vehicle move for Exercise *Hardfall*.

EXERCISE *DRYSHOD*

After a fortnight's block leave the Squadron departed for Dartmoor to continue Arctic Training. With a 6—8 week deployment to Norway imminent, conditions couldn't have been better for training—freezing cold and 100% snow cover. The advance party of **SSM McArdle, SQMS Hughes, Sgt Thompson, Sgt Patterson** and **Cpl Coid** all nearly froze to death due to iced water being pumped around the heating system. Even spending 15hrs a day in Arctic sleeping bags failed to warm their cockles, so they had to resort to copious quantities of NAAFI Whiskey (Anti-Freeze variety). A few days of lectures, films and navigation exercises were followed by three days on the moor. Daylight hours were spent tabbing between checkpoints further apart than service stations on the M25. Stream crossings proved hazardous although many were frozen over and so, safe to cross. **LCpl Chris Martin**, our patrol's ice thickness tester, got his calculations wrong and sampled the moors water. He went up to the waist in freezing water but although hilarious at the time a quick change of clothing saved him from joining the brass monkey club.

Happy campers leave for the next RV

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Notable amongst the goings was the OC, **Maj Innocent**. We wish him and his wife, **Ann**, all good fortune.

In replacement **Maj Cook** arrived to find a heavy schedule on his plate. His wife **Jane** expects to see him for, maybe, as many as two weeks in the next five months! Also going, **LCpl Mills**, who has joined REME, and **Sig Wallace**, who has joined the Royal Scots.

Congratulations to **LCpl Chris Carling** and **Sig 'Clatters' Clatworthy** on their promotion on postings.

Welcome to **2Lt 'Lightning' Godbolt**, on a sixth month attachment prior to his young officer course, and other new arrivals **Cpl Dootson, Cpl Gower** (soon off to the Falklands), and **LCpl Brown**.

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

WHO SAID SUNSHINE SOLDIERING . . . ?

Having recovered from the trials of Battle Camp, the Squadron was placed back on its toes by the Inter-troop Milskills Competition. The final preparations being made the wet weather programme was very much in evidence with frantic searches for water-proofs. Everything all set and, surprise, surprise, a blazing hot day about 75 degrees! Never mind, all the DS appreciated the sunbathing prospects. The competition went well, it was just a pity that **Lt Duncan Spencer** managed to 'electrocute' HQ Tp on their final obstacle. **Cpl Steve Piggins** recent attack of clairvoyancy obviously had something to do with their reincarnation in the 'Jimmy Club' for beers later. Congratulations go to Afd Troop on their win.

AIRFIELD TROOP

Well Afd Troop seem to have had quite a busy couple of months, having managed to qualify for the All Island Safe and Skilled Driving Competition—we then came last! A rare occurrence for them, it must be added that, a rumour suggests it had something to do with the car keys being left at home.

Meanwhile, a lot of effort was put in by the Troop in organising the Troodos Five Cross-Country event and as a result of their efforts, was a very successful competition. Even with all the extra curricular activity, they are still first in RAF Akrotiri Station Commanders' Cup with four events to go.

A lot of time has been put into the new Troop Club 'The Cable Pit'. A great improvement on the old club. Congratulations must go to all concerned especially **FofS Roy** 'You name them I paint them' **Wilson** whose efforts really have made it a home from home for all the Troop.

Congratulations go to **Sig 'Who Me?' Quee** on his receipt of the QM Cup for achievement presented to the Squadron by the previous QM, **Maj Eric Le Quesne**, for the Signalman who shows the most improvement through the year.

The Troop would like to say farewell to **Sig Evans** who it appears, is to stay in the UK after his recent visit. A warm welcome is extended to **Sgt 'Rocky' Hudson** and **LCpl Bailey.** Since **LCpl Bailey** arrived he has been walking around in shorts and flip flops I believe (if he thinks it's hot now Manning and Records need to post him before July!)

HEADQUARTERS TROOP

The busiest department in the Squadron they say, except when it comes to official work. The clerks are usually too busy telling people how much leave they have left, while the rest of the troop are cleaning up for OC's inspections or the Sergeant Majors 'Revamp'. Consequently, everywhere is very tidy except for overflowing 'In-trays'.

There appears to be quite a problem with personal transport in the troop at the moment. The SQMS **SSgt Des Faherty** professes to have found the solution and purchased himself a Brummer and can now be seen careering around Episkopi Garrison (not always in control); he says he'll soon get the hang of it.

The Squadron is going through a big change over at the moment with the new SSM **WO2** 'Where's my pipe' **Kerr**, and the arrival of the new Officer Commanding **Maj M. S. Reid** just around the corner. On that note the Squadron would like to say farewell to the old SSM, **WO2 Ian McSherry** and thank him for all the hard work done whilst he was here. He is off to 30 Sig Regt, where he will be joined shortly by **Maj Alan Wallace** (who says he's not keen to go, but we know better). Do they know something we don't? Welcome to **2Lt 'Matt' Fensom** who comes fresh from the delights of Sandhurst. It's nice to have someone new in HQ to organise the tea!

Points to note: **LCpl 'Ginge' Willimont** has not been presented with any Squadron Colours yet this year, and will 'Marathon Man' **SSgt Nick Round,** ever keep to his new year's resolution 'Gasp, Gasp, I must pack it in'?

Lt Duncan Spencer about to electrocute HQ Troop—Cpl 'Monty' Montieth, Sgt Owen Evans, Lt Duncan Spencer, Sig 'Arfur' Wadham and Cpl 'Ginge' Willimont assisting

Headquarters Troop in pain—Sig 'Dave' Hall, Owen Evans, 'Arfur' Wadham and Cpl 'Rabid' Piggins with Sig 'Geordie' Reed and 'Roy' Rogers in the background

EPISKOPI TROOP

The minds of the majority in the troop seem to be centred on sport, which wouldn't be too bad if only they'd play it instead of watching it. Under the skillful eye of **Sgt 'Roly' Thompson** the Tug-of-War team pulled themselves to a decisive victory in the Hodgson Shield Competition (although the prize for the ugliest faces must go to Tech Troop). Flushed with his success **Sgt Thompson** is now off to the delights of Catterick and the troop wish him a fond farewell.

Welcome to **Sig McCallum, Ritchie, Nelson** and 'You leave it there and I'll eat it' **Cooper.**

MOUNTAIN TROOP

The Troop has lost yet another 'lifer' with the posting of **FofS John 'I volunteered for the money' Hoyland** to the UN Nicosia. His replacement arrives in the form of **SSgt Pete 'I love desk jobs' Matthews**, who becomes another member of the Roulemont Tour Club. The OC's only wish is that his coffee is up to scratch.

The last two Hodgson Shield events have not been too successful with the team pushing instead of pulling in the tug-of-war. The basketball team found it difficult to bounce the ball in the snow during training, however **Sig 'Moon Boots' Biddlecome** did do his best to 'schuttle' around the court.

In the Commanding Officer's Cup run by 280 SU RAF who are also on the mountain, the troop have been doing a little better. It was a close run contest with Engineering Troodos and all hung on the last two events. After a very good run by the OC **Capt C. Lee** in the Cross-Country the Troop was in a very strong position and went on to win the cup by winning the Hockey. Trophies were also won for football, hockey and cross-country.

ALL ISLAND MILSKILLS

Unfortunately, 259 didn't quite win the annual All Island Milskills Competition, but last we definitely were not. Congratulations to **Lt Alastair Harwell** and **SSgt Ian Gillett** and the team for all the time and effort they put in.

Afd Troop complete the run in the Milskills—Sig 'Charlie' Farley, 'Eddy' Blight, 'Paddy' Quee and LCpl 'Pete' Sullivan

FAMILIES CENTRE

The centre now seems to be thriving under the close watch of **WO2 (FofS) Cashen BEM**, and has at last received a new name 'MATES' incorporating all the initials of our various Troops. Much work has been done on it recently, and it now only awaits its final touches, many thanks go to all those who have put in such a tremendous effort.

THEOTOKOS INSTITUTE

After considerable efforts during 1984 around £1,800 was raised for Charity by the Squadron. One of the most deserving causes to benefit from our efforts was the Theotokos Institute for the severely handicapped. The Squadron was able to buy a much needed washing machine, two gas heaters and also present £300 (Cypriot) to the Institute.

BBC SUPERSTARS

The latest series of the BBC International Superstars is to be shown this Spring. One of the programmes was filmed out here in sunny Cyprus with 259 intimately involved in much of the behind the scenes work. **LCpl 'Taff' Price** was much in evidence, operating the hydraulic Platform or 'Cherry Picker' as it's better known, for the cameramen.

All looked to be going well as filming the climax of the programme loomed in Episkopi. It was the turn of **Lt Duncan Spencer** and **2Lt Bob 'I had to laugh' Parry-Jones** to make sure that the BBC's final day went without a hitch. However, as usual, one of them had forgotten to tell the weather man, and one of the main events looked more like becoming the 100m swim, more worrying the VIP tent was flooded; help was at hand though and a few horses kindly gave up lunch to provide some straw to soak things up a bit. All of ex 259 fame look out for the programme on BBC television on 8 April to see the old haunts again.

A CHRISTMAS TALE

It came to pass that the Officer that Commandeth sayeth to his brother officers: 'Verily I say unto you, let us go forth on Boxing Day in the Welfare Landrover for a drive in the country and take meat together'. At this the officers were most dismayed, and one among them said: 'Brothers, this is evil news for I remember last year when he that commandeth drove the Landrover into a muddy pool and three subalterns did travail for many hours to get it out again'.

So saying, he departed for Scotland, leaving his brothers to find their own excuses.

And so it came about that on Boxing Day, the officers gathered with their ladies and the Officer that Commandeth said unto them: 'Happy Christmas. Who is going to drive this year?' 'We are' quoth they.

And so the junior among them was appointed driver and ignoring all portents and warnings of doom, they set off. The day was exceeding fair, the wine exceeding young and the food exceeding rich but lo when the happy band climbed into the Landrover to return home, there was a strange noise. He that commandeth looked upon his keeper of stores and said: 'Is that you rumbling in the back?' 'Nay, verily' replied he, 'Methinks one of our inflated rubber rings has deflated'.

And so it was. Undismayed, he that commandeth found the tool kit and gave it to a subaltern. 'Fix it!' he said. After several minutes, the subaltern said: 'Master, I cannot fix it for the lever slips on the nuts and they will not loosen and besides I am wearing my new Christmas sweater and cannot soil my hands.'

At this the Officer that Commandeth was sore vexed and turning to his second in command to get him to do it, he saw that he too was well endowed with Christmas presents and wore new tie and shirt and sweater, bought by his mother. 'Well' sayeth he that commandeth, 'this is a sad situation. It appears that we are stranded miles from home with a deflated tyre and have not the wherewithal to remove the nuts'.

The keeper of stores wept. 'Lo', sayeth he that commandeth, one of us will have to go and find an instrument to remove these nuts'. 'Good idea' sayeth the others. 'Don't all rush' sayeth he that commandeth. 'I had better stay', sayeth the 2IC, 'I have new socks on'. 'I had better stay,' sayeth the junior subaltern, 'I am the driver'. 'I'll go with you' sayeth the keeper of stores.

And so it came to pass that the Officer that Commandeth and the keeper of stores went forth on foot for several miles until they found a garage. And there they met a man who knew a man who might have such an instrument and the man said: Climb up upon my Kawasaki and I will take you there'. And the keeper of stores blanched when he saw this Kawasaki and said to the Officer that Commandeth: 'You go, Sir'!

And so the Officer that Commandeth spent several minutes travelling at great speed around the town before finding a man with an instrument for removing nuts. He then returned in triumph to the Landrover and said 'Lo, I have found an instrument, now fix it'.

And the subaltern and the captain looked one to the other and saw their new clothes and said: 'Sir, we are sore afraid of spoiling our new clothes, because however great is your wrath, yeah, moreso, is the wrath of an angry mother'. At this, he that commandeth, spluttered weakly and seeing that there was no help forthcoming, he changed the wheel. Soon after, they picked up the keeper of stores who was waiting in the village and drove home.

MORAL FOR SENIOR OFFICERS. Do not let junior officers wear new clothes on Boxing Day.

MORAL FOR JUNIOR OFFICERS. If you must show off your presents on Boxing Day, make sure Mummy gives you a Landrover wheelbrace as well.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to: **Cpl Steve** and **Mrs Lynn Bland** on the birth of their son **Matthew**, **LCpl Ginge** and **Mrs Sheena Willimont** on the birth of their daughter **Reagan**, and **Cpl Steve Metherell** on his promotion and recent marriage.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

GABRIELLE BURROWS APPEAL

On 14 October 1984 **Sgt Alan Geddes** ran the Athens Marathon aid of the **Gabrielle Burrows** Appeal. **Gabrielle**, the sister of **LCpl Dee Hughes** recently became blind at the age of 24 and in order for her to use her University Degree to the fullest extent required an OPTACON machine. The machine allows **Gabrielle** to read normal books without them having to be re-written in Braille. **Alan**, sponsored by members of 262 Signal Squadron and Dhekelia Garrison ran and finished the Marathon, and the total amount of sponsor money collected was £563. The money was forwarded on to **Gabrielle** who replied 'Words cannot express how grateful I am for all the help and support given'. Well done **Sgt Alan Geddes.**

Miss Gabrielle Burrows trying out the Optacon machine for the first time

COFFEE SHOP DONATES C£100 TOWARDS KIDNEY UNIT

For over five years, the Wives of the Squadron have run a coffee shop which opens every Friday morning, and sells a variety of home made cakes, scones, toasties and soft drinks. All profits from this venture go towards local charities, a different one being selected to benefit from these proceeds each time. Most recently, a donation of C£100 was presented to members of the Cyprus Kidney Association Committee to help towards setting up a Kidney Unit in Larnaca Hospital. The Coffee Shop is ideally situated, next to the Thrift Shop in Dhekelia Garrison, and is frequented by many of the Squadron, and other members of the Garrison.

HAND OVER

In September 1984 **Mrs Mary Peach**, who will accompany her husband to Belfast in the New Year, handed over the supervision of the Coffee Shop to **Mrs Pamela Leigh**. **Mrs Leigh** is ably assisted by other Squadron wives, namely **Mrs Brenda Tilley, Mrs Rena Ashworth** and **Mrs Sue Lamarsh**. In the photograph **Mrs Mary Peach** is being presented with her leaving gift, a set of silver coasters from the coffee shop members. Many thanks to **Mary** for all her hard work over the past two years, and to all who contributed towards raising the C£100 for the Kidney Unit.

Mrs Brenda Tilley, Mrs Sue Lamarsh, Mrs Pam Leigh, Mrs Rena Ashworth and Mrs Mary Peach

ORIENTEERING

The orienteering season started in October and for the first time this year a league has been organised with the best six times from each runner counting for the individual and team.

The Squadron found a host of people willing to have a go and were led by some experienced orienteerers namely **WO2 (FofS) John 'Red' Ratcliffe, Sgt George Mayne** and **Sgt Alan Geddes.** After the first four events we discovered some new talent within the Squadron. The greater surprise came from **Sgt Mick Scull, Sgt Gaz Stratton** and **Cpl Pete Wallace**, all of them ahead of **'Red'. Sig Mitchell** is also doing well now after finally realising he had to punch all the controls. **Sgt Alan Geddes** is nicely poised for a late run up the league but so far like **Sgt Steve 'I'll go to the Panto instead' Anderson**, he has only managed to complete two events so far. Newcomers to the team are **Sgts Mick Buchan** and **Mick Webb** and both look promising. The best results to date have come from **Sgt George Mayne** who has won all the events so far and is currently in an almost unbeatable position.

INDIVIDUAL PLACES

PLACE	NAME	EVENTS	POINTS
1	**Sgt Mayne**	4	4000
2	**Sgt Scull**	4	2757
4	**Sgt Stratton**	4	2627
10	**Cpl Wallace**	3	2229
13	**WO2 FofS Ratcliffe**	3	2068
16	**Sig Mitchell**	3	1927
19	**Sgt Geddes**	2	1700
20	**Sgt Anderson**	2	1507

TEAM PLACES

PLACE	TEAM	POINTS
1	262 Sig Sqn	13105
2	3 Sqn 9 Sig Regt	11331
3	16 Flt AAC	9426

Congratulations to all the Squadron orienteerers who have contributed to this creditable mid league position.

LCpl Colin Philemon, who is more used to taking the photographs rather than the other way around, is seen here presented with a token of appreciation from W.Cdr Symonds RAF, Chairman RAF Sports Committee for his help in organising the RAF smallbore championships.

WALKDOWN

At six o'clock on a freezing December morning, two mad members of the Squadron and a friend turned up at the Trout Farm, Platres, to take part in the 1984 12SU Walkdown.

Each team had to have at least one female member, but we decided to give everyone else a chance by having two women, **WCpl Heather Geddes** from Comms Tp and **WCpl Karen Richardson** from 111 Int and Sec. Without a map, **Sgt George Mayne** led this merry band off to Episkopi, for the start of the event.

With careful pacing and lots of determination from the girls the team finished the 18 mile course in 5hrs 19mins to take 60th place, a most creditable performance. The following day lots of jokes were made at the funny walks performed by **Heather** and **Karen** who took it all in their stride so to speak!

FOOTBALL

Report by Sgt Mayne

As the halfway point of the season was reached the Squadron Football Club found themselves on top of the Minor Units League. This is not all luck, with 24 registered players the Squad is strong and extremely skilful.

The players are **Sgt Alan Faulkner** RMP who looks after the goal, the back four of **Sgt Steve Anderson, LCpl Paul Bridon, Sgt Neil March** and **Cpl Phil Playford**; in the midfield is **Sgt Neil 'Jaque' Holcombe, Sgt George** 'Ron Atkinson' **Mayne**, who is also manager, and **Sig Mick** 'Dear John' **O'Toole**, the Captain and our inspiration? Up front we have our own goal machine **Sig Billy McKeegan** who is also playing for the Army (Cyprus) team, **Cpl Chris 'CS' Clayton-Smith** another RMP and **LCpl Andy Gilpin**. Challenging for places are **Cpl Terry Hickey**, an all-rounder; **Cpl John Leigh**, a goalkeeper; **Sgt Alan Geddes**, another all-rounder, **Sgt Fred Darlow** and **Cpl Mint Cobban**.

Even when we have problems like losing our established right back **Cpl Tony Playford** on posting, or our left winger **LCpl Chris Jarvis** through injury, we still field a very good team.

With 4 of the 12 games remaining, the team now has 21 points having lost only once to 40 Cdo RM, who have now left the Island. Our goal difference is far superior to anyone else's with 44 for and 10 against, 16 of these coming from the boot of **Sig Billy McKeegan** who has scored a further 14 goals in Cup matches and friendlies.

As well as our strong position in the League we are also in the semi-finals of the Mitsubishi Cup and look certain to reach the semi-finals of the Coca Cola Cup. In the words of our Club President **SSgt Trev 'Sapheas' Jones**, it's been a good season so far; let's hope it continues!

CAROL SINGING FOR CHARITY Report by Cpl Monk

On 5 December the WRAC of Comms Tp plus friends from Garrison HQ, 62 Sp Sqn, 23 PC Sqn RE and 9 Sig Regt braved the elements to turn out for charity carol singing in aid of 'Help the Aged'. We visited quarters around the Garrison, assaulting the ears of the residents who gladly paid us to move on. Which we did, to Alexander Barracks Officers' Mess where 40 Cdo RM warmly welcomed us and plied us with brandy sours. With our vocal cords well lubricated we proceeded to the Bitsa Club and amazed everyone with our talents.

We were pleased to find we had collected in our giant cracker the grand sum of £90.30p, not including foreign coins, buttons and a bunch of keys! (and several hangovers the next day!).

266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic)

THE SQUADRON OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS AND SNCOs WISH ALL OUR READERS A (BELATED) HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Back Row L to R: Sgt Antill (RAF), Sgt Phillips (COMMCEN), Sgt Fox (TM Tp), Sgt McIntosh (TM Tp), Sgt Webb (Pwr Tp), Sgt Sloan (RAF), Sgt Collins (Line), Sgt Wood (TM Tp), Sgt White (MT Tp), Sgt Kelly (Line), Sgt Tubman (R Tp)
Centre Row L to R: WO2 (YofS) Aitken, SSgt (ORSQMS) Tarrant, SSgt Appleyard (TM Tp), SSgt Gaffney (RR Tp), SSgt Woodward (QM Dept), SSgt Thomas (COMMCEN), SSgt Redman (R Tp), Sgt Shiels (Crypto), WO2 (FofS) Churchman
Front Row L to R: Lt J. Luckins (RR Tp), Capt J. E. Hogan (AO), WO2 (SSM) Hogben, Maj I. R. Grant (Sqn Comd), Capt N. R. N. Wood (2IC), Capt (TOT) R. Offord, Capt S. P. Hunt (R Tp)
Absent: Maj (QM) E. H. Le Quesne, Capt G. Harrison (Line Tp), SSgt (SQMS) Dunn

I AM PLEASED . . .

Report by Maj Ian Grant

I am pleased to be able to report (and I am sure many units will be pleased to hear) that the Triffid Radio Relay and six channel equipments have now been withdrawn from our isolated detachments. On 3 January, fingers crossed, the six channels were disconnected at Byron Heights, Mount Kent, Kelly's Garden and RAF Stanley. On Saturday 5 January the remainder at Mount Alice, Campito and HQ BFFI were also disconnected. On Sunday 6 January the decision was taken to remove the system completely and at the time of writing these notes Radio Relay Troop under the very watchful eyes of their OC **Lt John Luckins** are refurbishing the installations at Lookout Camp ready for backloading in February and March to Donnington. Naturally when the decision was taken, FITS decided that it was going to sulk. Nevertheless I am happy to say that with some kind words to the equipment we have almost 90% of the circuits planned for FITS Phase 2.

QUARTERMASTER DEPARTMENT

There have been far too many changes of personnel amongst the valiant staff of the QM's department, since it was last mentioned in these pages, to mention them all. Suffice it to say that this gallant band of 'grafters' continue to unravel the accounting mysteries of bygone days, has runs every Friday morning and regularly denudes the waters of East Falkland of mullet (bass) and sea trout every Sunday. Should you have the urge for regular employment, beautiful scenery and wildlife, extremely fresh air and a brisk climate and more Gozomies than you can cope with, then just simply nip into your Chief Clerk's office, give him a lovely smile—and volunteer!

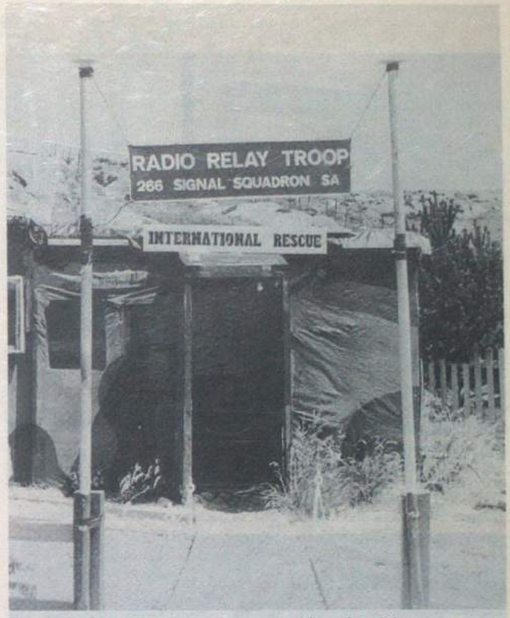
Pictured at Lookout Camp, Port Stanley are *L to R Standing:* LCpl 'Stu' Fell, Sig Bill Fowler, LCpl 'Badger' Bage, Sig Paul Rogers, Cpl Dave Evans, Cpl 'Gaz' Simmons
Sitting: Sgt Mick Dunn, Maj (QM) Eric Le Quesne, SSgt Fred Payet

FOR SALE: 1 RADIO RELAY TROOP (SPECIALISTS IN RESCUE)

Comprising one officer, two SNCOs and 25 other ranks all tested to the highest standards of quality and durability. A number of excellent detached shacks form part of the deal. They feature draughts, no running water, minimal heating, outside toilet and they all have leaking roofs. In these conditions the mountain men of international rescue under the leadership of **Lt John Luckins** and **SSgt Michael Gaffney** operated with tireless effectiveness coming to the aid of anybody who required it in times of crisis, assisting other units whenever and wherever possible. Someone once reported seeing a yeti walking around the Campito region, but this turned out to be **Sig Roy Carter** looking for a barber. The troop gained an island wide reputation for friendliness and hospitality among forces and civilians alike. This facet was most evident when all outstations managed to obtain one or two cats in an effort to make their troop Staff Sergeant feel more at home whenever he visited them. Unfortunately Staff has an exceptional allergy to the little furry creatures and was never seen more than once at the outstations!

It is with sadness and regret that the Squadron says goodbye to a troop that has taken such an active part in all aspects of Squadron life and represented us so well. Our sincere thanks and best wishes go with them.

RR TROUP
Back Row: Sig Johnston, LCpls Dawson, Higginbottom, Campbell and Allen, Sig Perks and Stokes, LCpls Roser and McNamee
Centre: Sig Brown, Ashton, Holden, Jones, Guppy, Innes and Byrne, LCpl Quinn, Sig Renwick
Front Row: Cpls Anderson, Stuart and Taylor, SSgt Gaffney, Lt Luckins, Sgt Cowan, Cpls Johnstone and Gilhespy, LCpl Clow
Missing: Sig Carter



The Radio Relay Troop shack—once a hive of activity, now put to other uses

The last Triffid detachment being lifted off its site behind HQ BFFI

Sgt Roy Smith (on the left) and his merry band of FNGs prove that Techs do know how to look after their weapons. Behind Sgt Smith are, from the left, Cpl Andy Humphries, LCpl Simon Henderson, Cpl Nick Goodwin and LCpl Matty Mathewson

LCpl Milner (seated) and Sig Cunliffe pose outside Line Troop offices

MT TROOP

The Squadron has just said farewell to: **Cpl Muff Mott** the Squadron 'Gizzitt' king. At the same time we welcome to the troop: **Cpl Mac McCutcheon** on his second tour. By the time this goes to press other members of the troop will have gone: **Sgt Chalkie White, LCpls Scouse Lamb, Paul Stones** and **LCpl Lee Creamer REME**. The MT's pride and joy is the Bedford 4 × 4, four ton depression wagon with winch. This vehicle can be seen on the FIPASS every time a ship brings new members to the Squadron (locally known as FNGs). On boarding, one has a complete sense of humour failure, on the short trip from FIPASS to the Coastel (home for 126 days) along one of the better roads on the island. But what the reader can see in the photograph is not all, 'yes there's more'. If you wish to see and read the rest, apply through your Commanding Officer to visit this fine Squadron, as once the airport opens and the Squadron moves, the depression wagon will be as rare as Radio Relay men on the Island.

RADIO TROOP

The Christmas period saw two milestones for Radio Troop. Firstly, RRB 3, being built by the Sappers, although not fully complete was deemed habitable. Thus **LCpl 'Wally' Lockwood** found himself the proud possessor and detachment commander of MK1 of the new RRB sites, despite the fact that the Engineers were still banging and hammering all over the detachment. This event signalled the final release of RRB 1 which had been holding the net for the RRB 3 rebuild. Under command of **Cpl 'Jock' Tait** RRB 1 were able to hand over the net and come down to merry Stanley for Christmas.

They brought with them a very shocked looking 'light blue job' whom they had educated in the gentle ways of the 'green jobs'.

Sgt Keith Tubman, having set up the Adventure Training Annex in Radio Troop office was at last able to test his system on a canoe trip around Saunders Island. He failed to reach his overnight stop due to bad weather. He subsequently spent £8,000 through the deployment of the Search and Rescue helicopter. He did however have the grace to say that it beat paddling all the way to Stanley.

LCpl 'Chippy' Wood disappeared on Exercise *Lafonian Express*, a PR ex distributing presents to settlement children on Lafonia. He got so carried away playing Father Christmas and dishing out presents, he completely forgot to communicate!

Cpl Doug Mountain was sent to Port San Carlos to set up the 2m band communications for the new training centre. By claiming he had no idea how the kit worked he managed to persuade a local to set it up for him, whilst he worked on his suntan. His side kick, **Sig Pat Lambie**, meanwhile accompanied the RE Geosat team to Beauchene Island as their signaller. In an effort to get back to nature he decided to set his masts up in the middle of a king penguin colony. He caused slight consternation by setting one mast up in the middle of an albatross flight path, resulting in one albatross with an exceptionally sore head and one smashed mast.

The trials for the new East Falkland RRB site have just been completed. At the end of the trials **LCpl 'CBF' Hay** was heard to say that it was the first time he felt that he had earned his pay. The Pay Office has been informed.

Shady Deals dept, run by the two Troop kleptomaniacs, **LCpl Bill Parker** and **Sig Ronnie Gault** masquerading as storemen have narrowly avoided their cover being blown. They have just acquired six landrover installation kits. The fact that the Troop only has one landrover has now presented them with a problem!

SQUADRON MANAGEMENT

By the time these notes reach print, many of the Squadron Management Team will have changed over. The new line-up is:

OC	**Maj Duncan Jones**
2IC	**Capt John Gale**
QM	**Capt Brian Young**
AO	**Capt John Hogan**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Orrell**
ORSQMS	**SSgt Bob Parkinson**
OC R	**Capt Steve Hunt**
OC Line	**Capt Allex Jenkinson**
FofS	**WO2 Steve Churchman**
YofS	**WO2 Chris Aitken**

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:

2314570	Sgt L. J. Spriggs
2316150	Sig L. A. W. Baker
2306645	Sgt A. J. Turner
22524449	Sgt S. W. R. Sadler
23998965	Cpl D. Lewis
796543	WO2 W. J. James

CARDIFF BRANCH

Report by W. C. Davies Esq, Hon Sec

At our branch meeting on Wednesday 19 September 84 it was decided that we would honour our Chairman **Mr Ted Bolton**, who had celebrated his 80th birthday on the previous Saturday. The branch thought the presentation of a Bronze 'Jimmy' would be appropriate to thank **Ted** for his many years service to the branch both as Welfare Officer and Branch Secretary and now for quite a few years Branch Chairman.

Ted's service with Corps first began on 18 January 1924 when he joined the 53rd Welsh Signal Regt at Park St in Cardiff; after the war **Ted** rejoined 53 Sig Sqn, still at Park St Cardiff, as a RQMS and he continued to serve until 1955.

The Chairman, Mr Ted Bolton, being presented with the 'Jimmy' by the President, Maj Alan Burden

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

BECOMING AN IN-PENSIONER

To be eligible for admission as an In-Pensioner, a candidate must be:-

in receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Military Service, or of the Victoria Cross or George Cross Annuity awarded in respect of bravery while serving in the British Army;

of good character;

normally at least 65 years of age: exceptionally, a candidate may be admitted between 55 and 65 if through disability he cannot earn his own living and receives a pension for an Army disability;

able to look after himself—that is, to wash, shave and dress himself, attend for meals in the Great Hall and walk around without assistance;

free from the obligation to support a wife or children;

passed medically fit for admission.

In addition, a man of good character drawing Service Retired Pay who had at least 12 years' full time service in the ranks of the British Army over the age of 18 may be eligible for admission after attaining the age of 65.

In-Pensioners are not allowed to marry, though they may leave the Royal Hospital in order to do so.

When the admission of a Pensioner is approved by the Commissioners he is given a free railway warrant for the journey to London. On admission, he surrenders his service or disability pension in return for free board, lodging, clothing and medical attention. Contributory retirement pensions are retained by the In-Pensioners as well as any other civil pensions or any private means they may have.

In-Pensioners are required to wear the medals to which they are entitled. If on admission an In-Pensioner has lost or no longer has in his possession the medals to which he is entitled, replacements will be obtained for him from the Army Medal Office, and he will be required to pay half the cost of these replacement medals.

In-Pensioners are not permitted to keep or drive a car within the precincts of the Royal Hospital. In-Pensioners are also not permitted to drive a car when in Royal Hospital Uniform or to drive a car with In-Pensioners in Uniform as passengers.

An In-Pensioner may be allowed to leave the Hospital and return to ordinary civilian life and resume the Out-Pension which he ceased to draw when he was admitted; if he leaves within six months of admission, he is liable to be charged for part cost of his uniform. Any man may be discharged by order of the Board for misconduct, when his Out-Pension may, or may not, be restored, either at the former or at some lower rate. Once a pensioner reverts to Out-Pension whether voluntarily or otherwise, he cannot be guaranteed re-admission as an In-Pensioner.

A form of application for admission to In-Pension may be obtained from The Secretary, Room 6, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SL.

HERE AND THERE

4 REGIMENT

Do they really go round . . .?
LCpl Mick Marshall confused (Centre)

9 REGIMENT

Ay Nik Ladies Team—'The Flasher Bunnies' in action

10 REGIMENT

OC 2 Sqn, Maj John Stuart, smothered in kisses

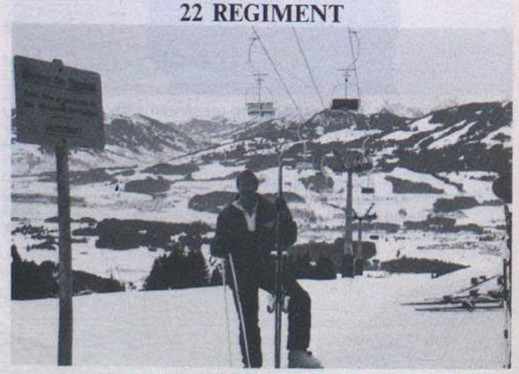
14 REGIMENT

The Mayor of Gloucester and OC 3 Sqn Maj R. S. Hewitt discuss Sgt Grogan's GSM watched by the CO, Lt Col W. Roper, the Adjt, Capt J. P. Mc D. Coulthard and the QM (Gen) Capt M. N. Robinson

21 REGIMENT

Two fighting patrols of E Troop strike for cover from their Puma

22 REGIMENT



The author at the middle station on the 'Bolsterlang'

30 REGIMENT

Flanked by the Swan emblem of 30 Sig Regt and the 'tower' of the School, the Brigadier departs. The RSM and Sgt Colin Whawell look on

32 REGIMENT

To the rescue: one Bedford LRV matt black and green, complete with tax disc!

34 REGIMENT

The Regimental Band leading the march back from the church to STC Scarborough

STOP PRESS

ANTARTICA RESCUE

LCpl Kerry Gill

(By courtesy of The Press Association)

Many of our readers will recall the recent publicity given to the rescue of **Lt Cdr Clive Waghorn** from Branant Island in the Antartic. **LCpl Kerry Gill** stayed with him while two other members of the party returned to the base camp to seek assistance. He left 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to join the expedition in November 1984. We hope to include a report from **LCpl Kerry Gill** in our next issue.

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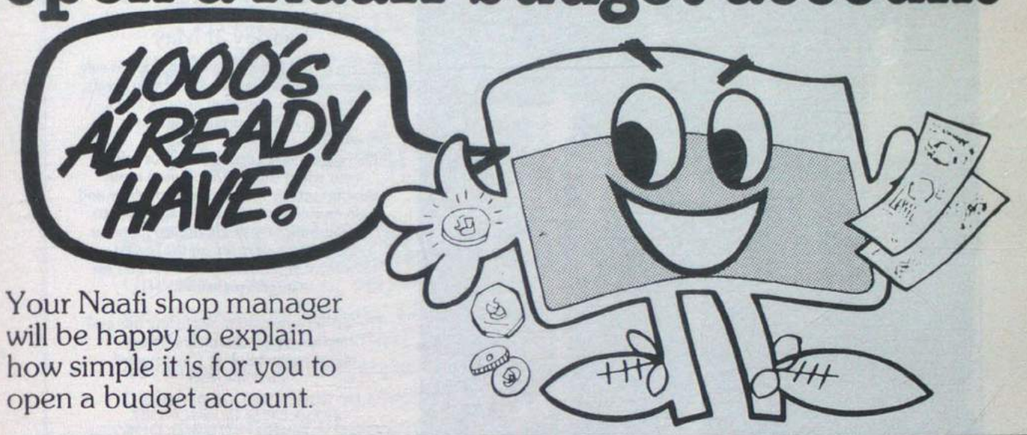

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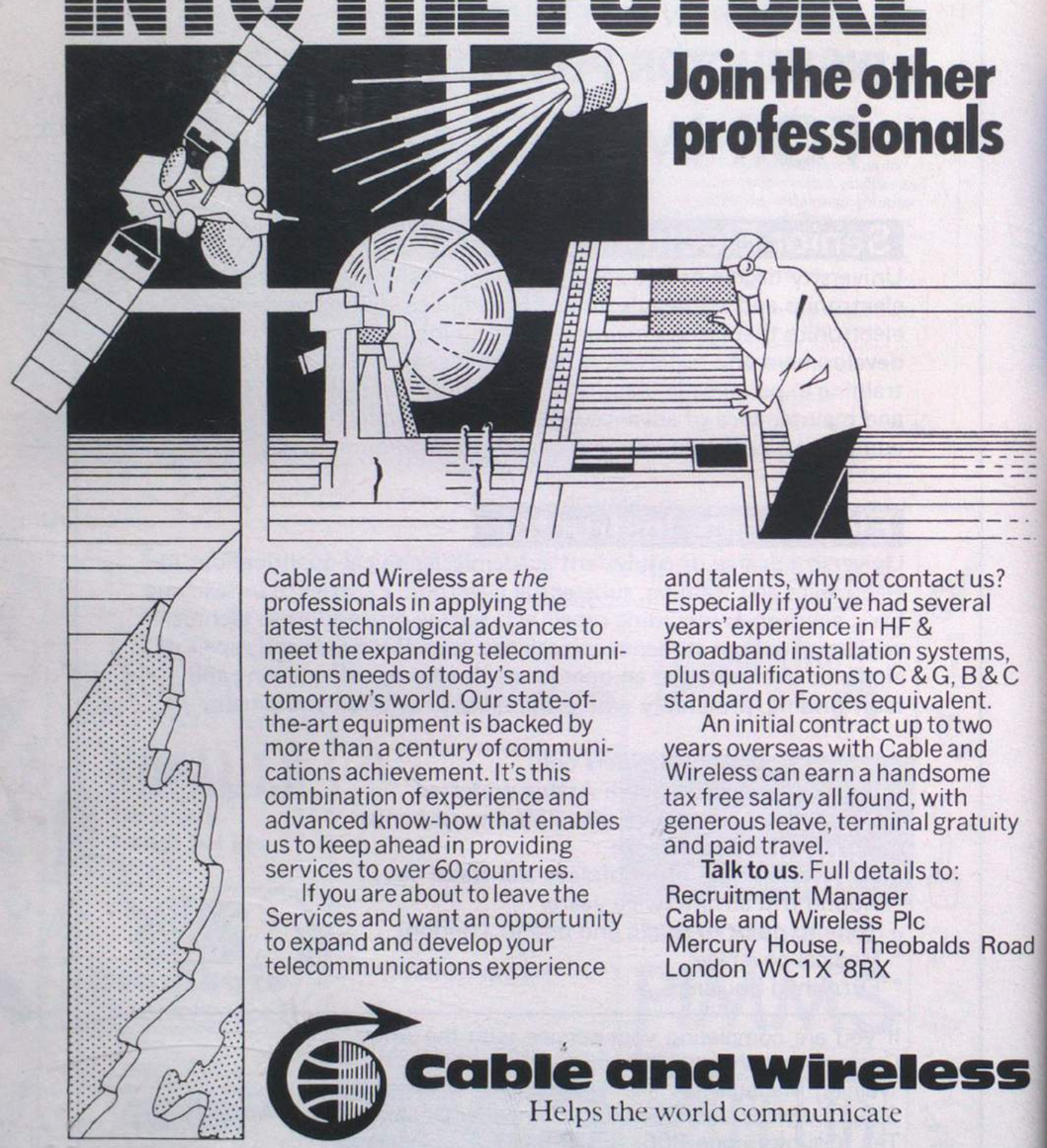

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THE wire

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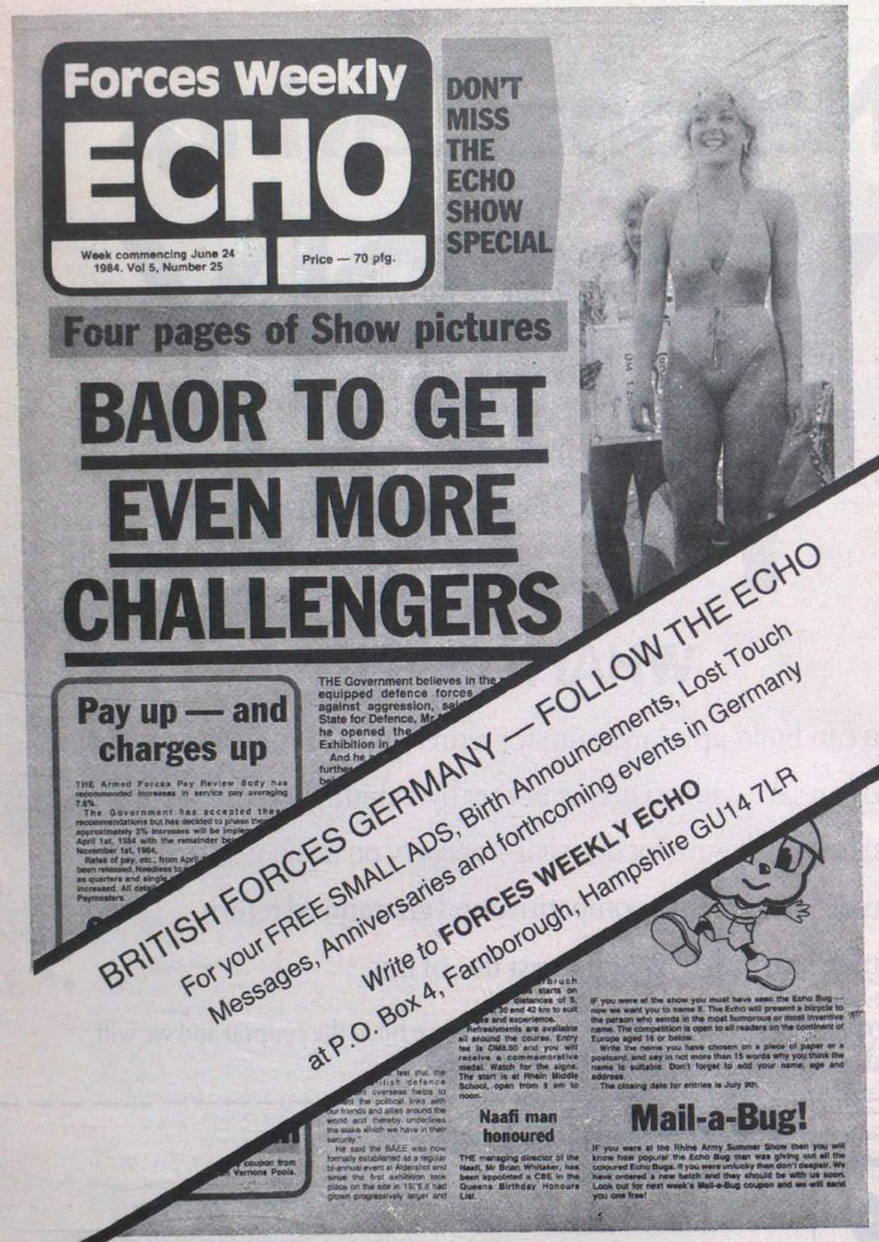
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Pay up — and charges up

THE Armed Forces Pay Review Body has recommended increases in service pay averaging 7.6%.
The Government has accepted these recommendations but has decided to phase the approximately 3% increases will be implemented April 1st, 1984 with the remainder being November 1st, 1984.
Rates of pay, etc., from April have been released. Nuedrass to quarters and single increased. All details Paymasters.

THE Government believes in the equipped defence forces against aggression, sole State for Defence, Mr he opened the Exhibition in
And he further

Naafi man honoured

THE managing director of the Naafi, Mr Brian Whitaker, has been appointed a CBE in the Queens Birthday Honours List.

IF you were at the show you must have seen the Echo Bug — now we want you to name it. The Echo will present a bicycle to the person who sends in the most humorous or most inventive name. The competition is open to all readers on the continent of Europe aged 16 or below.
Write the name you have chosen on a piece of paper or a postcard, and say in not more than 15 words why you think the name is suitable. Don't forget to add your name, age and address.
The closing date for entries is July 9th.

Mail-a-Bug!

IF you were at the Rhine Army Summer Show then you will know how popular the Echo Bug man was giving out all the coloured Echo Bugs. If you were unlucky then don't despair. We have ordered a new batch and they should be with us soon. Look out for next week's Mail-a-Bug coupon and we will send you one free!

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May 1985 (New Series) Vol. 39 No: 3

The Wire

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Editor Lt Col R. L. Murray, OBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

We warmly congratulate 233 Signal Squadron who achieved a 'double first' by winning both the Army minor units soccer competition and the UKLF minor units hockey cup. The side that won the soccer trophy at Aldershot on 8 March is featured as our cover picture. Report on page 252.
The Yorks and Lancs Cup Winners. *Back row Left to Right:* SSgt Dave Ward (Manager), Cpl Steve Pulman, Sgt Eddy Small, Sgt Jock Byrne, LCpl John Wayman, Cpl Rick Allmark, Cpl Tony Ballard, Cpl Chris Hartley, Sgt Joe Harris (Coach).
Front row Left to Right: Sig Mark Langley, Cpl Andy Norris, Cpl Colin Luckham, SSgt John Boyd (Captain), SSgt Scott McDougall, Cpl Mick Honeyman.

COMMANDER TRAINING GROUP REVIEWS CORPS AFFAIRS

Brigadier F. R. Maynard, representing the Signal Officer-in-Chief, spoke to Branch Representatives of the Association at their annual meeting on 13 April. We are pleased to publish the substance of his address, with the knowledge that it will be of interest to our readers.

INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to have this opportunity to make this address on behalf of the Signal Officer-in-Chief. I know that he would prefer to be here himself but unfortunately circumstances do not allow it. I hope I shall cover the ground that he would have done. The Corps is in the middle of a very busy period. It is my experience that the Corps is always busy since so many things which affect us, such as organisations and technology, are always changing. A great deal is being accomplished and we are delighted at the progress which is being made in many areas. We are advancing on all fronts and for my address I would like to up-date you on the major developments.

OPERATIONS AND EQUIPMENT

I would like to start by covering our operational areas and beginning in the Falklands Islands. The Corps has been closely involved in a major project called the Falkland Islands Trunk System or FITS. FITS is a radio relay system which rings the two main Islands. After much detailed work by the Directorate, industry and particularly Communications Projects Division at Blandford, the system has now been installed and is fully operational. The bearer system is unmanned which is good news for the Corps since part of our manpower bill down there can be reduced. This means fewer short and disruptive postings and less turbulence throughout the Corps.

Turning to Northern Ireland where, as you all know, operations still continue, we are ready to install a new commercial radio system which will provide Province wide communications. We expect installation to begin in December of this year and hopefully it will be complete by September 1986. This will significantly improve communications over there as well as the operational capability.

In BAOR the major event is the arrival in service of PTARMIGAN. After many years in gestation the system is being deployed along with WAVELL, the automated tactical management information system which is fully integrated with PTARMIGAN. The deployment is going largely according to plan. The 1st Armoured Division started receiving their equipment towards the end of last year and they are now busy training themselves up for field trials later this month. 4 Division are next to be equipped. There are one or two equipment delays, but for a project of this size and scale, it would be surprising if there weren't any. This is exciting news and all the signs are that PTARMIGAN and WAVELL will be highly successful.

PTARMIGAN and the Single Channel Radio Access (SCRA) sub system have

attracted a great deal of foreign and particularly American interest. The United States Armed Forces are looking for a mobile subscriber equipment system, which is similar in concept to SCRA, and a number of their specialists have come across to assess PTARMIGAN trials both in UK and in BAOR. Plessey, the prime contractors, in conjunction with an American firm Rockwell are in competition with a French system and hopes are high that Plessey will win the contract.

To support operations worldwide we have formed a new Electronic Warfare Signal Troop which is based in Blandford. This enhancement to our capability resulted from the Falklands campaign and already the men, vehicles and equipment are coming together. This is another example of how the importance of EW in support of operations is being recognised by commanders and staffs in the Ministry and in the field.

Possibly one of the most imaginative and exciting projects which the Corps is currently involved in is the Skynet Satellite Project. You may already have seen media reports that there are four Payload Specialists who are currently working together to launch two communications satellites in 1986 and 1987. The four members of the team are a Naval Commander, an Army Lieutenant Colonel, a RAF Wing Commander and a MOD Civil Servant. The Corps is involved, not only for the communications but because the Army officer in the team is Lieutenant Colonel Richard Farrimond Royal Signals. The team has been split into two groups of two with each group working on its own launch. If all goes well one member of each group will be selected to be part of the Space Shuttle crew which will launch the satellite into orbit while the other member is a reserve. The details of who is in which group and who is the first choice to fly have not yet been announced, but there is a real possibility that Richard Farrimond will be one of the UK's first spacemen.

Finally, on operations, I am sure that I do not need to remind you of last year's 40th D Day Anniversary celebrations. No doubt many of you made the pilgrimage and I hope that if you did you all had a thoroughly good time. I would be surprised if you hadn't. The Corps was asked to provide certain control communications and, as is so often the case, I am told that the requirement was produced late in the proceedings with very little time for planning and preparation. However, I am sure that you would have been surprised if I had said that we were asked to produce large scale communications and were given all the time in the world to do it! 3rd Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment produced the goods and, needless to say, everything worked like a charm on the day.

COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

You will be aware of the very close interest which our Colonel-in-Chief takes in her Corps. You will not be surprised when I tell you that 1984 was a very busy year. I personally was grateful that HRH honoured the Training Group with a visit to the Junior Regiment at Ouston and took a Passing Off Parade which has left an indelible mark on the young men who were fortunate to be passing out on that day. In addition HRH has visited:

22 June	—	Salisbury Plain—User Trials of PTARMIGAN.
17 July	—	Attended the Garden Party at which 40 members of the Corps were present.
18 July	—	Visited 22 Signal Regiment in the field.
19 July	—	Visited 3 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment in the field.

This year would seem to be just as busy. HRH is planning to visit a large number of Royal Signals Units and Sub Units all over Scotland. Hopefully Princess Anne will also visit 2 Infantry Divisional Signal Regiment who are based in York and at the same time unveil a Corps plaque which will be affixed to one of the new high speed 125 trains which travel regularly between London and Darlington. Other visits being planned are:

18 June	—	1 Signal Regiment to see PTARMIGAN in the field.

RHQ

You will all know I am sure of the vitally important work which our Regimental Headquarters does for the Association and for the Serving Corps. After 22 years in their very comfortable premises in Chelsea Barracks they are sadly required to move. Fortunately they are not moving far because they have been offered accommodation in Regency Street. You may already have read details in a recent *Wire* and I know that Colonel John Francis is anxious that, given time to move and settle down, normal working will be resumed as quickly as possible.

MANNING

There have been many developments in the manning area and a number of changes resulting from a series of studies which have hit all three Services.

You may have heard about Ex *Sharp Sword* which was aimed at pruning the chain of command to eliminate excess fat. At one time it was feared that Arms Directorates would be casualties, but I am pleased to tell you that the SOinC has been fully justified and is secure. Indeed, his role and responsibilities have, if anything, been enhanced. His newly approved charter has formally enshrined his Tri Service, Central Staffs and Single Service functions together with his many delegated responsibilities.

One change under *Sharp Sword* which has affected the SOinC is the expanded role of the Commander Training Establishments. In future as well as commanding the ITO, he will also coordinate the functions of Arms Directors particularly in TD and CD matters. The mechanics and procedures of how this will be done are still uncertain and we await more news on the subject.

You may also have heard about Ex *Lean Look*, which was a manpower savings exercise. Some 4,000 posts had to be found from the administrative and support areas to be transferred to the sharp end to improve our combat effectiveness. Royal Signals was a prime target in the study and it was thought that most of the savings could be found from the Corps. All of our functions and organisations were closely examined and in the event some 500 savings were found mainly as a result of dropping commitments. However, in the same study we were able to justify the need for an almost similar number of increases to enhance our Field Force Units. Thus we are pleased with the outcome since we will be stronger in those areas where previously we were too thin on the ground.

Not all the manning news is about lost posts. We have recently been able to justify the need for a Regimental Colonel and Colonel Mike Marples has already taken up the appointment. He is responsible to the SOinC primarily for recruiting and public relations. Although soldier recruiting has always been the least of our problems, we have been less happy with the quality of officers who come our way. Also there has been for a number of years, dissatisfaction in the way we have been presented, particularly in the National Press. It is for the Regimental Colonel to address both these areas and get things moving in the right direction. No doubt he will be calling on the support of the Association for his recruiting efforts.

One other study which has hit us has been the Rationalisation of the Individual Training Organisation. One result of this study was the loss to us of Ouston as a Royal Signals Junior Training Regiment and we will be pulling out of Albemarle Barracks in August this year. To offset the loss of this valuable source of recruiting we have started two schemes, one at Harrogate and one at Catterick. As well as the two year apprenticeships at the Army Apprentices College Harrogate there is now a one year Junior Leaders Course for 180 Junior Leaders each year. The first batch have arrived and early signs are highly favourable. We are confident that many of these young men will become the future RSMs of the Corps. We have used spare space in Catterick to being a six month course for junior entrants and to do this 11 Signal Regiment will form a third squadron and each year they hope to train between 300 and 400 young soldiers.

A final point on manning is the news that the next Signal Officer-in-Chief to replace General Bob Benbow is to be Brigadier Paul Alexander. Brigadier Alexander will assume the appointment at the turn of the year.

EXERCISES

Since you were last addressed Ex *Lionheart* has come and gone. The exercise fully occupied our BAOR units as well as a number of UK based formations and regiments who crossed the Channel to reinforce 1(BR) Corps and the RCZ. The exercise seems to have gone well, particularly from a communications point of view, and many valuable lessons were learnt which will result in improved SOPs. One particularly happy result for the Corps is the widespread improvement in communications security since the previous major exercise, Ex *Crusader*.

The focus of attention for major exercise in 1985 switches to the UK where Ex *Brave Defender* will be held in September. Many of us in the Corps in UK are involved and the exercise will give us all a valuable opportunity to practise and acquire experience in our Home Defence responsibilities.

GAMES AND SPORTS

I would like to end on a subject of particular interest to me, which is games and sports. As the Chairman of the Games and Sports Club I held a symposium recently and invited most of our Presidents and Secretaries to discuss our performance at both Unit and Corps level and to see what could be done to raise standards everywhere. As a result of the discussions a number of useful points were made which have been recorded in a policy statement which will hopefully result in greater success in future. Not that we are without success as the following reports will testify.

In Skiing 22 Signal Regiment had a successful season by winning the Army Alpine Championships. Also in Skiing we had four members of the Army Alpine team, including the team captain at the Inter-Service meeting. In Cross-Country 1 Infantry Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron won the Army Minor Units Competition. 233 Signal Squadron from Northern Ireland won the finals of the Yorks and Lancs competition, which is the Army Minor Units Soccer Competition, by defeating the Parachute Regiment Depot at Aldershot. The School of Signals were also sucessful in reaching the finals of the Army Basketball competition but were unfortunately beaten by 17 Port Regiment RCT. The Army Apprentices College won the Army Squash Junior Championships against Chepstow and the Army Junior Basketball Championships against Princess Marina College, Arborfield.

As a last word on Games and Sports, or in this case more accurately Arduous Training, I would like to remind you of the Corps involvement in a recent Antarctic Expedition. Lance Corporal Gill of the 4 Division Signal Regiment was not only a member of the team but as you will have seen from media reports, he elected to remain with an injured colleague, Lt Cdr Clive Waghorn. Corporal Gill's courage and humanity in conforting his seriously injured team mate was in the Corps highest traditions and we are all proud of his conduct under the most appalling conditions. This sort of thing underlines the point I made earlier about us being fortunate in the quality of soldiers we are able to recruit. I know that Corporal Gill would agree with me if I said that there are many other soldiers who, given the opportunity, would have done just as well. I could say that Lance Corporal Gill is the epitomy of all our young Royal Signalmen today. You were all proud of yourselves and your colleagues and so you will be pleased to know that your traditions are being successfully maintained in the Corps today.

CONCLUSION

From what I have said I am sure that you will all agree that there is a great deal going on in Royal Signals. The theme of the SOinC's Conference is 'Taking Stock and Drawing Breath'. After such a hectic period we certainly do need to draw our breath and pause a while before moving rapidly ahead again into the future. There is a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm about and throughout the Corps there is much increased job satisfaction and a feeling that we are on the right track and heading in the right direction.

My final point is that much of the strength and well-being in the serving Corps is due to the magnificent support which we receive from our retired members. We are highly conscious of the way you encourage us and show such a strong interest in everything we do. This has a marked effect at every level and in all areas and we are grateful to you for standing so steadfastly and loyally alongside us. The results and achievements of the Royal Signals Association are an invaluable part of the Corps affairs. On behalf of the SOinC I thank you all for your excellent contribution.

— From our "In" Tray —

Plessey Douglas pictured here with Mr Peter Venton *(left)* Director of Projects, Plessey Defence Systems and Mr Frank Jory *(right)* BAOR Site Manager, Plessey Defence Systems. Riding the horse is Cpl Harry Lomas ACC

PLESSEY DOUGLAS

Report from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

THE CORPS HORSE

Plessey Douglas is the Royal Corps of Signals-owned/Plessey Company-sponsored horse which, until recently was stabled at the Verden Garrison Saddle Club. For the more 'equestrian minded' readers—he is Hannoverian bred, stands 18 hands and is now eight years old. He was bought in early '84 by the Royal Corps of Signals; **Lt Col D. Fisher MBE** (then CO 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt) being the driving force behind the purchase. The horse had a quiet season eventing in mid '84 ridden by **Lt Col Fisher**, and **Lt Suzy Reid WRAC**.

THE TRACK RECORD

We are almost at the start of the outdoor competition season here in Germany, but Plessey Douglas has by no means been idle during the winter months—here is a brief run-down of his activities—in all events he was ridden by **Cpl Lomas ACC** (unless otherwise stated).

Saturday 13 October 1984—14/20 Hussars Hunter Trials—placed in Restricted Novice class—Douglas' first Hunter Trial.

Saturday 20 October 1984—Munster Hunter Trials—placed seventh in Restricted Novice.

Saturday 8 December 1984—Indoor Show Jumping—placed in class A—Two jumping; and placed sixth in Open Jumping ridden by **LCpl Rollins ACC**.

31 December 1984—Indoor Show Jumping—placed second in Class E jumping; also entered for a special event—the Rotenberger Qualifier (the final to be held in Herford in 1985) Plessey Douglas jumped a double clear round and scored maximum points for the event. Plessey Douglas qualified for the Rotenberger Qualifier event on a further two occasions with double clear rounds at each outing.

23-24 March 1985 Herford Indoor Show—although Plessey Douglas entered the Rotenberger Qualifier with the highest number of double clear rounds he failed to win the final as expected and unfortunately came 10th; in the Class A 2m jumping he was placed fifth. At this show he was ridden by **Maj Jeremy Glover RA** due to **Cpl Lomas's** absence on duty.

On 1 April 1985, **Mr Peter Venton**, Director of Projects, Plessey Defence Systems, arrived in Verden for the MSE Demonstration preparations and found time to see Plessey Douglas being schooled by **Cpl Lomas ACC**. He was very impressed with the horse and, as with most people who see Plessey Douglas for the first time, was staggered by his size! **Mr Frank Jory**, the BAOR Support Manager, Plessey Defence Systems, on site here in Verden, required a lot of persuasion to get close enough for a photo!

Cpl Lomas has had Plessey Douglas 'on charge' since September last year and has done a marvellous job in bringing the horse up to his present high standard—I'm sure **Cpl Lomas** had many second thoughts about his responsibility when in the stables at 0600 hrs on those freezing winter mornings!

VALUABLE TRAINING

Since January this year, **Cpl Lomas** and Plessey Douglas have been schooled by **Herr Nötter**, a German FEIV judge and instructor—this training has proved invaluable and has made a tremendous difference to the horse—and to **Cpl Lomas**!

Capt Jane Stockdale WRAC took over as OIC Plessey Douglas from **Lt Mike Griffiths** at the beginning of the year and taking courage in both hands! has ridden Plessey Douglas in the indoor school. **Capt Miles Stockdale**, OC PTARMIGAN Introduction Unit, is a newcomer to the riding scene, but has progressed well enough to also ride the horse, and in fact has even attempted a few jumps—the first occasion being somewhat memorable as Plessey Douglas and **Capt Stockdale** both got over the jump—but not quite together! **Capt Stockdale** has spoken to the SQMS about indenting for a parachute in case he feels inclined to take off again!

Another of Plessey Douglas's 'distinguished' riders has been **Miss Tracey Illingworth**, daughter of **WO1 J. Illingworth**, RSM of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. We're not too sure what the RSM thought of the idea—he didn't come to watch!

POSTED

Plessey Douglas has now been posted to the 4 Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment stables as we lack a Royal Signals 'jockey' here, unfortunately—we owe a special vote of thanks to **Cpl Harry Lomas** for his extremely hard work, and for all the time spent on the horse—which often meant he had to work extra weekends and nights to catch up with his work in the Sgts' Mess. He was sorry to see the horse go—but now he may get a chance to see his family!

We wish Plessey Douglas and his new 'jockey' every success in the future.

THE CORPS MUSEUM

MANY CHANGES

During the past year there have been a number of changes of staff and appointments at the Museum and a number of significant donations.

In February 1985, the Director of the Museum, **Lt Col E. J. (John) Beale** retired after having successfully guided us through a number of significant changes in the Museum display during his eight years in office.

In December 1984 **Mrs Kathy Clarke** left the post of Typist/Archivist having been in this very demanding job for one year. During this time she became a well-known personality to many of the researchers using the library and was able to deal with visitors' queries and telephone requests with confidence. Her post was then taken over by **Mrs Jan Nicholson**, who had previously worked as Secretary to the Historical Research Manager. The work that **Jan** had carried out on the research side of the New Corps History project has stood her in good stead for her new appointment as Typist/Archivist where she is now capably dealing with visitors' queries as well as the endless number of letters asking for information from the ever-growing library and archives.

Under the Manpower Services Commission Community Project scheme the Museum was able to recruit two part-time Research Assistants. **Mrs Jan Mason** has now been with the Museum for nine months and has been busy sorting the 8-10,000 photographs that the Museum has acquired since 1967. These are now being classified, indexed and mounted into a new range of Corps photograph albums. It is hoped that the task will have been completed by December 1985. **Jan Mason** has done a superb job and is now most knowledgeable on Corps photographs.

The Curator, **Maj L. J. Taylor MBE**, has, with the help of the second Research Assistant **Mrs Sheila Cooper**, carried out a complete reorganisation of the documentation of Museum artifacts. This has been a mammoth task with every item, large or small, being classified and indexed. **Sheila Cooper** has entered into this daunting task with enthusiasm and has proved herself to be a highly valued member of the Museum team.

The team at the Museum is now:

Deputy Director	—	**Maj A. G. Harfield BEM, FRHistS**
Curator	—	**Maj L. J. Taylor MBE**
Typist/Archivist	—	**Mrs J. Nicholson**
Research Assistants	—	**Mrs S. A. Cooper**
		Mrs J. Mason

The year 1984 saw some very significant donations to the Museum and the Library and whilst it is not possible to list all that has been donated the following list will show the wide variety of material that is being enthusiastically received at the Museum.

We have received a superb collection of uniforms, equipment and personal documents donated by **Maj J. Wilbur G. Cocke TD**. These items were delivered in a large trunk and proved to be a veritable treasure trove of items for the Museum. **Maj. Cocke** has long been a friend of the Museum and has in the past donated many interesting original artwork drawings from Punch.

During the 1984 Reunion at Blandford the Indian Signal Association presented three albums to the Museum depicting Corps Life in India.

These superb albums had been prepared for presentation by **Lt Col G. R. (Nat) Gould**. The presentation was made by **Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE** to **Brig A. M. Willcox**. The three albums greatly enhance the Corps collection of Indian Army material.

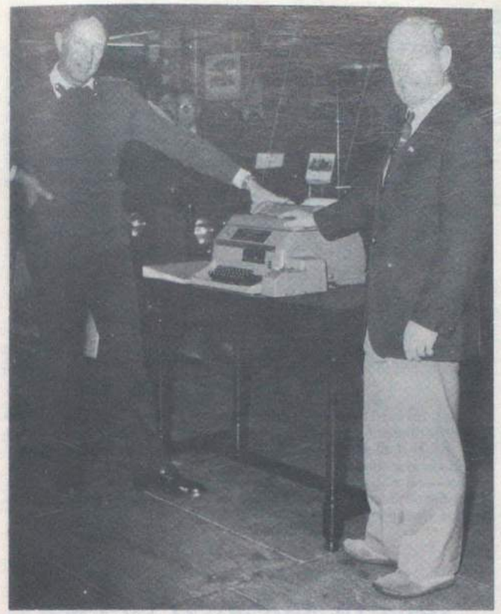
To add to the same collection **Maj W. J. (John) Clapp** presented the various insignia and medals worn by his late father, **Brig C. D. Clapp CBE** who served in India with the 2 and 67 Punjabis.

Again from India we were fortunate to be presented with a Yakdan (a heavy duty carrying box) by **Maj Gen A. M. W. Whistler CB CBE**. This type of carrying case was in common use on the North West Frontier of India but very few were ever brought back to 'Blighty'.

During the year **Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO** has presented a number of historically valuable items to the Museum including complete sets of his Uniforms, a silk 'escape' map of Europe and a magnificent silver cigarette case that had been presented to his late father, **Col E de W. H. Bradley**. In addition **Gen Bradley** has donated a collection of over 120 military history books to the Museum library. This has greatly enhanced the library and is a most welcome addition.

During a visit to the Museum **Miss Letitia Fowler**, the elder daughter of **Lt Gen Sir John Fowler KCB KCMG DSO** the first Colonel Commandant of the Corps, presented her father's decorations and medals and also a number of personal items that had been used by **Gen Fowler** including a Chinese brocade waistcoat that he had worn when acting as GOC China Command during the 1920's.

Lt Col M. E. E. (Monty) Truscott visited the Museum and presented a 400-year-old Samuri sword to be added to the already excellent display of Hong Kong material that had previously been presented by **Monty** and the daughter of the late **Lt Col Eustace Levett** including the diary he kept whilst a POW in Hong Kong.



In November 1984 **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** visited the Museum and presented on behalf of Siemens a teleprinter T100 to commemorate the long association of that type of equipment with the Corps. The Teleprinter was accepted, on behalf of the Museum, by **Brig A. M. Willcox**.

The display of material from the Falklands Campaign of 1982 continues to grow and during the past year we have received a number of significant donations to this display including the badge of office of **General Menendez** of the Argentine Forces, received from 30 Sig Regt. The flag from that regiment was flown on the Island in June 1982, donated by **Lt Col R. K. Thompson OBE**, who also donated an Argentine presentation plate. Messrs Wilson and Co gave a Falklands commemorative picture painted by **Ken Howard**. This was presented to the Corps Museum at a ceremony held at the National Army Museum. The painting was received by **Maj Gen A. J. Jackson**, as the then Chairman of the Royal Signals Institution and **Maj Alan Harfield**, the Deputy Director of the Museum.

There have been many other donations, such as the sword and scabbard of the late **Lt Col D. E. L. Gardiner**, presented by his widow, who also kindly permitted the Museum representative to select a series of photographs from her family albums for the archives. Many documents have been deposited, as have numerous photographs and albums.

The Corps medal collection continues to grow and among the groups donated there have been a number generously donated by widows of such Corps personalities as **Maj (QM) J. F. McQuade, WO1 (RSM) W. J. (Tiger) Hart MSM, WO2 E. D. Shilton**. Some medals have been donated by Corps members who are still very active but have kindly donated their medals to the Corps including **Maj N. E. Robinson**, and **Dvr J. Stoppard**. There are many more but space does not permit a full list.

After many years of searching the Corps has at last acquired a uniform of a WW2 ATS servicewoman. This has been loaned to the Corps by the WRAC Museum. It is not on show yet as we have not yet been able to obtain a suitable model!

Finally in this report of your Museum it may be of interest to know that the Museum receives help from outside organisations two of which are the South West Branch of the Museum's Assocation and the Army Museum's Ogilby Trust an organisation that is ably led by **Col P. S. (Pip) Newton OBE** who has given considerable advice and help to the Corps Museum in his capacity as Secretary of the Trust.

The Museum still lacks many items of personal kit which are needed to help set the scene in some of the new displays planned for 1986. Don't throw away that old mess-tin, gas cape, or 'gloves, knitted, khaki'—send it to *your* Museum.

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW

If you're Leaving the Services within the next 12 months and would like to start a New Career consider GCHQ as a

Trainee Radio Officer

If your trade or training involves Radio Operating you may wish to continue in the work you know and enjoy. Government Communications Headquarters can offer you a career in communications involving the very latest technology. It starts with 32 weeks thorough training to fit you for the post of Radio Officer with extremely interesting work, good salary, good prospects for promotion and also the opportunity for overseas travel. Add to this the security of working for an important Government Department and you could have the start of something new.

The basic requirement for the job is 2 years' radio operating experience or hold a PMG, MPT or MRGC. Registered disabled people are welcome to apply.

Salaries start at £4,762 at age 19 to £5,755 at age 25 and over during training and then £6,399 at 19 to £8,510 at 25 and over as a Radio Officer. Increments then follow annually to £11,741 inclusive of shift and weekend working allowances.

For full details and an application form phone 0242 32912/3 or write to:

GCHQ

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

THE EARL MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA

From: Miss Barbara Cartland

Dear Sir,

So many people have been upset by the official biography of **The Earl Mountbatten of Burma** that I have been asked to compile a book in which the men and women who served him can express their views on what he was like and the influence he had on them.

I would like everyone who was a personal friend or who served with him in the Mediterranean, India, South East Asia, or later, to write to me and their letters will be in the book, together with many photographs of **Lord Mountbatten,** as a tribute to this amazing man. All the proceeds from this book will be given to the United World Colleges which were very close to his heart.

I will acknowledge each letter personally and I hope very much to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,
Barbara Cartland

Camfield Place,
Hatfield,
Herts.
AL9 6JE

IN MEMORY

From: Col S. W. Brackenbury MBE

Dear Sir,

I have recently returned from Cyprus where I have been staying at HQ Dhelkalia Garrison. While there I visited the British Military Cemetery located within the Garrison. I would like to assure relatives and friends that the cemetery is very well kept and maintained to a high standard:-

Details of Corps personnel who are buried there are as follows:-

Plot 1 Row B 2547273 **WO2 J. Young** 28 October 1961 age 34
Plot 1 Row D 22525394 **Sgt K. W. Bastow** 25 November 1964 age 38
Plot 1 Row A 23768891 **Sig H. T. Clark** 19 May 1961 age 22
Plot 2 Row A 22212873 **Cpl A. W. Petrie**, 25 December 1960 age 32
Plot 2 Row A 23548281 **Sig T. Casey** 19 May 1961 age 22
Plot 5 Row A 22997973 **Cpl R. Johnson** 18 May 1961 age 24
Plot 6 Row D 23548446 **Cpl B. Ball** 24 January 1963, age 22
Plot 7 Row A 23708157 **Sig F. C. Witt** 10 September 1963 age 20
Plot 8 Row B 23733543 **Sgt D. E. James** 21 September 1967 age 24
Plot 8 Row B 23938331 **LCpl J. E. Murray** 29 January 1967 age 20
Plot 11 Row A 23982124 **Sig S. P. Axworthy** 17 April 1971 age 22
Plot 11 Row A 22812919 **Sig J. G. McD. Cattanch**, 3 March 1969, age 34
Plot 11 Row B 23217552 **WO1 R. A. McGregor** 25 June 1974 age 38
Plot 14 Row C **A. W. Fisk** (Major (Retd)) 1912-1984

Yours sincerely,
S. W. Brackenbury

Wyke Barn,
Wyke,
Gillingham,
Dorset
SP8 4AX

AIRBORNE FORCES DAY (ABF 85)

ABF day this year is Saturday 6 July and of course all ex members of 'Airborne Signals' will be made most welcome.

As a prelude to the normal Saturday celebrations the Squadron plan to run an informal function on Friday 5 July.

As always, a limited amount of accommodation will be made available (stag), and every effort will be made to assist in locating family accommodation in the Aldershot area.

For further details contact: **Capt J. J. Campbell,** 5 Airborne Brigade HQ and Sig Sqn, Arnhem Bks, Aldershot, Hants. Tel: 0252 24431 Ext: 547.

AN EDITOR SIGNS OFF . . .

It has been a privilege to edit *The Wire* and, in handing over to my successor, it is difficult to thank adequately the many members of the Corps—both serving and retired—for their support and encouragement over the past decade.

Contributions from units at home and overseas have never been lacking and it is good to see so many junior members of the Corps making the effort to report their many diverse activities and achievements. With this particularly in mind, some guide lines and suggestions are included on page 324. If these prove useful for the future, they will have served their purpose.

The Wire—as it has since 1920—strives to be worthy of the great Corps it portrays.

. . . AND LT COL K. E. P. ANDREWS MBE SIGNS ON

I look forward with enthusiasm to editing *The Wire* and I am sure that contributors will continue to bombard the editorial desk with material. If it all gets too much have no fear that I shall let you know but in the meantime keep it coming.

Your new editor spent 33 years in the Corps, has been away from it in a Government Department for the last eight and a half years and is more than glad to rejoin the fold.

MOVE OF RHQ ROYAL SIGNALS

The March issue of *The Wire* indicated that RHQ Royal Signals was likely to move to its new home—**56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD** during April or May. In the event, the considerable work required did not get under way as quickly as anticipated and the move is now likely to take place early in July.

Details of telephone numbers which will then apply are as follows:-

	MILLBANK MILITARY EXT
Regimental Secretary (Colonel J. A. D. Francis)	**240**
Assistant Regimental Secretary (Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon)	**241**
Institution Clerk	**242**
Chief Clerk	**243**
Welfare Officers	**244 or (01) 630 0801**
Association Clerk	**245**
The Wire/The Journal	**246**
Accounts	**247**

From outside the Army Telephone Network, dial **(01) 834 9060** and ask for the extension number required.

– Movements –

Officers

APRIL 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj H. M. Adams	QG Signals
Capt A. J. Bowering	HQ LSG
Capt R. V. J. Brannigan	Fortress HQ Gibraltar
Maj (TOT) J. V. Bridgeman	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Lt A. P. Bristow	Junr Regt R Signals
Maj (TOT) D. Brown	QG Signals
Lt Col D. M. A. Burridge	HQ 1 Sig Gp
Maj P. J. K. Dickinson	22 Sig Regt
Capt P. N. Ellis	RMAS
Maj M. J. M. Emslie	39 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt P. R. Ford	HS School of Signals
Capt I. Foxley	HS BDLS (Army) Canberra
Lt P. A. Hodgkiss	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main HQ)
Capt (TOT) I. D. Hope	10 Sig Regt
Maj (QM) J. E. Ient	11 Sig Regt
Lt A. W. James	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj D. J. Jessett	HQ NORTHAG Staff (BAE)
Capt (Tfc) E. C. Jones	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Col W. C. A. Kennedy	Project WAVELL Mil Team
Lt P. B. Knobel	7 Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Lawson	8 Sig Regt
Lt S. J. May	3 Armed Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt G. J. McNeill	30 Sig Regt
Capt M. E. Pincott	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt L. J. Plumb	HS School of Signals
Maj W. A. Price	School of Signals
Lt M. J. Radford	7 Sig Regt
Maj J. G. M. Rumford	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt Col E. H. Sambell	DGGWL(AO(PE)(AE))
Maj I. M. G. Strong	DSS(A)
Maj R. C. A. Thwaites	Loan Service Oman
Capt (TOT) A. G. Turner	240 Sig Sqn
Maj Q. Vigurs	HS AA Coll Harrogate

MAY 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt J. Adam	3 Armed Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj D. R. Bannister	AA College Harrogate
Capt H. T. Bradley	HS 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt (Tfc) W. J. Donolly	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Col J. V. Fielding	SANGCOM
Capt D. J. Harries	8 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc) J. D. Heard	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt J. E. Hogan	21 Sig Regt
Maj D. P. Hughes	DCIS(A)
Capt S. P. Hunt	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt S. W. Jones	AA College Harrogate
Maj C. D. M. Kemp	233 Sig Sqn
Capt C. R. Lawrence	HS 30 Sig Regt
Lt R. W. Lockwood	4 Armed Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) F. C. McLoughlin	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Capt P. J. Moseley	HS 30 Sig Regt
Maj J. C. B. Simpson	DGGWL(A) (PE) (AE)
Lt Col A. L. W. G. Steane	AA College Harrogate
Capt (Tfc) O. S. Vannan	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Lt Col R. F. Willsher	33 Sig Regt (V)

WOs and SNCOs

APRIL 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 I. R. Campbell	36 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 J. Aspinall	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 A. R. Lovell	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 G. J. Mason	33 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 K. F. J. Perry	632 Sig Tp
WO2 J. K. McKay	School of Signals
WO2 (YofS) A. T. Bodimeade	16 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) J. T. Cowen	14 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) G. I. Hartley	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) P. G. C. Tapsell	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) (EW Op) G. C. McAvoy	29 Sig Regt
AWO2 P. D. Manger	Comms and Sy Gp UK
SSgt R. B. Wyllie	21 Sig Regt
SSgt P. R. Berry	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt J. Mayson	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt J. R. Levett	AA College Harrogate
SSgt W. T. J. Woodmason	9 Sig Regt
SSgt V. G. McGarry	Battle Gp Tac Trg (UK)
SSgt D. Thomas	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt E. C. Dale	71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt J. C. Tepielow	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt A. C. Giles	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt W. M. Garn	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt W. G. Graham	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. Taylor	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt D. C. Kerr	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt S. P. Simpson	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. G. Appleyard	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt G. C. Evans	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. D. Haworth	242 Sig Sqn (FFS Mormond Hill)
Sgt J. Lawrence	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. A. Plews	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. W. Tanser	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Leyland	School of Signals
Sgt S. W. Catterall	School of Signals
Sgt P. Crowther	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. R. Wheatley	School of Signals
Sgt P. M. Curley	School of Signals
Sgt P. Williams	Commando Training Centre RM
Sgt A. D. Hill	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Wilbraham	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. P. Scott	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. M. Massey	HQ AFCENT
Sgt M. J. Philo	29 Sig Regt
Sgt A. C. Giles	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. R. Davies	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Morton	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. R. H. Hems	7 Sig Regt
Sgt C. A. Taylor	Junior Regiment R Signals
Sgt M. K. Tiffany	Army Pers Selection Gp (Scottish Wg)
ASgt K. C. Sykes	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt P. C. Martin	AA College Harrogate
Asgt S. L. Tiffin	593 Rear Link Det
ASgt T. J. Butler	244 Sig Sqn

MAY 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) G. W. Bartliff	School of Signals
WO2 T. W. Jack	16 Sig Regt
AWO2 W. R. Kirkwood	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) R. F. Davis	13 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) M. Smart	13 Sig Regt
SSgt E. G. Dullagham	8 Sig Regt Cadre
SSgt (YofS) L. S. Pilling	7 Sig Regt
SSgt M. J. Buckler	AA Coll Harrogate
ASSgt K. Tubman	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt M. James	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. G. Smith	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. McFarlane	266 Sig Sqn
ASSgt T. R. Whateley	21 Sig Regt
Sgt N. E. Barlow	633 Sig Tp
Sgt C. J. Haigh	HQ AFSOUTH
Sgt G. Y. Nicoll	240 Sig Sqn (FSS Stenigot)
Sgt R. Reay	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. F. Slade	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. J. Tillman	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. A. Walter	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. Wray	242 Sig Sqn (FSS Mossy Hill)
Sgt C. Roberts	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Griffiths	560 Rear Link Det
Sgt P. A. J. Draper	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. D. Knox	63 Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt P. J. Welham	28 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Buff	9 Sig Regt
Sgt G. P. Scott	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Piggott	10 Sig Regt
Sgt A. E. Cook	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. S. N. Brown	30 Sig Regt
Sgt S. G. Smedley	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. E. Arnold	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt R. D. Hall	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt J. L. Kennedy	Comms and Sy Gp UK
Sgt P. R. Hickinbottom	548 Rear Link Det
Sgt G. Thursfield	School of Signals
Sgt A. J. Carmichael	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. J. Wood	8 Sig Regt
ASgt N. Thomas	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt D. M. Till	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt V. Bragg	8 Sig Regt
ASgt S. J. Gillespie	13 Sig Regt
ASgt P. L. Carroll	14 Sig Regt
ASgt S. J. Chilton	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
ASgt T. Davies	9 Sig Regt
ASgt P. Christian	2 Cdt Trg Team
ASgt I. K. Johnson	8 Sig Regt
ASgt M. C. McCafferty	AA Coll Harrogate

ROYAL SIGNALS STABLE BELTS

New Regulation Pattern with Straps

Made up as required

EXPORT ..... each £3.65
U.K. inc. VAT ..... each £4.20
(Postage Extra)

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Nr. DONCASTER

Welfare

FEBRUARY 1985
Number of cases assisted financially: 36
Amount spent: £5,995.24

MARCH 1985
Number of cases assisted financially: 57
Amount spent: £11,218.17

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

Ex POW(FE) now confined to a wheelchair due to a heart complaint, married and living in a remote rural area was in urgent need of clothing and bedding. A grant was made to help.

Ex Cpl married with two young children had recently been made redundant for the second time. The younger child suffers from Down's Syndrome and is mentally handicapped. The family were buying a caravan as a means of a cheap holiday and had fallen into arrears on the outstanding HP payments. With assistance from the Royal British Legion and the Army Benevolent Fund, we were able to clear the balance of payments and enable the family to retain the caravan.

The elderly widow of a wartime soldier was unable to meet the cost of her gas bills which were high due to the severe winter weather. She had also had her carpets ruined by a flood when the pipes burst. A grant was made to meet the bill and assist towards replacing the carpets.

Ex wartime soldier recently died and was uninsured as he had been unable to work since 1956 due to chronic poor health. His widow was unable to meet the funeral bill. We were able to resolve her immediate difficulties by making a grant.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during March 1985:

8 Sig Regt	£153.73
St Albans Church	£ 50.00
52 (Lowland) Sig Sqn (V)	£ 50.00
RSA Cotswolds	£ 30.00
Maj H. D. V. Chappell	£ 25.00
In memory of Mrs E. V. McCormack	£ 10.00
Miscellaneous	£ 13.71
	£332.44

The following donations were gratefully received during April 1985:

RSA Shrewsbury	£250.00
RSA Brighton	£ 50.00
In memory of Sig Brooking	£ 40.00
Mrs F. Stanley	£ 25.00
RSA Bedford	£ 25.00
RSA Lincoln	£ 20.00
Maj M. Stears	£ 10.00
8 Sig Regt	£ 10.00
Lt Col A. R. Reader MBE	£ 10.00
In memory of Maj J. R. E. Cross	£ 10.00
Lt Col P. H. Johnstone	£ 10.00
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Classified Section

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DEATHS

Boast — Maj Trevor Gerald Boast. Trevor Boast was born at Bratham, Essex on 3 October 1933 and enlisted into the Corps on 25 September 1951.

He was commissioned on 1 August 1953 after training at the OTW and was posted to the Far East where he joined the Malaya Sig Sqn. In June 1955 he was posted to 25 Field Regt RA Sig Tp and returned to the UK in March 1956. He then served for two years with the Training Organisation at Catterick Camp, first with 7 Training Regt and then with the RSW, School of Signals.

His next posting was to the Middle East where he joined 4 Air Formation Sig Regt. He remained there for 15 months and then joined 20 Sig Regt for two years. **Trevor** then moved to 10 Sig Regt and in March 1962 he returned to BAOR and joined 16 Sig Regt as Adjutant. In January 1964 he joined 14 Sig Regt, again as Adjutant, where he stayed for two years.

In April 1966 he moved to the Persian Gulf and joined 244 Ground Liaison Section for an 18 months' tour. On his return to the UK he was posted to 30 Sig Regt and retired from that Regiment on 3 October 1970. He died on 3 September 1984.

Brown — Ex WO2 Beattie Brown. 'Topper' Brown passed away very suddenly on 14 February at his home in South Queensferry, West Lothian. He enlisted into the Corps on 23 January 1935 serving in Palestine, Egypt, West Africa, Germany and Japan. He was discharged on 22 January 1957 and joined Scottish Command (M) Signal Regiment (V) in Edinburgh. He will be remembered for his service to football, refereeing at the highest level. His son **David** also served in the Corps.

Clarke — SSgt David Cyril Clarke was born at Belfast on 28 February 1939. He enlisted into the TA on 30 January 1971 and joined 40 (Ulster) Sig Regt (V) where he gave sterling service and became a much loved and respected member of the Regiment. On 1 October 1983 he took up the appointment of Non Regular Permanent Staff SQMS. **'Davey'** as he was affectionately known to all, will be best remembered for the helpful, cheerful and sympathetic manner he adopted with everyone he knew. Nothing was too much trouble for **Davey** and he will be greatly missed by all of 40 Regt. He died tragically as a result of a traffic accident on 24 March 1985.

Dobson — Lt Col Anthony Richard Benedict Dobson OBE was born at Halliwell, Bolton on 25 July 1909.

He was commissioned as a 2Lt in the 42 Division Signals TA on 19 May 1928 and served with that unit until the outbreak of the Second World War. He was embodied with his unit and served in the BEF being evacuated from Europe on the fall of France. He was 'Mentioned in Despatches' in the London Gazette of 20 December 1940 for gallant and distinguished service. He then joined 46 Divisional Signals and embarked for the Middle East in January 1943, and later joined A GHQ Signal Regiment. On 19 June 1944 he was posted to 7 Air Formation Signals and on 29 March 1945 transferred to 4 Air Formation Signals still serving in the Middle East. He was again 'Mentioned in Despatches' in the London Gazette of 29 November 1945 and in the following month was appointed an OBE.

He transferred to the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers on 1 September 1948, and on October 1957 was appointed an Honorary Colonel, a post he held until 1963. He died on 22 September 1984.

Evitts — Lt J. Austin Evitts. Born on 26 March 1901, **Austin** was one of the pioneers of radio communication. Towards the end of World War I he served as a Telegraphist in the Merchant Navy. Between the Wars he served in the North Midland Corps Signals TA under the late **Col G. J. Underwood CBE TD DL**.

In May 1940 in command of 12 Wireless Section he was despatched to Calais ostensibly to provide emergency communications for the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force; but under the pressure and urgency of the situation that arose he and his section found themselves providing the last communications between **Brig Nicholson**'s HQ in the Citadel at Calais and the War Office through the Admiralty at Dover, and fighting as Infantry with the three Rifle Regiments at Calais.

After the four days of that most unequal and dreadful battle against the I and subsequently 10 Panzer Divisions, **Austin** had to lead out the first 10 prisoners from the Citadel to the German Commander.

During his five years captivity in various POW camps, **Austin** at great personal risk maintained reception of BBC broadcasts by modifying the camp cinematograph projector. He received a mention in despatches and never knew whether this was for his action at Calais or for receiving the BBC broadcasts in POW camps.

Austin wrote 'Calais 1940 Remembered' which was published in The Journal of the Royal Signals Institution, Winter, 1971, Volume X, No 3. Both he and **Col Leslie Wright** who served under him at Calais helped the late **Airey Neave** in the compilation of his book 'The Flames of Calais' and together with the late **Col Gerry Underwood** attended the publication party given by **Airey Neave** where many old friendships were renewed.

Austin died on 22 March and his funeral occurred on 26 March, his 84th birthday.

Hebden — Ex WO2 Bill Hebden enlisted in the Corps in 1948 having served during the war in the Green Howards. Following service at the War Office he went to Egypt and Benghazi with 25 Armd Bde Sig Sqn. In 1954 he was posted to Malta and in 1956 to 12 Sig Regt as SSgt (SQMS). His final posting was as SSM with 227 Sig Sqn (ALFCE) at Fontainebleu.

Bill died peacefully at Barrow-in-Furness. He is survived by his wife **Mary**, their seven children and 21 grandchildren, many of whom are serving or have served in HM Forces. His fourth son, **Sgt C. Hebden**, is currently serving with H Tp, 13 Sig Regt.

Henretty — Maj Frederick Gordon Henretty TD, was born at Liverpool on 20 July 1923. He joined the army during the Second World War and spent his first year of service with the North Staffordshire Regt. He was commissioned into the Corps as a 2Lt on 3 November 1943 and served with L of C units in India and Burma. In October 1946 he joined 2 Divisional Signals in Malaya and terminated his full time service on 14 May 1947. He joined the reconstituted TA on 1 April 1949 and served in a variety of units as a TA officer, these included 22 Corps Sig Regt TA, 87 AGRA (Fd) Sig Sqn TA, 63 HQ L of C Sig Regt TA and remained with that unit from January 1954, through its various reorganisations, and finally retired on 29 May 1961. He died on 20 September 1984.

Jamieson — Maj Hugh Jamieson MSM was born at Barrow-in-Furness on 19 August 1910 and enlisted into the Corps on 4 September 1928. After training he joined 3 Divisional Signals for 18 months and was then posted to India where he served with L Company until 1936. On his return to England **Hugh** joined 2 Divisional Signals and in November 1938 was posted to London Divisional Signals. In February 1941 he joined 2 Close Support Bomber Control and after eight months was posted to North Africa. He served through the North African and Italian campaigns returning to England in October 1945 to join 1 Airborne Divisional Signals. In February 1946 he joined 1 War Office Signals where he remained until January 1951. He was commissioned on 3 April 1952 and served subsequently as QM of 61 HQ Army Sig Regt TA and then 2 L of C Sig Regt in BAOR. **Hugh** then moved to HQ BAOR and served with the Signal Work Services Group for three years. He retired on 19 August 1963 and then served for nearly two years as the PSO with 45 Sig Regt TA. He died on 10 September 1984.

Lyddon — Col Charles Home Lyddon was born in London on 23 December 1905 and was commissioned as a 2Lt to the Corps on 29 January 1925. In May 1926 he joined A Corps Signals and in September 1927 embarked for Iraq where he served briefly on secondment with the Royal Air Force and then joined Iraq Signal Section at Baghdad. In 1928 he returned to the UK via India and then served with 3 Divisional Signals.

On 27 March 1931 he embarked for Canada and served on secondment with the Royal Canadian Signals for a year. His tour of duty in the UK was only brief as in February 1933 he embarked for China and joined China Command Signals. After three and a half years' service in the Far East **Charles Lyddon** returned to the UK and was then given an appointment in the War Office. After four years in the War Office he joined 2 Corps Signals for a year and then returned to the Far East. He embarked for Malaya on 4 December 1941 and arrived in Singapore in time to move up into Malaya but with the fall of Malaya and Singapore he became a Prisoner of War.

He was released in 1945 and returned to the UK. After a short tour of duty he was posted overseas again and joined 3 GHQ Sig Regt in the Middle East in September 1946. The next move was to Austria where he joined the BTA Army Sig Regt. In October 1947 he again returned briefly to UK before moving to serve for three and a half years with the West Africa Sig Regt.

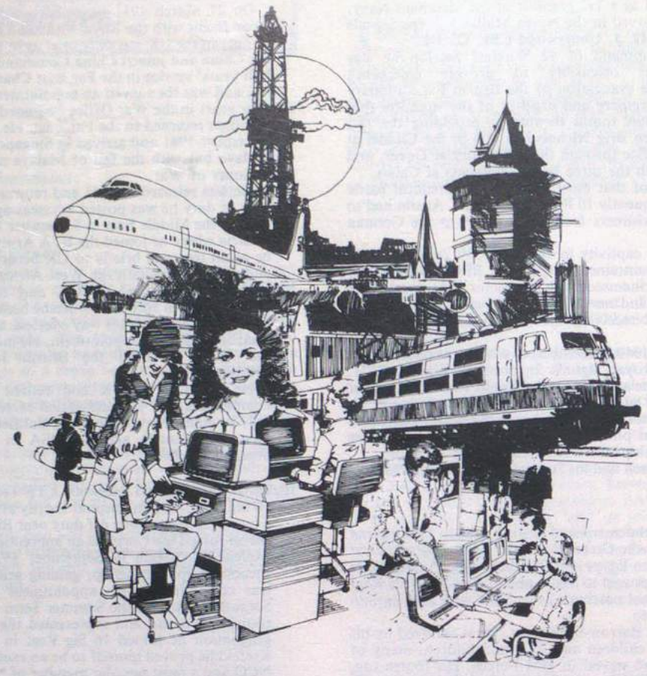
He then returned to UK and took up another Ministry appointment in July 1952 when he became GSOI Signals 7. Within two years he was on his way overseas again for what was to be his final active service appointment. He moved to the USA to serve on the Army Staff of the British Joint Services Mission in Washington.

He returned to UK and retired in January 1958 having completed a very full and varied career which had taken him not only to many conventional appointments but also to China in the East and Canada and the USA in the West. He died on 7 September 1984.

Richards — Cpl David Richards, a TE Technician serving in 4 Sqn of 16 Sig Regt, died in hospital shortly after being severely injured in a motor accident while off duty near Bielefeld on 26 January 1985. **David** joined the Corps as an apprentice at the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate in September 1979. He had a happy and successful apprenticeship, gaining academic successes and which was concluded by his appointment as Apprentice Regimental Sergeant Major for the Summer Term of 1982. He was a good all-round sportsman and represented the College at football. After graduation he joined 16 Sig Regt in September 1982. While at Krefeld he proved himself to be an excellent junior Technician and NCO and a most popular member of M Troop and the Regiment. He was selected for duty at our detached Squadron in Bielefeld, where as a member of a very small team he was responsible for maintenance of a number of vital communication systems. While at Bielefeld he met, courted and married **Cpl Tracy Gardham**, a Data Telegraphist. They had only just set up their first home in Oerlinghausen when their very happy marriage was cut tragically short. He will be remembered by his fellow ex-Apprentices and his many friends from Krefeld and Bielefeld. Our sincere condolences are extended to his widow, **Cpl Tracy Richards**, who has taken up a new post with 233 Sig Sqn, to his parents and family which includes a brother **Nigel** serving in 10 Sig Regt.

Sampson — Lt Col John Edward Pennycuik (Teddy) Sampson was born at Dorchester, Dorset on 15 February 1921. He was commissioned as a 2Lt in the Corps on 15 June 1940 and joined 43 Infantry Divisional Signals. After a short tour of duty with 5 Corps Signals he joined 6 Armoured Divisional Signals on 8 October 1941. Whilst with this unit he first served with 3 Light Scout Car Company and then 1 Light Scout Car Company. He saw active service in North West Europe and in March 1945 embarked for India. He served successively in 6, 4 and 7 Indian Air Formation Signals ending this period of his service in Singapore. He was then posted to the Middle East in July 1946 and served for six months with the Trans Jordan Frontier Force. He returned to England in January 1947 and joined 3 Training Regt at Catterick Camp where he remained for two years and then joined the staff of HQ Catterick District. In July 1951 he was posted to Berlin Sig Sqn and returned to the UK to attend the Staff College Course in January 1952. In March 1953 he was given an appointment at HQ British Troops in the Sudan where he remained until November 1955. After his return from the Sudan **'Teddy'** joined 7 Armoured Divisional Sig Regt in BAOR for two years. In January 1958 he took up a staff appointment in the Signals Directorate of the Air Ministry and after two years moved to another staff appointment in Signal 4 at the War Office. This was followed by a three year tour of duty at the RAC Centre at Bovington.

In July 1964 he served a six months' tour of duty with the United Nations Force in Cyprus and on his return he joined the staff of the School of Signals where he remained until his retirement on 26 November 1966. He died on 12 October 1984.



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Solly — Capt William John Solly was born at Frimley, Surrey, on 16 August 1904. **Bill** enlisted in the RE Telegraph Battalion, Bedford, in October 1919. The following month he was transferred to Maresfield Park and became one of the founder members of the Corps. He was in Egypt before being posted to India where he witnessed the Lahore Riots. After serving in various stations he transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He served as a Lieutenant in the Middle East Base Depot during 1946 and 1947 and then moved to the Base Depot in Greece. He remained there until March 1950 and retired in 1953. **Bill Solly** died after a long illness on 8 February 1985.

Stafford — Ex Sig Robert Stafford. We record with regret the sudden death of **Ex Sig Robert Stafford** on 15 November 1984. **'Bob'** as he was always known, was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 21 November 1918, and enlisted into the Corps at Dundee on 20 October 1939.

After training at Crief as a Lineman, he served in Orkney for some time, followed by service with the Eighth Army in the Western Desert and Italy. Following leave at the end of September 1945, he continued to serve in the UK until being released in 1946.

'Bob' continued his contacts with the Corps as a life Member of the Association for many years after his discharge to civilian life, and seldom missed a monthly meeting at the several venues of the Newcastle and District Branch over the years. He was also a regular attender at the annual Catterick Reunion.

His funeral service was attended by representatives of the Newcastle Branch of the Association.

Turner — Maj Donald Turner was born on 9 November 1925 and enlisted into the Corps on 21 February 1946. He was commissioned on 30 April 1947 and after completing his officer training joined 4 Training Regt until August 1950. He was then posted to Egypt where he served for three years with 3 L of C Sig Regt. On his return to England **Don** became Adjutant of 11 Sig Regt where he remained for three years. He then moved on to the School of Signals for a year.

In November 1958 he joined Eastern Command Sig Regt until the 1959 reorganisation of regular and TA units of the Corps when he was posted to the newly organised 55 Sig Regt TA. In June 1961 **Don** was posted to Singapore where he took over the appointment of SO3 at Signals Branch at GHQ FARELF. After three years in that post he moved to a new appointment, at HQ AAFCE, also as a SO3. On his return to the UK he was again given a post in a TA regiment and joined 46 Sig Regt TA in February 1966. In May 1967 **Don** moved to another staff appointment which was, on this occasion, at HQ Western Command. Two further staff appointments followed, the first at HQ 2 ATAF in BAOR which lasted for 18 months and then a two and a half year tour with HQ AFCENT. **Don** returned to England to spend nearly three years at the Army Apprentices' College at Harrogate. His final appointment on full-time service was with HQ 4 Signal Group, BAOR as RSLO. He retired on 9 November 1980. **Don Turner** died on 15 January 1985.

Whatman — Lt Col Amherst Barrow Whatman MBE was born in Exeter on 1 November 1909. He was commissioned as a 2Lt in the Corps on 29 August 1929 and then served for two years with AFV Signals at Tidworth. In October 1933 he joined Cambridge University for two years and this was followed by his participation of the University Arctic Expedition of 1935-1936 for which he was awarded the rare Polar Medal.

In April 1937 he moved to the Far East and became OC Shanghai Signal Company and later moved to Hong Kong to take over command of the Hong Kong Signal Company. He returned to the UK and became an Instructor at the School of Signals where he remained until March 1942. After a period of three months, when he was employed on special duties, and joined No 1 Liaison HQ as the GSO 1. He was appointed an MBE in the London Gazette of 10 November 1942. In November 1943 he returned to the School of Signals as the Senior Instructor. Two years later he moved to HQ ALFSEA to take up the appointment of SOI (Signals). With the end of the war he moved to GHQ India at New Delhi where he became GSOI of Signals 2 Branch, and this was followed by a special appointment in connection with the run-down of the British Forces in India, and his title for the period leading up to petitioning was Assistant Chief Superintendent Development, India. He returned to the UK and took over the appointment of Inspector Class I, of the Inspectorate of Electrical and Mechanical Equipment. His last full-time service appointment was as the 2IC of a Divisional Signals unit in MELF. He retired on 30 June 1952. He died on 5 October 1984.

FOR SALE

OFFICE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

RHQ has about a dozen Kalamazu Ledgers available free to the first bidder. A quantity of inserts are also available.

These ledgers are ideal for personnel records or lists of stores. Phone Chelsea Mil or 01-930-4466, Extn 373 or 366.

British Warm (Crombie), Size 44, to fit person 6ft to 6ft 2in. Worn once. £150. Please write to **Mrs S. Cross**, 3 Caledon Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

PERSONAL

Ex Cpl C. E. Horle MM offers his congratulations to his old friend **Mr T. Bolton** on reaching the age of 80, having first met when enlisting into the Corps in 1935.

Mr W. Scurr would be pleased if **Sgt 'Dai' Hughes** would get in touch with him on the telephone number given below. **Sgt Hughes,** accompanied by his wife **Judith** and two children, **Martin** and **Susan,** served in 260 Sig Sqn in Dortmund, in Portadown in 1966/67 and later in Krefeld and Wrexham. Telephone: (0947) 83315.

SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A NON-REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) STAFF SERGEANT STOREMAN—40 (U) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

A vacancy has arisen for a NRPS Staff Sergeant Storeman, for employment with 40 (U) Signal Regiment (V) in Belfast.

The terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978 Chapter 6 Part 4. The upper age limit for applicant is 55 and the normal retiring age is 60. The post carries the rank of Staff Sergeant at a current daily rate of pay of £24.62 on appointment rising by three increments to £24.92 after nine years in the post.

The appointment calls for a thorough practical and theoretical knowledge of the following accounts:

a. Equipment/Vehicles.
b. Clothing.
c. Ammunition.
d. Camp Stores.
e. Rations.

Applications including two references and a curriculum vitae should be forwarded as soon as possible to:

Adjutant
40 (U) Signal Regiment (V)
Clonaver Park
Belfast
BT4 2EY

VACANCY FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) STAFF SERGEANT SQMS
39TH (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

Four vacancies will exist from 1 October 1985 for SSgt (SQMS) in 39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers). These vacancies are one each at London EC2, Dundee, Tunbridge Wells and Banbury.

Terms and conditions of service are detailed in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4. The upper age limit on appointment is 55 and retiring age is 60.

The present daily rate of pay for a NRPS SSgt is £24.62.

Applicants should ideally have served in the Regular Army as WO/SNCO and have a thorough knowledge of stores accounting procedures and administrative duties. Experience of working with civilian staff is desirable.

Applicants should state which of the four locations they are applying for. Applicants wishing to be considered for more than one location should clearly state their order of preference.

Applications including two referees and a curriculum vitae should be forwarded to reach the following address by 7 June 1985.

Administrative Officer
39th (City of London) Signal Regiment (V)
79-85 Worship Street
London
EC2A 2BP

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

SHQ
Report by Capt R. P. Walkin RA

The Gunner has been lumbered again! I took my ear defenders off and someone shouted 'Wire Notes' so I replied 'Roger Out' and here we are. SHQ rolls on. We have changes in both the military and civilian staff. **WO2 (YofS) 'Merve the Swerve' Bodimeade** leaves us next month, as does **LCpl Paul 'I'll crack it soon' Baker. Mrs Anne Reason** has already left us, and has been replaced by **Mrs Jean (How's your Maths?) Lee**. Chiefy, **SSgt 'Orville' Barlow** looks in, now and again, in between long weekends. **Sgt Mick 'Goldfinger' Leather** is doing a correspondence course on pay duties, or so it seems. **Cpl 'Ned' Kelly** thinks he is master of all he surveys and **Sig Andy Williams** and **Pte 'Beer Crate' Hudson** agree with him. 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent** has returned to the fold after a three month holiday on his Captain's Course and JCSC. Happy 'in tray' **Mike**! Trg Sgt, **Sgt Bill Simpson** has had a computer installed in his office and is now taking the pills regularly. **RSM John Stanley** has now settled in fully, and does not want a chair lift installed up to his office. Mention must also be made of **SSgt (YofS) Chris Rogan**, and last, but not least, our ever present typist, **Ginny Webb**.

RUMOUR OF THE MONTH

The AO, having completed his Health and Safety Course is going to put a prohibition order on the QM's hat!

MT TROOP

Since the last issue of *The Wire*, the troop has been extremely busy with one thing and another not least of all the unit PRE. Due to all the very hard work put in by the troop we managed to achieve a staggering 98%. Well done the lads!

Sgt John 'Two Sugar's Please' Gillan finding that work can get you down!

Mt Tp as at 1 April 1985
Back Row: WO2 (MTWO) Yates
Third Row: Sgt Gillan, Dvr Brown, LCpl Kibble
Second Row: Dvr Hagan, Cpl Strachan, Cfn Holmes, Sig Alderson
Front Row: Cfn Meley, Dvr Conneely, Sig Marshall, Dvr Marden, Cpl Norwood

Sadly we have to say goodbye to a few members of the troop, and wish them well for the future. **Sig Andy Brown**, who is posted to 9 Sig Regt, will be joining his old friend and companion **Sgt Denis Downie** (good luck **Denis**). **Cpl Geordie Strachan, LCpl Dave** (Slap-Head) **Cunningham, LCpl Martin Kibble** and **Sig Mike Moore**. We would also like to welcome two new members to the troop. **Sig Mark Preece** and **Dvr Rodger 'The Dodger' Wallage**. Congratulations to **Dvr Geordie** and **Jackie Hurst** on the birth of their daughter **Dannielle**.

COMMS TROOP

This proved to be another action packed period in the lives of Comms Tp personnel. The deaths of three IRA gunmen in Strabane required the deployment of the Heli-Tele detachment to cover the security arrangements for their funerals. With everyone expecting a massive demonstration the detachment deployed on Sunday night to stay over night for the funerals on the Monday. The bodies were not released in time and the funerals were postponed until Tuesday. In the end the funerals passed off without incident.

A number of the Royal Pioneer Corps members of the troop travelled to Lisburn to be presented with new cap badges by the CLF **Maj Gen Pank**. A few weeks later the CLF visited Londonderry on his farewell visit to units.

Cpl Hunt telling the CLF about being bricked in Londonderry with the Bde Comd

SSgt Dennis Rutter appears to have caught the shooting bug. He has recently started training and organising a Squadron Shooting Team. Cries of 'here we come, Bisley!' The team's first competition was the Mercury Cup Pistol Competition involving NI Royal Signals Units. Unfortunately we were narrowly beaten into second place. Revenge was ours however when a few weeks later the Squadron managed to win the Mercury Cup SLR Competition. Incidentally **Capt Trevor Bradley** obtained the highest individual scores in both competitions.

LCpl Neary, Sig Bickers, Capt Bradley, Sig Mendley, LCpl Smales, Sgt Swailes, SSgt Rutter, Cpl Ashley

DEPARTURES

LCpl Scouse and **Lee Brunning** to Gibraltar, **LCpl Mac** and **Belinda McLaughlin, LCpl Dave Nelson RPC** to 187 Coy RPC, **LCpl Tiny Theakstone RPC** to 'Civvi Street', **Pte Taff Morgan RPC** to 9 Sig Regt, **Pte Geordie Mutton** transfer to RAOC, **Pte Taff Owen** to HQNI, and **Sgt Ron** and **Susan Fones** to CAD Kineton. Goodbye and good luck.

ARRIVALS

LCpl Ted Stuart, Sig 'JR' Archibald, and **Sig Tony Lee**. Welcome to the Squadron.

CONGRATULATIONS

On promotion **LCpl Des Carter, LCpl Boogie Bougourd,** and to **Sig** and **Alison Lock** on the birth of their daughter.

MIKE TROOP
Report by SSgt O. M. Chhetri

The Year of the Rat (February 1984-February 1985) was predictably a very busy and frustrating year for one and all in Mike Troop. We were all hoping that the Chinese Year of the Ox would be more favourable. Indeed, it started off with a mighty bang (not uncommon in these parts) when, on that auspicious day, the WO2 to WO1 Promotion Board was promulgated and our 'boss' **'Norman the Foreman'** was selected for promotion to WO1. Our heartiest congratulations to **Norman**. We envy his move to the PTARMIGAN world in 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

PRE has come and gone with excellent reports but there has been no respite in the wordload for the Radio Tech. On top of the routine 'instant' deployments to various SF bases and hill top sites the Sqn 2IC **Capt Mike Dent** and the FofS dream up various plans/changes that keeps everyone fully occupied but smiling (when the 1771 claims are paid!) **LCpl 'Flanni' Flanighan** has at last been let out of his cage where he has been recrystalling some sets to reconfigure the Bde's UHF system and has been supervising new arrival **Cpl Geoff Hay** in the actual installation work in the City. The change and reconfiguration of the VHF involved all the other Radio Techs and brought to light the fact that not everyone knows his way around the sites. Mind you, there was no MOULD station at one site and it was dark! **Cpl Bob** (Nick Nick) **King** did not get the cherished TELE course vacancy but has earned a month in the R & I, learning about 1043's and 1045's while **Sgts Ian Richardson** and **Rich Carey** are swanning in Chelmsford. **Sgt Ben Mee** is at last happy that the Troop **SSgt Om Chhetri** allows him time off to go swimming twice a week (0630-0830) and **Sgt Mick Tucker** is off sailing on Ex *Danish Grunt* soon.

The 'Gremlins' that bewitch the TE side have been supremely busy, making the Techs return to the same fault countless times and switching around from one SF base to another just to keep things interesting. **Sgt Martin Leighfield** becomes a 'Honorary Radio TE Tech' on completion of the second City Net interface box (if it works) and **Sgt Phil Tait** and **Cpl Tiny Carter** are busy packing boxes for Cyprus and Catterick respectively. **LCpl** 'Baby-Tech' **Toft** might soon lose his affectionate title with the arrival of the new TE Tech from Harrogate.

The Veteran of Line/Telemech Section **Sgt Butch Cassidy** is to be congratulated on his selection to SSgt this year. Rumour has it that he has been elected as assistant Soccer coach . . . in 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt! **Sgt 'Jebel-Tupkel' Swailes** intends to spend as much time as possible away from the Province and is busy sending signals/organising adventure trips to Denmark/Gibraltar. The car fit experts comprise **Sig Jacko Jackson, Steve Griffiths** and **Ade Pierce** and **Cpl Ron Stephenson** leads the rest of the merry team of **Cpl Martin Hawthorne, LCpl Jim McNaught** and **Sig Steve Bickers** around the Province repairing line and inter course faults.

The harsh winter seems to be dying away, much to the relief of our Rigging Section. Masts toppling and disrupting vital comms are all part of the experience and the able-bodied section comprise **Cpl Jan McKittrick** as 'Chief-Whip' and resident Squadron Computer Operator, **LCpl Geordie** (I've had a haircut, Staff) **Gray, LCpl** (I'm a PTI) **Des Carter** and **Sig 'Scouse' Danny Hart**—smiler to his mates.

Finally, the troop congratulates **Cpl Andy Reason** on passing his Pre-RCB selection.

BASKETBALL
Report by WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade

This season has seen a vast improvement with the Squadron winning our area league and runners up in both the NI league and cup competitions. The improvements in the younger elements of the team and the arrival of **WO2 RQMS Mike Braddon**, led to some very good performances. The team remained undefeated in the B area league, against such teams as 2 QUEENS and 325 Sqn RE.

In the NI Areas final, we were narrowly defeated by Lisburn Garrison. In the NI minor units, the Squadron reached the final, having won against 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 325 Sqn RE and 26 Sqn RCT. We were however, overcome by 233 Sig Sqn in the final. Overall, a successful season for the Squadron thanks to **RQMS Mike Braddon** for his coaching.

The Squad: **WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade, WO2 (RQMS) Mike Braddon, WO2 Ginge Walker, SSgt Om Chhetri, Sgt Foz Foster, Cpls Ash Ashley, Keith Carter, LCpls Paul Baker, Lofty Barnett, 'Baby Tech' Toft** and **Sig Jacko Jackson.**

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

OPERATIONS

February and March have seen a number of changes within the Province. 1 Gordons are now established in W Belfast and to the North 1 Kings Own Border have taken over from 1 RHF. 1 RHF leave the Province to go to Berlin after a very successful two year tour. The South has seen changes too; 1 KOSB have now taken over South Armagh and in Ballykinler 1 D and D are preparing to depart for Berlin.

There has been an increase in the level of terrorist activity recently and in Belfast **LCpl Anthony Dacre** was killed by the explosion of a CWIED in the area of Divis Flats; a tragic loss for 1 Kings Own Border so soon after their arrival in the Province. Also in Belfast there is a new threat to mobile patrols; the PPG (PIRA Projected Grenade). This weapon has been used recently at short range to blast doors off mobile patrols, and poses yet another threat in addition to the RPG 7 rocket launchers. In South Armagh there have been several RCIED's. Keady and Armagh have seen near misses recently against RUC and Army patrols.

The Squadron is now gearing itself up for the 'marching season' which extends into the summer. Our systems are being checked out and several of our contingency vehicles brought out of mothballs after a particularly long Northern Irish winter.

AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM

For our ARU, Comd 39 Bde, **Brig H. M. Rose OBE QGM** decided that he wished to deploy 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the field. As far as our records show this is the first time this has been done, certainly since the present emergency started. Squadron Commander **Maj Philip Rouse**, having recovered from the shock of what he had to do summoned the doughty Quartermaster **Capt Bob Vale** to his office and told him to 'Sort out what we need **Bob** and get hold of it. Spare no expense!'

Although to many of our readers a field deployment of a Brigade Headquarters is a routine event, and some are no doubt wondering what all the fuss is about, what you must remember is that the Squadron is not equipped to deploy in the field. We have no cam nets, no hessian, no GS tables, no tents, no picks, no shovels, no cookhouse, no loos . . . in fact we only have a few Green Landrovers (Piglets) and one 12 × 12! The run up weeks prior to the day of the ARU saw the Squadron dashing from one conference to another, and Troop Commanders putting in massive 'shopping lists' to the Quartermaster for what we all thought was needed to do the job. Real first principal stuff!

THE TASK

Our ARU task was to set up a Bde Main HQ in some disused buildings, and to deploy a mobile Tactical HQ based on a traditional (and not unfamiliar) cruxiform using our Piglets and whatever tentage and camouflage the Quartermaster could scrounge.

DAY ONE

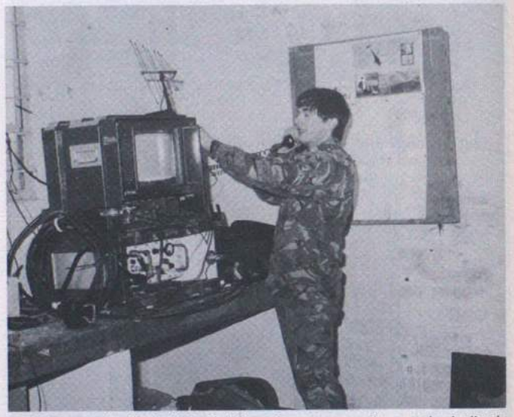
After a major green vehicle move, the first day of the ARU was spent setting up Main and Tac Headquarters in the field. OC Alpha Troop **Capt Keith Durward** set up Tac very quickly, but the defence section struck stony ground, and the trench digging went on far longer than expected.

Maj Peter Sheridan and Col Brian Campbell have a quiet coffee in 39 Bde Main HQ in the Field

In addition, some very worthwhile Northern Ireland operational training took place. Our BEME **Capt Hamish McNinch**, and BOO **Capt Ruscombe Smyth-Piggott** ran a covert vehicle anti ambush exercise, ably assisted by terrorists from MT Troop **WO2 Fred Osmond, Cpls Taylor** and **Steve Jones**. **Capt Crispian Beattie** and **SSgt (YofS) Jason Wood** ran a Northern Ireland Patrols Exercise, and **RSM Charlie Manning** assisted by **Capt Donald Farquharson** produced a shooting stand which included a terrorist weapon demo, and some instinctive shooting (clay pigeons!).

COMMAND PASSES

Back at Bde Main under **Capt George Whyman**'s steely eye the remainder of the Squadron toiled to erect a seemingly endless row of 12 × 12 tents for each staff cell and briefing room, and then to interconnect them all with cable. By 1900 hrs all was ready and on arrival of the Bde Staff by helicopter command was passed from Lisburn to our new field HQ. Our thanks to 233 Sig Sqn for providing us with ERASTOS comms, and in particular to **2Lt Paul Bailey, Sgt Steve Stevens** and the TEVNI crew.



Tech Control at Main HQ. Cpl Kev Simmons engineers the heli tele link in

The Ops Cell. Capt Guy Bettesworth and Maj Neil Fisher work whilst Maj Philip Rouse smiles at the photographer

WPte Cathy Mckay working in the Clerks Cell

Superintendent Clerk WO2 Alan Rutledge briefs the Comd on some administrative problems of running Bde HQ in the Field

SHARED

The following day the Comd **Brig Mike Rose** and Deputy Comd **Col Brian Campbell** inspected the Squadron. It was a bleak windswept day with winds howling in across the flat land from the sea about a mile distant. Nevertheless everyone was in good spirits and all went very well. **Sig Clive Hallett** had the pleasure of sharing a trench with the Bde Comd and then five minutes later with the Deputy Comd! The Comd was pleased with the facilities the Squadron had provided and after lunch we started to pack up ready for our return to Barracks. The Quartermaster is expected to make a full recovery!

WHITE POWDER

Each year the Squadron runs a skiing exercise in Scotland. This year the exercise was based in Newtonmore, a town about 15 miles South of Aviemore. The idea was that two parties of soldiers would pass through the hut, each party skiing for a week.

The Admin NCO **Sgt Dave Norman** had his work cut out to provide enough money to hire skis, boots, buy lift passes and of course food for the huts à la carte menu! Rumour has it though he was so tight that he brought back a large sum of money to return to the PRI! Snow conditions were quite good for the whole two week period. Although there was no snow cover on the lower slopes, the upper slopes were always open.

The new lounge bar at the foot of the ski tow provided a convenient meeting place for the course at lunch times so that Ski Instructor **Sgt Barney Barnard** could find out where all his missing students were! The only mishap of the whole course was our first chef **LCpl Billy McKinnon**. He took a well deserved morning off to go ice skating in Aviemore and after chatting up some Scottish lassie decided to show her how it was done. He did an exotic manoeuvre on skates and crumpled in a heap with a severely broken leg. Bad luck **Billy**.

TM TROOP

Since our last report the Troop has said farewell to, **Cpl Phil Cox**, who has left for Berlin; **Cpls 'Scotty' Steven** and **'Marty' Webb**, both now on their T1 Course at Catterick, **Sgt Jim McDonald** who has left the Army after 22 years to work in the Middle East, and last but not least **Capt (TOT) Ben Lawson** who managed to get himself a posting to 259 Sig Sqn in Cyprus. Our very best wishes go with them and their families.

New into the troop we have **Cpls Chris Cadman, 'Dinger' Bell, Paul Gardiner, 'Bucks' Buckingham, LCpl Andy Allen, Sgt Chris Christian**, and not forgetting the new **TOT Capt Jan Jasiok** who is now firmly in the chair. All have quickly settled in and we are sure they will enjoy their tours over here.

In February we held a troop party in the Horseshoe Club (ably organised by **Cpl 'Oggie' Ogburn**) to say farewell to a few members of the troop. We also took the opportunity to present TM Troops 'Driver of the Year' Award. This year the outright winner was **Cpl 'Marty' Webb** for his contribution to 'Test Driving' Renault Vans. With **Cpl Kev Simmons** the runner up for his efforts in looking for a short cut down one of the hilltop sites. Towards the end of the month most of the troop managed to get away on the ski courses being run at Aviemore, and from all accounts all was as good as last year.

With the change over of Roulement Battalions in Belfast and S Armagh recently, both Forward Repair Teams (FRT) have been kept busy, with **Sgt 'Robbi' Hall** leading the Belfast Crew (soon to leave us for SHAPE) and **Sgt 'Shuggy' Allison** (yes he is still here!) leading the S Armargh team.

The Tele Mechs have now moved in with the Riggers in their new workshop, keeping the old Tele Mech garage for car fits only. When not fitting out cars they manage to get out and about the Province assisting on Rigging tasks. **Sig Andy Brown** is shortly to spend a month down in Ballykinler assisting on the NIRTT Courses held there, and **Sig 'Stig' Richards** is soon away on his B1 at Catterick, which leaves **Sig 'Jasks' Jackson**, and **Doug Easby** to carry on the good work.

The TE Techs are now firmly established in their new secure workshops, adjacent to the Radio Workshop. With **Cpl 'Dinky' Tatman** and his team working around the clock keeping the old TE equipment on the road, until our new terminal equipment arrives in the summer.

The Riggers under the watchful eye of **Cpl Kev Smith** have been busy checking antenna systems and clearing masts in preparation for the new Cougarnet System due to be installed later this year. Even so **Sig Garry Rushworth, Doug Easby** and **LCpl Kev Cotton** still managed to do their PR bit by refurbishing and installing video systems in certain SF Bases.

Finally congratulations to **Sgt 'Shuggy' Allison** and **Sgt Dave Rutter** on coming up on the promotion board.

ALPHA TROOP

Alpha Troop have spent most of their time this year doing preventative maintenance in their operations rooms. **Cpl Eddie Pluskota** and **LCpl Taff Mallaney** have been especially busy, recabling ops rooms in S Armagh and Forkhill, Keady and Middletown. In Belfast **Cpl Dave Bunt**, the new Crew Commander is busy recabling at McRory Park and North Howard Street Mill.

Now that Spring is at hand our Heli Tele Mobile led by **Cpl Scouse Wikeley** has been dragged out of mothballs and is now ready for the busy spring and summer 'marching season' ahead. We congratulate **Cpl Ray Pickering** on his promotion to Sgt and **LCpl Fenton** on promotion to Cpl. We welcome our new arrivals **Sgt Keith Storey** NCO in charge of Rover Group, **Cpls Tony Mellet, Dave Bunt** and **LCpl Mick Brown**.

Finally we send our regards to **Sgt George Cook** our erstwhile training NCO who became the Rover Group Commander and is now posted on promotion to 3 Armoured Division. His jokes (ha! ha!) are sorely missed.

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

VICTOR TROOP

People come and people go but the show must go on. Although this is normally the case, Victor Troop has had remarkably little turbulence since last reporting. Troop OCs have changed and we bid farewell to **Capt Cathey Palmer** and hope she has more luck in being united with her husband in her new job in Rheindahlen. Welcome to **Capt Richard Blum** from 244 Sig Sqn (AS). (Don't plug the 'Red Hand' too much over here!) In addition we finally say farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Geordie Atkinson** who has gone on retirement to work in Northumberland. We believe he's looking for a programmer's job somewhere. Despite his passing, the white man's magic continues to work, and **WO2 (YofS) Nigel Cox** is rapidly learning the spells.

Although the Troop has had no notable sporting success, it would take a lot to convince **SSgt Dave Ward** otherwise, after his skilful guiding of the Squadron Football team through to win the Army Minor Units Cup.

COMMCEN TROOP

The girls of the COMMCEN continue to dominate WRAC sports, their latest victory being on the hockey field, where they drew 0—0 with the All Stars and then beat Switchboard 4—0. Well done girls.

Congratulations to **Sgt Ian 'Jocky' Knight** and his budding Eric Bristows on winning the Pickersgill Darts Trophy for a record third time (Do we get to keep the trophy?) McKelvie Trophy winter sports are upon us again, two recent sports have been Basketball and Rugby where the Troop managed fifth place in both sports. Well done to all competitors in both sports.

As well as our fairly successful sporting achievements, work has continued in the COMMCEN and EXCHANGE and this has not gone unnoticed; congratulations go to **LCpls Jim Knight** and **Chris Smart** on their recent promotion.

DO YOU?

Do you still have a few halfpennies? They are no longer legal tender, but 233 Sig Sqn can put them to use by exchanging them for 'real' money in aid of the Northern Ireland Special Relief Fund. NISRF is administered by the Army Benevolent Fund exclusively to help soldiers or their relatives suffering as a result of the troubles in Northern Ireland.

All Halfpennies to:
YofS COMMCEN Troop
233 Sig Sqn (NI)
BFPO 801

And finally we say farewell to all members of the Troop who have recently left us. Far too many to mention. Hello and welcome to all our new arrivals, have a good tour in the Province and if you don't know where the rest room is 'ask a day worker'.

SOCCER

The Squadron's Soccer team went to Aldershot on 8 March for the final of the Yorks and Lancs Cup—The Army Minor Units Soccer Trophy. With a resounding 4—1 scoreline the team beat the Depot of the Parachute Regiment. Two of the Squadron's goals were scored by **SSgt Scott McDougall** while **Cpl Mick Honeyman** and **Sgt Eddy Small** made up the tally.

Settling down quickly the team soon got control of the game. The scoring opened through a perfect pass from **Cpl Tony Ballard** to **Sgt Eddy Small**, who pushed it into an open space, **SSgt McDougall** collected and hit it into the penalty area for **Cpl Honeyman** to drive into the net.

After half time **Cpl Ballard** made another good pass and **SSgt McDougall** scored with an overhead kick which the keeper couldn't hold. But, the PARAs soon pulled one back after a rare mix up in 233's defence. After that the team worked even harder. **Sgt Eddy Small** ran with the ball, almost from the half-way line, beating the PARA defence and going round the keeper before pushing the ball into the open net. The final goal was scored six minutes from the end when skipper **SSgt John Boyd** struck a pass into the penalty area and **SSgt McDougall** dived to head the ball and score.

Before the start, the Red Devils made a descent over the arena. The display team included **Sgts Steve Whittick** and **Mick Thurman** from the Blue Helmets.

NETBALL

Not to forget women's sport—**Cpls Glynis Ball** and **LCpl Alison Hickman** both played for the Women's Services Northern Ireland Netball Team in the Army Championships. After two days of competition they won the Championships beating 10 Coy WRAC in the final on 19 March.

ARMY CAP

During the past year **Cpl Neil Kessell** has won both a BAOR and Army Rugby Cap. He joined the Corps in 1973 playing for 8 Sig Regt and representing the Corps for the first time in 1975. From 1981 to 1984 he played for 7 Sig Regt and was in their 1984 Army Cup winning side. In April 1984 he earned a BAOR Cap. He played for the Army from 1978 to 1980 and so, upon his return to UK he was selected for the Army Trials in September 1984. He was selected for the Army side against the Navy at Twickenham on the 2 March and was subsequently awarded an Army Cap. He deserves every praise because of his determined efforts to ensure that his work does not suffer through his Rugby commitments.

Sgt Gus Hales must also be mentioned as he was picked as a reserve for the Army V RAF match at Twickenham on 20 March. He didn't get a game but talks at length about the bath there and hasn't yet cleaned the Twickenham mud off his shoes!

Cpl Kessell holding both his BAOR and Army Caps

HOCKEY

The Squadron team won the UKLF Minor Units Hockey Cup defeating 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn RE in Colchester. Two inches of snow had to be swept away before the match could start and it took 110 minutes of hockey to determine the victors.

The team left Lisburn at 0625 hrs on 19 March to play the semi-final against the Depot the Prince of Wales Division at Hereford. Having arrived only half an hour before the start, the team played well, winning 4—1, with two goals from **Sgt Paul Stevenson** and one each from **Sgt Keith Dunk** and **Dave Chalmers**.

Almost straight away the team had to set off for Colchester where the final started at 1000 hrs on the 20th. 69 Fd Sqn scored a quick goal as a result of poor marking in the 233 defence but, the equaliser soon came from a well taken shot by **SSgt Graham Barber**. After that the game was very close—**Sgt Stevenson** got the ball into the back of the net twice but both were disallowed. Extra-time had to be played. In the second period of extra-time a brilliant move resulted in **Sgt Stevenson** finally getting a goal which proved to be the winner. 233 Sig Sqn (NI) two, 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn RE one.

Army Minor Units Hockey Champions

Back row Left to Right: Capt David Smith, LCpl Steve Allan, Sgt Keith Dunk, Cpl 'Lofty' Wilkinson, Sgt Willy Whyte, Cpl 'Geordie' Loves, SSgt Dave Gorse

Front row Left to Right: WO1 Ron Goddard, SSgt Dave Chalmers, Cpl George Strachan, Sgt Paul Stevenson, Sgt Paul Massey, SSgt Graham Barber

BASKETBALL

A good day's performance, beating six other minor units, led to the Squadron winning the Northern Ireland Minor Units Championship. With a good central core of players **Sgts Colin Roberts, Paul Stevenson** and **Cpl 'Lofty' Wilkinson** the team still had to work very hard to get through to the final. It was an all-Signals match against 8 Bde and was therefore again a close and keenly fought game. Other members of the Squad were **Cpl 'Barney' Barnard, LCpl John Wayman, Sig Keith Walters** and **John Dunning.**

ORIENTEERING

On 30 March the Squadron entered 12 Competitors in the N Ireland Orienteering Championships. Of the five-man Squadron team the three encounters turned out to be a perfection of WOs—**John Skipper, Brian Libby** and **Benny Bingham**. Their joint performance, supported by **Cpl Dave Alexander**, resulted in a comfortable win for the Squadron and a hat-trick of victories having been won by the Squadron in 1983 and 1984 as well.

— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

THE SPRING TERM

This term has seen a vast range of activities compressed into a short 12 week span. We saw for the first time the division of the Inter Squadron Competition in Junior and Senior parts which has been a great success and has led to an even keener competition. There have been some nail-biting finishes to the Junior and Senior Assault Course races, the Cross Country and Orienteering Competitions. The culmination came with the Drill competition where a close finish left Penney, who won both Senior and Junior Drill, as the winners of what had been a fair and close Champion Squadron Competition.

This term also saw the reintroduction of Boxing as a College sport. Over two days we saw some very fine boxing culminating in a traditional Finals Night. A high quality series of fights led to a convincing victory for Scott Squadron. The standard of boxing and great determination shown by the boxers made it a first-rate competition and it seems likely to be a popular and entertaining annual event.

Another notable event was the 24 hour sponsored Road Race, following the College BFT circuit. It was organised by **Capt Terry Dempsey** to raise funds for handicapped children. To date, the sponsor money has soared to over £1400 with more coming in. It has been an extremely busy and highly successful term as detailed by the following reports.

BRADLEY SQUADRON

The Spring Term has seen changes in Bradley Squadron. The most profound amongst these have been the departure of the OC, **Maj Patrick Garway-Templeman**, after some three to four years in the College (his second tour). His knowledge and experience will be missed and we would like to thank him for all his efforts for Bradley Squadron. Our best wishes go with him to his new appointment as ASLO Birmingham. A warm welcome to the new OC, **Maj Rollo Rumford**, we hope you have a good time here.

The near future will see the departure of **Sgt Paul Hickenbottom** for 548 Rear Link Detachment. We wish him, wife **Lynn** and family every success.

The passing out of 30 recruits from Intake 85A on Saturday 30 March has brought a large element of fresh blood into the Squadron. We hope their success continues and increases during their apprenticeship.

PENNEY SQUADRON

It is again time to take a look around the Squadron and bring our readers and followers up to date.

WELCOME

Since our last notes we have had four new arrivals: **Lt Adam (Boss) Hearn**—OC A & B Troop, **Sgt Bennie Bennett**—Tp Sgt Recruit Troop, **Cpl** (I'm drill trained) **Terry Crook**—Recruit Troop Cpl and **Cpl** (Can I help?) **Geoff Bonelle**—SQMS.

FAREWELL

We didn't think they would do it, but they have. Yes, they have finally got around to posting the veritable pillar of society **Maj (Bandit) Bill Price. Maj Price** served for four years in the College and has been instrumental in the evolution of College policy. We shall miss the friendly advice and his wealth of knowledge and experience. We wish him and **Lynda** good luck in their new posting to Catterick.

To the members of 82C and 83B who leave us this term we wish them all the best for the future and thank them for their fine effort whilst with the Squadron.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Colin Bleasdale** and the Squadron football team in coming runners up in the Army Apprentices Cup and reaching the final of the NE/NW District Army Youth Cup and we wish them every success.

CHAMPION SQUADRON

The Squadron's effort to gain the title of Champion Squadron has begun better this term than in the last three with Penney Squadron Juniors winning the cross country, shooting, and coming second in the assault race. However our Seniors have failed to finish their time on a sporting high note coming last in the Senior cross country and assault race. With seven events gone the title rests on the result of the Junior/Senior Drill Competition. Will Penney pull off the double again, it now rests on the shoulders of **CSM Joe Marshall** Grenadier Guards.

STOP PRESS

Our Seniors have finished second in the Orienteering Competition, well done.

JUNIOR LEADERS

With the forthcoming closure of JRRS we would like to say an official Hello to the first 45 Junior Leaders into the College who arrived in Penney Squadron on 27 February. Beginning with usual recruit training the lads will complete a year long Junior Leader Course before going on to trade training at Catterick. We wish them the best of luck.

SCOTT SQUADRON
RUMOUR CONTROL

There is *no* truth in the rumour:

That **AT Knox-Crichton** has been growing mushrooms under his bed.

That **Sgt Brian Caffrey** has one leg longer than the other from running around hills.

That the OC thinks Orienteering is the most important thing in the world.

That **LCpl Forbes** is lost without a map (he is lost *with* one).

That **Lt Hancock** is growing a pair of skis (he just has large feet).

That the Sgt Major needs an interpreter (every worrrrd he says is perrrrfectly underrrrstood).

That **Sgt Black** and **LCpl Neish** are vying to give **Sgt Harris** tips for his drill course.

That **Cpl Clarke** is thinking of applying for a transfer back to the Light Infantry since he has been losing weight.

ASSAULT COURSE
Section Two (SAS 1).
Report by AT Walker

The section was made up of 10 members all of the same intake (84B). The section had a good chance of coming first of the Squadron Juniors. The members were **AT Walker** (Section Commander, **ATs Farmer, Stroud, Drysdale, Mackay, Sorbie, Smith** (Flash), **Watson, Wilson** and **Pitt**. About half the section had already competed in the last assault race, so there wasn't much that the team had to learn.

The week before the race was hard and demanding as every man put 100% into all our training. On Saturday the section went over to the indoor arena, where the PTI inspected the kit; the section passed. We then left the arena and went over to the start. We set off at a very fast pace, which was kept up all the way round camp and, with a very quick time of six and a half minutes, we arrived back at the assault course. All the section jumped the 6ft water jump and then completed the 5ft wall and piece by piece we got round the course. By the time we reached the rope swing most were tired and as they jumped for the rope proved this. Then came the 12ft wall, one and a half minutes later all men were over, with **Watson** and myself on the wall waiting for **AT Pitt** to make the jump. He jumped and got hold first time, as a cheer from the crowd went up, we got him over the wall and all three ran for the finish. We finished up the fourth fastest section on the day out of 16 teams, and first placed for the Squadron.

RAWSON SQUADRON

The start of the short but eventful Spring Term saw the arrival of the new Squadron Commander, **Maj Geoff Allen** and his wife **Maggie**, who joined us from HQ UKLF in Wilton. Having checked our records carefully we found that it is their third tour in the College and judging by the speed with which things change around here, everything should be back where they were during the first tour! We also welcome **Lt Malcolm Llewellyn** from 28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG).

Back Row L to R: Sgt Griffin, Cpls Rutland, Paterson, Sgt Clifford
Front Row L to R: Capt Neillings, Maj Allen, WO2 (SSM) Matthews, (Missing on Army Basketball Sgt Tedby)

FOOTBALL—ARMY YOUTH CUP

It was a foggy Saturday afternoon and the Squadron was playing 32 JL Sqn RCT in the Army Youth Cup, we started well with a few early chances coming our way, we did strike lucky in 10 minutes with a goal from **SSM Tinsley**, but this was short lived as 32 JL Sqn RCT drew equal with a goal mouth scramble, half time score 1—1. We started the second half the same as the first with a lot of the play but we couldn't put the ball in, both **AT Sgt Jackson** and **AT Smethem** came close but not close enough. 32 JL Sqn RCT went 2—1 up in the 20th minute of the half and three up in the final minute from a penalty.

The team wishes to thank **Sgts Griffin** and **Clifford** for getting the team together and the match off the ground, well done the team, there's always next season.

ORIENTEERING

In the last year or so **Majs Dick Hoyle, Patrick Garway-Templeman, Lt Patrick Windsor-Brown** and **Foreman Pete Martin** have all had a hand in running Orienteering in the College. Whilst none of them lacked enthusiasm or ability it is inevitable that the sport suffered somewhat—from a lack of continuity as much as anything. Having returned from his unexpected trip to the Falklands **Maj Graham Thomas** has taken over as OIC and prospects look good for a period of stability and progress. **Sgt Brian Caffrey** has recently found an interest in Orienteering and is working very hard as 2IC—he's even got **Mrs Caffrey** and the children out there. They have all got the bug now! The College hosted an event for the North East District League at Timble Ings on 23 January. Over 50 competitors turned up and enjoyed a good run in the snow. Our own teams occupied first and second places and **Foreman Mick Stocks** of 8 Sig Regt led his team into third position.

We also took a team to the Junior Army Championships this year in early March. The two day event took place at Minley Manor and was hosted by the Royal Engineers. At the end of Day One things were looking good and we were giving our old opponents from Arborfield, Chepstow, Bovington and Bramcote something to think about. On Day Two unfortunately we had our problems and sadly were not among the trophy winners. Next year, however, ah, next year, it will be a different story—watch this space!

AWARDS OF COLOURS

AT Sgt Sheppard (B), **AT Mainka** (B), **AT Bannister** (B), **AT Cpl Bundy** (S), **AT LCpl Waller** (P), **AT Shrives** (P), **AT Whyte** (P), **AT Jeanes** (R), **AT Anderson** (R), **AT Stapleton** (R).

HALF-COLOURS

AT Cartmell (S), **AT Rome** (R).

STOP PRESS

Our decidedly geriatric permanent staff team just managed to win the NE/NW District minor units Orienteering Championships on a course more suited to mountain goats than humans.

HOCKEY
AT TEAMS

The first half of the season saw the apprentice team make a steady if somewhat unspectacular, start. Under the captaincy of **AT Taff Maul** (Bradley Squadron) and ably supported by **AT Cpl 'Ollie' Campbell** (Bradley Squadron) and **AT LCpl 'Andy' Roberts** (Scott Squadron) the team played against local opposition, mainly sixth form schools, and from the first five matches up to Christmas won two, drew one and lost two. With the exodus of half the team on graduation the new team manager, **Sgt 'Mark' Sipson**, set about re-building the team. He reports 'having recently taken over the running of the Apprentices' team, I can report on only four matches, mainly due to the inclement weather. The first of these was a friendly game, hastily arranged against Harrogate Grammar School, in which the College came away a sorry second best having been beaten 5—0.

So with morale and my career as a hockey coach in shreds we went out for our next game versus Malton School from York. In this game we faired a little better, and thanks to an early goal, which we tenaciously held on to, won 1—0. The third game was the Army Youth Cup quarter final at AA College Chepstow. This turned out to be a corker of a game, Chepstow going into the lead and then Harrogate equalising and then going into the lead. The score at half time, 2—1 to Harrogate. In the second half Chepstow got back into their stride quicker than the College and equalised following a penalty flick. Chepstow then went in front again to make the score 3—2. Harrogate were unlucky not to equalise and battled away, but it was Chepstow who could have increased hte lead from another penalty flick which, luckily for Harrogate was disallowed. Unfortunately time ran out for Harrogate and the game finished at 3—2 to Chepstow. Neither side really deserved to lose having both put on such a good game, but one team had to, and unfortunately, this time it was the college.

The term finished with a return match against Harrogate Grammar School which again we lost 0—3. The fact that the School has the current England schoolboy centre forward may have something to do with the result!'

At a representative level **AT Cpl 'Soots' Souter** (Rawson Squadron) received his Army U-21 Colours having played in goal during the Inter-Service matches. **AT LCpl Simon Metcalfe** (Penney Squadron) played for the Corps, **'Taff' Maul, 'Ollie' Campbell** and **Andy Roberts** were Army U-21 trialists. **Roberts** also played for North Yorkshire Schools together with **AT Paul Eldridge** (Bradley Squadron).

PS TEAM

The PS team entered the Army Cup in the Minor Units Section and had a most successful cup run, unfortunately faltering again at the final hurdle in the semi-finals. In the first round of the Army Minor Units Cup we had a very even match against 11 Sig Regt. At the end of full time, scores were level 1—1. After extra time had been played and with no further score a series of five penalty flicks were taken by each side with the College coming out on top 3—2.

The NE District Minor Units Final was held at York where we met Depot Kings Div. Despite the inclement weather the groundsman cleared the majority of the snow from the ground and a most enjoyable and even game ensued. The College eventually emerged winners by 1—0 thanks to a well-taken penalty flick by **Col Carr-Smith**.

We now went in the hat with seven other teams from around the country and without doubt ended up in the harder half of the draw. Our quarter final match, against Depot PARA, was played on the shale pitch in glorious weather. Regrettably the standard of play rarely matched the conditions. However, the College was never in any danger and thanks to goals by **Col Carr-Smith, SSgt Mick Howie** and **Sgt Benny Bennett** emerged as 3—0 winners although the differential should have been much greater. And so to the Semi Final against 69 Gurkha Engr Sqn at Sandhurst. This was a hard fought and evenly matched contest which saw the College fighting back from a 2—0 deficit caused by defensive errors. Up to half time the forward line rarely got together but this all changed in the second half with a superb goal from **Sgt Mick Dawson** lifting the roof of the net. This raised the spirits and soon the equaliser followed from **SSgt Mick Howle**. However another defensive lapse allowed the Gurkhas to take the lead before a well-taken penalty flick by **Col Carr-Smith** saw the scores level at full time. In extra time the College made most of the running and, as often happens in cup games, a disallowed goal by the College was immediately followed by a goal to the Sappers and the College Cup run was over for another season.

RUGBY

After last term's success in the Youth Cup we started off our quest for the Junior Cup in great style with a 34—0 home win over RAC Junior Leaders' Regiment. Next we were away to the Royal Artillery Junior Leaders at Bramcote, despite the disadvantage of playing into a gale force wind in the first half we kept the score to 0—0 at the interval. Turning around we soon took the lead with a good try by **Poulton** and followed this with three more from **Taff Jolly, Martin Tombs** and **Mac McIntyre, Paul Lumb** converting one from the touchline.

In the Semi Final it was the 'old enemy' Princess Marina College who travelled north to Pennypot, the weather, not unusually, was terrible and reduced the game to a forward battle with our pack playing magnificently against the much larger Arborfield forwards. All square at the half time whistle a penalty goal each. We took the lead when **Taff Jolly** charged down a poor clearance by his opposite number and picked up to cross between the posts **Paul Lumb** adding the points for a 9—3 lead, Arborfield soon hit back with a try by their No 8 following a 5m scrum, 9—7 and all to play for but in the closing minutes **Cass Cassidy** made it safe with a good try to make the final score 13—7 and so to the final. This year it was Chepstow who eliminated last year's winners, RE Junior Leaders' Dover, we travelled to Lichfield for the final.

We were soon in trouble against a strong wind when Chepstow took the lead with a drop goal and half way through the half they went further into the lead with a breakaway try 9—0. Just before half time we came back into the game with a **Tombs** penalty and a try by Prop Forward **Silvey** to make it 9—7 at half time. At this stage it looked as if the Cup was ours—a strong wind in our backs but injuries to **Tombs** and **Poulton** who were replaced by **Wharton** and **Williams** both of whom played extremely well, and some poor defensive work let Chepstow in for two quick tries. Although we played well for the last quarter with **Cass Cassidy** playing out of position in the centre and scoring an excellent try it was desperate defence by Chepstow until the final whistle when they were worthy winners by 21 points to 11.

Maj Gen B. W. Davis CBE congratulated both teams on their efforts and presented the trophies.

REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY

This season we had five players in the Army Colts Squad:

AT Sgt Andy Williams (now LCpl 30 Sig Regt), **AT Sgt Bob Vowles, AT 'Tom' Pickersgill, AT LCpl Jake Jakins** and **AT Martin Tombs.**

The Army were Inter Service Champions for the second year and clearly we at Harrogate can be justly proud of our contribution.

FAREWELL

We lose some good players this season, **AT RSM John Roberts, AT Cpl Andy O'Rourke, ATs Cass Cassidy, Garty Gartside** and **AT 'Chocablock' Anderson**. I'm sure we shall be hearing of their deeds both on and off the rugby pitch. Also we have to say cheerio to the Team Coach 'Papa Despicable' **Sgt** (soon to be SSgt) **Mick Uttley**. All in the squad wish him and his family all the best in the future.

SKIING AUSTRIA 85

Report by AT Dunn

On Friday 15 February a party of 28 would-be ski enthusiasts, under the guidance of **Capt John Newman** and **SMI 'Chalky' White**, set out for Schwendau in the Zillertall Valley, Austria.

On the way the coach stopped to pick up the rest of the party, 40 sixth form girls who filled up the rest of the coach. The journey became pretty arduous due to the endless stream of 'Wham' and 'Top of the Pops' videos which seemed to dominate the journey. Still, the girls were happy.

On the first day there, we collected our skis and set off for the slopes. It was soon obvious for many of the party that rather than skiing being the 'Great Downhill' it was more of a 'Massive Downfall' as they crashed and struggled in the wake of the more experienced members of the party.

The party however was split into three groups: Advanced, Intermediate and Beginners—or as they later became known as: The Good, The Bad and The Hopeless.

It would be fair to say of the beginners that they had plenty of enthusiasm and very little else! I think that **Lt Adam Hearn** definitely came under this category! While he struggled with his snow ploughs, on the terraces in front of the restaurant, sunbathers lay stretched out, glass in hand, idly watching our antics above them.

As the week progressed however, even the most unprofessional of our party began to show that it was not impossible to ski, mainly due to the four hours per day ski instruction that the party was getting! The hours on the slopes were complemented in the evenings with various social gatherings which helped everyone to relax and unwind after the hectic activity of the slopes.

On Friday came the culmination of the whole week's skiing—the Giant Slalom Race. The race was organised by **Capt Newman** and the ski instructors. The winner of the advance group was **AT** (I've not done this before honest!) **Robinson**, the Silver by **AT SSM** (Let's get Kamikaze) **Pope**, and the Bronze was won by **AT 'Cavey' Cave**. **Lt Hearn** might have won if only he had remembered to put both skis round the same side of the pole, but that's enough said on that matter.

After the prize giving in the evening we piled back into our coach and set off again for 'sunny Harrogate', where the highlight of the journey was the uproar among the girls when the 'Wham' video mysteriously disappeared.

We arrived back at 1800 hours on Saturday and the party dispersed, tired but having had an eventful and most enjoyable week. We would all like to thank **Capt Newman** and **SMI White** for organising the trip and look forward to Bardonecchia and Italy in 1986.

L to R: AT SSM Pope, AT Cpl Hudson, AT Robinson, AT Cpl Brown, AT Cpl Joyce

Don't be disappointed!

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GSU Training School Embakasi Kenya

GENERAL SERVICE UNIT HEADQUARTERS
RUARAKA
NAIROBI
KENYA

PHASE 2: SOFTLY, SOFTLY, THE FIRST SAFARIS

Report by SSgt A. J. Birkett

The second report from Darkest Africa, where a small Team consisting of OC, **Capt Peter Day**, Chief Instructor, **SSgt Stew Burman QDG** and myself are busy training the Kenyan Police Force from our two separate locations snug between the Ngong Hills and the Athi Plains.

I arrived on 5 January with the rest of the team. My task is to train up a five man maintenance crew to tour Kenya, maintaining the Comms equipment in the many diverse company locations. Since our last report the maintenance team has gone from strength to strength. The training is partially classroom work, partially practical and partially field experience. (No prizes for guessing which takes up most time!) Having completed the installations in the GSU Signals Wing, and thanks to the OC's vivid imagination I am now on mod 10, it was time to concentrate on my newly created Maintenance Team.

After the initial instruction I felt my team ready for their first safari. Plans were therefore made to visit two company locations,

On Safari at Mokowe, SSgt Birkett chatting up the local girls

both on the Kenyan coast, one at Mombassa and the other at Mokowe. The fact that both are popular tourist coastal resorts was, I can assure you, purely incidental. After an early start in the mists of a cool Nairobi morning we headed for the coast. As we proceeded east so the temperature increased and after a long uneventful journey we arrived at the GSU base in Mokowe. Just off Mokowe there is a small island called Lamu. As the GSU base at Mokowe is tented and accommodation tight, I was destined to spend two nights on the island of Lamu in a local hotel. On arrival, excited, filled with anticipation and very thirsty I was dismayed to discover that the island had run out of beer!

After a dry but otherwise successful two day visit we returned to Mombassa, both to quench our now considerable thirst and to inspect the company location there. A further day was spent training the Maintenance Team on the Mombassa installation and giving the local company signallers some elementary instruction in care and maintenance of equipment before we had to take the return road to Nairobi. I arrived back in Nairobi on a Friday evening after a rewarding and interesting Safari in time to cool down in the Officers' Mess swimming pool while watching the sun set over the city, (assisted with a few 'sundowners' of course).

Since this first and memorable Safari we have undertaken several more, visiting every GSU company location in Kenya, as well as continuing with the theoretical work—between safaris of course!

While all this has been going on the rest of the team at the GSU Signals Wing have been moderately busy as well. Their Instructors Course finished on 15 March and from the initial nine students, five have been selected for further training. The first stage being, yes, you guessed, a Safari. **SSgt Stew Burman** took his remaining students to

Return from Lokichokio, fording the river 'after tea'

SSgt Stew Burman winning the 'Hearts and Minds' of the Turkana children

Chepchiona on the Uganda border, about a day's drive from Nairobi. Two days were spent there applying the theoretical knowledge to practical problems, visiting other nearby GSU locations and eating plenty of goat—a local delicacy that **SSgt Stew Burman** now spends considerable effort trying to avoid! From Chepchoina the team travelled North up to Lokichokio in the far Northwestern tip of Kenya on the Sudan border. Here they were joined by the OC who nowadays tries to fly everywhere to 'get his hours up(?)'. The most notable part of the visit to this famine struck and destitute outpost of mankind was that as soon as the group entered the Chief's compound to say 'Jambo' the heavens opened up and the first rain in 10 months fell upon them like demented Gods—much to the delight of the Chief and his retinue!

The return journey from Lokichokio took an age as they were delayed by floods. On reaching the first flooded river which proved impassable the only thing to do was to sit down and have a cup of tea in good English style while waiting for the water level to fall. With a few stops included to speak to the local Turkana tribespeople the return journey took three days, several goats and many excuses for dieting from **SSgt Burman**. I tried to tell them to do their Safari to Mombassa instead but the OC has this thing about distant and uninhabitable places!

Now halfway through our tour both teams are well on course with this fascinating and challenging task which has been set us. What of the other two teams I hear you cry? Well, the Transport Team has now painted white lines all over the MT park and are about to paint some more elsewhere, and the Infantry Team continues to keep us all amused!

PS. Some new ideas—I am now on mod 20 in the GSU Signals Wing!

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

2 SQUADRON (TRIALS)
SQUADRON MANAGEMENT:

OC	—	**Maj John Doody**
2IC	—	**Capt John McIntyre**
Tech Adjt	—	**Capt (TOT) Chris Payne**
TFC Adjt	—	**Capt (Tfc) Ron Chisholm**
OC R TP	—	**Capt Mike Gilyeat**
OC PTARMIGAN Trials TP	—	**Capt (TOT) Peter Davis**
OC Dev TP	—	**WO1 (FofS) Mick Woodhouse**
Custodian	—	**WO1 (YofS) Alan Doane**
SSM	—	**WO2 (SSM) Barry Gibbons**
SQMS	—	**SSgt (SQMS) Butch Maycock**
MT SNCO	—	**SSgt Dave Knell**

THE CO'S DAY

After a hard year of PTARMIGAN Field Trials followed by the MSE demonstration and Ex *Binary Boot*, the military training state of the Squadron was thought to be somewhat short of razor sharp. With the imminence of the ARU it was felt that drastic measures were called for to hone the unit back to its 'lean and mean' image. A short revisionary training programme was conducted within the individual troops which culminated in the CO's Day on 18 February, two days prior to the actual ARU.

The CO shares a joke with SSgt John Nicholson of PTARMIGAN Trials Troop

The day began with a parade. The CO of School Regiment, **Lt Col H. A. Morrison**, accompanied by the newly arrived RSM, **WO1 (RSM) I. Cairns**, who, incidentally, was on his first day in the unit, inspected the Squadron.

The parade was followed by a drill session carried out in small squads under the command of the Senior NCOs. Now drill is an activity which, to say the least, is relatively unpractised within the Squadron, however, it was boldly attacked and bravely endured and truly left the new RSM quite speechless!

After the drill session the Squadron formed up in sections and embarked upon the competition. Each section had to work its way around a course consisting of five military training stands. In each of the stands a particular aspect of military training would be tested. The subjects covered were NBC, First Aid, Shooting, Map Reading and Battle PT. Despite the 'rustiness' old skills and knowledges came flooding back to flush the mental cobwebs away with the result that the whole competition was found to be a most enjoyable experience.

The morning climaxed with an assault course race during which the OC, **Maj John Doody** carried out a full functional check on his hitherto bad back, **Capt Kevin Taylor**, amongst others, did his now famous 'derriére-over-chest' act and **Sig Kenyon** gave a whole new meaning to the expression 'going over the wall'!

The winning sections led by **Capt Kevin Taylor** and **Sgt D. Milne** were presented with a crate of beer and we were all fully prepared for the ARU—but that's another story!

THE ARU

The ARU began for all ranks of 2 Sqn (Trials) with an early breakfast in the ORs Dining Hall followed by the issue of weapons and a muster parade at which **WO2 (SSM) Barry Gibbons** confirmed that no-one had overslept. The first business of the day was to demonstrate our ability to perform our Mobilisation role to the Inspecting Officer, **Brig J. H. Almonds**, Commander of the School of Signals, and his team.

With this activity successfully carried out, members of the Squadron climbed aboard the waiting coaches and set off to the Bovington Training Area. On arrival at the RV an air attack by helicopters reduced the SSM's debussing procedure to instant chaos. Many members of the Squadron, like **Capt (TOT) Peter Davis**, were adjacent to a large number of casualties resulting from the attack and spent a very hectic hour attempting to restore order and calm from the confusion and carnage which lay about them.

Some, like **Cpl Dave Galloway**, saw the attack from a different viewpoint for they were covered in red dye and played the part of the casualties. It was their misfortune to be descended upon by hordes of well-meaning, but often ham-fisted colleagues anxious to splint, bandage and artifically respirate anything that moved and much that didn't. While others, who shall be nameless, were deployed so far away from the action that they felt morally and militarily obliged to defend the distant perimeter against further attack; which was noble of them! This activity followed by a comprehensive de-brief ensured that the activities which were to follow were undertaken in a very thoughtful frame of mind.

For the remainder of the day the Squadron divided into four teams commanded by the old and bold, **Capt (TOT) Chris Payne, Capt (TOT) Peter Davis** and **Capt (Tfc) Ron Chisholm**, and not so old and not so bold, **WO2 (YofS) Dave Bartlett**. Our neighbours from 30 Sig Regt now really came into their own by providing a number of challenging and interesting 'stands' which the teams visited in competition with teams from the remainder of the regiment; as always there was reason to smile:

The Map Reading was 'unfair, a cheat and confusing to even the simplest minds', or so **Cpls 'Buzz' Walker** and **'Maggy' McGrath** told the search party.

The march and shoot gave all participants pause for thought, particularly **SSgt Dave Rodgers** who ate a juicy apple before the march and found it available again before the shoot.

The Pole Crossing brought out inter-trade rivalry between **SSgt Mal Linton** (Liney) and **SSgt (SQMS) Butch Maycock** (Telemech). If you wish to know who got most points ask a Liney!

Cpl Mick Tomison revealed hidden talents concerning the use of ropes, pulleys and the like by getting a large barrel and nine men across a frozen pond in the allotted time. Rumour has it that 10 men would have got across if a certain Traffic Officer had not dropped the rope at the critical moment!

The day ended with a hot meal and the telling of a fund of warry stories which is a sure indication that as well as being instructive, the day had also been fun. **Capt (Tfc) Ron Chisholm**'s team came first equal in the team league with the remaining Squadron teams close behind (some closer than others). The most important feature of the day's proceedings, however, was the enormous value gained by those participating in having to demonstrate long forgotten skills and learn new ones.

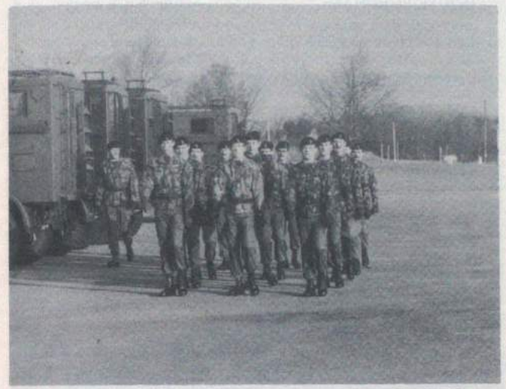
The real winner of the team competition was 30 Sig Regt who must be the only DS in history to receive a spontaneous ovation from those participating for providing a day to remember.

DEVELOPMENT TROOP

Since our last article in the *Wire* there have been several 'comings' and 'goings'. Comings: **SSgt (FofS) Eddie Harper** from Communications Projects Division, **Cpls 'Buzz' Walker** and **'Maggy' McGrath** from PTARMIGAN Trials Troop. Goings: **Sgt Nigel Canton** to civilian life, to whom we extend our warmest wishes for the future.

PTARMIGAN TONE GENERATOR

Sgt Terry Toye has designed and built a hand held, battery powered, micro-processor controlled equipment which at the touch of a button will demonstrate any one of the seven PTARMIGAN supervisory tones. The first production models are now being despatched, and he is developing software for a 'Quiz' mode which produces tones in a random order and allows the user to try and identify which PTARMIGAN tone it is. The 'Quiz' facility will be issued as a modification kit at a later date.



SSgt (FofS) Eddy Harper drills a combined Radio Troop, Development Troop and 'S' Troop Squad

Cpl Gary Waters of the PT Staff extracting Sig Dave Kenyon from a difficult situation during the assault course race

REDIFON POWER SUPPLY

Some weeks ago **Sgt Brian Isaac** designed and built a prototype power supply intended to power the Redifon GR 479A radio which has been issued to some TA units.

The equipment was trialled successfully and now some units from 2 Sig Bde have asked to be supplied with this equipment.

37 Sig Regt (V) has a requirement for a number of power supplies and we were delighted to host **Cpl Creasey** and **Sig Smith** who visited us as part of their annual camp and 'did it themselves'. We look forward to meeting technicians from 71 Sig Regt (V) on a similar mission in the near future.

EW SIMULATOR

The EW Simulator is one of our best selling lines. We receive many requests from units either for Development Troop Technicians to manufacture EW Simulators for them or for their own unit technicians to visit Blandford and manufacture equipment themselves. Our most recent visitor was **Cpl Bendell** from 21 Sig Regt who, under the watchful eye of **Cpl 'Buzz' Walker** manufactured his first ever complete electronic equipment. We can't decide whether it was a fluke or if he's brighter than the average bear but it worked first time! (OIC Manning and Records please note when working out the posting plot.)

Assault course race—Maj John Doody passing a limbo dancing Sgt Dave Milne

TECHNICAL FOLDERS

Every equipment manufactured by the troop is supported by a comprehensive technical folder which contains all the information necessary for use, maintenance, repair and manufacture. This part of our work the bench technicians would rather avoid, but **FofS Eddie Harper** and **SSgt Ian Higgerson** are hard task masters and everyone soon discovers that 'easy reading is hard writing'.

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MT SECTION

In the concrete jungle of Blandford, there is a forgotten band of heroes, namely 2 Sqn (Trials) MT, better known as 'Hells Grannies'. This being due to the majority of them just passing their motor-cycle test, expertly instructed by **Cpl Tim 'Arthur Daley' Hardy**.

The leader of this infamous tribe is **SSgt Dave Knell** who has just invested in a Harley Davidson (actually it's a Honda 50 moped, but we haven't the heart to tell him). Other members of the tribe are **Cpl Gaz 'Old Red Eyes' Lee, LCpl Bruce** (not another dog) **Pearce, Sig George** (I want a cushy posting) **Borrows**, and **Sig Hamish** (I'm off to the Falklands) **Campbell**.

The MT empire has depleted just lately with the disposal of all (nearly) our vehicles loaded for PTARMIGAN Trials, so with the back log of vehicles and generator servicing to be completed, the MT is settling down (again) to routine MT work.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to both **WO1 (FofS) Mick Woodhouse** and **WO1 (YofS) Alan Doane** on their recent selection for commissioning.

YOUNG OFFICERS EQUITATION COMPETITION

A fairly recent innovation at the School of Signals is the Young Officers Equitation Competition which takes place at the end of each Troop Commanders Course. Every troop commander attends approximately seven lessons at Leigh Equestrian Centre during his or her course which culminates in the Silver Horse trophy competition. The trophy was first awarded in 1928 and was presented to No 2 Troop Commanders Course this year, by **Mrs J. H. Almonds**.

No 2 TC Course had a particularly successful evening and the eventual winner was **Lt John Lugg** and much to the disappointment of the spectators, nobody 'hit the deck' although both **Lt Garry Mason** and **Lt Garry Hearn** came fairly close to it! Especially when 'Starsky', the favourite removed himself swiftly from the Arena, with his 'passenger' hanging on for grim death! The final horse was perhaps a hot contender—'Burt the Shirt' alias **Lt Appleton** ridden by **Lt Elton Davies** until their fall at the final fence! The competition was followed by an excellent evening in The Fox at Anstey where large numbers of Anstey bitters were consumed by the spectators, to complete an enjoyable and amusing evening.

Lt John Lugg with Mrs J. H. Almonds after being presented with the Silver Horse Trophy

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Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

HAND OVER IN SIGHT

Signs of the impending reorganisation of Junior Training are now becoming apparent here at Ouston with the appearance of several different cap badges and the occasional kilt. The various cap badges and kilts of the Kings and Scottish Divisions who are taking over our windy barracks in Ouston in August of this year certainly add a touch of colour during the drab end of winter. Whilst we are sad to see the signs of our leaving Ouston already upon us we still offer our Infantry friends a warm welcome and our best wishes for their stay here.

Whilst on the subject of leaving camp one person who we thought had been finally retiring from the Army after 36 years of stalwart service fooled us and reappeared with a year's extension. (See photograph below.) We will keep our readers informed on the movements of **Maj Mike Allen** who may still be leaving us in May, or June, or July . . .

Maj Mike Allen saying 'look I am back here again'

On the 12 April the Regiment says goodbye to the four senior troops, Battleaxe, Beaufighter, Lightning and Kukri. The 127 Juniors will have completed their training with us and going to pastures new for their trade training. At the same time we say goodbye to many of the troop cadre who will be leaving for their new postings as there are no fresh intakes of Junior Soldiers to Ouston. This month's focus is on Triangle Troop, who are to be congratulated on becoming Champion Troop.

FOCUS ON TRIANGLE TROOP—THE CHAMPION TROOP

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Andy James**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Lennie King**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Nigel 'Arthur Daly' Heathcote**
	Cpl Dave King

For almost the last time the barren wasteland known as Ouston has secreted another fine body of men. Among their number were the members of Triangle Troop who staged an unprecedented comeback to become Champion Troop.

SHAKY START

The competition began disastrously with the cross country run. Despite a fine performance by **JSgt Gratrick** and vocal support from **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Dave 'Mr Noisy' Hughes** the troop staggered into last place.

Little better was achieved on the assault course competition when **JSig 'Enery' Miller** successfully resisted all attempts to get him over the 12ft wall in time for lunch. Fortunately other troops experienced problems too, resulting in Triangle Troop gaining third place. Whilst that was an improvement on the cross country result, overall the troop still clung doggedly to last place, with Battleaxe Troop the clear favourites.

By the end of February the troop had been convinced that all was not lost and that eventual success was still possible (although the odds on such an outcome were extremely long). Nonetheless they entered the march and shoot competition with renewed vigour and optimism which resulted in a resounding first place.

First place was also gained in the skill at arms competition when 88% of the troop achieved 'skilled' TOETS results, with the remainder gaining 'skilled' on their second attempt.

By the day of the drill competition only two troops remained capable of achieving Champion Troop, the other being Battleaxe who had a two point advantage. Under the guidance of **JSgt Gratrick** the troop drilled its way into second place whilst Battleaxe Troop (whose cause was not helped by one recruit who saluted to the front whilst the rest of the squad, saluting to the right, shunted into the back of him) slumped to last place.

A NEAR THING

Thus the two troops were level on 13 points each. In such cases the competition is decided by the drill competition results and so it was that on a typically cold and miserable Northumbrian afternoon the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Mike Powell**, presented the Champion Troop epaulette flashes to the ebullient (and somewhat disbelieving) members of Triangle Troop.

The troop have insisted that three of their mentors, who were deprived of sharing in the eventual success but who were instrumental in its achievement, be mentioned. These unsung heroes are **Sgt** (now SSgt) **Dave Hughes** (Tp Sgt June 1984 to January 1985), **Sgt Pete McElwee** (Tp Sgt January 1985 to February 1985) and **Cpl** (now Sgt) **Mick Tait** (Tp Cpl June 1984 to October 1984).

THE REGIMENTAL RUN

It was a drizzly Saturday in early March when the CO, **Lt Col Mike Powell** said to the acting adjutant with a beam on his face, (as though it would make the day better), that it would be a splendid idea if we all went on a Regimental run. And so it came to pass that the following Saturday, which incidentally, was an even drizzlier day, the Regiment lined up outside the hangar in preparation for a run around the perimeter of the airfield. The sick list that day would have tried the patience of an experienced Egyptian scribe it was so long! Nevertheless, soldiers and officers crept out of dark and dingy corners exclaiming such nonsenses as '**Joe**, when did you arrive here?' (**Joe** had been in the Regiment at least five years). The run started with Juniors chanting happily at the sight of their older brethren nervously taking a step or two testing the condition of their hearts. What threatened to be a busy day for the ambulances of the North East turned out to be a sedate run of about three miles which, in aftermath was enjoyed by old and young alike.

'The Running Regimental Vanguard' led by the CO and RSM (front row 2nd and 3rd from the right)

Capt John Steed inspecting Iron Troop. He is thought to be saying 'I have found one shorter than me'

THE VISIT OF TWO EGYPTIAN OFFICERS

The Regiment was pleased to receive two Egyptian Officers, **Capt Fettouh** and **Lt Salah**. They had been sent on attachment to the Corps to see our methods of training and communicating. They arrived with us on day one of our Home Defence Exercise and soon became embroiled in the hurly burly of an airfield defence. They were each attached to a platoon, one commanded by **Lt Lucy Forsythe** the other by **Lt Peter McKenna**, both of Military Studies Wing. Quite what they thought of two Education Officers commanding two platoons of communicators on an Infantry style exercise is not recorded. During the course of the week the two Egyptians were taken shopping shown some of the local beauty spots and indoctrinated into the delights of the Otterburn Training Area. It was there that they first saw snow a rather mushy wet snow in small hollows that unfortunately was not suitable for snowballs. They did see better snow when **Lt John Charnock**, the OC of Battleaxe Troop, took them to Scotland to see some Adventure Training. When they left the Regiment they were kind enough to present an Egyptian tray to the Commanding Officer and a papyrus to the 2IC, **Maj Mike Alden**, who hosted them during their stay.

THE DRILL COMPETITION

One of the supposed highlights of a Junior's career is the Drill Competition which is part of the Champion Troop Competition. Mention has been made already of this important event in the Focus on Triangle Troop but we were pleased to welcome the expert guidance and marking of **WO1 (RSM) Merry**.

As ever, it was yet another drizzly day, possibly even drizzlier than normal, which precluded the use of the **WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir**'s pride and joy, the parade square. With evident displeasure he accepted that the competition had to be held indoors, which could only be our large and echoing hangar. Whilst the inspection was carried out in silence, and suffered not at all from the echo, the drill part certainly did. Every order, albeit kept sotto voice because of the acoustics, still echoed endlessly through the wide open spaces of the hangar, making the comprehension of those sotto voice orders almost impossible. However the Junior Soldiers battled on regardless performing wonders of complex drill to still make a hard fought competition. Kukri Troop are to be congratulated on their victory under the circumstances.

The OC looking for the Drill Competition prize to present to JCpl Newman of Kukri Troop

ALBONE — CORPORAL DAVID EDWARD ALBONE

It is with much sadness that the death of **Cpl David Albone** is announced. He died on 8 April 1985 after a long illness which he bore with courage and humour. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, **Vivian**, daughter **Diane** and to all members of his family in their tragic loss.

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0815 hrs NBC Instruction

1100 hrs A typically windy Ouston Pass Off Rehearsal Where is the Troop Commander's hat?

1500 hrs A quick change and on to the range

1330 hrs No time for a big lunch as it's over the assault course

1700 hrs Meals are scarce now it's an evening briefing for a fieldcraft exercise

RAPIER TROOP AT BATTLECAMP

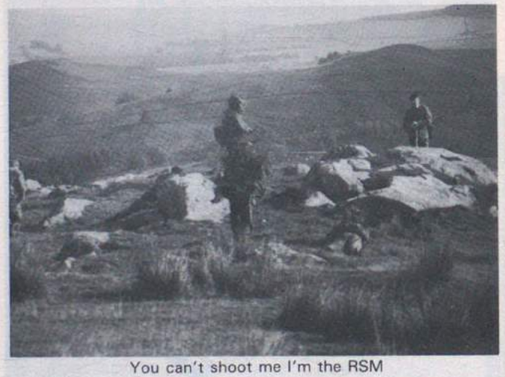
At Battlecamp recently Rapier Troop were invaded by the heavies from RHQ.

'CO's O Group'
The CO Lt Col Mike Powell issues orders to the 2IC Maj Mike Alden, the Adjt Capt John Steed and his driver LCpl Benbow over some light refreshment

The CO surveys the action

JSig Hamlett provides covering fire with his LMG

The CO and 2IC look on as OC Rapier Tp deploys his troop



You can't shoot me I'm the RSM

The CO debriefs the enemy—Sgt Dunleavy and JSig Chapman and Clegg

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn Catterick

PERSONALITIES
OC Maj Tony Elford
2IC Capt Nick Blampied
OC HQ Tp Capt Henry Jennings
OC O Tp Lt Gary Mason
OC P Tp SSgt Jerry Knight
SSM WO2 George Hedge
Y of S WO2 Mick Taylor
F of S SSgt Chris Wilkie
SQMS SSgt Mick Campbell

210 HIGH FLYERS

Recently the Squadron had the opportunity to practise their Air Portable role, and so decamped to Wathgill training area to have their vehicles and spirits lifted by the RAF. Unfortunately we were hampered by fog for much of the time available so only an abbreviated programme of Land Rover lifting was performed—much to the relief of **Foreman Wilkie** as he refused to write drop testing into his BRUIN inspection programme.

Sgt Robbo Robinson co-ordinated the event and managed to keep his feet on the ground even when a Puma and Chinook turned up at the same time looking for customers. The exercise was an interesting and enjoyable experience, and next time we have to drive to BAOR, if the RAF are doing nothing, could they please . . . ?

'Allez oops'—210 spread their wings

Sig Fisher, LCpls Gibbs, Smith, Cpls Davis, Garman, Cfn Chapman and Sig Gaskill waiting to feed the helicopters

210 HOSTS EGYPTIAN OFFICERS

For five days out of a three week liaison visit the Squadron played host to two Egyptian Officers, **Capt Fettouh** and **Lt Salah**. In an intensive programme they were shown the many aspects of the Squadron at work and play, viewed the helicopter exercise and had a ride in a Chinook, watched live firing at Warcop, then had a day of R & R touring North Yorkshire in the company of **Capt Henry Jennings** and **Sgt Mick Rees**. They were most interested in the Green Howards museum in Richmond and were fascinated by the medals awarded during the 18th Century Egyptian campaigns, our version of the battles differ slightly from theirs!

Capt Fettouh and Lt Salah barter with Maj Tony Elford for Squadron ties

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

We welcome **Lt Gary Mason** who has come to take over the blame for Oscar Troop from **Sgt Dave Edgecombe**. Also in are **Cpl 'Jock' O'Reilly, LCpl 'Smudge' Smith, Sig Pat Ward, John Clifford,** and **Tony Yasities**. Sunny Catterick is not such a bad place for a three year tour, especially when you are with 210.

We bid a fond farewell to two old sweats from the Squadron, **Sgt Ray Walker** and **Sgt Eddie Clancy** with their wives **Pat** and **Anne**. **Ray** has been put out to grass for his last few months in the Army in 8 Sig Regt, and **Eddie** goes to join MOD Police. Good luck to you for the future. Three more of the Squadron soon leave to face the big world outside, namely **Cpl Tony Sibley, LCpls 'Spiv' Lennard,** and **Dave Bonner**. Once again good luck for the future.

Sgt Ray Walker, Capt Henry Jennings, and Sgt Eddie Clancy practise elbow bending

BUDDING STAR OF STAGE, SCREEN AND SOUND

Sgt Stu Rickard who is an active member of the local theatre group, 'Richmond Amatuer Dramatic Society', recently took part in an area drama competition. The RADS staged Chekov's 'The Cherry Orchard' in which **Stu** took the part of 'Firs', the ancient family retainer. For his convincing act as a senile, half deaf butler **Stu** won the Grundy Cup for best cameo performance. Well done **Stu**, and theatrical agencies please take note.

WIVES' CLUB GO FOREIGN

210 and Gaza Wives' Clubs had an Italian cookery evening given by **Sgt John Wykes ACC** on Thursday 28 March. **John** again excelled in the demonstration of his craft and revealed to the ladies what can be done with a clove of garlic and a lump of pasta. Armed with a wad of recipes and fired with a taste for the exotic the better half of the Squadron can now bring a new dimension to the dinner table.

TAIL PIECE—RUMOUR CONTROL

Sgt Mick Rees is posted to somewhere sunny, and the SQMS has received an advance delivery notice for two FFR camels.

FofS Chris Wilkie lives on a diet of lemons.

SSgt Jerry Knight will only work half days until further notice.

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BY APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN LIVERY & MILITARY TAILORS GIEVES & HAWKES PORTSMOUTH

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4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt BFPO 15

LCPL KERRY GILL

LCpl Kerry Gill, a member of 4 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment took part in a Joint Services Scientific Expedition to Brabant Island between 26 December 1984 and 22 March 1985.

During the expedition **Lt Cdr Clive Waghorn**, who was leading a team across a blizzard swept ridge, fell 15m into a crevasse and broke his leg. **LCpl Gill** found himself precariously spreadeagled across the mouth of the crevasse. He managed to wedge himself into position and hold on until the other members of the team arrived to help pull the naval officer out of the crevasse.

While the other team members left to fetch help, **LCpl Gill** volunteered to stay with **Lt Cdr Waghorn** until help arrived. With the wind chill causing temperatures to drop as low as minus 50°C at times, and with only limited fuel and food, the two men had to remain in a light weight tent until rescued. Whilst they waited for help to arrive **LCpl Gill** braved the elements to build a snow wall around the tent to keep the wind off. To pass time the two men played scrabble, chatted and drank inumerable cups of tea, supplied by **LCpl Gill**. Five days after the other members of the team left, the two men were lifted to safety by helicopters from RFA Olna and HMS *Endurance*.

We are glad to report that **LCpl Gill** is at present enjoying a well deserved leave in England.

NORDIC SKIING

The Regimental Nordic Ski Team spent a month and a half training for the 4 Armoured Division Ski Championship in Bavaria. The team participated in Ex *Viking Lope*, a race training exercise for three weeks in the frozen waste of Norway. The Regiment performed creditably, finishing second overall to 71 AC Wkshps. The 10 and 15Km races were dominated by **Sig Martin Smith**, collecting both first prizes.

The team then embarked on Ex *Drumfire Quadrant*, which was held in conjunction with 200 Sig Sqn. Three more weeks of langlaufing took place in the Nesselwang and Objerjoch areas of Bavaria. The team was fortunate to be able to use a Bundeswehr range, where the finer points of biathlon shooting could be practised. In an optimistic mood the ski team arrived in Galtur in Austria to compete against the remainder of the skiing units in the Division, from 14-25 January 1985. Although the standard of competition was extremely high, with 35 Engr Regt, 39 Hy RA and 22 Sig Regt dominating, the team performed spiritedly, earning the following positions:

4 × 10Km Relay	—	8th
4 × 7.5Km Biathlon	—	13th
15Km Race	—	9th
Patrol Race	—	14th

Overall the team gained 11th place, missing qualification for the Army Championships by only three places.

The Team
Sig Ray Till, Martin Smith, Andy Lidstone, Cpl Gary Major, 2Lt Steve Vickery, Sig Paul Thomas
(Picture, Galtür Austria)

FOCUS ON 2 SQN

THE MANAGEMENT

Since our last contribution several changes have taken place amongst the hierarchy. The present management team is:

OC	—	**Maj Derek Howshall**
OC A1 Tp	—	**Lt Steve Wallis**
OC A3 Tp	—	**Lt Julian Bunce**
SSM	—	**WO2 George Fitzgerald**
FofS	—	**WO2 Orf Mable**
YofS	—	**SSgt Mick Brady**
SQMS	—	**SSgt Norman Cawthra**
MT SNCO	—	**Sgt Jeff Ellis**

We say farewell and thanks for their contribution to all those who have left the Squadron in recent months.

FAREWELL

December saw a series of parties and presentations as we bade farewell to **WO1 Brian Selkirk**. After three years in the Squadron, two of them as the ever sympathetic, mild mannered, admin officer, he was off to join the RAMC on commissioning. **Brian** has since paid a flying visit to collect his wife **Dinah**. As a 'shiny new Lieutenant', he is now a happy resident at the RAMC training centre as a B3 brain surgeon, although rumour has it that he must learn to stop biting fellow officers. We wish **Dinah** and **Brian** well in their new career and thank them sincerely for their contribution to the Squadron and the Regiment during their time in Herford.

3 SQUADRON

The 1985 exercise season was due to start with an FTX for the Divisional Logistic Units, however, the fickle hand of fate stepped in by way of the adverse weather that hit BAOR in January. The planned 150km tactical marah for the Logistic Units was called off as the weather in the exercise area was so cold and windy that to continue would have been foolhardy. This did not deter the men of Bravo Troop who went out on Ex *Icebreaker* to carry out Troop training for a week. Based in a large barn with a cookhouse and administrative set-up, each of the tradesmen was tasked at teaching his colleagues the elementary aspects of his own trade.

EARLY PROBLEMS

One of the first problems encountered was the daily starting of the vehicles in temperatures of −17°C and winds of 30mph. **LCpl Millington REME** came to the rescue with his 'tricks of the trade' which he passed on to all the drivers. As a result no excuses were accepted when a vehicle would not start and the driver was sent out into the cold to get it going. Despite the training **Sig Bell** is still convinced that a Landrover will start with flat batteries. (He also spent so much time trying to start it that he did not notice the flat tyre!)

With all the vehicles on the road **Cpl Eddie Goff** ran a series of voice procedure teach-ins with radio exercises for hands-on experience for the non-R Tg tradesmen. They proved so invaluable that the R Tgs now ask the D Tgs or the Powermen when they have a query on BATCO. Listening to static on HF radios all day is no fun at all and the considered opinion was that although the R Tgs may not appear to do much on exercise they do earn their pay after all!

Sig Summers demonstrated how different generators worked and included basic fault finding on the cable system. As a result, when anything went wrong and **Sig Summers** was woken up in the night, all that could be got from him was, 'now that all the Troop knew how to fix the basic faults, why was it always him that was called, and dragged from his warm refuge?'

The golden blanket award went to a distinguished contender who was the unanimous choice of the Troop Commander who felt that he should step down from first place so that **SSgt Martin Smith** could win. By volunteering to do telephone duty for the entire period, he stayed by the phone continually, expecting no sympathy for this tiresome job. Could it be that having the phone next to his bed had something to do with this voluntary task?

Our thanks go to **LCpl Ryecroft ACC** who did a fine job keeping the meals coming and producing good food whenever it was needed. The exercise was a great success and was a good start to the year. It is hoped it may be repeated PTARMIGAN permitting.

HIGH POWERED

For *Wintex* 3 Sqn were responsible for the running of the Message Centre. Taking this task extremely seriously a high powered team was assembled to ensure that all went well. **SSgt (YofS) Mick Drake, Sgt Geordie Simpson,** (acting YofS), **SSgt (YofS) Bill Ruthven** formed the team which had this structure due to the untimely departure of **Mick Drake** to the Falkland Islands and the arrival of **Bill Ruthven** which necessitated a HO/TO/HO/TO if you see what I mean. All this and *Wintex* too. With 3 TARIF circuits and a pony to the static commcen you can imagine it got a little hectic at times. It was noted that in the Staff Guide (especially prepared to help the Staff) that the exercise flash and immediate messages should be of a sensible length. We received quite a few 'sensible' 5(+) page flash and immediate messages both incoming and outgoing. With shifts of six men at a time, some from 2 Sqn, the going still went (TUFF) at times.

In January 3 Sqn said farewell to **Maj Duncan Jones** and his wife **Katie**. **Maj Jones** has been posted to the sunny shores of the South Atlantic as OC of 266 Sig Sqn. 3 Sqn wish **Maj Jones** and **Katie** all the best in his new post and in Warminster once he has finished in the Falklands.

NEWS FROM THE BRIGADES

202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

EXERCISES

From 4-8 February the Squadron were involved in the Regimental warm-up exercise—Ex *Saxon Warrior*. It was the first time out with the Squadron for **Maj Gordon Hughes** and the last for **WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson, SSgt (FofS) John Mayson** and **Sgt Paul Bishop**.

All our thanks must go to the recce officer, **Capt Ted Banham**, and his recce NCO, **Cpl Kevin Wrinkles**. All the locations smelt beautiful—if Eau de Piglets is one's favourite perfume. **Cpl Winkles** eventually ended up homeless but successfully kept the SQMS company and monitored the preparation of all the meals.

We must thank **SSgt (FofS) John Mayson** for enlightening us on the reason for excess feedback in the 432s. How many would have guessed that it was all to do with the circulation of air behind the mapboard and around the loudspeaker?

E2 Troop represented the Squadron on 20 Bdes CPX Ex *New Ground*. They were hosted by 1 RRW and provided a HICON and associated communications. **Lt Nick Metcalfe** (OC E1 Tp) and **Sgt Dave Kerr** led the way while **LCpl Dave Spence** and **Sig Pete Dimack** lost their way. Pride of place must go to **LCpl Mick Hughes** who, after having his vehicle recovered from the exercise area, found that a connected vehicle battery will always work better than an unconnected one.

ARU

The interim ARU was held on 14 March. It consisted of a visit by the Comd, **Brig E. M. Westropp CBE**, and the general theme was for the Comd to meet as many of the Squadron as possible.

Brig Westropp first toured SHQ, then visited an immaculate LAD (who polished the floor?) followed by an equally well turned out MT. E1 and E2 Tps were next with the line section commanded by **LCpl Steve Clark** last on the agenda. **Brig Westropp** was then entertained to a curry lunch in the Squadron Club. The hard work put in by everyone paid off and all in all it was a very good showing.

The Comd, Brig E. M. Westropp meets E2 Tp—*L to R:* Maj Gordon Hughes, Sig Kevin Jones, WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence, Lt Alan Madsen, The Comd, LCpl Mick Hughes, Sig Andrew Salmon

SSgt Pete Alves begins his repertoire of 'off the cuff' one liners to the Comd, OC, SSM and Lt Nick Metcalfe

SPORT

FOOTBALL

Since the advent of better weather and the thawing of the local sports pitches, the Squadron football team has resumed its crusade for the 4 Armd Div Minor Units Cup.

42 Ord Coy, playing at home held the Squadron to a 2—2 draw but were well beaten 3—0 in the replay. This now puts the Squadron into the semi-final against 6 Ord Bn.

In the League the Squadron recently played 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. The initial match ended in a 2—2 draw and the Squadron were unlucky to lose 2—0 this time round.

Sig Gavin Edmiston challenges 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt with SSM in attendance

Pte Dave Olive showed his adaptability in the recent inter-squadron competition held at Herford. The final match against 1 Sqn ended in a draw after extra time, and the end result was decided on penalties. **Pte Dave Olive** saved at one end of the field and scored the winning penalty at the other.

SQUASH

On the squash court the Squadron team reached the final of the 4 Armd Div Minor Units competition but were unlucky to lose 3—2 to 6 Ord Bn. The team were:

WO1 David Bradley, Capt Ted Banham, WO2 Steve Watson, Cpl Mick O'Connell, WO2 Mitch Mitcheson.

WELCOMES/FAREWELLS

The turnover of Squadron personalities continues unabated and we would like to welcome the following and hope they have an enjoyable tour with the Squadron:

WO2 (YofS) Clive Copestake, SSgt (FofS) Jim Martin and Sgt Chris Warnes.

At an excellent Squadron dinner night we said farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson** and his wife **Linda** who depart for 22 Sig Regt, **SSgt (FofS) John Mayson** and **Thora** who are off to 40 Sig Regt (V), **Sgt Dave Kerr** and **Isobel** who leave for 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and **Sgt Paul Bishop** on completion of his service with the colours. We all wish them the best of luck.

211 (11 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

BOXING

The final of the BAOR Minor Unit Novice Team Boxing Championships was held for the second consecutive year in the Gymnasium at Clifton Barracks, Minden on 20 February. Having beaten 207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in the semi-final it was a very confident Squadron team that met 3 Base Ammunition Depot RAOC.

The event was very well supported, not only by the members of both competing units but by the staff of HQ 11 Brigade, officers of the Regiment and the officers of 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was none other than **WO1 (RSM) Jim Coffey**, trainer of last year's successful team.

The evening got off to a fine start when featherweight **Sig Kev Cooney** through sheer aggression beat a very strong **LCpl Steven**. The next bout however provided some surprises when **LCpl Simon Kay**, who was clearly ahead on points, dropped his guard in the third round and paid the penalty when he was knocked down by a decisive right hook. **LCpl Simon Kay** failed to beat the count which made it level pegging.

Due to a technicality the next bout was declared a walkover and awarded to **LCpl Roy Turner**.

There was a delay before the fourth bout whilst light middle-weight **Sig Chris Severs'** opponent was sent back to the changing room to find gloves of the correct weight. Coincidentally the same thing happened to **Sig Severs'** opponent in the semi-final. Although clearly at a disadvantage in terms of height and reach, **Sig Severs'** aggression and style paid off. So it was three bouts to one as we went into the interval.

The fifth bout was the middleweight contest and was the most gruelling of the evening. The Squadron was represented by **Cfn Pete Fish**. The fight was very evenly matched and very closely fought but the judges unanimously awarded the fight to the 3 BAD boxer. That brought the score up to 3—2. It was still possible for the RAOC team to win which made the sixth bout extremely important.

Boxing at light heavyweight **Sig Jock McGlashan** had previously had some problem keeping his head up. It is not clear exactly what trainer **WO2 (SSM) Derek Boyd** said to **McGlashan** as he entered the ring but it certainly worked. Although he started a little cautiously in the first round, **McGlashan**'s confidence increased rapidly and he dominated the second and third rounds. He was a real pleasure to watch and it came as no surprise when the bout was awarded to him.

The final bout of the evening was the welterweight contest which saw a strong and fit **LCpl Dave Stewart** knock down his opponent in the third round. Although he got up again the 3 BAD boxer was visibly shaken and it was all he could do to stay the distance.

The final result was five bouts to two which meant that 211 retained the title of BAOR Minor Unit Novice Team Boxing Champions. It was a splendid evening and the magnificent result reflected the enormous amount of training, effort and dedication put in by the team and the support of the Squadron.

The Winning Team.
Back Row L—R: Cfn Pete Fish, Sig Chris Severs, LCpls Dave Stewart, Roy Turner, Sig Jock McGlashan
Front Row L—R: Sig Kev Cooney, WO2 (SSM) Derek Boyd, LCpl Simon Kay

FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Geoff Robinson** and **Sgt Chris Pugh** who were successful at the recent Yeoman of Signals Selection Board.

Finally we would like to say farewell and good luck to that well known entrepreneur **SSgt Chas Dale** and his wife **Lyn**, and **Cpl Brian Gilmartin** and his wife **Isobel**.

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THREE TEES AGENCY The Team to Trust

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

STOP PRESS

The Regimental runners have done it again. On Saturday 30 March they entered the RAF Bruggen 10 mile Team Road Race and duly won. This is a very prestigous event which attracts over 1000 competitors and the team of six (first four to count) all finished in the top 70 runners. Detailed placings as follows:

9th	**Cpl Carr**
13th	**WO2 (QMSI) Campbell**
22nd	**Cpl Lawrence**
36th	**Cpl Pickup**
57th	**Spr Farr**
69th	**Capt Kirkman**

Our congratulations to **Capt John Kirkman** and his team for their outstanding successes in the past few months. I am sure they will be delighted that all their hard work and rigorous training has paid off.

The team—*Back Row L—R:* Cpl John Williamson, Cpl Dave Carr, LCpl Kev Jarvis, Spr Tommy Farr
Centre Row L—R: CO Lt Col Nigel Wood, LCpl Alan Poulson, Cpl Sandy Martyres, Sig Garry Morgan, Cpl Tom Pickup, Sgt Sammy Lee, Cpl Steve Lawrence, WO1 (RSM) Peter Whitehead
Kneeling— WO2 (QMSI) Colin Campbell, Capt John Kirkman

CROSS COUNTRY

Report by Capt John Kirkman

The 1984/85 season started with a squad of 15 runners training and competing in the 4 Division Quadrant league. After some of the early races it became clear that we had the makings of a very good team. It was at this stage that the aim of the season was set. That would be to qualify at the BAOR Championships for a place at the Army Championships in February at Aldershot. **QMSI Colin Campbell**, a good strong runner, worked out a series of hard training schedules and we started out on the long road to Aldershot.

RIGOROUS ROUTINE

We trained six days a week, at lunchtimes, mixed hard quality sessions with steady runs and a long slow run on Sunday mornings. On top of this there were weight training sessions, which everybody just loved! This regime soon sorted the men from the boys and the team quickly reduced to 12 regular members.

Contesting the weekly league races we regularly came second to our old rivals 4 Armd Wksps REME, past Army Champions of note. At the BAOR Championships, held at Soest, we came third to 4 Armd and the winners 1 PWO from Berlin, but we had achieved our aim of qualifying.

Now followed some extremely hard work during a very cold bleak winter. As the snow got deeper so the spikes got longer. After the Christmas break—during which training did not stop—the team emerged confident, strong and full of running. Due to the adverse weather races became harder to find and we had to look to the German net for competition and to keep ourselves racing fit. A couple of weeks before going to the UK we sharpened up with some fast relay races at Osnabruck and Verden, then we started to taper down for the big race.

RUNNERS UP IN HARD FAST RACE

The conditions at Tweseldown Race Course Aldershot were to our liking, a covering of snow and ice just like we had left back in Herford. The results are now history. After a very fast hard race we came second to the 1 PWO who were very strong indeed.

During the race we were strongly supported by the CO and RSM, who had made a quick dash from Herford by car, and **Capt Jimmy** and **Margaret Campbell** who had just been posted from the Regiment to Aldershot.

REWARDING SEASON

It is not intended to mention individual performances as this was a team event from start to finish in what was a very hard but rewarding first season. To finish Army Major Units runners up and 4th Division League winners have made it all very worth while and we now look forward to a good season on the track.

ST DAVID'S DAY PARADE

On Thursday 28 February the Regiment held its annual St David's Day Parade. Ex *Wintex/Winter Sales* prevented us from holding the parade on the traditional date, 1 March, however, it was decided to hold it early rather than cancel it.

The inspection and March Past went extremely well and a special thank you goes to the band of the 13/18 Royal Hussars (QMO) for helping to make the parade such a success. The CO presented the LS&GC Medal to **SSgt (SQMS) Taff Williams** then spoke to the Regiment, reminding them not only of its Welsh ties, but highlighting achievements during the past year and indicating the busy time ahead with the advent of PTARMIGAN.

MISS CARDIFF KICKS OFF

The CO Lt Col N. F. Wood and other members of the Regiment checking the fitting of a Regimental sweat shirt for Miss Cardiff

As the Regiment dispersed to take part in an inter-Squadron sports competition, the Welsh soldiers enjoyed an informal chat with our guests from Wales. Miss Cardiff was invited to test her driving skills in an AFV432 and was then somehow persuaded by **WO1 RSM Pete 'Smooth Talking' Whitehead** to change into shorts and shirt and kick off at the start of the seven-a-side rugby competition. (Readers please note that the RSM stood guard over the door whilst she changed—RHIP).

HQ SQN SUCCESS

Although **Miss Gardiner** and company left before lunch the sporting competition—keenly contested by all those who took part—continued throughout the day. Afterwards in the Gymnasium **Lt Col Wood** made the formal presentation to the best overall Squadron and it was no surprise for **Maj John Byrne**—OC HQ Squadron—to be called forward to collect the trophy. He was quoted as 'being quietly confident of success as the boys were in great shape'.

The celebrations continued into the evening with a variety of functions held in different messes. I understand that 'Leek Eating', 'Boat Races' and 'Red Cabbage Rugby' are so popular with the Warrant Officers and their wives that they have asked if the event could be held every 25 years.

Our thanks to those behind the scenes for their hard work and efforts in making this day so successful and enjoyable. Our thanks also to **Miss Lorraine Gardiner** for adding a touch of charm and glamour to the occasion.

REGIMENTAL JNCO'S CADRE COURSE

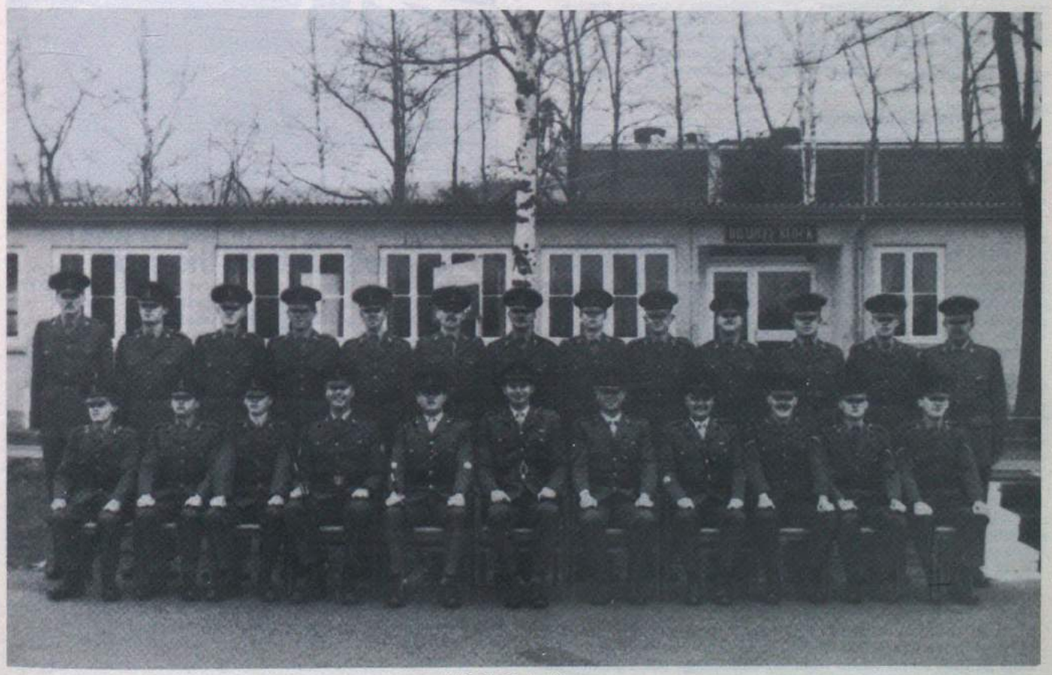
A Unit Cadre was held during the period 18-23 March. The nine Junior Lance Corporals and 10 Signalmen (aspiring to become Lance Corporal's) assembled early on the Monday morning and by 1000 hrs were looking somewhat shell shocked—BFT at 0630 hrs, followed by a Best Dress inspection courtesy of the RSM, then an hours drill is not the best way for anyone to start their week. However the soldiers were soon settled down and once the initial shock had worn off they tackled the many and varied aspects of the course in an enthusiastic and cheerful manner. Individual standards improved as the week progressed and it soon became obvious to the Training Wing Staff that selecting a Best Student from the course would be extremely difficult.

However, we all thought that the 24 hour field exercise would sort the men out from the boys and thus give us a good indication as to likely candidates for Best Student. The exercise did in fact give us some indication but, the picture changed once again after the Written Exam, TOETS and Lecturettes. Thus we arrived at the last morning—Saturday—with at least eight soldiers in the running for the top award. Following a further BFT, inspections by Training Wing Staff, the RSM and finally the CO we knew that the top student would be either **LCpl 'Bear' Convery** or **Sig Mick Millsopp** both of 6 Sqn.

The final outcome rested on the final activity—Drill Teaching Practices. Both gave excellent performances in the Drill, however, **Sig Millsopp** proved to be just a shade better on the day and was duly presented with a suitably engraved trophy by the CO **Lt Col N. F. Wood.**

Congratulations to all the students for their hard work throughout the course. I'm sure they, as well as the instructors, learnt many valuable lessons.

Sig Millsopp receiving the Best Student Award from the CO



JNCO's Cadre Course

FAREWELL TO THE NAAFI MANAGER

On 13 March we said farewell to a popular and well respected member of the unit. **Mr Peter Stubbs**, the Naafi manager, after three years with the regiment, took his leave to take up a new post in the UK.

During his time here **Peter** has worked extremely hard to improve the facilities of the Naafi and in his second year, he and his staff, received the best Naafi of the year award. Working closely with the PRI he helped to bring regular monthly entertainment to the junior ranks' Spearhead Club.

With his brand of friendly and firm managership he was truly a well known member of the Regiment who will be missed by all. As a mark of appreciation the CO, **Lt Col Nigel Wood** presented **Mr Stubbs** with a Marble Statuette of Mercury, with thanks from the Officers and all ranks.

NEWS FROM 6 SQUADRON

Once again this has been a somewhat hectic period for the 'busiest' squadron. Rather than draw on the eloquence of one man we have gratefully accepted articles from all the Troops—with the exception of A5 Troop who have escaped on exercise, again! Enough of the preamble let's get to the Troop reports:

SHQ

Under the watchful eye of the OC, **Maj Hugh Goodman** the Troop continues to support the Squadron during its many and varied exercise commitments. Big and small exercises have passed without mishap and you will be pleased to note that our 'rent-a-det' rates are still quite reasonable.

The past few months have also seen a number of personality changes. **SSgt (YofS) Bill Wingate** has moved to 2 Div and we wish him and his wife **Marie** best wishes for the future. We welcome **SSgt (YofS) Tom Hall** and his wife **Lee** to Herford and say hello once more to **Cpl Dean Richardson** on his return from BATUS. We hope **LCpl Ian Stallard** enjoys his tour when he goes to Canada in April.

A1 TROOP

Together with the rest of the Squadron we have been busy during the past few months, therefore, we shall restrict our report to personalities. Our hearty congratulations go to **LCpl John Ashley** and his wife **Heidi** on the birth of a bouncing baby boy. Our OC **2Lt 'Jasper Carrott' Wilson** has recently left for another Squadron and been replaced by **2Lt 'Paddy' Sommerville**. He was so impressed by us on take over that he immediately left for Norway dragging **Cpl 'Fitz' Fitzpatrick** with him. Our five-a-side football team is currently top of the Inter-Squadron football competition which has been well organised by **Sgt Dave Mason**. Thanks for the hard work. Finally we welcome **Sig 'Tiny' Sheard, Sig 'Lanky' Weir** and **Sig 'Chippy' Pomfret** to the troop. One of their immediate tasks will be to find **LCpl Belfield** on his return from his Camouflage and Concealment course (at least we think he's there).

A2 TROOP

Early 1985 brought many changes to the troop. Our dearly beloved OC **Capt Tony** 'good morning get out of my way' **Morphet** was married, promoted and posted all within a few weeks. We wish him and his bride good luck in 1 Inf Bde. Two further departures were **Cpl Kenny 'B.A.' Barkas**, the sole surviving holder of the Battle of Waterloo commemorative medal (sprightly young chap) and **LCpl 'Libby'** 'don't you dare call me Adrian' **Lidbetter**. The former went to the sunny pastures of Blandford but alas poor 'Libby' after completing nine months of his sentence, sorry tour, was posted down the road to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Newly married and recently promoted we hope he gets well soon!

We welcome **2Lt Robert Kelly** from Belfast to our fold. A keen organiser of sporting competitions he has created a lively atmosphere within the troop and we wish him the best of luck in his first tour as a regular army officer.

A3 TROOP

Our congratulations go to **Sgt Dave Showell** and **Sig Carrington-Moule**, commonly known as Charlie-Mike, both of whom have decided to get married on the same day, (not to each other I might add) and to **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** and **LCpl 'Billy' Paton** on their recent promotions. We say farewell to **Cpl 'Paddy'** (Barman) **McGill**, and **Sig Charlie-Mike** and wish them well in their new postings.

From Flanders to the Falklands–help us help them all

Raise funds for Today's **Royal British Legion**

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A Registered Charity

CROSS COUNTRY AND ROAD RUNNING

Over the past six months a relatively dormant ailment has taken on the proportions of an epidemic within the ESBA. With a total disregard for rank, age, sex or dignity the running bug has smitten a substantial proportion of the entire Regiment. Symptoms such as hyperventilation and runners' nipple are no longer viewed with contempt and vulgar sniggering—these are now real problems for many of those who have come out of the narrow-minded, non-running closet. However, apart from producing such macho injuries, the results have been quite outstanding. Twenty-four fixtures throughout the season have been attended by a total of over 120 runners who have between them amassed, at the last count, some 220 trophies. Indeed the final event of the season—the Cyprus Services Marathon and Half Marathon—had 76 Regimental entrants including wives, the Y of S and five (gasp) officers.

WIDE RANGING ABILITIES

In the space available, it is not possible to give details of every notable performance; indeed it would be unfair as so many people contributed at widely ranging ability levels. Nobody, however, would begrudge the outstanding season enjoyed by **Sgt (SI) Corfield, Cpl Vezey** and **Cpl Parvin** who were selected to represent British Services (Cyprus) against Cyprus AAA. In the same vein **Mrs Ann Havlin** and **Capt Trish Watkins** established themselves as the two outstanding lady runners on the island. A summary of the more important performances is as follows:

CYPRUS INTER-SERVICES CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE
2nd 1 Sqn 'A'
5th 2 Sqn 'A'
Winning Ladies Team

ARMY MINOR UNITS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
1st 1 Sqn 'A'

ALL ISLAND MAJOR UNITS CHAMPIONSHIPS—Winners

ALL ISLAND LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS—Winners

HALF MARATHON TEAM EVENT
1st 2 Sqn 'A'
2nd 2 Sqn 'B'

In addition 9 Sig Regt supplied six of the Army team of 10 in the Inter-Service event: **WO2 Moffatt, Sgt Corfield, Sgt Douglas, Cpls Parvin, Vezey** and **LCpl Grant**.

The following ran regularly for their Squadrons:

1 SQN	2 SQN	3 SQN	LADIES
WO2 Moffatt	Capt Trevis	Maj Goodall	Mrs Havlin
SSgt Havlin	WO2 Dodds	Maj Stevenson	Capt Watkins
Sgt Corfield	SSgt Baker	WO2 Clarke	SSgt McDougall
Cpl Doble	SSgt Martin	WO2 Hall	Cpl Perry
Cpl Galloway	Sgt Douglas	Sgt Hooper	Cpl Drew
Cpl McDowall	Sgt Palfreyman	Cpl Holford	Cpl Talbot
LCpl Drew	Cpl Barker	LCpl Booth	LCpl Bradshaw
LCpl Grant	Cpl Farmer	LCpl Maclean	Pte Buckle
LCpl Hayes	Cpl Parvin	LCpl Wilkinson	
LCpl Head	Cpl Vezey	LCpl Zanelli	
LCpl Portlock	LCpl Sandford		
LCpl Power	Sig Smith (307)		
LCpl Preston			
Pte Chamberlain			
Sig Daly			
Pte Harrison			
Pte Radcliffe			
Sig Saunders			

Sgt (SI) John Corfield finishing the Cyprus Marathon in second place

Q TROOP

The most notable event recently was our success in the Regimental Assault Course Competition. The competition is an annual event where teams drawn from every section of the Regiment compete for two prizes—the Training Wing Trophy in the main league and the 'Silver Boot' in the parallel mini-league.

As Q Troop have only 15 members from whom to select the 10 man team, we automatically entered the boot competition. An excellent all-round performance clinched the prize, and would have made us second in the main competition. Well done, lads! Below is a blow-by-blow account of the road to victory by **LCpl Pete Brooker**.

The alarm clock rang shrilly in my ear 'Oh no, Monday morning', but with a difference. The Assault Course Competition was calling. The Silver Boot was the coveted prize we were aiming for.

LATER THAT MORNING . . .

Washed, dressed and carrying my weapon I assembled with the rest of the team of Q Tp. A quick check of kit and then off to the start point to have our kit checked again. 'Five minutes to go' a time keeper said. The boss (sorry sir) **Capt Frank Worrall** had us all doing warm up exercises. I'm sure he was trying to 'k . . . . . .' us out before we had even started. Someone suggested a quick smoke before we started 'No time' said **RQMS Dennis Parker**.

THE RUN

Words fail me. It was a grand spectacle this fine body of men surging round the toughest course yet. The blood pumping and the lungs feeling as if they are about to collapse. The RQMS took the lead leaving **Cpl Andy Carver** (he's going bald too but not as bad as the RQ) to carry his weapon. A very good time was had by all. Next to come, the assault course.

ASSAULT COURSE

Compliments to **LCpl 'Taffy' Drew** on his excellent use of the English language when tackling some of the harder obstacles. A display of raw guts was shown by the whole team. The crowd were ecstatic. They could sense victory.

THE SHOOT

Fifteen out of 20 speaks for itself really. The best score overall. Just shows that us shiny bottoms (would say a . . . but it's naughty!) are still a force to be reckoned with.

Note the Real Mud and Puddles . . .

Front Row L to R: Capt (QM) Frank Worrall, WO2 (RQMS) Dennis Parker, Pte (Muppet) Moore, Cpl (Jimmy) McDowall, Cpl John Doble
Back Row L to R: Pte Tony Lown, LCpl Peter Brooker, Cpl Andy Carver, LCpl 'Taffy' Drew, Sig Mark Willis

SPONSORED RUN

Two members of the troop recently raised money for the St Charalambos Home for Leprosy sufferers. **Cpl John Doble** and **Cpl Jim McDowall** were sponsored by their friends and colleagues on the Ayios Nikolaos to Dhekelia 15 mile road race, raising a total of £115. **Mr Andreas Kypriacou** pictured with **Cpls Doble** and **McDowall** accepted the cheque from them with thanks and told them that the money would be used to help the 31 residents of the home.

Cpls John Doble *(right)* and Jim McDowall presenting a cheque for £115 to Mr Andreas Kypriacou

MT TROOP

This busy troop continues to drive all over the sunny island of Cyprus. Recent departures from our fold are **Sig Tony** (Diamond Legs) **Hill** and family to 16 Sig Regt, **Sig Andy** (Where's my Stripe?) **Moran** and family to 28 Sig Regt and **LCpl Steve** (I'm a Big Boy Now) **Golton**. We wish you all the very best for the future. Arrivals into the troop are **LCpl Barnes** (Watch My Skis) and **Sig Tuckey** and family we hope you enjoy your stay with us.

Points of note recently—**LCpl Sarah Barnes** won the ladies individual downhill skiing at NEFSKI (Troodos) and was awarded her Silver Medal for skiing.

Cpl Ian Webb obtained his pilot's licence for gliding, getting an 'A' grading to boot. Any truth in the rumour you're doing cheap flights to UK?

As a troop we are now entering a busy period with the Regiment's Battle Camps looming up, and of course we look forward to the hard work that the REME PRE brings with it! Providing the I of E team do not wave their axe in our direction, we shall overcome . . .

CHARITY DRIVE

In March this year, the Regiment organised the Cyprus Motor Show for the second year running. The Show which attracts car importers from all over the island was originally conceived as a once only venture to raise money for the British Olympic Appeal. However, last year's Show was such a success that it has now become an annual event.

This year, the Show was opened by the Commander British Forces Cyprus, **Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley KCVO MBE** who, when he saw the transformation of the REME Workshops, joked that 'Olympia had come to Dhekelia'. Over the weekend, more than 2,000 people visited the Show to inspect the vehicles on display. The prospect of driving an expensive sports car over the infamous Cypriot roads is enough to make most people's toes curl, however the dealers reported that business was brisk.

Overall, the Show raised £4,000 for charity. The two main beneficiaries this year will be the 'Save the Children Fund' and the 'Jubilee Trust' a sailing scheme for the disabled. A number of smaller local charities will also receive assistance.

Apart from establishing itself as the biggest motor exhibition in Cyprus, the Show also gave the military community here a chance to plan their next purchase when they reluctantly exchange their mopeds and beach vans for something more suited to the fast lane of Europe . . .

Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley, CBFC, opens the Cyprus Motor Show watched by Lt Col Mike Galloway

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

Publications for sale:

Headdress, Badges and Embellishments of The Royal Corps of Signals *by Alan Harfield. Paperback £3.00, postage 35p.*

Only a few copies left of this limited edition.
Reviews of this book include:

'Military Modelling'

'Primarily for badge collectors, it could also be of value to military modellers. How often has one wondered what colour is that dark line running through a pagri; or that flash worn at the side of a helmet or slouch hat; that cut feather plume or shoulder flash? When one is faced with such a problem appertaining to a member of the Royal Corps of Signals, I would suggest you consult this meticulously-researched book which covers almost every known badge and insignia worn by the Corps. Copiously illustrated with photographs of the items it leaves nothing to guesswork, and is an important and interesting book. Recommended to all badge collectors and uniform enthusiasts.

RJM'

Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research

'A very helpful booklet not only from the historical point of view but also for students and collectors in the military field. The results should be an inspiration for other corps and units to record their distinctions in similar depth.

WYC'

The Military Historical Society's 'The Bulletin'

'This is a most useful book, a paperback, well finished in Corps colours and showing the Corps badges in use on all manner of hats—glengarry, caubeen, songkok, fur-hat (in China in 1929), beret, khaki and coloured fs caps. Details are also given of the Corps' buttons, titles, waist-belts, lanyards, hose-tops, etc. It would be good to learn that this book was to be the first of many in the same style. A little effort by other regiments and corps now would prevent their own dress-distinctions being lost. Perhaps Alan's example will pave the way for others.

JWFG'

British & Indian Armies in the East Indies (1685-1935) *by Alan Harfield. Cost of standard limited edition—£25.00, postage and packing £1.50.*

Blandford and the Military (including the history of Blandford Camp) *by Alan Harfield. Paperback with over 50 illustrations. Price £3.95 plus postage and packing 35p.*

Cheques payable to **Alan Harfield** *please.*

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)
Wilton

A VISIT TO AN AUSTRIAN SIGNALS BATTALION

Report by Maj J. D. Tydeman (2IC)

In February of this year **Maj Martin Wilson-Brown** (OC 3 Sqn) and myself were fortunate to find ourselves as guests of the II Bn Heeresfernmelderegiment in the Austrian village of St Johanne-im-Pongau. We were there to complete the second part of an exchange-au-pair that originated the previous August when the Regiment hosted two Austrian officers.

The II Bn is part of a two battalion Army Signals Regiment. Due to its location some 60 Km South of Salzberg it has a considerable degree of independence from the Regimental Commander based in Vienna and the local district Commander based in Salzberg. This independence is perhaps helped by the fact that the unit is responsible for organising much of the annual week's ski training all regular officers and men of the Austrian Defence Forces appear to be entitled to its location some 60 km South of Salzberg it has a considerable requires each unit to administer and train its own men for all its requirements. Thus the II Bn, had under the Signals Cap badge all trades from cook to vehicle mechanic, as well as specialist signallers.

CAREER TO 60—AND NO RSM

For the first week of our stay we remained in the garrison and learnt much about the day-to-day life of the Austrian Signaller. It soon became apparent that apart from some conceptual differences the life of an Austrian soldier differs little from our own. The major difference is found in the posting and promotion system. Once in the battalion you stay in it, either as an NCO from Lance Corporal to Warrant Officer, or as an officer, from 2 Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel. For the regular soldier promotion is operated on a timed basis, with the requirement to attend particular cadre courses at various stages. On average it takes about 15 years to move from Lance Corporal to Warrant Officer 1. A regular soldier has only one hurdle to pass at the 10 year point. At this stage his continued career depends on a vacancy being available. Providing a vacancy exists he is then given a career through to the age of 60. It took us a little time to work out what was missing in the Battalion and then we spotted it—NO RSM! If it's any consolation the Battalion managed to function without a FofS or YofS as well.

For the officer the promotion and posting system is more complex. Posts are rank ranged, thus, providing an officer has attended the requisite courses required for promotion he can stay in the same post for life and just be promoted at the various timed points. In the II Bn one coy commander was a Lieutenant Colonel while another was a Captain who had commanded the company from 2 Lieutenant. Interestingly all posts for officers are advertised as they become available and officers interested in the appointment apply for the post (PB11 please note). The end result of the posting and promotion system for all ranks is an ageing and fairly static management structure.

During our second week we accompanied a JNCO cadre course to a training camp in the Seetaleralpe for range firing and a little skiing. One interesting aspect of the range practices was that at the end of each practice all spare rounds were fired off into the Alpe that formed the stopbutt—it certainly made accounting easier.

As well as seeing the Battalion at work we were invited to many out-of-hours activities. Perhaps the most entertaining was an evening of Eisstocke shooting—the Austrian equivalent of bowls. The object was to throw one's eisstocke (a discus with a wooden handle) along an ice covered road and get it as close to a small wooden cube as possible. With 14 men to a team and lavish helpings of jager tea and schnapps the game was definitely an improvement on bowls.

Sadly our visit had to come to an end. We left the II Bn Heeresfernmelderegiment having made a lot of friends and having learnt a lot about the problems of running a conscript based army.

1 SQUADRON RETIREMENTS—MRS IRENE BRADLEY

Mrs Bradley served from May 1953 to March 1954 in the Women's Royal Army Corps. From March 1956 to August 1957 she served at Queen Anne Mansions. There was then a period where she worked outside the Civil Service for five and a half years rejoining in January 1963 at Regular Commissions Board, Westbury. She served at Westbury until 1981 and then transferred to Warminster for the remainder of her service. There has been a total of 22 years continuous service to Telephoney in the Warminster Area, a creditable and worthwhile contribution to our organisation.

Presentation of Certificate of Service to Mrs Irene Bradley

MRS PAT REFFIN

On Friday 15 February, Salisbury Military Telephone Exchange said their fond farewells to **Mrs Pat Reffin. Pat's** career started as a Telephonist in the Post Office Salisbury on 1 September 1941 until the 1 June 1948 when she left to get married.

On 4 August 1969, **Pat** joined the MOD as a Government Telephonist where she worked until 6 January 1974. At that time she decided to regrade as a Clerical Assistant from 7 January 1974 until 27 January 1984. However, **Pat**'s preference was obvious when she reverted back to a Government Telephonist on 28 January 1984.

Good wishes for her retirement have been received from Exchanges where she worked as a relief operator, especially Supervisors at Warminster, Tidworth and Bulford Telephone Exchanges.

The gathering on the retirement of Mrs Pat Reffin

EXERCISE *SNOWGALE* 85

Four members of 1 Squadron attended Exercise *Snowgale* this year. **2Lt 'Jenny' Ogden, LCpl 'Mel' Geraghty, Ptes 'Murph' Murphy** and **Pte 'Tracey' Johns. Pte Murphy** now takes up the tale! 10 Sig Regt's skiing party left Euston Station, London, on the train to Aviemore, Scotland a little apprehensive but in high spirits, as they prepared themselves for accidents and pain as hopefully they learnt to ski!

DISGUISED

On our arrival a minibus picked us up and drove to a little village known as Ballindalloch, close to Aviemore. Our accommodation was a converted railway station, disguised as a hostel, which although rather basic, had all the necessities and home comforts which we are accustomed to . . . especially a fire. Great news since it was freezing. Other good news was that during our stay, **Ken**, our TA Cook, provided all the hot meals which were made from some fresh vegetables and heavily disguised compo. Nonetheless, Egon Ronay would have been impressed!

A STRUGGLE

Our first experience of skiing took place at a ski centre called the Lecht. Fortunately the majority of the party knew a little of how to ski before they arrived and were off on to the slopes in no time. However, there were a few who had to start from basics. These learners, being totally new to skiing soon found sliding about on these flippers a bit difficult and nothing like as easy as their heroes on Ski Sunday seem to make it. However one person (no names please) made it even more difficult for herself by putting her boots on the wrong feet.

Our first lessons were spent learning how to 'walk' up a hill on skis. When we did finally master crawling up this hill we realised the instructor hadn't mentioned anything about how to stop! So, we soon found ourselves not only sliding down a slope backwards but colliding into a fence rather than crushing a school party. Undeterred the learners battled on, and by the third day they had even mastered turning, if a little shakily. Meanwhile, some of the more confident skiers managed to borrow some cross country skis for a couple of hours which made their skiing more difficult but challenging.

SUCCESS

The final day was spent at the Glenshees Ski Centre, which offered a larger variety of slopes and reasonably priced ski passes—while excellent weather added to its splendour. A smashing day out and a great way to end the exercise.

On behalf of all the party I can safely say this adventure training exercise was a great success, and many of us are looking forward to the same event next year—but as professional skiers. Franz Klammer beware!

2 SQUADRON—LETTER FROM LONDON

Preparations for the move of the squadron from Hounslow to Chelsea Barracks continue to occupy many members of the squadron and the planning conferences increase in number and length. Huge sighs of relief will sound all round when the final stage of the move arrives and we are all issued with the 'Sloane Ranger Kit' of green wellies and headscarves ready knotted on the chin (mainly, it should be added, for the WRAC members of the squadron).

However three of the squadron's happy band managed to escape from Hounslow for sojourns in more 'exotic' parts—**LCpl Wooding** and **Sig 'Daz' Homan** departed for Cyprus and **Pte Jackie Hassell** temporarily joined the Marines in Norway.

CYPRUS

Report by LCpl Wooding

How do you entice Radio Troop out of the troop office when the temperature is below freezing? Well, if you are the OC Sqn you ask for two volunteers to go to Cyprus for a month. Being a troop of RTgs there was a resounding chorus of 'Why?' The following reply soon quashed a lot of enthusiasm. 'To operate a rear link for the 1 Bn Grenadier Guards'. However, **LCpl Wooding** and **Sig 'Daz' Holman** still felt a tan was worth it all!

So, one Sunday afternoon in February we both 'turned up' to what looked like Trooping the Colour. In fact it was the Queen's Company getting on parade to have the baggage weighed—all done with a regimental pause.

AT A STROKE

Twenty four hours after our first parade in Hounslow we were in Bloodhound Camp, Cyprus. Things didn't look good at first. The sky was overcast, there were odd showers and a chilling wind! What a waste of money the sun tan lotion was! As if the weather wasn't depressing enough we were then informed of the one week's military training that was planned. This was described as 'a good way to get to know the blokes'. Great idea! As it turned out we had a good week.

The second week arrived and we had to get down to work. **'Daz'** sat in on some of the Signal Platoon's lessons on how to operate a PRC 320. 'So that's what a Clansman set looks like!' As well as helping instruct on basic morse I made some excuses to get out and about to see some more of my own kind. More time was spent cutting a dipole and ground plane for an Isotrope but come Friday we were ready to establish comms which we did with very little trouble.

WELCOME CHANGE

By this time the weather was coming on a treat and trunks, sun tan lotion etc were being unpacked. That Saturday the Signal Platoon organised a trip to Nicosia, where draught Keo was discovered and a great day was had by all. The Sunday was yet another day off and marked the parting of the ways for **'Daz'** and I. **'Daz'** spent the third week working with the Signal Platoon operating in the field. Their aim was to work back to UK on field antennae. The mast radial comms activity coming from the Cossac beach was working a sloping wire on a 320.

Meanwhile I had been taken away by the QMSI to fulfil my secondary role as a climbing instructor. We had the third week free to prepare for the final week's adventure training programme. We used it for doing the rounds of Troodos, Cape Greco, Dhekelia water sports club, and, more importantly, the beach to get the all important tan.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Finally the Grenadiers were brought to Dhekelia for their R and R adventure training. **'Daz'** paid for a parachute course at Pergamos and soaked up some UVs too, while I took some Grenadiers to Cape Greco for some basic climbing.

HOME

Unfortunately our 'holiday' was cut short by 24 hours (much to the Dhekelia Garrison Sergeant Major's relief) and it was back to UK and a chilly 4°C. For the Grenadiers it was straight to the square for Spring Drills, but for **'Daz'** and myself it was back to the Radio Troop office heater!

3 SQUADRON

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE ALDERSHOT COMMCEN

During Ex *Wintex* 85 a SNCO arrived at the Aldershot COMMCEN carrying a large box which required urgent despatch to the Pathological Department at London Zoo. Contents of the box was alleged to be one dead Garter Snake and could our Forces Courier Section help out. 'You're kidding' cried **Cpl Frank Carter** (our man dealing with this) and when refused access to examine the box he immediately guessed there must be a catch somewhere and summoned the Sqn Ops Offr, **Capt Jim Rayment**. He too thought this to be a most unusual exercise incident but later examination of the contents revealed . . . yes . . . one dead Garter Snake.

THE LESSON

Having consulted a good book and confirmed that the snake was not: Explosive, Inflammable material, Clothing, Equipment, or Money/Valuables/Cheques the package was therefore accepted for despatch. Origins of the dead snake were extremely vague but it appears it might have been an in-patient at the CMH Aldershot! Once despatched, the normal routine of the COMMCEN was restored albeit cries of 'Fangs for the memory!' (Groan).

ONE WEEK LATER

An extremely angry and concerned officer in the RAVC telephoned **Capt Rayment** with the news that one very smelly, decomposing Garter snake had just arrived at London Zoo. Our Ops Offr was equally concerned that FCCS had failed. Further investigations revealed that unregistered despatches are rushed to the Postal and Courier Depot at London and are then sent out by second class post! There is a lesson here somewhere . . .

ASSISTING THE ROYAL MARINES

EXERCISE *PENDULUM SOUTH* 85

Report by LCpl S. A. Stant WRAC

From 10 December 1984 to 21 February 1985 3 Sqn lost **LCpl Shirley Stant** and **Ptes Angela Murphy** and **Susan Cheshire** to the Royal Marines Sig Tp CDO Log Regt in Norway. **LCpl Stant** takes up the tale . . .

'We came to the rescue of the Marines for two months during their winter deployment to Norway. We were attached to the Sig Tp CDO Log Regt RM for Ex *Pendulum South* 85.

After several hundred lectures on frostbite, hypothermia and the dangers of the cold, our first rude awakening was the one hour and forty minutes flight to Gardermoen in Norway (courtesy of that friendly airline—the RAF!) We were then led to our accommodation which was situated in the Medical Centre. Now, my idea of roughing it means living with Black and White TV and the mere thought of the word 'Exercise' conjures up all sorts of nasties like bivvies,, cam nets and compo? When we stepped into the accommodation of pinewood furniture, fluffy continental quilts and heating . . . yes heating, I knew this would be some exercise! Our only inconvenience was having to walk some 300 yards to the showers—really rough!

THE TEAM

The WRAC contingent consisted of 12 girls. There were four TA cooks and the rest of us were employed in both the COMMCEN and the Exchange. The COMMCEN itself was quite small, in fact it was like working in a cupboard. We had only one simplex circuit which was only open from 0600-2000 hrs midweek and only for precedence traffic at weekends (due to the fact that the Norwegian Army prefers playing cards and watching TV at weekends—no joke!).

THE SYSTEM

The COMMCEN clan consisted of myself and **Pte Cheshire** (10 Sig Regt), **Pte Fyvie** (241 Sig Sqn) and **Ptes Webster** and **Langford** (16 Sig Regt). Our first week wasn't too busy but we did have problems with the distribution of signals. We had to decide ourselves where to send signals by reading the text—this system would never work back home! The man who supervised this sop and covered up our mistakes was a marine, **LCpl Steve** (where's the whisky) **Evans.** He put up with a lot from the girls in green.

For the girls in the Exchange, namely **Ptes Murphy, Hassell** and **Howell,** all from 10 Sig Regt, it was a different matter. As all three were Data Telegraphists, none of us had ever worked a switchboard before so we were all a bit confused (to say the least) to start with. However, like the rest of us they got used to it after a week.

OSLO

There were plenty of opportunities to go skiing as we had been issued with cross-country skis, fondly called 'pusser-planks' by the Royal Marines, and we also went downhill skiing a couple of times (well once!). We also had plenty of opportunities to go into Oslo since the postal truck went in every day to collect the mail and returned to camp in the afternoons. The first time we went we spent all morning trying to find 'McDonalds' and having found it decided in future we would take our own 'butty box' as it cost £8.50 for two of us!

Sadly the girls from 3 Sqn had to depart to rejoin our Sqn for Ex *Wintex*—a far cry from Ex *Pendulum South* 85! They do say 'leave whilst the going is good' but I don't quite know who 'they' are. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and returned with plenty of cuts and bruises from the skiing, plenty of memories and I'm sure that none of us will forget the day we rescued the Royal Marines!'

ANOTHER ANGLE

Report by Pte Hassell WRAC

Ex *Pendulum South* 85 is a section of a commando training exercise which takes place in Norway annually. This year the Marines turned to the Army and asked for DTGs to assist them whilst they carried out their Arctic warfare training. Volunteers were required and when I found I had been chosen family and friends looked on me with envy. Ski Sunday was showing on the TV at the time and after two months in Norway that could surely be me on the ski slopes next year.

Our team manned the COMMCEN and Exchange at Gardermoen SOR. The team consisted of **LCpl Stant, Ptes Howell, Murphy, Cheshire, Fyvie, Langford, Webster** and myself. We soon adapated to the Marines' way of life, and after the initial shock of having women in their camp most of the Marines were very helpful, although it must be admitted that a small minority decided that if they ignored us they could pretend we weren't there. The womens' accommodation was very good; the men however didn't fare so well. Videos were provided in the Cook House during the evenings but we all missed listening to the radio—why couldn't someone have remembered to bring one? (Evidently reception for Radio 1 was pretty good). The food was excellent for vegetarians with plenty of vegetables and fruit, and a nice range of desserts. The meat eaters complained that the meat course was very repetitive. Our shifts consisted of two days, two nights, two days off, and as the 'Postie' went into Oslo every day it was always easy to get a lift into town to see the shops and generally get away from camp. However things were very expensive and thus curbed our shopping. As a final note for anybody going on this exercise, a pair of moon boots, warm jumpers and anorak are a must, glamour is definitely out!

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RCA

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

THE VALUE OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Report by OC Leadership Troop

In the past, there have been many famous struggles between great leaders of different nations. For example: Montgomery against Rommel, Maximus Flavius against Boedicea, Sir Frances Drake (then only a potential foreman!) against the Spanish Armada. What have all 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 have always been woadworks on the A1).

It was in fact, the Romans who first started the idea of Leadership courses after a remarkable event in the Coliseum 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 manager 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 two 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 know, 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 it has been honed to perfection. There is nothing like it anywhere in the world and we are justly proud of its reputation! What does the average student get out of this course?

- *Tiredness*—This can be ingrained into a soldier by BFTs, sleep deprivation, running around golf courses and climbing trees.
- *Grit*—What he will be covered with when he has finished on the command task area.
- *Initiative*—He will be taught how to build a working model of a Challenger tank out of two planks, a toggle rope and a 10ft pole. (An empty Fairy Liquid bottle does help!)
- *Appreciation*—He will appreciate his Mum a lot more afterwards.
- *Decision making*—He will be able to say that he is almost certain that he could probably make a decision, or not, if and when the need arises.
- *Aggression*—He will go home and beat hell out of the budgie every night!
- *Confidence*—He will have complete confidence in himself.
- *TV Experience*—He will be ready to host 'Game for a Laugh' or 'The Krypton Factor'.

So if you want to improve just some of these qualities and many more besides, send Annex B to SOinC's PD No 12 to your Chief Clerk along with 27 Cornflake packet tops (cheap for a five week holiday!)

1 SQUADRON
5 TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Troop Commander:	**Capt G. R. Leyland**
Troop Sergeant:	**Sgt J. MacLean**
Troop Corporals:	**Cpl A. Carter**
	Cpl G. Best
	Cpl E. Strefford
	Cpl A. Wilkinson

On 10 December the tranquility of 5 Troop was disrupted by the patter of tiny feet. **Sig Graham** 420 had arrived to start his training as a recruit in the Royal Corps of Signals. He was not alone. By the end of the day he had been joined by the rest of the troop and 36 new members were ready to 'go'. For the remainder of their first week they were moved around the camp at lightning speed collecting uniforms, having medicals and being introduced to life in the Regiment. At the end, they were fit and ready to take on whatever the Army could throw at them. The crunch, however, was to come a lot sooner than most of them anticipated and at the end of the second week they were forced to eat a three-course meal (Christmas, one for the use) and then sent home for two week's leave.

Christmas passed quickly and the troop got down to some serious training. Soon the recruits, whose numbers had now risen to 43, could be seen marching around the camp on their way to map reading, fieldcraft, first aid and other such lessons.

THEY DID WELL

In mid January the whole troop took part in the Regimental Triathlon Competition. This involved a run over some 2.5 miles, a swim in the Garrison Pool and firing the SMG on the 30m range. On the whole, the troop did well and the award for the 'Best Recruit' in the triathlon went to **Sig Clark** 138 who even managed to beat most of the Cadre around the course and obtain seventh place. Two other members of the troop were also starting to show that they could do more than march and **Sig Williams** and **Sig Lawson** could often be seen playing football for the Regiment.

Just after the midway point in the training the recruits sighed a huge sigh of relief as **Cpl Strefford** and **Sgt MacLean** were sent on courses. **Cpl Strefford** moved down to the Guard Depot, Pirbright for his drill instructors course and **Sgt MacLean** moved across to 2 Squadron where he could be seen attending the Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course. The sight of **Sgt MacLean** being marched around the square at a rate of knots was good to see and the recruits loved every minute of it!

At the end of week seven the inter-section competition started to settle down with 3 Section **(Cpl Carter)** in the lead. However, the log race was still to come and on a fresh Friday morning the troop moved up to the moors and battle commenced. It was a hard fought contest with No 1 Section **(Cpl Strefford)** winning. To make sure that all was in order **2Lt D. Davis WRAC**, the Squadron Admin Officer, and **Mrs J. Rooney**, the Squadron Clerk, completed the course alongside the troops and Cadre.

On 20 February the Regiment was visited by **Lt Gen Sir Charles Huxtable KCB CBE**. In the afternoon he visited the Squadron and saw the recruits on basic training.

THROUGH THEIR PACES

The final exercise put all the recruits through their paces. They seemed to be everywhere digging trenches, patrolling, or taking part in section attacks. It was a pity that the highlight of the exercise—a shoot on the 'section in defence' range had to be cancelled due to fog.

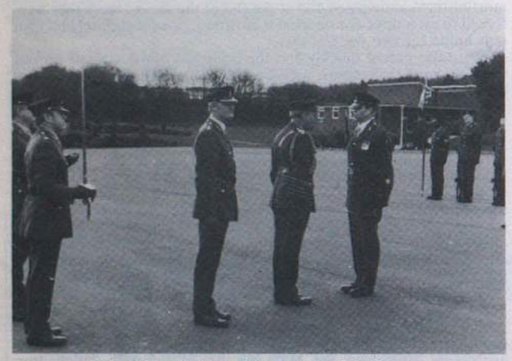
FANCY DRESS

As soon as the troop had returned to camp, work started on the end of course party. It was to be a 'fancy dress party' and recruits and Cadre alike were trying hard to think of something to wear. The party was a great success and the prize for the best fancy dress competition, which was judged by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Boyle**, went to **Sig Clark** 138 who came as some type of secret aircraft.

PASS OFF

The end of the course came with the Pass Off Parade. The day was warm and dry and the recruits, from all the troops concerned with the parade, worked hard to show the 165 relatives of the Pass Off Troop that they were the best on parade. The award for Best Recruit went to **Sig Williams** for his efforts throughout the course. The Best Section trophy went, once again, to **Cpl Carter** and 3 Section.

Lt Col Brown inspects the parade with the Reviewing Officer, Brig Burrows



SSM Minty being addressed by Brig Burrows

FAREWELLS

As a troop we must not only say goodbye to the recruits but also to some of the Cadre. **Capt Leyland** is off to the Falklands and then to 7 Sig Regt and **Cpl Wilkinson** has moved to 7 Troop. We wish them both success in their new jobs.

THE COLONELS 'FUN RUN'

As the next 'Fun Run' on 28 March approached, frantic searching of diaries, calendars and the like for prior appointments, courses, or any reasonable excuse for being AWOL from the Regiment, was underway!

With the Colonel leading, the Troops ran in order for five miles, wearing their own troop sweatshirts, with pennants flying, uphill and down dale to the astonishment of passers-by—finishing with the Standard Bearers 200 yard dash back to the square.

SQUADRON NEWS
1 SQN
KNEES UP!

After a total of three years in Catterick, the Regiment has sadly said farewell to SSM **WO2 Roger Minty** who has moved, with his wife, **Mary** and two children to Herford. In a very unsubtle mixture of drinks and eats we said our farewells with a party in the Amenities Centre and a good time was had by all!

We wish him, **Mary** and the family every success in the future.

And along those lines, we extend a warm welcome to **WO2 Les Collins** who is now the new SSM.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in hand for **Sgt Barry Spiers** who obtained the 'Overall Top Student' award on course 221 RSSSC, held in Catterick. Our two other 'entrants', **Sgts Kev Fitzpatrick** and **Jim MacLean** obtained second place.

REGIMENTAL SWIMMING

Training is underway for the Catterick Garrison Swimming Gala. An enthusiastic team of men are seen training regularly at lunchtimes down at the pool, in preparation for the monthly competitions (five of them overall) which will eventually produce the Best Minor and Major Units.

Back Row Left to Right—Capt Jim Harris (Capt), Sig King, 2Lt Debbie Davis (Coach), Lt Neil Gibson, WO1 Fred Bancroft, Maj Stewart Law
Front Row Left to Right—Sig Helps, Sgt John McCaffery, Cpl Steve Barr, Sig Ledger
Absent from photo: Cpl 'Mo' Lyons

GARRISON TRIATHLON

The Regt Triathlon team achieved a clear victory over the 16 other teams in the Garrison Triathlon event.

Standing—Left to Right: Maj Law, WO2 (SSM) Minty
Kneeling—Left to Right: Lt Gibson, WO1 Bancroft

ROYAL PIONEER CORPS RE-BADGING CEREMONY

Wednesday 13 February was indeed a proud day for the Royal Pioneer Corps and for none more so than the RPC troop here in Birgelen.

On a bitterly cold day they took to the snow-covered square under the command of their troop OC **WO1 (RSM) Ray Jeffery**. The CO **Lt Col Gordon Howard** then presented each Pioneer with his new cap and collar badges which were carried by **WO2 (SSM) Adam Fleck**.

The CO presents Cpl John Hampton with his new badges while the RSM attaches collar badges to Pte Mark Yates-Bradley who is dreaming of his posting to Westmoors near Bournemouth

At a similar ceremony in Berlin the Commander Comms, 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig R. F. L. Cook** took great delight in presenting **LCpl Peter Heppinstall** with his new cap badge and collar badges. **LCpl Heppinstall** is the only Pioneer serving with 3 Sqn and as the picture clearly shows, the new insignia was very well received and will be worn with justifiable pride.

LCpl Peter Heppinstall proudly receives his new cap and collar badges from Brig R. F. L. Cook

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

During the week of 25 February-2March the Regiment held its first Arts and Crafts Exhibition in the Wassenberg Castle. This event, organised by **Maj John Stuart** and his wife **Judith**, was opened by Burgermeister **Jochan Schumann** by the light of the open fires in this historic and interesting building. Exhibitors were present to explain their skills and interests and contacts were made with local townspeople who were keen to exchange ideas.

The foyer of the castle was impressively decorated with silk flowers arranged by **Mrs Margaret Grint** and model ships by **Lt Col Gerry Grint**. **Capt Gordon Blood's** excellent oil paintings led they eye to needlecrafts by **Mrs Margaret Yates** and **Mrs Chris Kirk** which hung next to **Mrs Jackie Maude's** beautiful watercolours of flowers, butterflies and birds.

Mrs Janice Todd attracted much interest with her beaten copper pictures and a display of hand-made bobbin lace by **Mrs Judith Stuart** led to many questions from the assembled company. **Maj John Stuart** hand-turns the wooden bobbins used in this craft and these were also on display.

Throughout the castle were examples of **Mrs Edith Rowntree's** distinctive pottery and examples of macramé designs by **Mrs Gwen Frances** and **Mrs Sue Griffiths-Williams**.

And presiding over the proceedings from the wall of the restaurant was a portrait in thread of **Lt Col Gordon Howard's** dalmation dog, Domino, completely designed and worked by his daughter, **Michele**.

The exhibition proved to be highly successful and a significant step in maintaining Anglo-German relations in the area.

Seen here on the opening night
Left to Right Front—Lt Col Gordon Howard, Burgermeister Jochan Schumann, Mrs Judith Stuart, Mrs Margaret Yates, Mrs Jackie Maude
Back—Lt Col Gerald Grint, WO1 Peter Westwell, Maj John Stuart, Capt Gordon Blood

TRAINING WING

This month we have lost **WO2 (SSM) John Aspinall** who has left us to go on very well deserved promotion appropriately as RSM of 5 Airborne Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. I know that all the hundreds of students who have passed through our Trg Wing in the past 18 months and have experienced **SSM Aspinall's** gentle caring attitude to training will want to join us in wishing him and his family every good luck in the future and a successful tour as RSM.

We welcome his replacement from 14 Sig Regt, **WO2 (SSM) Paddy McConnon** who is marginally better looking and also very experienced in military training, so we know that future RSDCC students will continue to receive the best training available in the Corps.

The training wing staff on the receiving end for a change line up for a last photograph with SSM John Aspinall
Left to Right Back—Sgts Foster, Donovan, Cox, Cpl Mayfield
Left to Right Front—WO2 Aspinall, Capt Blood, QMSI Bryson

CHARITY EVENTS

Two of the Regiment's wives whilst on detachment with their husbands to a unit of the US Army in Augsburg were the recipients of a special award at a splendid ceremony.

Mrs Issy Kempster and **Mrs Angelika Neal**, 'co-chairmen' of the 1984 Augsburg Officers' and Civilian Women's Club Bazaar which raised over $10,000 for charity, were presented with the VII (US) Corps Certificate of Achievement by **Brig Gen Donald Eckelbarger** the Augsburg Community Commander.

Brig Gen Donald Eckelbarger seen flanked by two proud ladies

Not to be outdone **SSgt Paul Jarrold** presented a cheque to the CO on behalf of A Troop 1 Squadron for DM2000. The troop ran a series of BFTs and were sponsored on how many were completed without a break—and all this on April Fool's Day! The money was donated to the RAF Germany Band Families Fund. A special mention must go to **Cpl Ian Usher** who managed five BFTs in under two hours—well done.

The CO seen congratulating SSgt Jarrold and the members of Alpha Troop as he receives the cheque for DM2000. OC 1 Sqn manages a smile as it was all done before the Sqn audit

SGTS' MESS

At a farewell dinner on 15 February we said goodbye to **WO1 Pete Derrick, SSgt Martin Farmer** and **Sgt Brian Sly**. We wish them and their families all the best in civilian life. The evening was, however, marred by the necessity of a Court Martial when **WO1 Pete Westwell** was arraigned before the Court on several serious charges. The outcome was a foregone conclusion and he was banished to the Officers' Mess for eternity!

The Court Martial in progress with *L—R:* WO1 Pete Westwell (the Defendant), WO1 Derek 'Foxy' Fowler (Defence Counsel), WO1 Ray Jeffery (Judge Advocate), WO1 Nick Naylor (Prosecuting Council) and in the background Sgt Mike Kell (Master at Arms)

3 SQUADRON (BERLIN)
ARRIVALS AND FAREWELLS

We have had several new arrivals since our last notes were published and we extend a warm welcome to **Capt Bill Hogg, WO1 John Sharrock, Sgts John Evans** and **Larry Payne, Cpls Bob Brewster, Craig Turner, LCpls Andy Charles, Dave Fuller, Pete Heppinstall** and **Glynn Wright, LCpls Jane Higgins** and **Helen Townley WRAC**. Our congratulations also go to **Cpl** and **Mrs Patrick** and **Cpl** and **Mrs Jones** who both had sons and to **Cpl** and **Mrs Clarkson** who had a daughter.

Sadly, as always, we bid farewell to **WO1 Tom Lackenby, Sgts Paul Woodward, Phil Gordon, Paul Lancaster** and **Rick Anton, Cpls Simon Hayward** and **Tony Gilbert, LCpls Paul Gardner** and **Dave Walton** and finally to **Sgt Steph Valentine WRAC**. We wish them all well in the future.

CROSS-COUNTRY

On Tuesday 26 February **Lt Col R. H. J. Forsyth 1 PWO**, on behalf of the Brigade Commander, presented 3 Sqn with the trophy for being Berlin Minor Units Cross-Country Champions 1984-1985. Races had taken place every Tuesday since September 1984 with a total of 13 races completed.

The final result depended on the last race of the season with 3 Sqn losing on the day but managing to hold on to their overall lead from 38 Field Sqn RE who were runners-up in the overall competition. It was sometimes depressing to turn up week after week and know that the first 12 places would be filled by 1 PWO, the BAOR and Army Champions, but perserverence paid off in the end.

The team was: *Back Row L—R:* WO2 (FofS) Grimmitt, Sgt Payne, Cpl Ruddock, Capt Donovan
Front Row L—R: Cpl Turner, WO2 (SSM) Heaney, Sgts Lancaster, Pearson; missing Sgts Gordon and Woodward and Cpl Patchett all since posted

ORIENTEERING

On 15 February, a rather chilly day (−8), the Berlin Orienteering Championships took place at the Wannsee. The map maker **Yves Baujard** of the French Sector, planned an excellent 8.3Km course over undulating terrain in mainly open forest.

The 3 Sqn 'A' team, **Capt Donovan, WO2 (SSM) Heaney** and **Sgt Roberts** finished a creditable second place in the Minor Units event to a very strong 14 Field Workshop team. **WO2 Heaney** and **LCpl Davidson** (from the 'B' team) qualified as individuals for the BAOR Championships to be held on 11/12 May. The Squadron will be sending a team to the Championships as a Minor Unit as 14 Field Workshop are unable to provide a team.

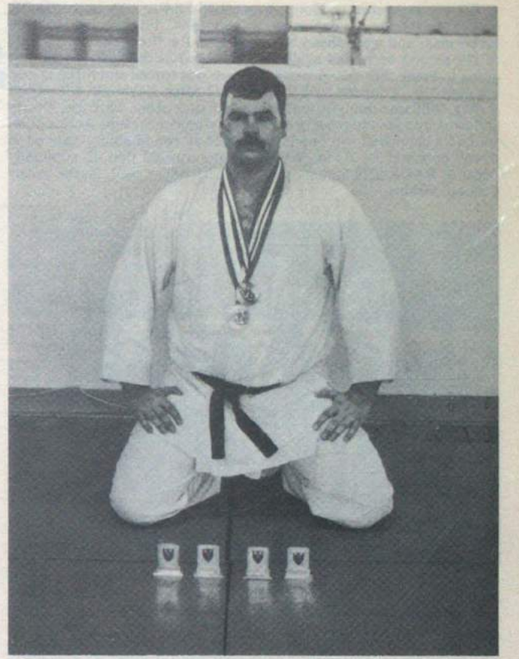
REGIMENTAL SPORTS NOTES
JUDO

The 1984/85 Judo Season augered well for our team with all players placed highly in the BAOR Individuals. The results were as follows:

SSgt Jim Leivers	2nd Middleweight
Cpl Ian Vernon	2nd Heavyweight
LCpl 'Gaz' Payne	3rd Middleweight
LCpl John Lee	Bantamweight Champion

Cpl Vernon and **LCpl Lee** both went to UK finishing third in their respective classes.

In the BAOR Team Championships the team did well to make the final against the Green Jackets. This time the result was reversed and the Green Jackets won by three bouts to two in a hard and at times very close contest. The team then went on to finish fourth overall in the Army Team Championships. The team was led by **WO2 QMSI 'Warlord' Bryson** and consisted of **Lt Baston, WO2 (QMSI) Bryson, SSgts Leivers, Bowman, Cpl Vernon, LCpls Payne** and **Lee**.



Cpl Ian Vernon with his collection of trophies for this season

HOCKEY—RCZ MAJOR UNITS HOCKEY FINAL

Rheindahlen Garrison met 13 Sig Regt in the RCZ Major Units hockey final at Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld. The host unit, 16 Sig Regt, had done a superb job clearing the tarmac pitch of snow ready for play. We pushed back and attacked immediately forcing a penalty corner in the first minute. **WO2 Mick Raybould** struck an excellent shot at goal which **LCpl Paddy Williams** converted on the rebound. Garrison replied by mounting aggressive attacks forcing a penalty stroke, which they failed to convert, just before half time. In the second half we became more positive and gradually took firm control of the game. Both teams are to be congratulated on a fine game played with plenty of determination and skill and we would like to mention the umpires who controlled the match admirably.

An injured WO1 Bob White our erstwhile Hockey Manager receives the (BR) RCZ Major Units Cup from Lt Col P. K. Robinson RCT with a smiling Capt Peter Kirkbride the Hockey Secretary in the background

The team travelled to Hohne to meet 45 Fd Regt RA in the BAOR quarter-finals. On the day, it has to be said, 45 Fd Regt RA were the better team and went ahead by one goal in the first half. At the start of the second 45 scored again and it looked as though we were not going to break through. A penalty corner was forced and this was well converted by a superb strike from **WO2 Mick Raybould** with **LCpl Paddy Williams** doing a well rehearsed stick stop. This was closely followed by a second penalty corner with the same result. At this point we had a chance to win but 45's superior all round ability resulted in a well deserved 3—2 win. We were not surprised that 45 eventually became BAOR Champions and we wish them well in the Army Championships.

Our team coach Lt Col Gerry Grint tells us about the 'one that got away'

Cpl 'Taff' James at speed whose achievements to date are:

BAOR v French Forces	Jan 85	2nd
Inter Corps	Jan 85	12th
Welsh Championships	Feb 85	41st
RCZ League	Mar 85	4th overall

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Regimental Cross-Country team has had a very enjoyable and successful season commencing with the Regimental Cross-Country event in September 1984. The men's race was won by **Cpl Taff James** and **Sgt June Molloy WRAC** won the ladies.

The next major event in the calendar was the (BR) RCZ Championships at Krefeld on 23 November 1984. Against all the odds the team came in second behind Rheindahlen Garrison. First home was **Cpl Eric Clee**, who ran well above himself to finish in eighth place overall.

So to the main event—the BAOR Championships. These were held at Korbecke in December but, unfortunately, we had a disappointing result, finishing in seventh place. In the (BR) RCZ/RAFG league we finished fifth overall.

In the individual results **Cpl Taff James** has been by far the most successful runner, finishing fourth in the league placings, this brings sponsorships from Tiger the sports firm. Other names of note are our CO **Lt Col Gordon Howard, Cpl Dave Forbes** and **Sig 'Taff' Burdge**. Mentions of course must go to **WO2 John 'Mr Jogger' Smith** and **Sgt Nick 'The Giant' Nielson** who managed the team so well throughout the season.

In the Dutch Military Cross-Country league we are the only British team and are lying second out of 18 participating teams. **Cpl Dave Forbes** is lying in tenth place with two races to go.

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14 Sig Regt (EW)
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MOVE COMPLETE

At the beginning of February the Regiment completed the move into Taunton Barracks, Celle. Having been used to a small camp at Scheuen we rattled around in our new camp for the first few days but soon put the extra space to good use. We also took over as Station Regiment in Celle which has resulted in us taking part in a variety of local Anglo/German events including the Aller Swim (a 7km swim down the frozen river Aller), Celle Waser Lauf (a mini London Marathon), both of which raised money for a local charity, and a variety of shooting and bowling sessions.

VISIT BY SOinC

On Thursday 11 April the SOinC **Maj Gen R. Benbow** visited. After inspecting the Quarter Guard, **Maj Gen Benbow** toured the Regiment and then saw a display of equipment. Before lunch in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, **Maj Gen Benbow** presented a MID and five LS&GC Medals. The day was rounded off with supper in the Officers' Mess.

Maj Gen R. Benbow inspects the Quarter Guard accompanied by Lt Col M. P. S. Shaw and Sgt Callahan, from *L to R:* Sig Elliot, Cpl May, Sig Young, Cpl Brothwood, LCpl McGuggon

The medal recipients from *L to R:* WO1 G. T. Nelson, Sgt J. Allen, WO2 R. J. Winstanley, SSgt M. Holland, WO2 (RQMS) F. Byrne, Sgt J. G. G. Smith RAMC, SOinC seated with wives and younger observers

THE SPORTING SCENE

On the sporting side, we have a full sporting calendar lined up. We won the BAOR Badminton Competition and came fourth in the Divisional Skill-at-Arms Meeting qualifying for Bisley.

BRIAN'S BENCH

As many will remember, **Maj (QM) Brian Turner** passed away on 17 November 1983 whilst serving with 14 Sig Regt (EW).

On 24 March 1985, those Officers' Mess members who were here whilst **Brian** was with us, presented a wooden garden bench to the Mess in memory of him.

The occasion was marked by the presence of his widow **Beryl** and daughter **Karen** who were visiting Celle over that weekend, and **Beryl** received the bench, on behalf of the Mess, from the CO, **Lt Col Shaw**.

JRC SPONSORED PARACHUTE JUMP

On 23 March 20 Junior Ranks of the Regiment, led by **Capt Andy Boyle**, took part in a one day parachute jump at Sennelager. The aim was to raise money for the Linear Excelorator Appeal Cancer Fund and a local Orphanage in Celle.

The day started rather windy and it was feared the weather would prevent parachuting. It changed for the better and we finally jumped at 1800 hrs after a full day of hard training.

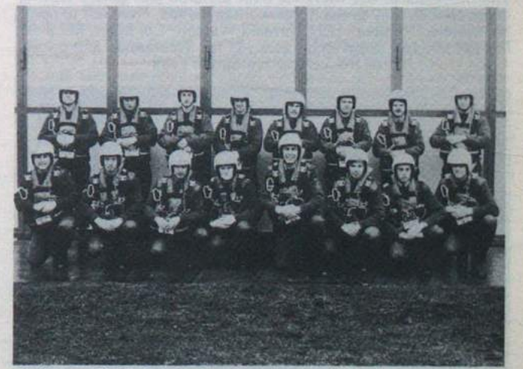
None of the 21 had jumped before, therefore there were some strange sights during the dispatch from an aircraft simulator and **Cpl Paul Stretton**, of the Pay Corps, was having problems counting from one thousand and one to one thousand and six without his calculator.

The act of practising the parachute roll was also amusing as 21 males of all shapes and sizes were seen leaping off a ramp and landing in some hilarious positions. It is just as well that **Sig Smudge Smith** is built for comfort and not speed as his rear end seemed to be the first part of his anatomy to hit the ground every time.

A WORTHY OUTCOME

When we were finally allowed to board the aircraft, an Islander, the butterflies in the stomach had turned into fruit bats! All was fine until the Jump Master, **Sgt Jock Muir AAC**, opened the door and threw out the wind direction strip. This meant it was our turn next!

I am glad to report that we all left the plane in a reasonably professional free-fall position—all that is except **Sig Pool** who dived out, which caused him to turn over and over like a ball. Although his 'chute took eight seconds to open fully, he landed safely, as we all did. The end result was that the JRC raised DM3,000.00 for the two very worthwhile causes, and a good day was had by all.



Back row: Sig Frost, Heaton, Smallwood, Longson, Craig, Smith, Kyles, Donaghue
Front Row: Cpl Bayford, LCpls Oldham, Wright, Taylor, Capt Boyle, LCpl Wymer, Sig Moulson, Preston

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

WORK HARD—PLAY HARD

A particularly busy couple of months dominated by a full Regimental deployment on Ex *Wintex*, and the success of our Novice Boxing team in reaching the semi-final of the BAOR Championship and Karneval. The severe Winter weather persisted right into March leaving lengthy backlogs of fixtures for the football, hockey and rugby teams. Spring is now with us and we look forward to a long hot summer.

KARNEVAL

The period just prior to Lent is the time for Karneval in Germany particularly in the Rhineland. Krefeld, situated on the Rhine on the outskirts of the Ruhr, celebrate Karneval to the full and the Regiment for the second successive year participated in all the activities. The grand finale of Karneval is the Rosenmontag procession through the streets of Krefeld with hundreds of floats, many bands and everybody dressed in fancy dress. The theme for the Regiment's float was London life. Under the supervision of **Lt Ian Westerman** and **SSgt Bob Taylor** a 4 ton flat platform was transformed into a highly colourful and tongue in cheek display complete with Tower of London, a couple of City gents, an English bobby, a cricketer and a famous couple whose wedding took place in London just a few years ago! The float was well received by the thousands of people who lined the routes. The Anglo-German Society too took full advantage of the Karneval spirit and for the second successive year staged a Fancy Dress Party. Once again it was a tremendously popular and very well supported with almost 200 in attendance. In addition we were delighted to welcome the Krefeld Karneval Prince and Princess together with their complete honour guard which made a colourful and amusing display. The junior Prince and Princess from the suburb of Stahldorf also attended together with their guard. A very full evening which was made complete with oompah music and much beer!

The members of the Karneval float pictured just before leaving camp on their way to the Rosenmontag Parade. *From left to right:* Mr Stephen Webber, LCpl Lorraine Watson, Cpl Mitch Mitchell, Pte Gill Mitchell, SSgt Bob Taylor, Lt Ian Westerman and on top of the vehicle Sig Simon Lees.

The Krefeld Karneval Prince and Princess together with their honour guard pictured at the Anglo German Society Karneval Party

NOVICE BOXING

Having won the RCZ Championship our Novice Boxing Team, under the management of **WO2 (SSM) Gary Mason** and **Cpl Jim McIntosh**, proceeded into the quarter-final of the BAOR Competition where their opponents were to be the Berlin champions 1 Bn Hampshire Regiment. Fortunately we won the toss and had the advantage of fighting at home. The gymnasium was packed to capacity and the atmosphere tense and expectant. On the evening our boxers were superb, a credit to their hard work and the coaching of **Gary Mason** and **Jim McIntosh**. The final outcome was a resounding victory by eight bouts to one.

Our opponents in the BAOR semi-finals were the 3 Armd Div Champions—19 Fd Regt RA. Once again we had the good fortune of home advantage and despite having to fight during *Wintex*, as many off shift personnel as possible came down from the hills for the contest. Unfortunately it was not to be a fairy tale ending and despite our boxers putting on a brave and skilful display we were well beaten by a very strong team with the final score seven bouts to two. Our two victorious boxers **Sig Kev McCabe** at Bantamweight and **Sig Jock Gunn** at Lightweight are exceptional young boxers and have bright futures in this demanding sport. Of some consolation to our team was the subsequent news that 19 Fd Regt RA beat 1 Bn Green Howards in the BAOR Final. We now look forward to meeting 22 Sig Regt in the BAOR Competition.

PS. We must take this opportunity to pass on our appreciation and best wishes to our hard working manager **WO2 (SSM) Gary Mason** who has been posted on promotion as RSM of 33 Sig Regt (V). Good luck **Gary**!

The Regimental Boxing Team after their success in defeating 1 Bn Royal Hampshire Regiment 8—1 in the BAOR Quarter Final:
Back Row L—R: SSgt Gordon Shelley, Cpl 'Taff' Dale, Sig Al Northcott, Mick Todd, Kev Bailey, CO, Sig Kev Bausor, Nick Collins, 'Jock' Lindsay, 'Taff' Evans, Cpl 'Mac' McIntosh, Sgt Andy Horne APTC, (Late Royal Signals)
Front Row L—R: Cpl 'Titch' Vella, Sig Kev McCabe, 'Gaz' Powell, 'Dougie' Douglas, Dave Copley, 'Jock' Gunn, 'Richy' Richardson

STAMMTISCH

Another fine example of the excellent relationship which exists between the Regiment and Krefeld took place at the end of March when the Oberburgermeister **Herr Dieter Putzhofen** accompanied by his two senior town officials the Oberstadtdirektor **Dr Herman Steffans** and Beigeordneter **Dr Hans Vogt** visited the Regiment. The aim of the meeting was to discuss matters of mutual concern and interest. In particular the annual Freedom Parade scheduled to take place on 6 September and the Regiment's participation in Stadt Krefeld's celebration of the 40th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities. Over tea and cakes all arrangements were concluded to everybody's satisfaction in a most friendly and relaxed manner. So successful was this meeting that it was decided to make it a biannual event.

The CO Lt Col I. E. Kerr greets the Oberburgermeister of Krefeld on his arrival in the Officers' Mess for the Stammtisch. Maj Tony Sugdon is in the background

REGIMENTAL SKILL-AT-ARMS (RSAAM)

It was decided to stage this year's RSAAM much earlier than usual in order that the best talent can go forward to represent the Regiment in the RCZ Skill-at-Arms and hopefully go forward to Bisley. Under the expert guidance and organisation by **Capt Jim Allen**, on his third RSAAM, a full three days of male and WRAC shooting went like clockwork. Even the weather was relatively kind and, in particular the final day, when the sun shone warmly. Scores were particularly good, especially within the WRAC competitors, where for the second successive year we witnessed a steady improvement in their shooting and weapon handling skills both with the SMG and pistol. Surely the time is now overdue to scale both weapons and ammunition for WRAC? The results were as follows:

Female	—	Individual Pistol	—	**Pte Scouse Johnson** 4 Sqn
	—	Champion Team Pistol	—	4 Sqn B
	—	Individual SMG	—	**LCpl Carol Wheatley** 3 Sqn
	—	Champion Team SMG	—	4 Sqn B
	—	Champion at Arms	—	**Pte Linda Dean** 4 Sqn
	—	Champion Team RSAAM	—	4 Sqn B
	—	Best Novice	—	**Pte Linda Dean** 4 Sqn
Male	—	Champion Pistol Tiles	—	M Tp
	—	Champions Falling Plate	—	A Tp
	—	Individual Pistol	—	**Maj Colin Rayner** 4 Sqn
	—	Champion Pistol Team	—	HQ Sqn A
	—	Individual SMG	—	**Sgt Billy Watts** 3 Sqn
	—	Champion SMG Team	—	3 Sqn A
	—	Champion LMG Pair	—	**Cpl Rick Extance** and **Sig Taff Drakes** 2 Sqn A
	—	Champion LMG Team	—	HQ Sqn B
	—	Individual SLR	—	**LCpl 'Wilky' Wilkinson** HQ Sqn
	—	Champion Team Association Cup	—	2 Sqn B
	—	Champion Team Whitehead Cup	—	3 Sqn B
	—	Individual Guest Champion	—	**Cpl Ditchburn** 28 (BR) Sig Regt
	—	Champion Guest Team	—	28 (BR) Sig Regt
	—	Champion Shot 3 Class	—	**LCpl 'Wilky' Wilkinson** HQ Sqn
	—	Champion Team RSAAM	—	HQ Sqn A
	—	Champion at Arms RSAAM	—	**Cpl Michael Rose** 2 Sqn
	—	Best Novice	—	**Cpl Peter Coomber** HQ Sqn

The very successful 4 Sqn WRAC shooting teams pictured with all their trophies after the RSAAM. A clean sweep bar one trophy

The Champion Team RSAAM from HQ Sqn receiving their trophies from the CO's wife Mrs P. Kerr. *From Left to Right:* Cpls Geoff Copley, 'Chic' Ross, Pete McCormack, Sig Paul Firth, Cpl Steve Bungay, LCpl Michael Wilkinson

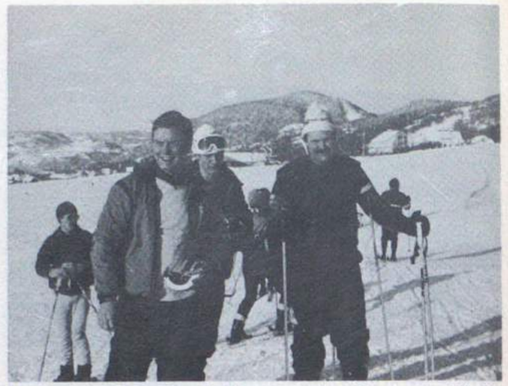
BONE OF CONTENTION 1985

On 29 March the annual rugby match between a combined Officers and SNCOs team and the JNCOs and soldiers team took place. The game was played in a very good spirit, but with each side giving no quarter! **Cpl 'Bav' Bavister** opened the scoring from a penalty about 10 minutes into the match. The game then started in earnest with some good rugby being played by both sides. The seniors had the strongest forwards, the Juniors the strongest backs. **Cpl Bavister** ran in with a try and then converted it. There were some very good movements notably by Regimental 2IC **Maj Chris Melhuish** and OC 3 Sqn **Maj Willy Brewin** whose running abilities enabled **Capt Peter Russell RAEC** to score. At half time the score was 9—7 to the Juniors.

The second half was again very fast, the Juniors had a surge of effort or more probably, the Officers and SNCOs ran out of steam late in the second half, and ran in three tries by **Cpls Derek Smeaton, 'Pom' Pomeroy** and **Pete Griffiths**. The last two were converted by **Cpl Bavister**. The final score was 25—7 to the Juniors. **Sig Clark 'Medallion Man' Stanley-Jones** is convinced the score was a direct result of him playing in the second half, no-one else believes him though!

A good game was had by all and a very successful third half was completed.

The CO, Lt Col I. E. Kerr straight from the fray presents the Bone of Contention to the juniors team captain Cpl 'Pom' Pomeroy



The author, 2Lt Gordon Anderson, on the right poses with 2Lt Jake Thackray (22 Sig Regt) during the learn to ski phase on *Whiteshod* 85

LIPPSTADT MARCHES 85

Once again the Regiment took part in the Lippstadt Marches and this year gained a Major Trophy with the largest military team entered consisting of 49 personnel of which 14 were from 11 SU RAF attached personnel. The team as a whole consisted of nine WRAC/WRAF members who all completed the course although **LCpl Janet** (Tender Foot) **Jeffery WRAC** was seen to be going the wrong way after receiving first aid at checkpoint three.

There is no truth in the rumour that Royal Signals will always provide the beer for the RAF at future marches. Our thanks to 22 Sig Regt for organising such an enjoyable event.

EX *WHITESHOD* '85

Report by 2Lt Gordon Anderson

On 27 January four officers from the Corps set off on a Winter Warfare Course with the Norwegian Army Signal Corps. They were **Lt Paul Hodgekiss** 28 (BR) Sig Regt, **Lt Mark Baines** 21 Sig Regt, **2Lt Gordon Anderson** 16 Sig Regt and **2Lt Jake Thackray** 22 Sig Regt.

The course took place at Joerstadmoen, which is approximately 200Kms north of Oslo and was designed to teach students who had little or no experience in winter warfare to ski and operate as a unit in severe winter conditions. The first part of the course, two weeks, was spent learning to ski and use Norwegian equipment. This included a range practice in near blizzard conditions, with our sights freezing up. We were not alone on the course, other members were five members of US Marine Corps, eight Dutch Royal Marines and one German mountain leader from the Bundeswehr. Ski training provided many amusing moments, the many falls were so good that a scoring system was introduced for style and ingenuity. The spectacular 'head in snow, legs in air', was the outright winner.

The third and fourth weeks were spent on two exercises in the mountains. The first was a four day tactical exercise which started with a nightmare ski journey down into a valley in complete darkness. Other slight difficulties that occurred were collapsing snow caves and very heavy pulks, (a large sledge towed by two men).

The second exercise was a five day mountain march, we only realized the sheer size of Norway during this exercise, at one point there was no other human closer than 50Kms. Highlights were the incredible view in brilliant sunshine—**Jake Thackray**'s combustible gaiters—**Mark Baines**' growth on his shoulders called a pulk—**Paul Hodgekiss** who slipped whilst climbing over a fence, being asked if he was all right as everyone skied past and **Gordon Anderson**'s ability to remain upright whilst being towed by a snow vehicle!

The fifth and final weeks were taken up by preparations for the 30Km biathlon, a very gruelling test. Everyone completed the race with **Paul Hodgekiss** achieving the Bronze ski badge for his time.

Then it was time to return to Germany. It was a superb course, despite the price of beer 10 DM a half litre. No wonder the Norwegians make moonshine!

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

BECOMING AN IN-PENSIONER

To be eligible for admission as an In-Pensioner, a candidate must be:-

in receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Military Service, or of the Victoria Cross or George Cross Annuity awarded in respect of bravery while serving in the British Army;

of good character;

normally at least 65 years of age: exceptionally, a candidate may be admitted between 55 and 65 if through disability he cannot earn his own living and receives a pension for an Army disability;

able to look after himself—that is, to wash, shave and dress himself, attend for meals in the Great Hall and walk around without assistance;

free from the obligation to support a wife or children;

passed medically fit for admission.

In addition, a man of good character drawing Service Retired Pay who had at least 12 years' full time service in the ranks of the British Army over the age of 18 may be eligible for admission after attaining the age of 65.

In-Pensioners are not allowed to marry, though they may leave the Royal Hospital in order to do so.

When the admission of a Pensioner is approved by the Commissioners he is given a free railway warrant for the journey to London. On admission, he surrenders his service or disability pension in return for free board, lodging, clothing and medical attention. Contributory retirement pensions are retained by the In-Pensioners as well as any other civil pensions or any private means they may have.

In-Pensioners are required to wear the medals to which they are entitled. If on admission an In-Pensioner has lost or no longer has in his possession the medals to which he is entitled, replacements will be obtained for him from the Army Medal Office, and he will be required to pay half the cost of these replacement medals.

In-Pensioners are not permitted to keep or drive a car within the precincts of the Royal Hospital. In-Pensioners are also not permitted to drive a car when in Royal Hospital Uniform or to drive a car with In-Pensioners in Uniform as passengers.

An In-Pensioner may be allowed to leave the Hospital and return to ordinary civilian life and resume the Out-Pension which he ceased to draw when he was admitted; if he leaves within six months of admission, he is liable to be charged for part cost of his uniform. Any man may be discharged by order of the Board for misconduct, when his Out-Pension may, or may not, be restored, either at the former or at some lower rate. Once a pensioner reverts to Out-Pension whether voluntarily or otherwise, he cannot be guaranteed re-admission as an In-Pensioner.

A form of application for admission to In-Pension may be obtained from The Secretary, Room 6, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SL.

Royal Signals in Support of the RAF
Photograph shows a Telemech of 21 Sig Regt (AS) guarding a damaged operational cable prior to the Battle Damage Repair team arriving in location. MRCA Tornado of 31 Sqn RAF seen taxiing in the background

REGIMENTAL FAREWELL

Although heavily committed on Ex *Wintex* the Regiment said farewell to our Station Commander, **Group Captain J. Allison MBE RAF** on Thursday 7 March. A ceremonial Barrack Guard was formed from HQ and 3 Sqns and commanded by **Sgt Alan Hoensch**. In shining boots, highly pressed DPM combats (courtesy of our QM Dept) the guard were ready.

The Station Commander arrived at RHQ and was met by the CO and RSM. The signing of the Regimental Visitors Book, coffee and biscuits and a farewell chat ensued. During this period **Sgt Alan Hoensch** quietly moved his guard into position.

Our Station Commander having had his farewell chat was expecting to slip away quietly but on leaving RHQ was confronted by the guard. Having taken the salute he then spoke to every member of the guard.

On completion of the guard the Station Commander thanked them for their hard work in putting on a faultless display and further commented that they were a credit not only to the Regiment but to their respective Corps and that they reflected the high standards of the Army that he has now come to know.

Sig Harper (QM Dept) telling the Station Commander how much he enjoys RAF Wildenrath

As a final gesture to our Station Commander **Sig 'Buddy' Rich** presented to **Gp Capt Allison** a Bronze figure of Mercury on behalf of all the Ranks of the Regiment. At the same time **Cpl 'Scouse' Mahoney** was presenting to **Mrs Allison**, on behalf of the Regiment, with a silver stick-pin of Mercury. The Regiment said farewell to two good friends in **Gp Capt** and **Mrs Allison** and we wish them well in the future.

Sig 'Buddy' Rich presenting the Station Commander with a figure of Mercury on behalf of all ranks of 21 Signal Regiment (Air Support)

DGEME VISIT

On the 28 January the Regiment were visited by DGEME **Maj Gen T. B. Palmer**. On arrival, the General was met and welcomed to the Regiment by **Lt Col Mike Ayrton** and **RSM Geoff Northey**.

After coffee and biscuits the General was given a brief by OC LAD **Capt Mike French REME**.

An in-depth visit of the LAD followed, and the General found time to meet and talk to every member of the LAD. The LAD members in out-lying areas, Osnabruch, Laarbruch and Gutersloh, all converged on Wildenrath for the visit, thus bringing them together for the first time for many months.

DGEME, Maj Gen Palmer talking to Cfn Derbyshire, OC LAD, Capt Mile French looks on. AQMS Jim McDonald trying to keep a low profile behind Cfn Derbyshire

The Regimental LAD REME. The first time for many years that all the LAD have been able to get together

NEWS FROM THE SERGEANTS' MESS

The period following Ex *Wintex* has been fairly quiet.

The 'pongo' nights continue to occur with only the location changing; we now hold them in our Regimental Club—'The Train'. There have been many farewells, **WO2 Les Collins, WO2 Jimmy McGovern, WO2 Gus Hartley, WO2 Terry Jack, WO2 Don Wilson, Sgt Larry Evenett RAPC, SSgt Bill Woodmason**, and in their places we welcome **WO2 Jimmy Neil, WO2 Colin Ross, WO2 Roger Secker, Sgt Paul Rodford RAPC** and **SSgt Doug Ellis**.

DINING OUT

On 15 March the WOs and SNCOs bade farewell to **RQMS Jimmy McGovern** at the end of 22 years' service. The Mess were pleased to welcome as guests are 2IC **Maj David Dobson, Maj (QM) Tom Keany**, OC L Tp **Capt Bill Miles, WO John Bateman RAF** Mess Manager and our super-sleuth **WO Ted Whitham RAF** Police Flight.

After a first class meal **RSM Geoff Northey** presented **Jim** with a suitably inscribed farewell gift. After many kind words **Jim** made a presentation to the Mess of a silver salver and cigarette box. We all wish **Jim** every success in his new career in 'civvie street'. Royal Signals have lost a loyal friend and good soldier.

NEW SIGN

The Regiment have at last received the new sign at the entrance to Petersholz Compound. It was erected in time for the farewell to the Station Commander. The photograph shows the CO, QM and RSM 'launching' its existence, and deciding to drink the champagne instead of ruining the paint work by breaking the bottle over the sign!

Lt Col Mike Ayrton, CO *(left)*, RSM Geoff Northey and Maj (QM) Tom Keany, *(right)* toast the arrival of our new Regimental Sign, bearing the crest of RAF(G) and the Beaufighter

ROYAL SIGNALS BAOR—INTER UNIT BOXING

Wednesday 6 March saw the Regimental Boxing Team travel north to Herford to visit 4 Regt in the first round of the competition. Due to Ex *Wintex* the support for our Boxers came from 2 Sqn and N Tp at RAF Gutersloh.

Despite the needs of Ex *Wintex* our plucky fighters, under the watchful eye of our muscle-buster **'QMSI' Richard Wilson**, put up a good show.

Unfortunately we came up against a very well-equipped outfit in 4 ADSR and lost the contest eight bouts to one.

RESULTS:

	21 Sig Regt (AS)		**4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt**
Bantam	**Sig Cowley** 21 Sig Regt (AS) Walked Over.		
Feather	**Sig Clamp**	lost to	**Sig Griffiths**
	Referee stopped the contest 2nd round.		
Light	**Sig Parkin**	lost to	**Sig Barrett**
	Unanimous decision.		
L/Welter	**Sig Bennett**	lost to	**Sig Winship**
	Unanimous decision.		
L/Middle	**Sig Smith**	lost to	**Sig Bolton**
	Referee stopped the contest 2nd round.		
Middle	**Sig Saunders**	lost to	**Sig Norokin**
	Unanimous decision.		
L/Heavy	**Sig Coffey**	lost to	**Sgt Bennett**
	Unanimous decision.		
Heavy	**LCpl Rock**	lost to	**Sig Martin**
	Unanimous decision.		
Middle	**Sig Millar**	lost to	**Sig Thomspon**
	Referee stopped the contest 2nd round.		

NEWS FROM 1 SQUADRON
COMMCEN PAPPA'S *WINTEX*

It would only be fair to say, that the location chosen for Commcen Papa, was a little cruel; 25yds from a pub, on a dry exercise. The strain of this proved to be too much for one of our number, **Cpl 'Tommy' Steel**, who reported sick and was bedded down at BMH Iserlohn with severe withdrawal symptoms.

Sig 'Jock' Govan must have wished that he had been taken ill, when within earshot of **SSgt Bill 'Dr Pain' Pounder**, he admitted to not having dug a trench before. The situation was suitably rectified (suitably? ha, but rectified it was). Two days later, the trench was only 4ft deep, **Sig Govan** had decided it would be a good idea if he checked to see who was around before he spoke next.

Cpl James 'Jimmy Tam' Miller, det commander of one of the Triffid dets, tried very hard to turn his wagon into a restaurant, but it just did not look right. The food was very good though.

All in all it was a good Exercise, enjoyed by all members of the Commcen, and those who were borrowed from 2 Sqn.

BRAVO TROOP/CCQ

Bravo Troop has seen some changes over the past few months and sadly we have had to say goodbye to several members of the Troop. **Cpl Dave Hopper**, having run the Troop MT has now gone to the warmer climes of Saudi Arabia for two years, lucky so-and-so! **LCpl 'Fagend' Fagan**, having at last rid himself of the Troop's C70s has gone to 212 Sig Sqn, **Sig 'Nobby' Hall** has also opted for a hotter climate in Belize and **Sig 'Ginnar' Davies** has moved to Verden. We wish them all well in their new posts.

We welcome **LCpl Chris Booth** from 7 Sig Regt, to run the Troop's Line Detachment, and **Sig Darren Cowley** from 8 Sig Regt who is already determined that the Troop's new, gleaming, turbo-charged 4-Tonner will be his!

This period has seen *Wintex* 85, our major exercise for the beginning of the year and it was not without various events of interest. To start with steep, narrow tracks, icy snow and heavily laden 4-Tonners do not generally mix well and Torvill and Dean would have been impressed with the move into location (without music as well!—apart from the dulcet tones of **SSgt Tommy Perkins**). However, we did not bend anything and everything finished up in the right place at, more or less, the right time. Naturally as we had spent many hours threading white mine tape through the camm-nets the snow all started melting.

COMMCEN QUEBEC was a pretty cosmopolitan bunch for *Wintex* with WRAC on loan from 16 Sig Regt, 34 Sig Regt (V) and 36 Sig Regt (**Cpl Tracey Doherty**, sister of the then **Sgt 'Dave' Doherty** late of 1 Sqn being one of them). 2 Sqn lent us a detachment and operators and even D Troop sent a det to find out how a COMMCEN should really work. Thank you everyone; your help was greatly appreciated (though it was suspected that **Sig Joe Jevons** from 2 Sqn had had enough when he attempted 'Hari Kiri' with a corned beef can in the wee small hours).

The radio relay dets had their problems mainly of a culinary nature. It is hoped that **LCpl 'Elise' Lawrence-Crockford** has recovered after shattering a tooth on some toast and the full story remains to be heard of what happened to the communal Curry that 'evaporated' one night. (The immediate suspect is **SSM Trev Johnson** as he was rather miffed at not being invited in the first place.)

It is not clear what supernatural events happened on **LCpl** (then) **Kev Jenkins'** det but there was some worry at Commcen Command when their resupply demand included such items as wild garlic and Silver 7.62mm rounds with cross-cut noses! They also entered a live NBC phase with **Sig 'Moz' Morris** indiscriminately spreading 'flu' bacteria all over the place. Could it be something to do with skating on thin ice?

There appeared to be a bit of a language problem when an American helicopter crew, who had been conned by the OC, **Maj Tim Bushell** and the SSM (the **'Red Baron'**) to transport them in style and luxury, visited the relay site. On being introduced, **LCpl Wilf Sneddon's** first words were 'Sprecken Sie Englische!' Never mind **Wilf**, we all have problems understanding our Transatlantic friends at times.

A DRUM

We have been harbouring an assassin in our midst! The CO and the Colonel were deep in conversation (probably the OC requesting yet more time to go sailing!) at the bottom of the hill when there came the sound of something heavy and metallic rolling along the ground which all but drowned a plaintive cry 'Er, Er, Sir Si . . . . . ir!' Behind this drum of quad, careering in blind malevolence towards the back of the Colonel's knees, appeared **Sig Nobby Hall** (also careering blindly, and in panic). Oscar Charlie, with no thought for his personal safety (but more probably his chances of going sailing!), performed a feat normally seen only at Covent Garden or the Bolshoi when he plucked the CO from the rampaging menace (and the drum of quad) and the day was saved. The next question is: Was the same person responsible for the structional failure of the Adjt's airborne basha one moonless night and the Ops Offr's gastronomic surprise one dinner? **Capt Brian McAneny**, our new Ops Offr is rather partial to the odd 'Baby's Head' and was extremely disappointed to find them all gone. He gloweringly accepted a whole apple pudding swimming in custard and savagely attacked it with his spoon. A vicious spurt of steak and kidney gravy mingled in contrast to the custard; the Ops Offr's day was complete! What we all want to know is what happened to the 'diffy' apple pudding?

'Ma'am' **Lt Margaret Johnson** celebrated her '21st and a bit' birthday in the field complete with cake and chorus.

Congratulations to **FofS Terry Jack** on his promotion to WO2. However, it is not wise to sew on rank badges before checking with the RSM about positions! Congratulations also to **LCpl Dave Coleman** and **Cpl Kev Jenkins** on their well deserved promotions.

THREE LITTLE OFFICERS

Once upon a time there were three little officers whose Commanding Officer sent them away from home warning them about Big Bad Huffing and Puffing SSM's.

Now that first little officer built himself a Basha out of straw—the SSM saw it and said 'wot the hell is that?' and blew the Basha down. The little officer did not have a kip.

The next little officer built his Basha with sticks—the SSM saw it and said 'wot the hell is that?' and blew the Basha down. The little officer did not have a kip.

The last little officer built his Basha at last light from things and shiny rings—the SSM saw it and said 'b . . . . . hell, wot is that?' and he huffed and puffed and he could not blow the Basha down and the last little officer kipped and kipped and kipped . . . . . .

NEWS FROM 3 SQUADRON

INNER GERMAN BORDER VISIT

Report by LCpl Steve Purnell H Troop RAF Bruggen

Early January provided a break from normal routine for me, **Sig Jim Burgess** and **Sig John Tadman**, in the form of a visit to the Inner German border at Helmstedt. The visit was organised by RAF Bruggen and hosted by 246 Provo Coy RMP. It was over a three day period, and took in the most interesting places of the local border area.

Generally the East Germans kept a very low profile, but watched us intently following our every movement from behind their binoculars. Our guide was an officer of the British Frontier Service who answered our every question, and at appropriate points told us of successful escapes made from east to west.

The highlight of the outing came at the end of an already interesting first day, when we came face to face with two members of the East German military, on a rail bridge which crosses the inner border. Separated by only a few yards, we stared at each other and many photographs were taken by both sides, we all came away with a deep and lasting impression of an up till now faceless threat.

N TROOP CROSS COUNTRY

The 25 available members of the Troop from OC **Capt Longhurst** downwards assembled on the sports field on Wednesday 13 March afternoon amid fog with a visibility of about 25-50m ready for the first part of our Troop sports spectacular. The Troop was divided into five teams of approximately equal ability by **Staff Tom Ginty** based on individual performances during the **Ginty** marathon races.

Run over a distance of just over 5 miles the racers—loosely termed—set off. **Cpl Ian Johnson** and **'Staff' Tom Ginty** following with the car to ensure not too many of the backmarkers got lost in the fog. Twenty-nine minutes and 30 seconds later the winner, **Sig Touche Hadfield**, crossed the finish line, and from then onwards there was a steady stream of runners until the last man, **Sig 'Dobber' Fielding**, screeched in in 43 minutes.

The victors were **LCpls Bob Hindle, Craig Wrath, Sig 'Skinny' Wilson, 'Dusty' Millar** and **'Dobber' Fielding** and all that could be heard for the rest of the afternoon was that he had paced himself in last. However, he could have come in five places after last and still won a winners medal!

The medals were presented by OC Eng Wg, **Wg Cdr Leathart**, and OC EES, **Sqn Ldr Harris**, to the victorious team.

L to R: OC Eng Wing RAF Gutersloh, Wg Cdr Leathart, Sig Skinny Wilson, Dusty Millar, OC Tp Capt Dave Longhurst, *kneeling:* LCpls Bob Hindle, Craig Wrath and Sig Dobber Fielding

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

As a member of the Regular Armed Forces you know the value and satisfaction of doing a job well. At the end of your engagement you will be seeking the best employment available to meet your qualifications and ambitions. The RFEA exists to help you to find that employment and to settle in civil life. You may use our services as often as you wish thereafter.

If you have served with good character in the non-commissioned ranks of the Forces for a minimum of three years, or less if you are being discharged on medical grounds, the Association is at your service.

Our Employment Officers, all ex-Regulars, are situated at Branches throughout the United Kingdom and are in close contact with local employers and Jobcentres.

Branch address and telephone numbers can be found from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Regimental, Corps and Service Associations; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

The Association provides all its services free.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

WITH ANTICIPATION

The Regiment fits in an RSIT between Ex *Wintex/Winter Sales* and Ex *Flying Falcon* plus an interesting little night Exercise called *'Midnight Gambol'*!

The latest from Rumour Control—with the introduction of PTARMIGAN comes the 30-hour day. We await it with eager anticipation!

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Over the last few months we have waved farewell to a number of Officers.

Capt Taff Hope departed for Swingate, Dover, despite the efforts of others to keep him; **Lt Peter Kingston** our SCO left for Blandford unable to escape the Royal Signals again and **Lt Vyv Thatcher** is spending an enviable few months in Panama on Op *Raleigh* before going to Ouston.

We welcome **Lt Marcus Appleton** as SCO, **Lt Paul Ford** (fresh from skiing for our downhill team and every bit a champion), **2Lts Lawrence McCourt** and **Bob Howie** from Blandford and **WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson** who will be a welcome addition to our Golf team.

We also extend congratulations to those in the Regiment who have been selected for promotion to WO1 and WO2 and **Capt Mike Stevenson** on his recent promotion.

COMMANDER VISITS

In the last month the Regiment has been privileged to be visited by two Generals. Our first visitor, on 25 February was the GOC 4 Armd Div, **Maj Gen C. J. Waters CBE**, who spent a day touring the various squadrons and departments. He also presented the LS and GC medal to **SSgt Madge Watkins** of M Troop, in the Sergeants' Mess.

On 22 March, the Commander 1 (BR) Corps, **Lt Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB** paid a flying visit. He met key personalities and discussed training and recruiting in the Regiment with PTARMIGAN in mind.

The Co, Lt Col Peter Pritchard explains to the Corps Commander some of the equipment modifications necessary for PTARMIGAN

WO2 (AQMS) John Hutcheon demonstrates the uses of the new survival aids

QUICK MARCH

'An Army marches on its stomach' or so our chefs found as they struggled to cater for the hungry hordes in the Lippstadt Marches. Incredibly, having consumed 600 'Bratties', 1,000 beefburgers and 1,800 bottles of beer, all the marchers completed the 12 or 20Km course.

The 2,000 competitors, both military and civilian, came from as far afield as Luxembourg and spanned several generations. The trophy for the largest team went to the youngest team, from Lippstadt Primary School. Everyone had their own method of keeping dry in the unpredictable spring weather—some used bin liners, and the others crowded into the refreshment tents, much to the consternation of the cooks.

To mark their achievement, all the marchers received a silver or bronze Volks-Wanderung medal, depending on the distance covered.

No language barrier at the Weissenberg Stand!

'How many techs can you fit on an Opel Manta?' The Mike Troop team led by SSgt Madge Watkins

You've got to obey the rules when you're getting near the finish—The Mike Troop team again

BOXING

On 28 February the Regiment soundly beat 28 Sig Regt in the Quarter Final of the Royal Signals Inter Unit Novice Boxing Competition.

Hours of effort were put in by **Cpl John Black** in training the team and bringing them to the peak of fitness. They eventually won six of the nine bouts; a convincing victory. Special mentions should go to **Cpl Kenny Sappleton, Sig Jock Muir** and **Sig 'Kersh' Kershaw** whose wins were decided in the first round.

REGIMENTAL SPRING GOLF MEETING

Cold March winds and wintry April showers combined to produce the kind of weather we have come to expect for the Regimental Spring Golf Meeting this year. Nevertheless 24 competitors braved the elements and played an 18 hole medal/stableford in the morning followed by 18 holes Greensome Foursome in the afternoon.

Good scores were recorded, especially by the new addition to the team, **WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson**, and the complicated scoring system meant that the organiser **WO2 (SSM) Paddy Dickinson** could distribute the prizes fairly evenly amongst the competitors, in the true spirit of Regimental Sport. It was also a very welcome sight to see **LCpl Andy Lincoln** on his feet again after three months in hospital, and helping to organise the event.

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. Former officers and their dependants are charged £315 per week for a private room. The charge for other patients is £715. If, however, a patient can pay a sum nearer to the actual cost of his/her maintenance (now over £720 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, ( ), 6 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR, or phone 01-828 4454. Applications for admission should be made to the Matron on 01-486 4411.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

VISIT OF ACDS (CIS)

On Friday 15 March **Maj Gen Oehlers** visited the Regiment accompanied by **Air Cdre Breadner** and **Gp Capt Demmer.** The visitors were given a brief on the Regiment from the CO and the Ops Officer, **Capt Jim Ross.** Afterwards they were given a tour of the communications vehicles from each Squadron. In 2 Sqn, **Gen Oehlers** met both **Maj Jim Heck** and **Maj Matt Helm** who had all but completed their handover/takeover. To conclude the tour the visitors had lunch in the Officers' Mess.

Gen Oehlers meets Majs Matt Helm and Jim Heck during their handover/takeover. Looking on—Air Cdre Breadner, Gp Capt Demmer, and the CO Lt Col Cliff Walters

Gen Oehlers discussing the tactical picture with Capt Simon Green. The RSM maintains his 'Shoulders back' posture. The CO and Maj Jim Heck listen carefully

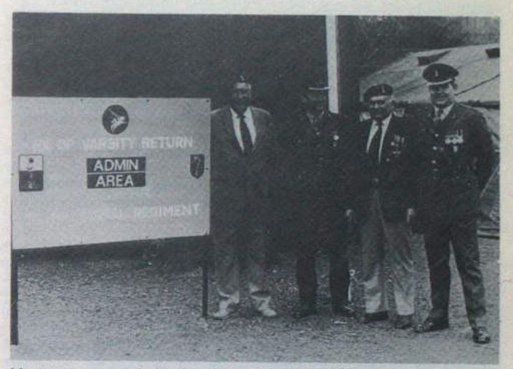
OPERATION *VARSITY*

We recently acted as the sponsor unit for a pilgrimage by 200 members of the 6 Airborne Division to commemorate Operation *Varsity* which was in support of the Rhine Crossings in March 1945. The visit began on Sunday 24 March with a Service at Reichswald Cemetery near Kleve where the salute for the march past of the veterans was taken by the Chief of Defence Staff, accompanied by the German Chief of the Defence Staff. On Monday 25 March, 40 years to the day after Operation *Varsity*, the Regiment hosted a battlefield tour of five Dropping Zones in the Hamminkeln area near Wesel.

As you will appreciate in view of the 'high visibility', research required, and numbers involved, this task was a major undertaking. The visit was highly acclaimed by all who attended.

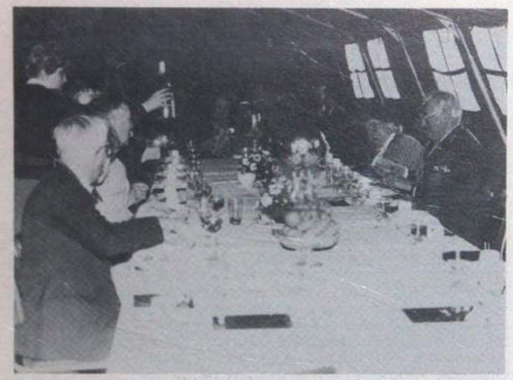
The major manpower commitment came from 1 Sqn organised by **WO2 (SSM) Terry Marsh.** Even **RSM Pete Bawden** was impressed by the standards achieved at each stand. In return, every Officer and soldier from the Regiment benefited from sharing the experiences with the veterans. Of particular note was the meeting of the old and the not so old. The CO, **Lt Col Cliff Walters** with the QM **Maj Frank Rogers** soon identified two ex signallers amongst the veterans. They met **Mr Ben George** of Newport, Gwent, who served with 'K' Section 5 Para Bde and **Mr Gordon Newman** of Caterham, Surrey, ex 'A' Section 6 Airborne Bde who both had fascinating recollections of their roles in Operation *Varsity*.

All in all the weekend was a tremendous success and a very valuable exercise for the Regiment. The aim now is to sponsor a battlefield tour for our sister Regiments in our local area later this year.



Veterans one and all. *L to R:* Ben George of Newport, Gwent, CO Lt Col Cliff Walters, Mr Gordon Newman of Caterham, Surrey, and QM—Maj Frank Rogers. There is no truth in the suggestion that Frank Rogers is the oldest looking one in the picture

Col Coates briefing the veterans at Stand One. The Farmhouse behind the audience was the site of HQ 6 Airborne Division for Op *Varsity* in 1945



CDS enjoys a 'field lunch' compliments of the Regiment. The wine is being served by Pte 'Yorkie' Richards

STORMING OF THE GATES

Each year, during the Karneval season, Fransisca Barracks is attacked by the St Tonis Prinz and Prinzessin with their Ministers and Guards.

The Karneval Prinz and Prinzessin are elected annually, along with their Ministers. They have a number of Guards each with a different district of St Tonis and each dressed in a different coloured uniform. One of the privileges of their appointment is that they have the right to demand entry to all establishments in Tonisvorst during Karneval.

By 1230 hrs the defences of Francisisca Barracks were prepared for the attack. The Fransisca Guard, commanded by **WO2 (SSM) Terry Marsh**, attempted to relieve pre battle nerves with the odd glass of port!

The Barrack Guard face up to the Prinz's Troops prior to the surrender of the Camp

By 1300 hrs the Karneval Party had arrived at the Gates of Fransisca Barracks and demanded entry. This request was refused by the Deputy Commander, **Maj John Hincks**, which sparked off the 'Storming of the Gates' by the Karneval Guard. The Fransisca Guard put up stiff resistance and several volleys were fired to try to save the day. However, the Karneval Guard attacked again with renewed vigour and despite a stalwart defence the Fransisca Guard had to give ground. To prevent further casualties the Deputy Commander carried out a formal surrender and handed a ceremonial key to the Karneval Prinz.

The whole Karneval Party were escorted along a lined route to the Officers' Mess for post-battle refreshments. In return, the Karneval party provided a dancing display which certainly kept out the cold. Suitably refreshed, the Karneval Party then visited the Regimental Restaurant where they were treated to further refreshments by the remainder of the Regiment. Again, the Karneval Party gave a dancing display which was well received by the audience, especially the cartwheels by the lady member!

Even more refreshed and somewhat looser in speech the Karneval Party bade farewell to the Regiment for another year and prepared themselves for even more refreshments with 13 Tr, the Belgian Radio Squadron who share our Barracks.

VISIT OF BATTLEAXE TROOP

From 21-25 February, 29 members of Battleaxe Tp from Ouston, led by **2Lt John Charnock** visited the Regiment. After settling them in on the Thursday they departed on the Friday morning for a tour of JHQ Rheindahlen, where they saw both the Joint and BAOR Commcens and then went on to Telephone House and Starnet Control. The afternoon saw them soaking up the German way of life on a tour of Krefeld.

The Saturday morning heralded the start of Ex *Pegasus Mercury*, a VHF radio exercise involving deployment in Land Rovers and an afternoon of Ex-play on the radios. Everyone got wet during washdown but soon dried off in time for a party on camp. Sunday involved a visit to the Arnhem Museum and a day of rest. Monday saw a tour of the Regiment where all the members of the troop had a chance to ask questions and examine the equipment. In all, the visit was a great success and well enjoyed by both the Regiment and Battleaxe Tp.

Cdt Cpl Sawyer being briefed by 2Lt David Kenyon on Ex *Pegasus Mercury*

Maj Jim Heck briefs Battleaxe Troop on the role of 2 Sqn. Note the modern barrack block to his left

How many cadets can be fitted into a UNIMOG cab?

1 SQN NOTES —
EXERCISE *WINTEX*

The squadron role during this exercise was to provide the two switches or commcens for the NSSG. *Wintex* was the right word as the temperature dropped during the first few days to −5°C. Alpha Tp lads all enjoyed themselves as much as possible during this 10 day jaunt and apart from a personal visit to **LCpl** (Einstein) **Smart** by the RAF and **Sig** (filmstar) **Spiller** achieving the poser of the year award the exercise was uneventful.

Bravo Troop spent the 10 days not only communicating but displaying itself to a continual string of visitors of varying ranks and nationalities. One such visit that cannot go unmentioned was that of 'General Burke', alias **Cpl Burke ACC**, our tp chef, who wanted to see what the men got up to between meal times. He was suitably surprised.

Once again the Tare did not come alive until the start of the staff phase of the exercise and even then took vast amounts of loving care and attention by **Sgt Glen Renshaw** to keep it alive until endex. Despite this there was nearly a mutiny by Tare and Trol Ops when the Resupply system ran out of Flakes (the chocolate variety). **Sgt Mick Alcock** passed the problem to **Capt Jim Ross** at CP28 who could not help. Eventually SSM 1 Sqn, **WO2 Terry Marsh**, saved the day with a box of 48 which were duly consumed in about five minutes. Result — Happy Tare and Trol Ops until endex.

1 SQN NEWS
ALFA TROOP

The New Year has seen the departure from the Troop of two of our most humerous characters, no less than **Cpl 'Piggy' Joll** and **Sig 'Foggy' Dewhurst**. These two linemen, for want of a better descripition have both been posted up to 1 Div where we wish them well. We also said a final goodby to **Lt Mai** (I'm on a course) **Llewellyn;** he is off to Harrogate. We have wiped our eyes free of tears (laughter) for **Sgt Wee Willie Williams** who has gone off to wear a green beret.

New arrivals have been **Sig 'Badback' Eppes, LCpl 'Frosty' Frost,** and we welcome them to the Big Family. The Alfa Tp Family has also increased due to the post crested eagle 84 and congratulations are due to **Cpl** and **Mrs Wilkins** and **Gareth,** and **LCpl** and **Mrs Prowse** and **Jacob.**

2 SQUADRON NEWS

Since the beginning of the year the Squadron has been in a constant state of flux either preparing for exercise or cleaning up after the last one. Priorities for the troops have continued to be vehicle maintenance and military training.

Many changes in the hierarchy have now taken place, with two of the four Squadron Officers leaving for pastures new. The Squadron had a luncheon by kind permission of the RSM in the Sergeants' Mess to bid farewell to the outgoing OC, **Maj Jim Heck**, OC Oscar Troop, **Lt Paul Hodgkiss** and **Sgt Andy Hill. Maj Heck** leaves us to face the pleasure of MOD and his new house. The SSM is checking to ensure that all the men from the Squadron are still present as we are concerned that **Maj Heck** might take someone with him as his batman, if only to serve Grolsch and his favourite mouse trap cheese to him. We wish him well.

Lt Paul Hodgkiss has really only just moved up the road to Herford and 7 Sig Regt, we hope he keeps well clear of the Orderly Officer roster. Herford watch out for the **Hodgkiss** cry Yeeha!

Others who have left the Squadron include **Cpl Howard** and his wife and their new born baby, **Cpls Keith Stewart, Chalkie White** and **Sig Murray.**

Our new OC, who arrived during Ex *Wintex*, is **Maj Matt Helm** who came from Training Group. He and **Cpl Matt Helm** (no relation we are told) will now at least be getting each others mail. Also arriving the night before the exercise was new OC O Tp, **Lt Jim Richardson.** The Squadron is now developing into a bigger happier family with a number of babies on the way, one due every month this year!

Other new arrivals include **Cpls Humphrey, Lawes, Bond,** and **Shergold, LCpl McQuade** and **Sig Raftrey, Fullerton, Barber** and **Heaps.**

On the sporting scene both troops have won one of the Inter Troop competitions so far with Papa Tp winning Hockey, and Oscar Tp winning Cross Country and coming second in the Basketball.

EXERCISE *WINTEX*
A PAPA TROOP VIEW

Ex *Wintex* started on a cold dark Sunday morning, (more like night we all thought) at 0500 hrs. New OC Oscar Troop had had about nine hours in his first unit as an Officer by this stage. The line up around the Square (wagon train fashion) worked well and the move up country to Munster also went without a single breakdown for the troop. However, how **Sgt 'Mumbly' Munnelly's** packet managed to arrive after **Sgt East's** in Munster we will never know how, though rumour has it he took a wrong turning and came the scenic way.

Our location was the barracks of the Irish Guards on one of their newest APC garage areas. The Complex and Admin areas were soon set up and life settled down for the comms warm-up phase before the staff exercise commenced. NATO terminology is such that the troop can either be Monitor (step-up), Mobile (Command) or Dormant (no BAOR equivalent). We of course became Dormant, not I may hasten to add in the literal sense, though one or two did appear their usual dormant selves. The state of Dormant prior to becoming Monitor, gave **Sgt Dave Taylor** all the time he needed to catch up on the weapons training required, with all soldiers being 'caught' to do their TOETS. The RSM is still convinced this was a 'Sham' when he and the CO visited. Our close liaison with 840 Fernmelde Bn was further fostered by **Sgt Taylor** introducing the SLR and LMG to some of **Lt Thomas Lindens** soldiers. **Sgt Taylor** was heard muttering 'Why can't our blokes learn that quickly'. Well some got the chance as we were introduced to the German rifle, the G3. This training was a valuable way to use the time, during a quiet peiod for most of us.

However, not all was quiet. Tech control with 10 men plus crammed into their vehicle was a hive of activity, well for some of the time. Once our staff vehicles had arrived we all had 24 hours to terminate the comms and ensure all systems were working. This is where our day workers **Sgt Andy Hill** (who was now up to 100 bands), **Sgt 'Sleepy' Hughes** (doing his owl impersonations) and **Sgt Kev East** got to grips with some of our ADP systems, life generally got moving. The cypher trailer also reached fever pitch producing two of our daily papers. The Dormant, co editors **Cpls Curtis, McQuade, Williams** and various contributors all of whom must remain nameless in order to protect the innocent. It is surprising what artistic talent lurks beneath the surface and **Sig 'Perv' Mead** was strongly nominated for Poet Laureate. The Dormant flourished during the initial stages and six issues were published. The Golden Sleeping bag was strongly contested with **Sgt Dave Taylor** being the peoples choice for this award. The admin Sgt, normally **Sgt Owen** who was loaned to Oscar Troop always wins this hands down.

The admin side of life ran smoothly with **Cpl McGregor** keeping watch on all that went on. Presiding over breakfast one day he earned the nickname 'one sausage **McGregor**' as he caught **Sgt Munnelly** trying to sneak two sausages. Our cooks **Cpl Blackwell** and **Pte Reilly** did a grand job as the ration strength increased daily as more and more signal detachments latched onto the Headquarters. Both were seen to bite as someone said 'Another 20 for lunch today!'.

Command finally came to us in the dead of night along with about 14 swingers all of whom had to have their own special spot. The morning saw a mass of extra vehicles and cable, second to none, but all communicating never the less. After our brief excitement we passed command and moved our location the day before Endex.

29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
BFPO 45

OUT AND ABOUT

All the Troops have been busy out of Berlin, either on Northern Ireland training or skiing. Our latest addition **Lt Alistair Wood**, was busy on the latter. After only a matter of days after his arrival, he was away skiing in Norway. However before he went, a small ceremony was performed in the guise of handing over/taking over Radio Troop. **2Lt Ian 'Wide Eyes' Favager** has just relinquished his appointment in Berlin and we wish him well in 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

2Lt Favager returns Radio Troop, to Maj Sandy Lovatt . . .

who then hands over the Troop, to Lt Alistair Wood

2Lt Favager made an impact in Berlin conducting Flag Tours and is seen in the photograph, conversing with East German Border Guards near Checkpoint Charlie. **Cpl Pollitt** (left) keeps a keen eye on his OC whilst **Cpl Geordie Laverick** seems content on looking his best for the camera.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Welcome to **Sig Bailie, Clayton, Hamilton, Meyers** and **McMillan**. Also to **WPtes Routledge** and **Mason. Cpl Brenda Fox** arrived in January and is posted already on promotion to 31 Sig Regt in London. Farewell to **LCpl Jowitt** to 1 Div and **WPte Jo Broom** to 10 Sig Regt.

Two of the most important people in the Squadron are leaving this month. **Cpl Colin Ibberson** goes to HQ Northern Ireland on promotion after two years of stirling service for the Squadron.

He is replaced by **Cpl Marc Holder** who joins us from HQ 11 Sig Bde. Finally we say goodbye to **WO2 Jack Cowen** who has been YofS, Troop Commander, Training Warrant Officer and musical director of 229 Sig Sqn and 1 Sqn, 29 Sig Regt for as long as **Roger Whittaker** has been whistling. The Yeoman is off to 14 Sig Regt on promotion to WO1 and we wish him and his family all the best for the future.

ROYAL SIGNALS STAFF IN HEADQUARTERS BERLIN

As a change from Troop photographs and **Sig 'Snooks'** on skis, we thought that a bit of brass should adorn these pages. Royal Signals play a very important part in Berlin, where reliable instant command and information communications for the Army, Air Force and Foreign Office are vital. The staff rely heavily on Royal Signals, and hold us in high regard. There is a vast static network of radio, microwave and line links within the city and many and varied links out of the city, all managed by the Corps. In addition of course there are the normal and some unique tactical communications.

To manage the communications systems and advise the staff, there is a small uniformed Communications Branch, and a larger civilian section not featured here. Featured in the photograph, and standing on the left of the British Commandant and General Officer Commanding, **Maj Gen Gordon Lennox**, is **Lt Col James Budd**, who is Commander Communications, and has his Branch in the Headquarters. He is, in addition, the CO 29 Sig Regt, and has a RHQ close to the Headquarters building. The job specification includes being good at musical chairs.

Immediately behind him is **Maj John Hayes**, of cricketing fame amongst other things, who is the SO2 Comms with a very full schedule of work. His size has probably helped him to ferret out many of the 'interesting' communications practices. To his right, and almost dwarfing **John Hayes**, is **Maj James Shaw** (he really is standing on the same step), who is the SO2 G3 and occasionally dabbles in communications (even though he claims to be a Div 3 officer), sometimes much to our chagrin. As almost a personal staff officer to the GOC, he is often to be found looking over the GOC's shoulder! In the back row, third from the left and apparently with the punk hairdo, is **Cpl 'Des' Wheatley** who is the Royal Signals Communications branch clerk. Apart from being a thoroughly efficient and well thought of clerk, he is known for his total control over the word processor, which he whispers and tickles into action on behalf of everyone when an unusual layout is required.

Of interest also is the bearded gentleman in the suit, who is the Public Information Officer. He is **Mr Anthony Worner**, and is ex Royal Signals. He served in 22 Sig Regt as a Subaltern in Lippstadt in the early 1960s, and later as a TA officer in 41 Sig Regt. Luckily he does not have to concentrate on our good press coverage, as we seem to get it anyway!

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

EX *SPRING START*

At the beginning of March, 3 Sqn was involved in Ex *Spring Start*. Command of the exercise went to **Capt Denise Dunn, Royal Australian Signals**, as a going away present from the Squadron. She has been with us on loan for two years and will be missed by all. Bon Voyage and Good Luck.

The aim was to test the Squadron's communications drills but ended up testing us in our ability to find a toilet as 70% of the Squadron was hit by food poisoning, thereby delaying our departure from Oakhampton by one day. From Oakhampton we moved to Penhale Camp, at last a location by the seaside! Here the Squadron was visited by the two Egyptian officers attached to the Regiment. One of them, **Lt Wahid** let slip that he was a bit of a runner. The YofS **SSgt Scouse Evans**, always looking for an excuse to change into his sports kit enlisted the help of **Cpl Mick Stanyer**, and invited **Lt Wahid** for a 'jog' on the sand dunes (thinking he would be at home in them). Ninety minutes later our two runners returned less our Egyptian visitor. If he has returned could he please book in at Sig Ops!

A notable absentee from the exercise was OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Robin Hill**, who stayed behind to be with his wife **Nici** on the birth of their baby. The Squadron sends its congratulations.

Capt Denise Dunn, Royal Australian Signals, who has now left the Regiment, with Lt Mohamed and Lt Wahid on attachment from the Egyptian Army

EX *GAUNT TRAIL*/THREE PEAKS YACHT RACE COMMS RECCE

In March, 2 Sqn deployed on exercise for a week 'en masse'. HF Troop spent two weekends (!) joining forces with countrywide TA units and linked them with Aldershot (eat your heart out 1 Sqn). Concurrently, Net Radio Troop practised and tested the communications for the Three Peaks Yacht Race, which is due in June.

A base station was established at Barmouth, which not only controlled the Race Control Net but also linked into the HF net at Aldershot. The latter was achieved to a degree, but not without a few problems giving **2Lt Neil 'Kit Kat' Griffiths**, the Aldershot Mandarin, a few premature grey hairs.

At Barmouth, **Cpl Steve Knaggs, LCpl Alan 'Buck' Buckmaster** and **Sig Darrell Summers** mastered the finer points of crawling up chimneys (co-ax routing) and clinging to chimney-pots in howling winds and horizontal rain (anchoring droopy—dipole antenna legs) and summarily provided control comms throughout the week.

Moving north, **Cpl Bill Martin** and **Sgt 'China' Hellawell** (the compo dustbin) established themselves on the quayside at Caernarvon. Working their way back to them for a cold night were **Capt Chris Millard** (recently transferred from the RAEC for a huge but undisclosed fee) and **Sig Kev Fowler**, who were encamped just short of the top of Snowdon. At Ravenglass, **Cpl Jack** (Let's watch the sun come up) **Thorpe** and **LCpl Ian Johnstone** linked with Wasdale Head whilst **SSM Henry Banks** and **Sgt Alan Coleman** acted as Sherpas on Scafell when not establishing military—civil links in the local pub. Enough said . . . !

Up the valley at Wasdale Head, **LCpl Sid Holderness, Sig Chippy Lang** and **Russ Tong** wheeled and dealed with the local farmer and publican in order to erect a suitable antenna. Out on a limb up Scafell itself, **LCpl Steve Pashley** and **Sig 'Lew' Lewis** spent a 'refreshing' four days above the snow-line, and in the process discovered the wonders of the Sun crossword, problem page and Readers' letters, not to mention the finer points of the Survival bag and its uses, **LCpl Pashley**'s account is as follows:

'**WO2 (SSM) Banks** led the Scafell team into location with the aid of **Sgt Allan Coleman** and **Sig Chippy Lang**, the Radio Det of **LCpl Steve Pashley** and **Sig Lew Lewis** were left to brave the elements.

Scafell

SSM Henry Banks ponders the wonders of modern comms technology whilst Sig Lew Lewis tries to get an answer out of the Wasdale Head Det: On the summit of Scafell, the highest point in England. (Sig Jack Tong observes from the depths of his parka, *right)*

Bad weather prevented the assault on the Summit but once in place the detachment worked with its normal good humour and efficiency. Please will someone convince **Sig Lewis** that there are no 'wolves' on Scafell. Apart from a sudden thaw and tent flood all went well and we only hope for better weather when we go back in June.'

Lt Patrick Windsor Brown, Sgt Dougie Douglas and **Cpl Rob Luckhurst** zoomed between all locations, conquering the hills and the hearts of Shell petrol-pump attendants, and in mid-exercise moved the Caernarvon and Snowdon detachments north of the Border to Fort William. Communications from a quayside in Scotland back to Barmouth were established within an hour, and the operation to put two men on top of Ben Nevis was mounted.

Capt Millard, Lt Windsor Brown, Sgt Douglas and **Cpl Luckhurst** acted as Sherpas, and **SSM Banks** and **Sig Fowler** were the lucky duo destined to spend a night in truly difficult conditions on the highest point in Great Britain. **Sig Fowler**'s account is as follows:

'It all started off as a pleasant day, the sun was shining, there was little or no wind and looking up I could see just a little touch of snow on top of Ben Nevis. Four hours later I wasn't as pleasantly disposed. We'd hit the cloud line at 150m from the summit, and the wind and sleet had hit us with a Force 10 punch at the same time.

Ben Nevis (at 3000-odd feet)
A very heavily weighed-down Sig Kev Fowler and SSM Henry Banks on their way down Ben Nevis after their freezing night on the summit. Sgt Dougie Douglas met them with bars of compo chocolate—which are in evidence in the picture!

We got to the summit, and morale was going downhill. The tent wouldn't stay up so the SSM and I decided to stay in the shelter. I use the word shelter very loosely, as we had to use the tent, rations, clothes, radio kit, and even message forms to block up the gaping holes that were letting in a very bad case of hurricane draughts. Once we'd warmed up after a 'couple of hours', we started sending down the traffic including a message to 'Betsy-Boo'. (I leave the rest to your imagination.)

In the morning we woke up to a new Walls Ice Cream special—it's called the Combat Boot Surprise! It didn't taste very nice, and you had a problem getting them on your feet. The door had also frozen up, which meant the SSM was left crossing his legs and shouting at me to open the door pretty quickly. We eventually got out to find the wind had dropped, and just as we were descending the sun came out.'

The morning they came down they were met at 3,000ft by **Lt Windsor Brown** and **Sgt Douglas** and were thereby relieved of their incredible loads; they had both staggered from the summit carrying the equivalent of six bergen loads; luggage was supplemented by the ubiquitous Tesco carrier bags, but it is likely that the shelter still benefits from the crack-plugging applied by **Sig Fowler** with the aid of FSigs 266 message forms. After five days of successfully communicating along Britain's western coast, Net Radio Troop returned to Blandford, weighed-down with Shell petrol glasses, but confident of being able to provide a good communications service for the race in June.

REGIMENTAL SKILLS COURSE

Over 100 soldiers Sig-Cpl attended a Comms Skills Course in camp, the first time such a comprehensive course involving so many soldiers had been held. The course ran in four modules for R TG/R OPs, DTGs, Techs and 'the rest'.

Students received refresher training in many of their basic trade and comms skills. Subjects covered included VP and BATCO, det setting up drills, bty connection and charging, line laying, exchange operation, veh reversing, a manpack exercise and much to everyone's horror—yet another BFT. The monthly morse and teleprinter skills tests were also conducted and encouraging results showed the level of skill within the Regiment was good.

The feedback from the soldiers indicated that most found the three days interesting and it swept away the cobwebs. The Regiment intends to incorporate similar courses into the yearly Regimental training programme—perhaps without the BFT!

ARCTIC WARFARE TRAINING—NORWAY 85

After several false starts, the 1 Sqn detachments ably led by **WO1 'Flicker' McLoughlin** sailed to join the Royal Marines for their annual deployment on Ex *Pendulum/Cold Winter*.

Winter conditions in Norway hardly differed from winter in Blandford at that time so the only acclimatisation needed was for the hideously expensive prices in Lillehammer for a 'run ashore'.

With only a week to prepare before the Arctic Warfare Training (AWT), some serious downhill training was done—with some serious consequences. It had to be explained at length to **Sgt 'Taff' Witchell** that the usual method of stopping on skis is a snowplough, not ramming a knee into a Volkswagen in the car park 50yds from the end of the piste.

For the AWT itself the detachment was spread amongst the nine classes and had to learn to live with 'Royals' in the confined spaces of a snowhole. The course was arduous and demanding. Learning to ski is one thing, learning to ski with a bergen is another. Numerous 'yetis', 'treestops' and 'oppostops' were had by all, notably **Sig 'Frosty the Snowman' Cork**. In temperatures of around minus 30°C at night the training continued for three weeks culminating in 'Survival Night', spent in brushwood bivvies around log fires. Local resources in the form of a reindeer, skinned, were provided for rations. Each person received the part he deserved from his performance on the course. A certain member of the Catering Corps spent an unpleasant night trying to eat the part where the sun never shines. But overall the detachment performed well on the course, especially **Cpls Hanlon** and **Smoothy**. It was a pleasure to hear some Marines getting a hard time for not being as fit as our own merry band!

OP *YELSTEAD*

On Saturday 2 February the sun rose to a bleak and blustery day in Blandford Camp. The early morning rays glinted off the windscreens of numerous rovers and 4 tonners which had been sitting on the square since Thursday. Even at this stage of the game only a very small handful of people really knew what was happening.

It all started a couple of weeks before when the OC 2 Sqn, **Maj John Thomas**, vanished into the depths of UKFL for no apparent reason. On his return, nothing was said and the 'incident' was forgotten, although some people did hope that we had been given another overseas exercise. However, as soon as **WO2 (YofS) Derek McLelland** became involved we knew something was happening and it was only after many days of intensive interrogation that the OC cracked and produced an equipment tasking but still no reason why.

CONTEMPLATION

On Saturday morning the 2 Sqn element departed, leaving the 3 Sqn element to depart on Sunday. The destination was RAF Brampton, home of HQ Support Command. Brampton was never really the same again. Half way through our stay the NAAFI ran out of beer. This meant long faces all round except for **Sig 'Spike' Summers** who managed to have an intimate relationship with a fruit machine. Over the weekend we were busy establishing rear link communications and one half of a radio relay link which was plugged into a telephone exchange.

Eventually everyone was put out of their misery and on the evening of Tuesday 5 February we were given our final briefing and our objective was—RAF Molesworth. That night the vehicles were lined up and ready to go.

Most people had already guessed what was going on but for the benefit of those who didn't the Sappers were going to put up a seven mile long perimeter wire round the disused airfield at RAF Molesworth. After this had been completed, civilian contractors would move in and construct a permanent perimeter and then start to convert the airbase into an operational Cruise missile base. However, there were various groups who disagreed with this move!

As far as the Regiment was concerned, we were providing rear link comms for the Engineers, HQ UKLF and the RAF. We also provided telephone, both ATN and civil, which was connected to the exchange at Brampton via a radio relay link.

LIKE CLOCKWORK

The journey into Molesworth was uneventful until reaching the airfield itself, but at this point it must be said that there were over 400 vehicles in convoy at the same time, an awe inspiring sight with headlights stretching for miles. Setting up the complex was slickness itself. Everybody moved like clockwork, even **LCpl Sid Holderness**, and that is quite an achievement. After 24 hours of working most of the police and contractors had moved in and it was time to thin out the squadron.

A skeleton crew was left behind consisting mainly of 3 Sqn personnel who were providing a Radio Relay telephone link out of Molesworth. Also **Cpl Scott** and his line detachment who worked hard laying line for telephones for all interested parties. Despite weather which was more suitable to Siberia and a handful of demonstrators the operation was conducted extremely quickly and smoothly and the magnificent effort was a credit to all concerned.

Exercise *Instant Mercury*
WO1 (YofS) George Devine and SSgt (FofS) Manders explain the workings of the Chirpsounder to Commodore Harry Adams RAN at RAN Receiver Station, Bonshaw, Canberra

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

WELCOME, FAREWELL AND CONGRATULATIONS

Never was an Adjutant so welcome. After nearly six months without one we were particularly pleased to see **Maj Graham Halliburton** (our Training Major designate) who will be filling the post until late July. We welcome him, his wife **Gwyneth** and family to London from Hong Kong (not much call for Chinese speakers in Hammersmith!) and hope they will enjoy their tour with 31.

We were sorry to say goodbye in January to our RQMS **WO2 Barry Williams** completing his second tour with the Regiment, who has left us on promotion to be the RSM of 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt (V). Good luck.

Many congratulations to **Ptes Karen Amey, Trish Monachan** and **Jackie Masset** who made up our team (from 83 Sqn) which won the WRAC competition in the London District Orienteering Championships and so qualify, as did **Sgt Jan Billin** individually, for the UKLF Championships.

The spring brings change, and as **Maj Colin Stenning**, the 2IC and CO Designate leaves to dig his garden etc for a few months, **Maj Paul Whittle** takes over as 2IC, **Maj Jim Mill** as OC 83 Sqn, **Maj James Allan** as OC 41 Sqn, **Maj Chris Mote** as OC HQ Sqn and **Capt Keith Bruce-Smith** as Ops Officer.

HQ SQUADRON

Exercise in and on the field has been the theme of our training during the past two months. On a cold crisp and sunny weekend in February the squadron deployed on Salisbury Plain being based at West Down Camp. Intensive NBC training including equipment and chemical recces was masterminded by the SQMS **SSgt Derek Gale**, a native of the Tilshead area, (who, since then, has suffered bruising to a rear part of his anatomy as a result of exercising a horse!)

We have also exercised our energies on the football field in the London District TA Soccer competition, reaching the semi-finals and receiving a few minor injuries. Our 'number one' player, **Sgt Jim Scoular** is nurturing three cracked ribs, **Capt 'Over 40' John Robson** a dislocated finger and the SSM **WO2 Steve Bland** a kick in the **** after scoring an 'own goal'.

Congratulations go to the SSM **WO2 Steve Bland** on being awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service and to our REME PSI **SSgt Martin Grant** on his LS&GC Medal which was presented to him by the new Chief of Staff London District, **Brig Dermot Blundell**, on his recent visit to the Regiment.

Promotions are the cause of congratulations for **Sgt Jo Heathcote, Sgt Chris Mills, Cpl Janet Wilson-Brown** and **LCpl Sandy Shaw**. We are particularly proud of **Cpl Janet Wilson-Brown**'s achievement in leading her team of **Cpl David Hermels, LCpl Sandy Shaw** and **Pte Ian Jeeves** to victory in the recent London District TA Cookery Competition.

41 SQUADRON

In company with HQ Squadron we too went to West Down in January. Joining in for their NBC training **Pte Margaret Leighfield** soon proved that the new respirator is not quite 'soldier proof'.

The Squadron task that evening was to mount a silent attack at last light on a position deep in a nearby wood. During rehearsals **Pte Sharon Rogers** gave us a demonstration of how to 'tackle' a large puddle. Estimating last light proved quite a problem so, after an hour or so in the mud, the DS decided it was dark. Following a successful attack the SSM **WO2 Peter Lovett** promptly bogged down the transport thus causing the loss of much valuable drinking time.

The evening was rounded off by an excellent disco. Sunday morning proved to be one of those days when visibility on the plain caused us to resort to the wet weather programme—in this case Clint Eastwood on video. (Sounds like an energetic weekend—Ed (Regt)!)

We are delighted to report the award of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Meritorious Service to our hard-working and long-serving former SSM and now NRPS SQMS **SSgt John Mackins**.

Lt Tony Rose explains the plan for his attack to an unsure Sgt Jan Billin, Cpl Peter 'Rock Ape' Stevens and Sig Andy Jones as a totally unconvinced Lt Diane Lilley looks on

47 SQUADRON

The inhabitants of Harrow TAC have had an eventful period over the last few weeks. We have 'plugged up', we have BFT'd and we have trained militarily!

Our plug-up exercise at the end of January produced several gremlins but the BFT soon put paid to them. There is absolutely no truth in the rumour put about by **Cpl 'Rudi' Harding** that the OC **Maj Bill Morris** was continually falling over from the 'pushes' he needed to beat the time limit! (OC's Note: Thank you to the PSI **SSgt Tom Harrison** et al (who's he?) for their courtesy and assistance in this trying experience.)

The Squadron Commanders weekend was used to good effect in practising section attacks and patrolling, to the accompaniment of a wealth of pyrotechnics. We are all relieved that **Pte Debbie Peddey** is now off the crutches an out of the bandages and that **Sig Simon Loftus** is no longer hopping about with a sprained ankle. It's a tough life in the TA!

We have also been visited by VIPs—the RSM **WO1 Jeff Shergold** denies he is the RSM of Harrow; he knows there are three other Squadrons now. We were very pleased to welcome Commander WRAC UKLF **Col Shirley Neild** and Commander WRAC London District **Lt Col Chris Marriott** on a Wednesday evening to see how we train. A return visit by our Brigade Commander **Brig Ian Shapter** was the occasion for a medal presentation. The reformed (?) terrible twins **SSgt Bill Ralph** and **SSgt Terry Palmer** were both presented with their Efficiency Medals and a surprise bonus was the OC being presented with his TD. (A surprise to the OC—who was reputedly at a loss for words for the first time in many a year!)

On a social plane we held a St Valentine's Day disco in fancy dress (What was **Sig Andy Price** wearing underneath his toga?!) and Line Troop had a weekend near Canvey Island—just for a change—and **Sig Lee Giles** now knows how many T-bone steaks he can eat!

Our new stores cage is still not completed but we do have the hole in the wall. It's in the wrong place but we have it! Suggestions are invited as to how we should move it. Our new Squadron TOT **Capt Paul Fredericks** whom we welcome from the North-West and OC P Troop (G Troop by the time you read this) almost have a new office so a fair bit of construction work is in progress.

The recent Skill-at-Arms weekend saw yet another casualty in Cambridge Military Hospital as **Pte Jackie Stacey** collided with an assault course wall. She is now out and recovery is proceeding if somewhat tenderly.

(Is this what is meant by a Chapter of Accidents?—Ed (Regt).)

Brig Ian Shapter presents Maj Bill Morris, OC 47 Sqn with his TD as WO2 (SSM) Barry Skingle and WO1 (RSM) Jeff Shergold wonder: 'Is he old enough?'

83 SQUADRON
OUR NEW HOME

At the beginning of the year the Squadron transferred its SHQ and all training to the nearby temporary home of Lytton Grove, leaving only NRPS SQMS **SSgt Roy Smith** and civilian storeman **Lou Hermels** holding the fort for us at Southfields until the main building is completed in the late summer. Sandblasting by the contractors which promptly resulted in a half inch layer of dust over the entire Squadron stores is only one of the daily problems stoically endured by our long-suffering duo.

'They've switched on another kettle!' LCpl Mark Blackford reads the meters on 83 Sqn's 10kva generator

NEW FACES

The ripple of new Officer appointments has left its mark. In addition to the changes noted above **Lt Penny Rose** relinquishes A Troop heading north to 47 Sqn at Harrow leaving the new plot as:

OC	**Maj Jim Mill TD**
2IC	**Capt Susan Fenney WRAC**
TOT	**Capt Roger Knowles**
OC A Troop	**Officer Cadet Niall Creed**
OC B Troop	**Capt Linda Webber WRAC**
OC C Troop	**Capt Ian Webber**
OC E Troop	**Lt Vicki Hutchinson**

'Going my way?' Capt Linda Webber, OC B Troop, tries hitching a lift and Officer Cadet Len Woodman learns to hold a chinagraph at the correct angle

OVERHEARD

On the Squadron's deployment on exercise in late March.

Q. (Anonymous Signalman) — 'Sergeant-Major, I'm on guard from 0200 to 0300 but the clocks go forward so I suppose I won't be needed?'

A. SSM **WO2 Chris Mahoney** — Reply believed to be in the negative but full transcript available from SHQ (send SAE).

SUCCESS AT CATTERICK

In recent months the Squadron has sent a higher than usual number of soldiers to Catterick on a variety of trade and military training courses. On the Detachment Commanders Course in late February not only was **LCpl Andy Raynsford** top student but **Cpls Simon Fernley-Jones** and **Graham Drew** took second and third places respectively. Very well done all three.

VACANCY FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) SSGT SQMS
31 (GREATER LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

A vacancy now exists for a SSgt (SQMS) in 31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (Volunteers). This vacancy will be with 47 Sig Sqn (Volunteers) at Harrow, Middlesex.

Terms and conditions of service are detailed in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4. The upper age limit on appointment is 55 and retiring age is 60.

The present daily rate of pay for a NRPS SSgt is £24.62.

Applicants should ideally have served in the Regular Army as WO/SNCO and have a thorough knowledge of stores accounting procedures and administrative duties. Experience of working with civilian staff is desirable.

Applications including two referees and a curriculum vitae should be forwarded to reach the following address by 1 July 1985:

The Adjutant
31(GL) Sig Regt (V)
190 Hammersmith Road
London W6 7DL

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

FOCUS ON HQ SQN

OC	**Maj Liz Campbell**
OC LAD	**Lt Phil Stuart**
OC RRTT	**Lt Janice McKee**
PSAO	**Capt Nick Nicholas**
MTWO	**WO1 Vick Shillingford**
SSM	**WO2 John McCall**
SQMS	**SSgt Eddie Braid**
Master Chef	**WO2 Dave Fraser**
PSI LAD	**SSgt Arthur Curtis**

Rather a quiet start to the year with time mostly spent supporting the Regiment on exercises and trade training weekends and the Catering Section under the eagle eye of **Q Fraser** going from strength to strength.

The MT Section competed in Ex *Hard Drive* with **LCpl Karene, Law** and **Sig McCulloch** winning the award for the best Royal Signals Team and second overall in the novices competition. It was an enjoyable break and in particular from **SSM** (I want MT for Guard) **McCall.**

We bid farewell to **SSgt Curtis** who leaves on promotion and wish him luck in his new station and thank him for a job well done whilst with the unit.

QM'S DEPT

QM	**Maj Colin Markie**
QM (V)	**Capt John Gallacher**
RQMS	**WO2 Allan Brooks**
RQMS (V)	**WO2 Campbell Crawford**
SQMS (V)	**SSgt Anne Rodgers**

There is no truth in the rumour that the Regts QM and RQMS are going on a Piping Course to make up the numbers in the Pipes and Drums.

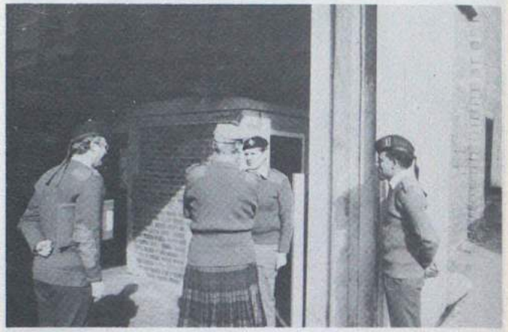
ARU VISIT

Although the visit was arranged for Cultybraggan Camp the venue had to be changed at short notice due to inclement weather conditions. **Brig K. H. Olds**, Comd 2 Sig Bde did, however, managed a quick tour of Lowland Scotland visiting the RRTT at Garelochhead Training Camp, HQ and 52 Sqn in Glasgow and 61 Sqn at home in Edinburgh.

GOC's VISIT

Lt Gen Sir Alexander Boswell KCB CBE GOC (Scotland) paid his farewell visit to the Regiment by visiting RHQ, HQ and 52 Sqn in Glasgow and meeting the serving soldiers, NRPS and Civilian Staff.

Civilian Driver Colin Lloyd (who is also a TA Sgt) and the GOC (Scotland) investigate the interior of a generator



The GOC meets LAD PSI SSgt Arthur Curtis and MTWO WO1 Vic Shillingford

Cpl Margaret Taylor shakes hands with the GOC while SSgt Anne Rodgers looks on

Chief Clerk SSgt John Powles shares a joke with the GOC. GOC 'How long have you been here Chief?' CC 'Some would say too long Sir! Clerical Officer Betty Warren and Clerical Assistant Ken Nicholson look on

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

FOCUS ON 49 (WEST RIDING) SIGNAL SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES:

OC	**Capt P. R. Walker**
2IC	**Capt A. A. Turner**
PSAO	**Capt G. G. Bonner**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) G. Jennings**
PSI	**SSgt P. Quinn**
PSI (Hull)	**WO2 Y. Swinney (WRAC)**
PSI (NRPS)	**SSgt G. Hardaker**

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Recent months have seen the departure of **Maj John Ruff TD** as OC 49 Sqn. He leaves after 16 years with the Squadron, having served 'man and boy' including a time as a signalman in the present SSM's Radio Relay Detachment. **Maj Ruff** leaves to join the Royal Engineers as part of their newly formed Airfield Damage Repair Squadron (V). He has been succeeded by **Capt Philip Walker** as Squadron Commander.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Welcome to **2Lt Judith Henry** who has recently been commissioned but who, unless she can be persuaded otherwise, is already planning to leave us—looking for work in the 'Deep South' of England.

Capt Gordon Bonner, our new PSAO, is (we think) beginning to understand the TA a little, but is still finding the transition from a career in the Regular Army rather a shock to the constitution.

A LOOK BACK

In recent months the squadron has seen many new faced joining, and beginning their TA careers, having successfully passed through the capable hands of the Recruit Training Team. Recent recruits have been forced to undergo initial training in cold weather but they have come through it undaunted, perhaps because they have been following the advice of 'old' soldiers. On the last recruit weekend it was rumoured that **Cpl Ronnie Howell** and **Sig Jeff Williams** were seen wearing ladies tights. It is hoped that these were Corps colours and we trust that in future they will wear the required skirt.

Many other members of the squadron have also been involved in cold weather activities, notably **SSgt Mick Pollard** who went skiing in Scotland. The term skiing is used rather loosely as it would appear that he spent several days 'polishing in the snow'.

CONGRATULATIONS

On a more serious note—two members of the squadron have recently received the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate. **Sgt Maggie Baxendale**, a school teacher from Leeds, received her certificate on 20 March and **SSgt Mally Wilson** of Hull on 6 March.

Congratulations go to **Sig Jeff Williams** and **LCpl Angie Dougal WRAC** on their marriage on 30 March.

Congratulations also to **LCpl Karen White** of Hull on her recent marriage. Welcome to **SSgt Alan 'Taff' Watts**, who joins the Squadron as a Yeoman to back up **WO1 Bruce Graham.** Congratulations to the latter upon regaining the rank in which he served in the Regular Army. Both YofS are employed at the Army Apprentices' College at Harrogate.

FROM AFAR

News from the outback—**OCdt 'Woopert' Cordingley** is enjoying sheep farming in New Zealand, but is finding it difficult to attend on drill nights.

THE RUSH

And finally—as the training year comes to an end—the usual perennial rush to complete BFTs and APWTs has taken place. It was, however, noted that a certain officer put in a spot of impromptu training during the Christmas weekend at Scarborough—a quick dash along the beach hotly pursued by flashing lights. Unofficial sources have since claimed that the world 100m sprint record was under threat—was this due to the temperature of the North Sea at the time?

AND FROM THE REST OF THE REGIMENT
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to two JNCOs from 50 Sig Sqn based in Darlington. **Cpls Anne Crane WRAC** and **Danny Lyons** were recently presented with Lord Lieutenant's Certificates at Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne respectively. Only one per cent of the unit establishment can be awarded these certificates each year—there is no doubt that any recipient in the Regiment has well and truly earned the

award. Our photograph shows **Cpl Crane**, SHQ 50 Sqn Clerk, with her certificate after presentation on 12 March.

MORE CONGRATULATIONS

Sig Kev Sharpe of 90 Sqn (Middlesbrough) was recently selected to play in goal for the Territorial Army Football Team against Cambridge University.

STOP PRESS—SPORTING SUCCESS

Our WRAC Cross Country Team have triumphed yet again. They were placed second in the TAVR Championships held at Grantham on 23 March. **Pte Dawn Widdrington**, one of the star runners here in the North East, came third in the individual competition. The team was: **Ptes Dawn Widdrington**, 50 Sqn, **Vivienne Fincham**, 49 Sqn, **Helen Cookman**, 49 Sqn, **Rachel Griffiths**, 50 Sqn, **Jackie Murkin**, HQ Sqn, **Linda Hood**, 49 Sqn, and **LCpl Jackie Cooke**, 50 Sqn, Team Manager.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

EXERCISE *MAPLE LEAF V*

The Regimental centralised trade training weekend, a quarterly event, took place at the end of January and proved a busy time for all PSI's. 1985 is a trade training year and our big aim is to qualify or up grade as many soldiers as possible by the autumn. January's training weekend also coincided with the Officers annual training weekend and the ARU visit by **Brig Ian Shapter** Commander 11 Sig Bde (V). This visit added to the crammed weekend especially for A Troop with their HF FFRs. They were desptached at short notice to each of the out Squadron locations and successfully (as always!) linked the TA Centres.

During the weekend, the Training Major got the Officers out on BFT run at 0730 hrs on the Sunday morning after the social activities of the night before—our only consolation is that his successor is, hopefully, less keen on jogging!

EXERCISE *DRY RUN*

RHQ and HQ Squadron at Sutton Coldfield were host to the new style Brigade CPX held at Cateswell House in early February. After extensive work by **SSgt (FofS) Tony Jacklin** and **Sgt Evans**, interconnecting speech, telegraph and power lines were laid to the various CP's — 14 in all—that were scattered around the TA Centre car parks. Inside, the HICON/LOCON cell was manned by officers from all three 11 Signal Brigade Regiments, with representatives from AFCENT and SHAPE. The passage of orders was monitored and got progressively faster as the exercise went on, however somewhat surprisingly, ENDEX took over 20 minutes to get from top to bottom! Ex *Dry Run* was somwhat appropriately named as it was a dry exercise consequently gallons and gallons of coffee was consumed along with endless biscuits. The exercise occurred over the weekend of the heavy snowfall that hit the Midlands and the South of England. The 6″—8″ caused havoc to the exercise start, with some officers not arriving until early hours of Saturday morning having taken five or six hours to travel what would normally be a three hour journey.

EXERCISE *COLD FRONTIER*

In the recent feature film 'Red Dawn' units of the Soviet armies descended on an unsuspecting American town.

When most opposition had finally been crushed, a group of teenagers took to the hills to wage guerilla war against the occupying forces.

Far fetched we-ell, yes I suppose so. But, the film is still said to have made Ronald Reagan's breast swell with pride . . .

In this nuclear age the idea of Russian troops descending surreptitiously upon the Rockies, or for that matter our own Pennines, seems quite preposterous.

Ah, but, what if the unthinkable did happen?

Would the populace be ready and willing to resist? Could we see a real life re-run of that stirring old Ealing picture 'Went the day well' in which the inhabitants of a home Counties village rumbled and routed the Huns in their midst?

THE SCENARIO

Well, let's put it this way . . . This February was 58 Squadron's annual infantry competition exercise, *Cold Frontier*, organised by **Capt Richard Harris** and the Squadron accompanied by elements of HQ Squadron, 95 Squadron and a local ATC unit, took off for Leek training area. According to the scenario, the bleak inhospitable Blackshaw moor, became transformed into the East/West German border.

To aid realism, half the participants were suitably kitted out as Soviet pact forces . . . Russian and East German. (And very warm too were those fur hats!) **Maj Bob Haysom** OC 58 Squadron aided by **Lt Mike Atkinson** and **SSM Bill 'Sailor' Eccleston**, the Soviet Forces. Their brief . . . to stop any escaping East to West refugees (Consisting mostly of raw recruits), and smash an escape organisation codenamed Spider!

OCdt Annette Holland bravely took on the task as the head of Spider, of organising the refugees in getting to the West.

The competition was umpired by the Western District Training Team led by **WO2 Hulme** who also kindly assisted in the training content of the weekend.

For the Western side, in charge of the 'Brits' were **Lt Chris Fidler**, **SSgt Bill Lambert** and **OCdt Steve Mills** and their task? To aid Spider and, by inserting patrols, to retrieve defectors and the like from within the Eastern Territory.

It was a long, long desolate border. Throughout the cold day, leading his merry men 'Comrade' **SSgt John Hyde** could be seen trudging along in his Russian greatcoat ever vigilant for shadowy elusive figures.

Pte Karen Wiczaryc, one of the more fortunate escapees, muttered something about the comforts of home as she successfully arrived at the British HQ amid the first hint of snowflakes . . .

But Blackshaw Moor, as bleak and isolated as it is, does boast a couple of very warm and pleasant hostelries . . . Most convenient. Er, that is, **2Lt Jeanette Bell** added hastily, for patrol message pick up points and dropping places for agents . . . And as it transpired, an Eastern agent did have to be collected—a patrol despatched.

But—and here we return to my opening theme—how on earth would the locals react to the sudden appearance of a host of fully combat uniformed crack Warsaw pact troops?

Only one way to find out! Stiff upper lip lads! Volunteers were called for an expedition to the Mermaid Inn. Surely a suicide mission? Yet in true Blue (er, or should I say Red . . .?) spirit, every single person, to a man (and woman) stepped forward.

The choice was hard. Those brave men and women. But finally, **Sgt Geoff Robinson** led **Cpl Karen Ingle, LCpl Mike Locket, Sig Steve Forrester, Philip Johnson** and **Pte Leslie Mifflin** into the jaws of death itself. Operation *Mermaid Inn*, was underway . . .

Some wag suggested that the exercise had a more subtle underlying objective—to discover how the people of Blackshaw Moor would respond to a sneak Soviet invasion Red Dawn, English style!!

Ah! speculated **SQMS Keith Spencer**, would the church bells ring? Would the publican reach for his old service revolver? Would some patriotic rustic in the snug run them through with a pitchfork? Would the quick thinking (and buxom) barmaid, spike their beer? We held our breath.

Of course, he sniffed knowingly, the dramatic outcome would remain a national secret, with a top level report speeding its way into the hands of Mr Heseltine.

'So what happened,' I hissed afterwards into the ear of a trusted informer, 'how did the locals react?'

My informant shook his head, a note of despair creeping into his tone. 'It was terrible' he muttered.

For some reason I was quite elated! Perhaps, it was in the knowledge that the good old British indomitable spirit was still with us!

Then he continued, his voice choked with emotion. 'Terrible' he repeated. 'You see . . . nobody batted an eyelid'.

Maj Bob Haysom gathers his Eastern forces, around the warmth of a cooker, for a briefing

OCdt Steve Mills, at the British Command vehicle, keeps track of events on the border

HAIL AND FAREWELL

We said goodbye in February to **SSGt (YofS) Lou Stevens** who left the Regiment on retirement. We wish him every success for his next career which he hopes will be at Catterick. We welcome **SSgt (YofS) Whitehead** straight off his Yeoman's course. We wish him a happy and successful two years.

March saw the departure of both **Maj Paul Renecle** OC HQ Squadron who left on retirement from the TA after 14 years so he can see his family and garden more, or so he claims, and **Maj Rollo Rumford** Training Major for the past three years who moves on to the AAC Harrogate. We wish them both well for the future.

Arriving as the new Training Major is **Maj Errol Hunt** a familiar face to all in the Regiment as he is an Assistant Schools Liaison Officer in the West Midlands.

PROMOTIONS

We congratulate two members of our Regular staff on being selected for promotion to WO2, **SSgt (FofS) Jacklin** and **SSgt John Hyde**.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

Squadron Commander	**Maj Douglas McLay TD**
Squadron 2IC	**Capt Roger Buston**
Admin Officer	**Capt Bill McMorris**
Squadron Ops Officer	**Capt Mike Stewart**
Squadron Subaltern	**Lt Colin Dyball**
TAC Comd Brentwood/OC 817 Tp	**Capt Ron Wilkinson**
TAC Comd Ilford	**Lt Val Jepson WRAC**
OC 750 Troop	**Capt Jackie Allan WRAC**
2IC 750 Troop	**2Lt Nigel Thompson**
OC 751 Troop	**Lt Phil Penfold**
OC 752 Troop	**2Lt Paul Hill**
OC 819 Troop	**Lt Chris Whitworth**
SSM	**WO2 Pete Minshall**
FofS	**WO2 Colin Hooper**
YofS	**SSgt John Fayers**
SQMS (NRPS)	**SSgt Ron Russell**
SQMS	**Sgt Ken Blackman**

EXERCISE *SNOW FLAKE*

The first weekend in February saw 45 Sig Sqn (V) carrying out its first exercise of the new season. This was the first deployment since *Lionheart* and it all seemed a bit strange. However, our 'Q' team of SQMS **Sgt Ken Blackman** and NRPS **SSgt Ron Russell** had issued an unseasonally warm weekend from the stores and we were all soon back into the groove. There were many changes to get used to since camp. 751 Troop had a new Troop Commander, **Lt Phil Penfold**, to tame. However, **Sgts John Coale** and **Ross Bannister** had him well under control. Meantime, SHQ emigreś **LCpl 'Killer' Bradford** and **Sig Mick Thompson** settled into their new Troop.

817 Troop meanwhile, not only had a new Troop Commander, **Capt Ron Wilkinson**, to train but also **SSgt Dave Dunn** and **Sgt Roy Symonds** and a new centre at Brentwood to get used to. In fact, only **Cpl 'Smudger' Smith** and the Regiment's champion technician **Sig Andrew Guest** were the only 'old hands' left.

Commcen India overcame a sticky start to get itself established in a rather unpromising site. Despite the layoff they celebrated the return of **Foreman Colin Cooper** from the Soloman Islands by getting all circuits through by night fall. It was a less successful return for **Sgt Mary Evans** who came back from her skiing holiday with a broken wrist. Such a handicap didn't stop **Mary** exercising but sadly it meant her having to cancel her Class 1 upgrading course at Catterick. Whilst all this activity was going on the enemy forces led by **Lt Val Jepson** were busy. They successfully infiltrated most areas of the Squadron amidst cries of 'enemy within' as some guards thought PSI **Sgts Evans** and **Ellie Symonds** were on their side!

Soon the first one of the year was over. It was back to TACs through an 'H' area organised by **SSM Peter Minshall** and MT NCO **Cpl Peter Stockwell** and his POD. At the end of it all it was considered by most of us to have been good to be back in the field and Squadron Commander **Maj Douglas McLay** declared himself well satisfied with the results.

Good morning campers! Pte Jane Simmons adjusts her camouflage at Commcen India

LCpl 'Killer' Bradford settles into his new troop on Ex *Snow Flake*

New SQMS Ken Blackman looks worried about his stores on Ex *Snow Flake*

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

ALL CHANGE
Report by 2Lt J. H. Dimond WRAC (V)

It would seem that the officers of the Squadron are playing musical chairs at the moment. **Capt John Insley**, OC of CMHQ Troop Brecon, has been appointed as second in command of the Squadron, whilst **Capt Jane Buckels**, OC 900 Troop takes over the command of the Brecon Troop. **Lt Paul Welsh-Harding** is now commander of 900 Troop with **2Lt Jackie Dimond** being brought down from Brecon as his 2IC. **2Lt Tim Bardell-Cox** has moved from 900 Troop and is now troop officer for 868 and 869 ZMST Troops. However, **Capt Malcolm Lott** remains as Traffic Officer as does **Capt Brian Carney** as PSAO.

All these changes arise as, Squadron OC **Maj Andy Flint** will soon be leaving us to take command of 57 Sig Sqn, the Gateway Squadron of the Regiment, **Capt John Insley** will take over the Squadron.

THE SHOOTING TEAM

A notable event in the shooting team diary was the TA SAAM at Bisley when the Regimental shooting team, with **Lt Paul Welsh-Harding, Sgt Dave Dorrance, LCpl Fred Newton** and **Sig Robert Pearce** representing the Squadron, won the Mercury cup. To add to the day **Sgt Dave Dorrance** was runner up in the SMG cup.

Following their success at Bisley the lads took a well earned break for a couple of weeks before getting back into training for the TA Winter League and are currently placed second in the Division.

USING THEIR TALENTS FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

In November the team turned their talents to a worthy cause when they raised £1,000 for cancer research by participating in a charity shoot.

The success of the team is due largely to the help of two Welsh international shooters, **Bob Boothby** and **Sam Dunn** who have very kindly, with the bribery of a few beers, agreed to help the team again in the forthcoming year.

The most promising member of the team must surely be **Sig Phil Wynne** who, due to his own personal effort and skill, has rapidly risen from the ranks of magazine filler to second reserve. Seriously, **Sig Wynne** is the most improved shot this year and we are hoping for great things from him.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Pte Pat Delaney** on her promotion to LCpl.

DETACHMENT TO NORWAY

For the second year running members of the Squadron have gone to Norway on detachment with 29 Commander Regiment RA. Once again **Cpl Linda Hardiman** and **LCpl Bonnie Gibson** eagerly volunteered and **LCpl Marion Isaac** and **Pte Yvonne Lodwick**, also keen to take up the opportunity of something different have gone along with them to provide their services as Date Telegraphists, whilst **Sig Michael John** goes to cook.

THE BRECON MARATHON RUNNERS

It would appear that certain members of the CMHQ Brecon troop have overdone things a little in their training for the BFT. **Sgt Ian Letman, Cpl Geordie McFall** and **LCpl Dave Arnold** will be taking part in the London Marathon in April. If this does not put them off, the three, accompanied by **Sgt Billy Waghorn, Cpl Alistair McInnes, LCpl John Duggan** and **Sig Robert Dickey** will be taking part in a total of six half marathons throughout the season.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

SPRING VISITS

We were very pleased to receive several important visitors during the early spring period. **Brig Keith Olds**, Comd 2 Sig Bde, visited HQ and 64 Sqns at Sheffield on 5 March; and 46 Sqn at Derby, 87 Sqn at Nottingham and 93 Sqn at Blackburn on 19 March. **Col E Cooper**,Comd Maint NEDIST, visited our LAD and RHQ on 26 February and 46 Sqn were especially honoured by a formal civic visit by **Councillor R. Longdon**, Mayor of Derby, on 22 January.

Capt Bill Evans, Brig Keith Olds, Lt Col Nick Henwood, Pte Marie Horton and Pte Sherri Newsome admire the newly refurbished part of the HQ Sqn kitchen at the Manor Top TA Centre

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Col Alan Hawksworth, Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde and a former CO of the unit, and **Col John Francis**, Honorary Colonel and the founder CO of the unit, joined us at our Regimental Training Weekend at the STC, Scarborough in February.

Col Hawksworth presented awards to the following individuals at a ceremony during the regimental parade on the Sunday:

Lt Col Toby Seymour (2IC)	Efficiency Decoration
Rev Mike Hiles (RHQ)	1st Clasp to Efficiency Decoration

Col Alan Hawksworth, Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde, congratulating Lt Col Toby Seymour, 2IC, after presenting him with the Efficiency Decoration. Lt Col Seymour, who completed 40 years unbroken service in the Corps the day before the presentation, is now a proud holder of the very uncommon, if not unique, combination of Efficiency Decoration and LS & GC Medal (18 years' version)

Capt (QM) Eric Webster (RHQ)	1st Clasp to LS & GC
WO2 (SSM) Derrick Marsden (64 Sqn)	))
SSgt Harry Lomas (64 Sqn)	)Efficiency Medals
Sgt Geoffrey Acaster (LAD)	)
Sgt Ken Pick (LAD)	)
Cpl Michael Doolan (LAD)	2nd Clasp to Efficiency Medal

In addition, **Mr Gerard Young**, Lord Lieutenant for South Yorkshire, presented **Cpl Rod Bulmer** (LAD) with his Certificate for Outstanding Voluntary Service at a recent ceremony in Sheffield.

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS AND RECRUIT (WRAC) COURSES

In order to overcome a substantial course backlog the unit was authorised to conduct its own Detachment Commander and WRAC Recruit courses during February. The training venue was split between Leek Trg Camp and the STC Scarborough. **Maj Bob Barnes**, 7LI, ably assisted by **Lt Helen Roy** and **2Lt Chris Jenkins**, led the two courses with technical assistance provided by **WO1 (RSM) Ken Fowler, WO2 John Moody**, (HQ 2 Sig Bde), **Sgt Bev Swift** and the PSIs of the unit. **Col Mike Wilson**, TA Dep Comd (South) NEDIST, was the Inspecting Officer at the combined Pass-off Parade at Scarborough on 28 February where he presented awards to the following:

Pte K. Clayton (3 WFR)	Best Recruit
LCpl Neil Wilkinson (64 Sqn)	Best overall Det Comd Student
LCpl John Widdison (64 Sqn)	Best improved Det Comd Student
LCpl Penelope Burns (46 Sqn)	Best WRAC Det Comd Student

Col Mike Wilson presenting the award for Best Det Comd Student to LCpl Neil Wilkinson

Col Mike Wilson presenting LCpl Widdison with the award for Best Improved Det Comd Student

DINING OUT

Capt Hazel Solomon (HQ Sqn) and **Capt Ruth Lea** (64 Sqn) were dined out of the mess at a Regimental Dinner Night held at Scarborough on 23 February when the officers were joined by our Honorary Colonel, **Col John Francis**, and Dep Bde Comd, **Col Alan Hawksworth**.

Capt Hazel Solomom, departing 2IC of HQ Sqn, is flanked by Sgt Frank Delaney and Cpl Micky Spink

ORIENTEERING

64 Sqn provided the winning WRAC TA team at the recent NEDIST/NWDIST/SCOTLAND Orienteering Championship. The team members were **SSgt Marion Poulter, Pte Debbie Powell-Pepper** and **Pte Terri Brown**—with the first two named earning second and third individual awards respectively. We wish them well in the forthcoming UKLF championships.

FOCUS ON HQ SQN

OC	**Capt Colin Slaughter**
2IC	**Capt Hazel Solomon**
SSM	**WO2 Roy Frost**
WO i/c Recruit Trg	**WO1 Dave Warburton**
WO i/c Weapon Trg	**WO2 Derrick Wilkinson**

Although unquestionably the stalwarts of the Regiment, HQ Sqn prefers to perform its good works with a low profile—however the increase in the number of WRAC joining the Squadron over the past couple of years has tended to change that! The girls, who must now be reckoned to be the power engine of the Squadron, and have a high profile. They take an active part in all regimental activities particularly those concerned with military skills—for instance **Cpl Francine Dagnall, LCpl Peggy Brown** and **Pte Sherry Kershaw** are excellent shots and weapon instructors as well as being very useful performers in all the military arts. The men are now placed squarely on their mettle! However, **Cpl Mick (Mettle Mick?) Spinks** is certain things will reassume their proper proportions when **Sig Schultz Cutts, Webbo Webster** and the other latent and incubating male talents flower and emerge into the sunlight.

SQUADRON FAREWELL

We sadly lost our 2IC, **Capt Hazel Solomon**, on her departure to warmer climes in sunny Devon, and presented her with a handsome fob watch to mark our appreciation of her efforts.

SQUADRON SHOOTING

We were second in this year's Clinch Cup small bore competition after winning it last year. In the TARA winter league both the male and WRAC Squadron teams came second in their respective divisions of this national small bore competition.

QM'S DEPARTMENT

QM	**Capt Eric Webster**
QM(V)	**Capt Bill Evans**
RQMS	**WO2 John Reid-Robertson**
RQMS(V)	**WO2 Moss Elliott**
RQMS(V)	**WO2 Gwen Stabler**
Clerical Officer	**Miss Janet Thornton**
Senior Storekeeper	**Mr George Whiting**
Storekeeper	**Mr Fred Kelwick**

The expanding QM's dept (matching its leader's expanding girth) is also in the vanguard of gender progress! **RQMS Gwen Stabler** must be congratulated on becoming the first WRAC RQMS in the Brigade if not in the TA Royal Signals.

LAD

OC	**Maj Charlie Cartwright REME(V)**
Art Veh	**SSgt Brian Bennett**
PSI	**SSgt Robert McClafferty**

The detachment distinguished itself again on the recent REME Warcop Trophy Competition when it competed against other TA and regular REME units within North East District on field maintenance and repair projects and military skills. The detachment was the holder of the trophy for the best TA unit team, won at the last competition in 1983. This year the team, led by **SSgt Brian Bennett,** came eighth overall narrowly missing the retention of its best TA accolade. The first aid team, led by **Cpl Peter Edmunds**, saw off all opposition—TA and regulars alike—in that aspect of the competition winning the EME First Aid Cup with a matchless score of 99%.

MT DEPARTMENT

MTWO (NRPS)	**WO1 Ben Bentley**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Frank Delaney**

The spring has seen an active driver training period for the department—culminating in a very productive driving exercise held at the ASMT Driffield. Seven new HGV driver and four ordinary licences have helped to alleviate a constant problem in the manning of the many vehicles at our disposal.

PAY DEPARTMENT

UPM	**Lt Gary Garner RAPC(V)**

The pay department is taking a larger role in unit activities of late—the Paymaster, in particular is branching out into extra-curricular military instructional duties. In his more normal role he is ably assisted by **LCpl Gillian Whitehouse, Ptes Pat Green** and **Christine Davies**.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Report by Capt Brian Platts RAMC(V)—RMO (Sheffield)

Our new Sheffield medical room, staffed by **Pte Tracy Jane Paling** and **Pte Sonia Glover**, is in full swing. The team is an essential part of our recruit reception and induction process, including full participation in the Recruit Selection Weekends. (On a recent weekend held at the Krypton Factor assault course venue, the whole medical team tested each of the daunting obstacles, before granting medical imprimatur!)

VISIT TO BRITISH STEEL

The CO and Adjt paid a formal visit to the Special Steels Division of British Steel at Stocksbridge. Pictured are Mr Peter Thompson—Personnel Manager, Capt Denise Ashton—Adjt, Mr Derrick Sivell—Accident Prevention Officer and Lt Royal Signals ACF and former WO1 38 Sig Regt (V), Lt Col Nick Henwood—CO

News from Squadrons

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
BFPO 18

EXERCISE *WINTEX* 1985

'Here we are again, happy as can be, all good friends and jolly good company!'.The line of the song gives an apt description of the atmosphere in the Squadron at the end of this exercise. Where do they all come from? The squadron received its additional support from the conscripts of Belgium and augmentees from the Regular Armies of NATO. Tinker, Taylor, Soldier, Sailor we had it all. How on earth were we to cope with this lot! Well cope we did, and I must say a lot of eyes were opened. These additions were no slouches—they were very professional and very keen. The exercise from start to finish was first class and it was due in no small measure to this very professional attitude from the part-timers. They wanted to learn and the Regular soldiers were pleased to teach them. Many new friendships were made and much valuable experience gained. I think I can speak for all the Squadron when I say—I hope to meet you all again!

Of course an exercise of this magnitude cannot pass without its funnier moments.

SSM: 'If I see anyone wearing yellow wellies again—I'm going to get very excited!'
American Comms Sgt: 'Listen Mac, if you can't hear me on this phone, go to your vehicle door and wave!'
Chief Clerk: Yes, the Squadron is organising a Triathlon in April. It consists of a 300 metre swim, a 4Km run and a shooting competition.
Augmentee: 'I'm in training at the moment for a Triathlon in Brussels'
Chief Clerk: 'Oh yes, what does that consist of then?'.
Augmentee: 'A 1Km swim in the canal, a 112Km cycle race followed by a Marathon run'.
Chief Clerk: 'Oh'.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES!

Out with the old and in with the new. Sadly the time arrived for the squadron to say farewell to one of its characters. **WO2 (SSM) Mick Gue** finally cracked and decided to leave us. **Mick** was dined out by the Officers and Seniors of the Squadron on 11 February. Not to dwell too long on the process leading up to the headaches the following morning, suffice it to say, it took a long time and most enjoyable it was. **Mick!** we will miss you, enjoy your last few months in the army and give our love to **Terry**. Welcome to our new SSM **WO2 Keith Hawke** and his wife **Judy**.

MARATHON TRAINING

All pistons are firing, and the engines are finely tuned. The fact that some of us have two stroke 50cc engine and others 3 litre 6 cylinders is neither here nor there. Oh my, 26 miles plus, which idiot persuaded me to do this again? I'm forty in two months, and I think I should be seeing a psychiatrist. Honestly though, I've played sport all my life, but none of them holds the challenge or satisfaction that I get from staggering over that finishing line. London will be with us in just a few weeks, and we have seven runners. The original number who wanted to compete was nearer 20. With the number of entries running over 100,000 it was not possible for everyone to get a place. Those in the Squadron who are enjoying running is ever increasing, and we hope to have at least 15 in the Berlin Marathon in September, maybe even more.

STOP PRESS

Our OC **Maj Mike Anderson** has just returned from competing in the Vienna Marathon—three hours and nine minutes and it was easy! As I was saying, some of us have 3 litre engines and some of us have 50cc!

MENTION OF THE MONTH

Yet again someone new. Why don't I get a mention in *The Wire*? Well, here it is: **Kpl** 'I'm in love with my muscles, and aren't I pretty' **Rob Schenk** of the Royal Netherlands Army.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Since our last report the Squadron has said farewell to **Maj Chris Shuker** and welcomed a new Squadron OC, **Maj Martin Stretch**. The handing over of the Squadron was marked by a parade and drive-past of the Squadrons' 100 prime movers (and the AQMS' Morris Eight).

The AQMS and his Morris Eight. Sgt Daley gives the salute

The recent weeks have also seen the departure from the Squadron of two more of our illustrious leaders. QM **Capt Ron Brodie** is off to the warmer climate of Brunei and 2IC **Capt Tim** 'Mr Greedy' **Inshaw** is off to boost the sales of N. Irelands' sticky shops. We wish them both all the best in their new posts. Here to take over as QM, from 35 Sig Regt (V) is **Maj Harry Meekings**. Following on in **Capt Inshaw**'s footsteps **Capt Mike Rough** has walked up from Charlie troop to take over as 2IC. So that he can keep up with all these changes, Chief Clerk **SSgt Manning** has been given a computer.

Maj Shuker presents the Kay Cup to Sig Cathrew of Bravo Troop

Cpl Toombes receives the award for Best Sportsman

ALL GO

The Squadron has had a busy period of exercises. The troops were out on Salisbury Plain in February in preparation for the Squadron Exercise Ex *New Regime* and then in March it was Ex *Last Resort*, the first BDE CPX of the year. The FMA contingent of Charlie troop didn't play but FMA did have their own one-day exercise on Salisbury Plain.

Within hours of arriving back from Ex *Last Resort* the Squadron's Football Gladiators were on the soccer pitch playing 3 FD Workshops in the SW District Cup Semi-final. Thankfully, the team managed to stay awake just long enough to earn a 4—2 victory which put them through to the final. The final was played on Wednesday 27 March against 9 Ord Bn. Out of our five shots at goal the ball ended up in 9 Ord Bns' net, no fewer than four times. Well done **Sig 'Jock' Davidson** (twice). **Cpl 'Marty' Davis** and **Sig 'Rab' Arthur**. Well done also to **Cpl 'DT' Toombes** who had a magnificent game in goal.

Cpl Lambert receives the SW District Football Cup

The Squadron's Cross-Country team have also been very sucessful this season with the following successes:

SW District Cross-Country League Minor Units Champions, West Area Cross-Country Minor Units Champions, Army Cross-Country Minor Units Champions.

Team members were **Capt Ward, WO1 (RSM) Bailes, Cpls Bailey, Balsdon, Brebner, LCpls Higgins, Roberts** and **Sig Brebner**. **Cpl Bailey** and **LCpl Roberts** were also regularly selected to run for the army.

ROYAL MARINES DEPOT VISIT

Alpha Troop had a day out when troop OC **Lt Kendall-Carpenter** RM got together the majority of the troop personnel at 0700 hrs on 19 February for a coach journey to visit the Royal Marine depot. Not many of the lads were keen on going as part of the visit was to do the endurance course.

COOL

This consisted of short tunnels, long tunnels, straight and windy tunnels, all full with water if that is what it can be called. To us it was freezing hell. The troop were fortunate as a bunch of potential RM rodneys had set off earlier and had broken up a fair bit of ice which was lying around each tunnel. Thanks go to them.

Prior to our trip around the course we were taken by our OC on a walk around (that's a posh yomp) the camp. It was quite impressive, mind you, aren't all things associated with the Senior Service. The gymnasium was unbelievable, every available facility was there.

POOR APPETITES

After we visited the assault course, to the regular yompers it is called the Tarzan Course, I leave the rest to your imagination. Once seen and not attempted we trotted off (that's a posher type tab) to the cookhouse. But folks it's not called that it's the galley to our marine friends. Most of us did not feel like eating much as we knew what lay ahead. Yes, the endurance course.

UNDER WAY

We all got into our BFT dress order and at 1400 hrs we arrived by coach at the start. Quite a nice place we thought at first, nice open area really, until you see a little black hole that has to be got through. We all went through that wet slimy thing and survived. For myself, and I'm sure a few of the others, thought it was a doddle doing the course after the first tunnel, not realising what was coming up next.

The next bit was the ***?? hell of the course. It was the little mass of water we had to walk through. God it was cold! Most of us thought it would only go up to our waist which in itself was bad enough but it didn't—it kept creeping up as we walked (sorry yomped, I'm into it now!) along holding the guide rope, at one point it was on tip toes for some of the smaller members, and there are a few small members of the troop, for which it meant swimming some of the way.

Once that was completed it was on to the dreaded water tunnel. This is a 6ft long fully submerged tunnel which the only way to get through comfortably was for a mate (naval term) to push you through and another to pull you through. Of course not everyone was matey, most notably **Sgt Meechin** (who came along for the run out) who on one or *three* occasions, forgot to pull!

OUR THANKS

Well, that was completed by all and off we jolly well went through a few more varying tunnels and last of all to the final run back into camp for a wash up. It all went well and all troop members on reflection would say it was a good time (I think-help). So, to our Royal Marine hosts, we thank them very much for the very informative visit.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

THE BLUE HELMETS

As longer days and better weather start to become part of our lives so the Blue Helmets rouse from their winter sleep. This intrepid bunch of dedicated sports parachutists forms the nucleus of the Royal Signals Parachute display team. Throughout the English winter with its inclement weather and shortage of daylight the team spends most of its time maintaining parachute equipment and dreaming of long lazy days on a drop zone in warmer climes. Due to the exchange rate though many choose to spend the winter freezing on a drop zone on Salisbury Plain, parachuting when the cloud base is high enough and having remembered to take their thermal underwear.

As Spring descends upon us there is a stirring inside the body that says 'You should be in the airplane throwing yourself out into the crisp spring air'. So the Parachute team comes back together preparing to train for the forthcoming display season. This season should prove the busiest and most taxing for the team. Already we have bookings for 16 venues and hope to appear in front of an audience of around 250,000 people. This is in an area from Newcastle down to Plymouth at shows and fetes both military and civilian.

Apart from parachute displays the team also intends to enter two teams in the Rhine Army Parachute Championships, in which it won the Daily Telegraph Cup, for best visiting services team, last year. From the two teams entered a selection will be made for the team that will enter the Army Championships to be held in August.

As usual we cannot function without parachutists, we now have more backing than ever before, but once again we have to ask that any one interested at all in the sport whether as a jumper or to help out with admin, driving, commentating etc contact **Sgt Mick Thurman** at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn.

TM TROOP

WO1 (FofS)	**Dave Jackson**
SSgt	**Ben Grossmith**
Sgt	**Rog Taylor**
Sgt	**Mick Thurman— Team Manager Blue Helmets**
Cpl	**Bob Elliott**
Cpl	**Craig Kearney**
Cpl	**Mick Fleming**
Cpl	**George Murray**
Cpl	**Sean McKay**
LCpl	**Kermit Robertson**

WITH REGRET

It is with regret that we have to report the sudden death of **Cpl Tony Farrant** known by his friends as **'Charlie'**. He will be missed by all and our deepest sympathies go to his wife **Jacky** and children.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

WO1 (FofS) Ken Underwood has now joined the ranks of civvy street and is currently working in Pakistan. Who says you need to join the Army to travel. **Cpl Porky Pullen** is sampling the delights of Germany after his 2½ year holiday with us. To both we wish you luck in your future careers. See you both on Airborne Forces Day. We welcome back **Cpl Sean McKay** from his six months penguin chasing tour in the South Atlantic. The postal service had a 50% reduction in mail while you were away. Welcome also to **LCpl Kermit Robertson** from the barren wastes of Catterick and good luck on your para course in the near future. Only three more converts and we will all be jump happy.

Congratulations to **Cpl George Murray** on finally completing his jumps course. Welcome to the brotherhood and good luck on your T1 entrance exam. One of the most interesting aspects of working in a developing environment is the number of new projects the Comms Offr, **Capt John Whitby**, can come up with. They range from building a miniature cordless switchboard to HF Rebro comms. Eat your heart out Development troop.

If any fit, keen radio or TE technicians would like an interesting and challenging career why not volunteer for 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. There's never a dull moment.

Shrove Tuesday celebrated TM Tp style on Ex *Saxon Steed*. *L to R:* LCpl Kermit Robertson, WO1 (FofS) Dave Jackson, Sgt Mick Thurman, and the late Cpl Charlie Farrant

ALPHA TROOP

The year started off with three squadron 'shake out' exercises. On Ex *Saxon Fool* A troop attempted to establish a RRB chain from Aldershot to Penhale Camp in Cornwall, but due to **Sig 'Gremlin' Maughan** who broke the clutch on the Sig Ops wagon we had to return to good old Salisbury Plain. Ex *Saxon Pony* was a squadron HF exercise working between Catterick, Norwich and Scotland which went well for A Tp (C Tp were rumoured to have taken part too). *Saxon Steed* was supposed to be a full Squadron SOP exercise. However the pathfinders didn't jump in neither did the rest of the Squadron (ground too hard!) We then moved into a hide and waited for an airlift. This unfortunately didn't materialise because the RAF didn't seem to think that helicopters and arty shells mixed that well (see **Capt Young** for details). Several changes of command from Main to step up were carried out though.

The next exercise was Ex *Swift Drop* a leading Parachute Bn Ex (LPBG Ex). Where the Comms Offr **Capt John Whitby** decided to try his hand at Bde recce officer. After an interesting cross country mud run that took two hours to negotiate, diamond one was left with one vehicle, whose gearbox then broke down. The less said about this ex the better!

Congratulations are in order for **Sig Cullen** and **Sig Rosser** for obtaining their wings.

Also welcome to **LCpls Bell** and **McArthy** who joined the troop after a brief unofficial tour in each of the other troops.

Farewell to **Lt Knobel** and **Lt Andy Allman**, whose enthusiasm to fill the orderly officer roster will be missed greatly and **LCpl Lucas** who departs to become a combat civilian, **LCpl Marsh** who leaves on promotion and **LCpl Cefai** who is detached to the RMA across the road, prior to posting.

BRAVO TROOP

After a hearty Christmas leave it was back to it with a series of Saxon exercises intended to shake out the troop. We also took part in several JOCOMEX's with the Navy. Basically we communicated to all corners of Britain and beyond. There was quite a memorable day on *Saxon Steed* when the artillery laid on a fire power demo for us. Unfortunately no one had warned us.

We welcome **Sig Baldwin** from 4 Div and say goodbye to the following: **LCpl 'Tonibell' Stokes** who goes to 'civ div' along with **Sig 'Gaz' Fivash** if they ever let him go, **Sig Chris Merritt** to 1 Div and **2Lt Tim Cooper** who is now performing at the Officers' Mess, Blandford.

Also we would like to wish **Sig Jock Walker** a nice time in the Falklands. He has just relieved **Sig Paddy Maxwell!**

CHARLIE TROOP

During February and March C Troop has been extremely busy. In February we spent the month practising our SOPs (from Para HQ up to Main HQ), plus patrol training, on Salisbury Plain. As well as being our run up to Ex *Swift Drop* it enabled us to train our new arrivals and revise the old hands.

We also managed to take part in the Brigade Patrol Competition coming second out of all the minor units and beating some major units as well. Next year the troop commander is going to give his orders in BATCO which only seems fair as the Gurkas gave their in Gurkali.

Swift Drop was a complete success, with no injuries on the Para drop and excellent HF comms. The COS was well pleased and called an early endex for C Tp. A Tp stayed out to get it right.

We are now looking forward to Ex *Lion Sun* in Cyprus. This takes place in June and will give us some good infantry training.

We must welcome **Sgt Fred Hutchinson** back to the PARA fold after a long break in LOA land. He has just returned with his rear link from a very successful tour in NI with 2 PARA. It's good to have you back lads.

Other new arrivals are **Cpl Chris Bean** and **Mrs. Bean** and **LCpl Peter Bauress** and **Mrs Bauress** also **Sig Smudge Smith**. Here's wishing you a pleasant tour. Sadly we are losing a troop character, **LCpl Rev Revera** is moving on to Thames Valley Police. We wish him and his wife **Gill** every success and happiness for the future.

SON ET LUMIÈRE

RETURNS TO CENTRAL LONDON

The spectacular and highly acclaimed Son et Lumière production 'Heart of the Nation' returns to Horse Guards Parade this summer to celebrate the centenary year of SSAFA, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association. Once again, the voices of Anthony Andrews, Maxine Audley, Peter Barkworth, Richard Bebb, Isabel Dean, Maurice Denham, John Gielgud, Hannah Gordon, Robert Hardy, Gordon Jackson, Penelope Keith, David Langton, Keith Michell, Prunella Scales, Paul Scofield, Gwen Watford, Timothy West, Barbara Windsor and Edward Woodward are among those who will recreate the great moments of history that have taken place in and around Whitehall.

Last presented in 1983 'Heart of the Nation' attracted an audience of over 35,000. The show was such a success that this year it will run for an extra week. Performances are at 9pm from 13 August-14 September (Monday to Saturday).

Said Producer Michael Parker: 'This is the largest Son et Lumière ever presented in Britain and this year's production includes extra lighting and effects which will make this fascinating story even more impressive.'

'Heart of the Nation' goes back 500 years with Henry VIII hearing of the execution of Anne Boleyn and recreates those scenes of triumph, tragedy and high drama that are so great a part of our heritage. It finishes with the spotlight on No 10 Downing Street during the epic leadership of Winston Churchill in World War 2.

All proceeds go to SSAFA, which for a hundred years has offered friendship and practical help to Service and ex-Service families and dependents. Last year 44,000 turned to SSAFA for help. It is being presented in association with HOGG ROBINSON.

Covered stand tickets are at £6 and £5. There are negotiable trade discounts for parties of 10 or more. Limited parking adjacent to Horse Guards Parade is available for coaches with official passes for the production. There are special arrangements for the disabled.

For bookings and further information contact:

SSAFA, 27 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9 BZ Tel: 01-922 9228

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

A NEW YEAR

Having survived the Orwellian predictions of 1984, 1985 has brought us a greatly changed management team:

OC	**Maj Tony Raper**
2IC	**Capt Jim McGrath**
QM	**Capt Charlie Homewood**
OC Oscar	**Lt Chris Wakerley**
OC Papa	**Lt Andy Bristow**
(Designate)	**Lt Andy James**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Pat Gallagher**
MTO	**WO1 Angus Paterson RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Mick Everett**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Mick Hawley**
AQMS	**WO2 Geoff Cotter REME**

We wish a very warm welcome to all soldiers and their families, too many to mention who have newly arrived in Colchester. In addition we would wish a sad farewell to those who have recently left for pastures new. Again the full list is too long to record but we wish them all the best and especially **Maj (QM) John Richardson, Capt Tim Rimell** and **WO2 (FofS) Graham Atkinson.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Cpl Tony Winter and **Sue** and **LCpl Ian Lines** and **Lorraine** on their recent respective marriages.

TO CYPRUS

On 1 February the Squadron deployed for a month to Cyprus on Ex *Royal Measure* II a military and adventure training exercise based at Radio Sonde near Episkopi. The exercise was divided into four phases consisting loosely of:

Phase 1	Ranges and live firing field firing
Phase 2	Basic Infantry training
Phase 3	Final exercise
Phase 4	Two days R&R

Without doubt the exercise was a great success and enjoyed by everyone. Notable events are recorded below.

SSgt (YofS) Mick Hawley disposes of 'DS Eyes Only' information under the watchful eye of Maj Tony Raper and Capt Jim Massey 1 Stafford

LCpl Andy Roberts RE and Sig Mark Smith advance from smoke during the final dawn attack

Sig Chris Yates discovers man's best friend is not an Army dog on the 36 hour escape and evasion exercise. 1 Platoon and hunters Sig Mark Rouse, Steve Robinson and Ian Duncan look on

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The enemy. *L to R:* WO1 Angus Paterson RCT, WO2 (FofS) Mick Everett, Sgt Les Adcock ACC, SSgt Andy Gibb RCT, Sgt Tim Wynn

The NEFSKI visiting unit champions. Maj David Kirkwood RAPC, Cpl Mike Hopkins and Lts Bristow and Wakerley

Sgt Bob Combe receives the platoon's prize for competing in the potted sports competition. Note this was not the first prize

The Squadron at the Kourim Amphitheatre prior to the final exercise

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

EXERCISE *HARDFALL* 85

The *Hardfall* exercise in Norway from January to March, is the culmination of the Squadron training year. It is the annual winter training period for the UK contingent to the AMF (L), it gave approximately a third of the squadron the opportunity to go on to northern Norway to participate in Ex *Cold Winter* with the marines and 1 PARA.

So after deployment by either Hercules, VC10 or LSL to Stalheim, near Voss, the unit shelved their communicating skills and went in search of their ski legs. For the instructors and *Hardfall* veterans, it was merely a case of waxing—up and brushing up on Tellemark turns, but for the novice, it was to be a sometimes painful but always an enjoyable period in which to discover as many ways as possible to fall—or 'snot' as it was affectionately known. The main aim of the ski instructors in these first 10 days, was to impart to the beginner, the skills of turning and stopping on skis. However, the beginner's aim was to reach, and once there, maintain terminal velocity for as long as possible. It was soon discovered that the time taken to reach this speed was greatly reduced with the addition of a rifle, bergen and pulk.

Ski jorring—man and machine in perfect harmony?

Flying weather—good news for us, a five minute flight can save a morning's skiing

ARCTIC WARFARE TRAINING

With the squadron now declared 'safe to ski' Arctic training began in earnest with a four day exercise. After a long 5Km ski jorr, (with **Sig Morris** doing most of the 'snotting' and so providing the rests), the dreaded pulks were loaded from the Volvos. After a nearly perfect demonstration of pulk pulling by the continuation course, (and would you believe that apparently they got it right everytime in practice?—and no, we didn't), we set off for the company base area with pulks in tow. Having broken the first rule of the Arctic not to sweat several times, the base area was reached and the five man tents quickly erected. At once the benefits of carrying the tents around all day were realised, for with a Coleman lamp and several Peak stoves running, it was warm within minutes. Before turning in for the night, there was a noise and light demo, during which **SSgt (YofS) Wykes** proved just how far a voice can carry in the Arctic even from the prone position.

Pulk pulling—everyone's favourite

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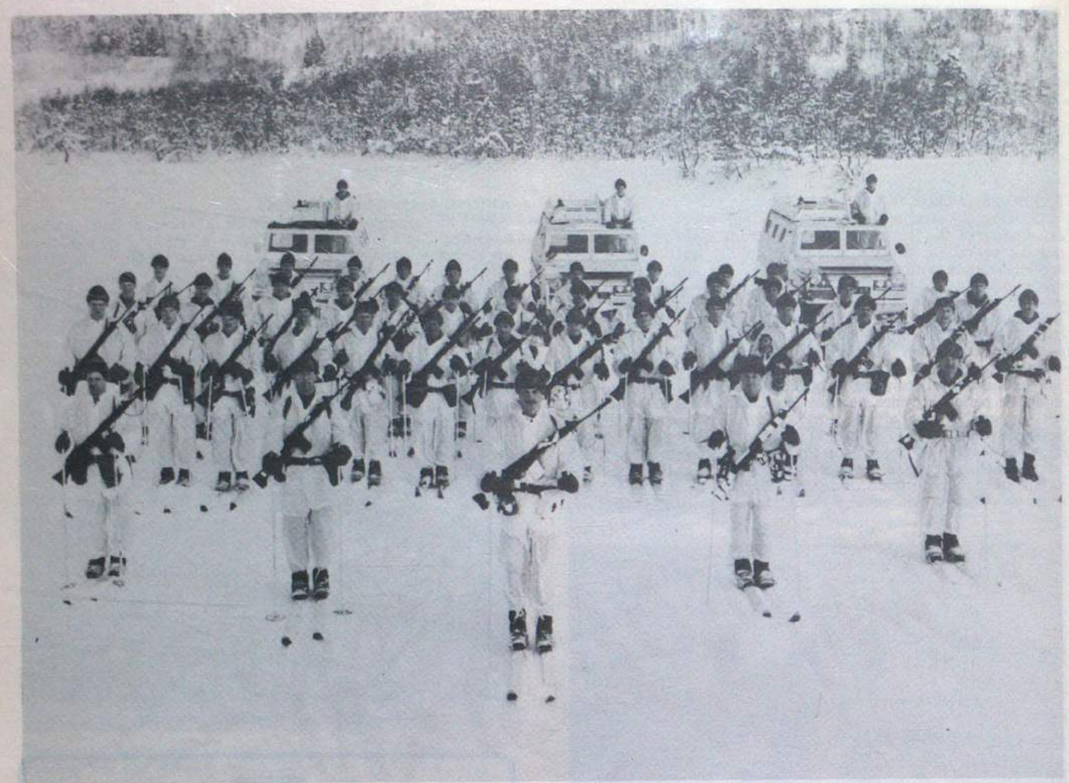


A rare shot of Support Troop on their feet (thanks go to the REME for getting three Volvos on the road for this photo). Spot the hedgehog

LUXURY LEFT

The luxury of the Arctic tent and the burden of the pulk were left behind the following morning, and the squadron skied in the relative comfort of carrying just a bergen. That night was spent under the shelter of tent sheets, having initially discovered the numerous different ways of fastening them together to resemble everything but a tent. 12 hours later, these once pliable canvas sheets, were frozen solid, and took a lot of coaxing to reduce them to a size small enough to fit inside a bergen, but eventually the squadron skied off for the 3rd day and 3rd form of shelter—snow holes.

THE ADVANTAGE

Now the advantage of living in a snowhole, is that it does not have to be carried around. The disadvantage is that it takes four hours plus to dig. However, much to everyone's delight, they were fairly comfortable on what turned out to be the coldest night outside – 25°C with a high wind blowing.

SURVIVAL PHASE

This format of exercise was repeated the following week with the introduction of tactics, so in preparation, white cam tape was stuck on everything. The last 24 hours of the week was to be a survival phase in brushwood shelters. The provision of the brushwood came courtesy of our Norge LO. Armed with a chain-saw, **Axel** (grizzly Adam's stand-in) proceeded to defoliate the forest. After a few hours he had cut down everything resembling a tree or plank (**Cpl 'Dithers' Petherbridge** just falling outside this description, escaped narrowly). Unfortunately, the finer side of lumberjacking—such as where to actually saw through the tree to determine where it will fall—was not one of **Axel**'s (half-shaft to his friends) strong points, and he managed to demolish a brushwood shelter and **LCpl John Lynch**'s fourth brew; a pity as it was to be the one he had promised to share around.

FAREWELL TO COMD 1 SIG GP

In between exercises, time was found for the squadron to say farewell to **Col Mike Marples**. **Sgt John Munro** provided an excellent meal, and **Cpl 'Adolf' Pritchard** and his 'A—Team' of waiters the laughs. The OC and all ranks of 249 Sig Sqn would like to wish **Col Marples** well in his new appointment as Regimental Colonel.

The OC, Maj Cook presents Col Marples with his well earned 'Artic Warrior' (No, Mrs Cook, I am afraid we do not know who the lady is next to your husband!)

EXERCISE *PRONTO'S SKIRMISH*

With knowledge such as the exact role of the lollipop stick in the Arctic ration pack now known, the squadron split into two platoons for Ex *Pronto's Skirmish*. This was the chance for the two troop commanders **Lt Mike Wise (in devil's disguise)** and **Lt Frazer (anything gimmicky with Berghaus written on, I'll buy) Grant**, to display their ski-borne tactics. From day one, **Lt Wise** went 100% covert, only risking one appearance from his Arctic sleeping bag, (purchased from **Sgt Jim Perry** at very little profit to the latter) for such essentials as changing his 'jack-box' batteries. **Mr Grant**, however, put out numerous aggressive patrols. A mention must go to the special ski patrol who were heli-dropped behind enemy lines and succeeded within 24 hours to bump their own OP.

The OC, **Maj (time for another hot Ribena I think) Cook**,—injected a little excitement into the exercise by telling each side where everyone else was. Unfortunately, the information was sent in BATCO, which took the radio operators the remaining two days of the exercise to decode. However, acting on this intelligence (certainly not his own), **Lt Grant** pinpointed the enemy patrol base and prepared for a dawn attack. By mid-morning, the platoon had fought through a forest and came across the enemy position, won the firefight and won the day.

THE SKI RACES

For the majority of this time, **SSgt (YofS) Wykes** and **Sgt Perry** were always 'just off to cut the track for the ski race'. It was never discovered exactly what they were up to, but the ski races (on the well cut tracks) were both a success. The 10Km competition was a straight forward race, with **Sig Guy Ashton** winning in a time of 41m 15s, in front of 2nd placed **Cpl Pete Plevin**. The 'Richmond Trophy' a 20Km biathlon was, however, quite different. The organisers had a much more difficult job on their hands to cut a track in snow that was rapidly changing to slush. After a weeks postponement, the event was run and enjoyed by all who took part. **Sig Ashton** after the success of the 10Km event, imposed a handicap on himself by not carrying his ammunition with him. **Mr Grant** and **SSgt Dave Beattie** were so moved by this selfless gesture, that they both followed suit. The OC refused to allow **LCpl 'Gripper' Jackson** to carry him around anymore, and skied into 4th place, behind **LCpl Doug Eaglesham** (good luck at 264 Sig Sqn). **Cpl Schofield** (244 Sig Sqn) came in 2nd and **Cpl Plevin** won with a very quick time of 1hr 31mins **Cpl 'shades' Barton** was unavailable for comment on the event from his Volvo seat, although it was rumoured that he complained of lack of time in which to practise.

EXERCISE *EAGLES TALON*

The Arctic training had all been leading up to the Brigadiers exercise—*Eagles Talon*—which took place in the final week. 249 had to provide a ski company and the comms for the exercise which was geared towards testing 1 PARAs mobility. The ski company had a difficult job under the command of the 2IC, **Capt Steve Leach** (incidentally, the OC would like to take this opportunity to thank him for bringing out his St Valentines love cake from his wife) and the SSM. In an attempt to ensure the PARAs were the victors this time, they advanced towards the squadron's defended positons, which included reserve demolitions on both bridges and tunnels, minefields and finally a well prepared company position.

1 PARA put in a dawn attack and took a full hour to fight through the position, complete with its ski-traps which caught more than a few by surprise. All that remained now was to fill in the trenches and return to the hotel for a wind-down and to start the war stories going. **Cpl Peter McInally** and **LCpl Mark Ridley** hung around the exercise area until everyone had left, muttering something about the possibility of finding a ridge tent laying by the roadside—as if anyone would leave one there just for the taking.

ENDEX

For the fortunate minority, there was now a further fortnight of LOA to be earned at Bardufoss, providing the comms for Ex *Cold Winter*. However, for the remainder it was a case of packing the skis away for nine months and reminiscing over dehydrated mutton and rolled oats.

In case the impression has been given that it was all work and no play, there was time in the evenings for Trivial Pursuits and a darts competition to be run. Some SNCO's and young Subalterns also turned their hand to singing and held several private choir practices, their voices being heard well into the early hours.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) McArdle, SSgt (SQMS) Hughes** and **SSgt (YofS) Wykes** on their promotions. Also to **Sgt Mick Milne** on his promotion just in time to replace **Sgt Andy** 'days to do' **Thompson**, who has left us for those overpaid radio hams in civvy street—good luck.

We also wish all the best to **Sig Lance Yeomans** and **Mary** on their recent marriage, and congratulate **Cpl 'Sammy' Simcox** and **Julie** on the birth of their second child **Kelly**.

CONDOLENCES

All friends of **Sgt Dave Fuller** will wish to join all ranks of the Squadron in offering their sincere sympathy on the death of his wife **Margaret**, and wish him and his young daughter **Abbie** the best of good fortune for the future.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

COMMS TROOP

Troop OC	**Lt Fiona Gibson/ Lt Sally Morris WRAC**
Commcen Supvr	**WO2 Joan Wilmot WRAC**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt John Gadsdon**
Troop Sgt	**Sgt Brian Turner**

GOODBYES . . .

A fond farewell to **Lt Fiona Gibson**, Tp OC, who has left us for home service. She will be missed by all members of the troop and we wish her well.

HELLOS . . .

To **Lt Sally Morris** the new Tp OC who arrives fresh from 7 RHA in Aldershot and to **Cpl Dean Marshall** and his wife **Denise** who have left 10 Sig Regt to hit the sunny shores of Cyprus. Welcome to you all.

OTHER NEWS . . .

LCpl 'Specky' Eccles has successfully completed his Class I upgrading course and was also promoted whilst away. Well done on both counts.

LCpl Paul Bridon has been away on his B1 and should return soon with a good pass result.

LCpl 'Taff' Twohigg spent most of March on a lonely 'rent-a-det' RRB at Akamas Trg Area in support of 1 Bn DERR and 15/19H Field Firing Exercises. He seems to enjoy these little holidays!

March was a very busy month for the Troop as a whole. On 14 March the unit had its ARU and consequently all hands were to the deck for the few weeks prior to the 'big day'. The day came and went as expected, without a hitch. So much so, that after the Chief of Staff had departed, **Sig Hinde** and **Booth** were heard to ask 'How long will this inspection take?'

March also saw the routine 'Ex *Bugle Call*', the Garrison IS Exercise. This involved all the RTGs and as usual they did a sterling job.

Not to be forgotten of course the girls in the COMMCEN and the MT Drivers. Although Q **Joan Wilmot** and **Sgt Brian Turner** have been on leave for half of the month the standard of work has been as high as ever—faces have been cheerful and happy, could it be that summer is almost here? . . .

AND FINALLY . . .

(An overheard conversation . . .)

Sig Dave Chapman: 'Staff, could I have some time off to do a night parachute jump?'

Reply: 'Well, OK then.'

(Monday)

Sig Chapman: 'Staff could I have some time off to mend my broken leg?' (Better luck next time **Chapman!**)

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:

2306629	WO2 H. Rafferty
2324075	WO1 A. H. McGraw
824316	WO2 R. H. M. Sherratt
29647	Sig A. L. Standley
22515743	WO2 D. F. Wilson
23492506	WO2 R. A. Walker
2313381	Sgt G. A. C. Howard
2317800	WO2 C. E. Williams
2306995	Cpl W. A. Strickland
4742915	WO1 A. E. Jackson
2312214	Sgt S. E. Farmer
22212811	Cpl A. R. G. Fuller
2347693	WO1 E. J. Nicholls
4684871	Sig J. F. Sugden
2316453	Sgt C. W. H. Pitcher
2314642	Cpl C. J. Stanbridge
2317004	WO2 R. H. Hall
2307755	WO2 L. V. Goodman

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

Report by E. E. Bayley Esq, Honorary Secretary

Fifty six members and guests assembled at the Victory (Services) Club, London on 30 March to attend the 33rd Annual reunion of the 3 Div Sigs Reunion Club. This year being the 40th anniversary of victory in Europe, the committee issued invitations to our allies. We were delighted to have as our guests the military attachés of France (**Col L. Bisschop**), The Netherlands (**Col J. Smit**) and Belgium (**Capt H. Stradiot**). Members were pleased to welcome The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** as Guest of Honour. The Regiment was represented by its commanding officer, **Lt Col R. F. Baly** and RSM, **WO1 (RSM) S. Gray-Cowan**.

The president of the club, **Brig C. G. Moore** welcomed everyone, especially the representatives of our allies, whose countries the Division helped to liberate. **Brig Moore** said that he would be standing down as President at the end of the year and handing over to **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB MBE**. He stressed that he had enjoyed his five years as President and would continue to support the club in every possible way. A formal presentation will be made to **Brig Moore** on the occasion of the 34th reunion, provisionally arranged for the 22 March 1986, when the ladies will be invited.

Maj Gen Badcock talked of the Corps today as he circulated amongst the guests and diners, stressing the very high quality young officer needed today. **Lt Col Dick Baly** gave us a brief on Regimental activities and on the many honours won on the sports field. As a result of exercises and much sport the Regiment keeps very fit. **Lt Col Dick Baly** also mentioned that two glass stained windows would be unveiled in the Garrison Church on 9 June which would be preceded by a visit to the Divisional Cemetery at Hermanville, Normandy. Veterans who took part in the Normandy landings would be welcome to attend these functions. This occasion would be a Divisional one and not a Regimental one and details would be sent to our Chairman, **Maj K. N. Smartt** when available. Our secretary, **Mr E. E. Bayley** presented two enlarged photographs of the stained glass windows in Portsmouth Cathedral, dedicated to **Admiral Ramsay**, to **Col Baly**. These windows depict the evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940 and the landings in Normandy in 1944. Enlargements were also presented to the Master of Signals who is to hand these over to the museum at Blandford.

We welcomed 'first footers', **Mr J. A. Anderson** (9 Bde Sig Section) and **Mr Roy** of Virginia USA. **Mr Roy** joined us last year in SOEST. A warm welcome was extended to **Maj Cyril Stagg** and **Mr Ernie Packham** neither of whom had been seen for several years. 'Age has not altered them!' **Joe Cotterell, Col Michael Philp, Brig Alf Freeman, Bertie Brett** and **Mr Bill Morris** were prevented from attending, due to illness. **Bill Morris** of 8 Wainwrights, High Street, Long Crendon, Bucks HP18 9DC, Tel: Long Crendon 208063 wants to know if 2 Div Sigs has a Reunion Club as he has some photographs which may be of interest to them.

The Reunion Club took quite a knock in 1984 with the loss of some eight members, **Messrs J. P. Atkins, W. D. Antill, J. T. Bevans, S. Curry, R. N. Dow, R. D. H. Hardy, Mr C. Parkin BEM, Capt 'Tom' J. A. Simpkins** and **Mrs Bobbie Legg**. 'We will remember them'.

The following were present:-

Guest of Honour	—	**Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL—Master of Signals**
Our Allies	—	**France, Col L. Bisschop**
	—	**Holland, Col J. Smit**
	—	**Belgium, Capt H. Stradiot BN**
The Regiment	—	**Lt Col R. F. Baly—3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt**
	—	**WO(1) RSM S. Gray-Cowan**

Members and Guests

J. A. Anderson
N. Auton
E. E. Bayley
Col T. W. Baynes MBE
J. E. M. Brady BEM
R. Browning
R. T. Broad
K. Carr
B. Corlett
F. Dukes
Maj R. S. Etherington
A. E. Foot
Col G. D. T. Harris OBE
W. H. Holden
R. Hobbs
S. G. Hounsell
I. C. Hounsell
Capt A. Hughes
Maj H. Kelly
E. G. Leat
L. F. Martin
A. R. Mills
Brig C. G. Moore OBE
P. H. C. Munchin
Maj W. J. A. Nicks
S. G. H. O'Dell
E. W. Packham
T. A. Pakeman
H. W. Palmer
P. W. Pannett
Col A. F. Pownall
Maj D. J. Roberts
J. Roy
Maj K. N. Smartt
W. Spittal
A. W. Spratley
Maj C. Stagg ISO ERD
J. Y. Templeton
R. W. Thompson
Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB MBE
H. F. Timms
Maj A. B. Wheeler
Capt R. F. Wilford
Capt T. E. Williams MBE

CHESTER BRANCH

Report by James T. Indermaur, Esq

At the 39th Annual Dinner of the Branch, held at Upton Royal British Legion Club recently; **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB** said that 'PTARMIGAN our mobile tactical area communications system based on a digital switch was far in advance of any other nation's system and was being deployed to BAOR now. The United States Army was very interested in acquiring parts of the system and was particularly impressed by the ability to access the system on the move. If an American sale came off it would, as reported in the press, be the biggest defence sale to the US ever, involving billions NOT millions of dollars'.

Small dish earth satellite stations had proved their worth again in The Falklands and this means of providing high quality communications in emergencies was now a standard part of Royal Signals inventory. Despite stringent cuts in Army manpower the Army had found they could not do without us and numbers lost to us in the tail has been given back to us at the sharp end. Our electronic warfare capability had been enhanced and was recognised as a potential battle winner. Although the Corps was pretty well up to strength there was a shortage of skilled tradesmen such as electronic warfare operators and technicians and of the high quality young officers we required. All present were urged to put any likely lasses or lads they knew of in touch with the Serving Corps recruiting organisation.

The well attended dinner was a great success and a response of appreciation by the guests was given by Clwyd Deputy Chief Fire Officer **D. Wooley**.

From *L to R:* Vice President Bomber Pip Haig, Lt Col and Mrs Jimmy Ellis, Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson, President Maj J. D. Baldwin and Mrs Baldwin, Master of Ceremonies, Cecil Hewson

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

DERBY BRANCH

Report by Dorothy Williamson, Chairman,

A very successful dinner dance for members, and their guests was held on 16 March at the 46th Signal Squadron's Training Centre. The evening was a happy reunion of many old and new members, the guests of honour were **Lt Col N. Henwood** and **RSM Fowler** of 38th Signal Regiment (V). **Maj T. Lea** OC of 46th Squadron was absent due to being a competitor in a TA Marathon—**Lt Sally Reading** made a charming deputy.

The after dinner speech by **Lt Col Henwood** and thanks by **Maj W. Rose** made an interesting conclusion to an excellent meal followed by drinks dancing and a general get together in the Junior Ranks' Club. AGM Tuesday 19 March. Officers elected:

President:	**Col Grimwood Taylor**
Vice Presidents:	**Col Haslehurst, Col L. Wright, Maj J. P. Rose** and **Maj T. Lea**
Chairman/Entertainment Sec:	**Dorothy Williamson**
Vice Chairman/Auditor/Sick Visitor	**Maj W. Rose**
Secretary:	**Joy Elliott**
Ass: Sec/Treasurer	**Capt Williams**
Liaison Officer:	**Capt C. Webb**

Committee: SSgt Landsborough, Cpl Ward, LCpl Fletcher, Sig Bishop and **Dave Elliott**. Apart from illness among the committee the Branch has had a happy successful year, gaining a number of new members and also the interest of the younger members.

A combined effort with 46 Squadron will be the visit on 8 May to Bass Worthington Brewery; one feels that sampling their wares will be popular!

Many thanks to 46s Squadron Officers SNCOs and ORs for their help and the use of their Training Centre.

We will welcome any Ex Corps personnel who may wish to join or visit our Branch, they can contact our Hon Sec: **Joy Elliott**, 144 Dale Road, Spondon, Nr Derby. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2000 hrs Kingsway Drill Hall Derby.

NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH

Report by J. D. Anderson Esq

The Branch continues to hold its monthly meetings at Clonaver Park Camp, Belfast, the home of 40 Sig Regt (V), on the third Wednesday of each month (less July, August) at 2000 hrs, and we are grateful to **Lt Col R. Clare**, for placing the excellent facilities at our disposal.

Following an enjoyable Social Evening after our December Branch Meeting, at which **Lt Col Rex Stephenson**, Commander Communications for the Province was guest of honour, a liaison was established with 233 Sig Sqn.

Our Branch President, **Brig (Retd) E. McK. Erskine** paid a visit to the Squadron, and on 20 March accompanied 12 Branch members when they were kindly invited to see the 233 Sig Sqn in operation.

The chill of a bitter cold night was soon dispersed by the warmth of our welcome from **Maj Pat Kington**, OC 233 Sig Sqn. We were shown a video of the Squadron's equipment and functions, and were given a conducted tour of the various systems and met members of the Squadron on duty. Traffic Officer **Capt J. Nichols** was most informative and we soon realised that the volume of traffic was a far cry from the days of a 'fast running coolie with a cleft stick'.

The visit ended up in the Squadron Club where we heard that the Squadron Hockey Team had won the Minor Units Championship, and produced the Cup to prove it!

In this convivial atmosphere the visit came to a close, and we are indebted to **Maj Pat Kington**, and all those in the Squadron who helped to make this an evening to remember.

Brig (Retd) E. McK. Erskine, President of N. Ireland Branch discusses equipment matters with WO2 (FofS) J. L. McIlree during a visit to Lisburn

NORTH LONDON BRANCH

Report by E. Brooker Esq, Social Secretary

On Saturday 16 March we held our 30th Annual Dinner/Dance at The Royal Chace Hotel, Enfield. Some 70 members and guests attended presided over by our President **Col Ken Baldwin MBE**. Guest of honour was **Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE** Association General

Secretary and **Mrs Murray**. During the dinner **Ron** was presented with a whisky decanter and two whisky glasses suitably engraved with the 'Jimmy'. This was to mark our appreciation for all his work for the Association over the past 10 years. A good time was had by all with dancing going on until midnight.

1984 was quite a good year as far as membership goes, with seven new members. Unfortunately we lost two old stalwarts, **Bill Solly** and **Ken Bevan**, both of whom died recently. We now have 147 members.

Our monthly meetings are well attended, averaging around 40. Various activities take place; bingo, bring and buy, cheese and wine, harvest stall and supper, christmas party, and all washed down with a few jars!

We are well represented at Blandford and Catterick reunions and the indian signals dinner.

Three members and their wives celebrated their 40 years of wedded bliss, **Reg**, and **Win Wilkinson, John** and **Rita Davies** and **Eric** and **Jessie Brooker**. Well done all!

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

The results of the Branch Grand National Draw 1985 were as follows:

1st Ticket No. 08410—**WO2 Krikorian**, (264(SAS) Sig Sqn), £150.
2nd Ticket No. 13408—**W. Holden**, Aldershot, £75.
3rd Ticket No. 06938—**R. Larder**, Accrington, £25.
4th Ticket No. 07082—**WO2 Richardson**, HQ Western District, £10.

We should like to thank everyone who supported our draw.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by Capt Jane Knight

In February we were invited to a Games Evening by 2 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt, held in the Bruno Club at Beavers' Lane Camp in Hounslow. Our thanks are due to **Maj John Stuart MBE**, OC 2 Sqn, **SSM Tod O'Brien** and **Sgt Brian MacHon**, a magnificent organiser.

Although the Squadron were the victors we all had a wonderful time and enjoyed an excellent buffet as their guests.

— Sport —

BASKETBALL

ROYAL SIGNALS ANNUAL BASKETBALL TOUR

Report by Maj (TOT) T. J. Everett

The 1984 Corps Basketball Squad

Standing L to R: Maj (TOT) Terry Everett, Int Centre (Sec), Sgt Fred Tedby, AA Col, Harrogate (Capt), SSgt (FofS) Dave Smith, SofS, LCpl Kev Jarvis, 7 Sig Regt, Cpl Nev Smikle, SofS, Sgt Colin Elstob, 22 Sig Regt, Cpl Mick Wilkerson, 233 Sig Sqn, WO2 (SSM) Matty Matthews, AA Coll, (Coach)

Sitting L to R: Sgt Colin Roberts, 233 Sig Sqn, LCpl 'AJ' Matless, 4 ADSR, Cpl John Williams, 7 Sig Regt, AT LCpl Eddy Williams, AA Coll, (now 16), Sig Andy Brown, 13 Sig Regt, LCpl 'RC' Matless, 4 ADSR, LCpl Bagsy Bain, 4 ADSR

Assembly at the School of Signals for the training and build up phase was as usual. However with the Blandford gymnasium closed for alterations the Basketball was moved, with the kind permission of the Commanding Officer **Lt Col D. C. L. Rowe** Royal Marines, to the Royal Marines Poole Gymnasium. The Marines were extremely helpful and but for their co-operation, at a time of increased alert state, the first three matches of the tour versus Bournemouth, Weymouth and the Royal Navy would have had to be cancelled.

Sunday and the squads first games in a triangular competition involving the Corps, Bournemouth Bears and Weymouth Cats Whiskers. Our squad had increased from 8 to 10 overnight with the arrival of **Cpl John Williams** and **LCpl Kev Jarvis** from 7 Sig Regt.

The first match, Signals vs Bears, was evenly matched for most of the first quarter with accurate shooting from **Sgt Fred Tedby** and **Sig Andy Brown** putting us in the lead at 24 to 18, in the latter part of the half **Sgt Tedby**'s set shooting continued to succeed this combined with intelligent and determined driving by **Sgt Colin Roberts** and **SSgt Dave Smith** taking the Signals forward to a first half lead of 36 to 24. In the early part of the second half the Bears fought back to only a five point deficit but the Signals got their act back together with Coach **WO2 Matty Matthews** feeding the whole squad through to give them match practice. Final score in a well contested game Signals 64, Bears 55.

In the second match the Bears beat the Cats 68 to 53 so we went into the third match feeling confident of the outcome.

Our confidence proved well founded and from the start our scoring rate was virtually two to one, we won the first half convincingly at 47 points for Signals and 27 points for the Cats. The second half continued in much the same vein with a final score of Signals 85, Cats 51. All members of the squad contributing in the effort both in defence and offence.

Monday, the last three of the Squad had arrived. The final training session in the morning followed by a match against the Royal Navy in the evening. The first quarter of the match was very evenly contested with consistent set shooting from **Sgt Fred Tedby** and driving and jump shooting from **Sig Andy Brown** the Navy just in the lead at 26 points to Signals 22. By the time Signals woke up 10 minutes into the second quarter the Navy had forged their way to a lead of 46 to 30 but our defensive play sorted itself out and pulled the deficit back to five points for a half time score of Navy 51, Signals 46.

In the second half, third quarter, a low scoring and evenly matched period increasing the Navy lead marginally to Navy 68, Signals 60. In the last period Navy applied pressure and Signals were found wanting in both defence, ball watching, and offence, impatience. The final score was Navy 96, Signals 79, Signals thwarting the 100 score by Navy who had 90 up with five minutes still to play.

Tuesday morning and the journey to Aldershot, the first game in the H. Samuel Inter Corps Tournament is at 1630 hrs versus the ACC. The early part of the first half is evenly matched with the score at 14 to Signals and ACC 12, then a good patch by the ACC taking them eight points ahead, but Signals pull back in the last few minutes of the half to a half time score of Signals 33, ACC 34. In the second half the ACC maintained their marginal lead until the 12th minute when we briefly took the lead, this coinciding with the final foul on the ACC captain taking him off court. The ACC response was immediate and they went ahead to a seven point lead which Signals were only able to reduce to five by the end. ACC 70, Signals 65. A match were Signals lost their way and failed to take command when they had worked to produce the opportunity to do so on several occasions. We gave it away!

Wednesday and matches versus the RA and the RAC. First the RA at 1330 hrs. An evenly fought first quarter with the score tied at 20—20 after 10 minutes in the second quarter with improved defensive play by Signals and the score rate maintained, and with **Sig Andy Brown** and **Sgt Fred Tedby** both consistently accurate we worked our way into a lead of 41 to 34. The second half and the RA were back into the game at 42—42 before Signals woke up, at the 10 minute point they were up 55 to Signals 50. Some harsh words from Coach **Matthews** about defence and patience in attack focussed the players concentration and they set about getting back into the game. Good defence by **SSgt Dave Smith**, **Sgt Fred Tedby** and **Cpl Nev Smikle** reducing the RA shooting percentage and bringing about a number of turnovers, these were capitalised on by **Sig Andy Brown** and **LCpl 'RC' Matless** with fast breaks. This good patch demoralised the RA and Signals ran out winners at Signals 86, RA 69; a good match for all the Signals side.

It was now 1730 hrs and our opponents the RAC. We proved too strong for them and went quickly into a 26—4 lead. Coach **Matthews** worked all of the squad through during the remainder of the match., Our first two or three subs also proving too strong at 16 minutes, the score was Signals 45, RAC 8. However with none of the first five left on court in the last few minutes of the half the RAC scored eight points to our two. In the second half the Signals substitutes settled down to play some good cohesive ball and the likes of **Sgts Colin Elstob** and **Colin Roberts, Cpls John Williams** and **Mick Wilkerson** and **AT LCpl Eddy Williams** showing what they could do. In the last five minutes **Fred Tedby** and **Andy Brown** went back on to try and make the 'ton' which was just achieved. Final score Signals 101, RAC 50.

Thursday, two more matches, the first against the old and respected rivals REME. A good confident start by Signals with good defensive rebounding by **Dave Smith** and **Fred Tedby** and **Andy Brown, 'RC Matless** and **Nev Smikle** all scoring to put Signals into an early lead 20 to REME 8. REME fought back hard driving on the defence and drawing defensive fouls, had they capitalised on all their free throws they would have gone in at the half in the lead but happily the half time score was Signals 38, REME 36. A very closely fought second half with both teams taking the lead a number of times—we are into the last 25 seconds of the game with the score tied at 70—70 Signals block REME out and gain possession. On the touch line **Terry Everett** and **Matty Matthews** and all the players on the bench thinking great, 20 seconds, 70 all we must win against REME at last, but the REME jinx is there again. Signals mishandle in offence and give the ball back to REME with 16 seconds left and REME proceed to give us a lesson on what to do when in possession in the last few seconds of a tied match. Final score Signals 70, REME 73. My heart-felt comment is unprintable.

So on to the RCT. There is no time to allow disappointments to get us down there is another job to be done. This time the RCT take an early lead, 12 to Signals 4, but by the 11th minute Signals are back in the game at 22—22 and by the end of the first half have taken the lead to Signals 48, RCT 41. **Basgsy Bain** making his presence felt in both defence and attack and **'AJ' Matless** showing what he can do when he puts his mind to it. Early in the second half Signals extend their lead to 11 points at 58 to 47 but from there on in the RCT fight their way back into the game with Signals just managing to hold them off and run out winners at Signals 74, RCT 70. Another hard fought match with fortunes going from side to side. Good performances from **Fred Tedby, Andy Brown** and **Dave Smith.**

On to Friday and the RE, we had been spying and knew that they were playing well so the Signals approach was skilled and determined. In the event the skill, cohesion and determination of the Signals dominated the first half resulting in a 42—21 scoreline in Signals favour. The second half and a determined effort by the Sappers to stop the rot. We held them but they also contained us in a low scoring second half. Final score Signals 66, RE 47. All of the Signals team performing well.

Mid afternoon on the same day and the next opponents are the APTC. The confidence of the team is running high and they quite rightly believe they are as good as, if not better than, anybody. The first half is basket for basket with both sides getting their noses in front but at the half APTC have it by a whisker at 41 to Signals 38. The second half following the same pattern as the first for the first eight or nine minutes then Signals hit a bad patch and APTC shoot into a 68 to 53 lead but Signals are not finished yet and fight back to contain the APTC rush and close the gap, but time beats Signals and APTC are the winners at 75 points to Signals 67. Signals again played well as a team with **Bagsy Bain** working particularly hard in the fight back period towards the end of the second half.

That was the last of the hard matches, one more to play on the Saturday morning versus the Army Medical Services (AMS) a new side in the tournament this year. Signals started slowly taking an early lead at the 10 minuted point of 25 to AMS 14, but never really taking command of the match as they should have. AMS chased hard to the end and Signals were made to look a shadow of their former selves by a much less experienced and skilled side. Final score was Signals 69,

AMS 55, but the real lesson was 'do not under-estimate your opponents' at this level of Basketball. This should have been an opportunity for the substitutes to get some court time but they did not get their just desserts.

Overall a very satisfying tour, an unrealistic start with so many late arrivals but the final outcome bodes well for the future. The Corps has a lot of young Basketball talent and I feel that we will break through and win the Inter Corps Tournament very soon—in fact 1985 would be a good year to start. So all you Corps Basketball players, the next Tournament is to be in BAOR at Paderborn during the period 24—30 November 1985. Make sure you are available. I have high hopes of seeing R SIGNALS' engraved on the Winners Shield.

Overall results: Played 11, Won seven, lost four as follows:

OPPONENTS	RESULT	FOR	AGAINST
Bournemouth Bears	Won	64	55
Weymouth Cats Whiskers	Won	85	51
Royal Navy	Lost	79	96
ACC	Lost	65	70
RA	Won	86	69
RAC	Won	101	50
REME	Lost	70	73
RCT	Won	74	70
RE	Won	66	47
APTC	Lost	67	75
AMS	Won	69	55

The last eight eixtures were all part of the H. Samuel Inter Corps tournament. With nine Corps participating R Signals ended up 4th, overall positons as follows:

1	APTC
2	REME
3	ACC
4	R Signals
5	RCT
6	RA
7	RE
8	RAC
9	AMS

The Shields for the Winners and Runners Up, donated by H. Samuel Jewellers Ltd, were presented by **Lt Col D. L. James**, Chairman REME Basketball.

THE EDITOR'S ANGLE

THE PUBLISHING CYCLE

- Six issues of *The Wire* are published annually and these are distributed in January, March, May, July, September and November.
- Contributions are required to reach the Editor by the 12th of the month preceding publication ie:
  - 12 February for the March issue
  - 12 April for the May issue
  - 12 June for the July issue
  - 12 August for the September issue
  - 12 October for the November issue
- Please despatch all matters bearing on *The Wire* by first class mail.

A POSSIBLE STANDING PROCEDURE, INCLUDING GUIDE LINES FOR UNIT CONTRIBUTIONS

Note: W Day is despatch date—three days prior to that defined in 'The Publishing Cycle' above.

W DAY −60

- Seek a steer from your commanding officer/second-in-command/adjutant. What significant occasions are to arise during the period you are to cover? These could for example be:
  - Operations/Exercises
  - Unusual commitments
  - Change of command or rotation of important posts (eg RSM)
  - Important visitors
  - Significant sporting events
  - Presentation of medals/colours
- Make a plan on content and ensure that a reliable photographer:
  a. takes photographs of every event you plan to cover,
  b. processes the film in a sensible time frame to permit you to select the best photographs and ensure they are properly captioned.

W DAY −60 TO W DAY −10

- Encourage others to write up events for you. Our Corps magazine provides the opportunity for all ranks to reflect the enjoyment and satisfaction of participation and achievement. Edit and correct expression rather than attempting to do it all yourself.
- Target on events rather than input from Squadrons/Troops which can be repetitive by covering the same regimental activities.
- Do not overlook wives. Their contribution to some unit activities can be considerable and they in common with all components of a unit, like to see their efforts recognised in print, supported by photographs.

W DAY −10 TO W DAY −4

- Assemble all your material including photographs. Read with a critical eye for accuracy.
- Pass for typing.

W DAY −2

- Check the typing—or better still seek the assistance of another person who you know will have a critical eye for accuracy, good English and spelling.
- It is helpful to annotate contributions to show where photographs connect with the written words. Check captions carefully; spelling names incorrectly is a bad error.

W DAY

- Despatch notes 'first class post' to The Editor, *The Wire*.
- Never delay for photographs. It is acceptable that these follow within seven days. Always ensure they are properly protected.

W DAY +7 TO W DAY +14

- Check 'printers proofs' received from The Editor for accuracy. Up-date if necessary. Return these proofs with the minimum of delay by first class post.

IMPORTANT POINTERS

- There has never been—or will be—any obligation for every component of the Corps to make a contribution to each issue of *The Wire*. If there really is very little worth reporting, carry forward the input to the next issue. No restriction is placed on the size of the contribution. Use common sense—and aim for quality rather than quantity of content.
- Situations will arise when it is necessary for The Editor to shorten a contribution or defer it to a later issue. *The Wire* is printed in a multiple of four pages eg 100, 112 or 116 pages. This imposes restraints.
- Any photograph of any size—colour or black and white—can be processed into our Corps magazine. Contrast is an important factor and the very high quality 'PR Style' black and white gloss photographs should be sought for any important unique occasion eg a visit by our Colonel-in-Chief. With this qualification, any competent photographer with a good camera should be able to take photographs of sufficiently good quality for incorporation into *The Wire*.

TYPING THE CONTRIBUTIONS

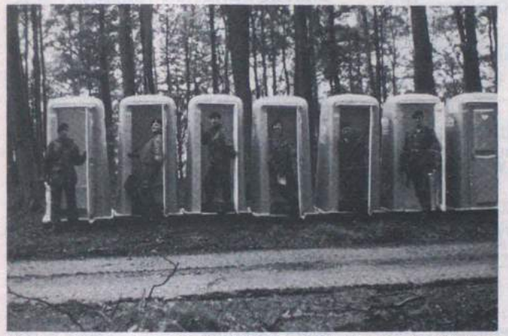
- Type with 'double spacing'.
- Do not type places and names in capital letters.
- Ranks and employments should be abbreviated. (See Joint Service Staff Manual, JSP 101 and SOinC's Policy Directive No 1).
- We like to use christian names. If you use them, decorations should be omitted.
  ie Maj John Smith—correct
  Maj J. T. Smith MBE—correct
  Maj John Smith MBE—incorrect
- Number all sheets, and photographs.
- Number all photographs lightly with a soft pencil or ball point pen—but not felt tip. Photographs are easily damaged and degraded.
- Captions should be typed on a separate sheet(s) and related to the numbered photographs.

HERE AND THERE

10 REGIMENT

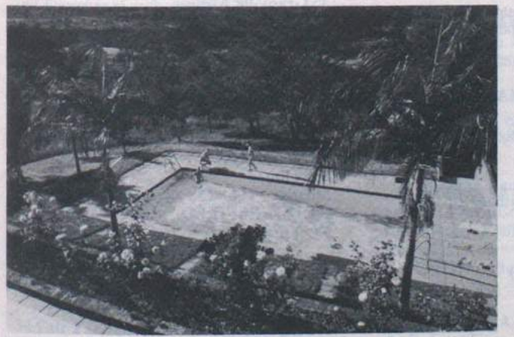
Ex *Pendulum South* 85—Alternative WRAC accommodation

21 REGIMENT



Lionheart Loos—*L to R:* Cpl Allamby, LCpl Hughes, Cpl Hinton, LCPl Bolster, Cfn Kelland, Cpl Godley, in their TARDI (Sounds better than TARDISES)

NAIROBI



Return to Nairobi and the Officers Mess Swimming Pool. (*Left to Right:* Sgt 'Scoop'Turner (1 Para), WO2 Charlie Devlin (REME) and SSgt Dave Walker (RCT), both of the MT Team)

THE BRITISH KOREAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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Your Ref. Our Ref. Correspondence to:-

32 Hatherell Road
Radford Semele
near Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
England
CV31 1UH

10th April 1985

Dear Sirs,

It is the intention of the BKVA to publish a hardback book about the British forces in the Korean War, and in order to meet the publication cost, require 500 pre-publication subscriptions from Veterans, Regimental and Corps Associations, from Allied Korean War Veterans Associations and the general public. The subscription will be £10.50 (£11.50 for outside of the UK) and, in the event it is found that the book cannot be published, all subscriptions will be returned. Those subscribing before 1st July 1985 will have his or her name together with the Ship, Regiment or Corps, or the name of the Association or private subscriber listed in the book. A form is enclosed for this purpose and can be photocopied.

If your Association publishes a journal, a mention of the BKVA book in this would be greatly appreciated. Your members wishing to order the book should send a SAE to me for a subscription form.

As far as possible, the book will be composed of contributions by members of the BKVA. A careful selection will be made of all contributions received. There will be stories of individual experiences as well as of battles, including stories of the Royal Navy and Fleet Air Arm, and will include poems and verse and songs and a selection of previously unpublished photographs.

A very good response has so far been received, but we will need your help to ensure its success, and I ask you to please support the BKVA fund-raising cause.

Yours faithfully,

T. Ashley Cunningham-Boothe,
Joint-Editor.

enclosure

Trustees:
Vice Admiral Sir Patrick Bayly, KBE, CB, DSC Royal Navy
Major General P.A. Downward CB, DSO, DFC
M.A. Gaughegan Esq. JP
T. Moore Esq.

B.K.V.A. BOOK PROVISIONAL TITLE

BRITISH FORCES IN THE KOREAN WAR

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This order form is open not only to B.K.V.A. members but also to the whole public until 1st July 1985.

PLEASE COMPLETE DETAILS BELOW IN BLOCK CAPITALS

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Date .....

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W. J. C. Tulloch Esq.
32 Thistle Street
ABERDEEN

ALDERSHOT: (SA/AB/2)
SSgt G. Pickard MSM,
No 1 Area QM,
Buller Barracks,
ALDERSHOT, Hampshire.
1st Wednesday of each month at WO's & Sgts Mess, 5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot.

BATH: (SA/AB/3)
G. B. Wootton Esq.
7 Caroline Place
Lansdown BATH Avon BA1 5HU
No regular venue. Details of meetings from Hon Secretary.

BEDFORD: (SA/AB/57)
T. E. Holyoake Esq.
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CLAPHAM
Beds MK41 6DG
Last Tuesday of each month at New Drill Hall, Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford.

BIRMINGHAM: (SA/AB/4)
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SOLIHULL
W. Midlands B92 8QY

BOURNEMOUTH: (SA/AB/5)
M. L. P. Jones Esq.
c/o Tudors Bars & Restaurant
3 Banks Road
Poole, Dorset.
3rd Monday of each month at The Gunners Club, 177 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.

BRADFORD: (SA/AB/55)
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BRADFORD BD2 4DA
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BRIGHTON
E. Sussex BN2 4DP
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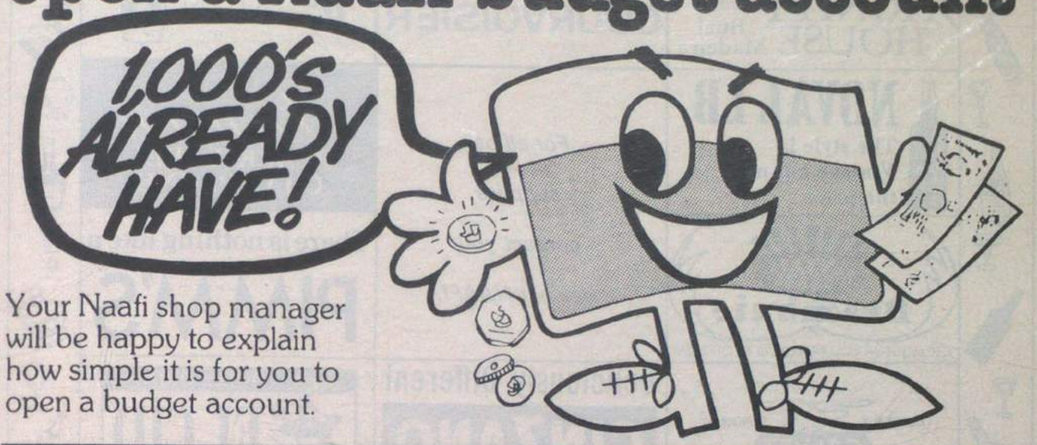

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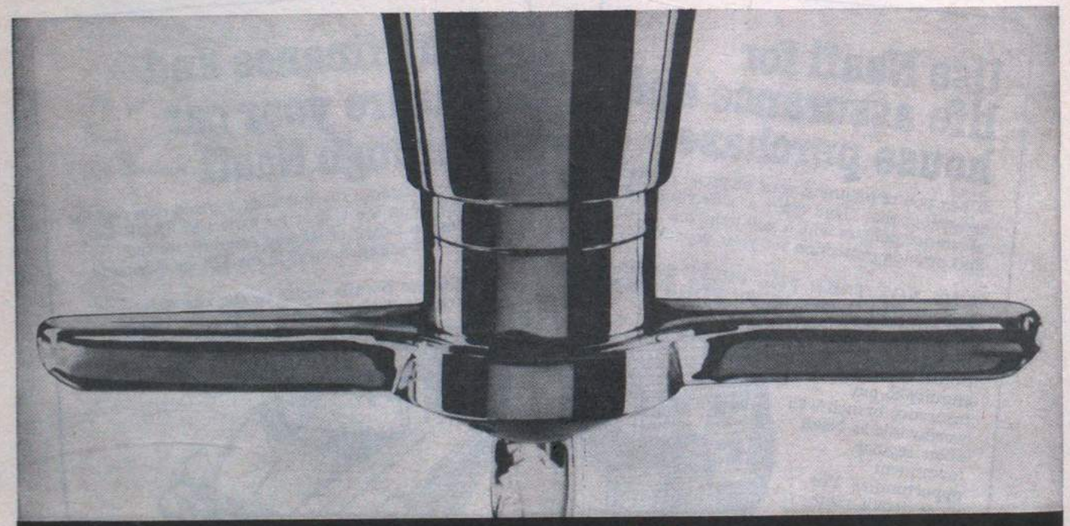

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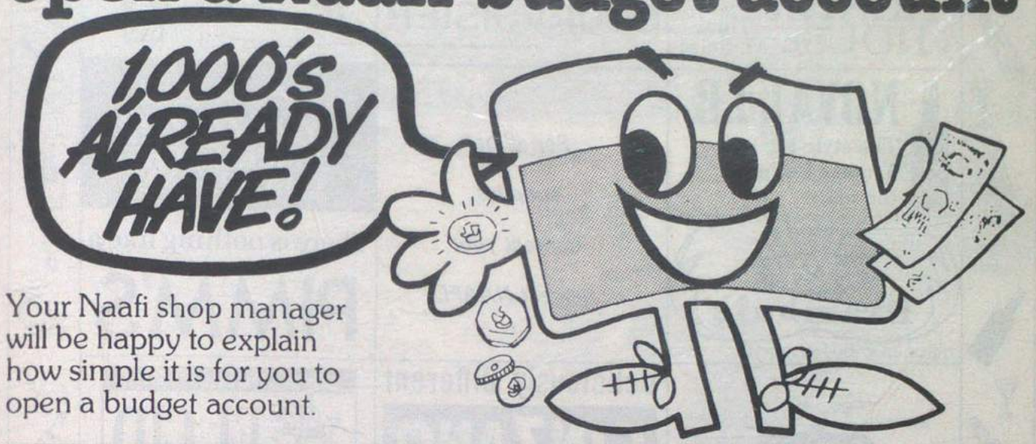

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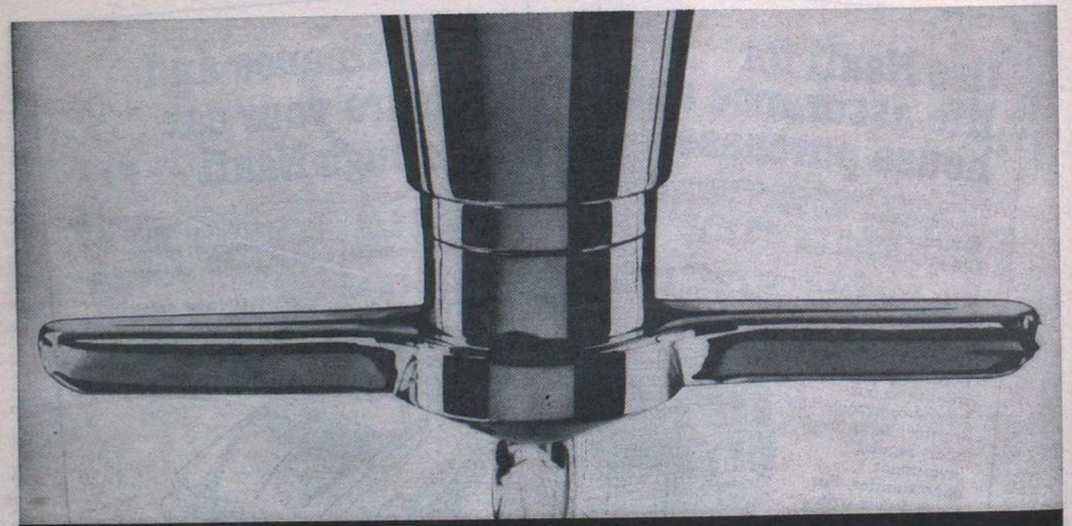

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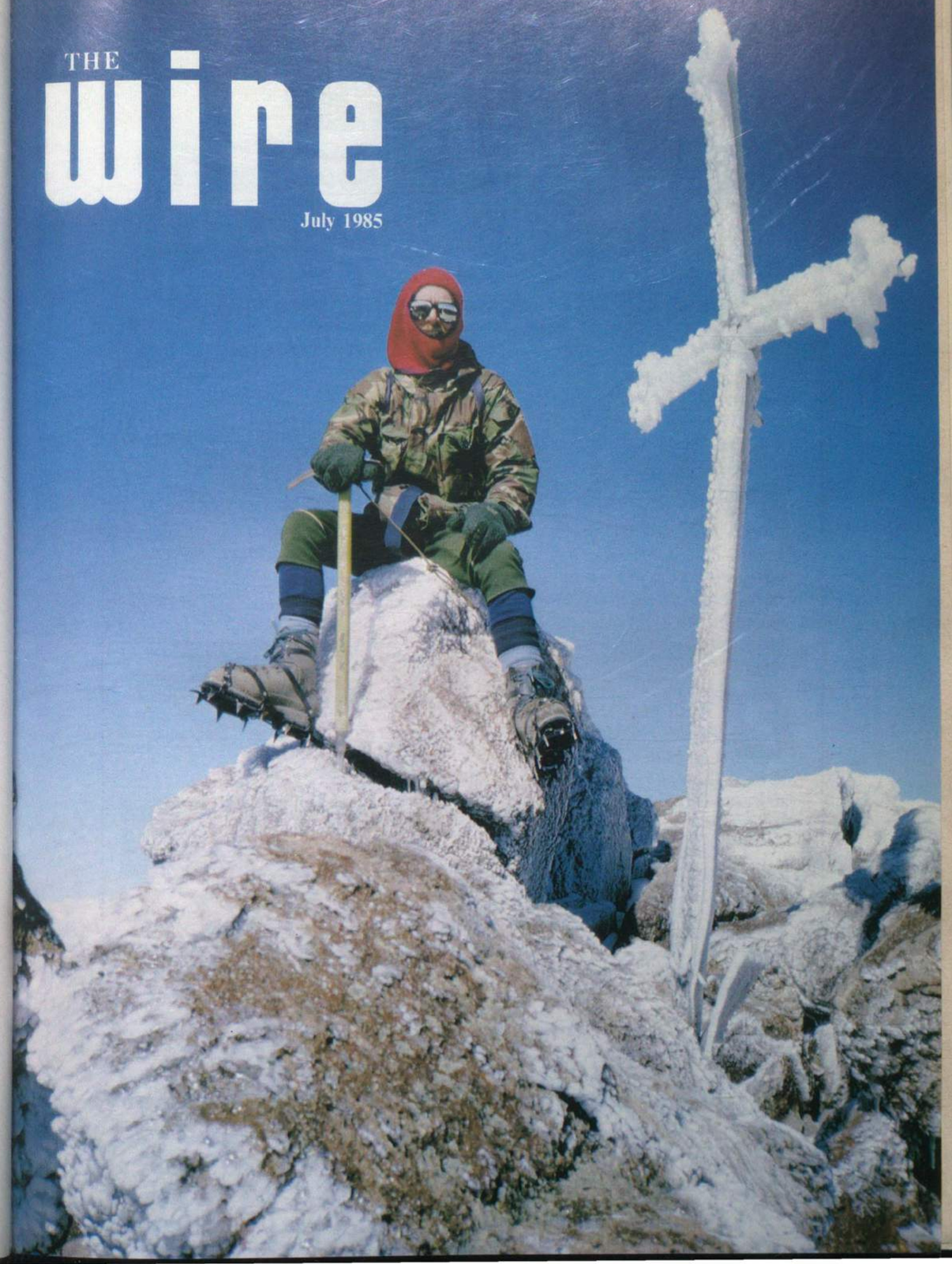
THE
wire
July 1985



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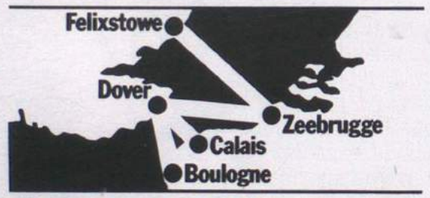

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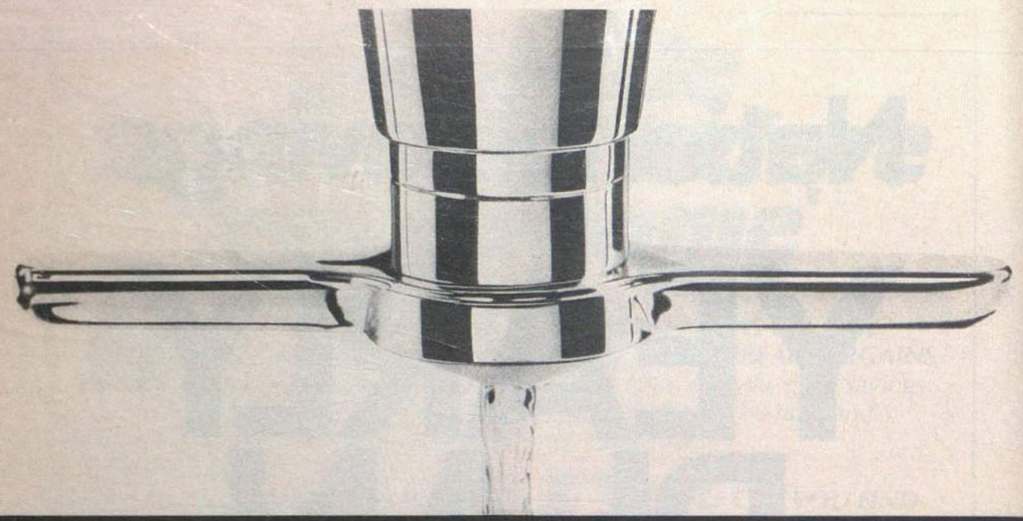

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE TWO

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The Wire

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Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
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EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURE

Cpl Tim Jemmett resting on Point Lenana (16,355ft) which is Mount Kenya's third highest peak. Cpl Jemmett is a Territorial member of 63 (SAS) Sig Sqn and took part with Capt Jack Frost (2IC, 63 Sqn) in an expedition to assist members of 1st Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment during an exercise in Kenya. (See report on page 423).

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

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

MBE

WO1 (RSM) D. J. Walker
WO2 (AWO1) A. M. Wells MM

BEM

SSgt M. J. Davis
SSgt M. G. Eady
SSgt J. Keohane
SSgt O. J. McGuinness
SSgt (FofS) J. Murray
SSgt P. R. Rumsey
Cpl (ASgt) R. E. Potter
Cpl A. M. Snaith

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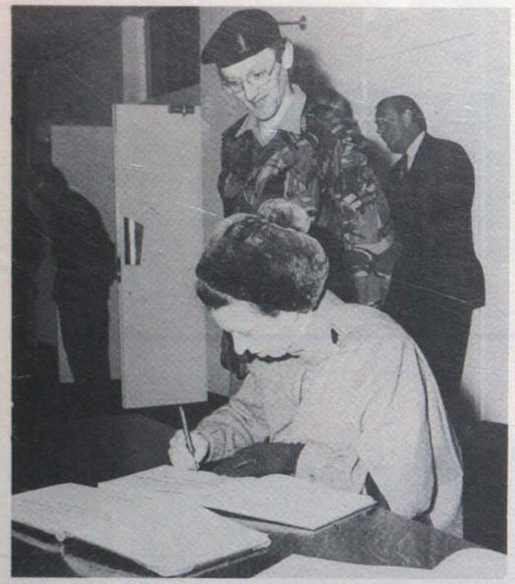
THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF VISITS NORTHERN IRELAND



The Colonel-in-Chief signs the visitors books, watched by Comd Comms NI, Lt Col Rex Stephenson

It was in February that Commander Communications Northern Ireland, **Lt Col Rex Stephenson**, was informed that Her Royal Highness **The Princess Anne** had expressed a desire to visit her Corps in Northern Ireland, during a planned longer visit to the Province in early May. Planning time was short and security constraints meant that very few people could be told until the day of the visit, but the opportunity of showing the Colonel-in-Chief around was not to be missed.

It was agreed at an early stage that the visit should not be confined to Lisburn, as had been the case on a previous visit in 1982, nor should our work be displayed at 'stands'. Instead Her Royal Highness should meet her soldiers at their places of work across the Province. With this aim in mind detailed planning was undertaken by the SO2 Communications, **Maj Derek McLuckie**, under the guise of a visit by the Master of Signals. Most people did not know the actual identity of the visitor until the day, 9 May 1985.

It began at St Angelo, Co Fermanagh, where Her Royal Highness was met by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen John Badcock**, SOinC, **Maj Gen Bob Benbow**, Comd Comms HQNI and the 2IC 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Capt Mike Dent**, who had the honour of being ADC for the day.

The Princess, accompanied by **Lt Col Rex Stephenson** and other officers, flew firstly to 8 Inf Bde's manned hill top site to be met by **Maj John Kirby**, OC 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, and **WO1 (RSM) John Stanley**. The weather was decidedly blustery and the programme was rearranged to enable Her Royal Highness to speak to members of the squadron and be heard over the noise of the prevailing howling gale.

Her Royal Highness was firstly introduced to **Capt Trevor Bradley**, OC Comms Troop, and inspected two vehicles which can be deployed to provide contingency communications in the event of a major system failure or to replace equipment destroyed by terrorist action. Members of the Rigging Section commanded by **Cpl Ian McKittrick** were next presented before the Princess moved inside to visit the 233 Sig Sqn (NI) detachment and be briefed on ERASTOS by **LCpl Bob Frew**. The Princess was then introduced to **WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins** who presented members of TM Tp and explained the working and uses of the various commercial radio systems installed at the site. Her Royal Highness continued her tour by visiting the static rebro detachment commanded by **Cpl Mick Hunt** before chatting informally to all the Corps personnel gathered there.

During the visit the Master and the SOinC took the opportunity to speak to all those on the site whilst **Capt Mike Dent** accompanied **Princess Anne**. The party then flew to a manned hilltop site which serves both 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and 233 Sig Sqn (NI). On arrival Her Royal Highness was met by OC 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Maj Philip Rouse**, who showed the Princess the deployed Tac HQ of 39 Inf Bde, including a Heli Tele mobile ground station commanded by **Cpl Scouse Wikeley**. Her Royal Highness was able to see herself on the screen; the shot being taken at that time from a helicopter on station above Belfast.

Maj Pat Kington, OC 233 Sig Sqn (NI) then took over and showed Her Royal Highness the 233 Sig Sqn (NI) mobile Radio Relay detachment commanded by **SSgt Alan Garvie** and manned by **Cpl Glen Henderson**, before moving on to look at the fixed communications site, where **Cpl Tes McBride** showed Her Royal Highness the Radio Room.

The Colonel-in-Chief then flew on to Lisburn and was met by Rover Group, 39 Inf Bde before walking to the Officers' Mess for tea accompanied by representatives of all ranks of the Corps in the Province and their wives. At the conclusion of tea HRH graciously signed the visitors' books of all three squadrons.

The Princess visited 233 Sig Sqn (NI) where **Capt Richard Blum** presented members of Victor Troop including **LCpl Graham Pardew** and **Sig Bob Club**. **Capt John Nichols** presented the working shift in the Commcen led by DSO **Sgt Ian Knight**. **Capt Tim Inshaw** presented **SSgt (YofS) Tom Baldwin** and **Sgt Jeff Newsome**, members of Romeo Troop, and the Corps personnel attached to 321 EOD Coy RAOC. Her Royal Highness then visited the Communication Branch and met the officers and clerks responsible for planning future communications systems for the Province, before flying to RAF Aldergrove where an aircraft of the Queen's Flight was standing by for the return flight.

In a little over four hours the Colonel-in-Chief had visited three locations spread over the Province and had met approximately one third of the Corps serving here. The visit was greatly appreciated by all ranks who were privileged to take part in such a happy and successful day.

Capt John Nichols was presented to HRH The Princess Anne by Maj Pat Kington in the HQNI Commcen
(In his last week commanding the Squadron he shows HRH that he can walk round the Commcen with his eyes shut)

8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn

HRH being introduced to members of TM Tp, *L—R:* Cpl Bob King, Sgt Mick Tucker, WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins. SOinC in the background

Princess Anne meets members of the Rebro det, *L—R:* Cpl Mick Hunt and Sig 'Archie' Archibald

233 Sig Sqn (NI)

HRH The Princess Anne discusses the rigging of Divis Masts with Maj Pat Kington and Sgt Mal Metcalfe

39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn

Her Royal Highness arrives at Divis Mountain and is met by the Sqn Comd, Maj Philip Rouse

The Colonel-in-Chief learns something of the intricacies of a Heli-Tele mobile ground station from Sig Ginge Nield. Cpl Scouse Wikeley, the crew commander looks on ensuring technical accuracy

THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF'S VISIT TO UNITS IN SCOTLAND

Report by 2 Lt Fiona Farquharson WRAC (V) ADC for the tour

In October of last year, I was sitting gloomily at work having been informed that we, in the Arrears Department were to lose our jobs at the end of January.

Meantime in RHQ, 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) the CO **(Lt Col Howard Culley)** and Adjt **(Capt Peter Costello)** were debating who would act as Aide-de-Camp for the forthcoming visit of Her Royal Highness **The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, GCVO**. Having scoured the list thoroughly they found to their dismay that no-one else would be available but yours truly. However, my experience at making nasty 'phone calls and writing poison-pen letters in order to get money out of people gave them the idea that perhaps I may have some of the right qualities to help in the three months run-up to the visit.

So, in what is laughingly called Spring, I found myself whisked off on a grand tour of Scotland. Whereas most units are content with a day tour of the unit, we found ourselves co-ordinating a three day tour involving NATO Forward Scatter Station, Shetland, Satellite Ground Terminal, Balado Bridge, 632 Signal Troop, Hebrides and 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Glasgow, rounding off with a Reception and Dinner in Glasgow City Chambers.

For those of you unfamiliar with the geography of the barbaric lands I have been informed that if Stranraer, where the Master of Signals welcomed the Colonel-in-Chief to Scotland, was put on the Isle of Wight then Lerwick in Shetland would be somewhere in line with Inverness. Not exactly a small area to cover!

Being in the Territorials affords little time to spend away from 'the home Squadron' and so as a recently commissioned TA Officer it was a great privilege to be able to see other aspects of the Corps and also act as ADC to the Colonel-in-Chief. My three months with our own RHQ during the preparation and planning of the visit and working with the 'regulars' was more than a little enlightening. I shall certainly never wonder what they do all day again!

We started our tour leaving behind a sunbathed Glasgow to fly up to Shetland with the 'hangers on party' (their words), the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. Benbow**, Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig K. H. Olds**, Regtl Sec, **Col J. A. D. Francis** and CO 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V), **Lt Col H. A. Culley**. The wind and snow lashed Shetland furiously for most of that day and we waited with bated breath lest the Queen's Flight Andover carrying HRH, the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock** and OC 242 Sig Sqn, **Maj David Anthonisz** was unable to land at the BP airport, Scatsta. As it hove into view the wind dropped and a somewhat feeble sun put in a belated appearance.

Dressed warmly for the occasion, the Princess was undaunted by the weather and proceeded to enjoy a guided tour of the bleak Collafirth Hill Forward Scatter Station given by the OC FSS Shetland **Maj David Collins**. After presenting the LS and GC to **WO2 (FofS) Lee Brown**, HRH then went off for afternoon tea with the wives in the Foreman's married quarter in Urafirth.

With the Princess safely off by air to Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh, the Military Party exchanged thanks and congratulations and set off again to prepare for the next day, practising their mental agility with a quick game, or three, of cards on the flight south.

Friday and we're on the move again, suffering slightly from the hospitality of the Master and SOinC at dinner the previous night. Waiting for the Wessex of the Queen's Flight to arrive, the tension builds up at Balado Bridge in Fife. The tour conducted by the OC **Maj Bill Graham** is quickly under way, and all too soon we've seen around the Technical Complex and watched the Princess unveil a plaque. Everyone's enjoying a well earned cup of tea when the ADC spoils the fun with 'It's time to move' and herds, without protest, much to her amazement, 2 × Generals, 1 × Brigadier, 2 × Colonels and the RMO **(Maj 'Jack the Quack' Mulhearn)** on to the waiting Lynx helicopters for a short hop to RAF Turnhouse and the waiting Andover. (It was easy to get used to having our own personal fleet of aircraft).

Leaving the JRC on Benbecula the Colonel-in-Chief and Capt Tim Peacocke are flanked by an impromptu Guard of Honour from 632 Troop. WO2 (FofS) Ken Perry, WO2 (FofS) Pete Roscoe and SSgt John Prichard

Our next venue was 632 Signal Troop in the Hebrides and we were met by the Commander of the RA Range **Brig M. A. C. Murray** and the Troop OC, **Capt Tim Peacocke**. For those of you who, like me, had believed that Benbecula was a one horse island, think again. The ranges are the largest in Britain and the permanent staff, a mixture of RA, R Signals, REME and RAF capbadges, are frequently invaded by various visiting units using the range facilities.

After lunch in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess (another super meal in our three day gastronomic tour of Scotland) there followed a visit to the main comms complex before heading yet again for our trusty aircraft fleet.

Meantime the rest of us were struggling into our immersion suits and there was much hilarity and plenty of offers to help the ADC (complete in No 2 Dress, tartan skirt, court shoes and 10 tons of golden auguillets) as she attempted to place all 5ft 2½ins into a suit which even the six footers amongst us found difficulty in filling.

As we waved goodbye in our Lynx for our trip to St Kilda, **Capt Tim Peacocke**, the local conducting officer, was found to be clawing in vain at the window in a futile attempt to join our select little band. However our pilot had other ideas and took off without him. Air Sea Rescue were then asked to deliver one distraught signal officer on to St Kilda in order to meet up with the rest of us. Adding insult to injury, he landed on top of the island and the visit to his detachment was over before he arrived panting at the bottom. No doubt **Tim**, this will be one of your treasured memories of the visit.

Capt Tim Edwards presents HRH with a St Kilda passport. The Colonel-in-Chief can now come back anytime without getting staff clearance!

Waiting on St Kilda was the OC, **Capt Tim Edwards RA** and his castaways, a mixture of REME, RA and R Signals. **Cpl Howse**, as the Royal Signals detachment commander, accompanied the Princess on a tour of the comcen.

A visit to the National Trust for Scotland museum followed and the Princess was received by the Factor, **Mr Peter Moore**. **Capt Edwards** invited HRH to sign the St Kilda visitors' book, the Nature Conservancy Council Book and accept a presentation passport from the St Kilda detachment.

At short notice it was decided that a trip to the top of the hill was in order so two landrovers groaned up the steep slopes to the top and **Princess Anne** was able to obtain some personal photographs of the magnificent view. By now we are way behind schedule and the soldiers and their wives are waiting patiently in Benbecula for the afternoon tea. After the presentation of the LS & GC to **WO2 (FofS) Peter Roscoe** and yet another cup of tea, the Princess spoke to everyone before embarking on an unscheduled shopping trip.

Whilst in the hectic preparation for a Royal dinner party at the house that night, **Brig Murray**'s wife, **Rosemary**, received a surprise 'phone call requesting her immediate presence in the JRC in order to accompany HRH on a trip to buy some tweed. **Mrs Murray**'s flexibility was proved beyond doubt when they arrived back only 20 minutes before the guests were due to arrive.

The Factor of St Kilda, Mr Peter Moore, briefs HRH on the history of the island and the work of the National Trust for Scotland

Brig M. A. C. Murray and Sgt Paul Flintham look on as the SOinC meets Sgt Nick Norton, the longest serving lobster fisherman in 632 Sig Tp

The Colonel-in-Chief presents the LS and GC to FofS Peter Roscoe watched by SSgt Taff Davies

We left Benbecula the next morning to set off again for Edinburgh and to transfer to our helicopters for the short journey to Cultybraggan Camp in the heart of Perthshire for the visit to 32 Sig Regt (V). We soon landed on the football pitch and I felt that I was getting into the hang of jumping out of helicopters with at least a hint of decorum. However, the senior officers around were being chivalrous and giving a helping hand, insisting on treating me as a lady and not as a mere Second Lieutenant—not that I'm complaining!

Formerly a Prisoner of War Camp, the nissen huts at Cultybraggan still have the 'pot-belly' stoves reminiscent of the ones in 'The Great Escape'. Under the watchful eye of **WO1 (RSM) Brian Peel**, the camp had been transformed by the working party over the past fortnight. For the waiting Regiment it had been an early start in order to add the final lick of paint, re-align the masts and sweep the paths. The MO finds some spare time to tidy the garden outside the MRS joking as he works that it must be fit for a Princess in the event of the unthinkable happening.

The Pipes and Drums, adding a splash of colour in the Grant tartan, struck up as the Royal Wessex arrived. HRH presented a Royal Pipe Banner to the Regiment and then spent two hours in the field visiting the four signal squadrons and the LAD on exercise. Although it was bitterly cold and snow showers descended on us from time to time, the Princess carried on regardless and spoke at length to all the soldiers.

After lunch in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess the Princess visited the new Training Centre and HQ Squadron. Although we were behind schedule again, I had resigned myself to the fact that Royal Princesses are not to be hurried and it was far more important that the visit should be enjoyed. We set off in our helicopters for the last time heading for Glasgow with the RMO directing the AAC pilots to the HLS 'Follow the A82 and it's a large field on your right'.

We were received by the Lord Provost of Glasgow and speedily transferred to our TA Centre in Jardine Street for tea with the wives of the Regiment and the presentation by the RSM's wife, **Mrs Barbara Peel**, of a cheque for the Save The Children Fund raised by the wives.

The Reception and Dinner in Glasgow City Chambers, at which the Corps Band was present, was a splendid finale to a marvellous tour. Although the preparation for the visit was at times hectic, the three days had passed amazingly quickly and, fortunately, without any hitches.

The whole tour had for me been a tremendously enjoyable experience. However, as **Princess Anne** said her final farewells and departed for Central Station and the Royal Train, I couldn't help but breathe just a 'wee' sigh of relief.

Regimental Pipes and Drums
L—R: Cpl Rab Brannigan, Pte Joan Kane WRAC, Cpl Caroline Hume WRAC, Dmr Karen Cormack WRAC, Dmr Gordon Smith, Drum Major Sammy Lyle, LCpl Karen Gray WRAC, Piper Elaine Brinklow WRAC, Cpl Tommy McHendry, Dmr Derek Smith
Absent from photograph: Pipe Major Gordon Luke, Cpl Ian Mortimer

OC 51 (Highland) Sig Sqn, Maj Ken Sutherland, presents his 2IC Maj Dougie Bartlett, SSM John Muirhead and SSgt Donald Webster

HRH, Capt Fiona Dunn WRAC and SSgt Dennis Ghandi brave the weather during a tour of 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn (V)

The Princess looks impressed on meeting Pte Audrey Smith, the first WRAC Vehicle Mechanic (both TA and regular) to be accepted by REME

On behalf of the wives of the Regiment, the RSM's wife Mrs Barbara Peel, presents HRH with a cheque for Save the Children Fund

The Colonel-in-Chief shares a joke with Sgt Bob Pratten, his wife Iris and Mrs Vicky Stephen. Cpl Steve Stephen hides from the cameraman

Capt Sam Clarke presents his troop as the sun shines on the North Irish Horse. The OC of the Londonderry Squadron looks on

Capt Ruth Maltman WRAC grins widely as her husband, Maj Allan Lapsley, talks to HRH. SSM Neil O'Reilly leans into the wind in an effort to keep PSI, SSgt Alan Kinchington, out of the picture

The CO assists the Princess in presenting the new Royal Pipe Banner to 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt at Cultybraggan watched by Pipe Major Gordon Luke and Drum Major Sammy Lyle

— From our "In" Tray —

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY, 28 JUNE

The Master of Signals, **Major General J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** sent the following message to our Colonel-in-Chief.

'On the occasion of Princess Royal Day the Master of Signals and all ranks of your Corps send warmest greetings to their Colonel-in-Chief, and reaffirm their loyalty and devotion to Her Royal Highness.

On this day we remember with pride the endeavours and sacrifices made by all who served in World War Two, and the part they played in the development of our modern communications system and the professionalism of the Corps!'

HRH The Princess Anne sent the following reply:

'I was delighted to receive your message of loyal greeting on the occasion of Princess Royal Day. I would be grateful if you pass on my warmest good wishes to All Ranks of my Corps.'

Unveiling Ceremony

A bronze bust of **HRH The Princess Anne**, commissioned by the Royal Corps of Signals, was unveiled by **Maj Gen Tony Tighe**, Colonel Commandant, on 3 May. The bust will reside permanently in the foyer of the Trade Training School. It is the first bust to be sculpted of **Princess Anne** and is life size. It was sculpted by **Mrs Faith Winter**, wife of retired **Col Freddie Winter**, who was also responsible for the eight foot sculpture 'The Soldiers', which stands near the main gate of Vimy Barracks.

The bronze bust of HRH The Princess Anne unveiled by Maj Gen Tighe.

Ministry of Defence Sangcom Team Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

After five years absence from *The Wire* it is perhaps appropriate to reintroduce ourselves. The Ministry of Defence Saudi Arabian National Guard Communications Project Team is based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and was established in July 1978. The Team's role is to monitor a Government to Government contract to provide the Saudi Arabian National Guard with a Nationwide Strategic Communications System. Cable & Wireless are the prime Contractors. The Team is part of MOD (PE) and its strength at present is 15 military members, 12 civil servants and 12 locally employed staff.

SANGCOM Team Members

Fifth Row: Cpls Pat Patterson, David Hopper, Derek Robertson, Mr Nazer Ansari, Mr Tim Wilson

Fourth Row: Hameed, Abdul Hakim, Abdul Nabi, Mohammed, Hussain, Tariq

Third Row: WO2 (FofS) Colin Mitchell, Mr Jim Thorn, Mr Paul Peto, Mr Reg Burbanks, Mr John Franklin, WO2 (ORQMS) Bruce Forsyth

Second Row: Majs Bob Baker, Des Lavender, Tez Fish, Mrs Eva Miller, Maj Colin Eastland, Mr Peter Taylor

First Row: Mrs Lorna Stroud, Mr Ted Parkes, Col Tony Lewis, Brig John Russell, Lt Col Hugh Nealon, Maj Ray Tricker, Mrs Val Gardner

Absent: Maj Rod Mansfield, Mr Peter Preston, Mr Tony Suggitt, Mr Doug Revell, Mr Bill Davison, LCpl Graham Shedd, Subash

VISITS

We have been pleased to receive two senior RAF visitors during the past three months. **AVM F. H. Holroyd**, DGSLS, from 16-18 March, and on 1 May **AVM J. M. D. Sutton**, ACDS(O). Both visits were a success but, as often happens in Saudi Arabia, did not go exactly according to plan. At one stage we had to admit to having totally lost **AVM Sutton**. It eventually transpired that he had been spirited away by the National Guard for an impromptu audience with **HRH Crown Prince Abdullah**, Deputy Premier and Head of the National Guard.

TEAM EXPANSION

Perhaps as a comment on the quality of Saudi Arabian television, the Team has seen the arrival of two new babies in the past month with three more expected in the near future. Our congratulations to **Maj Colin** and **Lynn Eastland** on the birth of their daughter, **Amy**, and to **Cpl Dave** and **Susan Hopper** on the birth of their daughter, **Rachel**. Awaiting new arrivals are **Cpl Pat** and **Maren Patterson**, Clerical Officer **Tim** and **Lisa Wilson**, and our interpreter, **Nazer** and his wife **Sana**.

BEM PRESENTATION

In remote outposts such as Riyadh it is easy to begin to believe you are one of the forgotten few. It was, therefore, with particular pleasure that we received the news of the award of the BEM to **Cpl Derek Robertson**, our MT NCO. Team Members gathered at the British Embassy Villa on 18 March 1985 where **Cpl Robertson** was presented with his medal by **HBMA Sir Patrick Wright.**

Cpl Robertson receives his medal from Sir Patrick Wright

EXERCISE *AL AREEN*

During the period 3-6 March 1985 the Team Commander, **Brig John Russell**, accompanied by **Lt Col Hugh Nealon**, **Maj Colin Eastland** and **WO2 (FofS) Colin Mitchell** observed the National Guard's Spring FTX, Ex *Al Areen* (The Lion's Den).

The Exercise took place some 1,000Kms south of Riyadh in the Bisha area which is close to the Yemeni border. After a long but uneventful drive of 1,200Kms (map reading problems are not confined to BAOR) the team arrived in time to erect a Bedouin tent during a gale and in the dark.

The first day was spent playing 'blind mans buff' in a sandstorm with a Range Rover, Land Rover, and a vehicle which can only be described as an 'American Cross Country' vehicle which spent most of the time pretending to be a mole buried up to its axles in the sand. The whole day proved to be rather fruitless but did highlight the problems of desert navigation when conditions are bad.

The second day dawned clear and bright and after a hurried breakfast of egg and sand sandwiches, the team managed to observe a number of National Guard locations in hides. The standards overall were impressive.

The journey back to Riyadh was uneventful and thankfully only 1,000Kms (map reading mastered).

FIT TO FIGHT

Riyadh is situated on a high plateau in the Nadj region of the Kingdom and is surrounded by desert. With all the rigours this entails (it's hell keeping the swimming pool clean) you may be forgiven for thinking we would be excused our BFT. With a course at a height of 3,000ft run at 0600 hrs in shade temperatures of 75°F plus, we wonder whether we have a claim on the hardest BFT in the Corps.

Desert Warriors Brig John Russell, Lt Col Hugh Nealon, Maj Colin Eastland and WO2 (FofS) Mitchell

Visit to Fernmeldebataillon 840 NORTHAG

Report by Lt Mark Davis—2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt

Last October I was lucky enough to spend two weeks visiting Fernmeldebataillon 840 NORTHAG, a German Signal Regiment based in Essen. The visit had been organised as part of an Anglo-German exchange designed to improve co-operation between our two armies.

I spent most of the two weeks visiting each of the five companies that form the Battalion. This gave me an ideal opportunity to see their training at first hand, and to get involved with their regimental life. I was also very privileged to be invited to a number of regimental functions and my hosts took me around the local townships which are steeped in industrial and cultural history. The latter part of the visit was taken up with a Regimental exercise. It was most interesting, informative and helpful; seeing all the companies working together enabled me to form an overall picture of how the unit worked.

The Battalion is a unit allocated to NATO, working in conjunction with British and Belgian troops to provide trunk communications between Corps and NORTHAG headquarters. The Battalion's concept of operations requires them to use two different forms of equipment. Firstly, a large part of their trunk system is based around radio relay sites running the length of Germany and interconnecting with ACE HIGH and STARRNET. This provides a very high capacity system and is known as CIP (Communication Improvement Project). The remainder of the Regiment's tasks involves them in the use of mobile Radio Relay detachments similar to our own. The mobile detachments are divided into 'high capacity' (60 channels) and 'medium' capacity (30 channels) equipment. These are used to connect Corps Headquarters to the CIP system. Then via CIP the shot is established over the distance required, and is simply 'tipped off' at the distant end by another mobile relay detachment and hence to one of the three NORTHAG headquarters.

My visit to Fernmeldebataillon 840 NORTHAG was made particularly enjoyable by the excellent hospitality afforded me. It is a friendly and highly professional Regiment with a difficult and complex role. I learned a great deal about how other NATO regions approach their communications task and, apart from thoroughly enjoying my part in the exchange, it was of great value to me as a communications officer. I am very grateful to **Col Siegfried Peters**, the Commanding Officer of Fernmeldebataillon 840, and to his officers for all that was done to make my visit so profitable.

Brig Peter Davies, Comd HQ 12 Armd Bde meets management Col Alan Hawksworth TD(V), Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde during the Royal College of Defence studies visit to Boots plc Nottingham in May

TRAFFIC OFFICERS AND YEOMAN OF SIGNALS CONVENTION 1985

This year the convention was held at the Sennelager Training Centre and most of the discussion was about PTARMIGAN. We did however also hear from; TACT, Freq Man and Operations Analysis.

PWSST and PIU under the control of **Maj Helier Exon** did an excellent job of bringing us all up to date.

Maj Gen Alan Yeoman, pointed out during his 50 minute 15 minute spot that he often referred to himself as the 'father of Yeoman', but among these he certainly detected a 'grandfather' element creeping in.

Should any of you meet **Maj Gus Gurr** please do not discuss Hells Angels!

The convention was organised by **Capt John Lovell** with **Capt Ian Sleightholme** masterminding the administration. **SSgt (YofS) Bowman** of 13 Sig Regt very kindly volunteered to take up the new post of 'social organiser' for the next convention.

Exercise Long Run—Cyprus

Ex *Long Run* was conceived to raise money for the ex Service Mental Welfare Society and the Deaf Children's School in Nicosia. The task in hand was for nine members (Radio), plus back-up crew with vehicles, to run a course from Ay Nik to Larnaca, Nicosia, Troodos, Kykko, Polis, Paphos, Episkopi, Limassol, Larnaca and back to Ayios Nikolaos, a total of 285 miles, beating a previous time of just under 40 hours set in 1979.

After many weeks of organisation the two teams were:

Team A (or the 'A' team)	*Team B*
WO1 Jim Dodds	**WO2 Mick Moffatt**
SSgt Keith Baker	**SSgt Pete Havlin**
Sgt Chels Facer	**Sgt Jock Douglas**
Sig Steve Smith (307)	**Sgt Dave Butler**
	Sig Jim 'Arthur' Daly
Back-Up Crew	
Sgt Tony Johnson RAF	**Sgt Mick Compton REME**
LCpl Roy Lee	**Sig Gordie Morgan**
LCpl Mark Lawrence	

See page 385 for photograph.

THE START

1900 hrs arrived. The sun began to fade as the 'A' team runners and back-up crew waited for the signal to start. Meanwhile, team 'B' had departed for Troodos to prepare for the second leg. Pretty little **Maria Stavrou**, a young deaf girl from our local village of Ayios Nikolaos dropped the white handkerchief and **WO1 Jim Dodds** started the first 10 mile leg as quickly as an old man could manage. Following behind with the electronic cattle prod and oxygen mask were **Sgt Tony Johnson** and **LCpl Mark Lawrence**. Handover, at the second leg was **SSgt Keith 'Snake' Baker** who followed the winding road through Dhekelia and along the waterfront to Larnaca with **LCpl Tich Lee** keeping a watch, from behind. Next to run the lonely road was **Sgt Chels Facer** who made good speed around Larnaca to establish the run well on the road to Nicosia. **Sig Steve Smith** was next and was 'really lucky' to be selected to run the next 10 miles up and down the hills around Lymbia and Dhali. Once onto the old Nicosia road, the running distances were reduced to five miles each leg. Good progress was made by all (even the Wrinklies) as the night wore on.

NIGHT RUN

Sadly, darkness obscured the athletic pose and stride of the runners as they departed Nicosia. From there on to Astromirites, the brilliant security lights of Mount Olympus provided a distant target to aim at. The silent Nicosia to Morphu road seemed to go on for ever and then began the arduous climb to Troodos via Kakopetria. Determined footslogging brought the team to the final assault just as dawn was breaking. With great delight, a weary 'A' team handed over the second part to team 'B'.

KYKKO CLIMB

Sig Arthur Daly was the first away, unfortunately suffering a little from a cold, nevertheless he put in a good run. **Sgt Jock (Super Legs) Douglas** took over with a long climb up to Kykko monastery. **Sgt Dave Butler** was next to run the undulating course on fairly good tracks, dropping down towards Pano Paniyia.

HOTTING UP

By this time the sun was warming up. We were going to have a long hot day. Next off was **SSgt Pete Havlin** on his leg. Our first hiccup of the day happened when he was sent off in the wrong direction, due to the map being out of date.

After a bit of back tracking, the error was corrected and once again, **SSgt (I run anywhere) Havlin** was on the right track. Next off was **WO2 (I'm magic with a map) Moffatt** on the road to Polis. At this stage the heat was being felt and vast amounts of water were being consumed.

HANDOVER

The run continued from Polis to Paphos along the southern coastal road to Episkopi with the running distance being dropped to three miles, to reduce the risk of heat exhaustion (that's their story . . .).

As the afternoon drew on, the runners were justifiably beginning to feel tired from the climbing and mileage. Thirteen miles out from Episkopi, we were joined by the team 'A' members who were suitably refreshed and gave cheer and encouragement for the final leg. With Aphrodite's Rock and the hills of Pissouri and Episkopi behind we handed over to team 'A' at 2030 hrs, falling out for a well deserved meal and rest.

PLODDING THE TAR

Team 'A' started the Limassol-Kophinou leg with **SSgt Keith Baker** striding his way past Curium then down the hill towards Limassol via the M1. Next to plod the tar was **Sgt Chels Facer** who ran through Limassol to handover to **Sig Steve Smith**. At this point, **Sgt T. J. Johnson** canvassed the local restaurateurs for sponsorship money. Pizzas were the order of the day with **WO1 Jim Dodds**, trying (to no avail), to digest his before the next leg. **Sig Steve Smith** ran a good 10 miles and missed out on the pizzas, then handing over to **WO1 Jim Dodds** as the neon lights of Limassol were left behind. Running distances were reduced to five miles each for the long and dark run along the Limassol-Nicosia old road to Kophinou. Team 'B' were waiting to run the last leg to Dhekelia via Larnaca. A few hours sleep at this point for team 'A' with the **'Snake'** nearly being lifted by the local constabulary for not paying his tariff for the disused car port he decided to occupy.

ARDUOUS SNAKE

The last leg for team 'B' again saw **Sgt Jim Daly** running towards Larnaca but needless to say, happier with the cool night air than that of the midday sun. Legs were beginning to get pretty heavy and sore but **Sgt Dave Butler** took the next three miles in his stride. The runners plodded their way into Larnaca towards the burning sunrise, then on to Dhekelia where **WO2 Mick Moffatt** managed to get lumbered with the final stage up the arduous snake. There are those who say it was well timed revenge by **SSgt (I'm lost) Havlin** for the error the previous day.

FINAL MEET UP

Both teams met at the SBA Police station for the final 16 miles to Ayios Nikolaos, taking it at one mile each except for **WO1 'Big' Jim Dodds** who insisted on doing one and a half. Eventually both teams ran the final one and a half miles from the Berlina restaurant to Mercury Barracks to be met by the CO. **Lt Col Mike Galloway** and OC 2 Sqn, **Sqn Ldr George Mackay RAF**. After much hand shaking and downing of bubbly, supplied by **Sgt Trev Banks RAF**, all agreed that it was quite an achievement. And all in 37 hours exactly.

The Blue Helmets

Looking from the window of the Blue Helmets' office in Aldershot, the increased frequency of sightings of the Red Devils Islander disgorging students and experienced parachutists over Queen's Avenue only serves as a reminder that summer is almost here.

With this in mind the Corps team held their third training weekend on 18/19 May at the Joint Services Parachute Centre Netheravon. The weekend was well attended though some of the more regular faces were absent due to work commitments. **LCpl Rory McCormick** travelled from 8 Inf Bde Sig Sqn to be there. This showed a tremendous amount of dedication. The aim was to progress Corps parachutists towards becoming display qualified and also to practise display techniques in preparation for the coming season: a photographic session was also held. This was to obtain material for a poster which is to be produced for the team as part of its public relations package. The weather on Saturday was glorious and Team members made a lot of good parachute jumps. Congratulations to **SSgt Alan De La Haye** who qualified as a British Parachute Association Category Ten parachutist even if he did have to jettison his main parachute after opening and land on his reserve. It was also a pity that he could not stay and do his 200th jump. His wife was threatening divorce if he was not home before the sun went down!

All in all the weekend was a success even if the weather was not too good on the Sunday, but team members did obtain some good pictures.

Other happenings recently within the team include **Sgt Mick Thurman** having completed his 1000th descent even if it was at 0630 hrs and no-one was up to see it. **WO1 (YofS) George Devine** woke up one morning in early May to find that he had suddenly ceased to be a Yeoman and had become a Captain and had taken over the job of Admin Officer of 83 (L) Sig Sqn (V) in London—Congratulations!

The team starts its display season in earnest on 26 May with a display into Ripon Rugby Club and after that has engagements throughout the summer at 11 venues up and down the country. It is expected that this year the team will give displays to an estimated audience of around 200,000 people. The team will also enter the Army and Rhine Army Parachute Championships, and so 1985 should prove the busiest season so far.

Even though already booked for a large number of venues the team is willing to take on displays at Regimental or Squadron open days/fetes etc. For approximately £100 the team can be engaged to open/close or just jump into these events. If units are interested in using the Corps Free Fall Team they should contact **Sgt Mick Thurman** at 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Aldershot.

Half Marathon Aldershot

Report by SSgt (YofS) Pete Jarvis—28 (BR) Sig Regt NORTHAG

The Regimental runners in an attempt to get their bodies back into shape ready for the 1985 running season during which teams will participate in the Vienna, London, Frankfurt, Verden and Berlin marathons and of course the Nijmegen marches spent an enjoyable training weekend in UK running round Aldershot's scenic countryside. The venue for this training was the Army/Fleet half marathon.

It was intended to send two teams of four men, but unfortunately due to other commitments, one runner had to drop out at the last minute. Our driver/manager **Sig (Sterling) MacGregor** offered to run and made a decent time considering he had not done any training! The majority of the team were quite out of condition having had the winter training runs curtailed by heavy snow in the Krefeld area and not to forget such things as Ex *Wintex*. However prior to the race most of us managed a crash, get the legs in shape, of ten days at six miles a day. Not enough but better than nothing.

The tour was uneventful except for one French student giving free lessons in the bar on what happens when you pick on a cockney twice your size. We arrived at 7 RHA Bks at 2130 hrs, dropped our bags off and headed for the local watering hole, The North Camp Hotel. Somehow **Capt Bill Maddy** beat us there and was propping up the bar with a half of bitter in his mit (obviously learnt the short cuts in his 15 years at Aldershot). **Sig Mick Vandennieuwenhysen** (A-Z) found out why he had beaten us there when he paid the bill for the round of seven pints of bitter £6.70 (Cheers **Mick**). We must extend our thanks to the Gunners who gave us excellent service and had everything ready for us.

Saturday was spent shopping and attempting to find banks open to give us money to shop with and also for a social evening out. Unfortunately the team fitness fanatic, (yours truly) decided we should first all go for a short training run along Aldershot's waterways just to break in all the new running shoes we had bought! So, after training, tea and a shower, we all descended on Guildford for an evening out. Girls, we apologise now for **Cpl (Smoothie) Guy** and **Pte Mickey Farrell**, we promise we won't bring them next year.

An early start on the day of the race, team photos outside Airborne HQ, where **Capt Bill Maddy** introduced us to at least half of the Airborne Division, then on to the arena. **LCpl (I won on the boat) Dave Prince** decided a half of bitter was in order for everyone and our newly promoted manager **Sig Stumpy Edwards** took a team photo of us with **Dickie Davis**. The weather during the run changed from bright sunshine, to rain and then hail, however even though the hills killed us everyone agreed it was well worth travelling for. **Sig Scotty Scott** having a very good run for his first half marathon.

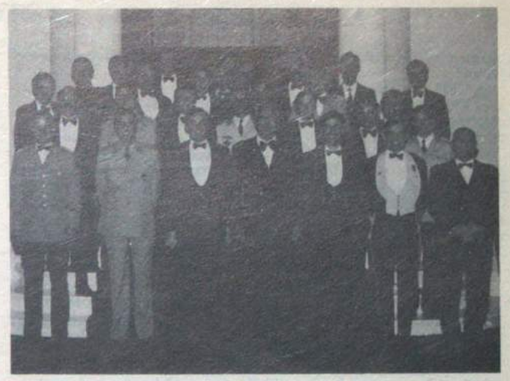
After a quick shower and an even quicker drive to the docks (the minibus needed a re-spray anyway), we all RV'd at the ship's bar, where **Sig Mick Vanndennieuwenhysen** pointed out that we were on the wrong ferry. After a lot of arguing, running about and juggling of vehicles on the car deck we found out that the Calais ferry had left anyway. Everyone headed back to the bar and left **Capt Bill Maddy** to explain to the crew that we rather liked this boat anyway and could we stay on please!!

To really impress the crew he then asked which way the blunt end was, so that we could take more team photos. After a few sleeping pills we all piled into the minibus and headed for St Tonis, arriving back at 0230 hrs Monday. A special thank you must go to **Capt Bill Maddy** for arranging the weekend and introducing us to so many characters (I didn't know there were that many people that jumped out of planes).

Results were: **Sig Scotty Scott** 1 hr 29 min, **Cpl Jeff Guy** 1 hr 31 min, **SSgt Pete Jarvis** 1 hr 34 min, **Sig Mick Vandennieuwenhysen** 1 hr 35 min, **Capt Bill Maddy** 1 hr 39 min, **Pte Mickey Farrell** 1 hr 46 min, **LCpl Dave Prince** 1 hr 49 min and **Mac McGregor** 2 hrs.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!



AMF(L) INTERNATIONAL DINNER NIGHT—TEDWORTH HOUSE OFFICERS' MESS TIDWORTH

AMF(L) Staff Officers attending a dinner sponsored by HQ 1 Sig Gp and 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) on 2 May during the period of Ex *Clear Voice* (run by 249 Sig Sqn on behalf of the AMF(L) for non-Signals Staff). The band of 1 Bn Para Regt provided the music during and after dinner

Back Row (L—R): Maj (TOT) A. B. Gould, Maj D. J. McLean (OC 244 Sig Sqn), Maj M. K. Stretch (OC 215 Sig Sqn), Capt L. Coppolino (ITA), Maj J. R. S. Amberton, Maj R. Peratoner (ITA), Lt R. N. Grant

Third Row (L—R): Cdt E. A. R. Debontridder (BEA), Maj J. R. Selby, Lt Col D. M. A. Burridge, 2Lt S. Luca (LUXA), Capt H. I. Holstein (GEA), Lt F. N. Grant

Second Row (L—R): 2Lt N. D. Godbolt, Maj (Tfc) J. Morrison, 2Lt G. Diedler (GEA), Capt (QM) J. R. Nicholl, Lt F. Kimmerle (GEA), Maj J. N. Allen (OC 205 Sig Sqn), Capt B. Hinnegal (GEA), Maj (Dr) A. Braak (GEA)

Front Row (L—R): Capt L. U. von Leuttichau (GEA), Cdt B. A. J. Vandaele (BEA), Col C. A. Brown (Comd 1 Sig Gp), LTC P. Meini (ITA, CSO AMF(L)), Maj J. R. B. Book (OC 244 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)), Lt Col I. N. Osborne RCT (CO Log Sup Bn (AMF(L)), LTC G. Schiliro (ITA)

London Signaller wins coveted Burberry Trophy

The Burberry Trophy, presented to the 'London Volunteer of the Year' was awarded to **SSgt Peter Walker** of 68 (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn for his outstanding work with the recruits of both the Squadron and the Regiment. The trophy was presented to him by the **Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC** at Burberrys on 21 May.

SSgt Peter Walker with the Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw and his OC Maj Richard Duxbury

Exercise Danish Grun

Report by Sgt Cliff Swailes BEM—8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Crew:

Sgt Cliff Swailes BEM	(Skipper)
Sgt Mick Tuckere	(Mate)
Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt	(Crew)
LCpl Mick Crean	(Crew) RAOC
Dvr Graham Brown	(Engineer) RCT

The aim of the exercise was to further the experience of the Skipper and Mate with a view to advancement, also to introduce and train three novices.

With the crew assembled, we travelled by road to RAF Aldergrove for our flight to Gutersloh where 'N' Troop, 21 Sig Regt had arranged transit accommodation and later transport by road to Kiel, ably driven by **LCpl Bob Henshall** over a total of 900 miles for both return journeys.

The crew arrived at Kiel mid-day on 25 April and took over a Sabre 27 named *Cuckoo*, stowed kit and rations, then made the boat ready to put to sea the following day.

The long range forecast for the week was far from favourable, which at least meant it was unlikely we would be short of wind.

The next morning the crew wrestled out of their sleeping bags, the first shock came when the aft hatch couldn't be opened because it was frozen solid. With a Westerly force 6 forecast, we eventually slipped from Kiel for Sondeborg on the first leg of our voyage. Little did the novices realise what was to come.

Once clear of Kiel Channel we were on a close-hauled beat for Sondeborg, accompanied by a forecast W6 and a 1m sea running. As the starboard topsides were occasionally dipped in the Baltic and more than a few 'Greenies' climbed aboard certain crew members were seen to be looking a bit sheepish, along with 'won't the boat fall over Skipper?' Had it been more than the odd gust then we could have reduced sail, but the crew were fine apart from the cold which with the wind factor must have dropped the temperature below zero! At about 2030 hrs we came alongside Sondeborg in the relative shelter of the harbour which later was to prove barely sufficient. While the crew peeled off a few layers of clothing and later ate a well deserved hot meal, the barometer continued to drop from 1016 when we left Kiel to an eventual 995. It was later necessary to move into the lee of a moored Ferry for shelter from the now severe gale force winds which had backed SSW thro' the mouth of the harbour. During that night we suffered damage to the 'rubbing strake' when one of the fenders jumped on board and the boat came into direct contact with the pier, but thankfully only the strake was damaged.

The next day was spent waiting to allow the weather to abate and sampling the endless hospitality of the Danes and of course the Tuborg. We also came to realise that **Sgt Mick Tucker** was the Galloping Gourmet who should have carried on galloping. It was only the 'Flambé' toast, that made the burnt eggs look good. Enter **Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt** who allowed us to sample many a culinary compo delight as the voyage went on.

Day three and as indicated by the wind direction, we set sail for the Port of Marstal. The wind was now abeam which made life a lot more comfortable and with the occasional glimpse of the sun it was a little warmer.

Marstal is a very quiet but pleasant port with narrow and shallow buoyed channels which are tricky by night as they are not lit and the Ferry can be seen approaching or departing with an enormous searchlight looking for the reflective strips on the Port and Starboard markers.

After a quiet but enjoyable overnight stay in Marstal it was time to slip under engine for Svendborg to the NE. We now made our way through similar narrow and shallow channels eventually hoisting sails, freeing off, bearing away and approaching Svendborg on a beam reach at 5-6 knots. Our progress was in danger of being hindered by **LCpl Mick Crean** who seemed to think the object of the exercise was to 'take out' the channel markers, much to the horror of the Skipper, who soon put him right.

Svendborg is the complete opposite of Marstal as it is a large commercial harbour and a busy industrial town with a population of some 39,000. The following day was NE-6 and with the crew now taking shape and working together we slipped just after mid-day for Faaborg. With two reefs in the main and the No 1 jib we sped from Svendborg but as we hardened up leaving the island of Skaro to Port it became evident that the wind was backing to the north and gusting 7. It was time to reduce sail to Storm jib and reefed main after the Port winch and cleat were seen to take a dip and the self-drainers in the cockpit were tested and proved. To quote from the Fair-log 'the crew were a little worried' and a darker member was seen to turn green; that was a shocking sight. A few more 'sneaky greenies' came over and down the necks to keep them alert, but after an hour of

The crew relax in Svendborg

tacking and Bjorno abeam the sails were dropped, Iron Genoa switched on and we later came alongside Faaborg Quay. Now in the protection of the harbour the sun gave us some warmth and the chance to dry equipment, clothing and the boat.

Faaborg is a pleasant, picturesque town with reasonable entertainment so it was decided to have the following day as R & R and take in the sights, before returning to Kiel.

After some 'hasty pastries' and last photos we hoisted the headsail and sailed off the Quayside with the wind NE-4 homeward to Kiel.

Clear of the channel and on course to leave Skjaednes light to port, it was the turn of **Dvr Graham Brown** to prove his worth as he took the tiller and added yet another qualification to his driving skills. Unfortunately when Kiel light was fine on the port bow **LCpl Mick Crean** was helming, and decided that the light was behind a tanker on the horizon and deemed fit to pursue the tanker. He took some convincing that the stationary red and white tower was much more likely to be the light. As we came up to the light and round into the channel mouth the sails were goose winged and the head-sail boomed out. Those last miles were soon covered and in no time at all we had moored up at BKYC. Maybe we should have trailed warps to slow down!

As soon as the kit was stowed and the crew scrubbed down it was time for the Skipper's curry which turned out to be a delight worth waiting for, at least the crew are still around to talk about it.

The boat was handed over the following day, the crew returned to Gutersloh for the weekend and after presenting OC N Troop, **Capt Dave Longhurst** with an 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn plaque as a token of appreciation for his Troop's assistance, we made our way to the Air Terminal laden with duty frees for our return flight to Aldergrove and then Londonderry.

All who took part, felt it was a success, with the original aims achieved and an exciting enjoyable break from Ulster. Final thanks to the staff of BYKC who spend countless hours keeping the boats serviceable and afloat for our benefit.

Move of RHQ Royal Signals

The move to **56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD** took place on 1 July.

Details of telephone numbers are as follows:-

	MILLBANK MILITARY EXT
Regimental Secretary (Colonel J. A. D. Francis)	**240**
Assistant Regimental Secretary (Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon)	**241**
Institution Clerk	**242**
Chief Clerk	**243**
Welfare Officers	**244 or (01) 630 0801**
Association Clerk	**245**
The Wire/The Journal	**246**
Accounts	**247/248**

From outside the Army Telephone Network, dial **(01) 834 9060** and ask for the extension number required.

LETTERS

PRINCESS ROYAL DAY, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS GREETINGS

The Director of Communications (Army) and all ranks serving and retired of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals extended their congratulations and best wishes to all members of Royal Signals, on Princess Royal Day, 28 June.

From: Brig F. R. Maynard

Dear Sir,

In my recent address to the Royal Signals Association on the SOinC's behalf I attributed the provision of the control communications for the D Day celebrations only to 3 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment. I am now informed that both 30 Signal Regiment and 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron also made a significant contribution by providing 15 detachments to control events which included the fly past at Arromanche and the Naval Gunfire. Both of these units are rightly proud of their involvement in this important event and are naturally disappointed that no mention of their efforts was made in my address. I would be grateful if you could print this letter in acknowledgement of the part which both units played.

Yours faithfully,
F. R. Maynard

Commander Training Group,
Royal Signals and Catterick Division
Catterick Division

30 SIG REGT, SHOOTING TEAM 1970-73
From: Maj G. H. Cowsill, Ret'd

Dear Sir,

I would like to get in touch with former members of the highly successful 30 Sig Regt shooting team from 1970 to 1973. I was the team captain and also Secretary of Corps Shooting. The teams included such personalities as **Cpl 'Dodge' Kingham**, (RASAM Bisley SMG Champion Shot 1973), **Cpl 'Baldy' Harris, Cpl 'Geordie' Reynolds** and **Cpl** (now SSgt (YofS)) **'Spindle' Hindle** to name just four. I would like to know where they and the others are today. As I am now disabled and not able to walk as well as I would wish, it would be very pleasant to invite them to 'drop in' should they be in the Blandford Forum area—I usually have a beer or two in the 'fridge and would appreciate a yarn about 'the good old days'.

I also wish to contact anyone who shot for the 30 Sig Regt shooting team (actually it was a Corps super-team) in the CENTO (NISHAN 73) Small Arms Competition in Turkey in September 1973, after initial acclimatisation training, in Cyprus. I am looking for good photographs or other mementos of NISHAN 73, which after sorting and collation, will be handed to the Corps Museum. This was the peak of Corps shooting and deserves to be recorded.

Yours faithfully,
George Cowsill

10 Berkeley Close,
Pimperne,
Blandford Forum,
Dorset DT11 8UF
(Tel: Blandford (0258) 53588)

From: W. Dunn Esq

Dear Sir,

May I through *The Wire* thank everyone, who attended the Blandford Reunion 5 May 1985 and bought The British Red Cross flags from me on behalf of the Essex Branch, donating £39.71 towards my collection of £100.68 of a Grand Total of £1,836.53.

Yours sincerely,
W. Dunn

1 Longcroft Rise,
Loughton,
Essex IG10 3NB

From: Maj (Ret'd) B. E. Sykes

Dear Sir,

Mrs Barbara Cartland's letter in your May issue begins: '. . . many people have been upset by the official biography of . . . **Mountbatten** . . .' The inference is that, in her view at any rate, the book does not do him justice.

I never had the privilege to serve under **Mountbatten**, but I have read the biography, and it would be hard to imagine a more balanced and sympathetic study. The instructions for drafting officers' confidential reports run (or ran) something like this: 'Everyone has his strengths and his weaknesses: describe both of them'. This is exactly what **Philip Ziegler** has done.

Yours faithfully,
Edward Sykes

16 rue Montgermont,
77690 Montigny-sur-Loing,
France

From: ex WO2 B. J. Jordan

Dear Sir,

I hope the photograph published in the 'Ceylon Daily News' of 23 November 1945 may be of interest.

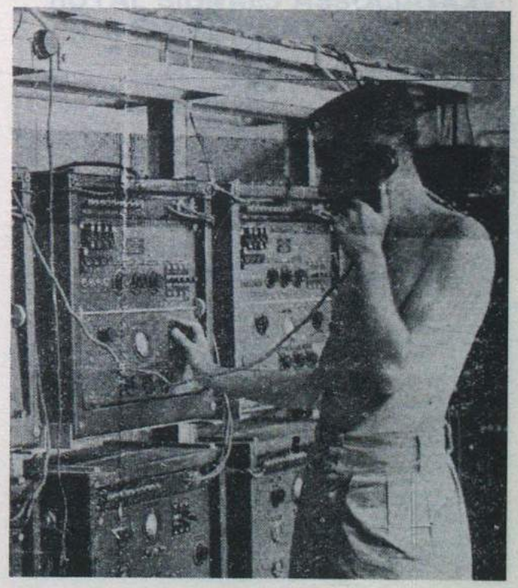
I went out to Ceylon as Section Sergeant of No 9 HS W/T Section in November 1943, where my Section joined other High Speed Wireless Sections to eventually form the Army W/T Stn in Ceylon. Our title changed several times.

The man twiddling the knobs is SQMS J. R. Haynes, alive and kicking in Liverpool.

I still retain a nominal roll of ORs involved, with their home addresses at that time.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. Jordan

24 Elmcroft,
Fairview Avenue,
Woking,
Surrey GU22 7NX
(Tel: Woking 67924)



— Movements —

Officers

JUNE 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
2Lt R. G. Bewsher	HS School of Signals
2Lt I. P. Birleson	HS School of Signals
2Lt D. J. M. Bizley	HS School of Signals
Maj R. J. Brown	HQ Trg Gp R Signals
Lt J. W. Clark	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt N. C. Coldrey	HS School of Signals
2Lt N. I. R. Dewar	HS School of Signals
Maj (Tfc) R. A. Dodman	10 Sig Regt
2Lt K. L. Evans	HS School of Signals
Capt A. Field	Welbeck College
2Lt P. R. Ford	HS 22 Sig Regt
2Lt N. D. Godbolt	HS School of Signals
2Lt P. A. Graham	HS School of Signals
Col T. W. Hackworth	DA/MA Appointment
2Lt G. H. Henschel	HS School of Signals
2Lt N. G. Holden	HS School of Signals
2Lt I. N. Hunter	HS School of Signals
Lt A. M. Johnson	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
2Lt R. G. Mather	HS School of Signals
Maj P. Parfitt	Project Management Team Bates
2Lt R. C. Phillips	HS School of Signals
Capt K. Pritchard	ACDS OR (LAND)
2Lt D. S. Raleigh	HS School of Signals
Capt D. E. Rowlinson	HS RMAS
Brig I. O. J. Sprackling	Director Military Assistance Overseas
Maj J. W. Stabler	HS 11 Sig Regt
2Lt T. J. Sutcliffe	HS School of Signals
Lt G. M. Taylor	3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
Lt Col P. Webb	School of Signals
2Lt S. M. Williamson	HS School of Signals

JULY 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt A. J. Allman	233 Sig Sqn
Maj S. I. Andrews	School of Signals
Capt B. P. Avison	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt E. J. W. Banham	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt M. G. Billingham	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) C. H. Birchall	HQ BFFI
Lt J. Bonnett	7 Sig Regt
Lt P. A. Brown	22 Sig Regt
Capt I. K. Bucklow	7 Sig Regt
Lt R. N. Clapp	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt R. M. D. Collins	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
2Lt J. A. Compston	7 Sig Regt
Maj W. G. Cunningham	8 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. S. Davies	School of Signals
Lt M. B. Dunn	22 Sig Regt
Lt M. A. Eaton	262 Sig Sqn
Lt Col R. H. G. Elford	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt M. J. Fensom	21 Sig Regt
2Lt J. S. Field	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt R. Fortune	School of Signals
Maj R. N. B. Freeman	HQ BFFI
Maj T. J. Gigg	School of Signals
Lt Col I. Graham	MOD ACDS Concepts
Lt D. G. Halstead	22 Sig Regt
2Lt J. Hands	16 Sig Regt
Lt A. A. S. Harwell	11 Sig Regt
2Lt A. G. Hill	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt M. S. Holman	School of Signals
2Lt G. P. Horn	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj D. B. Jones	Sch of Inf (Warminster)
Capt A. E. Kendall	School of Signals
Maj P. J. J. Kington	DGGWL(A) (PE)(AE)
Capt J. M. Kirkman	Jun Regt R Signals
Capt A. J. R. Kite	School of Signals
Maj D. P. J. Lavender	STANOC Centre
Lt S. P. R. Lowe	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj E. P. Luhtala	School of Signals
Capt G. M. Lumley	Jun Regt R Signals
Lt H. Lund	28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Maj R. P. Mason	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt C. E. Millard	22 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. M. O. Miller	HQ BFFI
Lt Col J. E. Neeve	QG Signals
2Lt M. Nott	7 Sig Regt
Lt C. R. Owen	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt B. R. Peel	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt G. J. T. Rafferty	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj M. A. Rice	School of Signals
Maj P. Richards	DSS (AD)
Capt A. Russell	31 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt D. P. Spencer	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A Sugden	266 Sig Sqn
Capt D. A. Sullivan	22 Sig Regt
Capt N. A. Swainson	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt J. E. Swindells	22 Sig Regt
Capt J. N. Turner	Jun Regt R Signals
2Lt M. A. Walker	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. Williams	DSS (AD)
Maj K. G. Wilson	8 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) B. Young	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

WOs and SNCOs

JUNE 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 R. E. Dickinson	31 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 D. J. Simpson	16 Sig Regt
AWO1 B. Wilson	32 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (FofS) J. Aquilina	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
WO2 J. A. Pape	DM(A)
WO2 M. Thomson	32 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 J. E. Phillips	28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
AWO2 T. McGinnis	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. L. Orrell	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (EW Op) R. W. Seward	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt D. Rawson	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) R. Coburn	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) D. Wright	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) P. A. Martin	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) A. T. Kennedy	22 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) D. M. Gunn	School of Signals (Cadre)
SSgt (FofS) M. G. Webb	30 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) W. E. Hughes	55 Sig Sqn (V)
SSgt (FofS) G. Wood	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) P. Gaffney	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) R. S. Morris	7 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) J. R. Waterson	13 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) R. Pullan	21 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) R. C. West	22 Sig Regt
SSgt J. H. Hobley	Rocchan (Balado Bridge)
SSgt (EW Op) D. A. Bicker	9 Sig Regt
SSgt F. Leigh	63 SAS Sig Sqn (V)
SSgt P. J. Bradbury	30 Sig Regt
SSgt S. Tupling	33 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. S. Hunt	30 Sig Regt
SSgt V. G. McGarry	11 Sig Regt
ASSgt N. Barnard	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt R. C. Cory	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt D. R. Toleman	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt J. Smith	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt P. A. Woodward	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. R. Arkley	31 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt K. J. Doyle	264 (SAS) Sig Sqn
ASSgt B. J. Hayward	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt I. Lake	30 Engr Bde Sig Tp (V)
ASSgt N. S. Molyneaux	63 Sig Sqn (SAS) (V)
ASSgt G. H. Oates	39 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt S. M. Rose	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt A. R. Small	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Cassidy	8 Sig Regt
Sgt B. G. Tanner	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. D. Payne	BATUS
Sgt K. L. Brownless	36 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt M. J. Thomas	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt S. S. Wilson	595 Rear Link Det
Sgt B. J. Palmer	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. Frost	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. H. Grainger	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. R. Hibbins	ACIO Luton
Sgt T. Anderson	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. P. Thomas-Peter	30 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Barber	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Sgt T. R. Norman	School of Signals
Sgt R. A. Isbell	School of Signals
Sgt N. J. Griffiths	School of Signals
Sgt R. Hailstones	School of Signals
Sgt A. Hockley	School of Signals
Sgt N. Fordyce	School of Signals
Sgt P. McGiveron	School of Signals
Sgt J. McEwen	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. J. Parkinson	HQ BAOR
Sgt R. D. Smith	AA College Harrogate
Sgt D. G. Long	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt D. L. B. Pickard	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt R. A. Wilson	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt D. A. Stewart	School of Signals (Courses)
Sgt D. F. O'Connor	249 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Brabbins	10 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Walmsley	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. A. Shorter	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. J. Cooper	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt J. A. McRoberts	13 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Buff	9 Sig Regt
Sgt S. P. Cocksedge	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt E. A. Gold	UK Support Unit SHAPE
Sgt F. T. Walker	7 Sig Regt
Sgt D. B. Iseton	10 Sig Regt
Sgt T. Swanney	AA College Harrogate
Sgt C. P. Thompson	HQ AFCENT
Sgt B. Donegan	633 Sig Tp
Sgt T. W. Mitchell	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt W. H. Dyson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Jarwood	AA College Harrogate
Sgt A. C. Palmer	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Sgt A. R. Dixon	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt N. W. J. Keep	FSS Stenigot
Sgt S. Anderson	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sgt S. Thompson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. Stoney	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt G. M. Mayne	30 Sig Regt
Sgt T. R. Smith	21 Sig Regt
Sgt C. M. Liddle	HQ AFSOUTH
ASgt V. R. Grimsley	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)

ASgt R. Griffiths	22 Sig Regt
ASgt T. C. Carter	22 Sig Regt
ASgt L. M. B. Watkins	7 Sig Regt
ASgt D. Topley	584 Rear Link Det
ASgt P. J. McElwee	Army Apprentices' College

JULY 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 M. H. Close	School of Signals
WO1 F. M. Dempster	DSS (AD)
WO1 A. J. Millington	HQ UKLF
AWO1 G. Cairns	37 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 P. D. Dring	40 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 H. Robinson	Birmingham UOTC
WO2 C. W. Beston	9 Sig Regt
WO2 J. T. Boyd	SANGCOM
WO2 P. L. Deam	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
WO2 (FofS) P. H. Waring	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) P. B. Baldwin	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
WO2 (FofS) M. McDonald	UK Support Unit SHAPE
WO2 T. A. Jinman	10 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. S. Foster	7 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) C. D. G. Storey	264 (SAS) Sig Sqn
WO2 (YofS) J. H. Williamson	School of Signals
WO2 (Supvr R) J. J. Kirk	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. J. Ashwell	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 D. R. Henderson	233 Sig Sqn
AWO2 (YofS) J. H. Chilcott	38 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 (YofS) A. F. Glover	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) J. Stirling	20 Maritime Regiment
SSgt C. S. Donnelly	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt C. P. Martin	28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
SSgt D. J. Tennick	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt D. R. Henderson	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt D. F. Brown	16 Sig Regt
SSgt P. A. Findell	10 Sig Regt
SSgt G. T. Reeves	7 Sig Regt
SSgt D. W. Sparkes	71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (FofS) M. J. Flaherty	Army Apprentices' College
SSgt (FofS) C. R. Cooper	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt (FofS) N. E. Baugh	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) R. M. Thomas	28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
SSgt A. C. Hedgley	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
SSgt M. Taylor	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. Eyre	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. Dalton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt M. J. Bull	21 Sig Regt
SSgt R. Sharp	4 Sig Gp
ASSgt E. G. Tunks	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt A. J. Davey	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt K. A. East	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt G. Douglas	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt A. A. Muir	HQ BAOR
ASSgt D. C. Leggat	249 Sig Sqn
ASSgt P. R. Barron	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt K. Bell	14 Sig Regt (EW)
ASSgt B. D. Colvin	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt C. Heeles	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt K. Jones	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
ASSgt F. McCubbin	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt R. M. Pemberton	HQ 4 Sig Gp
ASSgt S. P. Wood	7 Sig Regt
Sgt S. McDonald	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt G. P. Cross	Signals Security Section AFNORTH
Sgt J. Hogan	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt G. C. Hodge	28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Sgt A. M. Campbell	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Sgt A. P. Gillard	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt R. T. Warne	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn
Sgt M. Kenny	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Pettis	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. K. Wall	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt G. T. Pennington	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt G. T. Bennett	22 Sig Regt
Sgt M. H. Uttley	22 Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Johnson	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Kirkham	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt A. P. Sufrin	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sgt J. Leask	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
Sgt S. A. Overton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. S. Burnett	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt S. G. P. Whiteford	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt M. J. Burke	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Sgt M. D. Aubrey	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. H. Wright	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Sgt A. S. Heaton	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt R. J. B. Bayley	632 Sig Tp
ASgt G. C. Guy	8 Sig Regt
ASgt G. C. M. F. Stewart	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt G. O. Yeomans	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. J. Hanrahan	16 Sig Regt
ASgt R. S. Wood	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Welfare

APRIL 1985

Number of cases assisted financially:	54
Amount spent:	£9,655.27

MAY 1985

Number of cases assisted financially:	71
Amount spent:	£11,464.86

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

Ex-Sergeant served 1935-47 a widower living alone in a small town in rural Wales. He is completely disabled due to angina and emphysema and can only walk a few steps. Together with the Army Benevolent Fund we have made a grant for him to purchase a Batricar, which will enable him to be independent and get into town to do his shopping.

The widow of a Corporal who served 12 years was left with two teenage sons and was in financial difficulties. She has been on a low income for many years and was unable to cope with their clothing requirements. A grant was made to enable her to buy clothing and also to clear her outstanding HP commitments. In addition we were able to offer her a free holiday, which is the first the family have had for many years.

An elderly couple, both of whom are in poor health and in addition, the husband is blind, were in urgent need of furniture. They had recently been rehoused due to his health and their carpets and curtains did not fit. A grant was made by the Association to replace these items and in addition the Army Benevolent Fund made a grant for furniture.

The elderly widow of a wartime Signalman suffers from arthritis and bronchitis. She lives in poor accommodation which is damp and affects her health, and due to her low income she is unable to run her electric central heating. As a result she suffered from hypothermia during the bad weather this winter. An approach was made to the DHSS for an additional heating allowance and arrears of over £200 have now been paid to her. In addition we made a grant for clothing and footwear.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during May 1985:

WO2 R. E. Chapman	£ 70.00
34 Sig Regt (V)	£ 25.00
In memory of Maj E. J. Tidey	£ 5.00
In memory of Smudger, Wana 1936-40 Teaker	£ 5.00
Capt M. J. Dunmall BEM	£ 3.00
G. M. Lewis Esq	£ 2.50
Miscellaneous	£ 2.65
	£113.15

The following donations were gratefully received during June 1985:

233 Sig Sqn	£700.00
Sgt K. Bell	£ 25.00
Lt Col A. V. Swindale	£ 20.00
Maj F. C. Forbes	£ 7.00
Maj J. R. Selby R Signals	£ 3.00
	£755.00

A VISIT TO RUSSIA

Report by Jilly Cook

I have wanted to see something of Russia for a long time. We all hear so much about the Soviet Union and life in Eastern Europe, and all have preconceived ideas about places we have not seen for ourselves. Hearing about tours available from Berlin made me resolve to join one, to the two great cities of Russia—Leningrad and Moscow.

I started to plan my Russian adventure seven months beforehand. First there was a need to find the right friends to join me. This was a necessary step as in Russia the state-run Intourist service has tourism very firmly under control. I had been warned that a travelling companion with a good sense of humour was the best way to cope with the 'herding' we might expect but which, as it turned out, did not materialise.

The next critical step was to break the news of our trip to our husbands, not an easy moment for all! Then we got into the real hassle which was monumental. Passports had to be sent up for visas just when they were needed for skiing, returning children to school after Christmas and so on; hotels and travel to Berlin where the tour started was another problem; and we had to book in advance all of our theatre and other outings in the two Russian cities before we were really clear on what was best to do. Last but not least we had to make our various arrangements to sort out husbands, children and dogs whilst we were away.

Eventually the day arrived. The four of us travelling together assembled in a car park in West Berlin. It seemed odd that the Travel Agent who used to be there and had taken our bookings had disappeared. We didn't panic, they must just have moved offices. A large Intratours coach appeared and the rest of our tour group emerged from buses, taxis, mini-buses and staff cars. We climbed aboard and our 'tour leader' arrived—an efficient German woman from American Express. Our complacency was shattered by her announcement to the assembled group; 'I won't be coming with you on this tour since the Company has lost the contract and we went out of business last night'. That was it, the Big Unknown with no one to hold our hand. Feeling very vulnerable we were taken into the East, deposited at Schonefeld Airport and issued with a boarding card only. Where do we go next? Was it to be every woman for herself?

We felt better when we eventually found the Departure Lounge and the tour group began to identify itself. Our party consisted of some 18 Americans and 29 British; 35 were women, five men and one a young girl. We deduced that we must be on the 1000 hrs Aeroflot flight to Leningrad. It was packed out, the flight was not luxurious and the pilot made a bumpy and very prolonged landing at Leningrad. Our first culture shock.

A monumental hurdle lay before us. The Customs Declaration Forms. Every bit of money was declared. Watches, wedding rings, cameras, and no mistakes were allowed. The forms were in German and Russian, not easy to cope with. Eventually we completed the form, collected our cases and proceeded to Customs.

I was asked to open my suitcase, which was very thoroughly searched. My womens' magazines scrutinised; everything was scrutinised! My God what has he found? An envelope addressed to *me* care of the 'Lubijanka' Moscow. The burly official picked it up. What on earth was it? A Mother's Day Card from my son, whose sense of humour has always been suspect! The official opened it and I explained to the best of my ability that Mother's Day was tomorrow.

By this time our Russian Intourist guide arrived. 'Vassily', a 28 year old unmarried senior lecturer in English at Leningrad University who escorted groups of tourists during his vacations. He had expressive black eyes, a black beard and fur hat and of course spoke immaculate English. He turned out to be a very friendly, easy-going man.

LENINGRAD

An hour's drive from the airport to the centre of Leningrad and the hotel 'Moscva', the biggest and best hotel in Leningrad built for the Olympic Games. We had comfortable rooms with television and bathroom en suite, but no bathplugs!

We managed to get tickets straight away for a Russian Folk Evening. It was a wonderful, colourful performance, with 60 Ukranians dancing their traditional dances accompanied on Baliliakas.

During the next three days we travelled on the Metro and visited the Hermitage Museum whose beauty was quite incredible. It contained the most outstanding collection of paintings. We were very fortunate in the weather throughout our trip with clear blue skies and reasonable temperatures; but everywhere was still covered with slowly melting grey snow which gave all the surroundings a shabby appearance.

We spent one afternoon in the Ethnology Museum of the Peoples of the USSR which was fascinating. The collection was started in 1901 and the exhibits beautifully presented and very diverse in content, structure and layout. We walked across the frozen Neva river, with locals taking a dip through holes in the ice; and we saw the Peter and Paul Fortress which resembles an elongated hexagon with six projecting corner bastions.

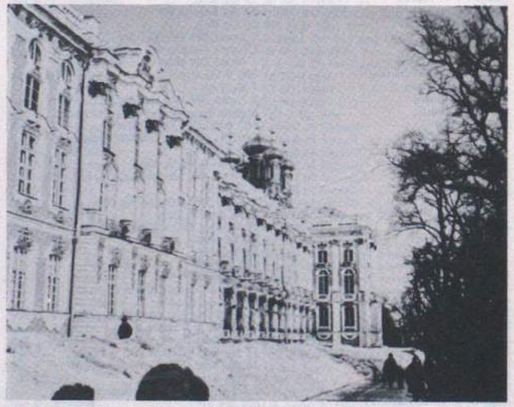
A morning was spent at 'Pushkin' (formerly Tsarskoye Selo) built more than 200 years ago. A number of rooms like the Great Hall, the Amber Room and the Picture Gallery are considered to be amongst the finest of their kind in the world.

One evening we went to the Kirov Theatre and saw the 'Bolshoi Babies' perform Don Juan and Othello, and at other times we just walked in the town and mingled with the crowds on the Nevsky Prospect.

On Sunday morning we ventured into a Russian Orthodox Service. It was a most moving experience, packed with old ladies tearfully kissing the beautiful icons and with two services going on at once. A girl in her twenties was unceremoniously dragged out—possibly she had fainted. To our great surprise beggars lined the route to the Church, sitting patiently in the snow.

Our guide gave us the official propaganda. There was no unemployment, no crime, indeed there were no problems at all in the Soviet Union. When questioned about the endless queues he always said he never saw them, or that they were just a temporary matter. Yet whilst we were in Leningrad we saw queues for oranges, cucumbers and ice cream amongst many other items; indeed queuing seemed for most to be a way of life.

On our fourth night we found ourselves on Leningrad station at midnight, coping with suitcases, overnight bags and bottles of Georgian wine. We climbed aboard the train to Moscow. Our Leningrad guide, Vassily, had to accompany us. Four people to a compartment of four bunks with four suitcases and four overnight bags. We all found it hysterically funny. As the train rattled on, a large Russian lady brewed tea over an open fire at the end of the carriage. It was served in glasses held in beautifully engraved silver holders. Yet the lavatory—one between 24—was something else—worse than anything I ever saw in the Far East or anywhere. Such stark contrasts were a feature of our visit.



The Tsar's 'little place in the country'—the Catherine Palace in Pushkin

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It is refreshing to note that in this issue we publish two feature reports written by ladies. One on a visit to Russia and the other covering our Colonel-in-Chief's recent visit to Scotland. The editors realise that some of the unit notes are written by ladies but nevertheless hope that the appearance of these reports under their own bylines will inspire others to pick up their pens and submit articles or reports on similarly interesting events or activities.

MOSCOW

Not many of us managed to sleep on the train and it was a weary group that stepped off the train in Moscow. We were taken to our hotel—officially the best in Moscow and 28 storeys high. We were in room 2164.

The next three days in Moscow included visits to the Exhibition of Economic Achievement, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the Lenin Museum, which was packed with parties of junior Army Officers and school children bringing flowers to lay at the foot of Lenin's Statue. My most outstanding impression was that of the Kremlin. I was overwhelmed by the beauty of what we found within the Kremlin walls. It is the oldest historical and architectural centre in Moscow and in the centre of the Kremlin is Cathedral Square, the oldest square in Moscow built in the early 14th Century. It is surrounded by three cathedrals. The Cathedral of The Assumption with its five 'onion' domes and 14th Century icons. The 15th Century Cathedral of the Annunciation and the 16th Century Archangel Cathedral. The colours are quite amazing and we were lucky enough to have the sun shining, making the gold domes sparkle against the blue sky.

We travelled extensively on the Metro and were struck by the lack of graffiti and advertising, only beautiful clean marble and chandeliers. It costs a mere 5p to travel on the Metro as far as you please.

We got tickets for the Ballet and saw Rimsky-Korsakoff's enchanting 'Snow Maiden'. We also went to the Circus which opened dramatically with strong propaganda and peace slogans. White doves flew in and flowers sprang up from inside rockets. Truly incredible. We saw performing cats, a hippopotamus, dogs, bears driving cars, disappearing ducks and a monkey that rode on top of a dog on top of a Hippo! And the most stunning trapeze acts. My best circus ever. The next day we started the long journey home.

Although my stay in Russia has come to an end, my mind is still filled with small everyday incidents. Little boys begging for chewing gum. The blackened snow as it began to melt. Everyone carrying bags in case they find in the shops the commodity for which they have waited long months. The queues, endless queues. The fur hats, the often dreary food. The mass of military uniforms that seemed to be worn at all times. Of people breaking the ice on the Neva in Leningrad to swim, then standing in bikinis and fur hats to enjoy the sun. The beautiful Winter Palace in Leningrad, the Kremlin, surly frightening Customs men, and indeed the power that seemed to accompany anyone with an official position even down to the unsmiling girls at the Hotel tourist desks.

Also the incredible prices: toothpaste at £1.50, razor blades at £2.50. A pair of tights at £3-£7, nylon tracksuits at £90-£115. An apple cost £2.40 and an orange £3.50 in a restaurant. A lettuce was £5. It clearly took a great deal of energy and willpower for people to satisfy their basic needs let alone find these extras that make life in the West so pleasant and varied.

The flight back to Schonefeld was pleasant but the greatest contrast was on re-entering West Berlin. The smiles, the lights, the shops, the variety of clothes, and the freedom.

The tour was an unforgettable experience and the people of Russia fascinating in spite of the obvious shortages and the serious business of day to day living. I would love to go again—perhaps a trip on the Trans Siberian Railway next.

Russian Railway attendants who brewed our tea between Leningrad and Moscow

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EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
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Classified Section

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DEATHS

Angus — Ex Sgt John Angus. John joined the Corps in December 1960. Having completed training at JLdrs and 24 Sig Regt he joined 216 Parachute Signal Squadron in December 1962. During his service with Airborne Forces **John** completed active service tours in Cyprus and Bahrain. Rising from Signalman to Sergeant, **John** was a great ambassador for the Corps being fit, enthusiastic and always immaculate; many will remember him emerging from holes in the ground after two weeks looking as though he had just returned from a Guards' Drill Course. **John** left the Army in April 1971 and died after a long illness on 18 May 1985.

Appleby — Capt (QM) Henry Charles Appleby was born at Woolwich on 13 March 1899 and enlisted in the Royal Engineers on 24 May 1917. He served during the latter part of the First World War in the RE Signal Service and after a brief spell in civilian life after the end of the war he joined Royal Signals.

He served with A Corps Signals and then moved to India for four years. On his return to the UK at the outbreak of the Second World War he briefly served with 59 Divisional Signals and then served five years with 4 L of C Signals both in UK and Middle East. He was commissioned in February 1943 and after his return to the UK in 1945 he spent his last year of service with 53 (W) Inf Div Signals. He retired on 8 November 1946, and died on 3 January 1985.

Chivers — Capt Leonard Martin Chivers was born at Cardiff on 4 October 1919. He enlisted into the TA, and 53 Divisional Signals TA on 29 April 1939. He served with 38 Divisional Signals from mobilisation in 1939 until January 1942 when he joined 77 Divisional Signals.

He was commissioned into the Corps on 24 March 1943 and then joined 48 Divisional Signals. In September 1944 he was posted to 11 L of C Signals and in December 1945 joined 14 L of C Signals. In January 1946 he joined C British Liaison Unit and served in Greece until October 1946 and during the latter part of his tour he served as an SO3. He retired in October 1946 and died 12 November 1984.

Elsmore — Maj Bruce Douglas Elsmore was born at Aldershot on 5 June 1919 and served in the Royal Engineers from 5 June 1937 for three years. He was commissioned into the Corps as a Second Lieutenant on 20 July 1940 and then joined 1 Divisional Signals. In April 1941 he was posted to 7 Command Signals and in March 1942 joined 3 HQ Signals in the Middle East. In March the following year he joined 3 Air Formation Signals and in January 1944 was transferred to 8 Air Formation Signals. During 1945 he served on short tours with a number of units and then became SO3 Signals at BTA.

On 10 May 1948 he was posted to the School of Signals but after only three months moved to become Adjutant of 51 L of C Signal Regiment TA. In May 1949 he moved to Catterick Camp and served for four years with 2 Training Regiment as Adjutant and then Chief Instructor.

This was followed by a Technical SO appointment with IEME which continued from August 1953 until September 1956, when he moved to Cyprus and served on the Air HQ Staff as SO2 (Lines) until 30 October 1959. His next post was with 220 Signal Squadron (AF) in BAOR and after a year he moved to 22 Signal Regiment.

In August 1961 he again joined the Air Formation Signal Staff, on this occasion in Aden, where he served for two years. In November 1963 he returned to the UK and joined the War Office where he served at Signals 2(a) until March 1965. He was then appointed Supervisor Defence Communication Centre at the MOD for a year and his final active service appointment was with 10 Signal Regiment. He retired on 21 October 1966, and died on 25 October 1984.

Green — Capt William James Forrester Green MBE was born at Cookham on 19 June 1900. He served with the Royal Norfolk Regiment during the last 18 months of World War I. He enlisted into the Corps on 26 June 1922 and after serving with 4 Divisional Signals moved to India where he served for nearly five years with A Corps Signals. On return to the UK he spent five years with the Training Battalion and in December 1938 returned to India to serve with Lucknow District Signals and then Kohat District Signals.

He was commissioned on 15 June 1940 and then spent six years with Deccan District Signals. He then moved to the Indian Signal School until March 1947 when he returned to the UK. He retired on 7 May 1948. He died on 10 December 1984.

Henwood — Capt (QM) S. H. Henwood—Sam Henwood joined Royal Signals in 1928 and served in India from 1931 to 1936. On the outbreak of World War 2 he went to France in 1939 with the BEF and was repatriated to the UK via Dunkirk. He subsequently took part in the North African and Italian campaigns and also served in Palestine. He retired from the Corps in 1948 after 21 years service and joined the Civil Service. In 1949 he became the Station Commander's Clerk at the School of Signals and held that position until his final retirement in 1976 thereby completing 28 years as a Civil Servant.

Sam continued to support the Corps through the Blandford Branch of the Royal Signals Association and at each re-union weekend in the camp he ran the Association's goods stall with the assistance of his wife, **Mary**. His other voluntary activities included Sick Visitor for the Blandford branch of the Royal British Legion and Treasurer of the local branch of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship. He thoroughly enjoyed his voluntary welfare work and, having a most cheerful and friendly disposition, was exceedingly popular. Unfortunately he died as a result of an unexpected heart attack on the morning of 1 May 1985. Anyone wishing to contact his wife, **Mary**, can do so at:- 7 Archway House, Langton Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7EN.

Higham — Maj Bertram Higham MBE was born at Kirby, Nottinghamshire on 5 August 1901.

He enlisted into the Royal Artillery on 5 August 1919 and in December of that year transferred to the RE (Signal Service). In May 1920 he was posted to Constantinople Signal Company and served there, and at Chanak and with the Military Mission in Thrace until October 1923. After nearly two years' service with 4 Divisional Signals he joined the School of Signals as an Assistant Instructor for nearly four years. In September 1930 he was posted to Shanghai where he served for three and a half years returning to the UK in March 1934 to join 3 Divisional Signals.

In 1938 he was posted to the Force HQ Signal Office in Palestine and in the following year moved to the Middle East Signal School at Nathanya to become an instructor. In July 1940 he joined 6 Divisional Signals, Sarafand but was commissioned two months later and moved to Force HQ Jerusalem to work in the CSO's Branch. He was appointed GSO3 at HQ British Forces in Palestine and Transjordan, and on 20 October 1941 moved, as GSO3, to HQ Palestine Area. He was appointed MBE on 18 February 1943.

He returned to the UK after five and a half years in the Middle East and joined Aldershot District Signals in March 1944. He retired from active service on 6 November 1945 and died on 4 May 1984.

Horton — Ex WO2 (FofS) Tony Horton—died suddenly of a heart attack on 4 May, aged 54. He served in Borneo, Malaya and Hong Kong between home postings and finished his Service in the TTS at 8 Sig Regt. He was a keen member of the Army Golf Association and maintained his interest in the game in civilian life. He leaves a widow, **Isobel**, and a family.

Lockyer — Capt (QM) Francis Edward Lockyer was born at Poole on 6 August 1904. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers on 9 February 1920 and transferred to the Corps in November of that year. After five years service with 4 Divisional Signals at Colchester he was posted to China where he served for two years with the Shanghai Defence Force. This was followed by a further two years in the Far East serving with China Command Signals.

On his return to the UK he spent four years with the Training Battalion and then returned to China to serve another three years with the Tientsin Signal Company. His next three postings were all short term, these being 7 Divisional Signals, Palestine Force Signals and 1 Corps Signals in France.

He was commissioned on 15 August 1940 and during the remainder of the war served in the UK and North West Europe from D Day onwards with 49 (West Riding) Divisional Signals. He retired from active service on 13 October 1946. He died on 14 November 1984.

Marshall — Capt Percy Frederick Marshall was born at Tunbridge Wells on 18 March 1906 and enlisted into the Corps on 6 May 1929. In February 1931 he was posted to India and he served with L Company until December 1936. On his return to the UK he served with A Corps Signals and was commissioned on 3 December 1939.

He served with 35 Divisional Signals in the BEF and after the fall of France was posted to 3 Trade Training Battalion for a year.

In October 1942 he became Adjutant of 10 Air Formation Signals PAIFORCE and returned to the UK in September 1943 to take up a staff appointment at HQ East Riding District. He was with the staff during the amalgamation of East and West Riding District in 1944 remaining in post until October 1949.

He died on 14 December 1984.

Raynor — Capt (QM) Samuel John Raynor enlisted into the Corps on 2 August 1950. On completion of his training he joined the cadre of 3 Training Regiment. In September 1953 he moved to Hong Kong where he remained until August 1956. On his return he was posted to BAOR to join 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment and following a three year tour he moved to 1 Signal Regiment, also in BAOR, for a further year. In July 1961 he returned to the Far East and joined 18 Signal Regiment, at Singapore, for a year.

On return to the UK **John** spent three years with 11 Signal Regiment which was followed by a three year tour of duty with 3 Divisional HQ and Signal Regiment.

He then joined the School of Signals and on 3 May 1971 was commissioned and returned to BAOR to join 1 Divisional HQ and Signal Regiment. After a two and a half year tour he moved to Northern Ireland where he joined 8 Inf Bde HQ and Signal Squadron for just over two years. His final appointment was with 8 Signal Regiment and he retired on 31 December 1976. He died on 1 December 1984.

Richardson — Capt George Willie Richardson was born at Sheffield on 11 January 1902. He enlisted into the Corps on 20 April 1922 and from February 1943 served in India both with 1 Indian and 3 Indian Divisional Signals.

On commissioning he was appointed Adjutant of 25 Indian Divisional Signals. He returned to the UK in November 1943 and then served with London District Signals for a year and finally with 3 Intelligence School at Harrogate. He retired from active service in November 1948. He died on 28 January 1985.

Smith — Ex WO2 Eric R. R. Smith died tragically after an accident whilst game shooting on 29 May 1985 aged 49. He served in the Corps 1954-1976 having joined as a boy in 1951 and saw service in Singapore, Rhodesia, SHAPE, BAOR as well as UK. He was well known Army-wide as a brilliant shot and had a history of successful participation in shooting competitions over many years. He first made his mark as a member of the very successful 21 Signal Regiment team of the late 1960s but really reached the pinnacle of achievement while with 30 Signal Regiment in the early 1970s. Not only did he shoot regularly in the Army 100 at Bisley but was also selected for the Army VIII which is a rare distinction achieved by only a handful of Royal Signals members. In 1971 he was a member of the Corps team which won the Methuen Cup. He was an automatic choice for the 30 Signal Regiment's team which represented UK at the 1973 Nishan Cento Competition in Turkey. On that occasion he shot in the rifle team but he was an excellent shot with all weapons.

'ERR', as he was known to the Corps shooting fraternity, was one of our stalwarts both as an individual and team member and was often to be seen at Bisley on Methuen Day after he had left the Service. Always with a twinkle in his eye, his fund of tall shooting stories will be sadly missed. His ashes were scattered on Bisley Ranges after cremation on 3 June.

He leaves a wife, **Margaret** and a family.

Williams — Maj Frank Williams was born at New Broughton on 31 May 1913. He enlisted into the Corps on 15 January 1935 and after a short tour of duty in the UK moved to India where he joined 2 Divisional Signals at Quetta in February 1937. In October 1939 he moved to the Signal Training Centre in India and was commissioned there on 19 March 1941. He then joined the Army Signalling School at Poona as an Instructor where he remained until February 1944. After his return to the UK **Frank** spent a year with 4 STC and then joined 16 Air Formation Signals in BAOR in August 1945. In February 1946 he moved to 11 Air Formation Signals and a year later moved to 7 Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment to become Adjutant. In March 1949 he became a GSO 3 at HQ Hannover District. He returned to the UK in August 1949 and joined the Army Apprentices' School for two years.

Frank moved overseas again in December 1951 to serve with Cyrenaica Signal Squadron where he remained until June 1954. On his return he again joined a 'Boys' unit, on this occasion 6 (Boys) Training Regiment where he served for two and a half years. This was followed by service with UK Comcan Signal Regiment (later to become 14 Signal Regiment). His final tour of duty was when he served with 236 Sig Sqn (for almost five years) in East Africa and then as OC 1 Sig Sqn East Africa.

Frank retired on 2 November 1965. He died on 4 January 1985.

Wood — Maj Edward George Wood was born in London 15 March 1900. He enlisted into the Corps on 7 August 1924 and after 18 months service in the UK moved to India for five years where he served with L Company.

He then served first with 49 Divisional Signals TA for four years and then two years with 5 Divisional Signals.

He returned to India in December 1937 and then in May 1939 moved to Ceylon to become an instructor with the Ceylon Defence Force. He was commissioned on 10 July 1940 and served for three years with 19 Indian Divisional Signals. He remained in India until August 1946 serving with the Signal Training Centre Bangalore.

On return from India he joined 11 Air Formation Signals in BAOR in December 1946 and a year later moved to 15 Air Formation Signals. For his final active service appointment he returned to 11 Air Formation Signals and retired on 3 April 1949. He died on 8 January 1985.

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION 1985 LONDON LECTURE

The Institution's 1985 London Lecture is to be given by **Philip Warner Esquire**, the author of the new Corps History. It will take place on Thursday 28 November 1985 at 6 pm in the London Press Centre, New Street Square EC4.

Please note the new location:

The Autumn Lecture will no longer be held at the Commonwealth Society Premises, it will now be held at the London Press Centre, where the Corps Dinner has been held in recent years.

Philip Warner is a distinguished military author, and has written a number of regimental histories. His lecture will describe his task in writing our new Corps History, (1945-1985) which it is hoped to publish in time for the Christmas 1986 market.

Application forms for tickets will be sent out to serving, retired and civilian members in August/September. There will be no limit to the numbers who may take supper after the Lecture, you are all invited to stay and enjoy a social evening. The cost will be £12.50 per head, for supper.

Because there will be more room available at the Press Club, and because of the special interest of this year's lecture to all members of our Corps family, you are particularly invited to bring your wives to the London Lecture. It is hoped that many more ladies will attend and will enhance the social nature of this Corps function.

6 L OF C SIGNALS
From: ex LCpl A. Dunlop

Dear Sir,

Every year since the end of the War 26 TM Section, 6 L of C Signals (later 18 Area Signals) have held a Reunion at the Charing Cross Hotel on the second Saturday in November. This year will be our 40th Reunion, but sadly our numbers have dwindled over the years through death, ill-health and losing touch. We are very anxious to make this year something of an occasion, so, if any readers served with 26 TM Section, or were closely connected with it in some way, and would like to come, will they please get in touch with me.

Yours faithfully,
A. Dunlop

Little Buds,
Pett,
Hastings,
Sussex
(Tel: (0424) 813368)

THE ROYAL SIGNALS AND VERDEN GARRISON MARATHON 1985

Saturday 7 September will see the fourth Royal Signals and Verden Garrison Marathon being held in Verden. The event is sponsored by 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and also includes a Ladies Half Marathon.

1985 is the Millennium of the town of Verden and to mark this historic occasion the event has been included in the towns Stadtfest celebrations.

It is open to all members of the Armed Forces and civilians over 18 years of age. Each competitor who completes the course will receive a medal and a special Millennium Certificate. There are also many individual and team prizes to be won.

Further details and entry forms can be obtained by writing to:

MARATHON 85
BFPO 32

Closing date for postal entries is 26 August 1985.

JUNIOR LEADERS ROYAL SIGNALS OR DEPOT ROYAL SIGNALS, RAWLINSON BARRACKS, NEWTON ABBOT, SOUTH DEVON

It is hoped to organise a Reunion on 27 and 28 September 1985, a Friday and Saturday, for members who served during the period 1955 to 1967 with the Junior Leaders Royal Signals or prior to that with the Depot Regiment Royal Signals.

The Camp is currently one of Her Majesty's prisons and has been reconstructed so that the last of the old huts have been replaced by permanent buildings and some of these are being finally opened at about September time.

The Governor of the prison has kindly given his consent for a Reunion to be held in the Mess at Channings Wood Prison following a service in the Chapel.

There are many local inhabitants who have previous connections with this Camp and it is expected that around 30 to 40 who live further afield will attend for the weekend.

The organiser is **C. S. Ward** of Egwood, 56 Seymour Road, Newton Abbot, Devon (telephone Newton Abbot 2101) and Allied Hambro, Second Floor, Broadwalk House, Southernhay West, Exeter, Devon (telephone Exeter 51056). Any ex-members who would like to attend should get in touch with him at either of the addresses or telephone numbers given.

The approximate programme yet to be finalised is a get-together in Newton Abbot, probably at the Racecourse or somewhere within a very short distance on Friday evening and on 28 September an evening at Channings Wood Prison.

Although accommodation cannot be arranged, it is certainly the intention of local members to assist ex-colleagues etc where possible and in this connection the organiser will be pleased to assist.

Final details will be circulated to those attending mid August.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Vacancy for a Retired Officer Grade 3 in Headquartes London District, Horse Guards, Whitehall

A vacancy will exist on 7 February 1986 for the RO3 Communications appointment in Headquarters London District. Details of the post can be obtained from Commander Communications London District and applications should be made to MOD CM(A)2, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8RY.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 807

COMMS UPDATE

The Ops Team said farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Alan Bodimeade** in April and welcomed **WO2 (YofS) Gus Hartley** from 21 Sig Regt who is now well into the swing of things and is already known affectionately as 'Yeoman ****-off'.

Preparation for the introduction of the new COUGARNET radio has kept the OC, **Maj John Kirby**, and 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, 'reasonably' busy and the Foreman, **WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins**, has been busy implementing the 2IC's planned enhancements to the existing systems with the majority of the workload being shouldered by the Radio Techs.

The expansion of 4 UDR's Bn Net and relocation of the Sqn Comd and Eng Net, Monitor Nets and Heli-Contact rebro has meant many long hours work for the Radio Technicians.

The re-build of the Bde COMCEN, has kept the TE Techs busy whilst the Line Section has been gainfully employed installing a Barkway Intercom System in Clooney Base in between deployments to repair faulty telephones in certain SF Bases.

A major COMSEC Monitoring Operation recently took place in the Province which concluded that apart from some minor lapses in procedures COMSEC awareness was generally high.

The planning and requisition of new telephone systems for Rockwood UDR Ops, Ft George Ops and Strabane Hump PVCP is now complete and we now wait for BT to complete their installation and **WO2 (YofS) Hartley** can now turn his hand to updating all the Bde's line records.

ARU STAFF INSPECTION

The ARU Staff Visit took place on the 11 April. The Team led by the COS, **Maj Robin Brims LI**, and DCOS **Maj Peter Hughes R HAMPS** attempted to unearth the skeletons but failed valiantly after smoke screens produced by the 2IC, AO and QM were successfully manufactured. The team left after being entertained to lunch muttering something about the Squadron having to 'show again', especially the Port.

A WEEK TO REMEMBER—ARU VISIT

The Comd 8 Inf Bde, **Brig Mike Scott DSO**, made his formal ARU Inspection of the Squadron on Tuesday 7 May. After visiting SHQ for a briefing he flew, accompanied by the OC, **Maj John Kirby** and DCOS, **Maj Peter Hughes R HAMPS**, to visit our maintenance and repair teams deployed throughout the Bde TAOR finally ending up at our 'eyrie' where Comms Tp demonstrated their ability to deploy comms systems. The ACC also demonstrated their ability to produce an excellent cuisine and lunch was provided.

The Commander then returned to Ebrington Barracks where he watched teams participate in the Squadron Challenge Pursuit Competition later presenting prizes in the 'Waterside Inn'.

The day was rounded off with a Ladies' Dinner Night held in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess at which the Commander and **Mrs Scott** were guests of honour.

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Anne**, is covered elsewhere in this issue. However, considerable preparation took place prior to the event. Despite problems with the poor weather HRH, accompanied by the Master of Signals **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, the SOinC, **Maj Gen R. Benbow**, the OC, **Maj John Kirby** and 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, who was ADC for the day, visited our lonely Hill Top Site where a cross section of personnel had gathered.

FAREWELL VISIT OF GOC NORTHERN IRELAND

The GOC, **Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson KCB CVO CBE**, paid his farewell visit on Friday 10 May. He was met by the 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, and RSM, **WO1 (RSM) John Stanley**, and spent an hour walking around the various departments speaking to members of the Squadron prior to departing for Clooney.

The GOC says farewell to Comms Tp (*L—R*)Cpl Paul Stammers, Sig Shaun Hendley, LCpl Kevin Neary, Pte Shaun Fieldhouse, LCpl Graham Hindmarsh, Cpl Vic Thompson, Sig Tony Lee

SHQ
Report by Capt R. P. Walkin RA

Take post, or is it Make Toast? or is it? Oh well, never mind. I have been out of the system for too long. I will now put my signaller hat back on and have a go at '*Wire* Notes'. I will begin by introducing the new personalities in SHQ. We have **LCpl Simon (Movements no problem) Windus** who has joined us from York. **Sig Paul (Two left boots) Turner** has joined us from 8 Sig Regt on his first posting. Both are welcomed and have now become cogs in a very busy wheel. The weather has changed for the better over here in Londonderry. The AO needs a sun roof in his office so he can see the sun once in a while. The 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent** has had another week off. **RSM John Stanley** is back from Ex *Freewheel* and is suntanned right across the top of his head. **WO2 (YofS) Gus Hartley** has settled down in the Ops Room but he failed with the AOs ORT telephone. **SSgt (YofS) Chris (Baby) Rogan** is soldiering on. **Sgt Bill Simpson** has lost two thirds of his training office to the computer buffs and he is still taking the pills. Chiefy, **SSgt ('Orville' or is it 'Roundabout'?) Barlow** forgot to change his golfing head last weekend and now his chiefy head is a nice bright red from his forehead to the back of his neck. **Cpl Ned Kelly** has got an office of his own but I don't think it is anything to do with what his best friend told him. The whole team is to be congratulated on a grading of 'Good' on the recent documentation inspection.

SHQ'S NEWEST RECRUIT

Our congratulations go to the OC **Maj John** and **Kim Kirby** on the birth of their son **Jacob**.

COMMS TROOP
Report by SSgt Dennis Rutter

This has proved to be the busiest period of my short but hectic time in Londonderry. What started out to be a 'Wind Down' from a very successful 'PRE' and the usual 'Heli Tele Tasks' suddenly took off with the ARU visit by **Brig M. I. E. Scott DSO** to one of our Hill Top Sites, to bear witness to the fact that the green vehicles of the Troop can really produce comms if required. A successful visit was rounded off with a superb lunch provided by **Pte 'Psycho' Hoy**. Well done to the following; **Capt 'Clansman' Bradley, SSgt Dennis Rutter, Cpl Mike Hunt, LCpls Ted Stuart, Geoff Richards, Sig Franky Faith** and finally **Sig Taff (I'll pass my BFT) Rees**.

If **Cpl Mike Hunt** thought the ARU visit was to be his only headache during his month's long holiday at the one and only 'hill top' site in the province little did he know.

Two days after the ARU we had the privilege of a visit by our Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Anne** and even though the weather was terrible, The Princess spent some 20 minutes touring the site and chatting to members of the Troop. Everybody involved was most impressed by HRH's knowledge and genuine interest in life in Northern Ireland. A superb visit and again well done to **Cpl Mike Hunt, LCpl Bob (233 Sig Sqn) Frew** and **Sig John Archibald** for all their hard work. Also present **Capt Trevor Bradley, Sgt Bruce (LOA) Payne, LCpl Nobby Nevill** and **Sig Franky (Goes to Hollywood) Faith.**

With a quick change of location and cassette tapes, the Troop put on yet another presentation for the GOC—the third within four days—a busy little outfit, Comms Troop—here at the sharp end of Northern Ireland.

Rover Troop still continue to make friends over the City, for whenever they go to Victor 1 the local Gypsies shower them in gifts (Bricks, nuts and bolts and even garden spades) as **Ptes Shaun Fieldhouse** and **Martin Spedding** can confirm.

The GOC, Lt Gen Sir Robert Richardson, meets Sig 'Paddy' Brown of the Rigging Section, the 2IC Capt Mike Dent listens intently

DEPARTURES

As with every issue of *The Wire* we must say a sad farewell to a few more members of the Troop. We have finally lost our long standing OC, **Capt Trevor Bradley** and **Caroline**, on moving to Warminster, all the best on the course and many thanks.

Sgt Bruce Payne and **Jan**, who will by now be finding it difficult to manage on all that LOA in sunny Canada.

We also bid farewell to **Cpl Garry Ashley** and **Ute, Cpl Jimmy Hacking (RPC)** and **Marie, LCpl Taff (I've got my car) Saies, WLCpl Ruth (Kiss-O-Gram) Walker, LCpl 'Lurch' Adams, Sig Shaun (or should it be LCpl?) Hendley** and finally **'I'm a civvy Tony Slack'**. All the very best to all of you in fresher fields and thanks for all your hard work while in the Troop.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to the following:

Our new Troop OC **Capt Steve (I've got 28 days leave) Hunt, Sgt Lenny (What's a UBL or UBTL) Twells, Cpl James Moore** and family, **Sig David Jelbert, Jock Wyllie,** (Rv Gp in on the chat net), **WPtes Sharon Llewellyn** and **Jayne Crowther,** (now there's a smile on the lads faces).

BEST WISHES

Our sympathy goes to **Lt James Bertram,** hope you recover soon and return to the fold as your phone never stops ringing.

TM TROOP
Report by SSgt O. M. Chhetri

One project over and the next begins and so life goes on in Mike Troop, providing the variety and the pressure to keep the boys happy and on their toes at all times.

The TE Section have been pretty busy of late with some conversions and rumour has it that some assistance was given by 233 Sig Sqn Techs, albeit, to help drink the coffee! **Sgt Colin Brown** has recently spent a couple of days at Musgrave Park Hospital for a minor operation—something to do with not needing a BFA anymore!

Line Section has been fairly busy in the re-furbishment of Ops Rooms and Barkway installations throughout the Brigade and some routine maintenance has taken a back seat. **Sgt Butch Cassidy**, after an extended tour with the section has found himself posted, a little sooner than expected, to 8 Sig Regt in Catterick and then to the Falklands. **Sgt Neil Thomas** has arrived just in time from 7 Sig Regt for a hasty handover.

Good weather is definitely good news for the Rigging Sec as they have been able to complete the 'Spring-clean' programme of masts and antennae maintenance and acquired some sun-tan into the bargain. **Cpl Ian McKittrick** is even taking a 'crash course' in wind surfing while the sun's shining.

The Radio Section is up to its neck in the proverbial due to pressure of the 'fast balls' that are an every day occurence. Certainly the ideal posting for Techs dissatisfied with routine and a mundane way of life and with plenty of on the job training and job satisfaction. **Cpl Bob King** has recently inherited the mantle of Ops Room Expert vice **Capt Bradley** (posted) and has lost some of his 'Scargill' attitudes. Mellowing, perhaps, due to the news of his posting to UK Sp Unit SHAPE in November!

In the Farewells and Welcomes we bid 'adieu' to **Sgt Butch Cassidy** and **Maureen, Cpl Keith Carter, Sig (to be Cpl) Steve Griffiths** and to **Sig Paddy Brown**. We wish them all the very best in their new postings. We welcome **Sgt Neil Thomas** and **Dee, LCpls 'Frank' Stapleton** and **Colin Brown** to the Troop and wish them a successful tour.

Finally, heartiest congratulations to **Cpl Andy Reason** and **Anne** for becoming parents with the birth of daughter **Victoria** and to **Sgt Phil Tait** and **Carol** on the birth of their second daughter **Michelle Clare.**

QM DEPT
Report by WO2 (RQMS) Braddon

The total changeover of SNCOs in this department has finally happened. We have had to say a sad farewell to **SSgt Billy Nimmons** and **Edna, Sgt Joe Burton** and **Caroline,** and the incomparable **Sgt Brian (I think you're being totally unreasonable Sir) Donegan** and his gnome. However we welcome **Sgt Taff Caddick** and **Pauline, Sgt Tom Mitchell** and **Janet** and **SSgt Pete (I'm a single parent) Surman**.

The annual PRE for the department went very well this year.

Our congratulations go out to **LCpl McCormick** on being chosen to join the Blue Helmets during the summer. We look forward to a good report after the tour.

Sport is still being played in the department and the department represents both the Squadron and the NI teams from the top with the **QM Jimmy Akehurst** all the way down to **Sig 'Jon Jon' Mackrodt** playing Hockey.

EXERCISE *FREEWHEEL*
Report by WO1 (RSM) John Stanley

Ex *Freewheel* a military training exercise, which took place between 22-31 May was a resounding success with a large number of the Squadron completing their annual tests. Some of the more memorable events were:

The enthusiasm of **Sig Franky Faith** who, when he had exhausted his rounds on the IBSR had to be restrained from attacking the targets with his rifle.

The honesty of **Cpl Ned Kelly** who after being the sole survivor of a section attack (wearing SAWES Equipment) admitted that his battery had fallen out.

The endurance of Brick 3, **Cpl Dave Scott, LCpl Jeff Richards, Dvr Tony Hagan, Ptes Martin Spedding** and **Geordie Kirkwood** who on the night navigation decided to carry on until daylight.

The dedication of **Sig Archie Archibald** who injured his leg just so we could use him as a casualty in the first aid.

The look of joy on the face of **Sgt Roy Holcombe** when he found an ill fitting or U/S respirator whilst NBC training, in the CS chamber.

The DS **Lt James Bertram, SSgt Dennis Rutter, Sgts Bill Simpson** and **Roy Holcombe** were well fed by our sole cook **Pte Jake Hoy** whilst the RSM kept a watchful eye on proceedings.

The CFT—SSgt Denis Rutter 'talks' Sig 'Corky' Corcoran through

Part 2

NISAM 85
Report by SSgt Dennis Rutter

With only the minimal amount of training the Shooting Team took itself off to Ballykinler during the weekend of 10, 11, 12 May with the hope of qualifying for RASAM 85.

With glorious weather we set about the task with immediate results, finishing top in the Roupell shoot and winning the minor units SMG Team prize which led us to believe we could not only qualify for RASAM but maybe win NISAM.

On the second day things started badly when **LCpl Nobby Nevill** realised his rear sights were loose and in fact had to be fixed by an Armourer prior to the Moving Target shoot with poor results across-the-board, finishing third overall in the Minor Units Table.

We did however qualify for RASAM and with a shortage of training time available the final result turned out to be better than expected. Well done to all the team, who were; **SSgt Dennis Rutter, SSgt (YofS) Rogan, Sgt Martin Leighfield, LCpls Nobby Nevill** and **Smiler Smales.**

MERCURY CUP COMPETITION
Report by WO2 (RQMS) Braddon

The Mercury Cup is a competition held between 233 Sig Sqn, 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. This year 8 Bde became overall champions. The overall result, finally came down to how we performed in the final section, sport.

In order to win the competition we had to come first in the sport and 39 Bde lost this giving us the six points needed to put us in equal first place with them. The result would then go back to the SLR shoot which the Squadron had won.

After a great sporting day at Lisburn, 8 Bde and 233 Sig Sqn tied for first place with nine points each. So in order to get an overall sports winner the official decided the two basketball teams would go to the free throw line and shoot five baskets each. After a monumental test of nerves in which **LCpl Barney Barnett** kept us in the lead, the RQMS **Mike Braddon** finally scored a sudden death basket, and as his opponent failed, we won the sporting section and hence the Mercury Cup. Our results in the sports played were Soccer first, Basketball first, Rugby second, Hockey third.

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

SHQ NOTES

Members of the Corps who have served within the Province will be aware of the centralised Army Pay and Documentation Office that operates for all the Lisburn Garrison units, its prime task being to administer all aspects of a soldier's pay and documentation. Following a major rationalisation study carried out between March and May 1984 it was recommended that the APDO became responsible for all Movements within the Garrison. The initial reaction by most Chief Clerks was—No Way! However, the powers that be were converted, and on 1 April all requests to HQNI Tpt and Movs for travel outside the Province became the responsibility of the APDO Movements office for a trial period of six months.

Like any new organisation manpower is required and **LCpl Wally West** was our man or rather APDOs who transferred his desk drawers on 1 April 1984, thus leaving the CC (still Band 4) and the ORC **Cpl Ian Trask** in the Orderly Room. No thought seemed to have been given to the fact that if one or the other was to go on leave/courses/duty the running of the Orderly Room would become a 'one man band'. Thankfully our Bde HQ provided the Orderly Room with a Private Clerk namely **Pte Andy McSweeney RAOC** fresh from MOD.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF NI
Report by Pte A. McSweeney RAOC

On arrival in Northern Ireland I found my new job very different from the one I had left behind. Working as a filing clerk in 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Orderly Room seemed at first to be a comedown from MOD London. For a start, I had to put on my uniform for the first time in 18 months. Instead of preparing briefs for a General, I was filing and despatching. But now that I have settled in to the Squadron it doesn't seem so bad. Everyone has helped me, both at work and socially. We have a good staff and manage to cope with the operational and administrative requirements that are sent to test us.

Indeed life in 39 is very different from MOD. Instead of the paper exercises I was involved in previously, here we deal with the real thing. I have found out this first hand. Even though I am a Staff Clerk I've been out on escort duties in and around Belfast. I've also been with the Northern Ireland Reinforcement Training Team for a week, which was a valuable experience. It makes you realise how we all fit in. In one week the information covered includes the history of Ireland to the present day. You also do practical patrolling at the Close Quarter, Battle Range which I really enjoyed, night shooting, weapon handling, VCP drills, radio drills, almost everything you might need to know if you are serving in the Province.

The Brigade itself was also something new to me. Going straight from training to the Quartermaster General's London Staff in Whitehall helped me gain experience as a Staff Clerk but did not really help me as a soldier. I'm now beginning to find out, with guard duties and BFTs every week to remind me.

Even though we are a busy operational unit we had time for an Athletics afternoon between the troops in the Brigade. It was a good day and enjoyed by all who took part. The events were competitive and brought out a good standard.

After two months here I can see I'm going to enjoy my stay.

EXERCISE *IRONSHOE*

This year's Squadron Battle Camp was held in May and June and as with previous years, was at Warcop.

There were, on average, 16 soldiers from the Squadron at any one time, and these were split into infantry-style sections. Most days were taken up by the range work, which varied from the individual ranges such as Moving Target, Close Quarter and Individual Battle shoot, to team ranges such as section-in-defence, pairs fire and manoeuvre and section attack. Everyone also managed to throw at least one grenade, even if they didn't want to!

Each day finished by about 1700 hrs, which gave people ample time to follow up more pleasurable activities. For most, this was going up the pub for the evening, but for the more adventurous the activities ranged from golf, clay pigeon shooting, swimming (depending on the weather—the pool was outdoor) and horse riding.

This year's camp was organised by **2Lt Ady Metcalfe**, who managed to get three weeks away from the squadron. Other holiday-seekers were in abundance, with **Sgt Dave 'I think I'll play another round of golf' Norman** as Admin Sgt, and **Sgts Keith Storey** and **'Mad Max' Taylor** running the ranges. Even the RSM, **WO1 Charlie Manning** managed to get away with the feebie excuse of 'managing the shooting team!'

The newest arrival to the Squadron, **2Lt Tony 'Backpack' Burgin** also managed to come along to the 'get away from it all' week, and confirmed the rumour that some are not totally 'au fait' with an SLR!

Finally, a special mention must go to **WPtes Pauline Graham** and **Lizanne Wilson** who managed to take part in the training activities of the week.

The Warcop close quarter battle range. LCpl Taff Boucher getting to grips with a moving target and a SMG

The Command Task. Cpl Alan Balderstone and LCpls Taff Davies-Williams and Dave Richards work hard on the command task while Sig Taff Doherty looks on as if he's working hard and Sig Paddy McCandless just smiles at the camera

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We have recently said goodbye to **Sig Mick (Matelot) Stout** off to 249 Sig Sqn and **Pte Paul Chalice** leaving us on promotion to be DAPL's driver. We welcome **Pte Neil Mottley** and **Sig Jeremy Skeels** our new arrivals. Also due to arrive soon is the new troop commander **Capt Gordon Rafferty**—from the School of Signals.

Cpl Scouse Wikeley reminds the outgoing CLF, Maj Gen Pank that they worked together in 33 Armd Bde. Maj Philip Rouse and Capt Keith Durward look on

SQUADRON ATHLETICS MEETING

On 24 April the Squadron held its annual athletics meeting. This provides a rare opportunity for (more or less) the whole squadron to take the afternoon off and participate or spectate.

All five troops entered a team, and because some troops are quite small, nearly every soldier had to take part in at least one event. Our announcer **Capt Bob Vale** kept us all in a lighthearted mood with his numerous witty jokes and the wives' club raked in a handsome profit from the sale of tea, coffee and cakes!

On the track 'olympic athletes' **Capt Jan Jasiok** (straight from the London Marathon in a time of 2 hours 39 minutes), **FofS Jim Hanifin, LCpl Angus Palmer** and **Sig Cas Graham** put up excellent performances and the heavyweights on the field events led by **Sgt Max Taylor** (Discus) and **Cpl Kevin Cotton** (shot) defeated all challengers!

The match was closely fought between TM Tp and Alpha Tp (last year's winners) and on the final score after the relay, TM Tp were one point ahead. Athletics' officer **Capt Keith Durward** (OC Alpha Tp) asked for a recount and reversed the score! The fact that **SSgt Mick Partridge** (TM Tp) was chief score keeper had nothing to do (we are assured) with his erroneous arithmetic!

The Deputy Bde Comd's wife, **Tui Campbell** presented the prizes and **Mr Albert Brown** the Lisburn Jeweller presented the winning team cup to **Cpl Dave Bunt**, the Alpha Troop Team Captain. **Mr Albert Brown** presented the cup to the Squadron 14 years ago and has returned every year since to present the winning trophy.

Cpl Dave Bunt receives the winners team athletics trophy from Mr Albert Brown the Lisburn Jeweller

ALPHA TROOP

Now that summer has reached N Ireland, at last, Alpha Troop has started to become busier. The projects that we are working on are the building of a new operations room at Whiterock in W Belfast and planning the fitting of new intercomm systems in some of the larger bases in 39 Bde. **Cpl Dave Bunt** and his Belfast Crew of **LCpl Taff Boucher** and **Sig Clive Hallett** are kept busy sorting out Whiterock whilst **Cpl Eddie Pluskota** and **LCpl Scouse Bradley** are busy ordering cable for our intercomm projects.

Our Brigade Tactical Headquarters has been used again this time as a demonstration for the visit of **The Princess Anne**. We are now keeping it on 'standby' just in case **Bde Comd Brig Mike Rose** decides to deploy his Bde HQ into the field again.

Cpl Scouse Wikeley has been very busy with numerous Heli Tele tasks. 2 UDR and W Belfast are beginning to use our mobile groundstation. The Easter weekend, May Bank Holiday and local elections have all seen Heli Tele deployed.

BRAVO TROOP
THE KRAPTON FACTOR

Bravo Troop's main activity for the last couple of months has been the Krapton Factor, a competition based on the television programme 'The Krypton Factor' (but ours was truer to its name!). The whole event was excellently organised by **YofS Jason Wood** and assisted by **Cpl John Hynes.**

Enthusiasm within the troop was high, especially as it was held during working hours. Designed to be a fun and active day, the competition consisted of six activities (shooting, orienteering, intelligence tests, sports, general knowledge quiz and command task) plus a finalé. We must give a special mention to **Cpl Sharkie Smith** and his team for achieving a high score on the intelligence tests. Their average IQ might just catch up with their average age soon!

It was found that at the end of the six activities, the teams were so close that the winner of the finalé would run away with the spoils, tension was high. It consisted of a 'small' assault course (kindly loaned by the Dog Section, Lisburn Garrison), plus a short run with a few jerry cans. The teams took to the miniature assault course like ducks to water, especially **Sig Bas Hardman** who would have shown any Alsatian how dive through hoops. In a very close race, the winners overall were team B, headed by **Cpl Alan Balderstone**, with the rest of the team: **LCpls Taff Davies-Williams** and **Dave Richards, Sig Paddy McCandless** and **Taff Doherty**. At the end of the day the OC Tp, **2Lt Ady Metcalfe**, was so impressed that he actually forked out of his own pocket a whole £10 to provide a round of drinks for the lads. (And then proceeded to get everyone else to do the same!)

The B Troop Krapton Factor. Cpl Sharkie Smith and his team trying to unscramble a pile of weapon parts

CONGRATULATIONS

Three members of the troop were successful on the Royal Signals Det Commander's Course, **LCpls Angus Palmer, Taff Davies-Williams** and **Nick Hawley**. Well done for achieving good passes and special congratulations to **Nick** for coming top student on his intake.

Finally we say goodbye and best wishes to **Cpl Mick Evans** and his wife **Diane** who has left us for Berlin, and **LCpl Snapper Snape** who has joined the ranks of 30 Sig Regt.

We welcome **Cpl Keith Emmerson** and his wife **Marie** from 14 (EW) Sig Regt and wish them a happy and successful tour.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING TEAM

The Clay Pigeon Shooting Club started by **WO1 (RSM) Charlie Manning** is now in full swing at the Maze Prison at Long Kesh. The ARU at RAF Bishopscourt allowed a large number of personnel to have five shots each at these surprisingly fast moving clay targets. This resulted in the discovery of a number of crack shots, namely **Cpl 'Sharky' (It's not a fluke, honest!) Smith** and **LCpl Pat (I do it all the time!) Burns**. Time will tell, gentlemen.

The RSM has acquired (somewhat dubiously and under suspicious circumstances) a further two traps from RAF Bishopscourt 'at a very reasonable price' (he says with a glint in his eye) to provide company for the lone trap at Long Kesh. Assisted by **Cpls Alan Smith, Trev Roe, 'Sharkie' Smith, LCpls Pat Burns, Jim Rice** and **Sig Paul Cross, Chris Davis, Clive Hallet** and **Dvr 'Cherry' Cherrington**, the RSM's well thought out plans were implemented and new trap positions were made at Long Kesh. **Sig Peacock** took the photos of us all working. (There's something wrong there!) A sangar was dismantled and all the sandbags were loaded into a nice clean (now very dirty) Dodge van, along with various 'gizzits' acquired along the way. This extremely heavy load was transported to the Maze at a fast 36 mph (that was all it could manage!). The RUC couldn't have stopped us if they tried. They would have had to give us five miles to slow down and even then, the van may have stopped but the sandbags wouldn't.

Arriving at Long Kesh, the sandbags were made into trap positions and after a morning's hard work, we all stood back to admire the finished job. A clay shoot was organised to further interest those personnel present and a few clays were 'bagged'.

Now the club is firmly on its feet, there are some female members of the club namely **Mrs Jane (I can't see it) Roe** and **Mrs Debbie (Hot Shot) Smith**. Both ladies enjoyed shooting with the larger guns and getting a few clays into the bargain. We now have a clubroom which will come in very handy for those summer days (incidentally, the RSM hasn't seen one since he arrived yet!), where the families can enjoy a drink and barbecue, when husbands are on the range.

WO1 (RSM) Charlie (I got 'em that time) Manning in action with a three shot automatic

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

SHQ

SHQ has seen some changes recently. OC **Maj Pat Kington** handed over to **Maj Charles Kemp**—welcome to the Province **Charles** and **Paddy** and your family. **(Pat** will be working in Comms Branch HQNI for a couple of months before going to MOD). **Capt Simon Lunn** is the new 2IC; **Capt Tony Roberts** leaving to be Adjutant of a Signal Regiment (he might just be back, having announced his engagement to the AAO **Lt Margaret Wilton** at his dining out!). **Mr Ian Maguire**, our Movements Clerk left us but still works in the Garrison. This has not interrupted the workload of the team who are still shell-shocked at the news that our **WPte (I hate men) Cath Brown** has announced her engagement to **Cpl 'Baggy' Bagshaw** and is to be married later in the year. Our ORC **Cpl Dave Stokes** is working away and reminiscing about the Squadron Inter-Troop Rugby competition where he still insists he won the body-count if nothing else. Our two typists **Mrs Margaret Brown** and **Miss Rosemary Mairs** continue to produce excellent work and have confirmed their reputation as the most accurate typists in the Province. **Margaret Harvey** our long established filing clerk having seen the arrival of yet another OC keeps us enthralled with stories of past ones (going back 15 years). Finally, we must say farewell to the Chief Clerk **SSgt (ORSQMS) Boyd** who leaves us on promotion in July to take up a similar post in SANGCOM Saudi Arabia where his footballing days must surely end.

COMMCEN TROOP

Troop Commander	**Capt (Tfc) John Nichols**
Yeoman	**WO1 Dave Wright**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Joe McKenzie**
Day Sgt/APVRO	**Sgt Steve Smedley**
DSO A Shift	**Sgt Ricky Sloggett**
DSO B Shift	**Sgt Keith Dunk**
DSO C Shift	**Sgt Gary Quick**
CDA NI	**Sgt Gus Hales**
Switchboard NI	**Sgt Jan Garnett WRAC**
Stats	**LCpl (Make us a tea Lesley) Young**

Focus on COMMCEN Troop may look top heavy but the merry band above manage one of the busiest manual tape relay centres left within the Armed Forces. Along with the NI Trib, CDA, Switchboard NI, COMMCEN Palace, Detachment Crossmaglen, Detachment Forkhill and a lone DTg with SNONI COMMCEN Moscow (plus the odd dets such as 1 RRF COMMCEN Ballykelly—**LCpl Linda Pawson** and **Pte Dawn Duncan**, and 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE COMMCEN Antrim **Ptes Sally Fawcett** and **Sam Wells** to name just a few). During the next year we are due for many changes with the new Automatic Message Switch and the new digital exchange, and we are set for some excitement. One of these changes started recently when the Troop received the following message: (Peake Inn the Squadron Bar)

Fm B Shift

To RBDAY/Tp Office (Obviously Day Workers)
RBDZZZ/Telefon Exchange (Sleeps for itself)
RBDAC/A&C Shifts (AC/DC)

BT
Unclas
Sic Bar/bee/que
COMSEM Truup Barberken PD
To be held in the Peek at 0800 hours in the evening on 22 May 1986
This year PD all wiveys/bouyfiends/Gerlfriens welcum PD
Tickets by auction or free on the nite PD see B shift for futhor detayles

Thanks to **Sgt Keith Dunk** and his willing helpers the night was a great success even the Admin Officer **Capt Ray Briant** was seen dancing in the early hours. It's not only new equipment we are receiving but a large turnover in operators, 57 since last June, and because it's Spring, **Cpl Tez** and **Julie Murrell** also had a new baby daughter **Angelique** born on the 11 May. Congratulations to you both. Talking of congratulations we must offer them also to **Cpl Glynis Ball** on coming top of her recent crypto course.

On the sports front the COMMCEN girls still dominate the inter department WRAC trophy with **Cpl Jackie Oliver's** team winning the swimming, well done to **Jackie, LCpl 'Hicky' Hickman, Pjes Karen Cable, Jackie Smith and Kathy Brown** (Of ALL STARS Fame). Congratulations also to the Switchboard team under the leadership of **LCpl Gill Bullock**. In the Northern Ireland Individual Athletics on 29 May **LCpl 'Hicky' Hickman** won a Gold in the discus, and the previously unknown talents of **Pte Karen Freeman** were exposed as she won a Gold at the 800m and Silvers at the 400 and 1,500m.

THE SUMMER FETE

Against all odds, 1 June proved to be an extremely hot and sunny day—perfect weather for the Summer Fete.

The Troops produced a wide variety of stalls and sideshows all of which raised a lot of money for charity. The Tech Tp raffle team, led by **SSgt Pete Smith** and the 'Beer and Bratties' stands organised by V Tp (winners of the best stand prize) being the biggest money spinners. **SSgt Dave Sparkes**—soon to leave us on promotion—bounced the afternoon away on the trampoline in an excellent clown suit. **WCpl Tracey Stokoe** blew up hundreds of balloons with her trusty gas bottle. With little encouragement from **Cpl 'Taff' Kessell** we managed to drink him dry of Irish Coffee. Commcen Tp led by **Sgt Rick Sloggett** produced the perennial favourite—The Ducking Stool—their earnings soared as the new OC, **WO2 (SSM) Benning Bingham**, and **2Lt Trudi Sutcliffe** sat in the hot (and wet) seat. Throughout the afternoon there was entertainment in the central arena provided by the Corps Band (part of their highly popular tour of the Province), the Garrison Dog Section and the 321 EOD Coy Display Team.

Many, many more people deserve to be thanked for providing both a highly enjoyable afternoon and a profitable one. £1,800 was raised for the RNLI 'City of Belfast Lifeboat Appeal', the Royal Signals Association, Riding for the Disabled and the Garrison Youth Club.

FOOTNOTES

COMMCEN Tp has now raised £8.80 in halfpennies for charity—it may not sound much but 1,760 halfpennies is almost a two man lift!

The Squadron soccer team fresh from winning the Yorks and Lancs Cup played a local civilian side in Belfast raising £500+ for the Bradford Disaster Fund. Well Done!

Summer Fete: SSgt Dave Sparkes and friend on the trampoline

THE SHOOTING TEAM

With only limited preparation the Squadron Shooting team competed in the NISAAM; held in glorious sunshine at Ballykinler Ranges ('whatever happened to the rain we practised in'). **Capt Ray Briant**, ably assisted by **SSgt Jerry Nation**, led the team of **Sgt Ian Knight** (now posted to BAOR via the RSSSC—best of luck!), **LCpl Smudge Smith** and **Sig Geordie Coggins**.

The result of the Minor Unit team championship depended on the final day's shooting; with the OC and 2IC in support and a fully awake **LCpl Smith**, what more could the team want? Unluckily we came second but not without winning the Minor Units Rifle Team Championships, the Moving Target match, and the Team Roupell. **SSgt Nation** shot well—fourth in the moving target match and 30th in the Rifle Championship—the top R Signals shot at the meeting. The team are now preparing for the Royal Signals Championships and Bisley.

The team race to the firing point in the Falling Plate Competition

The CLF, Maj Gen Jeaps presents the Shooting team with the Minor Units Rifle Team Trophy

THE McKELVIE TROPHY

The McKelvie Trophy—an inter Troop sports competition had one of its most closely contested finishes in recent years. Minor changes in the rules led to seven closely balanced teams. Having already won the Pistol Competition, Comms Tp, led by **Sgt Stevenson** showed considerable determination to avenge their whitewash in the Squash competition and with a lot of effort and some skill won the Inter Troop Rugby. **WO2 John Skipper** organised a very well attended X-Country match. Commcen Tp having had a glut of young lean men posted in won it—no doubt taking their lead from their OC and star supporter **Capt John ('I lasted to 0845 hrs on National Non-Smoking Day') Nichols**. The Admin Tp Soccer team, ably led by **LCpl Scouse Wayman** of MT Sect won a keenly contested Soccer Competition.

The final phase of the McKelvie Trophy Winter Competition was the hockey. E Tp were hot favourites with their hockey stars—**Capt David Smith, WO1 Ron Goddard, SSgts Dave Chalmers and 'Scotty' McDougall**. With four troops still in with a chance of winning the overall competition every game counted. Admin Tp led by **Cpl Dave Stokes** didn't realise, until their fourth game, that it was seven-a-side hockey and not six-a-side! Not content with a one man disadvantage **Capt Simon Lunn** knocked his own goalie to the ground—**Sig Steve Wainwright**. He was carried off but luckily soon recovered. The final between E and Tech Tps did result in a predictable win for E Tp but Tech Tp winners of the Squash Competition took The McKelvie Trophy.

SPORTS HEADLINES

Sgt Mick Honeyman led the Squadron to victory in the RUC five-a-side Soccer Competition. They donated their £50 prize to the RUC at Newry.

The Athletics team, who were runners up in the Royal Signals UK Athletics Championships and runners up in the NI Inter Units Championships are now being put through their paces in preparation for the Zone B Championships on 3 July by team coach **Sgt Alan Peaper**.

WO2 Brian Libby was runner up in the Army M40 Orienteering Championships.

The Squadron seven-a-side Rugby team, played exceptionally well in the RAF Bishops Court sevens coming runners up. Unluckily **Sgt Gus Hales** was knocked out and we noticed his absence in the NIARU 7's the following week.

NIARU 7s, Sgt Ian Simpkins about to pass to Cpl 'Taff' Kessel. Sgt Steve Stevenson decides to pull his socks up. Sgt Gus Hales convalesces on the touch line

Ptarmigan Introduction Unit

PIU & SST (Fwd) has completed its first major training milestone, namely the training of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. To the uninitiated and future 'victims' the training commences with three weeks theoretical training. The first week being a system overview given by **WO1 (YofS) Keith Hall** and his team from 8 Sig Regt; the remaining training is given by PIU. The theoretical training is followed by a number of Plug Ups culminating in two field exercises. Training for the Staff, and Staff clerks, is included. The exercises have provided many variations on instruction given in training: **SSgt Scottie Handibode** was reliably informed by one of the students that when the SHF head was in the down position it was horizontally polarised and when in the up position it was vertically polarised! And there was the student who decided that an expensive new system was inappropriate to his needs and that the basic 'yellogram' was quite sufficient. Well, you can't win 'em all!

The 1 Div training was swiftly followed by another military sales equipment demonstration to a party of American VIPs. PWSST (FWD) deployed to support the system with the OC **Maj Helier Exon** at the helm. The support team headed by **WO2 (FofS) Lee Randerson, SSgt (FofS) Bob Bradford** and **SSgts Bill McLean** and **Colin Nash** did sterling work clocking up many hours on their ETI's (elapsed time indicators). All are now due for major servicing. The REME element of **WO1 (ASM) Allan Ellerby** and **SSgt Colin Nash** are slowly being weaned on Signals matters and wonder in the discovery that two hours sleep at night is a definite bonus. PIU provided a Major Access Node for the demonstration and 'the Foremens act' was augmented to four wise monkeys. The Foremens act is a static demonstration of PTARMIGAN equipment given to VIP visitors. The veterans, **WO1 (FofS) Drew Robertson, WO2s (FofS) Gavin West** and **Alf Davie** were joined this time by **WO2 (FofS) John Oakes**. The demonstration went down well proving that Foremen of Signals *can* be left unsupervised for short periods of time.

Where are they? LCpl Geordie Marshall in the relaxed mode

Capt Miles Stockdale OC PIU 'fronted' the presentation of the Node to three visiting groups of VIP's. The equipment was presented by **WO1 (YofS) Mike Freedman, Sgts Bob Drysdale, Barney Barnett, Chas Gemmell, Eric Clarke** and **LCpl Geordie Marshall** who is convinced he is a budding film star. He spent most of his time pleading with passing photographers and is considering sending the results to Vogue. The demonstration went well and thanks are passed to all who took part including the night shift who kept things ticking over in the 'quiet' hours.

Ready for inspection (*another* demonstration) Capt Miles Stockdale, Sgts Bob Drysdale, Barney Barnett and Chas Gemmell, LCpl Geordie Marshall

Ready again (not *another* demonstration?) Cast, as before minus Sgt Bob Drysdale

Following the demonstration PIU & SST (Fwd) deployed on Ex *Flying Falcon* which was the first Corps Exercise with PTARMIGAN. The System Support element were kept very busy with the 1 Division echelon repairing equipment by night and dodging demonstrations by day! **SSgt Wayne Brown** has now discovered that natural hollows will not only hold sleeping bags, but rainwater as well. The thanks of the Support Teams go to **Mr Frank Jory** and the Plessey Team for feeding **WO1 (ASM) Allan Ellerby** with cream cakes thus keeping him off their backs!

The remainder of the unit manned the various equipments controlled by Comms Branch HQ 1 (BR) Corps to provide interfaces between the BRUIN and PTARMIGAN systems. The trophy of a string of onions following the visit of **Gen Coutillard** CSO 2 (Fr) Corps was finally banished by the OC after complaints about the smell. **Sgt Bob Drysdale** has now confirmed that breaking out the emergency rations was on account of his hunger and not general mobilisation.

There has not been a lot of time for sporting activity but our intrepid group of runners helped the Div Sig Regt win the 7/22 Brigade cross country league. The gladiators being **SSgts Les Wood, Tony Buffery, Cpl Chris Wilkinson** and **WO1 (YofS) Rod Wood** protesting to the end that he hated every minute of it, masochism in a PT vest.

I have to report that there is no truth in the rumour that **WO2 (SSM) Chris Stone** has taken up horse riding to enhance his commissioning prospects, he is merely investigating pace stick drill on horse-back.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **WO1 (FofS) Drew Robertson** and **LCpl Geordie Marshall** on promotion.

WO2 (FofS) Alf Davie, SSgt (FofS) Bob Bradford and **Sgt Chuck Walker** on selection for promotion.

The stork has been visiting the quarters and congratulations on additions to the family are tendered to: **Sgt Paul** and **Trish Griffiths, Cpl George** and **Helen Anderson, LCpl Steve** and **Shirley Dickson, LCpl Kev** and **Cas Collins.**

Congratulations for 21st birthday, in the field, go to **Sig Neil Whatley.**

WO2 (SSM) Chris Stone and Paulina. The horse is the one with the long hair

— News from Headquarters —

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS—AN UPDATE

The following officers have assumed appointments at the School of Signals since May: **Col W. Roper** Col (Engineering), **Col P. Webb** Chief Instructor, and **Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer** Chief of Staff.

2 SQUADRON (TRIALS) MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj John Doody**
2IC	**Capt John McIntyre**
Tech Adjt	**Capt (TOT) Chris Payne**
Tfc Adjt	**Capt (Tfc) Ron Chisholm**
OC R Tp	**Capt Mike Gilyeat**
OC PTARMIGAN Trials Tp	**Capt (TOT) Peter Davis**
OC Development Tp	**WO1 (FofS) Mike Woodhouse**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Barry Gibbons**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Butch Maycock**
MT SNCO	**SSgt Dave Knell**

SPRING FEVER

The main news of this report is the Squadron's recent achievement at winning the Regimental Athletics Standards Competition. The success was particularly sweet as we were heavily involved in a PTARMIGAN trial, two important radio troop trials and the functional testing programme of 4 Division's first slice of PTARMIGAN equipment.

DETACHED PERSONNEL

We have a number of squadron personnel detached to the South Atlantic (all lean and mean volunteers) and joining **Sgt Rod Fox, Sig Hazel O'Connor** and **Matt Campbell** shortly, is **Capt (TOT) Chris Payne.**

PTARMIGAN TRIALS TROOP (PTT)

Since our last report the pace has slowed down from a mad gallop to a more leisurely trot and our major involvement has been with Plessey Company carrying out further trials. The team ably led by **Sgt Gary Ledger** and supported by **Cpls Kev Raistrick, 'Bev' Beverley, 'Willie' Rennie, LCpl Matt Murray** and **Sig Ray Bridge** and **Dave Welsh** have made valuable contributions to the project. Ex *Flying Falcon* culminated in a Mobile Subscriber Equipment demonstration at Verden to our American friends with the boss, **Capt (TOT) Peter Davis** and **SSgt Dave Rodgers** choosing to go to 1 Armd Div to purchase 'Duty Frees' (but not for the lads hint, hint) and leave the remaining troop members to assist the demonstration from Blandford and Christchurch.

SPORT

The troop has been well represented on the sporting front with **LCpl Jeff Jones**, a member of the successful School Soccer team, **Cpl Brian Pritchard** and **LCpl Blue Lloyd** playing Regimental Basketball and **SSgt Mal Linton, Cpl Peter Isles, LCpl Blue Lloyd** and **Gary Smurthwaite** doing their thing playing Rugby for the Regiment.

ARRIVALS

We welcome **WO1 (YofS) Alan Doane** recently arrived from Qatar (complete with prayer mat) and welcome back to the fold **Cpl Mick Donovan** after his long stay at RAF Hospital Wroughton.

STOP PRESS

The functional testing of 4 Division's first packet of PTARMIGAN vehicles has been completed successfully and despatched to Herford under the watchful eye of **Lt Neil Stevens.**

RADIO TROOP

Following the Easter Break the troop quickly settled back into its trials routine interspersed with various sporting activities.

On the sports side the troop participated, whole heartedly, in the Athletics Standards Competition. There were a number of fine performances particularly from **Sig Paul Davis** putting in the fastest time, in the Regiment, for the 110m hurdles.

With the standards competition out of the way the troop entered three teams in the Garrison Orienteering Competition. Unfortunately we had no victories, however one noticeable performance from the YofS who at the hour cut off time had still only found the first check point. Never mind, at least you weren't last. **Cpl Stan Sudron** returned a best all time performance, failing to get lost once during the event.

Over the last two months the manpower has remained fairly constant. The only change being the departure of **Sig Giz Pook.** We wish him all the best on his tour in Paderborn.

OFFICER RECRUITING AND LIAISON STAFF

The team:	
Regt Col	**Col M. Marples OBE**
SO2 (Offr Recruiting) (ORLO)	**Maj Lee Tilson**
SO3 (Recruiting) (AORLO)	**Capt Mike Holman (vice Capt Gordon Rafferty)**
SO3 (Recruiting) (AORLO)	**Capt Ann Humphreys (vice Capt Elaine Jackson)**
SO3 (Recruiting) (AORLO)	**Lt Nick Kennedy**
RO2 (Recruiting Coord)	**Lt Col (Retd) J. R. Ellis**
CO	**Mrs Marjorie Pratt**
STAT Team	
WO2 Barry Brown	
SSgt Pete Bradbury	
Sgt Chris Othen	
LCpl 'Chippy' Wood	

Farewell and adieu to **Lt Col Muir** who has left for pastures new (BFFI actually) and welcome to the Regimental Colonel, **Col Marples.** The ORLO team has grown considerably over the last year to meet increased commitments—142 Schools will be visited this academic year, along with 17 UOTC's, and an estimated 50,000 miles will be covered.

As a reminder to all you photographers, slides and prints depicting young officers 'in action' would be greatly appreciated, we can always copy and return.

The importance of recruiting is now being acknowledged within the Corps and the work being done by Units in UK that are affiliated to CCF's is of immense value to ORLO and the Corps as a whole. Keep up the good work!

The ORLO Team

HQ NORTHAG
BFPO 40

High above the dark labyrinths of HQ BAOR at Rheindahlen reside the corridors of power of HQ Northern Army Group (NORTHAG). NORTHAG, one of the two Army Groups of which 1 (BR) Corps is one of the 10 Corps in the Central Region has, like all NATO organisations, a Communications and Electronics (C&E) Division. Within our Division there are some 11 Royal Signals personnel. Additionally dotted throughout the remainder of the HQ there are a number of Royal Signals Officers on ERE appointments, including **Col Peter Reader, Maj Chris Nind, Maj Owen Lewis and Maj Gerry Funnell**.

The Division is commanded by a German Colonel and all the allied nations are represented on the staff.

Leading the Royal Signals presence is **Lt Col Martin Roberts** as the DACOS and **Lt Col Jimmy Cullen** has one of the Branch Chief positions. There are a further three Grade 2 positions filled by **Majs Dick Drew, Geoff Powell** and **David Jessett**. The Orderly Room is manned entirely by Royal Signals personnel.

Royal Signals Staff
Back Row: Cpl R. T. Warne, WO1 I. L. Dudding, Maj C. D. Mck. Kemp, Maj C. V. Nind, Cpl L. W. Farnsworth, Sgt G. W. Smith
Front Row: Majs R. E. S. Drew, O. M. Lewis, Col P. S. Reader, Lt Col M. W. H. Roberts, Maj G. R. Funnell
(Dressed in accordance with SOinC's Dress Memorandum)

Personalities who have departed recently included **Lt Col Ian Penny** to the Trucial Oman States (without his framing business which he bequeathed to **Maj Dick Drew**—now less two fingers), **Maj John Beasley** who was posted all the way to HQ BAOR to nurse his aches and pains from the Hartz Mountain marathon, **Maj Peter Kent** who has taken an RO's post in Bielefeld, and **Maj Charles Kemp** who crossed the Irish Sea to become OC 233 Sig Sqn and was replaced by **Maj David Jessett** from 39 Sig Regt (V).

In addition to dispatching our NATO staff duty, the members of the Division indulge in a number of other extra mural activities. **Lt Col Martin Roberts** divides his time between the Army Ski meets, the Roermond Sailing Club, Kiel, conferences and his office—not necessarily in equal proportions. **Lt Col Jimmy Cullen** is fast becoming a well known figure on the Rugby Referee scene and recently presided over the Signals Derby between 21 and 28 Sig Regts.

Maj Charles Kemp was suspected of spending an inordinate amount of time away mountaineering. **Maj Geoff Powell** has not been here long enough to learn all the ruses.

CLERICAL PERSONALITIES

On the Division's clerical side we have a full complement of highly trained and skilled fighting men from the Corps. They are ably led by our **WO1 (SC) Ian Dudding**, who it is rumoured, has a minor part to play in the soccer world here in Rheindahlen whilst he waits for his posting order as an officer. He is impressively supported by a team of highly proficient clerks consisting of **Sgt (S cubed) Gerry Smith, Cpl (soon to be posted and promoted) Rick Warne, Cpl (give us a job) Les Farnsworth**, and our budding, recently married, sportsman extraordinaire **Sig (one goal a season) Jimmy Park**.

If you, as a clerk, are bored with the real world why not write to RSM&RO and apply for a job with a difference here in NATO, remembering that you must have some of the following attributes:-

Be able to make coffee at an instant, standing on your head, whilst typing and answering the phone (note: all this must be completed at the same time!).

Be able to translate most NATO languages into English with the emphasis on Chinese as most Staff Officers write in that language anyway!

Have the ability to survive in hotels or barracks whilst on arduous NATO exercises (at least two per year!).

Have a sense of humour!

ARMY SKI-MOUNTAINEERING PARTY IN THE FRENCH MARITIME ALPS

During late March an Army party composed mainly of participants from Rheindahlen Garrison completed the High Level Traverse from Nice to Briancon across the French Maritime Alps. The party had something of an international flavour as it was organised from HQ NORTHAG and included representatives from the British, Belgian and Dutch Corps.

Maj Charles Kemp and **WO1 Ian Dudding** from the Division both took part. **Maj Kemp** was the overall organiser and leader of the expedition, **Mr Dudding** was the valley administrator and co-ordinator.

Ski mountaineering, often also known as Alpine Touring is the pursuit of traversing inaccessible mountainous areas by a combination of skiing and mountaineering techniques. The party completed the tour in nine days carrying rucksacks weighing up to 40lb. The Maritime Traverse is some 150Km long with a change interval of 15,000m.

The distance the party travelled each day varied dependant on the amount of climbing involved.

Overnight stops were made in Alpine huts, open in the winter and equipped for cooking and sleeping.

The route commences North of Nice on the Mediterranean and finishes below Briancon to the East of the Dauphine Alps. It is believed that this group is the first Army party to complete the route, and certainly was the first party on it in 1985!

Despite some difficult weather and a number of injuries the route was completed and is both a rewarding and testing tour.

Details on Army Ski Mountaineering opportunities can be obtained from the Army Ski Association, Alpine Touring representative, **Maj Kemp**, 233 Sig Sqn, BFPO 801.

Maj Kemp leading the party on the Col de Colombart

Junior Regiment Royal Signals Ouston

As summer approaches, the Regiment is now visibly shrinking as we come closer to the penultimate pass off parade. Our cadre, who are leaving as the Junior Troops close, are being replaced by the Junior Infantry Battalion cadre. On Thursday 27 June it is the turn of the present Iron, Kohima, Whitespear and Lightning Troops to pass out under the watchful eyes of the Squadron Commander, **Maj Mervyn Johnston**, and **WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir**. This will leave the training squadron almost bereft of soldiers with just Ulster and Rapier Troops hanging on to the bitter end.

With so many people leaving for Catterick and Harrogate it is a pleasure to welcome **Lt Mike Shaw** from 14 Sig Regt. He arrived last month to take over command of Ulster Troop. This troop had the distinction of having a Troop Sergeant from the PT Corps in the form of **Sgt Andy Smith** and are the only troop to touch all four corners of the parade square in between drill movements.

The Regiment also says goodbye and thank you to some of its stalwart Troop Commanders posted away from the Training Brigade. **Lt Steve May** has taken his tracksuit to 3 Div, **Lt Andy James** and **Anne** have moved down to Colchester and **Capt Graham McNeill** and **Judith** have been posted to 30 Sig Regt. We wish them luck in their new appointments.

FOCUS ON CHAMPION TROOP
IRON TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Stuart Hodges**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Dave Williams**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Lee Mander**
	Cpl Andy Munro

With the usual friendly rivalry that the competition provokes between Troop Cadre **Lt Hodges** Iron Troop have deservedly come out on top this time.

As the closed door decisions were made, old warriors complained of favouritism and robbery but as the open and shut competitons such as the March and Shoot demonstrated, the other troops offered little to deter Iron's enthusiasm.

Much of the credit must go to the Cadre of the Troop and with morale boosters such as the CO's exercise in Krefeld and skiing in Scotland as the carrots for their endeavours. There was little need for **Sgt Dave Williams'** stick. As old sweats will know, the CO's exercise is designed to test the Troop Commander's initiative in occupying 40 junior soldiers for up to seven days. Venues from Scarborough to the Welsh mountains were experienced and Kohima Troop lead by **Lt Paul (Mr Miserable) Hudson** had to fight back the disappointment at not being given a grant from Adventure Training funds for a week on the canal boats. Sympathy was in abundance!

Credit for Iron Troop's success must also go to their Junior NCOs led from the front by **JSig Ridley** and his JCpls. Iron Troop had their share of sporting gladiators to help them in the more physical competitions. Congratulations go to **JCpl Owen** for representing the Junior Army Soccer team and for his talents as an all round sportsman.

ALBEMARLE ATHLETICS

In preparation for the ill-fated Training Group Athletics Competiton at Harrogate (rain stopped play) and in the absence of a 'skiving' OIC Athletics, the CO **Lt Col Mike Powell** decided to have an inter Troop Athletics match in which both cadre and juniors were allowed to compete.

The result was a win for Whitespear and the dispelling of a popular belief that beer is a better training aid than Mars bars. One of the older generation to show a clean pair of heels to the Juniors was **Lt Paul (Blonde Bombshell) Hudson** who had narrow victories in both sprints over **JSig Whittaker** from Iron Troop. Our confidence in past form was also restored when Olympic biathlete **SSgt Jim Wood BEM** scored a victory in the 1500m . . . surprise, surprise. **Lt Mike Shaw** also asked me to mention that he tried very hard in both the hurdles and the high jump! Amongst our talented Juniors there were victories from **JSig Owen** (Iron) in the 400m, **JSig Dowdle** (Lightning) in the 800m, **JSig Turner** (Iron) and **JSig Rhodes** (WSP) in the Javelin and Discus.

THE DRILL COMPETITION

The climax of the Champion Troop Competition took place on Saturday 25 May and was unusual in that, even before setting a foot on the square, Iron Troop had clinched the title.

The troops were judged on turnout as well as competence on the square and the impressive team of judges led by **Maj (QM) Phil Noble** remarked on the overall high standard. The visiting RSM **WO1 Eddy Lynne Coldstream Guards** although appearing to have forgotten his skis (see picture) is a master of the drill textbook and was equally impressed.

The result was announced before the 19th tee in the Sergeants' Mess and was a victory for **Sgt Andy Trivett's** Whitespear by a narrow margin over **Sgt Brian Tanner's** Lightning. The competition affected only the lower placings in the overall Champion Troop scoring and as a fitting conclusion to the morning the CO presented **JCpl Ridley** with the trophy for the Champion Troop.

WO1 (RSM) Eddy Lynne demonstrating one of the new drill movements (as yet unpublished)

'What, boots without toe caps? Never in our day!' The RSM and QM appear to be lamenting the loss of the DMS

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

NORDIC SKIING TEAM 84/85

With the Regiment heavily committed to PTARMIGAN introduction training, ski training this year had to take a low priority. To find eight soldiers available and willing proved quite a task but on the 20 December 1984 **Capt Steve Herniman** plus five with a promise of two more later set off from Verden for the Bavarian Alps. To say the team was inexperienced would be an understatement and from day one the priority was to teach four members of the team to ski! All knew the basic lessons from two weeks' roller skating on the regimental square (when it was not too icy).

On arrival at Mittenwald we were heartened to see there was some snow. Training began in earnest and it was encouraging to see that the beginners were picking up the techniques well. By the turn of the year most were competent skiers although **Sig Phil Moon** was obviously having problems mastering the speed when out of control. Snow conditions remained reasonable throughout the training period but were far from ideal.

After some three weeks training the team was joined by **SSgt Bernie Temmen** and **Sig Smudge Smith** to compete in the Div Ski Meeting at Axams. Plagued by a persistent 'flu bug few were at full fitness but the unit managed two teams in the first race, the 4 × 10Km relay. The teams finished 10th and 23rd out of 32 entries. **Sig Andy Kennedy** and **Smudge Smith** both finished in the top 30 with our best novice, **Sig Geordie Bowman** finishing in 57th position.

In the 15Km race which had a large field of 238 competitors, the A Team all finished in the top 50. Best time was **Sig Kennedy** (43 mins 18 secs) and **Sig Smith** not far behind in 44 mins 51 secs (19th and 26th positions). **SSgt Temmen** managed to beat off the challenge from **Sig Bowman** finishing 16 seconds ahead in a time of 47 mins 50 secs.

Apart from the intense rivalry between the team members a greater battle was taking place over the team placings. With only eight teams qualifying for the Army Meeting the team was desperate to achieve qualification. This was made difficult by the 32 Armd Engr Team who had the same idea. After two races the teams were neck-and-neck in eighth position. On the third race, the 15Km, we beat them by three minutes to take a two point lead. With only the patrol race left it was important that we finished ahead of them. With a change in the team structure, due to the rules, **Capt Herniman** replaced **Sig Bowman** and was very apprehensive at the start. The team turned out to start the race going off as the first team. It was cold, the packs were heavy and the course had one or two nasty places. Adrenalin flowed as we knew the result of this race could send us to Zwiesel or Verden! Once on the course it was hard work but at the 20Km point no teams had passed us. At the range, once the OC had caught up, the team impressed the RSM (O1C Range) by hitting all 15 targets. (It was worth waiting for the OC as he finished off the last five targets with five rounds). Heartened by this success the team tried to sprint the last 5Km. With a total time 2 hrs 2 mins 56 secs the team finished in 10th place four places ahead of the Sappers. After the race a boisterous party erupted to celebrate qualifying for the Army meeting.

The Patrol Race ready for the off . . . *L–R* Sig Smith, Capt Herniman, Sig Kennedy, SSgt Temmen

The team, less **SSgt Bernie Temmen** and **Sig Maggott Maidment** approached the Army meeting determined to do their best. Emphasis was placed on experience as the team did not now have the correct rank structure for the patrol race due to work commitments at Verden. Snow conditions were far from ideal but a packed programme of races was completed. Best individual results were:

British Nat Jun 10Kms	**Kennedy**	—	12th
	Smith	—	18th
British Nat Jun 15Kms	**Smith**	—	16th
(Biathlon)	**Kennedy**	—	21st

2 SQUADRON

The early months of 1985 have seen a number of changes in the Squadron management. **Capt Gus Boag** has moved to become the Regiment's Training Officer and his place as 2IC has been taken over by **Capt Bob Cousins**. We also learned that our SSM **WO2 Pete Sutherland** and our FofS **Al Hooley** were both selected for promotion to WO1. Obviously Records have heard that they make a good double act as they are both posted to Blandford later this year. Further down the management chain there have been a number of comings and goings and somehow out of it all the Squadron managed to form a Rugby team to enter the inter Squadron Rugby.

TASK FORCE RUGBY CUP COMPETITION

The draw for this competition saw the Squadron playing against 1 Sqn who, according to the punters, were favourites to win. At the start of the match it seemed as if the form book would prove correct as the very strong 1 Sqn pack dominated the field of play. 2 Sqn contested with spirited aggressive play and after two of 1 Sqn players were carried off the game became more evenly matched. The full time score was eight points all with tries being scored by **LCpl Keith Clayton** and **Sgt 'Plastic YofS' Wilson**. To decide the match the game went into extra time and the Squadron's exciting running tactics secured a victory by 18 points to 8.

The following weekend saw the team playing 3 Sqn whose OC had confidently wagered a case of champagne on the outcome. Needless to say he lost it to a good cause with the final score being 34 points to Nil. Special mention should be made of the 2 Sqn supporters who could be heard during the match at all points within five miles of the camp.

BASKETBALL

After leaving the Rugby spectators the SSM put on his basketball kit and led the Squadron team to a convincing win in the Unit's Page Trophy competition.

PTARMIGAN

Concurrent with all this sport, the Squadron have been working flat out taking over the new PTARMIGAN vehicles. So far we now have our 2 SAS/MCs 2 RR and our WPI(T). We have also received 3 AFV 436s which are the Staff Vehicles for PTARMIGAN and hope to be complete for Ex *Flying Falcon*. The vehicles we have are presently committed to Ex *Highland Show* which is a demonstration of the PTARMIGAN system to the Americans. Rumour has it that we may just manage a few days off for Easter.

We have also just completed our first Regimental exercise with the new equipment and although there is still a lot to learn the equipment itself has proved to be superb.

SCRA TROOP

For the purposes of demonstrating PTARMIGAN to the Americans the Squadron has collected 19 Single Channel Radio Access terminals from various units within the Division and these have been shown to many visitors including CO 4 Division who had the dubious experience of being driven by **Sig Garth Garfoot** which may explain the following:

CO 4—(Answering an incoming call on SCRA) Hullo Unknown Caller—Hi, is **Garth** there?

CO 4—(Turning to **Sig Garfoot**) I think it's for you!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Capt Herniman** and **LCpl Cleavin** on their recent promotions and also to **LCpl** and **Mrs King** on the birth of their son who was the first baby born in Verden this year.

Commiserations to **Cpl Wratten** and **WPte Jane Henderson** who have got engaged.

FAREWELLS

Farewell and best wishes go to:

Cpl Dave Bunt posted to 39 Inf Bde, **Cpl Neil Brockett** and **Sandra** posted to AFCENT, **LCpl Darren Summerell** posted to 640 Sig Tp, and **LCpl Mick Brown** posted to 39 Inf Bde.

2 SQUADRON MERCURY

January has been a busy time for the Squadron, with most of the men involved in Level 1 and Level 2 PTARMIGAN training. Even so some members managed to get off and attend *Snow Queen* and Divisional Ski Meetings. Needless to say there are many 'war stories' but it still remains a mystery how **Capt Herniman** and **SSgt Rumsey** came back with Carribean sun tans!

Also during this month preparations for the Royal visit have begun in earnest, with regular drill parades which, to the dismay of the troops, have mostly been cancelled due to the weather. One of the tasks for the visit is to transform the back of the Squadron block into a castle and this has gone to the SQMS and his department. (No, not a fairy castle). Having seen the provisional plans the finished item should put Windsor Castle to shame and may even get the SQMS his Knighthood. (Well, at least his Crown).

OC Papa Troop has been given the task of providing a troop of Morris dancers but so far has been unable to locate anyone called Morris. We hear that **Sig White** can do a mean bit of 'Breakdancing' (Just trying to be helpful). Last but by no means least **SSgt Haynes** has been given the task of organising the 'Grease Pole'. Does anyone know what that is?

3 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj David Elson**
2IC	**Capt Colin Lawrence**
OC N Troop	**2Lt Jon Williams**
OC L Troop	**2Lt Duncan Warne**
OC O Troop	**Lt (now Capt) Gerry Peck**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Ben Britton**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Taylor**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Allan**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Thompson**

EXERCISE *HIGHLAND MALT*

This was for 3 Sqn the first fielding of its new PTARMIGAN equipment and for November Troop the first fully operational Divisional Headquarters. The exercise was a great success. **LCpl Wayne 'Brummer' Cox** and **Sig Rick Camilleri** found a Radio Relay mast a good substitute for a catapult!

FOOTBALL

3 SQN ALL STARS -v- 3 SQN OFFICIAL TEAM

This was a chance for the supporters to get their own back on the official team. The All Stars led by **LCpl Gary 'Panzer' Potts**, had a good game, narrowly losing by 5-0. After this hard fought match, the Squadron team was able to go on and qualify for the semi-finals of the General's Cup.

GOLDEN OLDIES NIGHT

The evening was a great success, very well organised by **Cpls Gary Dawson, Ray Cowburn** and **Sgt Dave 'Cap Badge' McCann.** It gave old timers a chance to relive their youth (most of them in their original clothes).

FAREWELL TO OSCAR TROOP'S BRUIN 432s.

This was a sad day for Oscar Troop as they saw out the old and accepted the new.

PAGE TROPHY

This year's Page Trophy was a very closely contested event with the Squadron narrowly losing in the Football and Tug o' War. However, the Hockey team, for the very first time in 3 Sqn history, won the Hockey cup after a match which never seemed to end. The final result after all events had finished was second place. Everyone is to be congratulated on their efforts, especially the Hockey Team, who were, **Maj David Elson, Lt Gerry Peck, 2Lts Duncan Warne, Jon Williams, WO2 (SSM) Ben Britton, LCpls Nick Withers** and **Neil Perham.**

FAREWELLS

We say goodbye to **Sgt Blackburn, Cpl Lock, LCpls Jennings, James,** and **Sig Tulleth.**

ARRIVALS

We welcome: **2Lt Warne, Cpls Joll, Eley, Chadwick, LCpls Withers, Christie, Holland, Gajny, Sig Dutton, Merritt, Oliver, Bennett, Harrison, Stephens, Fernadez, Toon, Constable, Behan, Dewar, Atkins, Turner, Gower** and **Rose.**

201 (22nd Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

PERSONALITIES

Sqn Commander	**Maj R. M. J. Hussey**
2IC	**Capt S. G. Marshall**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) G. Whelan**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Bowden**
FofS	**SSgt A. W. McMahon**
OC Alfa Troop	**Lt S. R. Workman**
OC Bravo Troop	**Lt T. W. Pender-Johns**
SQMS	**SSgt R. Cook**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt R. Smith**

This has been a period in the year when the normally hectic schedule of a Bde Sig Sqn has been escalatedto a sort of controlled frenzy with the acceptance, installation and fielding of PTARMIGAN and WAVELL 2. Despite the fact that married pads have forgotten what the little woman looks like, the Squadron is justifiably proud to be the first Bde Sqn fully converted to and working with the new equipment.

The PTARMIGAN/WAVELL story, as far as the Squadron is concerned, started way back in January with all members being trained at our Regimental HQ in Verden. This training was run by the PTARMIGAN Introductory Unit from 8 Sig Regt and PWSST (PTARMIGAN/WAVELL Software Support Team) from Blandford. The training continued until mid March culminating in a three phase exercise called *Highland Malt*.

HIGHLAND MALT

Highland Malt from 4-26 March was a Commander Comms 1 Armd Div exercise to practise elements of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in the use of PTARMIGAN trunk comms. The exercise took place initially in barracks at Verden and then in the general area around Verden. Most of us had been living in accommodation at Verden for some time undergoing PTARMIGAN/WAVELL training, so it was just a case of the remainder joining us. But this time of course we had handed in our gutted 432's to the QM Tech in return for the refurbished AFV 436 Armoured Staff Vehicles, as they rolled off the CIAT (Communications Installation and Advisory Team).

Part of the old stables buildings in Caithness Barracks had been converted into a temporary workshop by the CIAT team under the guidance of **Maj Morton** REME, and far too slowly, it seemed to us, the 436's were released into our tender care.

This of course took some time and together with a few teething problems with the new Clansman harness prevented the Squadron deploying from Verden for the second phase of *Highland Malt*. Nevertheless most problems were solved in order that they could deploy on *Highland Malt 3* even though it meant wrenching themselves away from the CIAT team who felt that we were far too green with the new equipment to be entrusted with it in the field.

Over to our **FofS SSgt Tony McMahon** and his merry bunch of techs who cleared all problems in double quick time.

Due to the fact that our REME fitters under **SSgt Doug Woodhead**, had been able to get at the 436's in Verden we had no breakdowns during the deployment, except for our own REME 434, much to the embarrassment of the fitter section. (Rumour has it that the stack of Herforder green ten packs in the back of the 434 shifted causing a track to be thrown).

In summary *Highland Malt* proved an invaluable exercise and many lessons were learnt. The Squadron was now familiar with the AFV 436 and PTARMIGAN and learning to live with the rather more fragile and less user friendly WAVELL 2.

EXERCISE *HIGHLAND SHOW*

Ex *Highland Show* followed quickly on the heels of *Highland Malt* and took the form of a demonstration of the PTARMIGAN area comms system to 30 US Congressional reps as a part of the Plessey/Rockwell bid for the United States MSE (Mobile Subscriber Equipment) programme. The actual demonstration took place on 12 April with the deployment and work up occurring over the period 31 March-11 April.

For the demonstration 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt were fully deployed with 201 Sig Sqn being tasked to provide a working Bde HQ deployed

tactically in the field, which could demonstrate the ability to move quickly while still being able to communicate and command.

We deployed to Gut Stellichte a small village north of Walsrode knowing that this MSE demonstration was probably one of the most important events in which any of us would ever be involved in. On the performance of the whole exercise would depend the decision of the United States on whether to buy PTARMIGAN/WAVELL for its own Army or whether to buy a similar system made by GTE/Thompson CSE called RITA in use with the French Army. The whole of the demonstration ran like clockwork and was deemed a huge success by observers and visitors alike. In particular our operators rose to the occasion, impressing the Americans with the way that they had quickly assimilated the new system and were able to brief them, in a confident and knowledgeable manner. It will be sometime before we know whether our efforts in selling PTARMIGAN to the Americans has met with success but we feel confident that as far as we were concerned 'the lads' did not let us down.

FLYING FALCON

After *Highland Show* it was back to Hohne for Saturday before deploying on Sunday along with the rest of the Corps in BAOR, on Ex *Flying Falcon* (15-26 April) which is of course when the Comd Comms BAOR annually deploys the Corps on his own exercise.

This is normally an unusual exercise for the Squadron being the only time during the year when we deploy into the field without the Bde Staff Officers. This year was no exception in that the exercise proved to be almost an extension of our demo on *Highland Show*, with almost anyone who is anyone in BAOR and the Royal Corps of Signals paying us a visit.

For this exercise we were allowed to hang on to our new style helmets and NBC suits Mk III much to the delight of the lads, who almost looked like soldiers. These helmets and suits had been issued solely for use on *Highland Show*, with the instruction, in the usual unfathomable logic of the QM's department, that they were to be handed back as new afterwards. Have you ever tried getting an NBC suit back in to its plastic bag and pressed as before? Our SQMS **SSgt Bob Cook** must have achieved this minor miracle as none of us has received P1954's for the suits or indeed dry cleaning bills.

Notable among our visitors were the Corps Commander and his Divisional Commanders. 20 members of the UK/US press Corps. **Air-Chief-Marshal Sir Michael Beavis RAF** (D CINCENT), **Brig Gen Thomas** US Army (Comd US Signal School), **Maj Gen R. Benbow, Maj Gen A. Yeomans, Maj Gen P. Coutillard, Maj Gen G. R. Oehlers, Brig Gen Childs** US Army, **Brig Gen Forster** US Army, **Brig J. O. C. Alexander, Brig P. D. Alexander** DMS B, **Brig C. N. Last, Brig F. R. Maynard** Comd Trg Bde, **Brig J. H. Almonds, Air Cdre D. G. J. Breadner RAF**.

Not to mention 50 × Civilians from MOD
50 × RMCS Div 1 Students
50 × Industrialists.

As you can see we had more than our share of visitors which was very nice but kept us all on our toes to ensure that the kit kept working as well as looking good.

As will be obvious from these notes this period has been a busy but satisfying time for 201 Sig Sqn. However the pace never slackens and we are participating in the freedom of Verden parade which will be attended by **HRH The Princess Anne**, the Morrison Cup and of course the inevitable exercise *Hurst Park/Staff Ride* among other things.

LCpl Tommy Murray on Ex *Flying Falcon* 85 driving the Brigadier's Hard Tac 436 with his usual mixture of blarney and expertise

Penny Vine of BFBS fame interviewing LCpl Scouse Robinson complete with the new 'Battle Bowler' and Mk III NBC suit. FofS Tony McMahon can be seen in the background, (letching-well he had been on exercise for a fortnight)

DIV SKILL AT ARMS

The Divisional Skill at Arms competition was held at Sennelager on the first two days of April, an eagerly awaited event for which our team had been training over the previous two months. Those of you involved in training shooting teams will realise the problems in booking ranges and getting the team away from normal work.

Much to the disgust of the workers, the Sqn Comd allowed the SSM permanent access to the shooters, who were seen daily disappearing in odd landrovers piled with ammo boxes to scrounge around various ranges for range space. Having narrowly been beaten into runners up position last year in the Div SAAM by 1 Ord Coy the Squadron were determined to reverse the position this time. All the practice paid off in the end with us almost sweeping the board at the Div SAAM and the team of **Sgt George Mussellwhite, Capt Steve Marshall, Cpl John Levins, LCpl Dave Proudlove, Cpl Dave Foster, Sig Jim McNabb, Pte Taff Avaient, Sig Baz Basford** carrying arm loads of silver back for the Squadron Trophy Cabinets.

Individual and Team Results were:

201 Sig Sqn	Overall Minor Unit Team Champions
201 Sig Sqn	Winner Roupel Cup
201 Sig Sqn	Winner SMG Cup
201 Sig Sqn	2nd LMG Match
201 Sig Sqn	3rd Pistol Match

Sgt Mussellwhite Individual Pistol Champion both Major and Minor Unit of the Division.

We have now qualified for Bisley and will also be sending the team to the Royal Signals Skill-At-Arms in Bulford.

201 Sig Sqn Divisional Minor Unit Shooting Champions
L—R Back Row: LCpl Dave Proudlove, Capt Steve Marshall, Sgt George Mussellwhite, Cpl John Levins
L—R Front Row: Cpl Dave Foster, Sig Baz Basford, Pte Taff Avaient, Sig Jim McNabb

DIV RECOGNITION COMPETITION

Despite the almost total commitment to PTARMIGAN/WAVELL we still found time to become champions of the First Armoured Division at both recognition and shooting.

The Div Recognition Competition took place during the period 4-8 March and we were determined to hang on to the Winners Shield from last year. Our team of **Lt Scott Workman, SSgt** (now WO2 (SSM)) **Rick Levett, Cpl John Levins, Sig (Pig Pen) Bridge** and **Cpl Tom McCartney** spent many long hours pouring over pictures of Warsaw Pact fighting vehicles and playing with scaled down models kindly loaned by the training wing of 1 RHA at Hohne. All this hard work paid off when the team were successful in retaining the Trophy for the second year running against extremely tough opposition.

LS & GC PRESENTATION

On 28 February **Brig M. J. Wilkes** presented the LS & GC Medal to **SSgt (FofS) Tony McMahon** and **Sgt Dave Vince**. The presentation took place in the Kellar Bar of the Sergeants' Mess in the presence of all the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Squadron. **Mrs Jill McMahon** and **Mrs Sue Vince** were also there. After the celebration most stayed on to help the recipients celebrate in some style—and at their expense!

Sgt Dave Vince and SSgt (FofS) Tony McMahon 'wet' their LS & GC medals in a glass of champagne, courtesy of the Comd

BAOR SAILING COLOURS

At the same ceremony the Commander presented BAOR Sailing Colours for Dinghy Sailing to OC Alfa Troop, **Lt Scott Workman**. Well done.

Lt Scott Workman receives his BAOR Colours for Dinghy Sailing from the Comd, Brig M. J. Wilkes

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

We say farewell to **Lt Justin Johnson** and **Janet, SSgt Rick Levett** and **Jackie** on promotion to Harrogate, **Sgt George Frith RAPC, Cpl Lennie Twells** on promotion to 8 Inf Bde, **Cpl 'Muzz' Murray, Cpl Steve Thornton** and **Sheila, LCpl Clive Adams** and **Jutta** on their retirement and emigration to Australia, **Pte 'Gaz' Lye, Sig 'Feebs' Fiebrich, Spike Sharp, 'Bamber' Gasgoyne, Steve Towers** and **WPte Linda Pawson.**

We welcome **Lt Tim Pender-Johns, SSgt Clive Tepielow** and **Julie** from 71 Sig Regt (V). **SSgt Pete Stemmer** and **Marilyn** from ACC Harrogate, **Sgt Peter Wand RAPC** and **Michelle** from RMAS, **Cpl Dave Harman, LCpls 'Bowser' Bousfield, Pete Jowitt, Sig 'Mavis' Davis-Morris, 'Breeze Block, Paul Powell, Purnell, Paul Tanner, Butch Nuttall, 'Ghostbuster' Lunt** and **Rose, LCpl Vicky Simkins, WPte Elizabeth Jones, Amanda Hewitt** and **Andrea Smith.**

Congratulations are also due to **Cpl Harry Smith** and **Amanda** on the birth of their daughter **Laura Louise**.

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207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Howard H. Ham (H^3)**
2IC	**Capt Paul (PRI) Eaton**
OC A	**Lt David (NBC) Sullivan**
OC B	**Lt Huw (Californian Beach Boy) Wareham**
SSM	**WO2 Steve (Windsurfing) Bailes**
YofS	**WO2 John (I'm Posted) Floyd**
FofS	**SSgt Dougie (You won't move it) Brisco**

ARRIVALS

The Squadron welcomes the following new members and their families:

Sgt Parks ACC, Cpl Keevash, Cpl Schofield and Sig Frame.

DEPARTURES

We finally have had to say farewell to **Sgt (Ginge) Wheatley** and **Sgt Dave Piggott**.

This period has been busy with the following:

MSE

This will probably be reported fully by 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, but we also helped sell PTARMIGAN to our American friends.

EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

We deployed on this annual shake-up exercise early on 15 April. We very much did our own thing, especially attacking and ambushing each other. During the ex weekend we were based at a Stadt works enabling us to carry out some 'off beat' training, driving blindfold (directed by commander) around an obstacle course.

Life at the front is too much for Sig 'Cloud' Nelson, he daren't look

Sig Caulfield struggles to fit LR wheel, directed by his sighted commander

PTARMIGAN

April and May saw the Squadron become 'Ptarmiganised'. Yes, it is as painful as it sounds, transferring the old 'panzers' to 4 Div (don't worry 4 Div ours were quite good) and taking on new AFV 436. Now that the kit has actually arrived everyone is looking forward to using it on our next exercise.

THE GIRLS

We have a small friendly group of girls who (wo)man our Commcen. The SQMS **Fred Payet** managed to survive a range day with four of them.

The five girls are **LCpl Jenny Dear, Ptes Helen Dean, Janette Southern, Elie Stokoe, Janet Stacey.**

Much to their surprise all four girls passed their APWT.

Pte Elie Stokoe thinks what do I do now?

EXERCISE *MORNING GLORY*

This was the first exercise with our staff so a lot of work went into producing 'the goods'. Notably **SSgt Fred Kirk**, deployed at Tac HQ with a 65 mph, secure VHF Ferret, as far as we know the only one in the Corps.

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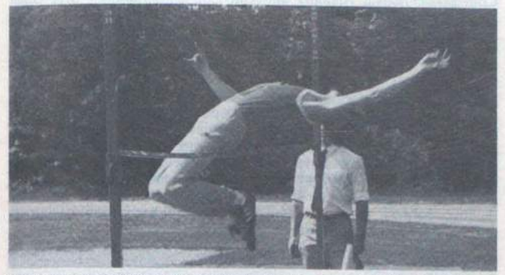
TAVR Association for Western Wessex
2 Beaufort Road
Clifton, Bristol BS8 2JS
Telephone: Bristol (0272) 734045

TAVR Association for Wales
Centre Block Maindy Barracks
Cardiff CF4 3YB
Telephone: Cardiff (0222) 20251/2

TAVR Association for West Midlands
Tennal Grant, Tennal Road
Harborne, Birmingham B32 2HX
Telephone: 021 427 5221

THE BRIGADE ATHLETICS MEETING

Once again due to being deployed to Verden to take over our new AFV 432s, the Squadron Athletics team comprised of mainly the willing and not so many of the talented. Fortunately, the team gave a lot and were rewarded by winning the Brigade Plaque for the second year running. Notable athletes were **Sig 'Marsh' Marshall** who won the shot putt and **Cpl Nick Preston** in the 1,500m.



LCpl 'Sparrow' Crook flying high. He cleared a height of 1m 55cm to win

Cpl Kev Plant, a willing athlete in the 400m 'multiple high jump' race

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

The past few months have been very hectic for us. The introduction of PTARMIGAN and the required training have kept the Squadron on its toes and very busy. Besides the rigours of work however, the Squadron has been busy on the sports field, with the most notable successes coming in Hockey and the Regimental Sports Competition—The Winter Page Trophy.

THE WINTER PAGE TROPHY

This year's Winter Page Trophy competition produced a very unexpected result—we won it! After travelling all the way to sunny Verden expecting the usual defeat, we came away smiling. Of the five sporting competitions that comprises the overall competition, the Squadron teams managed to win the Rugby 7's and Tug of War, coming a very close second in the Hockey 6's (the final of which went into two lots of extra time before being decided in 3 Sqn's favour on penalty flicks) and middle of the field in the Basketball and Football. It was enough for us to clinch victory and it was well deserved. Another notable success for 1985.

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2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
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THE NERVE CENTRE—RHQ

CO	**Lt Col M. G. Taylor MBE**
2IC	**Maj G. M. Finney**
Adjt	**Capt S. C. Johns**
AAdjt	**Lt A. P. Mann WRAC**
SC	**WO1 (SC) R. J. Duffy**

With the ARU over, *Flying Falcon* merely a memory, Kohima celebrations passed and no documents inspection until November—life **is** grand. After a somewhat turbulent six months and practically a 100% turnover of clerical staff the dust is finally beginning to settle over and around the Regimental Headquarters.

We bid formal welcome to **Lt Alison Mann**, our newly commissioned Assistant Adjutant, to **Sgt Ray Stone** who arrived in February and who, since his return to UK has somehow managed to cram in a Chief Clerk's and Office Management Course. To **Cpl Steve James** whose arrival prompted the greeting 'How do you like penguins?', hope you're enjoying your tour of the Falklands **Steve**! **LCpl Martin Rowley** who managed to throw in a 'Hello' prior to redirecting his suitcases to Deepcut and his B1 and finally or almost to **LCpl (what's the chance of a driving course?) Freeman**—currently awaiting an answer. Belated welcome also to our Adjutant, **Capt (Laughing Kit Bags) Steve Johns** who despite being six months in the job refuses to change his trousers combat and 'hats-cease firing' to uniform more becoming his current employment! Fond farewells to firstly **Cpl Ken Richards** who's managed somehow to arrange a sticky posting to sunny Cyprus and **Sig Jennings-Slater** bound for Bulford (obviously doesn't have the same contacts): To our CO, **Lt Col Mike Taylor MBE**, last seen hovering over his MFO boxes prior to sampling the exotic delights of HQ UKLF. More of the team worthy of mention are **Maj George Finney**, late holder of the title 'RHQ Tidiest Desk 84', close on his tail **Cpl Charlie Foster** who blames the red eyes and pale look on strenuous athletic training sessions (not to mention wet tee-shirt competitions), not forgetting **LCpl Jim Seager**, currently hidden in a mountain of files and general correspondence—good luck with your new job as registry clerk.

Newsflash to clerks everywhere, only just into the new training year and all clerks this unit successfully completed first BFT, is this a record?

KOHIMA 85
Report by Lt Barry Keegan

In keeping with our much cherished tradition, we gathered together once again to celebrate the victory won at Kohima and to remember those who fell. This year saw us celebrate the 41st anniversary of the battle.

Kohima Veterans proudly parade for the photographer

THE PRELIMINARIES

Though the warning order was received in late March, preparation could not fully swing into gear as most of the Regiment was up to its ears in preparations for Ex *Flying Falcon*. Needless to say, on arrival back in England at the end of April our 'Kohima Heads' were very firmly screwed back on!

Overall command and control was once again vested with the Commander Royal Artillery and Garrison Commander—**Brig Giles Arnold**. As a 'reward' for his stalwart efforts last year OC 1 (Kohima) Sqn **Maj Iain Robertson** donned the 'robes and vestments' of events organiser (he was overheard to say that he was beginning to understand what being a war veteran felt like!) Perhaps redolent of the Battle itself, preparations proper commenced on Monday 6 May.

Under the multifarious talents of **SSgt Dave Cloake**—a legend in his own lunch time, and a Kohima 84 veteran, the stands for the Open Day and Drumhead Service were duly constructed; a task for which he received his second 'LS&GC' (Large Stands and General Construction). Concurrently activating on the Sergeants' Mess lawn, under the auspices of **WO2 (SSM) Robbie Burnett**, were **SSgt Dennis Jevons** and **Sgt 'Amstel' Lawrence** who, armed with a team of 'willing' helpers, gently massaged large mounds of mouldy canvas into marquees for the Sunday curry lunch.

In addition to organising the Regimental Info Team, **SSgt Fred 'You Tube' Peebles**, also a Kohima 84 veteran, marshalled the erection of sundry other tentage to house lost children, info posts etc. **SSgt Jim Graley** was meanwhile wandering 'lonely as a cloud' (well . . . he is a technician!) around various outposts of the Yorkshire Constabulary in order to procure some minor . . . oops! crowd control barriers which he eventually found in Wakefield!

Scenes to gladden the heart of many a veteran were witnessed throughout the preparatory week—whereby gaggles of **Sgt (RP) John Leighton**'s non-volunteer 'stay behind' commandos saluted anything that moved and painted that which didn't.

The Special Forces Catering Section of No 4 Catering Group, alias **Lt Peter McCall**, and **WO2 Dave Ashburner**'s 'C' Team swung into action in the cookhouse utilising the same modus operandi as last year. Row upon row of 'Royal Doulton' plastic dustbins were filled with sufficient prawn, chicken, beef and lamb curry to feed 1000 for lunch on Sunday—no mean feat: Indeed, no mean smell either!

By Friday afternoon, the 'preparatory phase' was just about over. **Capt Colin Whittaker** had finished placing the last static display (there were over 15 from all the different Regiments and Corps!), **Capt (now QM) John Turner** had bought the last raffle prize and what had earlier resembled an Ordnance Replenishment Park was now fit to receive the public on Saturday.

Final inspection over, the first of the guests started to arrive—amongst them was **Gen Sir Martin Farndale** and a number of former CO's of the Regiment; not to mention the many veterans who included quite a few new faces this year.

THE OPEN DAY

To the relief of many late night revellers in the Sergeants' Mess (the same crowd as last year!) the Open Day did not commence until 1300 hrs on Saturday. Billed as the major event of the weekend, things got under way with the public 'porling over' the static displays which, this year, included the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Signals and King's Division mobile display teams, the King's Division 'Death Slide', Tracked Rapier, FH70's, Saxon and a host of others—amongst which was **Capt Bill Olive**'s 'Kohima Basha' manned by **Cpl Booth** and **Sig 'Lugs' Lawrence** of 2 Sqn, resplendent in 1944 pattern webbing, Shirts OG, Hats Felt Bush and .303 SMLEs. Although hidden away in some adjacent bushes to achieve an 'air' of tactical realism, the Basha attracted a hive of veterans, press and senior officers—all queuing up to taste 44 style (not vintage) compo!

The Fanfare Trumpeters of the Corps Band heralded the opening address by the GOC North East District and Comd 2 Inf Div, **Maj Gen Peter Inge**, after which the arena displays got under way led by the Corps Band. Throughout the afternoon we were entertained by **Capt Roddy Nicholson**'s White Helmets, **Lt Paul Chambers'** FH70 'into action' display, the RAOC Cannonballs Free Fall team, 38 Engineer Regiment's Landrover Stripping Race, the Pipes and Drums of Strathclyde UOTC and the York Fire Brigade 'rescuing' trapped car passengers. Salutes from the various teams were taken by former Commanding Officers and veterans of the Division.

Unfortunately, the weather this year was somewhat cool (blankets were provided!), but the spirit of the occasion was not dampened and, indeed, public attendance was up on last year, making the day a great success all round.

THE DRUMHEAD MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Drumhead Service conducted in front of the Kohima memorial on Imphal Barracks square on the Sunday morning was attended by members of the Staff and Regiment, and veterans, all accompanied by their families. The lessons were read by **Maj Gen Peter Inge** and the Chief of Staff, **Col Philip Sanders**. After the service, the Regiment and Veterans marched past **Gen Inge**, after which, we all retired to the Sergeants' Mess lawn enclosure for an 'all ranks' curry lunch. The GOC congratulated all those concerned with the weekend's efforts. Prizes were presented for the 'Veterans v Serving Soldiers' shooting competition—while the King's Division Band played in the background.

VISIT OF COMMANDER 1 SIGNAL GROUP

On Wednesday 15 May Commander 1 Sig Gp, **Col C. A. Brown**, paid his first visit to the Regiment. During this he presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **Sgts Dean Lawrence** and **John Taylor** and **Cpls Keith Roderick** and **John Whelan**. After lunching with the Officers he toured the Regiment meeting many of the characters that make up 2 Div, Sig Regt.

Comd 1 Sig Gp, Col Colin Brown presenting the LS and GC medal to Cpl Whelan

'Did you hear the one about the presenting Officer who couldn't get the '. . .' medal on!'
Col Colin Brown presenting the LS and GC medal to Sgt Dean Lawrence

49 INF BDE SIG TP
'FOLLOW THE BEAR'

With the cancellation of several exercises this coming Summer the past few months have been the highlight of the Troop's military activities for the year. Exercise *Polar Dawn* was a Brigade FTX with considerable helicopter support. As the Troop was tied down during the exercise running the camp on Stanford Training Area from where activities were coordinated, it was not until Endex that we experienced our share of flying. But what an experience! Not constricted by the perimeters of the exercise the Chinook pilot did his best to underline the point that heavy lunches and aerial acrobatics did not go hand in hand (though perhaps stomach in hand). Was he trying to get his own back, **Pte Jock Keggie**?

Lt Alfie Brand impressed everyone by managing to pull out of Ex *Flying Falcon* at the eleventh hour by contracting a severe stomach disorder (Falconitis?). The absence of the recce officer made him that much more appreciated—especially by **SSgt Larry Little** who, as the new recce officer, quickly discovered that girls riding schools do not always make the best radio relay sites. Also on the exercise; the OC, **Capt Johnny Rollins**, discovered that COMMCENs are enemy organisations; **Sgt John Taylor** denied that the sight of our attached OTC cadets tying empty jerri-cans to their Rover prior to the night crossing of the Weser had anything to do with him; **LCpl Jock Tait** wrote his great opus 'The Taking Out of Main HQ'—a success despite the abetment of **LCpl Dixie 'I am a tree' Dixum** and **Sig Randy 'Deerhunter' Randall**.

15 BDE SIG TP
EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

The few weeks before Ex *Flying Falcon* brought a near total change in the management of 15 Bde Sig Tp. The Troop OC, **Capt Bob Brannigan**, has left York for the Rock of Gibraltar, leaving **Capt Mark Pincott** holding the fort. **YofS David Appleyard** has given up the military life for a TV station in St Petersburg, Florida. **YofS Bill Wingate**, fresh from 7 Sig Regt, has moved quickly into what is a very busy job. **SSgt Clive 'Smiles' Blackburn** has taken over from **SSgt Andy Wilson**—now with 55 Sig Sqn (V) in Liverpool. The learning curve for the 'new boys' has been pretty steep, none more so than for **SSgt Blackburn** who joined the troop on exercise in Germany!

The exercise proved to be both fast moving and hard work. Several members found it all too much and chose to sleep through key moments. **Sig 'Titch' Colquitt** missed a convoy of vehicles that drove past only a few feet away from where he was on guard, 'I wasn't sleeping, honest Sir'! **Sig 'Brad' Hartney** managed to sleep through Endex—what a star!

The first few days saw a great deal of activity in the back of the stores truck. Judging from the amount of sawing and hammering coming from that direction, something great was afoot. A detailed recce by the troop 2IC, **Lt Mark Davis**, revealed **Sgt Moss Wright** and **Sig Davy Holmes** putting the finishing touches to the DIY bunk-bed, a masterpiece of heavy engineering!

The exercise also saw the start of a new movement system, in an effort to avoid the usual large and very slow convoys. The idea is to allow vehicles to travel between locations in small groups. **YofS Bill Wingate** seemed particularly troubled by this new system. Comments like 'it bears no resemblance to the map at all' and 'I started counting the bridges then all of a sudden that left turn completely threw me' were to be heard coming from his landrover!!

One other interesting phenomenon was noticed during the exercise. The recce officer, **Lt Mark Davis**, who was always 'out on a recce', did not miss a single meal during the whole exercise. As the aroma of food wafted across the location the recce rover would magically appear!

ROYAL SIGNALS UK ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Having taken up the mantle of the Corps Athletics Regiment, the Regimental team departed for the first meet of the season—the Royal Signals UK Athletics Championships. A somewhat weakened team fought a close contest with the School of Signals and 30 Sig Regt to lose, on the last relay of the day, to 30 Sig Regt. The competition was closely fought throughout—a sure sign that the Corps is not packing! Particularly notable performances came from **LCpl Peter Freeman**, who reversed the result in the 5000 metres to take a revenge victory over **Sig Vile** of 8 Sig Regt in the 1500 metres. **LCpl Jock Milne** emulated David Hemerey with an exciting victory in the 400 metres hurdles while the announcer, **Capt Johnny Rollins**—OC 49 Inf Bde and Sig Tp, supported him with a slightly less accurate simulation of an excited David Coleman.

The frequent reference to 49 Inf Bde Sig Tp's athletes was, says the announcer, due to their athletic excellence and not bias. Well done **LCpl Colin Marsden, Sig Vince 'Violence' Key** and **Sig 'Flub' 'Hammerhead' Harvey. WO2 (RQMS) Pete Dring** showed up those nearly 20 years his junior who have problems with their BFT when he won—albeit in the most boring style (in that he was half a lap ahead)—the 3000 metres steeple chase.

UNIT CANOEING NOTES

Shortly after our success in winning the Army Wild Water Championships last year the work continued in building and training our team for the coming season. During this period we are proud of the fact that four of our team were selected to paddle for the Army in the Inter Services Wild Water Race at Sanquar in Scotland. Unfortunately the RAF team beat the Army but our individual positions were—**RSM Bill White** 16th overall and 6th in the Army, **Sig Dobson** 24th and 10th, **Sig Taff Martin** 26th and 11th with **Sig Slim Collins**, unfortunately, failing to finish.

Our next major competition was the UKLF Slalom Championships which were held at Llandysul South Wales in mid May. The results were:

1st 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt	in 279 secs
2nd 16/5 L	in 382.55 secs
3rd 1WFR	in 382.93 secs

19 major units entered.

Our individual results were also quite creditable in the open competition. **Sig Dobo Dobson** was 6th, the RSM 7th, **Sig Taff Martin** 9th and **Sig Slim Collins** 16th. It is a fact that although **Sig Dobson** got a number of extra duties upon his return to York it had nothing to do with him beating the RSM who, as consolation, won the veterans class.

As well as our paddling successes we also proved our other skills in providing all the central communications for the event with **Cpls Bob Booth** and **Ken Shaw** controlling our six radio stations and giving an excellent service. We must also mention our sheriff **Sgt John Leighton** who as our 'Admin Sgt' worked hard but, having found he didn't miss his guardroom too much, looks like being our regular roadie and a great asset. We may even talk him into a canoe if the good weather stays.

We are now working hard towards the Army Slalom Championships to be held at Bala in North Wales in early June.

210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Elford**
2IC	**Capt Nick Blampied**
OC HQ Tp	**Capt Henry Jennings**
OC O Tp	**Lt Gary Mason**
OC P Tp	**SSgt Gerry Knight**
SSM	**WO2 George Hedge**
YofS	**WO2 Mick Taylor**
FofS	**SSgt Chris Wilkie**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Campbell**
Ch Clk	**Sgt John O'Donnell**

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron has recently said farewell to **Sgt Giles Whiteford** and **Yvonne** who are off to 14 Sig Regt, and **Sgt Taff Griffiths** and **Kim** who are going to attempt the FofS course at Blandford! We are reliably informed that Tech Wksps will be a different place without their sunny smiles. We have also said goodbye to **LCpl Laurie Harrison** (affectionately known as Big Nose) who has left the Service, and to **Cpl Paddy Irwin** and **Sue** who have gone to Berlin.

In return we are pleased to welcome **Sgt John O'Donnell** from SHAPE, **Cpl Steve Beverley** from 1 Inf Bde, **LCpl Kevin Langdale** from AAC Harrogate (making a total of three Kevins in the Workshop!), **LCpl Geoff Crossley**, and **Sig Graham Smith** from our neighbours Training Brigade and **Sig Steve Blunsden** from MOD (PB11). We trust they will all enjoy the 210 experience.

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Airwork Limited

SQMS Mick Campbell has borrowed a clean desk to pose for his photograph. (We suspect it belongs to Lt Gary Mason)

The terrible twins Sgts Giles Whiteford and Taff Griffiths, who have both passed the FofS entrance exam. However, are their bubble memories big enough to cope with the pressure of learning?

'Dempsey and Makepiece'. The RMP Recce Team on tilt having marshalled a convoy

EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

Our annual pilgrimage to BAOR this year provided quite a few interesting moments. Attached to our Recce Group was a new team of RMP who behaved with such style and panache that they were nicknamed **Dempsey** and **Makepiece**! There was never a dull moment in their company.

OC Papa Tp, **SSgt Gerry Knight**, managed to sleep right through his troop's emergency move. When he subsequently phoned his wife **Dawn** and told her the sorry tale she asked him whether this would mean that he would be marched in front of the CO and be 'burst'. Talk about an inflated ego!!

We managed to keep a low profile during the visitor's weekend, but were delighted to learn that both Comd Comms BAOR and GOC 2 Inf Div were to visit us on the day before Endex. The visitors enjoyed their brief tour around the Bde HQ which gave **Yeoman Mick Taylor** a chance to practise his photography.

Maj Gen Yeoman checks his pockets for cigars on touchdown. Maj Tony Elford watches with the look of one who has recently given up the habit

GOC 2 Div, Maj Gen Inge, talking to Sgt Johnny Wykes ACC about the standard of messing in the field. SSM George Hedge is ready with an impromptu firing party if required

SSgt Gerry Knight caught in one of his wide awake poses. Note the 24 Bde tie. (Funny, I didn't think CR's were due yet!)

FOOTBALL

The 210 football team, under control of **Sgt 'Pop' Rivett RAPC** achieved two successes this year: namely competing in the final of their Div 2 Cup Match, and gaining promotion to Div 1 of the Yorkshire Services Football League. Due to various exercise commitments the team was forced to play two matches a week during April and May, this brought out their best performances. We managed to move from the penultimate position to finish third, and thus gain promotion. We look forward to at least one season in Div 1!

Our Cup run included victories over RAF Catterick and 3 Flt AAC whom we beat 3—1. The final was played against AAC Harrogate at home in typical Catterick rain where we threw away a 1—0 lead at half time to lose 3—1.

210 Sig Sqn Football Team 1985
Back Row L—R: Sig Ward, 586 LCpls Young, Brammer, 353 Young, Gibbs, LCpl Herbert RAOC, Cpl Cawley RCT
Front Row L—R: Sgt Burns, Cpl Symon RAOC, LCpl Brunton REME, Sgt Rivert RAPC, Sig Tierney, Cameron

ATHLETICS

SSgt Gerry Knight was charged by the OC with forming an athletics team to compete in the 2 Div Sig Regt competition, and later in the new R Signals UK Athletics Championships at Tidworth. The team, which literally started from scratch, has put on some good performances, notably **SSgt Knight** who found he was a natural shot-putter, and **Sgt Taff Griffiths** whose brute force won him a second position in the discus. We have invested in Squadron tracksuits and vests in order to improve our professional image.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Squadron has the task of providing VHF, HF and BRUIN Umpire communications in Scotland during Ex *Brave Defender*. We look forward to the change in scenery and trust that the Scots will have made due preparations for our arrival. We have been earmarked to take another Squadron group across to Cyprus in April and May 1986. Bids for vacancies should be sent on a £5 note.

RUMOUR CONTROL

The climate in Catterick must be getting warmer as more and more lemons seem to be appearing. **Sgt Mick Rees** has not grown too tubby to go caving on Summer Camp, despite what the tape measure says.

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10th April 1985

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It is the intention of the BKVA to publish a hardback book about the British forces in the Korean War, and in order to meet the publication cost, require 500 pre-publication subscriptions from Veterans, Regimental and Corps Associations, from Allied Korean War Veterans Associations and the general public. The subscription will be £10.50 (£11.50 for outside of the UK) and, in the event it is found that the book cannot be published, all subscriptions will be returned. Those subscribing before 1st July 1985 will have his or her name together with the Ship, Regiment or Corps, or the name of the Association or private subscriber listed in the book. A form is enclosed for this purpose and can be photocopied.

If your Association publishes a journal, a mention of the BKVA book in this would be greatly appreciated. Your members wishing to order the book should send a SAE to me for a subscription form.

As far as possible, the book will be composed of contributions by members of the BKVA. A careful selection will be made of all contributions received. There will be stories of individual experiences as well as of battles, including stories of the Royal Navy and Fleet Air Arm, and will include poems and verse and songs and a selection of previously unpublished photographs.

A very good response has so far been received, but we will need your help to ensure its success, and I ask you to please support the BKVA fund-raising cause.

Yours faithfully,

T. Ashley Cunningham-Boothe,
Joint-Editor.

Enclosure

Trustees:-
Vice Admiral Sir Patrick Bayley KBE, CB, DSC Royal Navy
Major General P.A. Downham CB, DSO, DFC
M.A. Geoghegan Esq. JP
T. Moore Esq.

B.K.V.A. BOOK PROVISIONAL TITLE

BRITISH FORCES IN THE KOREAN WAR

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This order form is open not only to B.K.V.A. members but also to the whole public until 1st July 1985.

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I enclose £10.50 (£11.50 for residents outside U.K.) on the understanding that:

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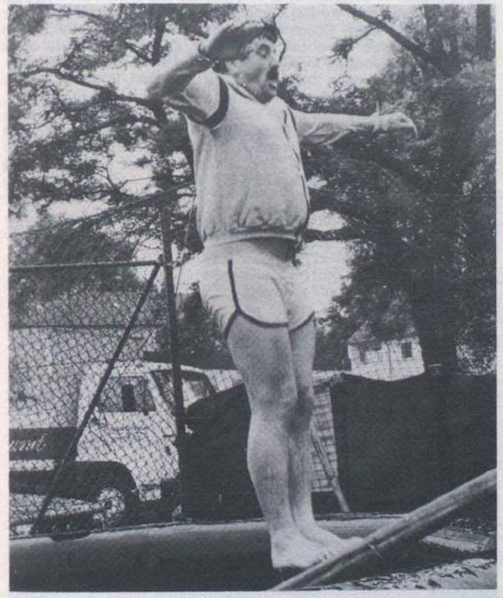
3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

THE MOHNEFEST

Sunday 9 June dawned grey and rainy. As the morning progressed we arose, looked at the weather, and knew without having to check the date that this was the morning of the Mohnefest. This annual fete which lasts all afternoon is sponsored by the Regiment.

Among the attractions this year were the 'your chance to get even' stalls: the ducking stool and the stocks. Here the victims included the CO, 2IC Adjt, various Sqn Comds, Tp Comds, SSgts and many MT personnel. There were a number of stalls selling almost anything from clothing to Bratwurst and at others visitors were able to pit their skills at all manner of games and amusements.



OC3 Squadron, Maj Allan Duncan pleased to reward SSgt George Cook for all his hard work

The entertainment started in the arena at 1400 hrs with the official opening by **Richard (Nankers) Nankivell** from BFBS Radio. Children competed in an assault course competition, races, a fancy dress and a colouring competition.

Despite the weather large numbers of people from Soest Garrison and from the local community were attracted to the Mohnefest. We would like to thank all those who came and supported us.

The Regiment would also like to thank this year's committee: **WO2 Andy Hickling, SSgts Brian Mower, Allen Hindmarsh, Sgts Collin Wilkinson** and **Bob Francis** for all their hard work in planning and running the event and the Lads from 2 Sqn who provided the labour force.

The PTI staff, LCpl MacKintosh, QMSI Sharkey and Cpl Spencer, look confident before the children's assault competition

Sig Daisy Day partaking of 11 NAAFI pies all in aid of charity!

1 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt R. O. N. Evans**
AO	**Lt J. Adam (The Beast)**
OC X Tp	**Lt G. Lewis-Taylor (Hallo sailor)**
OC Y Tp	**Lt T. Rock (BAOR Superstar)**
SSM	**WO2 D. Lumb (Sir Digitdeeper)**
YofS	**SSgt J. Sykes (I wish I could fly)**
SQMS	**SSgt S. Swinfield) (The Bachelors)**
FofS	**SSgt A. Sulivan)**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The Squadron has just deployed for its last (planned!) BRUIN exercise (where else is there time to write *Wire* Notes?) and eagerly awaits the arrival of PTARMIGAN later this year. With manpower for PTARMIGAN already arriving in the Regiment many of the soldiers are on their first exercise. We welcome the arrival of **Cpls Wright, Atkinson, Sig Frew, Richardson, Kinsey, Cox, Cross, Trantrum, Potter, Gosnold, Barclay, Pattinson, Fitzgerald, Dark, Thomas, Egleston, Oldroyd, Robins, McMinn, Castleman** and wish them 'Merry PTARMIGAN.' Those departing include **Cpls Ball, Anderson, Lishman, LCpls Spink**, and **Mathew. LCpl (Old Jo) Matthew** has just completed 27 years service with the British Army. He first served with the Seaforth and Cameron Highlanders for two years. After a period in civilian life he re-enlisted with the Canadian Army where he served for four years, including a tour in Salamanca barracks!! He then transferred to the Corps and recently left the Squadron after completing his 22 year engagement. We wish him good luck on his return to civilian life.

On the management side we welcome **Lt Jim Adam** whose reputation arrived before he did and **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor** who is to be congratulated on his recent marriage to **Capt Cherry Lewis-Taylor** WRAC (née **Hurne-Lewis**). It is rumoured that **Tp SSgt 'X' Ray** is changing his name to **Puckle-Hodds**! In May, we said farewell to **Maj David Bannister** and his wife **Jenny** who had been with the Squadron for 16 months. He is posted to the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate and we wish them both a happy tour there. PB11 have been unable to find a replacement; however, **Capt Richard Evans** has willingly relinquished command of Commcen XRay to assume command until he is posted in August. Other new members of the management team include **SSgts 'Lofty' Gaffney, (The Hulk) Hodds, Sgts Walker, Wales** and **Tillman.**

APRIL FOOL

1 April was a day that **SSgt (YofS) 'Gemima' Sykes** will remember for a long time. He was just obtaining clearance for his final ascent to 30,000ft when he walked into his office and was confronted by a Fiat 127 which was illegally parked. Furthermore, the Techs had installed an additional surprise as, when the office door opened, the car horn which had been ingeniously wired, went off. Without obtaining clearance for his final ascent, the Yeoman took off whilst those nearby were burnt in the back blast.

Meanwhile on the Mohnesee, **Capt Evans** was taking part in an April Fool's day sweepstake competition. The ice had only melted four days earlier. The chattering of teeth could be herd in Salamanca Barracks.

KRYPTON FACTOR COMPETITION

One of the highlights of our busy social calendar in April was a Krypton Factor Competition organised by **Sgt (Mastermind) Brice** ably assisted by **Cpl (The Entertainer) Ball** and **Cpl 'Bunny' Childs**. The assault course event was pre-recorded on a video with a lively commentary by **Cpl Ball** who has undoubtedly missed his vocation in life. There were two team members representing each Troop as follows:

SHQ Tp	**Cpl Neal, Sig Leggett**
XRay Tp	**Sgt Keith, LCpl Dobson**
Yankee Tp	**Cpl Marritt, LCpl Elborn**
2nd Line	**LCpl Soloman, Sig Fraser**

Full marks to the FofS for the intricate buzzer system which was devised in 1 Line Wksps. It was amazingly simple. When the questions were asked and participants knew the answer they held up a card saying 'I know' above their heads. We now know why FofS are on Band 6! The competition was won by SHQ Tp.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the following on recent promotions:

WO2 (SSM) Lumb (anybody with information on **WO1 Lumb**'s posting should contact Enkesen Mil 519), **LCpl (I like the Army) Cross** to Cpl and **Sig 'Sammy' Johnstone, 'Stan' Haynes (again and again), 'Tony' Manktelow, 'Brian' Barr, 'James' McRoberts,** and **'Robbo' Robertson** to LCpl.

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS

On return from Ex *Flying Falcon* it was time for the Squadron's athletes to swop BCH for training shoes and become instant superstars. It could not have been a worse day for a Regimental Athletics meet but despite the atrocious conditions, the Squadron took a large share of the medals and were overall winners. Special mention must go to **Lt Tony Rock** who captained the team, **WO2 (SSM) Lumb** (Team Manager), **SSgt Hodds, LCpls Dobson, Massey, Nutley, Sig Leggett** and **Cowan** for their fine contribution. Good luck in the Morrison Cup.

NORDIC SKIING

Considering most of the teams were first or second year skiers the Regimental Nordic Team had a successful year. After a six week training programme in Norway, which included Exercises *Viking Loipe* and *Night Quadrant*, we were fit, lean and ready to take on the skiing world. With little snow in Fulpmes, Austria, it was a minor miracle that we ever managed to complete the Divisional Meeting. However complete it we did, gaining sixth place. This result sealed our passage to the Army Championships and a 200 mile 'cabby' east to Zwiesel. On the drive east **Cpl 'Dent a car' Dean** was again outstanding, managing to ditch his Ford on at least two occasions.

The hard icy snow made skiing difficult and at times a little frightening. Competition was fierce but we finished a creditable 15th, our best result being 10th in the Biathlon relay. Members of the team included **Lt Tony Rock, Cpl Banzai Rigg, LCpls Steve James** and **Ned 'I'm only here for the medals' Kelly**, and **Sig Steve Lloyd** and **Tich 'Golden Blanket' Maidment**. Special mention must be made of **Sig 'I've hit the wrong target again' Clay** who has had an oustanding season. By the way **Nick** you still owe the team 12 crates!

Note: If by chance any Norwegians, Austrians or Germans read *The Wire*, **'Dent a car'** will be on the roads from December-February 1986. Insure yourself now!

ALPINE TEAM

After a gap of a few years the Regiment entered an Alpine Team for the Divisional Championships with little clue as to its possible 'form'. The team was fortunate to be able to train for six weeks in Fulpmes, Austria (skiing on the Stubaital Glacier) prior to the races and by the arrival of **Cpl 'Rip' Atkinson** whose wealth of experience not to mention sardonic wit helped shape the 'grockles' into racers. The rest of the squad were **LCpls 'Mons' Donnelley, 'Dobbo' Dobson, Mike Nutley, Ian Elborn, Sig Phil Green** and OC **Lt Andy Higgs**.

The first event was the Individual Grant Slalom which despite the sheet ice (an enduring feature of all the Schlick races) was negotiated with a varying degree of success. **Cpl Atkinson** gave notice of his ability with a fine first place, unfortunately in the next day's Team GS he tried to make his own course and was disqualified, however, **LCpls Donnelley, Dobson** and **Nutley** fought back to take second place for the team. It was at this stage we noticed mutterings from the other competitors—'who *are* 3 ADSR'. The Downhill which followed was nearly a disaster. During the training runs **LCpl Dobson** tried repeatedly to gain earth orbit over a nasty ridge and was lucky to walk away from a bad fall in the race which left his skis with right angle bends in them—the gate keeper had disappeared to get the 'blood bucket'! The OC tried a repeat performance but ended up 40m away off the course surrounded by some confused punters from the adjacent piste. **LCpl Donnelly** convinced that he and 'Fransk' were one, left the course at speed and spent five minutes studying nature in a nearby bush. **Cpl Atkinson** eager to make amends scored his second win and aided by **LCpl Nutley** (despite tangling with a fence) and **LCpl Elborn** won a third place for the team. The individual Slalom was an off day for **Cpl Atkinson** as a series of misfortunes cost him the Alpine Combination Trophy but a 12th, and 13th by **LCpls Elborn** and **Donnelly** respectively boded well for the next day's Team Slalom. The three above, with the OC as fourth man, all kept upright and won the Team's first Trophy and second place in the Alpine Combination with a place in the Army Championship the following week.

The team for the Army meet was **Atkinson, Donnelly, Elborn** and **Nutley**. All skied well in the tough competition and two 12ths plus a ninth gained us an eighth overall in the combination. A very creditable result for a brand new team. A special note must be made of **Cpl Atkinson** who was selected for the Army Team and **LCpl Elborn** who won the Michael Pearse Trophy as the most outstanding new Royal Signals skier. Finally a big thank you to **Cpl 'Basi' Jones** of 2 Royal Irish (RLD) for his excellent instruction and guidance in training. We will be back!

2 SQUADRON

During the last two months we have been busy squirrelling away tropies from Regimental competitions. In early April the inter-squadron cross country race was won by the indomitable 2nd. Although it was a team effort involving everyone, **Cpls Ned Kelly, Dixie Dean, Sig 'Big Eddie' Edwards** and **SSgt Stu Bromidge** did particularly well finishing 1st, 10th, 13th and 16th respectively. A special mention should also be made of our trainer **SSM Andy Hickling**. Later that month the Squadron tug-of-war team swept all before in winning the inter-squadron competition without conceding a pull. The team, coached by **Cpl Tom Holmes**, comprised **Cpls Bill Flemington, Kip Hearns, Taff Thomas** and **Larry Parkes** and **LCpls Titch Anderson, Brian Chinn, Desmond Donnelly, Bob Oliver** and **Dave Luck**. Then in early May the Squadron SLR team distinguished itself at the Regimental SAAM. **Cpls Dixie Dean, Kip Hearns, Taff Thomas** and **LCpls Titch Anderson** and **Andy Evans** aided and abetted by **Sig 'Gloria' Whitehead** won the team prize, four of them won the falling plate and **LCpl Andy Evans** won the best B Class and best overall prizes.

The Squadron welcomes **Sgt Phil Crowther, LCpls Andy Coughlan, Brian Chinn** and **John Lynch** and **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** and **George Roper** and their respective families. We must also bid farewell to **Sig 'Big Eddie' Edwards, Thomo Thomson** and **'Coops' Cooper** who have left us on posting, **LCpl Cliff Barker** who leaves the army shortly and finally to **2Lt Mark Finneran** who, we hope, found his way to Munster without mishap.

3 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Major Allan Duncan**
2IC	**Capt David Vardy**
SSM	**WO2 Robert Atkinson**
OC N	**Lt Steve May**
OC P	**Lt Kit Lewis**
SSgt N	**SSgt Don Chester**
SSgt P	**SSgt George (The Note) Cook**
YofS	**SSgt Tim Langford**
Tech	**SSgt Thomas Whately**

Since we last appeared in these pages there have been many changes in the Squadron. Most obvious of these is a phenomenal turnover in personnel. To list everybody would take too long so we simply say farewell to those who have left and welcome to our new arrivals.

Since January we have been hard at work maintaining, training and exercising. Due to the arrival of PTARMIGAN 'some time soon' we have to fit in all our training for the year into a few short months. We have already completed our exercise commitment for the year, and now have 'nothing' to do, although we wouldn't admit this officially.

Ex *Flying Falcon*. Preparing for the Hameln crossing

FARAWAY PLACES!

— UNUSUAL JOBS!

SEND US THAT STORY

Sig Garrett, loving owner of 1×432GTI, about to open the sunroof

SUMMER (ADVENTURE TRAINING) CAMP

Revelling in our free time we have already completed a highly successful 'Summer' Camp, **Lt Steve May** was heard to comment that someone somewhere had mixed-up the seasons whilst he wasn't looking. We would have had a full photo-report on the venture, but OC 3 Sqn is still trying to find a photo that doesn't have him clutching a beverage, or being taught the finer points of poker (he's only a beginner).

As this goes to press the Squadron has just completed all the hard work necessary for such events as the Queen's Birthday Parade and the annual Mohnefest fete afternoon, and we look forward to an 'enlightening' time on the Regimental Battle Camp at Voglesang. So, meanwhile, some unanswered questions:

Will **SSgt Phil Atherton**'s operation make him a whole man again?
Who will notice the difference first?
Will the Staff ever learn left from right?
Will it be in time, will it matter?
Will **WPte 'The Brigadier' Gannon** finally get a grip of the Troop OCs and their outstanding 2066's?
How will **SSgt Don Chester** pay for that canoe?
Does grey brick hessian need planning permission?

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 17

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj M. J. McKinlay**
2IC	**Capt D. M. Steele**
OC Sp Tp	**Lt C. M. Clark**
OC Comms Tp	**Lt E. M. Flint**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) O'Rourke**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Hammett**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Robinson**
SQMS	**SSgt Wing**

EXERCISES

These have been many and various since our last report. Together with the rest of BAOR, we fought through *Spearpoint* and *Javelin* but we had to contend with the *Hard Rat* series of exercises dreamed up by our previous OC, **Maj John Griffin**.

Hard Rat II was the adventurous training exercise based in Sonthofen, Bavaria and the activities included high level trekking in the snow (this in July!), climbing and abseiling, canoeing (which included a run on the Olympic slalom course in Augsburg) and windsurfing. **Sig Carl Rose** wil not forget the canoeing in a hurry as he did most of it upside down. **SSgt John Sture** learned that there is more to climbing than dangling on the end of a rope and **Sgt Clyde Atherley** discovered how high and steep some Bavarian peaks are. The book at the top of the Entschenkopt bears witness to those who made it to there. This exercise was followed by a Regimental Battle Camp in Vogelsang where the RPC led by **Sgt Phil Pullen** did their 'thing' and provided an excellent enemy for the rest of the Squadron. The SQMS, **SSgt Colin Wing**, and his band of range officials reckon that they ought to be excused BFT and CFT for the rest of the year after the number of times they had to run up and down the SLR assault course.

The next exercise was *Hard Rat III* the patrol cup competition which included detachment skills, military skills, shooting and, finally the decider, the assault course. After a close fought battle, the winning section was that **Cpl John Dallison**'s and included **LCpls Daryl Campbell, Neil Wheatley, John Jones, Sig Barty Bartlett, 'JJ' Jennings, 'Officer' Dibble** and **'Rosie' Rose.**

Hard Rat IV was the shock, a complete and utter surprise to half the Squadron. A cadre course had spent the previous week learning survival techniques and were ready to go on a week's escape and evasion exercise on the Monday morning. At 0400 hrs on the Saturday morning, when the Sergeants' Mess was still in full swing, we called in on a bogus alert exercise. After being captured, searched and generally abused following shock attack, they found themselves in a POW camp in the middle of the Sauerland, 100 miles from home. **LCpl Dave Keevash**'s call up for the Garrison rugby team was delayed and a lot of shopping postponed as everyone from the 2IC downwards escaped and evaded for the next few days. The cadre stayed out for a week living on mushrooms although a few of the more enterprising had schnitzels with theirs!

Winners of the Patrol Cup 1985
Back Row: Sig 'Barty' Bartlett, 'Rosie' Rose, 'JJ' Jennings, LCpl Neil Wheatley, Cpl John Dallison (Patrol Comd)
Front Row: LCpl Daryl Campbell REME, Sig 'Officer' Dibble, LCpl John Jones

SPORT

The Squadron continues its success with winning the Morrison Cup again this year. Some notable performances from **Sig 'Stan the man' Staniford, LCpl Dave Keevash** and **Sgt Charlie Abbott**. The rugby team not only won the Inter Squadron Trophy but are now in the final of the Division Minor Units Cup. Other victories in the inter-squadron competition include tennis and basketball with no-one willing to take on our boxers!

VISITS

These have been frequent and the roll of honour includes the outgoing GOC **Maj Gen A. F. Walker** and his successor **Maj Gen D. J. Ramsbotham CBE**. Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig R. F. L. Cook**, met us all on the detachment skills' day and **Maj Gen J. H. Hild** said farewell to us in the field.

Our affiliation with **Capt Ron Sinclair** and his ACF Troop continues with their visit in November. They had an enjoyable time visiting the Squadron and other Brigade units. The night exercise tested them. They left having learned a lot and are eager to return next year.

FAREWELLS

Since the last report, almost a third of the Squadron has 'turned over'. The OC, **Maj John Griffin**, who has gone to the Joint Service Defence College at Greenwich and we wish him all the best. He has had a great influence on us with an emphasis on fitness, fun and military training. **YofS Len Harvey** has gone to 22 Sig Regt on promotion to WO1 and we hope that he and **Annette** enjoy their new posting. **SSgt (FofS) Tony Brend** left for Berlin and is apparently enjoying the rest. **Lt Neil Gibson** has left for Catterick and is reportedly trying to learn to fly helicopters.

WELCOMES

We welcome the new OC, **Maj Malcolm McKinlay** and we hope that he and his wife enjoy their tour. His arrival from the Royal Marines probably means a lot more 'tabbing' ahead! A new YofS, **WO2 Hammett** will help **Lt Calum Clark** to run a good hockey team whilst **Lt Ted Flint** has seen the light and has joined us from the Regiment. **SSgt FofS Phil Robinson** has started to computerise the Squadron since his arrival, so PTARMIGAN holds no mysteries for us.

FOOTNOTE

Special mention must be made of our Squadron Cyclists, **Cpls Clive Britten, 'Chippy' Wood** and **Sig Nick Kent** who tackled the extremely arduous Pyreneen Ride this summer. They were supported by **Lt Calum Clark, Sgt Ron Wilbraham, Cpls Chris Little** and **Paul Tuite**. Only our veteran cyclist **Cpl Clive Britten** made it to the end but the others made a first class attempt.

Ex *Raid Pyreneen*—Cracked It!
Cpl Clive Britten at the end of his 96 hour ride from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean through the major passes of the French Pyrenees

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

The Ladies' Dinner Night
The Men: SSgt John Mackay (Ex 202), Sgts John Reid, Paul Rylance, SSgt Dave Gaffney, Sgts Jim Croft, Jim McLeod, SSgt Bill Magee, Sgt Chris Warnes, WO2 (YofS) Steve Watson, SSgt (FofS) Jim Martin, SSgt Pete Alves, WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence, WO2 (YofS) Clive Copestake, Maj Gordon Hughes, Lt Nick Metcalfe, Capt Ted Banham, Mr Bill Marsden (Ex 202), Lt Alan Madsen, Sgts Paddy Grinnell, Mal Colclough, Kerpil Singh, John Webb, SSgt (SQMS) Ron Woodger, Sgt Dave Kerr, SSgt (FofS) John Mayson
The Ladies: Mrs Rose Mackay, Mrs Maureen Reid, Mrs Anne Gaffney, Mrs Marie McLeod, Mrs Young (guest), Mrs Lynn Watson, Mrs Doreen Alves, Mrs Jean Licence, Mrs Liz Hughes, Mrs Jan Banham, Mrs Sue Madsen, Mrs Kath Colclough, Mrs Jacky Singh, Mrs Pauline Webb, Mrs Ulrike Woodger, Mrs Thora Mayson, Mrs Geisla Marsden

BOXING
ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) INTER UNIT TEAM NOVICE BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1985

After a gap of 23 years the competition to find the best Corps Novice boxing unit in BAOR was resurrected this season. The two teams who competed in the final held at Herford on Saturday 11 May were 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt (who had defeated 21 Sig Regt eight bouts to one in the semi-final) and 16 Sig Regt (who defeated 22 Sig Regt five bouts to four in their semi-final).

16 Sig Regt were the pre-match favourites by virtue of their success in the BAOR Championships where they were defeated at the semi-final stage by the eventual winners. However the forecast was for a very close result, and that is exactly how it turned out after an exciting and very skillful match between two well prepared teams.

With a packed gymnasium and the band of the 1 Battalion Royal Scots in attendance everything was set for the boxers to decide the outcome.

The first bout at bantamweight saw **Sig McCabe** of 16 Regt win a well deserved unanimous points decision againt **LCpl Davies**.

The second bout between **LCpl Griffiths** of 4 Regt and **Sig Copley** from 16 Regt at featherweight was a very even contest, until late in the third round **Copley** was forced to take a standing count. **Griffiths** thinking he had his opponent at a disadvantage went in to finish him off and walked into a barrage of blows which in turn saw him down on the canvas. Although he recovered to finish the round he could not make up the deficit and **Copley** gained a well deserved majority decision.

Bout number three turned out to be the bout of the night between **Sig Garrett** of 4 Regt and **Sig Gunn** of 16 Regt. Both boxers displayed a high degree of skill and fitness, punching hard and cleanly throughout. Neither boxer was able to dominate for any amount of time and any advantage went first one way then the other. In the end **Gunn's** non-stop aggression succeeded in gaining him a majority decision.

4 Regt's **LCpl Winship** stopped 16's winning run by defeating **Sig Richardson** at lightwelter, and **Sig Bolton** made it 2-3 in favour of 16 Regt by the interval, by beating **Sig Evans** on points at lightmiddleweight.

After the interval 4 Regt drew level, three bouts each, when **LCpl Horobin** gained a unanimous points decision over **Sig Bausor**. **LCpl Horobin** boxed a well controlled bout with his crisper, cleaner punching and greater variety of combinations making the difference.

Sig Todd restored 16 Regt's lead by beating a courageous **LCpl Stewart** on points. Although **Todd** was obviously the stronger, better boxer, **Stewart** refused to give in despite being knocked down three times in the last two rounds.

Unfortunately, before the heavyweight bout could really get started a left hook from **Pte Martin** produced a nasty gash on the eyelid of **LCpl Brown** from 16 Regt and the MO had no hesitation in advising the referee to stop the bout. That meant the score was four bouts each and only the welterweights to come.

Both boxers received a tremendous reception from their respective supporters as they made their way to the ring, and throughout the three very tiring rounds. **Cpl Thompson** from 4 Regt was the taller and made full use of his height and reach advantage whilst his opponent **Sig Douglas** worked extremely hard trying to get inside and hook to head and body; often forcing **Cpl Thompson** to back-pedal and give ground.

At the end **Cpl Thompson** earned a unanimous points win to give the Championship to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, who were in fact defending the title they had won in 1962. Both teams were given a standing ovation as they paraded in the ring at the end of the competition.

Jubilation! Cpl Thompson wins the Welterweight bout and the Championship for 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Presenting the prizes **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**, Comd Comms BAOR, praised all the boxers for their effort, skill and fitness, in particular **Sig Garrett** (4 Regt) and **Sig Gunn** (16 Regt) for producing the best, and closest, fight of the evening, and also **LCpl Stewart** (4 Regt) for the most courageous performance of all. Although it was sad that there had to be a loser in such a hard, closely fought match, 16 Sig Regt could be proud of their team and likewise 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt who were worthy champions.

1 SQUADRON
SECRET RUGBY TRAINING BRINGS VICTORY

We were particularly keen to win the Inter-Squadron 7-a-side Rugby Competition on 30 April 1985. Ex *Flying Falcon* interrupted any form of training programme, so training was done on the exercise. This culminated in generator moving by Golf Troop on the infamous burial-mound feature. After much effort the Squadron team won the competition.

The 1 Sqn Team—*Back Row:* Lt Vickery, Sgt Emmerson, LCpl Gregory, Cpls Matless, Brown; *Front Row:* SSgt Hibbert, Cpls Lang, Keller and Sgt Miller

LCPL PAUL GOSTLING

It is with much regret that the death of **LCpl Paul Martin Gostling** is announced. **Paul** was killed in a road traffic accident whilst on duty in the early hours of 15 May 1985. He had only recently joined 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt from Harrogate, but in his very short time in Herford, had made many friends and had shown that he was a highly skilled and competent technician with a bright future ahead of him. Our sincere condolences go to his family in their tragic loss.

Rugby training with 16/24KVA generator on Ex *Flying Falcon*

Cpl Keller receiving the 7's Rugby Trophy from the CO, Lt Col R. A. Wright

200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN
EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

As most of you are aware Ex *Flying Falcon* started on 15 April; for everyone except this Squadron. Courtesy of the combined efforts of the RCT Movements Branch and the Bundesbahn we began a wee bit late.

On arriving in Marbug the formidable trio of **Lt Charlie Miller, SSgts Geoff Armstrong** and **Nobby Hall** burst into the Freight Office and announced in words similar to those uttered by the immortal John Wayne: 'We've come for our panzers'! (well almost). The hopeful initial reaction from the 'chef' of: 'You're from 20 Bde Sig Sqn yes?' was soon smashed by another time worn phrase . . . 'Ah yes there's a problem . . . they're still in Kassel Goods Yard and not expected to be here until tomorrow'.

We took all this remarkably well until he added 'maybe that is'. So for the first 24 hrs 200 Sig Sqn Main HQ was still mobile. Luckily the first location had huge haybarns which accommodated the crews comfortably until the Germans could give us our panzers back.

Sig Dave Watts deserves special mention; this was his debut exercise as part of Alternative Headquarters Line Det. He will always remember how a wheel from his landrover overtook him . . . What he had against the German road post is anybody's guess. The final straw came when he nearly pinned **SSgt Geoff Armstrong** up against a wall whilst manoeuvreing a landrover. Alas young **Watts** has been banned before we ran out of landrovers in the Squadron.

STOP PRESS . . . **Sgt Geordie Maughan** is now planning to run self-immolation courses free of charge after setting himself alight on the exercise with a cigarette.

Moral. 'Smoking can damage your health'.

EXERCISE *SCARLET PIMPERNEL*

Whilst exercising on *Flying Falcon* the Squadron was also supporting two other simultaneous exercises. Ex *Scarlet Pimpernel* was a Divisional Recce Concentration Exercise designed to test the Divisional Recce elements. Not only did the Squadron provide communications and umpire vehicles for the exercises but 'enemy' vehicles enhanced with ingenious applications of imagination.

These concurrent exercises left us short of Staff 432 vehicles. This caused much amusement when we started 'swinging' vehicles from one location to another to give VIP Visitors something larger to see than a one vehicle complex surrounded by concertina barbed wire.

DETMOLD COMMCEN

We finally have some news from the busiest commcen in BAOR—according to **Sgt Guy Richards** and his commcen crew. Firstly, on the sporting scene, **Pte Alison Spencer**, 'the fencer', has excelled herself at fencing and has come second in the Womens BAOR Individual Championship, She has now gone forward to represent the Army in the Combined Services Team.

LCpl Sharon Kent who seems to have only just arrived has been posted out to the Falklands. It must have been that excellent 2066 the OC Troop wrote which got you such a plum posting.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

The Squadron has seemingly undergone a major facelift over the last few months. Many of the old timers have at last gone and these are:

Cpl Mack McCafferty to AAC Harrogate, **Sig Geordie Cockburn** to 16 Sig Regt, **WPte Paula Hammett** to 2 Sqn 10 Sig Regt, **LCpl Steve Franklin** to 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **LCpl Stuart Archer** to 22 Sig Regt, **WPte Leanne Fasham** to 4 Sqn 16 Sig Regt.

NEWLY ARRIVED

WPtes Carole Duncan, Debbie Jenkins, Sig David Watts, Richard Batten, Simon Neves, Jeremy Mettes, John Seaman, Martin Avins, Cfn Paul Cation, LCpls Ian Ewen, Gareth Pope and **Mark Campbell**.

CONGRATULATIONS—BIRTHS AND PROMOTIONS

LCpl Howarth is beaming from ear to ear at the moment; in one week he received his Lance Corporal's tape and his wife gave birth to their daughter **Tara Howarth**.

LCpl Steve Franklin is also beaming as his Posting Order arrived almost simultaneously with his overdue baby. Both **Sharon** and baby **Joanne** are well and we wish him and his family all the best in his new unit 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Tidworth. **LCpl Northeast** and his wife **Sylvia** are also very happy with the arrival of their baby girl **Suzanne**.

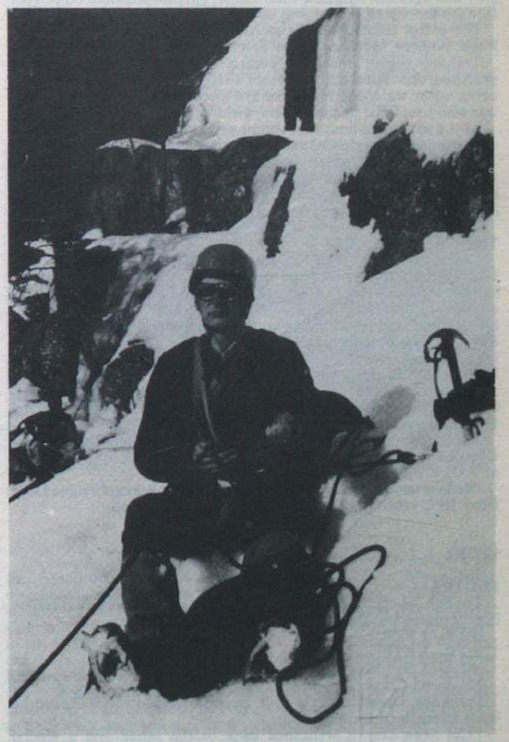
SPORT

GOLF

On the 4 April the sun shone for the 4 Div Sig Regt Golf competition. Because of exercise commitments there were only 12 competitors but they all enjoyed a fine day's golf. We began in the morning with the medal competition with **Sgt Scott** retaining the Rose Bowl and **Sgt Brian Innes** winning the high handicap. In the afternoon it was a greensome stableford competition with **Sgts Brian Innes** and **John Fitzgerald** RPC winning the Bradley Trophy on a countback with 35 points.

COURSES

There haven't been any courses available for some time now. Rumour has it that **Lt James Harris** has a monopoly on all of them. Last time I spoke to him he was thinking about leave as well! He has recently finished an arduous snow and ice climbing course in Norway and apart from the 'female' Instructor he has said little to endear the courses to anyone else. The photograph below is actually a waterfall in the warmer months. His dazed expression may be excused as he had, only moments before, been struck on his nose (well it is large . . .) by a falling block of ice. **Lt Harris** is currently looking for volunteers to go on a climbing/hiking expedition to Canada in the summer and is badly in need of instructors and students with a large amount of money to part with and life insurance.



EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

The Squadron deployed on Ex *Flying Falcon* on the morning of 18 April. As is usual on long road moves the weather was appalling but everyone made it to the exercise area without incident. As the format of the exercise is well known to all only two highlights of the exercise are recorded.

The first is the Officers/SNCOs vs The Toms football match. This was held on the static weekend and was a hard fought contest, as usual, with the Officers/SNCOs staying on top throughout even under the dirty, fouling attack of the Toms led by **LCpl Dave Hindly** and **Cpl Kev Winkles**. **SSgt Ron Woodger** was continually bullied in defence. **Sig Nigel Medford** and **Sean Lawes**—wearing one football boot each—dominated the left wing of the Toms attack but due to the previously unrecognised talent of **Sgt Jim McLeod** the score just before the final whistle was 5-4 in favour of the Officers/SNCOs.

However, realising that a loss would be damaging to morale of the Toms, **Sgt Paddy Grinnell** scored a terrific own goal quickly followed by the winning own goal scored in style by **SSgt Ron Woodger**. All in all an enjoyable, fairly fought contest.

Just prior to the bridge crossing in the latter part of the exercise, it was revealed that a team of young, fit soldiers were to take part in a 'Frog Patrol' to clear the area of the bridge of mines and obstacles. The initial briefing took place 72 hrs before the patrol was due to be completed. The outline plan was given by the OC, **Maj Gordon Hughes**, **SSgt Ron Woodger** and **SSgt Bill Magee REME**, demonstrated the equipment—NBC kit, respirator, oxygen bottles etc—and **Sgt John Reid**, the team leader, gave information on current flow, moon states and general weather conditions.

The patrol consisted of **LCpl Andy Terry** (NCO I/C), **Sig Dave Pook**, **Andrew Moffett**, **Ashley Johnstone** and **Pte Andy Thornton**.

Training began, under the control of **Sgt Reid**, with the team practising search techniques around a skip. To simulate darkness and being under water the respirator eye pieces were blacked out. (This was also beneficial to the camera wielding audience.)

At the appointed hour the 'volunteers' climbed aboard the leading 432 commanded by the OC and the Squadron moved off to the bridge. The four intrepid patrollers prepared to leap into the water but halted when it was obvious that the water flow was too fast. The team were bitterly disappointed at being unable to complete the mission—but definitely proved themselves game for a laugh.

THE CADRE COURSE

Cadre Course 85 was run from 27 March-4 April 1985. This involved both instructional and testing elements. They were instructed in Military Law/Geneva Convention, Minor Tactics, Drill, Methods of Instruction, First Aid and NBC. The first week was mainly instructional and ended in a two day battle-camp run by **Sgts John Reid** and **Paul Rylance**. During the battle-camp all the theory was put into practice, leadership was assessed and the instructors began looking for the best student.

The second week concentrated on the testing of the students, delivery of lecturettes (who picked those titles?) and a return to the drill square to practise for the Pass Off parade.

The Parade itself took place on a sunny Thursday morning and was taken by the Bde Comd. **Brig E. M. Westropp CBE** with the Band of 1 QLR playing throughout.

The best student was **LCpl (now Cpl) Richard Sykes** with **Pte Dave Olive RPC** coming a close second.

SPORT

FOOTBALL

The Sqn XI continue to fight hard in the League. The recent results bear testimony to the continued strength of the team:

202 4—3 RTR 2
202 0—3 RTR 1
202 4—5 Ord Bn 1
202 4—65 Corps Sp Sqn RE 2

Pte Andy Thornton is the only recent arrival in the team and he lends strength to the back four.

LCpl Sean Day is welcomed back to the squad and a special mention should go to **LCpl Mick Hughes** for his superb performance in the recent match against 65 Corps Sp Sqn RE.

The team will be sorry to lose **LCpl Mel Clark** who has a 100% record on penalties.

SQUASH

The Squadron squash team captained by **Capt Ted Banham** are the current BAOR and 4 Armd Div Minor Units Runners Up. On both occasions the team was unfortunately defeated 3—2 by 6 Ord Bn. A special mention has to go to **WO1 (SSM) David Bradley** (No 1 Seed) and **SCM Mitch Micheson** (No 5 Seed) who have remained undefeated through the season.

ARRIVALS/FAREWELLS

Does the turnover ever slow? More farewells, this time to **Cpl Pete Jackson**, **LCpls Ed Edminson**, **Mel Clark** and **Sig Sean Lawes** all of whom are off to various units in UK. We must not forget our Pioneer section who lose three members: **Ptes John O'Meally**, **John Harvey** and **Willy Willmott**.

In turn we say welcome to **Sig Dave Pook** and his wife, **Julia**, **Sig Paul Dean** and his wife, **Manuela**, **Sig Andrew Moffett**, **Ashley Johnstone** and **Ian Stringer** and **Pte Andy Thornton**. We hope you all have an enjoyable tour in Paderborn.

MORRISON'S ACADEMY

As the school prepares to celebrate its 125th birthday it continues to provide education for boys and girls from Primary 1 - Secondary 6. Of its 850 pupils 200 are in the Primary and 300 are Boarders (from Primary 4).

The school prepares secondary pupils primarily for the Scottish Higher Grade examination though the post-higher work includes CSYS, A level, Associated Board work in Music, Portfolio preparation in Art while RSA examinations in typing are taken at different stages. Results in all external examinations have been highly commendable.

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SUMMER FETE

The Summer Fete was held in Maresfield Barracks on Saturday 1 June 1985. It was preceded by some very hard work by the PRI **Capt Derek Wood** who was given the job of organising it shortly after his arrival from 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt in March.

The Fete was opened by **Janet Ellis**, the Presenter of the popular BBC Children's TV Show 'Blue Peter'. There was a free fall parachute display, a military band, two pipers from Gurkha Signals, a karate demonstration from the local Anglo German Club and the police dogs from RAF Gutersloh were put through their paces by their Handlers.

There was a variety of amusement stalls organised by Squadrons and Departments. The most popular were the stocks and the ducking stool masterminded by **SSgt 'Mo' Harkins** of 4 Sqn. Ample opportunity was taken for pelting well known personalities with wet sponges or depositing them into the water. **Janet Ellis** picked out the 'Buried Treasure' Stall of **Sig Tony Pears** of 1 Sqn as the best stall, winning him a prize of 100 Marks.

Undoubtedly the main attraction of this year's Fete was the glorious weather. The sun shone all day and temperatures shot up into the eighties. The Beer Tents run by **Sgt Rod Morton** and **Cpl 'Alfie' Rowlinson-Bates**, and the Tea Garden run by **Mrs Wendy Wood** and the Wives' Club ladies did a roaring trade. The Grand Raffle, organised by **Capt Derek Wood** and **Sgt Tom Moran**, was a great success. The star prize of a video/TV/stereo unit was won by **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Carpenter**.

It was a good afternoon out for all the members of the Regiment and the local German Community who came along. Over DM 12,000 was raised for British and German Charities.

Janet Ellis presenting Sig Tony Pears with his prize for winning the best stall competition

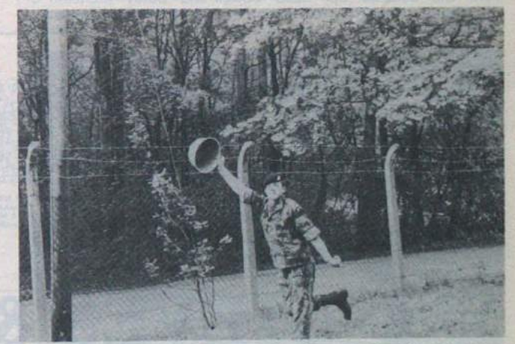
Janet Ellis speaking to the Commander of an Armoured Vehicle after presenting him with a plaque for taking part in the Summer Fete. 2Lt Paul Peel looks on

FOCUS ON HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

OC	**Maj 'Paddy' Byrne**
2IC	**Capt Derek Wood**
QMT	**Maj Colin Stephens**
QMA	**Maj Allan Davies**
TOT	**Capt Peter Smurthwaite**
MTO	**Capt John Kirkman**
OC LAD	**Capt Mike Heelis**
SCO	**Lt Mark Beardsell**
SSM	**WO2 Roger Minty**
SQMS	**SSgt Alan Culton**

March and April were busy months for the Squadron as indeed they were for the Regiment, with two Major Exercises. **Dvr George Formby** will have cause to remember Ex *Wintex*. We knew that he might have some affinity with his famous namesake when he told the Sqn Comd that he had just been reported for over-taking a police car in a 'No Overtaking' zone. Several nights later he was on sentry duty when the Squadron was located in a wood. It was a very dark night. The watchkeeper **Sgt Goodacre** first became aware that something was wrong when **George** rang up to say that five unidentified men were approaching the guardpost. He was told to challenge and identify them. On replacing the 'phone **Sgt Goodacre** decided to go outside the Command post and investigate further. On stepping out of the vehicle he found **George** just arriving.

When he discovered that the unidentified men were five wild pigs filled with a strong curiosity to find out what **George** was doing there in the middle of the night, **George** decided that discretion was the better part of valour and retreated rapidly to the CP leaving the pigs in possession of his 'phone and his guard post. Indeed the efforts of **Sgt Goodacre** to pursuade the pigs to go away were unsuccessful and they remained their until curiosity was satisfied. However, the next night the honour of the RCT was redeemed when the 'porkers' accompanied by more of their friends came back to have more fun with the guard, they met their match. **Dvr 'Jonah' Jones** was ready for them. It was the pigs turn to retreat rapidly when he threw a bucket of soapy water over them. We are not sure whether this action is in breach of the Geneva Convention for Chemical warfare but it was instantly effective. The pigs were not seen again.



Dvr 'Jonah' Jones demonstrating how he chased off the pigs that attacked Echelon during Ex *Crested Eagle*

Ex *Flying Falcon* will also be remembered by certain members of the Squadron. **Sgt Jack Goodacre** and **SSgt John Mountcastle** discovered that it isn't very easy to map read your way into locations without maps. They are both nominated for the next Map Reading Course. At one location the owner very kindly allowed us to use his toilet. With up to 70 men in location it was very important to work out the best time to use the toilet without having to queue. **Capt John Kirkman** decided that it was during breakfast. He was correct. He arrived and there was not a soul to be seen. Having accomplished his mission in peace and quiet he prepared to depart. He turned the key to unlock the door and it refused to budge. He exerted more pressure on the key and it broke in two pieces. Now his careful planning turned against him. There was nobody outside the door to whom he could communicate his plight. There was a small window high up on the massive wall and he was on the first floor of the building. He looked out and to his delight he saw his MT Sgt, **Ray Lampard.** He waved and **Sgt Lampard** waved back in a friendly fashion. Eventually he was made aware of the MTO's plight. OC LAD **Capt Mike Heelis** was

summoned and accompanied by many curious and amused onlookers went to investigate. His advice was that the owner be sent for. The owner arrived eventually and departed again. Ten minutes later he was back with the Master key and the MTO was released amid scenes of great rejoicing.

Also on Ex *Flying Falcon* **Cpl Bo Cattell** the Sqn Clk and **LCpl 'Rommel' Carter**, were completing their last exercise in the Army after 22 years' service. **Cpl Paul Baldry** marked the occasion by baking them a cake and a barbecue was held in their honour during the visitors'weekend. We also said goodbye to **SSM 'Joe' Lovell** who has gone to take up the post of RSM at 38 Sig Regt (V) and to **SSgt Paul Rowland** who has received a just reward for managing the Officers' Mess for three years with a posting to 9 Sig Regt in Cyprus.

We welcome **Capt Derek Wood** as 2IC and PRI. The new Sergeant Major, **Roger Minty** is finding the Regiment a refreshing change after training recruits at Catterick for the last three years. His proposal that the Squadron holds regular parades is still being considered by the OC.

We welcome all other recent arrivals and hope they will have an interesting and enjoyable tour. To those recently departed go our thanks for all they have done and our best wishes for the future.

Two 'Old' soldiers. Cpl 'Beau' Cattell and 'Betsy' (Echelon CP) pictured after they had been on their last Army exercise

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1 SQUADRON
COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Squadron has recently been through a major upheaval. We have bid a fond farewell to **Maj Willie Robotham** and his wife **Shiona** who depart for HQ Squadron—our best wishes. We welcome in his place **Maj John Edgar** and his wife **Deirdre**, who join us from 11 Sig Regt . . . we hope his stay as 'Blue Leader' will be a long and happy one.

Goodbye also to **Lt (now Capt) Wayne Coupland**, who is by now, no doubt, basking in a canoe in the land of the lost LOA. OC Papa Troop is **Lt Annabel Macey** who takes the reins under the watchful eyes of **SSgt Hugh Dillon** and **Cpl Stew Johnston**. **Mrs Macey** has already slotted in by arriving in tracksuit every afternoon.

Finally welcome to **Cpl Gordon Roberts** (skier extraordinaire) who joins us from 11 Sig Regt.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to **Cpl Stew Johnston** who has received good and bad news. Good news—promotion to Sergeant. Bad news—posted 11 Sig Regt!

SPORTING SCENE
THE SQUADRON'S SILVER ACCOUNT

The Technician gladiators of 1 Sqn have been collecting trophies again. Since our last contribution we have retained the volleyball, water polo and swimming, won the athletics, rugby, Garrison six-a-side football and seven-a-side rugby. The trophy cabinet is now full but it should be possible to squeeze in any additions from the summer sports. Maybe 2 or 3 Sqn have a spare unused cabinet we could have!

'A' GRADINGS

1 Sqn students continue to do well. This year's A grades include **Cpls Court, Woolaston** and **Bowlby, LCpls Brian Sweatman, Andrew Hartley** and his brother **Stephen, John Bell, Ian White** and **Gordon Edgar**. A special 'Well Done' goes to **LCpl James Holgan** who achieved the highest ever result on his basic technician course.

LCpl Holgan being presented with his A grading by Maj Edgar

THE FIRST!

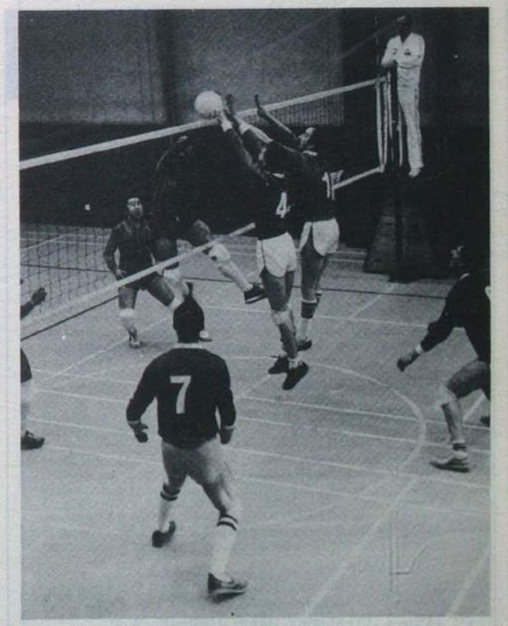
Cpl Yvonne Rouse is the first WRAC technician to pass her T1. Unfortunately she still has a WRAC Sgts course and her EPC to pass before she can be the first female TE Tech Sgt. No one can complain that she has received any favouritism though. **Cpl Rouse** is posted to 8 Sig Regt.

VOLLEYBALL

The Regiment continues to improve in this fast growing sport. Having entered two teams for the NEDIST League (one British, one Gurkha) it was no surpise when the two met in Catterick to contest the final. After an excellent game the British overcame the spirited Gurkha opposition to win the League.

Again this year we represented NE/NW DISTRICT in the Army Championships in Aldershot and met 10 Gurkha Rifles in the Final. Congratulations to 10 G R who just beat us in a close game. (Keep polishing the cup . . . we want it back next year!)

NEDIST League Winners
Back Row L—R: Cpls Steve Johnson, 'Gaz' Crouch, Lt Annabel Macey, WO2 Dave Jones, Cpl Tony Hobbs, Sgt Dave Boyle
Front Row L—R: Sig Jake Findlay, 'Slim' Renshaw, Cpls Gordon Hitchin, Andy Andrews, Sgt Dave Bradshaw



Action from the Army final in Aldershot. Perfect blocking from Cpls Steve Johnson and Gordon Hitchin

NOTES FROM 2 SQUADRON

There has been a large change over in 2 Sqn cadre recently. We welcome **SSgt Paddy Goslyn** and **Cpl Tony Mann** who are now in A Troop looking after the RTG basic and upgrading students. We have lost **Cpl Les Beatson** to civilian life at the end of 22 year's service. **Cpl Harry Duncan** to the School of Signals and **Cpl Les Bostock**, who has moved across to the Military Training Wing.

JUNIOR ARMY CROSS COUNTRY COLOURS

Col B. J. Austin presenting the 1985 Junior Army Cross Country Colours to Sig Stu Gemmell. Sig Gemmell represented the Army in a competition against the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force

BEST WISHES

To our Sqn Comd, **Maj Lesley Smith**. We wish her a speedy recovery after her recent visit to hospital and hope she is enjoying her convalescence.

The White Helmets

Venues

AUGUST	
1,2	The Newcastle Tyneside Summer Exhibition
3,4	Southport Tattoo
7,8	134th Bakewell Show, Derbyshire
10	Barnoldswick Gala, Burnley
11	Holidays at Home, Middlesbrough
15	SSAFA Centenary 1985, Catterick Racecourse
16	Shrewsbury Flower Show
17,18	Derby City Show and Carnival
24,25,26	Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire
30,31	Birmingham City Show
SEPTEMBER	
1	City of Nottingham Show
5	Bucks County Show
7,8	Stockton Services Display
13	Military Tattoo, Hannover, West Germany (Provisional)
21,22	Peterlee Carnival, Co Durham
NOVEMBER	
14	Military Tattoo, Kiel, West Germany (Provisional)
15,16	Military Tattoo, Hamburg, West Germany (Provisional)

SKI-ING

March found the Regiment in Scotland on Ex *Whiteout*. Based in Grantown-on-Spey, the exercise introduced basic trainees to ski-ing in the Lecht and the Cairngorms.

Cpl Gordon Roberts, of 1 Sqn, took time off from the Après ski to compete in the Army Ski Association Scottish meeting. He came fifteenth overall and second in the Corps.

OFFSHORE SAILING

EXERCISE *FROGS LEGS*

Skipper: **Maj (Retd) Mark Barker**

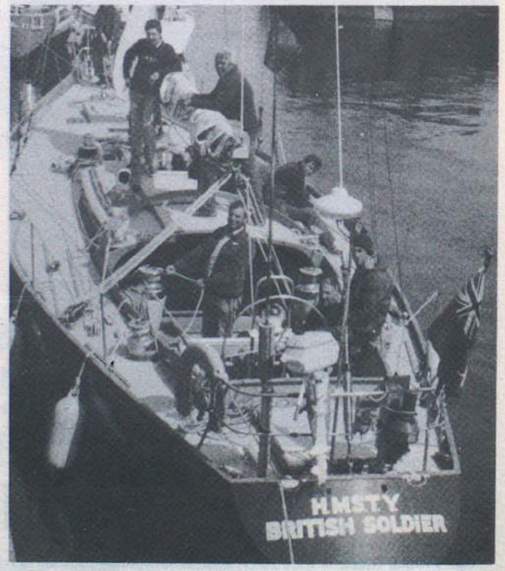
The Crews:

	Leg One	*Leg Two*
Mate	**Lt Col Dick Smith**	**WO2 (SSM) Bernie Medway**
Watchleaders	**Maj Dick Hoghton**	**Maj Mike Alden**
	SSgt John Coultish	**Maj Robin Overden**
Pursor	**WO2 Pete Underwood**	**Sgt Ivor Williams**
Crew	**Sig Mark Grady**	**WO1 (YofS) Keith Hall**
	'Blip' Clinton	**Cpl Manny Hesseldon**
	Dave Elwood	**Sig Jim (I'll Fixit) MacKenzie**
	Alf O'Shea	**Mr Roy Dixon**
	Mr Ken Kid	**Mr Pete Dawson**
Bosuns	**Pte Maxine James**	**Pte Sue Cotterell**
Mates	**(WRAC)**	**Pte Roni Lees**

At the beginning of March, **Lt Col 'Dick' Smith** decided that it would be a good idea to get as many away offshore sailing as possible within the limited resources of the Regiment. For this task we needed a large yacht. 'Hot Lines' were established between Catterick and JSSC Gosport, negotiations entered into and the dates set for the Nicholson 55 footer, HMSTY *British Soldier* which is capable of taking a crew of 12 at speeds in excess of eight knots.

Ex *Frog Legs* was born and so was the opportunity to give some trainees, not to mention their instructors, a taste of adventure as well as testing the resources of the Sailing Officer **Capt (TOT) Gavin Spearpoint** and the 'press gang' capabilities of his assistant **WO2 (SSM) Bernie Medway**.

The route for Leg One was Gosport—Cherbourg—Guernsey—Gosport and Leg Two, Gosport—St Malo—Cherbourg—Gosport. There were only 'a few cases' of seasickness and on the whole the weather was kind. All the sailors arrived back in Catterick exhausted but having had a thoroughly enjoyable time.



Entering St Malo Lock. HMSTY *British Soldier*. Crew Stem to Stern: Sgt Ivor Williams, Mr Roy Dixon, 'Skipper' Mark Barker, Sig Jim Mackenzie, Maj Mike Alden, Mr Pete Dawson, WO1 (YofS) Keith Hall

VISIT BY YCCC

On Sunday 31 March the Regiment were hosts to the Yorkshire County Cricket Club for a week's pre-season net practice, and fitness training. The Team Captain, **David Bairstow**, was keen that the players should be able to get away from the confines of the County Ground at Headingley, and be able to train somewhat harder than in previous seasons. Hence through the Club President the week's training was arranged in Catterick.

The Squad were able to use the Somme Gymnasium for net practice in the mornings; the nets being brought from Headingley and erected batsman **Geoff Boycott** was unfit, and did not appear.

The squad were able to use Somme Gymnasium for net practice in the mornings; the nets being brought from Headingley and erected with some individual touches by our Unit Cricket Secretary **SSgt Mike Burton**. The afternoons were used for games and fitness training under the direction of QMSI **Pat Kaufman APTC**. After tea the team were encouraged to play golf, swim, canoe—or just recover from the day's exercise.

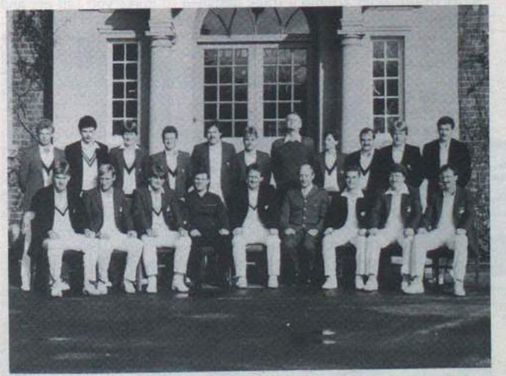
The early part of the Monday afternoon was given over to a 'press call' when the team were available for comment to the press, TV and radio, and were publicly seen under the rigorous control of the PT staff. The story was carried by many local newspapers, and found its way into the nationals. The Regiment was also very pleased with TV coverage given on the local news magazines. BBC 'Newsnight' carried film of the squad sweating in Baghdad Gym.

As an afternoon's relaxation the cricketers visited the RAC Training Regiment on Wednesday where **David Bairstow** proved an admirable tank driver on the simulator. Others proved less effective when actually driving scout cars for real!

The Captain was very keen that the team should meet as many people as possible when not training. To this end lunch was taken on two days with the soldiers in the dining rooms. Also social functions were held in the evenings in the Officers', Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes. On Tuesday evening the whole squad visited the NAAFI where a raffle for an autographed cricket bat was drawn by **Martyn Moxon**, recently returned from the England tour of India and Australia.

The training was completed with an hour's work-out on the assault course on Friday morning, after which the team left somewhat fitter, and much less apprehensive about Army food, facilities, and physical training.

Plaques were exchanged at the Sergeants' Mess Games Night between the Unit and the Club. However, I have it on reasonably good authority that **Col Austin** managed to obtain his own personal autographed bat, and YCCC plaque! Probably just rumours. However, we hope that an association has now been formed between YCCC and 8 Sig Regt which will prove fruitful to both in future years.



YCCC outside the Officers' Mess

Back Row L—R: Paul Jarvis, Chris Shaw, Paul Booth, Ashley Metcalfe, Steve Oldham, Richard Blakey, Capt Chapman RAPC, Ian Swallow, Phil Robinson, Stuart Fletcher, Chris Pickles

Front Row L—R: Simon Dennis, Jim Love, Martyn Moxon, WO2 (QMSI) Kaufman, David Bairstow, Col B. J. Austin, Kevin Sharp, Graham Stevenson, Arnie Sidebottom

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SON ET LUMIÈRE

RETURNS TO CENTRAL LONDON

The spectacular and highly acclaimed Son et Lumière production 'Heart of the Nation' returns to Horse Guards Parade this summer to celebrate the centenary year of SSAFA, the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association. Once again, the voices of Anthony Andrews, Maxine Audley, Peter Barkworth, Richard Bebb, Isabel Dean, Maurice Denham, John Gielgud, Hannah Gordon, Robert Hardy, Gordon Jackson, Penelope Keith, David Langton, Keith Michell, Prunella Scales, Paul Scofield, Gwen Watford, Timothy West, Barbara Windsor and Edward Woodward are among those who will recreate the great moments of history that have taken place in and around Whitehall.

Last presented in 1983 'Heart of the Nation' attracted an audience of over 35,000. The show was such a success that this year it will run for an extra week. Performances are at 9pm from 13 August-14 September (Monday to Saturday).

Said Producer Michael Parker: 'This is the largest Son et Lumière ever presented in Britain and this year's production includes extra lighting and effects which will make this fascinating story even more impressive.'

'Heart of the Nation' goes back 500 years with Henry VIII hearing of the execution of Anne Boleyn and recreates those scenes of triumph, tragedy and high drama that are so great a part of our heritage. It finishes with the spotlight on No 10 Downing Street during the epic leadership of Winston Churchill in World War 2.

All proceeds go to SSAFA, which for a hundred years has offered friendship and practical help to Service and ex-Service families and dependents. Last year 44,000 turned to SSAFA for help. It is being presented in association with HOGG ROBINSON.

Covered stand tickets are at £6 and £5. There are negotiable trade discounts for parties of 10 or more. Limited parking adjacent to Horse Guards Parade is available for coaches with official passes for the production. There are special arrangements for the disabled.

For bookings and further information contact:

SSAFA, 27 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9 BZ Tel: 01-922 9228

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

DOWN WITH THE OLD . . . UP WITH THE NEW?

Dust and expletives have been filling the air in RHQ as the builders gradually dismantle the nerve centre of the Regiment. Like the Phoenix, wondrous new offices are now springing up in the most unlikely places.

WO1 (you have been warned!) John Crooks the avuncular supremo of the coffee fund repels visitors to his domain with a steely gaze and six feet of wet concrete around his desk. The Adjt, **Capt Tony Roberts**, AAdjt, **Lt Adrienne Winchester**, and RSM, **WO1 Mick Besant** are currently sharing one office and being uncharacteristically well behaved and punctual as a result.

Through the piles of rubble the location of the Orderly Room changes daily, **Sgt Jon Harradine** and **Cpl Brian Durlik** have been spotted at all hours of the day moving large pieces of furniture from one office or another to, as yet, undisclosed destinations. While other members of the clerical staff, namely **WLCpl Karen Hooper** and **Ptes Jinder Kaur** and **Bernie Thomas** have been busy with broom and polish trying, with mounting desperation, to keep the Headquarters looking surgically efficient.

Closely supervised by local workmen, Sgt Harradine, Cpl Durlik and Pte Thomas rebuild RHQ

Meanwhile the rest of the staff have not been unaffected. The Padre, the **Rev Michael Spencer**, has either been bricked up in the tea room or fled to the sanctuary of his church. Our two typists, **Jo** and **Adele**, were last seen four days ago moving to a secret location. **Audrey**, the Movements Clerk, has apparently decided that she will not be moved for any reason and can still be found encamped in a corner surrounded by increasing amounts of builder's debris.

Where will it all end? In greater efficiency or a coordinated colour scheme?

Q TROOP

With the first Battle Camps looming large, it has been a busy time for military training. New boots have been broken in and rusty skills aired and polished. The photograph shows **Cpl Neil Nixon** and **LCpl Doug Scott** administering first aid to a surprise casualty they found during the normal troop PT period.

Cpl Neil Nixon and LCpl Doug Scott treat a surprise casualty

Six members of the troop entered the 1985 Cyprus Marathon. Despite the inevitable heat and a fierce wind, everyone finished the course. **Sig Arthur Daly** gave the best individual performance coming seventh overall in the event.

QM, Capt Frank Worrall, finishing the Cyprus Marathon

Finally, welcome to **Cpl Neil Nixon** and **LCpl Ian Grubb** and their respective wives, **Rebecca** and **Margaret**. Welcome too, to **Sig Billy Smith** and a fond farewell to **Cpl Gavin Barclay** who is posted to Berlin after his three years in Cyprus. Some people have all the luck!

1 SQUADRON MOTORCYCLING

On a sunny day in May five competitors from 1 Sqn travelled to Akrotiri to compete in the All Island Motorcycling Competition which consisted of five sections: Manoeuvrability, Road Test, Trials, Track and Theory. After the first, the Manoeuvrability and Stability Test, **LCpl Bruce MacPherson** had taken the lead over the rest of the field by 10 points.

The next event to be completed was the written Highway Code paper after which the points situation stayed roughly the same.

The last event before lunch was the much dreaded Road Test. For this each rider had to complete a pre-planned course around Akrotiri, where marshals were waiting to judge them at various roundabouts, junctions and crossings.

After lunch the field of riders were anticipating the most exciting of all the events, the Trials and the Motocross. The Trials course was a series of obstacles around a track designed to make you fall off and lose points. It provided many thrills and spills for the eager spectators. One rider however proved himself to be more than competent at this event—**Pte Steve Moore** completed one clear round and a second with only two faults.

The positions had changed considerably during these events with **Cpls Mal Lipps** and **Neil Taylor** with **Ptes Steve Moore** and **'Leebo' Lee** all climbing up the scoreboard. The next and final event of the day proved a real killer. Ten laps around a rigorous track, again designed to make riding difficult. Some riders were content just to potter around the course, but others, more reckless, went all out to pass, push off or ride over anything on two wheels in front of them.

After being heartily cheered on by the crowd all the competitors were glad to have finished the race. **LCpl Bruce MacPherson, Ptes Steve Moore** and **'Leebo' Lee** finished in the top four places.

At the end of the competition the results were as follows:

Overall Winner	**LCpl MacPherson**	1 Sqn
Under 21 Winner	**LCpl MacPherson**	1 Sqn
Trials Winner	**Pte Moore**	1 Sqn
Stability Winner	**LCpl MacPherson**	1 Sqn

The competition was a successful day out for all concerned. **LCpl MacPherson** distinguished himself by coming first overall winner and all the other riders from 1 Sqn finished in the first 20.

QUIZ FEVER AT AYIOS NIKLAOS

On 9 April the Four Mile Inn staged the final of our Knock Out Quiz—the culmination of 14 weeks of Quiz Fever in the Regiment. The 24 competing teams, almost all with individual names of their own choosing, were a representative selection from within the Regiment:- nine teams from 1 Sqn, five from 2 Sqn, six from 3 Sqn, two from Civilian Wing and one each from the Sergeants' and Officers' Messes.

Teams comprised four competitors, of which one had to be a lady, and one a single serviceman/woman. With postings and enforced team changes during the competition, an impressive 105 members actually competed!

FIRST ROUND

The aim of the first round was to provide 16 teams for the second round, which was achieved by 'qualifying' the four highest scoring losers from the 12 matches. There were a number of excellent nail biting contests in the first round:- 'Delta Dumbos' and 'Don't Knows', both of 1 Sqn, went to a tiebreaker, while three other matches were decided on the final question.

Chappatties v Valve Kings (both 1 Sqn)
Questionnaires (2 Sqn) v Civilian Wing Amber
R—Dents (3 Sqn) v Three Line Whip (1 Sqn)

Three Line Whip deserve a special mention, performing as they did at such short notice after the withdrawal of Silicon Chips whose principal players were involved in a road traffic accident. Not only did their match go to the final question, they provided some excellent impromptu entertainment as well!

SECOND ROUND

The highlight of the second round was the contest between two of the hot favourites for the title—Judas College of 3 Sqn v Alphabets of 2 Sqn. At the end of an extremely hard fought contest, Judas College won by a single point!

QUARTER FINALS

Judas College continued where they left off in the previous round, providing a really thrilling contest with Black Hand Gang (1 Sqn) which went to the final question, with BHG beating them to the bell and progressing to the semi finals. The supporting match on the same evening also went to the final question with Sciolist Squad (1 Sqn) pipping the Officers' Mess team (Cannon Fodder) at the post. In the other matches, Desperadoes (2 Sqn) and Concert Party (3 Sqn) defeated Civilian Wing Amber and Brain Drain (RHQ) respectively to reach the semi finals.

SEMI FINALS

The semi final matches were a contrast—Concert Party progressed comfortably into the final at the expense of Sciolist Squad who had performed remarkably well in reaching the semi final after qualifying as 'highest scoring losers' from the first round.

The BHG v Desperadoes match was yet another thriller which went to the final question. In a dramatically close finish, BHG were quickest on the bell to win from Desperadoes who, though they lost the match, won a lot of friends with their sportsmanship and sense of fun.

FINAL

The final provided the sort of thrills and entertainment expected from teams of such contrast. After the first six rounds, the scores were still level with two rounds to play. At this stage the balance and depth of knowledge of Concert Party began to assert itself as they took a seven point lead in round seven. The scene was set for a dramatic finish on the bell and buzzer round. Despite a valiant rearguard action by the Black Hand Gang, Concert Party kept their heads and increased their lead to win the Competition. **Mrs Galloway** presented the Trophy and individual awards to the well deserved victors. Concert Party:- **Cpl Mark Leigh** (Capt), **Miss Sue Heyes, LCpls Gus Johnson** and **Martin Thirsk**. Runners up awards went to BHG:- **SSgt Brian Dalton** (Capt), **Mrs Jan Monkley, Capt David Poole** and **Pte Gary Payne**.

THE FAIRWAYS MOTORS MASTERMIND TROPHY

I've started, so I'll finish . . .

The Mastermind competition which ran within the framework of the Knock Out Quiz was very generously sponsored by Fairways Motors, who provided the main Trophy, a replica for the winner, and crystal gifts for the winner and runner up.

Throughout the Quiz, each team had nominated an individual to answer general knowledge questions against the clock. On the final night, the leading seven contenders from a total field of 33 faced the inquisition.

Narrowly pipped for a place in the final were: **Mrs Helen Thomas-Peter, Mrs Elsie Armstrong, Mr Bob Davidson** and **Padre Jim Broadbridge**.

The first phase of the final was designed to produce two contestants who would face each other in a head-to-head for the title. In the event, the hot favourites **Sgt Derry Orr** and **Mrs Jan Monkley** made it, despite strong opposition from **FSgt Tom Murphy** and **Cpl Mark Leigh**.

The head to head decider round was an absolute beast as far as the questions went, and both contestants felt the pinch. However, **Mrs Jan Monkley** maintained her characteristic (outward!) composure and won a very good final. **Mr Reg Kidd**, on behalf of Fairways Motors, presented the winner and runner up with their well deserved prizes. **FSgt Tom Murphy** and **Cpl Mark Leigh** were joint third, with **LCpl Mark Jordan** fifth, **Mr John Dalglish** sixth and **LCpl Steve Fowler** seventh finalists.

Both the Quiz and Mastermind Trophy were most enthusiastically supported from the outset. Invaluable support was provided by SWS workshops, the staff of the Four Mile Inn, 33 Signals Unit technicians and the two scorers, **Sgt Angie Bailey** and **LCpl Rose Raybould**.

The Runners and Back Up Boys
On the vehicle: Sig Jim Daly, Sgt Chels Facer
Standing (L—R): Sgt Tony Johnson, LCpls Tich Lee, Mick Lawrence, Sig Geordie Morgan, Sgt Mick Compton, Sig Smudge Smith, SSgt Keith Baker, Sgts Jock Douglas, Dave Butler
Kneeling (the old men): WO2 Mick Moffatt, WO1 Jim Dodds, SSgt Pete Havlin

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) Wilton

The RHQ has recently had a new arrival in the form of an Assistant Adjutant. **2Lt B. J. Taylor WRAC** joined us on 29 April, filling an empty seat in the Adjutant's Office.

CinC CUP COMPETITION 1985

RHQ (with a little help from HQ Sqn and 22 Sqn RCT) have got off to a surprisingly good start in this year's competition. Their achievements to date are as follows:

Tennis
Played 2 Won 2

Hockey
Played 2 Won 1 Drawn 1

Cricket
Played 2 Won 2

Volleyball
Played 3 Won 1 Lost 2

The orderly room personnel have formed the nucleus of the teams with **WO1 Dave Bell, Sgt Marie Senior** and **Sig Simon 'Frankie' Muir** playing every sport. The Adjt **Capt Nigel Moore** has stepped in on one occasion to help the tennis team win a match, fortunately he didn't disgrace himself or the team so we might call on his services (excuse the pun) again. The cricket team boasts a win with only seven players to the opposition's nine, two of them were WRAC. The game hinged on the last ball of a 12 over match with G1/G4 needing only three runs to win, when they were faced with the demon bowling of **Pte Janine Holt WRAC**, they could only manage one run, having to admit defeat to an understrength team by 78 to 77 runs. The hockey team's success is due to the superb goalkeeping of **'Siggy' Muir** and the brilliant defence play of Super Clerk **Dave Bell**. We felt that we might have a struggle with the volleyball and we have, although the matches we have lost have both gone to three games.

EXERCISE *EVERGREEN*
Report by Pte Pederson B Troop

During May and June 1985 most of 10 Sig Regt descended on Browndown Training Camp, Gosport, for their Summer Camp. During this time a mixture of military and adventure training took place.

At the start of each day was PT—just to make sure everyone was awake. The military side consisted of the normal things like NBC, first aid, weapon handling and map reading. The map reading was held on the Isle of Wight making it an enjoyable day out with a ferry trip there and back. NBC was held on the sand dunes along with fieldcraft.

We also spent a day on the Ranges at 20 Maritime Regt RCT, St George's Barracks. We were taught to handle different weapons and then fired the SMG and .22 rifle.

Each evening we played inter section sports to gain points towards being the winning section. Our section always seemed to lose but we tried hard.

Members of 1 and 3 Sqns 'pulling the fella's?'

To ensure that what we had been taught had sunk in a night exercise was arranged. We set up a section area, guarded it all night and tried not to fall asleep. The exercise finished the next day with a trek along the South Downs. We stopped at various checkpoints and were tested on various skills. As expected the exercise ended with rain!

Our last two days were Adventure Training which was varied. There was pony riding, sailing, canoeing, fishing, wind-surfing and rock-climbing. I chose sailing which was harder than I thought. I also spent a day with 20 Maritime RCT where I completed an under-water escape from a Helicopter Crash Simulator. We also had a tour of a nuclear destroyer and a World War 2 submarine. I think that everyone left Ex *Evergreen* feeling that it was not as bad as they thought it was going to be. We all looked better for the fresh air and sun.

1 SQN
LEADERSHIP COURSE

Four girls from 1 Sqn took part in the Leadership Course run by the Regiment from 24/29 March. **LCpls Jane Sage, 'Taffy' Sharon Walters, Ptes Allison Godwin** and **Donna Murison**. The joint best student **LCpl Walters** starts the tale:

'The course consisted of Privates and Lance Corporals and covered a wide variety of subjects. At the beginning of the course we were put into syndicates. We did syndicate problems and a syndicate map reading exercise. We also did drill (weather permitting) and at the end of the week we all tried our hands at taking a squad!

Quite surprisingly we didn't end up halfway around camp or all up against the fence! Every morning before breakfast we did PT—not the kind of subject that people thrive on first thing in the morning! We also covered several other topics—pay (we never have enough), weapon training, army organisation (we always suspected there was some) and last but not least we all had to give a five minute lecture on a subject of our own choice. The week went quite fast and everyone had a good time laughing at one thing or another, or even each other. It was a good week, it gave everyone a chance to mix with people from other Squadrons and it got us out of our usual daily routine'.

LCpl Sage and **Pte Godwin** now take up the story of the map reading exercise:

'We were given a pre-exercise brief at 1000 hrs and then we set off at 1030 hrs for the beginning of the course.

This exercise was done in groups of three and each group set off at five minute intervals. After walking a short distance, **Capt Lockie** (2IC 1 Sqn) set some map reading questions for the group. When these questions were completed it was on to the next part of the course in search of everybody's heart throb, **Sgt Lander**.

At this point more questions were asked and another question sheet was given to each group, listing questions that needed to be answered en route.

At the halfway point we all stopped for dinner in a pub at Tollard Royal. Lemonade (?) never tasted better. After dinner each group set off again at five minute intervals to complete the rest of the course.

When the groups reached the first check point after the break they were tasked to deal with a casualty, who had a broken leg. For this a stretcher needed to be constructed from the materials which were available from the surrounding area, such as fallen branches from nearby trees, and combat jackets, which everyone was wearing.

When the stretcher was completed the casualty had to be moved a short distance just to prove its sturdiness. Luckily our particular casualty survived to tell the tale and judged that we had done pretty well'. Finally a word of thanks for all the hard work and effort **WO2 (SSM) Jill Ryan** put into the course to make it extremely successful and enjoyable.

NEW FACES AND OLD FACES

Some of the latest arrivals in the Squadron include: **Cpls David Parker, Jayne Garrick, LCpls Jill Hawes, Jeanne Marston, Ptes Jenny Cleary, Karen Dyer, Linda Hatton**.

Meanwhile we have also recently said farewell to: **Cpl Jan Thomas, Ptes Jeanette Dallimore, Michelle Howell, Donna Murison, Mandy Richardson, Louise Turner**.

To those, and any others whom we have inadvertently missed out, best wishes for the future and enjoy your new jobs.

2 SQN—LETTER FROM LONDON
THE MOVE

The location of the author of the note that you, gentle reader, are avidly scanning proves that miracles really do happen. 2 Sqn have actually survived the move into Central London and are now firmly established in Chelsea Barracks.

The roar of low flying Jumbo Jets has been exchanged for the somewhat more soothing sounds of Regimental Bands rehearsing on the square and the marching feet now belong to the 2nd Bn Grenadier Guards, not to the 1st Bn, our fellow sufferers in Hounslow. Some of the other notable changes that have occurred in the hierarchy are as follows:

The OC, **Maj John Stuart** arrives for work at any time between 0700 and 0900 hrs having tried out yet another commuter route. The 2IC, **Capt Carolyn Wilding** has started her own system of 'flexi hours'—arriving late and leaving early—in an attempt to evade traffic jams.

The SSM, **WO2 Ted O'Brien** has been observed on the tube reading The Guardian (when he has been able to drag his eyes away from fellow travellers of the female persuasion).

The majority of us have been accommodated in or around Chelsea Barracks but some of the more stalwart opted to remain in Hounslow and can now be observed each morning strap hanging on the Piccadilly line, mentally ticking off their uniform check list. So far all have appeared for parade fully clad but . . .

CEREMONIAL

After a quick dust-off in April for the State Visit of the President of Malawi, 'blues' and best boots were duly returned to the back of lockers but will soon be flung, with their owners, into the thick of the London Ceremonial—in one two week session the Squadron will be involved in the Queen's Birthday Parade, six Beating Retreats, a State Visit, a State Banquet, the St Paul's Cathedral Falklands Memorial Service and Founder's Day at Chelsea Hospital. Each event has its own rehearsal which occurs at any time from 0500 hrs Monday to 1500 hrs Saturday.

3 SQN
SPORT

On 22 March 3 Sqn entered a team of four WRAC in the Fleet, Crookham and Army Half Marathon. The team was **Sgt Jeffery, Cpl McGrath, Ptes Chilcott** and **Duffield**. Despite bad weather they finished third out of some 31 teams.

The 3 Sqn Table Tennis Teams were very successful this year and came first in the District League. Likewise the Hockey team finished second in the District League after a tough game with the QATC Hockey team.

AN ORDERLY ORDERLY ROOM?

Back in Squadron Offices there is another sort of competition going on. **Sgt Coull** (Chief) and **LCpl Byrne** have just returned from their computer course in Blackdown. They brought with them the Squadron's new toy—Pampas. This is the new Visual Display Unit (VDU) which records the details of all members in the Squadron. All was confusion. There were so many boxes and of course this all happened on a Friday afternoon. By Monday the 'thing' had been installed and the green display was winking wickedly. Now for the hard part. All those forms we had filled in with our details had to be programmed in.

PAMPAS hasn't been with us very long but it's already changed our orderly room. Chief is rapidly losing her cool, **LCpl Byrne** is beginning to go cross-eyed from sitting in front of the VDU all day. **Pte Roberts** is mopping the fevered brows and supplying numerous cups of coffee. Amazing how modern technology can change the face of your orderly room.

Farewell to SSgt Nerys Owen of 3 Sqn on her posting to 16 Sig Regt

Capt Eileen Cunningham and 'Kelloggs' a recent addition to 3 Sqn looking suspiciously like the OC!

WILTON QUARTER GUARD

Since last year we have lost the majority of our junior male soldiers and most of the posts have been filled by WRAC. Among the many tasks allotted are the performing of the Barrack Quarter Guards.

The pictures below show some of our girls enjoying a little joke whilst proudly providing the guard for **Gen Sir James Glover KCB CBE** our new Commander-in-Chief and **Lt Gen Raulf (GE AF)**, Dep Comd Baltic Approaches.

Left to Right: LCpl Sally Waterfall, Pte Francis Graham, LCpls Ginny Howard, Pauline Doran, Pte Tina Harrison, LCpl Lynda Edlin WO1 (RSM) Fred Winton, Sqn Ldr Iredale, Gen Sir James Glover

Sgt Allison Mason, LCpl Sally Waterfall, Pte Francis Graham, LCpls Ginny Howard, Pauline Doran, Pte Tina Harrison, LCpl Lynda Edlin, Ptes Elaine Russel, Hilary Murphy
WO1 (RSM) Winton, Capt Jackson, Lt Gen Raulf

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

EXERCISE *SNOW LION*

A month after returning from the 3 Div Meet in Austria the Regimental Ski Team moved up to Scotland for the ASA UKLF competition from 11-18 March. We were soon to realise that skiing in Scotland is more a question of 'rock hopping' than concentrating on style.

The Seeding Race put us in good stead for the Individual Giant Slalom. The course was less steep than we had hoped which meant a lot of hard work to avoid the boulders and battle against the wind.

Three of the team qualified for the Special Slalom. This was a much steeper technical course and **Capt Hugh Bardell** finished 16th. The CO, **Col Peter Brown** and **Lt Neil Gibson** were 37th and 38th respectively.

The Friday brought us the Team Giant Slalom and we finished sixth out of 49, and first in the Minor Units. A fair achievement for a 'Supervet' (CO), 'Veteran' **(Sgt Wooff)**, novice racer **(Cpl North)** and an 'out of retirement racer' **(Capt Bardell)**.

Saturday saw the Open Race including the 'Vintage' (over 45) Trophy. The CO came second on rented skis.

There were 52 prizes handed out that evening but we were disappointed not to receive a prize for 'Best Minor Unit'. This is to be rectified next year.

Our final Seedings were:

Capt Hugh Bardell	— 22.5
Cpl Mick North	— 41.7
Lt Col Peter Brown	— 42.0
Lt Neil Gibson	— 46.0
Cpl Steve Barr	— 96.7
Sgt Chris Woof	— 109.0

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Royal Signals Demonstration Team
8th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp
North Yorkshire.

1 SQUADRON
4 TROOP
Report by WO1 C. G. Francis

Tp OC	**WO1 Francis**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Lauder**
Tp NCO's	**Cpl Wood**
	Cpl Jones
	Cpl McLaughlin
	Cpl Cummings

Intake No 8504, started Army life on 4 March 1985. Thirty nine young men ambled through the gates of Helles Barracks, very apprehensive about their new way of life.

A few names spring to mind as I write these notes—**Sig 'Belsen' Bailey** with less meat on his body than on a butcher's pencil, **Sig 'B..... Hell' Wingate** who was breathlessly expressive on hearing his first bang of a Thunderflash. The Troop Sergeant—**Brian Lauder** departed after the third week to 2 Sqn for his RSSSC and handed over the reins to **Sgt 'Nick' Nicolson**—**Sgt Nicolson** has since taken over as 2 Tp Sergeant.

Having completed the two day exercise during week five the troop returned to take up the challenge of a football match against 3 Tp. The challengers made a good effort, but had to bow to the greater ability of 4 Tp. We won 12—1!

The ninth week exercise was good even though the weather tried to dampen our spirits. The Troop Party was held in the JRC on 10 May, a memorable occasion, the highlight of the evening was the Kiss-o-gram girl for **Sig McGuinness**—birthday, I think! The troop cadre had to do their rendition of our new Troop Song, Red-Red Wine.

Soon the final week was upon us, the Section Competition, Final Tests, Parents' Evening, and the culmination of 10 weeks' hard work: The Pass Off Parade. **Col P. J. Rowland** was the Reviewing Officer and it took place on Friday 17 May. He later expressed his pleasure at the high standard that had been achieved, and presented awards to the following:

Best Recruit	**Sig Oliver**
Best Shot	**Sig Wigley**
Marksman	**Sig Ferguson**

Cpl Jones who led Two Section won the Commanding Officer's Section Trophy. Best wishes boys!

Col P. J. Rowland, the Reviewing Officer, speaking to Sig Unwin

TA COURSE 157

On Saturday 18 May from midday onwards, lads started to arrive at the Guardroom to form TA Course No 157. By 1830 hrs that day the newly formed troop was 41 strong. The course being only two weeks' long and very comprehensive, it requires the new recruits to learn the routine of early starts and late finishes!

By the end of the first week they had settled into their new temporary homes, made friends, and with their haircuts and smartly pressed uniforms, were beginning to look like soldiers. Very early on the Tuesday of week two we deployed on Ex *First Hurdle* for two days. Fortunately the weather was kind for the yomp on the Yorkshire Moors.

All too soon on Friday 31 May we were formed up on the square awaiting the arrival of the Reviewing Officer, **Lt Col (QM) Brian Cleaver** from STC Scarborough. After the parade came the Patrol Race, the results of which were quickly worked out for the presentation of prizes in the cinema. These were presented for the Best Shot and Marksman to **Sig Barnard** of 71 Sig Regt (V), Best Recruit to **Sig Mitchell** of 55 Sig Sqn (V) and the Best Section was won by No 3 Section led by **Cpl McLaughlin**. That evening a few vocal cords were watered and strained as we launched into repeated choruses of our new troop song.

5 TROOP PERSONALITIES

Capt (where can I go next?) Graham Leyland	Now in the Falklands
WO1 (double up again) Peter Clarke	Soon to be in BAOR
Sgt (course and leave) Jim MacLean	Now on another course
Cpl Alan Carter	Spending his last six months in the Army in BAOR
Cpl Bob Holmes	Always nice to the recruit
Cpl 'Streff' Strefford	War stories a speciality
Cpl George Best	Scrap car merchant

The Military aspects of recruit training have been covered many times before. This short postscript to the last course concentrates on two activities completed outside the normal training time. A sparse guide for aspiring military training instructors.

FOUNTAINS ABBEY APPEAL PILGRIMS' PROGRESS

This is a walk of 80Km in three days over the route covered by monks from Malham to the Abbey. Not a particularly difficult walk you might say, yet for a young man who has only spent six weeks in the army it can appear as a considerable obstacle. Drive, motivation and enthusiasm is the order of the day especially if the weather turns bad. For all you potential recruit instructors contemplating the move to this Regiment it should be noted here that this exercise was carried out over a Bank holiday weekend, (4-6 May), after nine weeks continuous duty, without a full day off. You certainly have to be dedicated. It is no short cut to a second or third stripe. The rewards are enormous, the pressure on your family considerable. The military and the adventurous aspects of training are time consuming. You have to be a little extrovert with a flair for instructing. Fit and ultra keen and above all set only the very best example to the recruit. These words are not mine but spoken by the organiser of the Appeal, after long hours on the walk, with the NCOs. The troop actually raised nearly £500 for the Abbey.

THE THREE PEAKS

For those of you who know the area of Horton in Ribblesdale you will realise it is an area of considerable beauty and challenge. Ideal for testing the initiative and stamina of any young man.

The ascent of the three peaks in one day without using mechanical transport has been a recognised feat of endurance for almost a century and should be tackled only by the physically fit, in good weather.

The direct route is well established to Pen-y-Ghent (2,277) from the Pennyghent Cafe, then across to Whemside (2,415) and then down to Inglebrough (2,372). A total height of 7,064ft. A reasonable time for a fit walker including snacks and sightseeing is 11 hours. The recruits did it in a time of nine hours. The total distance walked is 23 miles.

There is no point at this stage of training, (ninth week), in attempting a record, an annual race attracts the best fell runners in the country who have brought the time down to less then two and a half hours. What you should really be aware of is the wonderful opportunity and scope available within the Common Military Syllabus to extend a challenge to these young men. The future of our Corps depends on you, the NCO, to arrive here in the Regiment, full of potential, drive and enthusiasm. You have a special task in the Training Regiment and for this task you, too, have to be special. Could you do it?

If you are leaving the Services within the next 12 months and would like to start a new career, consider GCHQ.

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13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

The 30th Anniversary in Mercury Barracks, Birgelen, of 13 Sig Regt was marked on Saturday 11 May by a Fete and Beating Regreat. The Fete was opened and salute taken at Beating Retreat by **Maj Gen Max Sawers CB, MBE.**

Maj Gen J. M. Sawers (*left*) accompanied by the CO opening the Fete

The occasion was shared with the local communities who over the years had been of great assistance and with whom very close ties had been established. The weather was kind and crowds of service and local families flocked to the Fete to enjoy the great variety of stalls, view military equipment provided by British, American and German armies and be thrilled by a German Customs dog display.

Guides and Brownies manning their stall with a cheerful smile, especially Mrs Andrea Brunton who holds the purse strings

Beating Retreat by the Quebec Band, The Queen's Regiment provided a fitting conclusion to an afternoon of fun and friendship as invited military and local dignitaries joined fete-goers at a traditional yet exciting programme of music and marching superbly executed by the band under the direction of its Bandmaster **WO1 Cunningham.**

The celebrations which also incidentally marked the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment had started on Friday 10 May with a Regimental Athletics Day and Families Lunch and, before finishing on Sunday 12 May with a Service of Thanksgiving, had included Anniversary Balls in each of the Officers', Sergeants' and Junior Ranks' Messes.

HISTORY OF 13 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Regiment started life at Aldershot in 1934 as a small independent War Office controlled unit known as No 4 Wireless Company. In September 1938 it was re-designated No 2 Company GHQ Signals.

The unit served with the British Expeditionary Force in France from September 1939 until final evacuation from Dunkerque in May 1940.

In July 1940 the title of the unit was again changed and as No 1 Special Wireless Group, it was stationed in the UK at Harpenden, Herts until July 1944.

A small detachment returned to France in July 1944 and by September of that year the whole unit was again on the Continent and served in various locations in Belgium, Holland and Germany until June 1945 when it arrived at Minden and was re-designated No 1 Special Wireless Regiment.

In August 1946 the Regiment moved to Gluckstadt near Hamburg where it remained until February 1950 when it was transferred to Munster.

It was decided in 1953 that the Regiment should move to a location west of the Rhine and the site selected for the construction of new barracks was near Birgelen on the Dutch frontier.

In May 1955 the Regiment occupied its present accommodation which was given the name of Mercury Barracks.

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS DAY

On Friday 10 May cold, wet, and miserable, we held our Regimental Athletics Day as a prelude to our anniversary celebrations. Initially there was a bit of a scare when it was found that the normal area set aside for the running track had been ravaged by crows and a new location had to be found. Unfortunately, the new track would have to make use of the 8th Green much to the dismay of the Traffic Officer, **Capt Len Yates**; however the hierarchy decided that we would have a 300m running track. This resulted in a few world record times when the lap recorders and time keepers got it all wrong, but to be fair, how would you like to organise a 4 × 400 relay event on a 300m course with staggered lanes? Well done **WO2 George Bryson APTC** for working it all out. The day was not spoilt by such trivia as a short course and many thanks must go to **Maj Mike Jefferis** our computer manager and his band of merry men for laying on all the organisation and support. Our grateful thanks to the CO's wife **Mrs Elizabeth Howard** for presenting all the prizes and judging from the smiles, who needs sunshine?

Mrs Howard, who obviously backed Cpl Taff James in the 3 o'clock 5,000m, gives a knowing smile as she hands over the Winner's Trophy to him

Cpl Ian Vernon takes time off from Judo to receive the Discus and Shot Winner's Trophies while Maj Mike Jefferis checks his tie is straight in the mirror

WO1 John O'Kell, our young estate warden, receives his Winner's Trophy for the Hammer event

OFFICERS' MESS

Continuing with the anniversary celebrations the Officers' Mess entertainment began one hour after the end of the Regimental Fete. This started with drinks in the Marquee where the officers were joined by their many guests prior to the beating of retreat by the Quebec Band of The Queen's Regiment. Apart from their principal guests, **Maj Gen Max Sawers CB MBE** and **Mrs Max Sawers**, the officers were delighted to be joined by, among others, **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Alan Yeoman** and another former Commanding Officer **Maj Gen Peter Baldwin**. Many local dignitaries were also there including the **Burgermeister Herr Jochan Schumann** and his wife. The time had arrived for beating retreat and the band certainly gave an unforgettable display. It was very pleasing to see **Maj Gen Sawers** taking the salute for he commanded the Regiment in 1959, the year in which it became 13 Sig Regt.

In the evening we all congregated at the Gym which had been prepared for the Anniversary Ball. We were joined again by **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Sawers** and among our other guests were **Brig** and **Mrs John Hemsley** and two former Commanding Officers **Col** and **Mrs Geoffrey Stephenson** and **Col Martin Pickard**. The evening was a resounding success with excellent food. Superb music was provided by the Quebec Band of The Queen's Regiment. A dash of style was added when all the officers and their ladies were piped into the buffet by two pipers from Queen's Ghurka Signals.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS NEWS

BADMINTON

Continuing with their success of last year **WO2 John Kirk** and **WO2 Brian Inglis** clinched the (BR) RCZ Veteran Doubles Badminton title. Many congratulations but sadly it is not to be repeated next year as **WO2 John Kirk** goes to Cyprus in June and we wish him and his family all the best for his next tour.

FULL-BORE SHOOTING

The Regimental team, captained by **WO2 Geordie Hennrie**, entered the RCZ Skill at Arms Meeting 1985 and completed the season by winning the Team Pistol Match and coming Runners-Up in the Major Unit competition. **Cpl 'Shuggy' Brunton** acquired the individual trophy as best pistol shot against heavy odds from both Major and Minor Unit entries.

The team, with the addition of **SSgt (YofS) Bowman** were also entered in the RCZ March and Shoot on Friday 10 May 1985 and came third in the Minor Unit competition.

Back Row: CO, SSgt Griffith-Williams, Sgt Mitchell, Maj Stuart
Front Row: Cpl Brunton, WO2 Hennrie, Capt Livermore

ORIENTEERING

The WRAC had a magnificent season culminating in a superb performance in the French Army Orienteering Championships held near Baden-Baden. The team is managed by **Maj Mike Jefferis** and Captained by **WO2 Jo Bolland WRAC**. Their record to date stands as follows:

BAOR (WS) Championships (Holzen) on 27 April 1985	— Team Champions 3rd Individual—**LCpl Hazel Budden**
Army Championships (Osnabruck)	— Team Runners-Up

Two of the team plus **Sgt Sally Cranwell-Child** then went on to represent the Army (WS) in the French Army Championships as individuals on 29 and 30 May and achieved excellent results with **WO2 Bolland** coming in second and **Sgt Terry Lang** in third place.

The BAOR Champions pose with the CO
L—R: Sgt Lang, Lt Col Howard, WO2 Bolland, LCpl Budden

FOOTBALL

This season the football team has had mixed fortune; starting off well by dropping only three points from the first five games, then a slow slide downhill until virtually the end of the season when the team managed to pick up and attain a creditable third position in the (BR) RCZ League Table.

During a six-a-side competition, held in April in Heinsberg, and captained by **CPO Len Fairclough,** there was mixed opposition from German, Dutch and British sides. The Regiment were the eventual winners.

The team has said goodbye to several players including **Cpls Mel Hough, Chris Vasper, Charlie Holsgrove** and **LCpl Eddy Edwards**. We would like to wish them all the very best in their new postings. All members of the team would like to thank **WO1 Derek Fowler** and **WO2 Dave McNulty** for their hard work in organising the team throughout the season and also thanks to **Cpl Nick Williams** for supplying 'nice kit' each week!

NOTES FROM OUR SQUADRONS AND TROOPS

1 SQUADRON

The last few months have been rather hectic with the normal military training, Regimental Fete, athletics and various sporting activities. The Squadron was successful in winning the Regimental Athletics Standards Competition and also the Inter-Squadron Athletics Day.

We also put up a great fight in the Regimental Seven-A-Side Soccer competition, with three troops in the last four of the competition. However, 2 Sqn pipped us at the post.

Another sporting activity which has not been generally published was the Im Eichengrund Domino Masters Tournament. A certain 'BEANIE' and one of the more mature members of the Squadron took advantage of some of the younger lads. The competitors were **WO1 Colin Gibson, WO1 Derek Fowler, SSgts Bob Hales** and **Brian Thomson**. **WO1 Fowler** emerged as the Master!

1 Sqn supplied two members of the shooting team that visited Field Station Augsburg who were hosting a shooting competition organised by the Bundeswher Reservists. The Squadron representatives were **WO2 (SSM) Geordie Hennrie** and **SSgt (YofS) Dave Bowman**. The competition included the local population with their teams of sharpshooters and also the military. Our team came 19th overall and a marvellous third in the military section. The hospitality was wonderful and the team is looking forward to returning there next year. After a lot of hustle and bustle Oscar Troop prepared to go to war in the guise of providing a five man comms detachment in support of NORTHAG Mobile.

Capt Len Yates explains to OC 1 that LCpl Land is in fact Cpl Land *L—R:* OC 1 Sqn, Cpl Teasdale, Capt Yates, Cpl Land, LCpl Thompson, Sig Resoun, Williams

3 SQUADRON

BASKETBALL

The Basketball team ended the season by winning the Berlin Minor Units Championships and coming Runners-Up in the Combined Major and Minor Unit Competition. This came at the end of a season in which it was hard at times to find games. The team very often found itself playing major units and can therefore feel satisfied with its results.

WO2 (FofS) Stan Grimmitt was ever present and played well continually, while **Cpl Bob Clare** and **Sgt Andy Ashwell,** though relatively new to the game, showed a vast improvement during the season. A special vote of thanks is due to **Mr Bob Coulting** for his help in organising matches and our score/time keeper **LCpl Maureen Evans WRAC**.

H TROOP

In the last copy of *The Wire* magazine we reported the arrival of our new Officer Commanding—**Capt Wayne Coupland**—who has now settled into the way of things at this isolated unit. Along with the 2IC—**Capt Alan Romanis**—and many other Troop members, he has been busy learning German in order to cope with the requirements of his post, such is the importance of our Anglo-German relations.

As usual our report for this period highlights military pursuits as well as sport.

The Annual Visit was held in February and the inspecting officer was the Commander of 7 Armd Bde—**Brig Barron**. The day was organised by the SSM—**WO2 (SSM) Bob Bowman BEM**—in the form of a section competition. At the end of the day and after correcting any mathematical errors by the 2IC, **Cpl Steve Rofe**'s section was declared the winning section.

After a few words from the Brigadier the members of the Unit's Security Guard, all Royal Pioneer Corps soldiers, received their new cap badges from **Brig Barron**.

The day after the Annual Visit our previous OC—**Capt Andy Field**—departed with a suitable ceremony and with a contented smile on a job well done. He received a Troop plaque and the good wishes of all before departing.

3 Sqn Basketball Team
L—R (Standing): Cpl Mick Keech, WO2 (FofS) Stan Grimmitt, Sgt 'Widdy' Widdicombe, Cpl Bob Clare
(Kneeling): SSgt Bob Crockart, Mr Bob Coulling, Sgt Andy Ashwell, LCpl Chris Salmon

Standing L—R: Cpl Phil Adams, LCpl Stuart Adlington ACC, Cpls Steve Rofe, Dave Roberts, Pte Dave Farey RPC, Cpl Mick Heenan RPC, LCpl Steve Davis
Kneeling L—R: LCpl Kev Haines RPC, LCpl Jimmy Speirs, Pte Andy Ashley RPC

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

Yet another busy time. Having fully settled in to our new Barracks, the exercises started with a vengeance. Most of April was taken up with preparing for going out and sorting out after Ex *Flying Falcon*. We had a very busy time on the exercise with lots of visitors from far and wide. Since returning we have continually been variously deployed on exercises, assisting other units.

We have also started the adventure training season, particularly with members of 1 Sqn, making full use of the excellent facilities offered by BOBC Norway, a refreshing break from Germany.

Meanwhile, back in camp the normal routine goes on. W Troop conducted a border patrol in early May. As the photograph shows it can all seem a bit too close for comfort at times!

Looking at you, looking at us looking at you! SSgt Halliday and LCpl O'Brien on W Tp Border Patrol

COLONEL'S CUP

The annual 'Colonel's Cup Competition' was held on the Scheuen training area over the period 2-3 May. This is an inter-troop march and shoot event. However, this year it was decided to break the troops down to three man groups, with each group being responsible for its own contribution towards its troop overall result. This in turn led to some excellent standards of leadership, particularly at JNCO level and the enthusiasm of all the competitors was evident throughout, despite the appalling conditions experienced.

The event comprised a 25Km forced march (long jog!!) over a course which needed accurate map reading skills in order to avoid wandering off into the wilderness, the ability to recognise various items of military equipments plus the agility to overcome a command task (the failure of which resulted in getting very wet!), all against a bogey time of 2 hours 40 minutes. Although no group managed to beat that time, several came very close to it and by picking up bonus points on the next phase of the competition, which was an obstacle course leading on to a section shoot, many groups managed to achieve very high overall percentage scores.

Capt David Tiffin and WO2 John Sinden hold the Colonel's Cup, Capt Bill Nelson with the runners up trophy

The winning individual group, and the only one to achieve the maximum score of 275 was **Lt Mike Grimson, Cpl Dave Savage** and **Sig Glenn Wilton**. They were pushed hard by the team of **Capt John Coulthard, SSgt Willy Craig,** and **Sig Mick Preston** who scored 268. Third, with a score of 259, was the team of **Sgt Steve Maddison, LCpls Joe Young** and **Taff Yorke**.

The winning troop was X-Ray Troop, 1 Sqn, who averaged 212.4, followed by SHQ Troop of 1 Sqn who averaged 212.3, the difference being one more round needed to knock down their five targets! Third place went to RHQ Troop who averaged 208.6.

The individual trophies and the coveted 'Colonel's Cup' were presented to the various winners by the CO, **Lt Col Mike Shaw**.

The event was controlled by the 'oldies' under the direction of OC HQ Sqn, **Maj Peter Todd BEM**, who by virtue of his age is now considered to be past the bribery and corruption stage of life.

In summary, a very successful event, in which nearly 400 competitors participated, resulting in a lot of very tired but very satisfied soldiers, no doubt apprehensive as to what form next year's event will take!

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS

The Regimental Athletics took place a week later—with all Squadrons providing very strong teams. The weather was excellent and all went well with a very close fought competition. 3 Sqn eventually went ahead with a superb win in the 100m relay to clinch the top position.

MOVE TO CELLE

On 10 May Y Tp completed their move to Celle from Langeleben and a small piece of Regimental history was made on the Square when **Capt John Davis** (OC D Tp) relinquished command of D Tp to **Capt Ian Jefferies** (OC Y Tp). **Maj John Burnage** (OC 2 Sqn) supervised the proceedings and gave a rousing speech before the champagne was opened. We look forward to the rest of 1 Sqn joining us in Celle at the end of August.

STOP PRESS

Our KAPE tour team, led by **Capt David Tiffin** have just returned after suffering the delights of South West England. The new Intercept Complex vehicles were tested out and J Tp provided one Bromure. It appears at first glance that the vehicles stood up to the strain better than the men who had a punishingly social three weeks, ending up at Butlins in Minehead. (**LCpl Steve Harrison** has promised the SSM to refrain from using 'Hi-De-Hi!' and revert to 'Good Morning Sir'.)

The Mayor and Town Clerk of Tavistock have the finer points of a receiver explained to them by Cpl Kelly

LADIES' FASHION SHOW

On Tuesday, 14 May the ladies decided to hold a fashion show for the benefit of the ladies of Celle Station. The dresses were all provided by a local fashion house and were expertly modelled by a group of 'volunteer' ladies and gentlemen from the Regiment, supplemented by some professionals from the fashion house.

The event proved to be a tremendous success, with over 150 attending. Despite 'first night' nerves, the models all excelled themselves and were justly rewarded for their efforts by the very generous applause given at the end of the evening.

The evening was coordinated by the CO's wife, **Mrs Barbara Shaw** and the Wives' Club Committee and compèred by **Capt Andy Boyle**.

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A particularly hectic period of sporting, social and exercise commitments with *Flying Falcon* dominating the early stages covered in this report, rapidly followed by Royal Signals BAOR Novice Boxing, Bradbury Fair, Archibald Cup, the Koenigstuhl run and Athletics.

EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

The Regiment was fully deployed and were kept particularly busy throughout *Flying Falcon* with the exception of the middle weekend when there were a few moments of light relief. The following is extracted from the log of Commcen KILO:

HOW THE 'MIGHTY' CRUMBLE

Those of us who constitute the '*Wire* Avid Readers Club' will doubtless recall the on going exploits of **AT SSM 'Jock' Chalmers** (*Wire* circa May 1979). Now sadly, this broken man has hit rock bottom. Using his new alias, **Sgt Andy Chalmers** transgressed the unwritten law of Ex *Flying Falcon* when he, much to COMMCEN Command KILO's unease, interfered with the Corps' only link between FCZ and RCZ communications. Wilful sabotage was the cry!

A Court Martial was hurriedly assembled under the auspices of **Capt Mike Cost** (also to be found in the self same *Wire* circa May 1979, but under a pseudonym). Once under way the Defence Counsel was the first to rise, yet despite a spirited eloquence and some shady exhibits, was doomed to failure. **SSgt Gordon Shelley** commented afterwards, 'we was framed'. **SSgt (FofS) Steve Bibby** took up the case for the prosecution, calling upon a myriad of witnesses, including **Sgt Roy 'Jelly Bean' Jarvis** (the *Gate* Magazine circa Spring 1968), and even the Defence Counsellor!

As **Capt Mike Cost**, the Judge Advocate, wore his black cap throughout the whole proceedings, it came as no shock, when it was announced that the death penalty would be passed. So **Ex AT SSM 'Jock' Chalmers** was duly roped to the execution stake, and **Sgt Steve 'Powerman' Penn** marched in the firing squad. A sad end really to a distinguished career, but no doubt **'Andy'** will rise again.

BRADBURY FAIR 1985

The Padres had done a good job—the sky was blue and the sun shone. Bradbury Fair, after all the hectic preparations, was blessed with fine weather. And the crowds flocked in, a mixture of several thousand British and German people, young and old, crowded into West Park for a full afternoon of entertainment and fun. In the arena we were treated to two exceptionally fine displays by the Pipe Band of RAF Germany, an exciting, action packed display by the RAF Germany Police Dog Demonstration Team and the finals of the RCZ Tug-of-War League (which incidentally we won). Surrounding West Park the stalls and sideshows did a roaring trade. A particular mention must go to our lodger unit, 11 Sig Unit RAF, who produced a novel game which, due to noisy but effective promotion, made the largest profit—well done the boys and girls in blue. The ducking stool was as popular as ever and the grand raffle, thanks to sterling work by **Capt Ron Collins**, also produced good profits. A most enjoyable afternoon which achieved its two aims of providing entertainment and money for British and German charities.

THE LORD TROPHY

For many years, **Capt (Retd) B. T. Lord MSM** (Bunny to his friends), has been a friend and regular visitor. From his home in Venray, Holland he is an active supporter of our Officers' Mess of which he is an honorary member. For some years he has wanted to present a trophy as a memento of his long attachment to the Regiment both while serving and retired. His wish came to fruition following the prize giving of the inter troop athletics which incidentally Mike Tp won.

The Lord Trophy is to be presented annually to the member who, in the opinion of the CO, has contributed most to the good name and well being of the Regiment. The first recipient of the trophy was to **SSgt 'The Doc' Doherty**—a very worthy and popular winner. **SSgt** and **Mrs Doherty** will shortly be leaving us for 233 Sig Sqn where he will take up the post of SSM. Our best wishes to you both and our sincere thanks for the hard work and unselfish efforts which you have given to the Regiment and Krefeld Station.

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Regular *Wire* readers will recall that **Lts David Burden** and **Phil Osment** have produced a Bradbury Barracks Historical Room and in the process made contact with the original occupants of the barracks, the recce elements of 6 Panzer Division. As a result of this contact **Oberst (Retd) Müller** who is in the Chairman of 6 Panzer Division Old Comrades Association requested that the annual reunion of the Old Comrades be allowed a visit to their former barracks. On the afternoon of 27 April, 130 old comrades, in many cases accompanied by their wives, braved the cold, wet weather for the visit and thoroughly enjoyed a nostalgic afternoon in their former barracks which they admitted, over coffee and cakes at the end of the visit, had shown a vast improvement in the intervening years.

In the evening, a reciprocal invitation was extended to the CO and four officers accompanied by their ladies to attend a reunion dinner. A very pleasant evening and one of some significance with the 40th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities so close.

LCpl Jon Pryke photographed with a group from the Old Comrades of 6 Panzer Division during their recent visit

POST SCRIPT

A local charity to benefit from Bradbury Fair 1984 was the Förderverein Freizeit Behinderter eV (FFB). This is a Krefeld based charity which provides a secure, residential base for mentally ill adults where they can be prepared for a return to a normal life. A group from the Regiment recently went to FFB to present a gift of six bicycles. The residents were absolutely delighted to receive them just in time for the Spring and Summer trips into the country.

The CO hands over the bikes to residents of FFB. The money was raised during Bradbury Fair 1984

PRESENTATION OF BEM TO SGT HARRY ANACOURA

The entire Regiment, was delighted to learn that **Sgt Harry Anacoura**, one of a trio of Seychelloise in 16, had been awarded the BEM in the New Year Honours List. On Tuesday 14 May he travelled, accompanied by his wife and two daughters, to the British Ambassador's residence in Bonn for the formal presentation by Her Majesty's Ambassador to West Germany, **Sir Julian Bullard KCMG**. Together with other WOs, SNCOs and German nationals the ceremony took place in a formal but relaxed and very friendly atmosphere. Despite this atmosphere, it is reported that for the first time in his life **Sgt Anacoura** was struck speechless! Many congratulations and best wishes from the whole Regiment go to **Sgt Harry Anacoura BEM**.

Sgt Harry Anacoura receiving his BEM from the British Ambassador Sir Julian Bullard

SERGEANTS' MESS NEWS

President	**WO1 (RSM) John Bonnett**
PMC	**WO2 (SSM) Dave Nixon**
PEC	**SSgt (SQMS) Peter Doherty**
Treasurer	**SSgt Bob Taylor**
Entertainment	**Sgt Chris Barlow**
	Sgt Joe (the post) Robertson
	Sgt Ian Fielding
	Sgt Stu Thompson
	Sgt Robin Lawrie
	Sgt Steve Penn

During the last period of mess duty we have bid farewell at Regimental Dinners to **WO2 (YofS) Alan Hawkins** on commissioning in the Medical Corps, **SSgt Pete Dunnings** to civilian life and **WO2 (FofS) Steve Sims MBE** to the same job but in 'civvies'. We wish them all the very best for their futures whatever their employment.

SSgt (SQMS) Pete Doherty has worked near miracles keeping the entertainment going between Exercises and trying to organise his store for hand-over in a short time when he leaves us on promotion to Northern Ireland.

Certainly one of the highlights of the period was the indoor bowls tournament in which SSM's **Len Rowland-Jones** and **Dave Nixon** had the unenviable task of knocking out **WO1 (RSM) John Bonnett** and **WO1 (YofS) Fred Clavert** in the first round. The favourites to win the title were **SSgt Gordon Shelley** and **SSgt (SQMS) Geoff Barrett** who in their professionally sponsored turn out and golfing shoes eased their way into the semi-finals. Their bubble burst when they met the conquerors of the RSM and **Fred Calvert**; sneaking through on the other half of the draw were **Sgt (SSgt) Mick Barbe** and **Sgt Ian Fielding** who finally took the title 13—11 from SSMs **Len Rowland-Jones** and **Dave Nixon**.

On Thursday 4 April the Warrant Officers dined out **WO2 Gary Mason** and his wife. **WO2 Mason** leaves us to take up appointment as RSM with 33 Sig Regt (V) Liverpool. We extend to them our congratulations and good wishes for their tour in Liverpool.

CHARITY RUGBY MATCH WRAC v R SIGNALS

The faces of the starving children in Ethiopia prompted **Sgt Ann Gillan** and other members of the Regiment's WRAC into taking positive action to assist. Having just witnessed the annual Bone of Contention Rugby Match, the idea of a charity Rugby Match took shape. So the challenge went out to the male members to meet in rugby combat on May Day. A very successful disco was held on the preceding night.

The day of the match was sunny and dry, just the weather for a fast open game. The girls turned out immaculately clad in their blue and white stripes and the men turned out in a weird and wonderful assortment of female attire. Best dressed man was our totally impartial referee **Capt Ron Collins** wonderfully dressed in a costume half male and half female. The match was played in the best spirit of the game although one or two of the rucks lasted a little longer than was respectable.

Man of the match, oops sorry! Woman of the match was **LCpl Bev Daubney** who scored a brilliant individual try which left the majority of the men littering the field in her wake. The final score of 18—18 gave a true reflection of the run of play.

A very enjoyable and successful event followed by a barbeque and beer. The final winners were the starving people of Ethiopia for whom a cheque for DM 545 was sent to the charity appeal. Well done the WRAC!

Capt Ron Collins suitably attired as the completely impartial referee for the charity rugby match

One of the rucks which lasted a little longer than was decent

THE ARCHIBALD CUP

The Archibald Cup, an International Friendship Football Tournament, instigated in 1983 by **Brig Gen Archibald** took place in Krefeld at Bradbury Barracks during the sun-drenched weekend of 25/26 May. Teams began arriving on Friday evening along with a phone call withdrawing the French team 42e Regt de Transmission in Rastatt. **WO2 (SSM) Dave Nixon** managed to organise a replacement team from within the Regiment and were quickly dubbed Le Blockies.

Canadians are renowned, at least the ones we've met for throwing themselves wholeheartedly into everything they do, especially socialising. It certainly became evident at once **Maj Chris Melhuish** had welcomed the teams and the Canadian team of HQ and Sig Sqn (4 CMBG) lost 20—0 to the Regimental side with **Cpl Steve Cotter** and **LCpl Alan Higgins** each scoring five goals and **SSgt Peter Doherty** and **Cpl Jimmy McIntosh** each scoring three. We won't mention 'The Doc' also missed a penalty, will we!

The Regiment have won the Trophy in the previous two years and the 'crunch' match is always against the Germans of 740 Fernmelde Kompanie stationed in Mainz. This year was no exception and a 4—3 victory to the Regiment kept the Archibald Cup in the CO's trophy cabinet outside the guardroom, for another year.

Mention must be made of the 5 Sig Command (USA) who had hosted the previous two year's tournaments. They had never won a game until this year when they beat the Canadians 3—1 to win the N American Cup and a fine win over Le Blockies 2—0. **Maj Gen A. Yeoman** was present to award the trophies to all competitors and the Archibald Cup to **Sgt Billy Watts**.

Social activities also took place during the weekend when old friendships were renewed and new ones made. We hope that **Hauptmann Willi Glocker** of 740 Fernmelde Kompanie can convince the German Commander to host next year's tournament. They say that Mainz is beautiful this time of year!

PS. Thanks to **WO1 Bob White** of 13 Sig Regt for organising the officials.

LCpl Alan Higgins scores one of his five goals against the Canadians

Winners of the Archibald Cup for the Third Year. *Back Row:* Cpl Cotter, WO2 Smith, SSgt Doherty, Sgt Barlow, Sig Alison, Cpl Phipps, LCpl Ward, WO2 Nixon;
Front Row: Sig Hill, LCpl Higgins, Cpl McIntosh, Sgt Watts, Cpls Marshall, Toye, Leitch, LCpl Murray

REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL

Not one of our best seasons by a long chalk so we can only improve with an influx of new players to replace the departed **Cpl Stan Matthews, Sig Kevin 'See Far' Reynoldson, SSgt Peter 'Turn on a sixpence' Doherty** and **LCpl Alan Higgins**. *Lionheart* forced the season to start late as most of the players were in the field and unable to return until end-ex, and bad weather froze the pitches. Though not a total disappointment the season saw us finish fourth in the Corps Six-a-sides at St Tonis losing on corners to 28 (BR) Sig Regt in the semi-final and again on corners to 7 Sig Regt in the third/fourth play off. Three of the top four teams were from the RCZ so competition is pretty tough. Congratulations must go to **Sgt Billy Watts, Cpl Stan Matthews** and **LCpl Alan Higgins** for being selected for the Corps Side this season.

WO2 (SSM) Dave Nixon and **WO2 (FofS) Ken Smith** hope to get the team in shape long before the 1985/86 season arrives.

KOENIGSTUHL RUN

Readers will be aware that we have a thriving and active partnership with 43 US Sig Btn based in the beautiful old university town of Heidelberg. A regular feature of their forecast of events is the Koenigstuhl Run. This is an 8.8Km run, all uphill, to one of their stations overlooking the city. The Regiment have taken part for some years and were well represented again this year with an Officers' team led by the CO together with an A and B team. Once again we won the team event and were well represented in the individual positions:

SSgt Pete Halstead	5
Cpl George Crozier	6
SSgt Ian Kirkpatrick	8
Capt David Larkam	16
LCpl Andy Kevins	22

And we must not forget an honorary member of the Regiment, **Maj Noel Slater**, the OC of 43 AEC who came second in the over 40's.

It was a very successful and enjoyable visit. Altogether 15 runners took part and all reached the top in good time. The team result—first for the fourth successive year—will take some beating. A good result for the 'Boys from the Flat Stuff'.

REME BAOR MOTORCYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1985

On the 20 April 1985, at the Achmer Training Area, the Handlebar Motorcycle Club entered the REME Motorcycling Championships. This was the Club's first event this year and proved to be a most satisfying one.

The team contained some relatively new riders to Army Motorcycling events. **Cpl Paul Wild, LCpls 'Barney' Barnes** and **Steve Molson** made up the team for the Competition class and they showed great enthusiasm and determination against tough and experienced opposition. Although no medals were brought home, on this occasion, the experience gained was invaluable and will benefit us for future events.

An Enduro is a most demanding race of over 230Kms of a cross-country course. At the end of the day, it is the spirit of competitors and their dedication to the sport that makes for an enjoyable event.

STOP PRESS
ATHLETICS

Very well done to our athletics team who on 5 June at the Sennelager sports arena came second to 7 Sig Regt in the Morrison Cup. As far as can be researched, this would appear to be our best position ever. It was followed on 7 June by a very close win in the RCZ inter unit competition. The final score wsa 13 Sig Regt—122 points and 16 Sig Regt—122 points with the final decision going to 16 as we had more first placings than 13.

FOOTBALL
R SIGNALS (BAOR) INTER-CORPS COMPETITION

For the first time in two years the Corps (BAOR) Football Team was reformed under the chairmanship of **Lt Col Walters**, CO 28 (BR) Sig Regt, Secretary **Capt Ridley-Jones**, 21 Sig Regt and Coach/Manager **WO2 (FofS) Smith**, 16 Sig Regt.

The competition was played in two leagues, the top two in each meeting in a straight knock out semi-final. The first game was played very much before the management side had established itself and resulted in a 3—1 win for the RA.

R SIGNALS V RAOC 1—0

A very competitive game, with both defences holding firm was eventually settled by a breakaway goal scored by **Cpl Terry Smith** late in the second half.

R SIGNALS V REME 2—1

By now the squad was firmly established and the team starting to play well as a unit. Against the REME a very competent start was upset by a goal scored in the twenty fifth minute by the opposition, a lead that they held until the sixtieth minute when constant pressure by the Corps was rewarded with a goal scored by **Cpl Billy Grearson**. With team Captain, **Sgt Ally MacKenzie** and **LCpl Al Higgins** having a complete run in midfield another goal was inevitable, this eventually came when **Cpl Brian Wilkins** put in the winner 10 minutes before end of play.

R SIGNALS V APTC 1—0

Unfortunately the APTC could not field a team to play us and we were awarded the game by default. This gave us second position in our league (behind the RA on goal differences) and a semi-final place against the winners of league A.

SEMI FINAL
R SIGNALS V RE

We knew before the kick off that this would be a very difficult game. The Sappers, winners of the trophy for the three previous seasons were drawn from the strong 28 Amphibious Regt, and the BAOR minor and major cup winners 40 AESG, with the prolific BAOR goal scorer **'Podge' Lehoney** leading their forward line.

In atrocious weather conditions the match kicked off and completely against the pundits (**Desmond Leach** of Sixth Sense eat your heart out) the Corps played their best football of the competition and took the game to the Engineers. **Sig 'Scouse' Malloney** twice going close to scoring, and once again the midfield running the game at a controlled pace, **Cpl 'Griff' Griffin** playing particularly well. Unfortunately no goals game from all this pressure, and the Sappers sensing the game was there to be won started mounting their own attacks more frequently. However, in the seventy eighth minute following a poor corner clearance, the ball was played back into their box and there was **Cpl Billy Grearson** to guide the ball into the net to give the Corps the lead. Resolute defending with **Cpl Brian Wilkins** outstanding gave the Corps a famous victory. In the other semi-final the RA beat the RAPC 4—1.

1985 INTER-CORPS FINAL
R SIGNALS V RA 2—4

Unfortunately the squad lost three valuable members before the final, **Cpl Terry Smith** to Blandford, **LCpl Al Higgins** on a Leadership course and **Cpl Tony Mee** to UK.

The final played at Hameln on 4 May lived up to all the spectators' expectations with **Col O'Dea** stating on BFBS Radio that it was, without doubt, the most exciting and skilful game of football he had witnessed in all his Army career. The game itself was played at a furious pace from the first kick. It soon became apparent that the Artillery bypassed their midfield completely when going forward, using the long ball to their very quick front runners (à la Watford). This gave our back four players a great deal of running to do with **LCpl Paul Lincoln** outstanding. However in the twenty seventh minute the Gunners got behind the defenders to score the opening goal. One minute before half time they increased their lead with a rather lucky goal. Goalkeeper **LCpl Dave Tuck** parrying the shot only for the ball to hit the oncoming forward's head and rebound into the net, this in spite of the fact the Corps were very much on top at this time.

Going into the second half people hardly had time to blink before the Artillery had scored twice more to lead 4—0. At this stage **Sgt Joey Murray** and the elder statesman of the squad **Sgt Billy Watts** were sent on. They immediately signalled their presence by combining to win a corner, resulting in a text-book headed goal by **LCpl Paul Lincoln**. Constant pressure now by the Corps resulted in another goal from **Cpl Griffin**, but time was against us and the Artillery won the cup for the first time in their history 4—2.

We look forward to improving our performance next year, with the majority of the squad available again.

Players to represent the Corps (BAOR) this year were: **Sgt Ally Mackenzie, Cpls Billy Grearson, Terry Smith, Brian Wilkins, LCpls Paul Lincoln, Mark Shergold, Dave Tuck, Sig Gary Maloney** 28 (BR) Sig Regt, **Sgt Billy Watts, Cpl Stan Matthews, LCpl Al Higgins** 16 Sig Regt, **Sgt Joey Murray** 7 Sig Regt, **Cpl Griff Griffin** 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, **LCpl Trib Slaney** 14 Sig Regt (EW), **Cpls Tony Lucas, Tony Mee** and **LCpl Stan Stansfield** 22 Sig Regt.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers, Corps, Regimental and Service Associations, Post Offices, Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1984-31 March 1985 the Association assisted 10,452 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,290 in employment. Of those placed 2,220 were men and women from the Army and 173 were from your Corps.

From Flanders to the Falklands- help us help them all

Raise funds for Today's **Royal British Legion**

48 PALL MALL, LONDON SW1Y 5JY

A Registered Charity

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

Two hectic months were punctuated by Ex *Flying Falcon* at the end of April, whilst May saw a number of the Squadrons away on their own battle camps. With 1 Sqn supporting the Royal Artillery on Ex *Shelldrake Spear* at the beginning of April and Commcen Echo in support of the 3 Armd Div at the end of May we have also had our share of fun outside the normal run of things. Work aside, however, there was still enough time left to slot in one or two glamorous events, as you will see:

EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

During the period 15-26 April, we were deployed on Ex *Flying Falcon*. Surprisingly the weather was good for most of the time—unusual for this exercise. There was, however, a report from one Commcen at the start of the exercise that they had experienced rain, sleet, snow, gales, and sunshine, all in the space of an hour!

Our steam-driven BRUIN system held out admirably, although the QM (Tech) did admit to having difficulties supplying the quantities of string and masking tape required by the techs!

The first week of the exercise was spent in the Sauerland, an area with which we are not familiar. After some initial siting problems were overcome the communications began to settle down and we all learned some useful lessons.

The highlight of the exercise was the annual *Flying Falcon* Dinner, this year organised by us and hosted by Comd 1 Sig Bde, **Brig R. F. L. Cook**. Although we say it ourselves, it turned out to be a runaway success and we hope that the many civilian guests from the Defence and Telecommunications industry enjoyed themselves as much as we did! Word has it that the last of the revellers didn't leave the premises until breakfast time.

REGIMENTAL SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

A well established annual event is the Sportsman's Dinner. It is held in honour of those high grade sportsmen and women (still two left, but only just) who have distinguished themselves by their enthusiasm, determination and successes in their particular field of sport. This year it was held on Thursday 2 May and again was a most relaxed and enjoyable event. We feel that the major successes during the past year are worthy of note:

Army Alpine Ski Champions
Royal Signals Dinghy Sailing Champions
Royal Signals Board Sailing Champions
Royal Signals Fishing Champions
Royal Signals Shooting Champions
4 Armoured Division Golf Champions

Individual trophies awarded at this year's dinner were as follows:

The Gladiator Trophy	**Lt Peter Gillespie**	OIC Nordic Skiing
The Addlington Trophy	**Cpl Gary Jones**	Best allround sportsman
The Langlauf Memorial Trophy	**Sig Phil Horrocks**	Most improved Langlauf skiier

The CO presents a dazed Lt Peter Gillespie with the Gladiator Trophy whilst Sig Phil Horrocks (*left*) winner of the Langlauf Memorial Trophy and Cpl Gary Jones (*right*) winner of the Addlington Trophy look on

RECRUITING 1985
MAY MINI-TOUR

This year we are hoping to make a big impact on our UK recruiting area by staging a series of mini-tours in conjunction with a full scale KAPE tour in July.

Early in May, **2Lt 'Jake' Thackray** ably supported by **LCpl Tim Langley** and **Sig Paul Divers** carried out a highly successful mini-tour in the area where they visited over 20 schools and colleges. It gained considerable impact from a 'home made', but nevertheless definitely not 'home grown', recruiting film which **Lt Jake Thackray** had spent some weeks putting together prior to the tour. We are firmly convinced that we have a second Steven Spielberg in the making.

You can find out more about the recruiting team's 'close encounters' in the next issue of *The Wire*.

The Regimental Recruiting Team, *from left to right:* Sig Paul Divers, LCpl Tim Langley and 2Lt Jake Thackray

EXERCISE *THOR FLASH*

Somewhere in the depths of 1 (BR) Corps, the names of all Signal units were posted on the wall. In the time honoured way, a dart was hurled by a blindfolded staff officer and ultimately 3 Sqn became the hosts to a detachment of 6 Danish Sig Bn. So after many 'phone calls **Capt Torben Herleusen**, the battalion S3 or Ops Officer and 29 others arrived (on a luxury coach provided by their MTO at his own expense from his own fleet—hint hint).

Lt Purre Rambert (code name little brother—cos he was small) explained that they didn't want to do too much. So without further ado and guided by **SSgt Ginge (my wife isn't expecting me home) Gibbons BEM** we adjourned to the Squadron bar (all Danes know how to order Carlsberg). **LCpl Beck** proposed a toast to nearly every King and Queen he could think of and to NATO brotherhood. The speech was met with a chorus, led by **Sgt Colin Thirkettle**, of 'why was he born so beautiful' and a Danish song that was remarkably like 'zulu warrior'. The week was most successful and came to a close with a barbecue and a sports night. **LCpl 'Tank' Sherman** nearly found 10pfg in a bowl of flour, whilst **Sig 'Animal' Farrar** won the apple ducking by completely taking the apple into his mouth in one bite (he's a Lineman). It was widely felt that another week would break the bank but as the luxury coach pulled out, several parties, especially one for **LCpl Sid Vickers'** birthday, were being organised for Ex *Odin Flash* when we venture up to Denmark in August.

LIPPSTADT 800TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

This year Lippstadt celebrates its 800th anniversary. As the British contribution to the festivities and to mark the opening week, the Staff Band of the REME, on a BAOR tour, were engaged to give a concert in the Stadthalle on Friday 24 May. (Many thanks must go to our OC LAD, **Capt Chris Jones REME**, for his efforts in arranging the band). Under the baton of their Director of Music, **Capt P. Hannam REME** they played outstandingly well and received a standing ovation at the end of their varied and interesting programme.

Speeches by the Burgermeister **Franz Klocke** and the Station Commander **Lt Col Edmund Burton RA** stamped the seal of officaldom on the evening. The Burgermeister concluded the evening by presenting **Capt Hannam** with an enormous bottle of schnapps. There was little doubt that the band had earned every last drop of it.

2 SQUADRON BATTLE CAMP
(From our war correspondent)

Because of heavy commitments, we managed to take only a week for Battle Camp this year (sic!). In the period 10-17 May we moved lock, stock and barrel from Lippstadt to do battle in the Fritzlar training area. Apart from one evening of torrential rain that flooded the court-yard at base camp and one day of rain during the survival exercise, the weather was perfect.

The camp consisted of a few days at base camp covering all military skills from map reading to bayonet practice (an art that **Sig Neil Eason** found himself incapable of getting worked up about)! There then followed two days on the ranges. Fortunately we were given the use of an electronic target range. This however, was to prove not so fortunate later on when it was found that the targets did not always respond to a hit. This could have been rectified either by using 66mm rocket launchers or by replacing the target controller. The last stage of the exercise involved two days' survival in the woods. The awesome prospect of spending two days away from Base Camp was made worse by the fact that two platoons had to *walk* to the platoon harbour location. Once in location, bashas were secured and camouflaged and a scenario that involved enemy terrorists led by the very convincing Foreman of Signals **'H' Ridley**, was followed. After two hectic days and sleepless nights (things that go 'rustle' in the night can be really disturbing) it appeared that the platoons had in fact survived. The exercise closed with an ambush that would have put any GLC firework display to shame and a walk (again!) to the edge of the woods. However, in woods that cover about one thousand square miles it can be a fair distance to the edge!

A barbeque on the final evening enabled everyone to relax before the gruelling haul back to Lippstadt, clean sheets and reality.

Lt Paul (Audie Murphy) Ford demonstrates the gentle art of giving the enemy some steel

REPORT FROM THE CORPORALS' MESS

Our Corporals' Mess must surely score 10 out of 10 for achieving a first by inviting Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman** to a dinner night in their Mess on Friday 17 May. Story has it, that on a recent exercise Comd Comms BAOR had occasion to telephone one of our TEV detachments and became engaged in conversation with **LCpl 'Jock' Burns** of 4 Sqn. When the General asked **'Jock'** who he thought he was speaking to, **'Jock'** had to reply that he hadn't a clue. On hearing this the General is rumoured to have answered—'well in that case I will come to dinner and then you will know,' but don't quote us. Anyway, he did come to dinner and what a night he had, looked after most carefully by his ever attentive host—you guessed it—**LCpl 'Jock' Burns**.

OFFSHORE SAILING
TO BE OR NOT TO BE

With the pressure off RHQ in May due to independent Squadron Camps, the CO, **Lt Col Peter Pritchard**, found ample excuse to slip away for a few days on the pretext of collecting his yacht from Cowes. He took with him **LCpls Frank McGoldrick** and **Chalky White** and **Sig Rory Hubbard** who all agree that the trip was not without its moments. The plan was to collect the yacht from Cowes and sail one leg to Dover and a second leg across the Channel, finally to arrive at the entrance to the North Sea Canal and thence to Amsterdam. However, things don't always go so smoothly. After weathering galeforce winds all the way to Dover, the engine decided to pack up just outside the harbour entrance leaving our intrepid crew with no other option but to sail back to Cowes for a refit. Regrettably, time had run out and they had to return to Lippstadt. Sailing is currently a taboo subject in RHQ!

Three quarters of the crew aboard the CO's yacht, *from left to right:* LCpl Chalky White, Sig Rory Hubbard and Lt Col Peter Pritchard. LCpl Frank McGoldrick hidden behind camera!

BOXING

On 12 April the Regiment hosted the semi-final of the Royal Signals BAOR Inter-Unit Boxing Championship against 16 Sig Regt.

It was a most entertaining evening, especially since 16 Sig Regt managed to bring along a few coachloads of home supporters!

All the competitors fought well and the Regiment only narrowly missed victory. Right up until the final bout it was a close and exciting contest with the two heavy weights boxing like welters. 16 Sig Regt won the last bout bringing the final score to 5—4 in 16's favour. They now go on to box against 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt team in the final, to be held in Herford. We wish them every possible success!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

It is with regret that we announce the departure of some of the better known Regimental characters. **Maj John Simpson** the Ops Officer leaves us for a cosy desk job in MOD PE.

Lt Graham Lewis Taylor (now that he has returned from a scientific research expedition looking for obscure bugs in the Pacific), moves on to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, with his tan.

Lt (now Capt) Ann Humphreys after excelling at a number of jobs (Tp OC, AAdjt, PRO, OC *Snow Queen*) and a number of sports (Golf and Skiing), leaves us (every bit a champion) to take up an exciting post as WRAC ORLO at the School of Signals.

WO2 Paddy Dickinson ex-SSM 4 Sqn leaves us to take up a post as MT Warrant Officer with 31 Sig Regt (V) probably known best for his talents as an orator, **SSM Dickinson**'s most famous statement to the Squadron on parade was (with Irish accent) 'If you don't all get haircuts by Monday mornin, then on your heads be it'!

New arrivals include **Maj Patrick Dickinson** who takes over as OC 3 Sqn relieving **Maj Malcolm Sinton** so that he can in turn take over as the new Ops Officer! Also **Lt Richard Giles** arrived fresh from Sandhurst recently. He has already scored a big hit with his peers by introducing them to some female friends in Bonn. Well done **Richard**! You can stay after all.

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

EXERCISE *FRAN FROLIC*

Exercise *Fran Frolic* was designed to test and instruct soldiers in basic individual and section battle skills. It took place on Leuth Training Area during 20-24 May, the high point being the 1985 ARU which was conducted on 21 May by **Brig A. K. Dixon,** Comd (BR) Rear Combat Zone. The exercise required sections of 10 men to dig into defensive positions from where they carried out tactical moves/patrols to various military skills stands on the training area.

Cpl Eric Thomas and **Cpl Ian Collier** ran the First Aid stand where some 'horrific' sights were produced with the artistic use of flour, oil and colouring. To ensure that no-one had forgotten how to administer morphine, the most junior soldier in each section had the 'honour' of treating the most senior (it was only water!).

An IS incident was organised by **Sgts David Price** and **Danny McDonald**, just a few feet from the Dutch border. The VCPs that were set up not only had to cope with **Sig 'Spud' Murphy** (growing a beard) and **Pte Linda O'Neill** but with many pedestrians and German Border Guards.

Sgt Tony Singleton had each section doing a chemical recce with a few surprises thrown in on the way. For example, **Cpl Sandy Rennie** was an excellent nerve agent casualty, and needed all his 'nine lives'.

There were no casualties for the stretcher race, and so two full water jerrycans were carried round the seven mile cross country course. **SSgt John McGonigle** was ever present to ensure that all the water made it all the way round.

The Command Task run by **SSgts Stavros Ross, Brian Parkhill** and **Graham Twisse** proved that there was more than one way to cross a minefield.

Many other incidents were planned but nobody could account for the daily soaking from above—it had not been in the original instruction. **Cpls Amos Burke** and **Colin Orchard** had plenty of practice in working for the DS in a flooded kitchen; we are still not sure whether it improved their cooking.

All in all the exercise was a resounding success. Everybody was tired by many lessons were learned, and it provided for an excellent ARU.

NORTHAG SKILL AT ARMS MEETING 1985

The NORTHAG SAAM 1985 took place at Arsbeck on 13-15 May. The Regiment entered two teams as follows:

1 Sqn: **Sgt Mick Laybourn; Cpls Craig Jones, Ian Collier; LCpls Herbie (Oops, wrong rifle) Herbert, Phil Lythgoe, Bob Shotton** (Individual non-team member).

2 Sqn: **SSgt (SQMS) Keith Bridger, Cpls Stu Lawson, Wilf Greener, Keith (Girlie) Merrie; Sig Mark Ewart.**

Monday 13 was just a practice day for all and according to the scores things looked very hopeful for the two teams. The only possible threat seemed to come from a team from No 1 ADU. The remainder of the teams were of varying nationality, British, German, Dutch and Belgian, as were the weapons they were using.

The NORTHAG SAAM teams: *Back Row L—R:* Cpl Wilf Greener, LCpls Bob Shotton, 'Herbie' Herbert, Sig Mark Ewart, Cpls Ian Collier, Craig Jones, Stu Lawson
Front Row L—R: LCpl Phil Lythgoe, SSgt (SQMS) Keith Bridger, Lt Col Cliff Walters, Sgt Mick Laybourn, Cpl Keith Merrie

Tuesday 14 started off very misty and it was a while before things got off the ground. **Cpl Keith Merrie** started the ball rolling by being one of the first to win a share in the sweepstake prize on the Pool Bull. He was followed soon after by **Cpl Stu Lawson.**

By the end of the day the 2 Sqn team were in quite a strong position with **SSgt Keith Bridger, Cpls Stu Lawson** and **Wilf Greener** through to the second stage of the rifle and **SSgt Keith Bridger, Cpls Keith Merrie, Wilf Greener** and **Sig Mark Ewart** through to stage two of the SMG.

Second stage for the 1 Sqn team were **Sgt Mick Laybourn, Cpl Ian Collier, LCpls Phil Lythgoe, Herbie Herbert** and **Bob Shotton** on the rifle and **Sgt Mick Laybourn, Cpl Ian Collier** and **LCpl Bob Shotton** on the SMG.

Wednesday 15 dawned bright and clear and it wasn't long before **Cpl Keith Merrie** could be seen coming back from the Pool Bull Range with a smile on his face and the sun shining off his almost bald head, with yet another prize in the sweepstake. At this stage he was getting worried that the tax man might find out.

By this time the results of the unit competition were known with 2 Sqn being runners up to HSC/NAT Det A team (beaten by only six points) and 1 Sqn coming third. In the invitation team match held later that day 2 Sqn were again runners up and 1 Sqn a creditable fourth.

Champion shot of the competition went to **SSgt Keith Bridger** 2 Sqn who also won the Williams Challenge Plate which is presented for the champion shot of NORTHAG. The runner up was **LCpl Shotton** 1 Sqn, much to the dismay of the 1 Sqn team Captain, because he was firing as an individual and not for his team.

Senior Rifle Champion was **SSgt Keith Bridger** who also came runner up in the Senior SMG.

Junior Rifle Champion was **LCpl Phil Lythgoe.**

To round off the event, an International Balloon Competition was held. Each Nation entering several teams each consisting of two firers. The competition was held on similar lines to the falling plate, but using balloons instead.

The competition was won by the UK B team—**LCpl Phil Lythgoe** 1 Sqn team and **Cpl Ryan** Jt Tpt Coy RCT.

Well done to all who took part.

NEWS FROM 1 SQUADRON
ALPHA TROOP

In spite of not having a troop OC for most of the time since Ex *Wintex* (**2Lt David Kenyon** spends most of his time swanning on courses or in hospital), Alpha troop have managed to achieve first place in a few competitions. Firstly the Regimental March and Shoot, where our team, ably led by our own 'mini Yeoman', **Pete 'I am standing up' Jarvis,** produced the best scores of the day, even though a couple of team members were unable to spot the difference between the bank and the targets!

The next event was the inter troop athletics where Alpha were once again victorious. Considering the amount of training or rather lack of it the troop surprised everyone present including themselves.

First places were achieved by; **Cpl Brian Wilkins** (1,500m), **Cpl Mick Jones** (triple jump), **LCpl 'Herbie' Herbert** (300m steeple chase), **Sig 'BL' Leyland** (high jump) and **Sgt Rick Richards, Cpl Geordie Hugill, LCpl 'Steady' Edwards** and **LCpl Bob Shotton** in the 4 × 100m relay.

Last and most recently came Ex *Fran Frolic* and the ARU, a rigorously testing exercise filled with all aspects of military life.

In the first half of the exercise Alpha's section, led by **Cpl Mick Jones**, ably assisted by **Cpl 'soon to be Mr' Paul Creevy** as 2IC, attained very high scores in all the activities. A great deal of effort was put into the event by all the lads, who deservedly came out as top section for the first phase of the exercise.

The troop would like to say goodbye to **Sgt Willy** and **Sue Williams** who recently left for 3 Commando Bde, **Cpl Chris Joll** and **Sig 'Foggy' Dewhurst** to 1 Armd Div, **Pte Sue Richards,** who has had enough abuse and decided to go back to Victor troop, and last but not least **Sgt Jim Innes** and his wife who after 22 years (the last six at 28 Sig Regt) have just left for the big wide world of 'civvy street'.

A welcome to our new arrivals; **LCpl 'Frosty' Frost** from Northern Ireland and **Sig Steve** and **Stephanie Epps.** Finally congratulations to **LCpl Brian Hickenbottom** on his recent and long awaited promotion.

BRAVO TROOP

The period after Ex *Wintex* was at first thought to be relatively quiet, a good time for **Sgt Mick Alcock** to start the mammoth task of moving and sorting out the Troop stores. However, the calendar was soon filled up with other events, such as Ex *Varsity Return*, Ex *Flying Falcon* and TÜV, to name but a few. Certain members of the troop managed to escape for two weeks skiing in sunny Austria **Cpl 'Dill' Dillon** tried (usually successfully) to wipe out the rest of the course, including the Troop OC, with his kamikaze style skiing. He did, however, provide some spectacular 'wipe outs' and always ended up in a heap of giggles at the bottom of the slope! Another master of the sensational wipe out was **Cpl Steve Francis,** who consistently maintained that his bindings were too loose, but always miraculously managed to keep his 'posers' sun glasses on.

As a number of the troop were leaving, it was decided to have a troop party to see them off in style. **SSgt Wendy Barton** organised the function which was held in the rugby club and turned out to be a very enjoyable evening. The services of **SSgt (YofS) Pete Jarvis** were kindly given as barman, but until given an orange box to stand on he had difficulty in seeing over the bar! **Sig 'Guy' Foulkes** moved his personal 'disco' from his room to provide a wide range of music for the evening. **LCpl Dave 'what happened to my shirt?' Merricks** couldn't keep off the dance floor and provided most of the evenings entertainment, ably assisted by the rest of the Troop, especially **Sig 'AB' Allan-Burns** who even manages to amuse people without wearing his suspenders! Thanks to all those who made the evening a success and to **Cpl Paddy Burke** (the Bravo Cook) for kindly preparing the hot buffet.

During the last couple of months we have bidden farewell to: **Sgts Dave Price** and **Nigel Deoweneley**—moved within the Regiment to the Training Wing and SHQ Troop, respectively; **Cpl Jon Arkless** left the army after 12 years service to find a new career in 'civvy street'; **LCpl Terry Smith** left for the School of Signals; **Sig 'Elli' Elliott** to 2 Div and **Pte Sue Vincent** back to Victor Troop. Last but by no means least, and in spite of the fact that **Cpl 'Dill' Dillon** was wearing his best suit, no-one could just let him go quietly to his T1 course in Catterick. He was caught and strung up by his ankles in a tree at the back of the Squadron and had a number of good luck messages from the Troop scrawled nearly all over him in indelible red ink (the negatives are now available at a small price!). Best wishes and good luck to all those recently departed and a welcome to our new Troop members: **Sgt Stan** and **Janet Wise** from 22 Sig Regt and **Sgt Phil** and **Wansa Welham** from 21 Sig Regt.

To end on a high note, with the Troop losing so many we have now started to recruit from the other end of the scale! Congratulations to **LCpl Phil** and **Jean Lythgoe** on the birth of their second son, **Ian.**

GOLF

The Regimental golf team have had another successful year. Their achievements are as follows:

Winners: RCZ Winter League

Royal Signals Spring Meeting

Winner: Combined 36 Hole Stableford, **Maj F. D. Rogers.**
Winner: 18 Hole Medal H/Cap, **Sgt M. G. Kilvington.**
Winners: Regiment Foursomes, **Capt P. H. Death** and **Sgt M. G. Kilvington.**

OTHER RESULTS
RAF GERMANY GC BRUGGEN

Easter Medal—Winner—**Sgt M. B. Kilvington.**
Easter Monday 3 Club Competition—Winner—**SSgt J. McGonigle.**

The Golf team: *Front Row L—R:* Maj Frank Rogers (OIC Golf), Lt Col Cliff Walters, Maj Ted Noon
Back Row L—R: Sgt Mick Kilvington, WO2 'Boggy' Marsh, Capt Pete Death, SSgt John McGonigle
(*absent:* Sgts Dave Price, 'Chippy' Wood, Cpl Jimmy Frew)

ARMY CADET FORCE ATTACHMENT

During 9-18 April the Regiment was invaded by 20 cadets from Cheshire and Cumbria ACF's. The cadets, most of whom had never travelled abroad, arrived in the rain at Dusseldorf airport and were met by **Capt Thérèse Crook** and **LCpl Bob Shotton,** who had been selected from a cast of thousands to compile a programme and escort the cadets throughout their visit. The programme was devised to include a certain amount of fun and games, such as a visit to Phantasialand and some 'hard work' in the form of military training. They were allowed a couple of 'easy' days to settle in, and look round the Regiment and visits to places of interest, before being hit by a full day of military training, including; drill, weapon training, first aid, a march, a shoot and the assault course. The boys participated with enthusiasm, really enjoyed the whole day and slept very soundly that night.

The highlight of the attachment was undoubtedly the overnight exercise which took place after the weekend. The cadets were split into two large sections, Cumbria versus Cheshire, and set off for Leuth training area.

During the exercise the section DS, **Sgts 'Mav' Merrick** and **Stan Wise** instructed them in various aspects of fieldcraft and set them off on day/night patrols, ambushes and attacks. Both sections had to deal with first aid (and very 'bloody') casualties made up by **Cpl Ian Collier. Sig 'Elli' Elliott** (who was later awarded an Oscar for the part) screamed and yelled so much with the pain that it took at least four cadets to hold him down and another to stem the flow of blood from his leg. Needless to say, all of them ended up covered in artificial blood and were still a bit pink when they returned to camp the following day after a busy night's fighting in the rain.

All too soon it was time to return home to England, but all with one or two amusing stories of their escapades in Germany to relate to their parents and friends.

Cdt LCpls Robert Spencer and Jeremy Suter make their way over the last obstacle on the assault course

Sgt Mav Merrick discusses the fall of shot with Cdt LCpl Andrew Ford

29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
BFPO 45

VISIT OF GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING

Although the various Headquarters in Berlin are colocated with the Regiment, and we see a lot of the GOC, this is only the second time that **Maj Gen Gordon Lennox MBE** has paid us a detailed visit. Although the Regiment was formed in late 1983, we are only now beginning to go through many of the real physical and organisational changes required. His support has been particularly strong, and we delight in showing him some of the existing arrangements dating back to the British occupation in 1945!

The Regiment lives in what was the Sports University before it became the Olympic site. Many of the facilities are therefore converted from gymnasia, fencing halls, boxing halls and very lush offices. This may sound good to those with cramped space, but it also poses many other problems. One is the useful facility of the Regimental Club (ex gym) where the GOC was most impressed with the facilities, but worried that it was in the middle of the accommodation! The restaurant is another converted gymnasium, and here he spoke to **Pte Ellwood**, a civilian and a Territorial Army cook. We would be lost on exercise without him. Frying frozen chips in the bag is obviously his forté!

The tactical communications are considerable, not very different from elsewhere, but always of walkabout interest. The GOC believes in lots of punch in the way communications are run, as seen when he spoke to **Sig Simon Sweatman**. He was obviously most impressed with the kneeling to attention position adopted by **Sig Dave Pithie**. The detachment commander **LCpl John Tayne** was obviously making sure that his detachment passed inspection.

We apologise for the brevity of these notes and promise a more comprehensive report of our activities next time.

Pte Ellwood tells a catering joke!

Get in there and punch them!

Does he always come to attention like that?

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

EXERCISE *CYGNET GLOBE* VI

Ex *Cygnet Globe* is a worldwide HF communications exercise. It is designed to practise operators and communication planners in Long Range HF communications, working alongside allied countries. This year we were fortunate enough to deploy two man liaison teams in USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Gibraltar and Belize. We also hosted liaison teams from 2 Mne Div, USA, 35 Sig Bde, USA, and 12 Signal Unit RAF Cyprus. The exercise was controlled from Blandford with the 'stay-behinds'—**Capt Keith Pritchard, WO2 (YofS) Derrick McClelland** and **WO2 (FofS) Pat Baldwin** left to oversee the exercise and host our guests.

CYPRUS

Meanwhile much was happening overseas. Reports were being received from the liaison teams; the first one arriving from Cyprus. The contingent to Cyprus consisted of **2Lt Rob Salvoni** and **WO1 (YofS) Les Rix**. They were hosted by 262 Sig Sqn, but worked with both 262 Sig Sqn and 12 Signal Unit RAF during the exercise. A great deal was learnt, especially the difference between the RAF's 10 kW transmitters and 262's VRC 321. Just across the Mediterranean, **SSgt Bob Hooper** and **Sig 'Buck' Rogers** were working with the Navy maintaining a 24 hour CW link to Blandford.

USA

SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' Evans and **Sig 'Chippy' Lang** were one of the two liaison teams deployed to the USA. Their host was 35 Sig Bde, Fort Bragg. As well as the daily 'gloat-rep' back to Blandford, they took an active part in 50 Signal Battalion daily training. This included **'Scouse' Evans** taking A Company for one hour's early morning PT! **'Chippy' Lang** then had his big toe-nail pulled off after American PT, and **'Scouse' Evans** ended up sitting in the back of a C141 with 360 others, waiting to jump out!

The second liaison team consisted of **Sgt Dougie Douglas** and **Sig Kev Fowler**. They were to be the guests of the US Marine Corps, or at least the two biggest, craziest Marines that they could find. The working day started at 0430 hrs with PT and a 'sing song'! Then it was on to the detachment to help out their shift roster.

Cpl Kimbrell (2 Mne Div USA), Sig Ray Pendrick and SP4 Whitman (35 Sig Bde USA) on the American Det 'phoning home'

CANADA

Being the Regimental Sergeant Major has its rewards and going to Canada was one of them, or so he thought! **WO1 (RSM) Brian Smith** and **LCpl Kev Potter** were deployed to Kingston, Ontario, where they were to be the guests of the 1 Canadian Sig Regt. However, this year the Regiment was involved in the largest exercise in Canada for many years, so it was off with the civvies, on with the winter woollies and off to the Wainwright Training area in Alberta. After flying thousands of miles across Canada, the team arrived in the 'Badlands' and were met by **CWO Roger Daigle** (SSM 1 Sqn) and **CWO George Burtoff** (Chief Comms Warrant Officer). **LCpl Potter** was soon involved in the link to Blandford, showing his skill as an operator and, in his spare time, his sadistic nature as an AIPT!

AUSTRALIA

The Australian team consisted of **Maj John Thomas** and **LCpl Geoff Heap**. On arrival in Melbourne they were met and hosted by 2 Sig Regt. After two days' early morning circuit training and a visit to 126 Cdo Sqn, the party flew on to Canberra where they were met by **Maj Rob Murray** (Ex *Long Look* with the Regiment, and well remembered by many). From Canberra the team flew to Brisbane and 1 Sig Regt, being met by **Capt John Collins**, who had arranged the visit. After a quick visit to 139 Sig Sqn, the team flew back to Sydney for the return flight home.

NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand team comprising **WO2 (SSM) Henry Banks** and **Cpl Cliff Montgomery**, flew to Sydney with the Australian party and then on to Auckland, where they were met and hosted by 1 and 4 Sig Sqns. The first week was spent working with the 1 Sqn detachment and meeting the Sqn Comds, **Maj A. I. F. Gumbly** (1 Sqn) and **Maj Janet Castell** (4 Sqn), who was attached to 30 Sig Regt on Ex *Long Look* in 1984. Week two saw the party move to Christchurch for three days where they were hosted by 3 Sig Sqn. After a brief period sightseeing, they returned to Papakura to join 4 Sqn for the ANZAC celebrations. Once they had recovered from the celebrations it was off to Hopu Hopu, home of 5 Sig Sqn. Here they met the Sqn Comd, **Maj Peter Bonser** (ex R Signals) and another ex-member of the Corps, **Cpl Armstrong** (RR Tech).

HONG KONG

The final liaison team was to Hong Kong, consisting of **WO1 Colin May** and **LCpl Sid Holderness**.

WO1 Colin May recalls, 'that there was an air of anticipation as the passengers on British Caledonian Flight 485 stowed their kit for the 16 hour flight. This was the start of Ex *Cygnet Globe* for the Hong Kong det.'

Six meals and several time zones later the DC10 lurched sideways over Kowloon and touched down at Kai Tak Airport. **LCpl Sid Holderness** and **WO1 Colin May** were in Hong Kong.

WO2 (RQMS) Bob McSeverey from our host unit, 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn, was waiting and we were soon receiving a briefing on life 'Hong-Kong-style'.

After the fog and rain of UK, the 26 degrees of Hong Kong was very pleasant and a trip to a radio relay station on the hills above Kowloon, courtesy of K Troop 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn, showed the peninsula and island at its best. By this time **LCpl Holderness** had been ferried off to 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn at Sek Kong and **WO1 May** was taken by helicopter to the island of Ping Chau to visit the radio det taking part in the Exercise.

The island was being used by 248 Gurkha Sig Sqn as an adventure training camp and **SSgt Dougie McTaggart** and his team had organised a very pleasant camp with rock climbing, wind surfing and hiking. After visiting the det **WO2 (YofS) Merv Foster, WO2 (RQMS) Bob McSeverey** and **WO1 May** recce'd the island, avoiding the many poisonous snakes that had been spotted, before catching the helicopter to Sek Kong and 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn.

At Sek Kong, **LCpl Sid Holderness** had been busy erecting antennae under the watchful eye of **WO2 (YofS) Terry Tapsell**. Communications proved very successful.

A week in Hong Kong is too short a time to take in all the sights and after a visit to the Navy det at HMS *Tamar*, who were also taking part in the Exercise, it was soon time to say our goodbyes and be on our way.

The concensus was that the Exercise had been well worth while, and that it had highlighted the problems of communicating over long distances, particularly it enabled us to see at first hand the expertise and professionalism of the Queen's Gurkha Signals.'

All the liaison teams returned safely to Blandford, each with tales of their adventures. Similarly the American and RAF liaison teams returned 'chez-eux' somewhat wiser as to British equipment and procedures.

(The Assistant Adjutant thanks 'stay-behind' **Capt 'Bronze-legged' Pritchard** for his literary skills and wishes him luck in his new posting in London.)

EXERCISE *CYGNET TREK* IV

Twice a year we hold a Regimental Battlecamp. Once again the 'Top Floor' decided on Fort Tregantle as the location for our Spring Battlecamp. I wonder if the Five Star Mess accommodation influenced the decision?

This year the emphasis was on the mandatory military skills. Our Camp Commandant, **Maj Peter McGann**, spent hours working out timetables to ensure that the DS and visitors were not forgotten. Most visitors cut their visits short when they realised, that this year at least, everyone was a gladiator and mere spectators would not be tolerated.

During the first week, certain 'selected' JNCOs and SNCOs attended a cadre course run by **Maj Geoff McKie** and **WO2 (SSM) Dave Robertson**. The object of the course was to teach a variety of subjects, covering administration and management skills, but should such skills have failed, AKIDO was included in the curriculum and thus, it was assured that one way or another, they would be able to solve most problems!

The course was a great success but not long enough (the NCOs' comment) and some good suggestions were received for subjects which should be included in future courses—drill, military law, pyrotechnics.

EXERCISE *STRIDENT CALL*

On 4 January whilst most members of the Regiment were on Christmas Block Leave a 2 Sqn Detachment departed for Kenya.

Under the direction of **Sgt Colin Whawell** they practised erecting 80ft masts, suffered the doctor's needle (cholera etc), started taking Paludrine (anti malaria) Tablets and bought sun-tan lotion from perplexed sales assistants ('In January? It's snowing . . .?!')

The initial task was twofold: firstly, a DCN Link was to be secured between The Glosters (based in Nanyuki), and our RAF friends in Cyprus; secondly, an admin link was to be set up between the Nanyuki Detachment and a smaller detachment attached to 48 Fd Support Sqn, RE (working at Isiolo). **Sgt Whawell** headed the Nanyuki Det, which at first consisted of **Cpl Paul Ellis, LCpl Pete Prater, Sig Steve 'Zorro' Weir, Glynn Whittick** and **Stan Haworth**. At Isiolo, **Cpl Mac McKinnon** settled down to a routine that he maintained for three and a half months, initially assisted by **Sig Geordie Longstaff** and **Jim Parson**.

In mid-February The Glosters returned to chilly UK and a slight reshuffle took place astride the equator: **Sig Longstaff** and **Parson** returned to the UK; **Sig Haworth** moved to Isiolo and **Sig Rick Burton** and **Vince Vincent** flew out and went to Isiolo and Nanyuki respectively.

The Royal Fusiliers arrived in Nanyuki (with variable ideas of the correct dress) and stayed until the end of March. 48 Fd Support Sqn RE had been hard at work building four facilities for the Kenyan Army School of Infantry at Isiolo. The main DCN link was at this point swung from Nanyuki to Isiolo, giving the RAF at Cyprus another example of how decent comms *can* be achieved if the ability is there in the first place . . . Enough said!

The four remaining stalwarts were increased to a quintet with the arrival from Blandford of **Lt Patrick Windsor-'soup'-Brown**, who in no time disappeared for two days R and R!

The penultimate members of the Kenyan Escape Committee flew back to England, **Cpl Paul Ellis** and **Sig Steve Weir**: the latter having bartered almost his entire wardrobe for carvings! On 20 April, the last three left Kenya with the remainder of the Sappers and paused only at Cairo and Palermo, Sicily before arriving at RAF Lyneham (after 19 hours aloft in a Hercules) . . . Roll on October, for the promise of another Kenya exercise looms for the go-anywhere adventurers of 2 Sqn.

EXERCISE *GREEN START*

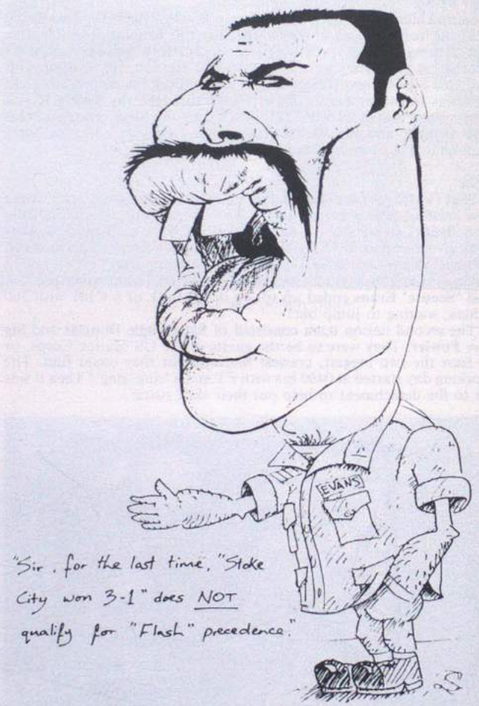
Ex *Green Start* which took place 22-26 April was a 3 Sqn non-tactical exercise in the Brecon Beacons in the National Park. The exercise consisted of comms practice, learner driving (up 90° slopes!), along with orienteering and planned runs. A comprehensive concurrent activity programme was implemented, including night time routine.

The RR were tested in the worst terrain possible, operating in heights of 2,500-3,000ft ranges. Although the shots were relatively short (15Kms), three relays were employed on more than one occasion. However, nearly everyone indented for oxygen masks for the ascent on Wales' second highest peak Pen-y-Fan!

EXERCISE *PURPLE VENTURE*

Ex *Purple Venture* held 9-15 May was a JFHQ CPX. It took place at RAF Hullavington and Keevil airfield. We were tasked with providing exercise comms, and this little chestnut fell into the lap of 3 Sqn. The HF circuits were to be simulated over a BRUIN Trunk Comms Link. To bolster the manpower available, 2 Sqn provided 30 R TGs; 15 to each location. RAF Hullavington's exercise Message Centre was manned mainly by Net Radio Troop. Their correspondent writes:

'Having got the Message Centre set up in the hangar, and having sorted out accommodation (of the tented variety) outside, the exercise eventually began. Apart from large chunks of boredom interspersed with bursts of frantic activity, Ex *Purple Venture* was different from normal CPXs (tactical or otherwise) in many ways, such as the Caption Contest depicting **SSgt (YofS) Evans**, which drew entries from **Sgt Trevor Keates** and **Cpl Andy Craig**, not to mention members of the Staff!



The hangar itself provided an interesting amphitheatre for amusement: there aren't many places where you can play indoor cricket against the Royal Marines at 3 o'clock in the morning (we lost!), or where a subaltern can be hoisted aloft on a shackle chain, upside down in his sleeping bag, suspended by his feet.

Sig Ops were spectacularly inactive—a tribute to the technical expertise of 3 Sqn—and excitement came only in the form of either a visit from the Comd, 1 Sig Gp ('Difficult questions, those!'), or 'Trumpton' on the TV.'

All diversions aside, the exercise was entirely successful from a comms point of view and to prove that it wasn't *all* fun and games, a total of 3,000 messages were handled over the five day exercise period.

640 SIGNAL TROOP (EW)

'You're posted to 640 Signal Troop', the OC said. 'Where?' I said: '640 Signal Troop in Blandford, bit thin on the ground at the moment, in fact there's only a REME VM and you, manpower and vehicles should arrive sometime next year. Best of luck, you'll need it'. This was the introduction I received as I left Germany in September 1984 to make my way to sunny Blandford.

'Posted where?', 'Never heard of them!': these are fairly typical of remarks that echoed around Blandford during the early weeks. The first priority was to hi-jack an office in which to hang our hats, and this was accomplished with the help of 30 Sig Regt, under whose command we were to form. Desks and a telephone were 'acquired' together with a noticeboard and kettle and thus the embryo troop started to kick. A substantial increase in manpower in the shape of **Sgt Barry Thorp** appeared, armed with millboards, administration tables and chinagraphs; ready to grapple with the many administrative problems that were beginning to crop up. Contacts were made, and accommodation for the impending arrival of the infant troop and its vehicles was sorted out with much assistance from the QM, **Capt Fred Laverick BEM** and his Department. **Sgt Graham Miles** arrived and as our budding YofS, was immediately assigned to Ops/Training! The small office was now bulging at the seams with standing room only; paper was flying in all directions as orders were issued and received for the new accommodation, movement instructions and confirmation of delivery of stores and equipment. The basis of the troop was formed, and all was ready for the arrival of the man who was to oversee the birth: **Capt John Terrington.**

With the arrival of the new OC the office became untenable! By this time we were spilling over into the corridor so a 25% cut in manpower was achieved by sending **Sgt Graham Miles** on leave.

We moved into our interim accommodation during October much to everyone's relief and started all over again to indent and acquire the standard office equipment which is taken for granted in established units. Once again our thanks go to the long suffering departments of 30 Sig Regt for their generosity and patience.

Every day, or so it seemed, a new face would appear in the doorway and announce he was posted to 640 Sig Tp. All three technicians arrived with sleeves rolled up and soldering irons at the ready only to find we had no equipment and were promptly despatched to RACAL for a 10 week course. When they found out the course was in 'civvies', **Sgt Steve Carr, Sgt Steve Hayward** and **Cpl Geordie Mitchel REME** happily packed their kit and disappeared. **Sig Sam MacCleod, Cpl Sam Shaw** and **LCpl Jock Hewitt** arrived, and were promptly set to work putting up noticeboards and collecting desks. In **Jock Hewitt**'s case he was loaned out to 2 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt for some future favour we might require.

Father Christmas arrived late and by the end of January we were opening boxes of goodies which were arriving by the lorry load and the new storeman, **Sgt Dave Taylor** was busy 'stashing' away all the attractive items in his newly acquired storeroom.

The main influx of troops came in early February, when the last 12 members of the troop arrived; **Cpls Chris Moye, Sam Street** leading up the STG contingent, and **LCpls Steve Cook** and **Tony Halsey** with the Radio Operators.

An Introduction Course was followed by an equipment handling course and a briefing on the trials. Suddenly the vehicles started to arrive, nine brand new three-quarter ton Landrovers full of bang up-to-date equipment which we were to ensure were up to the rigours of Army service.

LCpl 'Deathbag' Benham obviously enjoyed the packed lunches prepared for us during the Trials and **Sgt 'Masts' Miles** showed how easy it is to break the world record for getting a mast and antennae down. Courageously, **LCpl Andy Marchant** managed to break the mast's fall with his head, and so prevented too much damage to the antennae!

By now the OC was a man sitting on a bubbling cauldron of manufacturers meetings, site meetings, trials reports, establishments and stores indents. Just as the lid was slammed down and one problem solved, another erupted with a blast of steam from elsewhere. Our first exercise was a shake-down deployment which allowed us the opportunity to assess ourselves and the equipment during an FTX (Field Training Exercise). By this time our manpower had been supplemented by **Sgt Danny Glover** and **Cpl Paul Bowler**, both RM who were able to add another dimension to troop operations, mostly in the field of fitness training. Any soldier hobbling around Blandford on crutches is probably a victim of **Sgt Glover**'s PT Parade!

The troop became operational on 1 April and Trials will continue in one form or another for the foreseeable future. (The birth is not without complications.) The troop has won its first Football Match, and a design for the troop plaque and pennant has been submitted.

The old 640 Sig Tp was also stationed in Blandford until it was disbanded, and we are trying to discover 'our roots'. The Corps Museum has been very helpful but we would like to hear from anyone who served in 640 Sig Tp or who can contribute to its history in any way.

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V) Hammersmith

All appears calm and serene when you walk through the corridors of RHQ with Annual Camp approaching, but open a few doors and a slightly different picture emerges. The CO, **Lt Col David Strong** is building an escape tunnel into Hammersmith Broadway, but the Trg Maj, **Maj Peter (I'm posted—Yippee!) Williams**, keeps filling it in; look in on RSM **WO1 Geoff Shergold** and you will find him waving his pace stick over the accounts, trying to make them go away. (Scarborough 'Drill Square' still seems a long way off). In the MTWO's office, **WO1 Harry Lund** has discovered that the '25th London Cyclist Battalion' are part of the Regimental history and he has a drawer full of cycle clips; there are no prizes for guessing what you will get if you ask, 'How am I going to get to Scarborough, **Mr Lund**?'

In truth, the only chaos at RHQ is around the toilets area; the builders have been visiting us creating a disaster area of their own, but the work is now almost at an end and that infamous wooden seat upstairs, condemned on at least three hygiene inspections, will soon be only a fond memory to the older male officers.

Within the Regimental Training Team we welcome **W/Sgt Brenda Cox** and congratulate our **YofS SSgt Roger Childs** who leaves us shortly on promotion to 233 Sig Sqn. (Remember to turn off the computer before you go, YofS!)'

Last and certainly not least, is the growing proficiency of our Regimental shooting team. In the recent London District Rifle Association competition, **Sig Mike Hornibrook** gained the best individual score, finishing fourth in the young soldier section, whilst in the team events the Falling Plate 'A' Team of **Capt Ian Webber, Lt Steve Potter, LCpl Sandy Shaw** and **Sig Chas Richardson** ended runners up to the team who had knocked out, at semi-final stage, our 'B' team of **Capt Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki, Cpls Graham Drew, Simon Fernley-Jones** and **Sig Mike Hornibrook.** And by being placed sixth in the crucial section match, the team has qualified for the TA Small Arms Meeting 1985—Bisley, here we come!

Regimental Shooting Team
L—R (Back): Capt Mark Zaremba Tymieniecki, Sig Nick Tuck, Capt Ian Webber, Lt Steve (Crackerjack) Potter, Cpl Simon Fernley-Jones
L—R (Front): Cpl Graham Drew, LCpl John Shaw, Sig Chas Richardson, Mike Hornibrook

HQ SQUADRON

Fresh from their success at the London District catering competition, **Cpls Janet Wilson-Brown, Dave Hermels, LCpl John Shaw** and **Pte Ian Jeeves** went on to represent the District at exercise *Combat Catering*, gaining a very creditable seventh place, and a special mention for **Cpl Wilson-Brown**, the only female, (or sole bonne femme?) taking part.

And all made from Compo—the latest creation from the Nol burners of LCpl John Shaw, Cpl Janet Wilson-Brown, Pte Ian Jeeves and Cpl Dave Hermels *(Photo credit—Soldier Magazine)*

Back at base we have welcomed our new PSI **Sgt Taffy Witchell** from Blandford and bid farewell to **Sgt George Davis** on posting to 8 Sig Regt.

Congratulations to our LAD PSI **SSgt Martin Grant** on selection for promotion on joining 28 Sig Regt later this year and congratulations also on their promotion to **WSgt Blodwyn Fraley** (Orderly Room), **WSgt Brenda Prater** (Sqn Stores), **WSgt Sheila Billing** (MT Troop) and **WSgt Linda Dominguez** (MI Room); with such an influx of talent, the Regimental Sergeants' Mess will never be the same again!

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

41 SQUADRON

With our 'new' OC **Maj Jim Allan** now firmly in command (or so he thinks) much of our effort in recent weeks has centred around an intensive recruiting drive, spear headed by a 'male shot' (we have sufficient WRAC, thank you) to almost nine hundred young men living in and around the area of our Coulsdon TAC; over thirty applicants have joined, or are about to start **Maj Ron Miller**'s selection weekends and provided our Squadron recruiting SNCO, **SSgt Jack Mileham** does not expire under a veritable mountain of enlistment docs, our operational strength will soon be showing a healthy increase.

Congratulations to **SSgt Roy White** on his appointment as Squadron FofS; prior to joining the TA in October 1981, Tech **Sgt White** has held that rank in the Regular Corps for over 12 years (you too can make it in 41 Sqn, folks!). Well done also to **SSgt Jan Billin** of November Troop on her own recent promotion and to **LCpl Barry Woolgar** on his second tour of service with 41 Sqn.

Finally, some command appointments omitted from Part 1 Orders; the more avid reader of our column will surely recall 'The Teddy', hitherto 2IC N Troop, but now (stop press) 2IC of B Troop under his former mistress, **Capt Linda Webber;** rumours are now circulating that the new OC N Troop **Lt Diane Lilley** has countered this desertion from the corner of her CP desk with a certain 'Mr Frog' but we hope to bring you the true facts (or invent some) in our next bulletin.

83 SQUADRON

The recent visit of COS London District, **Brig Blundell** was the occasion for four of our stalwarts to receive efficiency awards; **SSgt Jim Makinson** and **Sgt Peter Froggatt** received the TA Efficiency Medal, while FofS **WO1 Reg Thurbon** and **LCpl John Ingham** received bars to their medals.

Rumours that the FofS was on the design team for the Heliograph Equipment Mk1 No1 have been hotly denied (but only by the FofS . . .).

Fresh from their victory at the London District meet, the 83 Sqn WRAC Orienteering Team took part in the UKLF Orienteering Championships on 27 and 28 April; the team, **Capt Susan Fenney, Ptes Karen Amey** and **Trish Monachan** with sterling support from **Pte Jacqueline 'Fred' Masset,** took 2nd TA WRAC place. Well done.

Closer to home, one of our most recent recruits, potential Data Tg **Pte Jessica Steiner** was nominated best recruit on her Regimental Induction Course, whilst with Camp rapidly approaching, feverish activity has been witnessed as the Troops have readied their equipment; and despite some vehicles now sporting two shades of black paint, and the joys of operating from three different sites, the Squadron is now ready to roll. (OC A Tp O/Cadet **Niell Creed** seems to have 'mislaid' most of his vehicles and personnel, but no doubt they'll turn up sometime during our two week stay at STC Scarborough).

After five year's service with 83 Squadron, our PSAO **Capt Tony Daly** has ruled off his accounts for the last time and retired. We wish **Tony** and **Myra** every happiness in their new home in the Lake District, and to fill the yawning gap left at Lytton Grove **Capt George Devine** has joined us from 30 Sig Regt. We welcome him and his wife **Margaret** to the Squadron, and in the knowledge of his sky diving abilities, we eagerly await his 'dropping in' to see us on exercise.

London District WRAC Orienteering winners—the 83 Sqn Team of Ptes Jackie Masset, Trish Monachan and Karen Amey

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

ROYAL VISIT

On Saturday 27 April the Colonel-in-Chief visited the Regiment at Cultybraggan and in Glasgow. A full report appears elsewhere in this issue.

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS

During the rehearsal for the Royal Visit the Hon Col, **Col D. J. McIntyre** took some time off the frantic preparations to present the Territorial Decoration to **Capt Joyce Rhind,** 51 (Highland) Sig Sqn (V) and the Territorial Efficiency Medal to **SSgt (FofS) Frank Hogg,** 52 (Lowland) Sig Sqn (V). Congratulations to both of them for their time and effort during the years.

Col D. J. McIntyre presents SSgt (FofS) Frank Hogg and Capt Joyce Rhind with their respective medals

RECCE FOR CAMP 86

Having decided that there was going to be life after a Royal Visit the regular officers and warrant officers organised a preliminary, but in depth, recce of Chickerell Camp, the location for Camp 1986. Two days were spent in and around Weymouth checking on adventure training facilities, opening times of the various military museums, pubs etc.

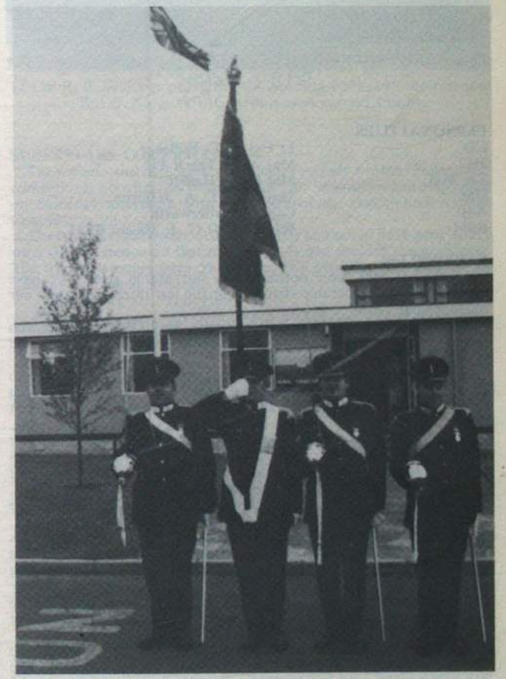
The Annual Camps in 1984 and 1985 have been tied to major comms exercises but in 1986 the CO has decided to enjoy himself. It is to be an interesting and completely different sort of training programme. Listening to some of the suggestions made by some members of the party it was obvious that they were posted before the event! Any windsurfing, sailing, rockclimbing or canoeing instructors who can get away for the first two weeks in June next year should write to our distraught Training Major.

2 SIGNAL BRIGADE PSI'S CONVENTION

Having only just recovered our breath from the recce and some hastily taken leave, it was time to depart on our nine hour road journey to Bristol to attend the 2 Sig Bde PSI's annual convention and games evening. It was an informative few days and the PSI's were given every opportunity to air their views, especially on proposals for new TA trades. The only major crisis was when the Adjutant, **Capt Peter Costello,** learned that a lounge suit consists of a jacket and trousers but he had left the latter in Glasgow. It is not normally the sort of omission that is expected of Adjutants. We now know that **Capt Costello** can squeeze into the Colonel's brother-in-law's suits. Isn't it the Adjutant who is supposed to look after the CO rather than vice versa?

HITLER LINE PARADE

The annual Hitler Line commemoration parade was held at the Londonderry location of 69 (North Irish Horse) Sig Sqn (V) on Sunday 19 May. On parade were members of the Squadron, Old Comrades of B Sqn North Irish Horse and the Pipes and Drums of the Regiment. The Hitler Line is probably the best known battle honour to be won by the North Irish Horse in the Second World War, when they led the breakthrough of the Hitler Line by the Canadian Division in Italy on 23 May 1944. In gratitude for their part in the battle, the Canadians conferred on the North Irish Horse the right to wear a small maple leaf on the shoulder.

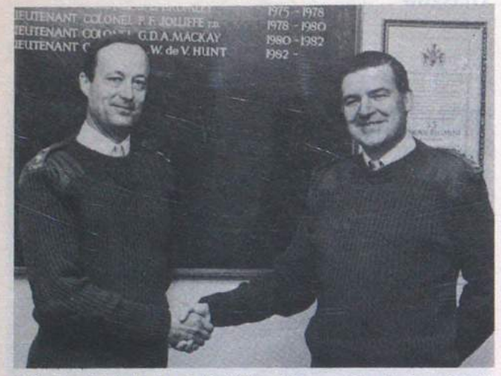


The Guidon Party
L—R: SSgts Jacky Deans, Percy Hamilton, Andy Deans, WO2 (SSM) George Wylie

52 BRIGADE CONFERENCE

During a recent weekend, the various elements of 52 Lowland Brigade, both regular and TA, got together for a Home Defence Conference. Included in the agenda were lectures on the Threat, Home Defence comms and the Police Concept of Ops. Drug abuse was thrown in for some light relief. Syndicates were also set with the task of giving their solution to the problem of defending a key point. Some infanteers don't half have some funny ideas. One sandbagged an 80ft radio mast in order to protect it from shrapnel! Saturday night was devoted to the dining out of **Lt Gen Sir Alexander Boswell CBE,** GOC Scotland, who is leaving to take up his new post as Governor of Guernsey.

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool



Lt Col A. W. de V. Hunt (*right*) handing over the Regiment to Lt Col R. F. Willsher

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col R. F. Willsher**
2IC	**Maj A. C. Leech TD**
Trg Maj	**Maj P. A. Hallett**
QM	**Maj (QM) L. A. Jefferies**
Adjt	**Capt E. Butterworth**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) G. J. Mason BEM**

FAREWELLS

As readers may have noticed from our March report we have experienced a considerable change over the last three months in our Management Team.

We have said our sad 'farewells' to firstly, **Maj (QM) John Ient** who left us on 24 March on posting to 11 Sig Regt. We all wish **John** and **Dorothy** all the best for their future.

Secondly, to **WO1 (RSM) Bob Lockwood** and **Joan** who contributed so much to the Regiment socially and on duty, and wish them both a safe passage to 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt where they start their new life in commissioned service.

Thirdly, to **SSgt Graham Parker** REME who was a stalwart member of both the LAD and the Regiment as a REME PSI. Both he and his wife **Lorraine** will be sorely missed by all. They will however, be not too far away as their next posting is to 42 District Wksps, Liverpool, on the Veh Insp Team. (There have been rumours that he will be inspecting us in the near future). We all love you **Graham!**

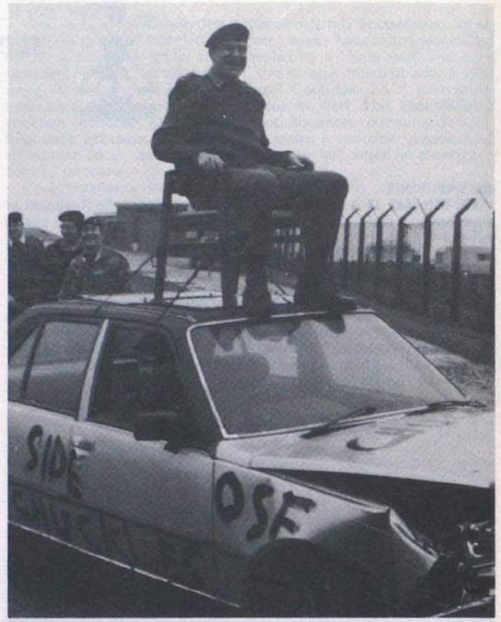
The big day then arrived when **Lt Col (Tony) A. W. de V. Hunt** was to hand over the Regiment to **Lt Col (Roger) R. F. Willsher**, or was it a day! I think it was more like three weeks of **Col Willsher** trying to grasp the reins and **Col Hunt** reluctantly hanging on amidst a heavy handover/takeover programme, an even heavier social programme and the eventful preparations by all to get to Scarborough for the Annual Camp. Needless to say we all got there in style.

It had been decided that the Handover/Takeover would be completed at Scarborough during the 'middle' weekend 18 May. The day commenced with a Regimental Parade, during which a Medal Presentation was made by our Hon Col, **Col M. C. Stanley MBE DL** to members of the Regiment receiving Territorial Decorations, TA Efficiency Medals and TA Clasps to Efficiency Medals. On conclusion of medal presentations, the Regiment marched past, firstly the outgoing CO and then, the incoming CO.

After lunch, the finals of the 'Superstars' competition took place and finalists were presented with their Trophies and medals by **Lt Col R. F. Willsher** (now firmly in Command).

During the evening **Lt Col Hunt** was 'Dined Out' by the Officers and **Lt Col Willsher** was 'Dined In' by the WOs and SNCOs.

Sunday 19 May was a sad day as it heralded the end of **Lt Col Tony Hunt**'s three year command. It did however, have its humorous moments when he emerged from the CO's house expecting to be driven by staff car to Liverpool; in place of the staff car was a 'write off' Renault (his favourite type of car) which had been temporarily purchased from the local scrap yard for the occasion, and was suitably daubed in black paint with 'Bon Voyage' messages.



Once aboard, the Colonel was towed by ropes through Burniston Barracks to the main gate. A memorable occasion enjoyed by everyone and which we all hope he will remember.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome the following personalities to the Regiment and hope that they enjoy their stay with us: **Lt Col R. F. Willsher** from Queen's Gurkha Signals, **Maj (QM) L. A. Jeffery** from 233 Sig Sqn, **WO1 (RSM) G. J. Mason** from 16 Sig Regt, **SSgt W. R. Harkness REME** from AAC Aborfield.

ANNUAL CAMP 1985

Annual Camp this year was scheduled for Burniston Barracks, Scarborough, which is a favourite haunt of the 'old soldiers' of 33 and holds fond memories for most.

Saturday 11 May was the 'big move' day and the TA 'cliché' of 'It will be OK on the day', proved to be correct, (backed up of course by some good pre planning by our Movements Staff). The convoy drills, feeding, POL resupply and move into Burniston Barracks went like clockwork. The odd falter did, however, occur; the PR team of **Capt Keith Derrick** and **WO2 'Snaps' Jolliffe** realised that they must be slightly off route when they saw the sign on the M62 which read 'Hull 35 miles'. They obviously thought they were going on Continental Camp. (Wrong year chaps). The first week at camp was all hustle and bustle and was taken up with an intense programme of Trade, Military and NBC Training. Additionally, we hosted visits from the Deputy Commander, 11 Sig Bde (V) **Col P. R. H. Thompson OBE TD**, and Comd WRAC HQ NE/NW District, **Lt Col C. A. Marriott WRAC** on 13/14 May.

On Thursday 16 May all personnel not engaged in Trade Training took part in the Bilsdale Circuit Walk which is a 30 mile trek across some very rugged terrain on the Yorkshire Moors.

Twelve teams of 10 made up from officers and soldiers, male and female from HQ, 42, 59 and 80 Sqns competed in the walk. Unfortunately the weather conditions in the late evening caused the walk to be aborted and the majority of teams could not complete the circuit. However, there were two successes of the day, HQ Sqn 'A' Team managed to finish before the weather beat them and finished in a creditable time of 11 hours 20 minutes. The best time of the circuit was completed by three stalwarts, **SSgt (YofS) Duncan Manser, Sgt R. M. Young**, and **Cpl Eileen Halliday WRAC TA**, who finished in an amazing time of 6 hours 41 minutes, which although not yet confirmed could be the record for a WRAC member. Well done all.

On Saturday 18 May the following presentations were made on the Regimental Parade:

TERRITORIAL DECORATION—12 YEARS SERVICE
Capt M. Deighton 59 Sig Sqn (V) Liverpool.

TERRITORIAL EFFICIENCY MEDAL—12 YEARS SERVICE
WO2 (SSM) H. C. Stiles, Cpls T. Tonge 42 Sig Sqn (V) Manchester, **A. Robinson** 59 Sig Sqn (V) Liverpool, **SSgts J. Murphy, C. M. Mullee, M. C. Harper, Cpl S. Convery** 80 Sig Sqn (V) Chester, **WO2 R. G. Gawthorne ACC, WO2 T. Watkinson, Sgts J. Holt, K. Almond** HQ Sqn (V) Liverpool.

CLASP AND EFFICIENCY MEDAL—18 AND 24 YEARS SERVICE
WO2 M. D. Holder 42 Sig Sqn (V) Manchester, **Sgt P. D. Hodge, Cpl E. M. E. Halliday WRAC** 59 Sig Sqn (V) Liverpool, **Cpls E. Watson, R. Rogers, A Cook, A. L. Bowers** 80 Sig Sqn (V) Chester, **WO2 R. Seddon REME** LAD, HQ Sqn (V) Liverpool.

Col M. C. Stanley presents WO2 M. D. Holder with his second clasp for completing 24 years' service

STOP PRESS

Information has just been received regarding this year's Lord Lieutenant's Certificate Awards. Well earned congratulations go to: **Maj (QM) D. H. Beckett TD** HQ Sqn, **WO2 (SSM) H. Stiles** 42 Sig Sqn (V) and **SSgt A. J. Byrne** 42 Sig Sqn (V). Well done!

Lt Col R. F. Willsher presents the winning volleyball team leader Sgt S. Kane WRAC with a well earned trophy

SUPERSTARS COMPETITION

Throughout the first week preliminary rounds for the 'Superstars' competition were fiercely fought by all four Squadrons and concluded on Saturday afternoon with the finals of the Soccer and Assault Course.

The overall results were extremely close and could have gone either way. (It was rumoured that mere seconds had decided the outcome). The overall winners were 59 Sig Sqn (V) with the following teams winning individual trophies:

HQ Sqn (V)	—	Volley Ball
42 Sqn	—	5-A-Side Ladies Soccer and Tug of War
59 Sqn	—	Assault Course, Football and Relay Race
80 Sqn	—	NBC Obstacle Race and Drill/Turnout

The Competition concluded with the CO **Lt Col R. F. Willsher**, presenting trophies to the Winning Teams.

EXERCISE *GURKHA SAHIB*

The second week of camp took the form of a Regimental Exercise under the command of **Lt Col Willsher**. There is no foundation in the rumour that the exercise was renamed at short notice due to our CO's past experiences in his last unit, however, true to TA tradition everyone set out to make a good impression and their efforts were rewarded with an excellent comms exercise.

As usual the weather dictated the pace and the mood and for most of the time it rained. It did however 'brighten up' for the visit of **Brig I. R. D. Shapter**, Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) who came to see us on Tuesday 21 May. The Commander visited all sites with the exception of Commcen X1, (commanded by **Lt Roger Bracey**) which had moved to their new location before the Brigadier could get there. (Foiled again).

During this time we hosted **Mr Nigel Ellis**, Public Information Officer from HQ NW District. **Nigel** very kindly contributed the professional touch to our PR coverage during the exercise phase and went away with full notebooks and reels of film. It has since been noticed that 50% of the photos taken include **Sgt 'Poser' J. Hough** of 59 Sig Sqn Line Troop, still trying to prove that he does have a photogenic side; which one, we have yet to determine.

Saturday 25 May saw the Regiment return to Barracks having been well tested over the two weeks in all aspects of their training. Spirits were high in the knowledge that they had all done well and had completed and achieved another successful Annual Camp.

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

'Don't forget—*Wire* Notes by the end of the week' said **Capt Stan Long**, the Adjutant. The trouble with an efficient Adjutant is that he never seems to stop being efficient. Here we are, just back from Camp and up to our eyes in stores checks, 1771s, promotion recommendations etc, and he wants *Wire* Notes! We will see what can be done—for once it's a question of what to leave out rather than the usual 'what on earth is there to write about?'—but do we have any photos yet? Fortunately **Sgt Derrick Thurley**, Technician and Regimental Photographer, has spent the last 36 hours in the darkroom and we do have pictures.

So what has the Regiment been up to? Well, Camp was arranged very early this year for the second half of May, and so, since the beginning of the new TA year in April, preparation for camp has been the main activity. During that time we welcomed **WO2 (FofS) Phil Berry** who joined us from our friends across the water, 40 Sig Regt (V). He took over from the newly-promoted **WO2 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood** who has left for the technical delights of PTARMIGAN with 1 Div in Verden. Foreman **Berry** arrived in time for our warm-up exercise in April, Ex *Night Hawk*, when we introduced him to our elderly equipment and to some of the well-known (to 34 at least) locations around the Catterick Training Area.

That same weekend we provided the administrative back-up for the annual promotion exam weekend at Scarborough STC. Our cooks, stewardesses, RP staff and Quartermaster's Department under the direction of OC HQ Sqn **Maj David Kerr**, and the QM **Maj Ray Vasper**, catered for the needs of a host of candidates, DS and senior visitors from all of our sister regiments. The team of cooks led by **Sgts Des Dixon** and **Stan Greenup** lost count of how many meals they provided. And still on that weekend the Band ventured south to play for our friends 36 Sig Regt (V) when they were given the Freedom of the London Borough of Redbridge.

AND SO TO CAMP

Saturday 18 May. The Regiment drove North to Edinburgh. Inspired by the example of the staging area at Leuth en route for Ex *Lionheart* last year, HQ Sqn, under the direction of SSM **Ron Garrett**, set up a replenishment point near Coldstream which was inevitably nick-named Mini-Leuth. The weather for the journey was British spring weather at its most varied, fog, rain, snow and occasional sunshine, but all the convoys arrived in good order at the very impressive Redford Cavalry Barracks. The main building had been designed as a hospital for India but was erected in Edinburgh by mistake. It easily swallowed up the 340 or so members of '34'. There is however no truth in the rumour that some people spent the entire Camp period trying to find their way out!

Sunday 19 May. The Regiment deployed on Ex *Forth Bridge* to provide comms support for operations against a gang of terrorists spearheading an independence movement for the ancient kingdom of Fife. The 'terrorists' were led by the mysterious El Sid, never to be confused with the Training Major, **Maj Sid Falla**, and the group bore a surprising resemblance to our PSIs and NRPS staff. Their activities kept all our scattered Commcens, AMCs and isolated RR detachments at a constant state of awareness, with night-time incursions, interception of admin details and occasional minor technical interruptions. Their presence, real or imagined, brought about a remarkable improvement in defences as the vigilance of guards increased and ever more ingenious arrangements of wire, nets and natural materials were constructed. During the four days of the exercise the communications worked more or less according to plan, although a particularly restrictive frequency allocation for the C41s prevented us from attempting some of the more complicated configurations thought up by the Ops Officer, **Maj Mary Nicholson**, and the staff of RCP.

The terrorists had a number of successes, so much so that at times the POW 'cage' (the guardroom at Redford Barracks) had standing room only. Notable 'victims' included the TOT, **Capt** (now Maj) **Ron Williams**, who was abducted from his tent just as he was preparing to relive the Assistant Ops Officer **(Maj Peter Arkless)** on shift. On another occasion **Sgt Mick Buccilli** and the whole of the Commcen Mike advance party were ambushed as they recce'd a new site, while A Tp were reduced to using the contents of their water bottles when their bowser and crew were hi-jacked.

But the 'bad guys' did not have it all their own way. In an early raid on J Tp's site **SSgt Ray Georgeson** was taken prisoner, while at the G Tp/RCP location **LCpl Alan Thompson**, the CO's driver, achieved what must be every young soldier's ambition, by capturing and tying up the RSM, **WO1 Roy Coffill**. After a retaliatory raid on enemy HQ led by the 2IC **Maj Peter Sutherland** and OC 90 Sqn, **Capt (now Maj) Peter Forster**, had freed a large number of prisoners it was left to the defenders of Echelon to beat off an enemy patrol and then to catch them as they returned to their vehicle. The reaction of the MTWO **WO1 Dave McGurk** as he found his plans foiled is not printable!

SOinC's VISIT

Half way through the exercise a truce was declared while the SOinC, **Maj Gen Bob Benbow**, cast his professional eye over the Regiment. And he brought fine weather with him. In a whirlwind tour he visited five locations and spoke to upwards of 200 personnel of all ranks. He started his tour at RCP where the CO, **Lt Col Graham Mitchell**, gave an introductory briefing and the Ops Officer described the exercise. At AMC 6 **Capt Peter Woodhead** acted as interpreter when the SOinC met members of the Gateshead-based G Troop. High on a hill overlooking Glenrothes the General met **LCpl Paul Beaumont** and his Radio Relay detachment and it was then on to Commcen Oscar. Here all of the Regiment's Permanent Staff had been assembled for a non-tactical lunch and the SOinC renewed a number of old acquaintances. He and the QM, **Maj Ray Vasper**, discovered that they had served together in Malaya over 30 years ago. After lunch the General visited the HQ 50 Sqn/Echelon location when **Capt Diane White**, acting OC of 50 Sqn, introduced him to her team and to **WO1 Tony Gallagher** our Senior Volunteer WO. At the LAD he met **Maj Jim Storey**, and **SSgt Barry McGuinness**, and had an enlightening conversation with a pair of feet protruding from under a land-rover. OC HQ Sqn, **Maj David Kerr**, then took over and introduced the General to **SSgt Carol Sparks**, the volunteer Chief Clerk, and other members of the Admin team.

The SOinC with Ptes Surrinder Ward and Corina Williams at their RR det in Commcen Mike. Data Tg's WRAC operating RR?

The SOinC and QM, Maj Ray Vasper discuss old times spent in Malaya. PSAO 90 Sqn, Capt John Lemon looks on

The final visit was to 49 Squadron at Commcen Mike where the OC, **Capt (now Maj) Philip Walker**, and the SSM, **WO2 Graham Jennings**, showed him round the location. Here the SOinC met **Ptes Surrinder Ward** and **Corina Williams WRAC** who had been pressed into service as Radio Relay operators. And then there was just time for a cup of tea and a quick change into 'civvies' before the staff car whisked him off to his train.

Hon Col, Col RM Stewart, congratulates former Sgt John Braven after the presentation of his BEM

A proud Capt Diane White (2IC 50 Sqn) receives the inter-squadron athletics shield from the CO, Lt Col Graham Mitchell

SSgt John Brooklyn (50 Sqn) deep in conversation with our Bde Comd, Brig T. H. Wheawell. Note: permission to fold arms was given first!

BACK TO CAMP

No sooner was the exercise over than the Regiment indulged in a hectic sporting social and ceremonial programme. Between mid-afternoon Thursday and tea-time Saturday we completed the football competition, held the Regimental sports meeting and carried out the Tickle Fitness Test. The officers entertained the Hon Col, **Col Mike Stewart**, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough, **Councillor** and **Mrs John Jones**, to dinner and the next day entertained a number of guests to a Cocktail Party, which followed the Playing of Retreat by the Band. The Band put on a splendid performance in very blustery conditions which caused the bass drummer **Sgt Matthew Thompson** no end of problems! The final ceremonial event was the Honorary Colonel's parade when about 250 members of the Regiment gladdened the heart of the RSM with an impressive display of drill and steadiness on parade. Following the parade the Honorary Colonel presented medals. Pride of place went to ex **Sgt John Braven** who received the BEM awarded in the New Year Honours List. Territorial Decorations were presented to the RMO, **Maj Mary Skillen** (2nd bar), **Capt Angus Turner** and **Capt Judy Walker WRAC**, while **WO2 Dick Grainge, SSgt Stan Phillips, Sgt Jean Douglas WRAC** and **Sgt Tony Cartwright** received the Territorial Efficiency Medal. **LCpl Peter Highman** received the Dhofar Clasp to his General Service Medal.

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants' Mess held a dinner, at which 96 members were present, formally to dine out **WO1 (MTWO) Dave McGurk** who has now left the Regular Service, and to dine him in as WO1 (MTWO) NRPS. Further details have not been divulged to the author but it is understood that a very good time was had by all.

SPORTS RESULTS

90 Sqn, captained by **Sgt Colin Riley**, won the Football Competition, beating 50 Sqn in the final. In the athletics 50 Sqn were convincing winners, particularly in the women's events where **LCpl Dawn Widdrington** and **Pte Ann Gregory** won all the track events between them. 49 Sqn won the Tug-of-War and also a particularly fiendish 'Chain-of-Command Race' which involved all competitors having to eat a banana and then drink a can of lemonade. It was unkindly said that they won because they were the only team who could put their bananas in sideways!

On Sunday, while most people were enjoying some well earned R and R in Edinburgh, the Golf Competition was held on a nearby course, two of whose holes resembled the North Face of the Eiger. The Traffic Officer, **Maj Benny Newell**, won the medal event with **Sgt Tony Hindle** runner-up, while **WO2 (YofS) Keith Bark** won the Stableford Competition with **WO1 (YofS) Bruce Graham** in second place. Just what is the connection between trafficators and golf?

WEEK TWO

For three days the RHQ staff could relax, a little, as the squadrons dispersed over Scotland to 'do their own thing'. HQ Sqn went walking in the Pentlands and completed a Wayfaring Course at Peebles. 49 Sqn went to Aviemore where they found mixed weather, ranging from hot sun to blizzard conditions, as they orienteered and went hill-walking under the guidance of their PSAO **Capt Gordon Bonner.** 50 Sqn sent a small party to Glencoe led by **Sgt Ian Plater**, while the rest fitted in a visit to a distillery during a short break from military training in the nearby Pentlands. 90 Sqn paddled across Loch Long in assault boats and trekked through Ardgarten Forest.

All together again for the final two days. In glorious weather the Regimental Small Arms meeting took place at Dreghorn. The overall winners were 50 Sqn. 90 Sqn won the SLR competition and HQ Sqn the LMG, while 50 Sqn won the pistol and SMG. Best A Shot with the SLR was **SSgt Alan Vance** of 49 Sqn and Best B Shot was **Cpl Pete Donaldson** of 90 Sqn. 49 Sqd's B Team won the falling plate, while a trio of ladies from 90 Sqn **(Sgt Sue Burton, Cpl Kath Waldon** and **Pte Jackie Yeaman)** overcame their lack of numbers to win the WRAC falling plate.

At the same time all those junior ranks not involved in the shooting took part in Ex *Lowland Drive*, a test of driving skills and navigation, organised by **Majs Peter Arkless** and **Jim Storey**. After an extremely competitive event a team from the LAD, **LCpls Bob Reynolds, Steve Devitt** and **Cfn Steve Williams**, won the men's event while the leading ladies were **LCpl Jackie Cooke, Ptes Jean Franklin** and **Ann Gregory** of 50 Sqn. The best navigator was **Cpl Brian Franklin** of 50 Sqn and the best driver **LCpl Bob Bridges** of 49 Sqn.

VISITORS

The Comd 12 Sig Bde, **Brig Tom Wheawell**, paid us a welcome visit during the second week. He saw much of the training activity and very nearly got involved in the SAM as a competitor. Wherever he went he concentrated on getting to know the members of the Regiment.

We also were pleased to see our two TAVRA Secretaries, **Brig David Hodge** and **David Wilson** from North of England and Yorkshire and Humberside respectively.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

HEADQUARTERS PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col David Walden MBE**
Trg Maj	**Maj Tim Mountford**
QM	**Maj Joe Izzo MSM**
Adjt	**Capt Peter Cain**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Jim Preston**
MTWO	**WO1 Ian Campbell**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Bob Pollitt**
ORSQMS	**SSgt Ian Stewart**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Bob Walton**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Dennis Prince**
SQMS	**SSgt Bill King**
Tech Sgts	**Sgt Brian Izzard**
	Sgt Dereck Hannan
CO's Driver	**LCpl Johno Johnson**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

OUT:

WO1 Jim Adam on commissioning to 3 Div. **LCpl Tiny Little** to 14 Sig Regt. We wish you both good luck in your new posts.

IN:

WO1 Ian Campbell from 5 Inf Bde. **SSgt (NRPS) Ian Stewart** from 104 Air Def Regt. **LCpl Johno Johnson** from 14 Sig Regt. Here's hoping your tour with the TA is a pleasant one.

FREEDOM PARADE—A PROUD DAY

On the 20 April the Regiment exercised its right to the 'Freedom of Redbridge' by marching through the streets of Ilford.

Led by the band of 34 Sig Regt (V), the parade consisting of four contingents made up from Headquarters/44 (Cinque Ports) Sqn combined, 45 (Essex) Sqn, 54 (East Anglian) Sqn plus a separate contingent of WRAC, left Ilford TA Centre at 1330 hrs. Making its way along Ilford High Road the Regiment passed the Town Hall where the Mayor of Redbridge **Councillor John Smith** took the salute.

The Regiment marching through Ilford, HQ/44 (Cinque Ports Sqn leading). *In front* Lt Col D. J. Walden, Capt P. Cain, WO1 (RSM) J. Preston, Maj R. E. C. Davis

ORIENTEERING

Recently the newly formed Regimental orienteering team under **SSgt (YofS) Den Prince** has been 'going places'. In the last UK Royal Signals meeting in North England the team were the first TA Unit across the line.

Over the season several soldiers have joined the team. From the results attained the Regiment has found its best orienteer, **LCpl John Harrison** and best novice orienteer **Sig Dave Kingstone.**

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Mitch** and **Leslie Mitchell,** to **Tim** and **Lorraine Grant** and **Kevin** and **Tracy Groves** on their recent marriages.

PSI's ANNUAL EASTBOURNE WALK

The PSI Annual outing to Eastbourne took place on 30 April. The gathering of some 30 members of the Regiment commenced a 17 mile walk starting from Beachy Head Eastbourne and taking in the coast line (including the famous Seven Sisters) and countryside ending back at Beachy Head in the late afternoon. The event was rounded off with a PSI gathering in Eastbourne TA Centre, courtesy of **Capt George Hawley.**

Sgt Wendy Cracknell at the finish, having just sped past SSgt Ray Whall, SSgt (YofS) Dennis Prince and the CO Lt Col D. J. Walden

PRESENTATION OF TERRITORIAL DECORATION

On 9 May **Brig D. H. Blundell-Hollinshead-Blundell** Chief of Staff HQ London District presented **Maj Bob Hill** TA with the Territorial Decoration.

Maj Bob Hill receiving the Territorial Decoration from Brig D. H. Blundell-Hollinshead-Blundell CoS London District

45 (ESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) COLCHESTER
EXERCISE *WATER WINGS*

Having taken note of the recent publicity regarding naval overstretch, 45 (Essex) Sig Sqn (V) were dispatched to the Norfolk Broads by the OC, **Maj Douglas McLay**, to sharpen up their watermanship expertise. 750 (Comcen) Tp and SHQ joined forces and the SSM, **WO2 Pete Minshall**, and **Officer Cadet Oliver** were elected canoe and sailing instructors. **Cpl John Mitchell ('Mitch'** to you) volunteered his services as a stand in for **Bob Wilson, John Motson** and **Brian Moore** all rolled into one whilst 'organising' the football. Logistic support was provided by an ex Sqn Comd, **Lt Col Willie Allan**. Most members attending tried both canoeing and dinghy sailing, some proved quite efficient, others sank!

A barbecue was followed by a 'run ashore' on the Saturday night. Many were seen to be practising a sailor's rolling gait on the return journey to the bivouacs. Much discussion followed into the early hours, many voicing the opinion that 45 Sqn (flotilla) walks on water.

In the cold light of day opinions had changed, it was felt that at least one more weekend's training would be required before the Royal Navy could count on re-inforcements.

44 (CINQUE PORTS) SIG SQN (V)

Fitness training at Gillingham has recently taken a turn for the better (or worse?) Our PTI **LCpl Stuart Gebbie** came back from his advanced PTI course full of enthusiasm and wicked ideas. The regular Wednesday night sessions are increasingly well attended (could it be due to the attraction of the mixed rugby?). Families are also welcome—they even enjoy the sessions of drill when **LCpl Gebbie** gets his own back on Squad members such as the OC **Maj Bob Davis**, and the SSM **Eddie 'Evil' Baldwin.**

On a recent weekend exercise 748 and SHQ Troop (from Gillingham) were hunted and pursued by 706 Troop (from Cambridge), most escaped unscathed and lived to tell the tale! (see photographs).

Lt Ken Fickling shows the team leaders, Cpl 'Ollie' Oliver, Sgt John Wilcosz and LCpl Stuart Gebbie, the ground they have to cover

Cpl Stuart Gebbie (*Centre*) tells of his team's heroic escape—his listeners are: Lt Julia Black, Sig Richard Herbert, Rupert Harper and SSgt Malcolm Freeman

After the event Pte Tracy Brown tells of her escapades—audience: Sig Kevin Gates, Dylan Evans, Dave Kingstone

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

BECOMING AN IN-PENSIONER

To be eligible for admission as an In-Pensioner, a candidate must be:-

in receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Military Service, or of the Victoria Cross or George Cross Annuity awarded in respect of bravery while serving in the British Army;

of good character;

normally at least 65 years of age: exceptionally, a candidate may be admitted between 55 and 65 if through disability he cannot earn his own living and receives a pension for an Army disability;

able to look after himself—that is, to wash, shave and dress himself, attend for meals in the Great Hall and walk around without assistance;

free from the obligation to support a wife or children;

passed medically fit for admission.

In addition, a man of good character drawing Service Retired Pay who had at least 12 years' full time service in the ranks of the British Army over the age of 18 may be eligible for admission after attaining the age of 65.

In-Pensioners are not allowed to marry, though they may leave the Royal Hospital in order to do so.

When the admission of a Pensioner is approved by the Commissioners he is given a free railway warrant for the journey to London. On admission, he surrenders his service or disability pension in return for free board, lodging, clothing and medical attention. Contributory retirement pensions are retained by the In-Pensioners as well as any other civil pensions or any private means they may have.

In-Pensioners are required to wear the medals to which they are entitled. If on admission an In-Pensioner has lost or no longer has in his possession the medals to which he is entitled, replacements will be obtained for him from the Army Medal Office, and he will be required to pay half the cost of these replacement medals.

In-Pensioners are not permitted to keep or drive a car within the precincts of the Royal Hospital. In-Pensioners are also not permitted to drive a car when in Royal Hospital Uniform or to drive a car with In-Pensioners in Uniform as passengers.

An In-Pensioner may be allowed to leave the Hospital and return to ordinary civilian life and resume the Out-Pension which he ceased to draw when he was admitted; if he leaves within six months of admission, he is liable to be charged for part cost of his uniform. Any man may be discharged by order of the Board for misconduct, when his Out-Pension may, or may not, be restored, either at the former or at some lower rate. Once a pensioner reverts to Out-Pension whether voluntarily or otherwise, he cannot be guaranteed re-admission as an In-Pensioner.

A form of application for admission to In-Pension may be obtained from The Secretary, Room 6, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3 4SL.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

SKILL AT ARMS

HQ Squadron again took the major honours at the Regimental Skill-at-Arms Meeting but, for a welcome change, all Squadrons were represented in the award ceremonies. Results were:

Best Shots:
SSgt Ben Bennett—LAD (SLR)
Capt Dewi Treharne—46 Sqn (SMG)
LCpl 'Slats' Slattery—46 Sqn (SMG WRAC)
Cpl Rod Bulmer—LAD (Pistol)
Pte Sherri Kershaw—HQ (Pistol WRAC)

Best young soldiers:
Sig Simon Bradshaw—64 Sqn (male shot)
Pte Beverley Skelly—64 Sqn (WRAC shot)

Team awards:

LMG	HQ Sqn
Pistol	HQ Sqn
Section	93 Sqn (B)
Rifle	HQ Sqn
SMG	46 Sqn
Falling plate	87 Sqn
Pistol(WRAC)	HQ Sqn
SMG(WRAC)	46 Sqn
LMG(WRAC)	93 Sqn

OFFICERS' TRAINING AND FAMILIES' WEEKEND

A training seminar for the officers, combined with a families' weekend, was held at Lincoln during the period 10-12 May. The training, held on the first day at RAF Digby, started with a very good presentation by **Brig John Davey**, Comd 54 Bde, on the role of his Brigade. That excellent start provided a most apposite key for the remainder of the training presentations which carried on until late on Sunday. The officers' wives and partners, and children, assembled at Lincoln on Saturday afternoon in time for a leisurely chat over afternoon tea before being reunited with their spouses and partners in time for a quick change into party frocks and mess dress for the Regimental Dinner and Dance on Saturday evening. We were very pleased to have our Bde Comd, **Brig Keith Olds**, with us for the training and for our evening function. We were also glad to see **Col Alan Hawksworth, Lt Col Roger Merryweather, Maj Roy Ledder** and **Maj John Rose** and their ladies for the dinner dance and Sunday. Whilst the military members carried on with the serious training activities on Sunday morning, the families were taken by **2Lt Simon Blagden** on a very interesting tour of the old part of Lincoln including the ancient cathedral—before joining us for the very last training session of the weekend which was based on the excellent 'We're ready. Are you?' video on the multifarious activities of the TA. (One or two wives were slightly discomfited by comments on film as to why soldiers joined the TA—'to get away from the missus etc'). A Families' luncheon was an important feature of the last day. All concluded that this former regular annual unit function of the training and families weekend was really worth resurrecting.

FIRST AID

For about four or five years 64 Sqn has run a series of courses providing St John's Ambulance first aid training and certification at RHQ in Sheffield. Over that period more than 50 serving volunteers have become certificated first aiders. The leading light in this venture has been **Capt Rick Ludlow**, aided this year by **2Lt Anne Deakin** and **Capt Hazel Solomon.** 12 members of 64 Sqn completed the long course in the Spring and received their certificates.

NEW BLOOD

A feature of our life in the past year or so has been the induction of officers from other arms and services into the Regiment and the Corps. We have rebadged **Capt Jim Crotty**, late RAOC, who is now OC Line Tp in 87 Sig Sqn; **Capts David Anson** and **John Cresswell**, late infantry, who are now with 64 Sig Sqn. We hope to soon welcome **Maj Bob Barnes**, presently 7LI, into the Corps fold—**Bob** has been assisting us on many aspects of military life since he was first attached to us at our last Annual Camp.

FOCUS ON 93 (EAST LANCS) SIGNAL SQUADRON

OC	**Maj John Lewer**
2IC	**Capt Bruce Ramsay**
PSAO	**Capt Ted Hall**
SSM	**WO2 Jack Naylor**
SQMS(NRPS)	**SSgt Roy Boulton-Lear**
Sqn Clerk	**Mr Bob Waring**
PSI	**SSgt Ron Cossou**
Sqn Storekeeper	**Mrs Linda Byrom**

Earlier in these notes we have mentioned new blood, including two officers from the infantry. In 1968-69 the unit welcomed a whole Squadron from the infantry! The remnants of the East Lancs Regt became 93 Sig Sqn with its HQ and main body located at the regiment's old base at the Barracks on Canterbury Road in Blackburn. A detachment was also raised at Manchester.

OFFICERS' MESS

A recent cocktail party illustrated the very close links the Squadron maintains with the local community, following the East Lancs tradition. Many important civic and community dignitaries joined us as guests. A pleasing feature came in the interval when members led the guests on to the balconies above the drill hall to watch a sterling display by the Lancastrian Brigade Volunteer Band and Corps of Drums led by its Drum Major **Mr John Higginbotham** (late East Lancs Regt). This band has been resurrected from its military past and is now fully uniformed and badged as of old, but it is entirely civilian—its life depends on the generosity and enthusiasm of one man, **Mr Geoffrey Hargreaves**, who owns it and entirely finances its existence.

The Mayor of Blackburn, Councillor West, accompanied by Mr Geoffrey Hargreaves—band owner, Maj John Lewer—OC 93 Sqn and Mr John Higginbothom—Drum Major, inspect the Lancastrian Brigade Volunteer Band and Corps of Drums

SWIFTLY SAILING AWAY

Sgt Bev Swift, of 87 Sig Sqn at Nottingham, was lucky enough to be selected to help crew the Royal Signals 36ft Bowman yacht *Parang* on the first leg of her trip on Ex *Spring Adventure*. **Bev** was the only non-regular and girl in the six-strong crew. They called at La Coruna and Bayona in Spain, Lisbon and Vilamoura in Portugal and Tangiers before finally stopping in Gibraltar where the next crew took over. **Bev**, who had never sailed before, considered it was certainly a trip of a lifetime and she enjoyed it enormously.

Sgt Bev Swift—seasoned traveller

BT TROOP

OC	**2Lt Alan Whittle**
2IC	**SSgt Geoff Dolan** (Marathon Man)
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Eric Noden** (Noddy)
	Sgt Diane Feest (Mother Hen)

The troop, which is split into two detachments, consists mainly of British Telecom engineers and local government officers. We have recently lost two of our members—**Sig Anthony Agar** who has joined the Regular Army and **Pte Maria Sessine** who is now a tour operator rep in Italy. In return we welcome back **Cpl Dina Cole** who will restore our excellent cuisine and we shall probably put on weight again—but our fitness team of **Pte Debbie Bates, Cpl Bob Horsfield** and **SSgt Geoff Dolan** will see we run off any excess. We also welcome **Pte Lynne Robinson,** who has just completed a recruits course, **Cpl Tony Cleworth**, from 75 Engineers, and a new potential cook in the shape of **Pte Lewi Gregory.**

The new military year is well underway and all are very busy in trade and military training including preparation for tickle tests and the Team Mate competition. **SSgt Dolan** conducts a 'run-a-mile-and-shoot' event on certain Tuesday drill evenings and our fitness is also tested by re-arranging the kitchen with the male personnel carrying fridges and kitchen units whilst **Cpl Dina Cole** leads the WRAC in determining precisely where each item looks the best and is most functional.

The Troop is very involved within the local community. Some members are attending a ten week sign language course which will enable them to help those with hearing handicaps. Our principal help, however, is directed towards a local mentally handicapped pupils' school called 'The Birches'. We have adopted them, and they have adopted us, and we have organised various charity events one of which was a Cheese and Wine Evening to raise funds for the children. The wine was home-made and the cheese shop-bought. The staff of the school came and a good time was enjoyed by all. Last year's Lyke Wake Walk was turned into a sponsored event for our WRAC team and the proceeds went to the school. The school invited us to their pantomime and it was a delightful evening. We also held a sponsored row across Lake Windermere with our girls dressed as Ra-Ra-Girls (**Ptes Connie Cowie, Alison Leah** and **Maria Sessine**)—the male team, consisting of **Sig Anthony Agar, Adrian Moran** and **Maney Cowie**, were garbed a-la-Danny-La-Rue. The pilot boat was skippered by **Cpl Linda Washington** and crewed by **Ptes Denise Waring** and **Ingrid Watson** with **Cpl Paul Snelson** at the helm. The outcome saw the pilot boat having to be towed after a breakdown but the rowing crew successfully crossed the lake and we reached our target fund for the school. The girls got changed but it has been quite difficult to stop the lads dressing up again. This summer we have planned a Country and Western Night in aid of our friends at the school.

Pte Alison Leah presents a Corps plaque to Mrs Drugen—head of the adopted Birches School

878 SIGNAL TROOP

OC	**Lt Jane Annison**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Ian Newham**

Lt Jane Annison, a former regular WRAF officer, joined the 'wonderful world of Signals' last year and has recently assumed command of the troop which is based at Blackburn. Coincidental with her assumption of command, or perhaps because of it, the troop achieved 95% comms on the recent brigade exercise. And to match that, two of our members—**Ptes Zana Higab** and **Zoe Haslam** were in the successful rifle section team in the REGSAM last month. A more recent exercise proved to be very fraught and eventful due to freak weather including blizzards. Two mast sections were snapped rendering the troop 'hors de combat'—certainly putting our skills and nerves to the test.

2Lt Alan Whittle's SLR team at the REGSAM

2Lt Alan Whittle and 2Lt (now Lt) Jane Annison share a quiet smirk over the abounding rumours

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

879 SIGNAL TROOP

OC	**OCdt Sue Ridler**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Steve Holgate**

Report by OCdt Sue Ridler

In October 1984 I inherited 879 Troop. It was the classical situation of the young, enthusiastic and inexperienced troop commander with a well established and wise troop sergeant together with a band of TA soldiers and WRAC who are willing to do almost anything.

It was on a recent exercise that this was demonstrated. We arrived at night, 'put the HGV on the hard standing and make an aerial crossing over the road' I shouted and dashed off to take over the accommodation. **LCpl Jerry Vallely** jumped out of the cab and assessed the situation; the grass verge on the driver's side seemed firm enough—after all it would serve an aerial crossing if the vehicle was parked there—I came back to the site and was horrified to see the vehicle stuck axle deep in the ground! The extent of the damage was only too evident at first light—lovely crescent shaped holes in the grass. Various TA units were also using the barracks that weekend and all commented 'who's been digging up the lawn?'. Luckily some neighbouring gardeners had some spare earth and grass seeds and, after establishing comms, we all set to and filled in the tracks and reseeded the lawn.

All I can say is that we are sorry to lose **LCpl Jerry Vallely** to 32 Sig Regt (V) when he moves to Aberdeen—and to the recruits who were attached to us on that exercise, you really do need to be adaptable in 879—who knows what future exercises hold in store for us?

Pause for 93 Sqn personnel—Ptes Susan Taylor and Zoe Haslam, LCpl Gay Nuttal, Pte Zana Higab, LCpl Toddy Todd and LCpl Jeff Small

904 SIGNAL TROOP

OC	**Capt Roger Davenport**
2IC	**OCdt Ross Parsell**
Tp SSgt	**Sgt Stan Clint Fitzgerald**

We were very sorry to lose our Tp SSgt of many years, **Alan Unwin** who has been deservedly promoted to WO2 in charge of our Recruit Reception and Training Team (RRTT). **Sgt Fitzgerald** presides over **Cpl Yvonne Pinder** who ably mans the RX site—**Cpl Ian Pollard** the TX site and **Cpl Jane Sindall** who keeps watch over the happy ('you are to smile!') girls of the commcen. (Incidentally **Cpl Jane Sindall** keeps more than a weather eye on **Cpl Ian Pollard**—as they are due to be married shortly). **Cpls Chris Ward, Neil Reid** and **LCpl Richard Atkins** are technicians responsible for keeping our ancient radio equipments on the road.

The troop has recently earned recognition of its commitment by acquiring the 'Mercury Trophy' (an in-house award presented for corporate commitment and attendance). We also congratulate **Cpl Jane Sindall** and **LCpl Fiona Stokes** on their achievement in passing their DTg Class I at Catterick.

Cpl Eric Wilde and LCpl Paul Fletcher lead their LAD patrol in the recent REME Warcop Trophy competition

The Adjt, Capt Denise Ashton, amid the coffee, Sunday papers and spring flowers, on duty in the RCP

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col Rodney Clare**
2IC	**Maj Norman Geddes**
Trg Maj	**Maj Greg Grist**
Adjt	**Capt Tom Pengelley**
QM	**Capt Gordon Platts**
PSAO	**Maj Ray Kinkead**
OC HQ Sqn	**Maj Robyn Wymbs WRAC**
OC 66 Sqn	**Maj Adrian Scott**
OC 85 Sqn	**Maj Harry Squance**
TOT	**Maj David Baxter**
OPS Offr	**Maj Brian Darrah**
TFC Offr	**Maj Eddie Canale**
OC Wksps	**Capt Andy Macfarlane**
RSM	**WO1 David Brown**
MTO	**WO1 Phil Welch**
RQMS	**WO2 Charlie Peach**
FofS	**SSgt John Mayson**
YofS	**SSgt John Tyreman**

CONGRATULATIONS GALLERY

Congratulations to **Maj Eddie Canale** and **SM Harry Lee** who received Lord Lieutenant's Certificates at a ceremony held on 12 May at RAF Aldergrove, Co Antrim.

Maj Eddie Canale receives his Lord Lieutenant's Certificate from Capt R. A. F. Dobbs JP, Lord Lieutenant for Co Antrim

SM Harry Lee receives his Lord Lieutenant's Certificate from Col W. N. Brann, Lord Lieutenant for Co Down

REGIMENTAL BADMINTON TEAM

The Regimental Badminton team surfaced again during the winter and proved quite successful in bringing back some silverware to the Regiment.

As a team, in the NI Army Team Championships, ably supported by **Sgt Bernie Hume, SSgt Robbie Derrick, Sig Joe Hume, Tim Clasper, Sgts Brian Mitchell, Collette Murray** and **Pte Stephanie Mitchell**, they have qualified for the final stages of the competition.

As individuals the team went to Lisburn to the NI Army Individual Championships and had a very successful weekend. The most notable performance was by **Sig Tim Clasper**, who partnered by **Pte Brown** from 1/9 UDR, won the Men's Doubles beating the brothers **Hume**. The girls performed well too with **SSgt Heather Butler** partnered by **Sgt Murray**, getting to the final of the Ladies' Doubles where they had to scratch because of injury. **Sig Hume** was also a runner up in the Mixed Doubles. **SSgt Robbie Derrick** with a bit of good fortune, won the Veterans' Doubles partnered by **Pte Davison** from 5 UDR.

Comd Education NI presenting runners up prize to brothers, Sgt and Pte Brown 1/9 UDR—Men's Doubles

Comd Education NI presenting runners up prize to borthers, Sgt and Sig Hume—Men's Doubles

Comd Education NI presenting runners up prizes to SSgt N. Butler, *left*; and Sgt C. Murray—Ladies' Doubles

PARACHUTE COURSE

Seventeen volunteers including **Mrs Elaine Brown**, wife of **WO1 (RSM) Dave Brown**, assembled in the early hours of a cold Wednesday morning prior to departing from Clonaver Park on a three day Parachute Course; 27 February-3 March. The SVWO, **WO1 Dave Doherty** moved his party of bleary eyed volunteers on to the awaiting coach amid doubts as to whether or not it was wise to jump from a perfectly sound aircraft at 2,500ft. At 0615 hrs they left Clonaver bound for RAF Ballykelly, watched by the RSM (was he looking at the insurance coverage on his wife or was it the morning paper?).

Arrival at RAF Ballykelly was somewhat reminiscent of basic training, after being shown to their accommodation they paraded (or huddled—depending on how truthful one is) to meet the Instructor **WO2 Matt McQueen**. His first words will be forever imprinted on the minds of the whole course: 'Right turn, double march' to the airfield hangar, a black speck on the horizon, increased doubts as to one's sanity in volunteering.

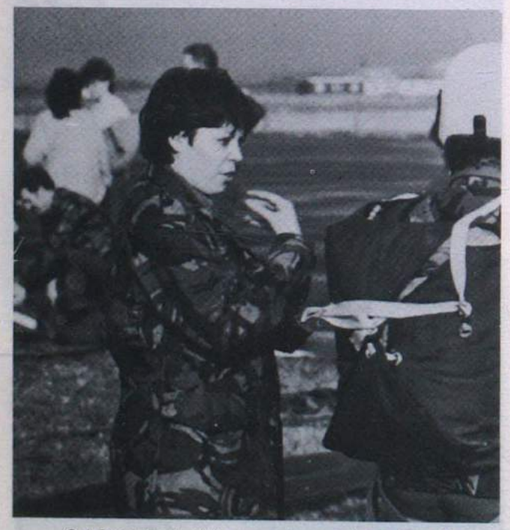
After the completion of the RAF Half Marathon, they got down to the serious business of learning a new vocabulary, Ripcords, Toggles, Spin outs etc. Two days of concentrated drills, including packing their own chutes and learning the correct way to land, culminating in a lecture on malfunctions such as what to do when one's chute gets wrapped around the tail of the plane etc, the whole course was left with facial expressions that resembled crisply laundered Army sheets. **LCpl Janet Coates'** face was definitely whiter than white.

The big day was to come and go due to bad weather and signs of nervous relief could be heard all over the Province. Saturday saw a break in the weather and it was down to the airfield, standby parachutes ready to go. The plane was very small and only took four people plus the Jump Master at any one lift. First to go for the honour of the Regiment was **Cfn Jamie Jamieson** who landed amid much applause from those waiting on the ground.

There were sighs of relief all round knowing that the 'chutes they had packed actually did open after all. So followed the rest of the course, all landing in different ways and directions. Indeed **WO2 Dave Lemon** tried to land in the horizontal position so altering the landscape of the airfield. **LCpl Eileen Campbell** decided she would land on the runway so she didn't have far to carry her 'chute.

Most escaped unhurt, but there were a few bruises and sprains to be seen, but with no serious injury, a look of relief was seen on the face of Course Organiser, **SSgt Sean (Para) Farrelly, REME**. Also noticed was the RSM's delight in seeing his wife land safely, then the smile on his face vanished when he realised that the new Porsche he had ordered would have to stay in the showrooms.

The general opinion was one of a fantastic experience; most said once was enough, but a few hope to return to RAF Ballykelly at Easter to have another go.



Cpl Carol Boyd—'It's easy when you have done it'

Mrs Elaine Brown and and LCpl Mark Scott-Brown showing their enthusiasm

HQ SQUADRON

EXERCISE *PIPES AND DRUMS* II

Under the direction of the new management team, namely, **Maj Robyn Wymbs WRAC** OC, and **Capt Bill Malone** 2IC, the Squadron is embarking on a series of exercises and training weekends to help keep the soldiers in combatant shape.

One such exercise was held on the weekend 10-12 May the venue being the Edinburgh area of Scotland and was aptly named *Pipes and Drums* II.

The exercise was planned to give the squadron training in convoy drills, military skills and general fitness training. Attached for the exercise were members of the ACF (R Signals) who are based at Clonaver Park.

Uneventfully the squadron boarded the Larne/Stranraer ferry on Friday 10 May and duly arrived at Stranraer in the early hours of the morning. However it was noted that a certain Captain managed to get in some accounting practice during the boarding process.

The night drive to Redford Barracks in Edinburgh certainly proved worthwhile, giving the drivers experience in convoy drill, and mapreading. Notwithstanding the additional hazard of keeping awake during the journey.

On arrival at Redford Barracks, which, by the way, are most picturesque and an ideal setting for a short weekend stay, it was now time for a few hours' sleep before breakfast. In order to give the squadron experience in cooking in the field, 24 hour manpack rations were issued. One young recruit was heard to remark, out of earshot of the Sergeant Major by the way, 'It's not quite what I expected and it's certainly different from the 'Ulster Fry'.'

After breakfast the entire squadron, less the sick and elderly, went on a forced march, carrying full packs. This proved too much for some WRAC personnel, but help was at hand and the 'Moon Buggy' daily rescued the casualties.

It was now time for R & R and the evening was spent sampling the sights of Edinburgh. An informal mess dinner night was held in a well known Chinese restaurant in Edinburgh when the delights of the Chinese cuisine were sampled by the Doctor, QM(V), TOT, Paymaster and one or two others.

An early rise on Sunday morning and an event free drive back to the ferry concluded the exercise which, although strenuous at times, was enjoyed by everyone taking part.

Sultan's Armed Forces Sig Regt PO Box No 897

As it is quite some time since the Sultan of Oman's Sig Regt appeared in *The Wire*, a brief introduction as well as 'As Salaam Alaykum' would be in order.

Over the past few years the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) have expanded and modernised into a reckonable force in the Gulf. There is one Signal Regiment whose strength is now over 1,300 at the last count and comprises six Squadrons and the School of Signals. In spite of its size there are only four serving members of the Corps on Loan Service in the Regiment but many ex-members. The Regiment has been Commanded by **Lt Col Adrian Bailey** for the last 17 months and he is now fully qualified at tying his shimargh. **WO1 (FofS) Trevor Lloyd** has served in the Regiment the longest and left us in April, and his replacement is **WO1 John Shepherd**. There are two Yeoman of Signals, one in the Northern Oman Bde Sig Sqn and that is **WO2 David Gruncell** and **WO2 Steve Atkinson** is in the Southern Oman Sqn at Salalah.

We are not a complete backwater here in Oman although perhaps that is a bad choice of metaphor since we have not had any rain to speak of for three years in the Capital. Last May we had a visit from the Deputy SOinC **Brig Jack Westlake**. It is hoped that the pictorial record of his visit will convince those doubters in the Signals Directorate in Whitehall that he did come to Muscat for the week-end.

He was taken on a tour of the Regiment in Muscat and then visited the Straits of Hormuz to see for himself the proximity of Iran. On the following day he was shown some of our experimental equipment—Solar panels, Wind-driven battery chargers—on the top of the Jebel Akhtar. He rounded off his visit with an ethnic party—a fuddle and a small memento of his visit.

We seem to have read a great deal in recent issues of *The Wire* about the Verden Marathon but the annual Dhofar Road Race also takes some beating. Although it is shorter than the Marathonic 26 miles, 385yds, the 30Km amongst the Jebel in and around Salalah presents the same interesting early morning exercise. This year's race was won by **YofS Steve Atkinson** from a strong field of Omani, Baluchi and other international runners.

Also serving out in Oman in HQ SAF is **Lt Col Ian Penny** who is the Communications Project Officer for a large project to modernise the military static communications in Oman.

This contribution would not be complete without mention of the very strong contingent of ex-members of the Corps and some of them are seen in the photograph. The majority are in the Regiment and in Signals Branch but there are others scattered around the various units in non-communicating jobs. Going by the amount of correspondence the CO gets, many many more want to come and join us. We also have ex-members of our Allied Corps with us, in particular, the ex Director of Sri Lankan Signals, **Raa'id Karmal Fernando**, who has many friends still serving in Royal Signals.

We do not feel that cut off out here and certainly there are not many who would change the sun and their early morning swim to join the daily rush into Waterloo Station or the cold and slush of the English winter. Our final photograph shows that we have to put up with different types of problems—marauding camels.

The Loan Service contingent of WO1 (FofS) John Shepherd, WO2 (YofS) Gruncell, CO Lt Col A. R. Bailey and WO1 (FofS) Lloyd (posted)

WO1 (FofS) Lloyd had minor plumbing problems with his Land Rover on a recent exercise—he is supervising the drying out operation

The Fuddle begins

DSOinC is presented with a memento of his visit by the youngest soldier. The Adjt, Naqeeb Abdullah Bin Said Bin Aslam Al Shanfari, looks on

WO2 (YofS) Steve Atkinson receives the prize for winning the Great Dhofar Road Race from the Army Commander, Gen Nasib Bin Hamad Al Ruwaihi

NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn BFPO 18

VISIT BY COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS BAOR

Thursday 30 May saw the Comd Comms BAOR **Maj Gen A. Yeoman** visit our lines, and a memorable visit it was too. After a slight Belgian diversion which took him on an unconducted tour of the barracks, the General was met by the OC, **Maj Mike Anderson** on the square, where he reviewed the Quarter Guard under the SSM, **WO2 Keith Hawke**. After a briefing by the OC, **Kapt Gerit Palm RNLA** (2IC) and the **YofS, WO2 Ron Burrell** the General visited the Squadron deployed for exercise. He noted the large variety of equipments used and even found a tape machine that he had last seen during his days in Singapore. The visit ended with **Sig Roy Messenger** presenting the General with a plaque as a memento of his visit and a lunch party with all the SNCOs. The General made a short speech which was warmly received by all, and comments heard after he had left showed how successful the visit had been.

Sld Ron Schuurman (RNLA) was pleasantly surprised when the Comd Comms BAOR Maj Gen A Yeoman spoke to him in Flemish!

VISIT TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELDS AT YPRES

On Thursday 28 May the Squadron paid its first visit to the First World War battlefields and graveyards in part of the Ypres Salient. We went by coach and were greeted in Ypres by our guide for the day. After a visit to the Town Hall we saw the main museum showing various equipments used in the war, and were given a potted history of the battles, especially those around Ypres during the period 1914-1918. We then visited the St George's Memorial Chapel where every single article has been donated in remembrance of either a unit or individual. The Squadron then sat down to an excellent lunch in the market square before starting a coach tour of part of the battlefields. This consisted of a visit to the graveyards of Tyne Cot and Langenmark where it was hardly possible to understand how many had fallen in this particular area. For us there was no mud, bullets, shells or gas. The sun shone and we were surrounded by beautifully kept graveyards. The opinion of all was that on viewing the graves of the fallen 'they are not forgotten'.

FAREWELLS

It is not going to be the same. **HFW Ricky Van Ess** has left us! After four years with the Squadron, our German SQMS has decided that the homeland calls. He and his wife, **Ria**, leave us for pastures new and we wish them all the very best in their new posting to 110 battalion near Wesel.

We also say goodbye to **SU Gerhard Kaduk** who leaves us for the 5 Fm Btl at Dietz. His photographic catastrophies will be missed as will his efforts at running the Squadron Command Post.

NORTHAG SKILL AT ARMS MEETING

The Squadron having had a training period on the ranges at Leopoldsburg was able to field a respectable team for this large NORTHAG competition. **WO2 (SSM) Keith Hawke** armed with all the important custom declaration forms (we had three borders to cross) brought the team up to competition standard. After the SLR match the team was lying a very respectable second. Sadly the SMG practice did not go so well and so we ended the competition gaining seventh position overall. In the Invitation SLR match we shot our way to sixth position out of 14 teams. Results of note were:

SLR		SMG	
SSM Keith Hawke	4th	**SSM Keigh Hawke**	8th
Kpl Rob Schenk	11th	**Sld Ron Schuurman**	9th
Sig Bob Blythe	16th	**Sgt1 Rudi Janssen**	12th

From left to right Sig Bob Blythe, WO2 (SSM) Keith Hawke, Sgt1 Ferdi Janssen (RNLA), Sld Ron Schuurman (RNLA), Kpl Rob Schenk (RNLA)

THE LONDON MARATHON

The story of our Marathon Team really started in Berlin in 1984 when the OC was heard to remark to **Sgt Mick Hague** 'How about doing the London Marathon next year?' Being on the ball and highly keen he quickly agreed. Various listeners have since tried to 'doctor' his coffee! Six and a half months later saw a team of eight run in the London Marathon for 'Quest for a Test Charity'. The team consisting of five UK, two German and one Dutch runner raised £850 for the Charity and at the end of the run the OC presented the Chairman with the large cheque. A coach was organised for the event so that 15 of our Supporter Club could join in the fun. This aspect was well organised by **Sgt 'Dick the Lad' Clegg** who was often seen muttering to himself about the co-ordination of the trip—a sure sign that he will become one of the runners—even if in a wheelchair. The team was sponsored by Townsend Thoresen and Moet et Chandon Champagne (UK). The latter provided suitable refreshment from magnum sized bottles at the end of the run! The whole day has been well reported, but suffice it to say that owing to many well-wishers crowding the streets for the entire 26 mile course, it was a sight (and sound) never to be forgotten. All finished the course and gained their most prized London Marathon Medals—and a giant sized Mars Bar! Some results are shown below:

Maj Mike Anderson	3 hours 14 minutes
OFW Heinrich Hoffmeister	3 hours 28 minutes
SSgt Paul Smith	3 hours 31 minutes
LCpl Roy Emblen	3 hours 42 minutes
Sgt Mick Hague	4 hours 23 minutes (too many days at home)

All will be together again for the Berlin Marathon 1985. In fact, enthusiasm has spread and **SSgt Paul Smith** has managed to persuade his wife, **Jennifer**, to run too! Bon chance.

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

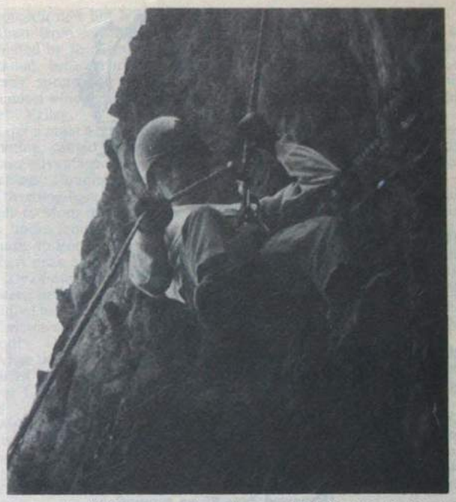
Since our last report the Squadron has taken its' Easter leave, been away on summer camp and had its athletics competition. We also won the UKLF R Signals Minor Units Athletics and for that special thanks go to **Cpl Bailey, LCpl Roberts, Cfn Biglin, Cpl Lambert, LCpls Barker, Burrows, Sgt Mogg** and **LCpl Barnet** for winning their events.

SSgt Wilde RAOC for the high jump

There have been a number of recent changes on the nominal roll. Alpha Troop has said farewell to both **Lt Nick Kendall-Carpenter RM**, who is returning to the Marines and **SSgt 'Dave' Jennings**, who is off to the 'Good Life' in 'civvy street'. Here to take their places are **Capt Jim Clark**, who has just completed a two year detachment with 16/5 Lancers and **SSgt 'Keith' Tubman**, who has moved down from Harrogate, after a tour with the apprentices. MT/LAD Troop also said goodbye to their Troop OC, **Capt Martin Ward** and has welcomed in **Capt Keith Robson RCT**. Charlie Troop has had a change in Troop Staff Sergeant with **SSgt Trev Lloyd** leaving the Army and **SSgt Dave Thomas** moving in from 1 Div.

The Squadron Summer Camp this year was at Penhale Camp; Cornwall. It was well placed to enable us to enjoy a wide range of adventure training activities, including Canoeing, Rock Climbing, Abseiling, Shooting, Orienteering and Horse Riding. Good use was also made of the location by two visits to places of local interest, namely Poldark Tin Mine and British Telecom's Goonhilly Earth Satellite Station. During our stay at Penhale we were visited by the Comd 1 Sig Gp, **Col C. A. Brown**, who enjoyed his first taste of abseiling, and Comd 1 Inf Bde, **Brig J. F. W. Wilsey OBE** who had a go at both abseiling and canoeing.

Relaxing after a morning's climb



They searched high and low but they couldn't find Mr K. C. when it came to 0615 hrs PT

Charlie troop visits Goonhilly

Sig Wright enjoys his 21st birthday gift from Charlie troop

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

'HEAD SHED'

OC	**Maj J. N. Allan (John)**
2IC	**Capt S. J. S. Young (Stan)**
QM	**Maj R. L. Danells (Ray)**
Comms Officer	**Capt D. J. Whitby (John)**
Admin Officer	**Capt J. J. M. Campbell (Jimmy)**
OC A Tp	**Lt J. S. Lugg (John)**
OC B Tp	**2Lt K. Evans (Kim)**
OC C Tp	**Sgt D. T. H. Wilson (Sergeant)**
RSM	**WO1 J. Aspinall (Sir)**
FofS	**WO1 D. Jackson**
YofS	**WO2 G. Thomas**
RQMS	**WO2 G. S. Air**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt J. A. Pape (Departed June 85 on promotion)**

EXERCISES

The Squadron, as usual, has been heavily committed to exercises from the beginning of 1985. In addition to those there have been two JFHQ exercises. Both were thoroughly exciting with the scenario on *Purple Wave* turning to discussing parrots raped by Marines, and the comms on *Purple Venture* being provided but nobody over keen to use them. We are just about to depart for Cyprus on Ex *Lion Sun* to use up our year's supply of ammunition. On return we will have a week till Airborne Forces Day (6 July) followed by the Brigade Concentration exercise and leave.

SHQ

The past two months have seen a fair amount of turbulence in the SHQ with several notable arrivals and departures. **Capt Jimmy Campbell** has taken over from **Capt Vic Zimmer** who went to Australia to be married. We wish **Vic** and **Denise** all the best for the future and welcome **Jimmy** and **Margaret** back to the 'Shot'. Next to go was the RSM and his family to be replaced by **WO1 (RSM) John Aspinall**. Farewell **Ian, Sue** and family and welcome back **John, Carole** and family. Finally, with the bulk of the unit in Cyprus we said farewell to our Chief Clerk **SSgt John Pape** who left us on promotion for MOD PB11. Good luck and we will see you on Airborne Forces Day.

ALPHA TROOP

Alpha Troop has seen many new faces arrive and even more old ones leave. Welcome to **Sig Quinn** and **Corbonnell** who arrived or rather turned up in May. They came here straight from training on what was clearly a hush-hush posting since nobody here knew anything about them. Still, these surprises brighten up the week. Best of luck to **Cpl Bob Naylor** who is finally leaving the Army. His wit, humour and ability to calm down **Sig 'Jolly-John' Walker** will be missed by all. **Cpl 'Look what I've found' Brown** is also leaving us for 16 Sig Regt. **LCpl Pollock** is returning to 9 Para Sqn RE whose life style is a little different from ours. They seem to assume that furniture and windows in the block are for 'wets', and do their best to remove both.

Staff 'Done the course' De La Haye has just returned from his combat survival course and is zealously teaching all of us how to do PT while confined in a small room. The general idea seems to be to stand on your head and make your back ache. It does not appear to be popular with the troop, although **LCpl McCarthy** made the alarming discovery that he had, in fact, got a brain because it was hurting. We'll send him back to depot Para to have it removed.

Well done to **Cpl Smith** for passing his Crypto Course and to **Sig Cullen** and **Santos** for passing their driving courses. No sympathy to **Sig 'Jolly-John' Walker** who failed his driving test by driving straight through the stop sign at the main entrance to Montgomery Lines!

Best of luck to **LCpl McCarthy** and **Sig Walker** on their jumps course in June. **LCpl Lang** had formally requested to have a nervous breakdown followed by a complete mental collapse but was told by **Cpl Stringer** to take his place in the queue.

BRAVO TROOP

With at least half the Troop being away on various courses things have been very much 'play it by ear'. We managed to rustle up enough operators for Ex *Swift Drop* which went quite well, and **Sgt Monk**'s linemen were out in force. With **SSgt Toms** away on his RQs course **Sgt Clarke** took over the running of the Troop.

We finally say goodbye to **Mr Gax Fivash, Cpl 'hello hello' Archer** off to the Manchester Constabulary and **LCpl Dave Seeley** from the Line Section who goes back to the lineman's paradise.

CHARLIE TROOP

Lt Des (Harry) Moloney BDB's has left us as a captain to go to-shush-you know where. All the best to him in his future career.

LCpl 'Rev' Revera has left us to join the old bill (Biggest crook going). All the best to you and your wife **Gill**.

Cpls Nidge Barrett and **Bob Banner** returned to the troop after a month on their EPC's. **Cpl Bob Banner** then disappeared to finish off his Military Free Fall Course (HALO).

Ex *Swift Drop* was a success for the troop; we managed yet again to get all of our kit on the ground in one piece. **Sig Scouse Delaney** damaged his leg parachuting after trying to get off the exercise, due to a cold. The lads would like to welcome to the troop, **Sig Smudge Smith**.

TM TROOP

Several new faces have arrived recently. Welcome to **Cpl Dane Murray** who woke up one morning to find himself in 5 AB Bde. Also welcome to **LCpls John Whitty** and **Craig McGowan**. All three are looking forward to their selection course whilst the rest of us are in Cyprus. Congratulations to **LCpl 'Kermit' Robertson** on passing his selection course and good luck on your jumps course in June. **Cpl George Murray** is sitting his T1 entrance exam next week and we wish him luck on his choice of questions.

CONVERSATION OF THE WEEK
COMMS OFFICER TO FOREMAN

'Foreman, find out if there is a 'C' type container suitable for Clansman for heli lifting.'

FOFS TO RQ

'RQ find out if there is a 'C' type container suitable for Clansman for heli lifting. The yeoman may know something about it.'

RQ TO YOFS

'This 'C' type container for Clansman. Is it like a Thomas Bin with Wings?'

63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V) Portsmouth

ON SAFARI—KENYA 1985
Report by Cpl Tim Jemmett

Saturday 22 February 1985 found the 2IC, **Capt Jack Frost** and myself, **Cpl Tim Jemmett** at 1 Glosters HQ in Nanyuki Showground, preparing for the first of four trips, taking small parties from each Company of the Glosters to Point Lenana on Mount Kenya.

For me, it had all started less than three weeks before; it was a Tuesday drill night and I was instructing recruits on weapon handling when the 'phone rang. 'Hello **Tim**; how do you fancy six weeks in Kenya . . . ?'

When I returned to my lesson, I couldn't concentrate too well. I had 24 hours to let the 2IC know whether or not I could get the time off. Working on the assumption 'nothing ventured, nothing gained', I ventured; 24 hours stretched a little and by Friday morning, I had 'gained', with the full backing of a very understanding boss. (How many TA soldiers could get six weeks off work at two weeks' notice?)

After the rush of buying things, 'phoning people, sorting details and obtaining the necessary innoculations, the time soon came to pack. Just what do you take to a 17,000ft mountain on the Equator? A mountain where, within 12 hours, a temperature range as extreme as anything experienced in 12 months in England is the norm.

Anyway, back to Kenya, where we were getting ready for the first of our trips up the mountain.

Our walk started at 10,000ft at the Meteorological Station, situated on the end of the track up from Naro-Moru, a village 20Km south of Nanyuki.

Initially, our track took us upwards through the high-altitude rain forest, then out onto the hillside in a zone of giant tree heathers and through an area known as the 'vertical bog', which was, thankfully, dry for three of the four trips. This first day's walk ended with a gentle pull up the Teleki Valley to Mackinders' Camp, situated at around 14,000ft and about four and a half to five hours walk from the Met Station. 'Mackinders' is at present a (dilapidated) tented camp, although a new hut is currently under construction.

Apart from passing climbers and local porter-guides, this area is inhabited by the Mount Kenya Rock Hyrax; a cat-sized rodent-like mammal, believed to be a relative of the elephant! To add to the already spectacular scenery, there is the peculiar tree-like giant groundsel which grows up to 15ft high in a veritable forest within the Teleki Valley.

After a night acclimatising and getting used to the freezing cold and insomnia, caused by the lack of oxygen, we were up at dawn, ready to take advantage of the generally-consistent weather pattern of clear mornings, clouding over by early afternoon.

Travelling light, Austrian Hut, which at 15,700ft is about the same height as Mont Blanc (Europe's highest point), may be reached within two hours from 'Mackinders'. After a quick 'wet', it is about 45 minutes to Point Lenana, which at 16,355ft, is Mount Kenya's third-highest peak and the only point we were able to tackle with a party the size of ours. It is not a difficult peak to climb but care must always be exercised when crossing onto the Lewis Glacier for the last few hundred metres to the summit. It is well worth the effort involved, for the views are superb, providing of course, that you've beaten the cloud!

After this, the descent is a welcome relief from the walk up in the rarified air, with the prospect of a beer next day at the Naro Moru River Lodge, before returning to Nanyuki, to prepare for the next trip.

We repeated this trip three times, each different and enjoyable for its own reasons; even the last one, despite the total absence of any summit views and the fact that by then, we were well into the season of the 'long rains'.

The long drive south from Nairobi to see Kilimanjaro was rewarded by Kili emerging from behind her mantle of cloud, to reveal her snow-clad summit Kibo, which at over 19,000ft, is the highest point on the African continent.

We left Kenya on 6 April, having just had time to watch the Safari Rally in progress, returning in the luxury of a Tri-Star to an England still decidedly chilly, and so different from that corner of Africa we had left only nine hours before.

King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers

SISTER AGNES'S

Beaumont House,
Beaumont Street, London W.1.

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

This famous hospital, assisted by a staff of Harley Street Consultants, provides the best possible treatment at the lowest possible cost for officers, serving or retired (including those who held temporary or reserve commissions), their wives, widows and dependant children of not less than 4 years of age.

It has one three-bedded ward and 69 single rooms (5 with bathrooms en suite). It has its own Pharmacy, X-Ray, Physiotherapy and Pathology Departments. Medical check-ups can be arranged at a moderate charge.

Serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance in a ward bed. Others and their dependants (unless insured for more) are charged £49 a day for a private room. Civilian patients are charged £112 a day. Consultants fees are a matter for personal arrangement between the patient and the consultant. Where necessary help can be provided from a generously administered Benevolant Fund.

Subject to age, BUPA gives friends of the Hospital a 15% reduction on their BUPACARE subscriptions, and PPP and WESTERN PROVIDENT a 25% on their FAMILY MASTERPLAN AND SUPERCOVER policies respectively, if payment is made by direct debit.

The hospital is currently treating 2,200 in-patients and 1400 out-patients a year. It is not part of the N.H.S. and is dependant on voluntary donations for its work for the Services.

If you would like to receive more information or become a subscriber please write to the Appeals Secretary, (RSIGS), 6 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR or phone 01-828 4454. Applications for admission should be made to the Matron on 01-486 4411.

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

THE WORK

With summer upon us there is still no let up in commitments to keep the soldier busy.

After recovering from the initial shock of the actual prospect of it really happening, the ARU Inspection on the National Admin Troop went quite well. Fears that the inspecting team would be larger than the unit being inspected were ill founded with the unit holding its own as far as numbers were concerned on the Staff Inspection, and **Brig W. J. Hiles**, Comd BR Comms Z, on his formal visit arrived with only one other officer, giving the unit a chance to actually out number the visitors. During his visit **Brig Hiles** took time to meet many members of the Squadron including some of the Internationally employed elements.

The Inspecting Team
Brig Hiles, Maj Gale (OC), Maj Harcus

Brig Hiles with the SQMS Dept
From left to right: Cpl Cunningham, WO2 (SSM) Brown, Capt Clark (2IC), Majs Gale, Harcus, Brig Hiles and SSgt Richards

Before lunching in the Sergeants' Mess **Brig Hiles** presented the LS & GC to **Sgt Dave Hughes**, who with his wife **Teresa Mary** then joined the Brigadier for lunch.

Brig Hiles congratulates Sgt Hughes on receipt of his LS & GC. In the background *from left to right:* Sgt Pengilly RAF, Sgt Sherry, Mrs Hughes, Sgt Bevan and SSgt Arundel

Regular readers of the column and past members of the unit will know that this is the year when, at long last, the unit was to be re-equipped with the state-of-the-art electronic wizardry, all housed in a fleet of new vehicles. Well patient readers, keep on waiting, because delivery has been delayed once again and all plans to scrap or mothball the old (very old) equipment have again been shelved. In fact preparation is again in hand for the 'Old Mobile's' last exercise in the autumn.

Ex *Cobalt Flash* 3 conveniently disguises Summer Camp which is rushing towards us with unrefined haste. As it is the first Summer Camp the unit has run in living memory there are more than a few apprehensive expressions on the faces of members of the unit planning staff, but at least a near breakthrough has been achieved in convincing all nationalities that 'it will be fun'!

THE SOCIAL LIFE

With barely the last traces of snow disappearing from the hedgerows, the rusting barbeque stands of last year are reappearing and feverish efforts are made to restore them to past glories, courtesy of **Sgt Bob Collin**, who is also showing his talents in the art of bar building as he works on Sergeants' Mess improvements, assisted by **Sgt Bev Bevan**.

Congratulations go from all the unit to **Cpl Rick Heaton** and his wife **Beverley**, and to **Sig 'Bomber' Brown** and his wife **Petra** on the additions to their families. Congratulations also to **Cpls 'Slinkey' Sleeman** and **Mick Sayer** on their passing the selection course for 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn.

THE SPORTING LIFE

Over the past six months the Unit Orienteering team have had some notable successes. The team led by **SSgt John Keohane** and **WO2 (YofS) Brian Lawrence** have put out at least five runners to each event organised by the RCZ League. At the moment we are currently leading the Minor Unit table in the league and are hopeful of winning. On 27 April the 'A' team consisting of **WO2 (YofS) Brian Lawrence, Sgt Norrie Anderson** and **LCpl Dave Baillie** won the RCZ Minor Unit trophy at the RCZ Championships. **SSgt John Keohane** qualified as an individual along with **LCpl Roy Emblem** from NASRS Tongeren. Our other 'B' team runners, **Sgts Jimmy Copland** and **Sandy Campbell**, had a good run and finished in fifth place.

241 Sig Sqn
Donnington

One of the characters of the Corps, **Mr Sid Norman** has retired after 12 years as OC's driver with 241 Sig Sqn. **Sid** joined the RAF during the war and was captured by the Japanese at Singapore. He had a long and terrible captivity which has left him, even 40 years later, physically and mentally scarred. However, despite this suffering he served the Corps long and cheerfully, his name being synonymous with the Squadron. We are spread over Western District, North West District and Wales, serving in communications centres and telephone exchanges from Longtown to Castlemartin. Based at Donnington, the COD Signal Troop forms an important part of the Squadron, together with a healthy SWS element and a number of pretty WRAC D TGs and plain TE technicians who are as well as could be expected.

The last OC, **'Black' Mac McMahon** has departed to become a student and a houseperson. **Maj David Stubbs**, when not away diving, is travelling around trying to visit all the outposts before they are overrun by computerisation. **Maj (QM) Colin French** has joined from 264 Sig Sqn and struggles to develop a Squadron Shooting Team, **Capt (Tfc) Bob McLaren** is responsible for the Squadron snooker and golf training.

WO1 (YofS) Geoff Downey still does the odd marathon, and **WO2 (FofS) Pete Bruce** nobly holds the soldering iron whilst **Sgts Tony Young, Bob Watkins** and **Paul Brabbins** are away on assorted resettlement courses. The SSM/SQMS, **SSgt Tony Pollard** is generally either shooting or officiating at boxing matches and **Sgt Bill Ritchie** toils away renting out his WRAC girls to replace civilian operators when they fall sick. **LCpl Cliff Smith** has represented the Army at Volleyball this year. **Ptes Bea Fyvie** and **Carys Evans** spent two months with the Royal Marines in Norway and **Cpl Jill Summers** is off on detachment to New Zealand for four months.

So apply to join 241 Sig Sqn and see the world, or even Liverpool, Cardiff and Shrewsbury!

Finally, this contribution would not be complete without a tribute to the civilian staff who outnumber the military personnel by five to one. Led by **Mr David Griffiths**, the Supervisor A, they operate telephone exchanges and communications centres year after year, sometimes single handed. The photograph shows **Miss Dorothy Hamer**, lately exchange operator at the Army Medal Office, Droitwich, with her Imperial Service Medal which was presented to her at Donnington on 12 April by **Col G. Barnett MBE**, Col Comms 2 Sig Bde.

Presentation of Imperial Service Medal to Miss Dorothy Hamer, behind her *from left to right:* Maj Colin French, Mr David Griffiths, Maj David Stubbs, Col Gordon Barnett and SSgt (SQMS) Tony Pollard

FARAWAY PLACES?

UNUSUAL JOBS?

LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

From Ex *Bold Gannet* in September 1984 (Denmark) through *Tacommex* 11/84 (Germany) to *Arctic Express* (Norway 1985), *Ardent Ground* (Portugal), *Tacommex* 2/85 (Denmark), and our own *Northern Trapper* (Shetlands) we have tales of adventure and high seas exploits which will make your hair stand on end and your toes curl. Of course, we can't tell 'em in the pages of a family magazine. So, if you want a first hand account of how we get away with it, or why a Subaltern visited Lands End and John O'Groats, or what DFDS have, that P & O haven't, and if you can take responsibility, travel and lots of the good life without flinching, come and join us, and maybe you'll find out!

TACOMMEX 11

TAC 11 was a 'whole' Squadron exercise which took place last November in Germany. Having enjoyed the normal high standard of the DFDS ferry to get there we settled down to the serious work of the exercise.

Phase one was a competition during which individual detachments were given an area to go to, set up and establish communications. The key words here were good inconspicuous camouflage as we sent enemy teams from 'A' Troop to hunt them. After a few days most detachments, both 244 and RAF, became very adept at disappearing into the trees, to such an extent that the hunters, even given a 1Km grid square to search, found them very difficult to find. Jungle Warfare skills returned with a vengeance and it was encouraging to note that the deep forest gloom and darkness defeats IWS. But smells, sights and sounds remain fatal traps!

Phase two involved concentrating all of the RAF and 'B' Troop in one location to simulate a major headquarters which we had to defend against 'A' Troop. Everybody learnt a lot about how to make a location less noticeable and much harder to attack. This phase also included our Annual Inspection visit by **Col M. Marples**, accompanied by OC TCW **Wg Cdr M. Rhodes RAF**, who enjoyed a good tactical lunch and an even better non tactical party that night in the Junior Ranks Mess GAF Hohne. R&R was, of course, in Hamburg.

TACOMMEX 3/85

TAC 3 was a 'B' Troop and RAF exercise on the island of Zealand in Denmark. Having sorted ourselves out in Farum Barracks we deployed to various locations around the island where individual formations set up, for about 36 hrs to communicate between each other and to Brize Norton. Detachments then moved to a new location. This continued for the next five days and we had plenty of practice at both HF communications and improving the tactical skills learnt on *TAC 11*. Throughout the exercise the weather varied between cold and very cold but be that as it may it was still an enjoyable and informative exercise.

Finally we had a day's R&R in Copenhagen during which people found time to visit most of the local attractions including a free visit to the Carlsberg brewery.

EXERCISE *HARDFALL 85*

At the end of January Alpha Troop made the now familiar trip to the Voss area of Norway for their Arctic Warfare Training.

Training was mostly carried out under the watchful eye of 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) whom we thank for looking after us in the Stalheim Hotel. Our MAOTs continued to train with 33 Sqn RAF at Bomoen.

The OC Sqn, **Maj D. J. Mclean**, visited and during his stay was seen flying past the Troop at amazing speeds on his trial skis.

On one social evening we said farewell to **Col Mike Marples** Comd 1 Sig Gp, which culminated in a rendering of the word famous Air Support Song by **Sig 'Walter' Gray**.

Congratulations go to **Cpl 'Mark' Schofield** for coming second in 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L)) biathlon event and to the whole of Alpha Troop for clocking the fastest average time. Also to our MAOTs for their successes on behalf of 33 Sqn RAF.

If **2Lt S. Purser** is reading this we want to ask him—where are the photographs?

Our next job was in Portugal.

EXERCISE *ARDENT GROUND 85* PORTUGAL

Ex *Ardent Ground '85* was the annual live firing exercise for the Artillery and Offensive Support Aircraft of the AMF (L) and AMF (A). It took part on the Sante Margarida Training Area in central

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly en route to combat

Self inflicted wounds

Portugal between 18 April and 9 May 1985. Alpha Troop had the enviable task of providing the Air Support Communications for the RAF and other air forces within NATO.

The deployment plan looked simple, this soon changed when half the Troop were placed on an LSL at Marchwood, the 'vessel' unfortunately developed engine trouble half way across the Bay of Biscay, finally arriving in the exercise area two days late. Meanwhile the air move had gone well which meant that 10 members of the Troop were stranded in Santa Margarida Camp with no food, accommodation or, most important of all, no sleeping bags, (which may teach them not to be separated from their kit)! The intrepid 10 were not to be disheartened, especially after finding out the supermarket sold crates of beer for less than two pounds. The two night's waiting were spent with **Lt David Halstead** wrapped in towels, **LCpl 'Spud' Eaton** dressed in four combat suits and the rest of the Troop huddled around **Cpl 'One Eye' Hearn**'s sleeping bag, hoping to take advantage of the two second rule.

The vehicles finally arrived and the exercise progressed. Some good FAC experience was gained by the offensive support detachments, although inflating the blow up tank targets is not everyone's idea of fun as **LCpl Jock 'Blacky' Adams** pointed out to everyone within 10 miles of the exercise area.

The highlight of the excursion was the Troop outing to Lisbon, during which much food and some drink was consumed by all concerned. The trip can be summed up by saying the OC and **Sgt German** caught a taxi, **Sig 'Walter' Gray** caught a train and **LCpl 'Jock' Adams** and **Sig 'Bri' Heslop** caught a cold!

At Endex the Troop was involved in a mini football tournament finally winning by beating the Portuguese 8—2 after fine goalkeeping performances by **Sig 'Oliver Tobias' Harris** and **'Willy' Wilson**.

The recovery went smoothly and the Troop moved on to 16 hrs leave before Ex *Northern Trapper*.

EXERCISE *CLEAN SWEEP*

On Wednesday 20 May we embarked on Ex *Clean Sweep*, a sponsored clean-up of the married quarters area at RAF Brize Norton. Some 70 Squadron personnel armed with rubbish bags, 'womble sticks', shovels and brushes were split into four groups. Each group had its own area to clean and there was quite a lot of rivalry as to which group would collect the most rubbish.

A staggering 11 tons of rubbish was collected. This, however, included several old mopeds and a couple of suites. There was even an old Ford Transit van which was donated by one lady, until her husband came home and complained it was missing. We did of course return it to him. **Sgt Terry Whitehill**'s group won with a total of over 7,000lbs.

Once the rubbish had been collected and weighed and finally disposed of on the local council tips (including the sign from OC Field Communications Squadron's parking place), we realised that the kind people who sponsored us for 1p per lb were going to owe us approximately £250 each. Then there were the even kinder ones who had sponsored us to the tune of 2p per lb of rubbish!

£565.06 was the total amount collected, this was split evenly between the RAF Benevolent Fund and Royal Signals.

INNOVATION 85

The Squadron was asked to provide a stand for the Innovation 85 Technology Exhibition at Cranfield on 12 April.

The lucky few selected from many volunteers were **Capt David Powell, Cpl (now Sgt) John Reiffer, Cpl 'Norm' Pascoe, Sig 'Humph' Humphries** and **Al Hanlon**. The stand consisted of the contrast between the 1945 and the 1985 soldier. Various negotiations resulted in a 31 set from the Museum at Blandford, a Jaguar V radio from Trials Squadron. The SA80 was obtained from the Royal Small Arms factory and the No4 Lee Enfield was donated by the Station Armoury at Brize Norton.

The whole exhibition was very successful and the stand was visited by **HRH Prince Michael of Kent** as well as numerous other dignitaries during the week.

Accommodation was at Rank Xerox's Training College and the standard of catering was noticeably higher than that normally available from Detachment Cooking.

The major lesson learnt from the exhibition was: Don't drive in Milton Keynes unless absolutely necessary—and then with a local guide. **Capt Powell**'s attempts to find the Police Station bear witness to this.

EXERCISE *NAUTICAL CHALLENGE*

Nautical Challenge was a sailing expedition held from 28 April to 12 May consisting of two weeks' sailing, with a crew change at the half way point. During the period many ports along the south coast, Isle of Wight, France and the Channel Isles were visited. Eighteen members of the Squadron managed to hitch a ride, three of whom are still suffering from the effects of **Sig 'Abdul' Fox**'s curries. After a soaking (which had nothing to do with the sea) **Sgt 'Sinbad' Terry Whitehill** is still trying to work out where to stand when the wind is blowing the wrong way!

SSgt Cliff Marshall decided whilst the skipper **(LCpl Mick Hinks)** was below and he at the helm, he would join a yacht race; he found it difficult going—heading the wrong way and not having been invited!

Sig 'Bromie' Bromley and **Phil Hannah** were surprised to see the skipper and a certain Staff Sergeant (who shall remain nameless) decide to send their breakfast to the bottom of the sea. They laughed only until the skipper had finished his and were then sent forward to cool down in a Force 6.

Numerous other situations arose some of which I doubt the editor would print. But all in all a worthwhile challenge which has resulted in six competent crew certificates and the possibility of three day skipper qualifications. We now look forward to a further expedition in September.

Sig 'Abdul' Fox doing his bit to get us all home, accompanied by LCpls Bill Simmonds and Mick Hinks (Skipper)

EXERCISE *NORTHERN TRAPPER*

Ex *Northern Trapper* was a full Squadron exercise intended to test the chain of command in the military and communication fields (rumours that the exercise was taking place in Shetland because the OC was keen to dive there were unfounded?)

Our first stop on the way was in 'Catticrsland'. We arrived and were met by a blazing bonfire in the centre of a deserted farm complex. It was then announced that beers were on sale. Everyone proceeded to get fairly merry around the fire. We should have seen what was to come, an endex type party on the first night . . . something just did not fit!

At 0200 hrs we were awoken by gunfire and shouts. Catticrsland had suffered a coup d'etat and we had to bug out. Most groups followed the planned route out. However there was one noticeable exception, **Cpl Rose, Sig 'Monkey' Fox** and **Hannah** disappeared off the face of the earth for 48 hrs. They returned just as the rest of us were about to do a full sweep of the moors for them.

Meanwhile the rest of us did a 'breathtaking' river crossing. **Sgt Terry German** was rumoured to have snorkeled to safety due to the water being over 3ft deep. This act was later to win him the coveted Cricket Box award.

From then on all the lads had everything packed ready to move out at a moment's notice. Rumour control had a field day, no one knew what came next and nobody believed the majority of the orders given by the DS.

The move up to Aberdeen went ahead without any trouble. The good weather on the move up showed yet another side of 244's very own ex Para. He was christened **Sgt 'Roy Orbeson' Smellie** due to the smooth image created by his sunglasses whilst driving.

The first phase of the exercise in Shetland was setting up comms and adventure training.

Cpl Goodyear took the canoeing. He took several groups out into one of the local bays. During one particular outing **Sig Scouse Netherwood** decided to carry out a recce on the Kelp beds, not once, but twice. On another trip **Sgt Adams** could be seen dancing nimbly around the outside of four canoes that were held together by the other paddlers.

2Lt Rob Healey, recently attached to 244, took groups out climbing. He even managed to get such personalities as **SSgt 'Chiefie' Morgan, Sgt 'Delboy' Leftley** and **FofS (I've only got half an ear) Jones** to do a 60ft abseil. No problems were encountered during the climbing; however, **LCpl Grant** was nearly chucked over the cliff tops when he started his eighth repeat of 'I once had a pet seagull . . . .'.

After the adventurous training we went to the next island, Yell, by ferry. Our first task was a hill race in appalling weather. We even got volunteers for the race, **Sig Glanville** and **Stewart**.

During a section attack the next day **SSgt Marshall** fell into a bog; this caused some amusement. Then everybody proceeded to go through the same point on the way to the FAP. **LCpl Howes** stole the show by losing his trousers in the bog. He had to carry on the attack one hand on rifle and one on his trousers.

Our training over the next couple of days culminated in a mineval against RAF Saxa Vord. 244 did extremely well and even laid on a barbeque to help the RAF recover. It was at this barbeque that **Sgt German** was presented with the Cricket Box award mentioned earlier for snorkeling on the river crossing.

Maj John Selby visited the Squadron for a few days from 1 Sig Gp. He shared a tent with **SSgt Marshall** (acting SSM) who was said to have put on an extra few pounds due to the Major's 'cordon bleu' compo cooking, and has yet to cook breakfast, as promised, in return! After the mineval we gradually made our way to the mainland. At this point Alpha Troop left us to return early due to exercise commitments in Denmark.

Thus began our R&R in Lerwick. For a fairly small town it had quite a social life. The local population was found to be very friendly towards us. **2Lt Hogarth** certainly did his bit for PR. At the local Lerwick Haggis Games 244 entered a six man team for the tug-of-war competition. The team consisted of **Sgt 'Hulk' Adams, Sig 'Bulk' Sheppard, LCpl 'Beefy' Howes, Sig 'Lump' O'Kell, 2Lt (not quite as hunkie as Sgt Adams) Healey, LCpl 'Stig' Hirst** and coached by **Sgt 'experience' Dooher**. Unfortunately they were knocked out by a rather weighty rugby team. **Sig Sheppard** became the centre of attraction for all the children. They took great delight in laying into him, ferociously!

The exercise certainly proved humorous on many occasions. On one occasion OC 3 Platoon asked a local council worker if he had a football and the reply was, 'No but I've got an oil drum'.

Thus the exercise came to a close. The return ferry trip passed without incident and we all arrived back at Brize Norton safely. It had not been as physically demanding as many of the rumours had hinted, however, it certainly tested people all the way down the chain of command.

We might finish by saying that the Shetland Islands with 3,000 miles of coastline, nowhere more than three miles from the sea and a spectacular collection of wild life, is a wilderness well worth visiting.

The natives are incredibly friendly and only slightly more difficult to understand than in Denmark! Of course the absence of darkness eliminates the need for sleeping bags and the remoteness makes resupply difficult, if not impossible—it all adds up to Good Trapping!

If you're still with us well done. Now here is the comic strip.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

DIARY

The squadron has had a busy two months since our return from Norway at the end of March. After a well deserved Easter leave and a hectic 10 days preparation a full PRE inspection brought us down to earth! **Sgt 'I can fix anything' McClune** and the boys in the LAD nearly succeeded in doing the impossible. Nice try—next attempt in July. Early May saw the squadron playing host to 28 NATO officers and NCO's of the AMF(L) for an annual bout of voice procedure and command post procedures instruction on Ex *Clear Voice*. Whilst the instruction proved straight forward, the Admin Officer **2Lt Nigel Godbolt** spent most of the time tearing his hair out. *Clear Voice* ended on 7 May and the squadron moved to Okehampton for a weekend basking in the sun providing comms for Ex *Ten Tors*. Such was the popularity of the event that two German officers from 11 Fermeldebattalion and eight cadets from two of our sponsored CCFs joined us in ogling the young girls. Meanwhile in sunny Portugal one of our RATT detachments and it's crew were providing a rear link to UK for Ex *Ardent Ground* 85. Having got the bug from *Ten Tors*, **2Lt Nigel Godbolt** led a team of erstwhile runners around the Welsh 1,000. The team gave a very creditable performance considering they had only three days to train (in contrast to six weeks given to **Maj Jonathan Cook** when he was a subaltern!).

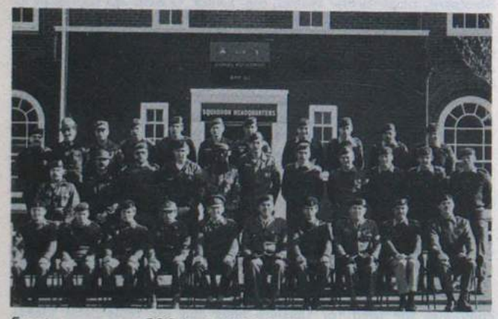
All is hectic again as the squadron prepare for Ex *Albatross Exchange* in Denmark in early June. The LAD are again working overtime and the 2IC keeps muttering 'Thank heavens I've resigned' every time an amendment is made to the Mov O.

EXERCISE *CLEAR VOICE*
Report by a frustrated Admin Officer

Under normal circumstances, the appointment of Admin Officer (course administrator?) incorporates a multitude of sins. Inject 28 NATO officers and NCO's, speaking five different languages and the formula for a few headaches emerges. Ex *Clear Voice* was run by 249 Sig Sqn from 30 April to 7 May; it is a biennial exercise to review voice procedure and standardise command post techniques for AMF(L) personnel.

Arrival at Bulford, be it either by private plane for one German Commandant or 'A-Team' style minibus for the Belgian Special Forces, was accomplished in relative ease by Tuesday evening. A slight misunderstanding by an American Staff Sergeant, when told in his joining instructions to 'phone for collection from the station', did so from Victoria station. It was tactfully explained to him that although 'little ol' England was so much smaller than the US of A', he would still have to endeavour to get a little closer to Bulford before we could pick him up.

To increase the stress on the AO, the students were accommodated in four separate messes and a hotel. Using three minibuses, it was just possible to coordinate the collection and depositing of the course at the right place at the right time. So naturally, there were only two buses available leading to an increase in the valium dosage and a potential patient for the shrink.



Front row centre: CSO Lt Col Meini, *Front row centre left:* Comd 1 Sig Gp Col Brown, *Front row centre right:* OC Maj Cook

The opening address by the Comd 1 Sig Gp was duly translated by the interpreters into German, Italian, Belgian and Luxembourgese. This was to be the format every time the course was addressed—a good grasp of English was obviously not high on their requirements for attendance!

However, having an enjoyable time was, and to this end, several social events were laid on. Included, were an English Pub night, a dinner night for the officers (revealing several diverse uniforms), and a games night for the NCOs (revealing several diverse skills—'bottle walking' must be part of the Belgian Army's basic training).

The majority managed a weekend in London too, seeing the sights, with our American friend managing to find the 'small corner shop called Harrods'!

After three days of VP + AMF codes revision, their skills were put to the test in a 24 hour comms ex on Salisbury Plain. A mock battle was fought out over the air and to add to the realism, it was written into the instruction that the Italians withdrew—so to practise tearing down and setting up drills of course.

The end of this exercise was also the end of the short course, and after a farewell buffet, the students went their various ways. However, beforehand they passed on their appreciation to the Unit for laying on an unconventional exercise that went well and furthers our good relationships in NATO.

MY FIRST EXERCISE AS A BLEEP
Report by 2Lt 'untrained' Birleson

Ten Tors was an excellent opportunity to learn the roles and the operation of Signals equipment, which was new to me. Having said this, my main aim on the exercise was to see the FA Cup Final, as I had missed it last year, due to Sandhurst. I certainly was not going to miss this year's final—How wrong!

The exercise started off very well. I busied myself coffee tasting and I am glad to report that the standard in 249 is well above average. **WO2 (YofS) Charlie Rodgers** makes a particularly delectible brew I hasten to add. I was pleasantly surprised by the new Army issue equipment. The MOD, I assume, have started to supply Japanese made Sanyo radio/cassette TV's. These sets are purpose built for looking at the cup final when on exercise and fit snugly above the less exciting R Signals equipment.

Now listen in 'I think this does'
Capt Barry Wood RSO Blundells' School CFF, LCpl Osbourn

On Saturday morning I thought I would disappear on resupply trips with **Sgt Rogers** with the intention of homing in on one of these sets for a quick inspection from 1500 hrs to 1700 hrs. At about 1000 hrs I was informed that a 24V distributor was needed, and as the only camps that would have such an item were not working, it would mean a trip to Bulford.

A lift back to Bulford in **Gen Lane**'s helicopter was turned down just as I was preparing my tongue for his boots, so **Sgt Rogers** and I had to drive back to Bulford, missing the final in the process.

On returning to Okehampton I asked everyone to keep mum about the result as I would see the match on 'Match of the Day'. Just before supper the OC, **Maj Jonathan Cook**, bought me a drink—beware of Greeks bearing gifts! He informed me that I had volunteered to do duty officer that night. With my fist shoved firmly between my shoulder blades I agreed, thus missing the Cup Final in the process. On a serious note I found everyone very pleasant and helpful. I finished the exercise knowing a lot more about R Signals than when I started it. Better luck with the Cup Final next year perhaps?

HOW I LOST MY ID CARD IN LISBON
Report by Cpl 'Hippie' Leaning

An outlet from the main activity of the squadron was a three weeks' holiday for four providing a secure RATT link for the AMF(L)s live artillery firing exercise in Portugal. Having bribed our way on to the exercise we thought—great, day working only and no problems envisaged. However, within hours of arriving, the met reports of 'rainy season' 'monsoon periods' soon became apparent, much to our distress. The first three days simply taxed our sense of humour to say the least. The inferior frequency allocation, lack of women and sunshine seemed insurmountable, then brandy at £1 a bottle was discovered. The poor start was soon forgotten! To make matters better the sun broke out, the mud lakes dried and the sun tan lotion justified its luggage space.

Sig Steve Bruce and **Dave Wilson** with commendable tuition from **Cpl 'Doc' Doherty** showed a great aptitude for working a RATT link under such trying circumstances! The entertainments manager, **Cpl Dave Leaning**, showed his prowess as another Botham by knocking up a record 102 runs against all comers in a makeshift game of cricket.

However, football proved to be my undoing and I scored far more than my wallet bargained for at the Lisbon Football Stadium. Quite why I was there I would rather leave out—especially since it was supposed to be a taxing exercise! However the text of this signal sent over the RATT Link says it all: For CH Clk from RATT Tech PD ID Card which was in wallet lost at Lisbon Football Stadium during cultural exchange visit PD Grateful inform SSM.

WELSH 1,000
Report by one of those idiot runners!

The setting—Snowdonia. The mission—to cover 32Kms in the least possible time. The weather—appalling. The training days went well except for one minor problem when **2Lt 'Billy back bearing' Godbolt** got his compass on back to front!

On the day of the race **Sgt 'Hypothermia' Milne** felt the bitter bite of the Welsh climate and **Cpl 'Whippet' Griffiths** did his impressions of a spring Welsh lamb in coming first of the group. **LCpl 'Mother me' Ridley** had no success in getting a hot bath and massage from the locals while **LCpl 'Watch the cramp' Freeman** wasn't too bothered about the bath. **Sig 'when's the bar open' Brown** managed to find time away from the local barmaid to take part.

The overall winning time was by a fell runner in 3 hours 44 minutes and the fastest time by a serviceman (a Gurkha) was 4 hours 56 minutes. The first normal human being came in, in over 5 hours and 249s team averaged 7 hours 20 minutes putting them 13th out of the 58 teams that started.

It was a very arduous event with the bad weather doing nothing to help. However despite this everyone felt a sense of achievement in having taken part and finishing a far from normal race.

Positions:

Cpl Griffiths	7 hrs 2 mins	55th)	TEAM
2Lt Godbolt	7 hrs 33 mins	66th)	290 Started
Sgt Milne	7 hrs 34 mins	69th)	113 Finished
Sig Brown	7 hrs 56 mins	85th)	
LCpl Ridley	7 hrs 56 mins	86th	INDIVIDUAL

Team Position: 13th

FAREWELL

The time has come to say farewell to **Sgt 'Marathon Man' Pinkney** and his wife **Lorraine** who leave us for Soest and the REME. **Sgt Pinkney** has provided excellent service as our pay expert and been a consistent companion to the QM **Capt Nick Nicoll** in numerous half marathons around the country. Our best wishes in your next posting.

In the month of June we said a fond farewell to one of the stalwarts of the Squadron, **Cpl Keith Hearn**; he is off to the warmer climes of the world—JSSU FI.

CLOTHING is still required
by the WELFARE SECTION

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

Through the vagaries of the postal system we did not feature in the last issue. So, herewith all the news of the last four months. Firstly though the Squadron would like to say a warm and heartfelt thank you to OC, **Maj Alan Wallace** and **Susie** for all they have done for the Squadron in their time. They have departed to the School of Signals after handing over to **Maj Martyn Reid**—welcome to the Squadron Boss, and to **Jan**.

TECH TROOP

There have been a few changes in the command structure over the past few months. **Capt (TOT) Ben Lawson** arrived to relieve the pressure of work on **WO2 (FofS) Frank Cashen BEM**, and **SSgt Keith Leighton** took over as Troop SSgt from **SSgt Eugene Dullaghan**. There is a rumour that he's still looking for his workload. Over in Radio Relay, **SSgt Roy Habergham**, who has just had his service extended until November 1989, is assuring everyone that his maintenance programme has started. This did not interfere with **Sgt Dave Holton**'s wife **Jo-Ann** producing a bouncing baby boy weighing in at 9lbs 10oz—a sure fire contender for next season's rugby team. The TE Section are all members of the local Karting Club, but are obviously at very different levels of competence. **Sgt Phil Hill** won the summer championship but **Cpl John-Boy Walton** is still trying to work out why his kart does forward somersaults at speed.

Our SQMS (SWS) **SSgt Sandy Sanderson** was hoping to recover from holding down the jobs of acting SSM and acting Troop SSgt (as well as acting at his own job), but his right hand man **Cpl Marty Richards** has been poached by Airfield Troop, leaving him to run the department on his own.

Radio Workshops have been going through a quiet period according to **Sgts John Rose** and **Dave Morley**, although **Cpl Steve Bland** doesn't agree—he's the one that's always out on jobs. Finally, congratulations to **Bob Boxall** on his promotion to Sergeant.

HQ TROOP

Monday 0700 hrs and the cry went up 'I'm not in'. Nobody has seen him since, the QM that is (What's new—Ed). Something to do with PRE, PRI and I of E. If it wasn't for the period cry of 'Tsai (tea) Michael please' we would have considered advertising for a new boss. The SQMS, **SSgt Des Faherty**, has disappeared as well—'My tray's empty, I'm off for a bimble'. With perfect timing, **Cpl Dave Thorpe** and **Sig Chalkie White (Marathon Man)** have gone on leave and, as **Sig Polly Pollitt** has contracted terminal sun burn, **Sig Zebedee Spring** is left holding the fort. Unfortunately, he hasn't learnt how to say 'we're closed' in Greek yet.

Over in MT the HGV course turned out to be a bit of a problem child. We had four students, two 'keyed up' instructors, a two week cut-off and one Bedford! Needless to say we overcame these minor problems and achieved a 100% pass rate. Well done to all. We've just taken delivery of **Sig Jock 'It's in my MFO Sarge' Dunbar** from AFCENT. Welcome **Jock** and we hope you get the hang of driving on the left soon. Finally, we are still wondering why **2Lt Parry-Jones** was satisfied with the standard of presentation after inspecting three ranks of figure 11 targets at a recent military training day.

The RTg element welcome **Sgt Colin 'Hump' Thompson** and wife **Marion**. **The Hump** has only been here for a few months, but he has already been charged with impersonating an RTg. When he last listened to Morse he thought that it was the BBC time signal being played at a faster speed. Congratulations on his forthcoming promotion. Maybe it will persuade him to unlock his wallet. **Cpls Smudge Smith** and **Pat Halfpenny** have been seconded to Catterick and 12 SU RAF respectively. If nothing else, it will make life for the workers that bit easier. **LCpl 'Ginge' Willimont** has just gained a very creditable B pass on his A1. Not only is he a good operator, he represents the Army at the high jump. He'll certainly get plenty of practice for this event when **the Hump** sees the length of his hair. We've finally convinced **Sig Geoff Vear** than Don 10 isn't Joe 90s brother, and **Sig Andy McKie** is progressing well in the basic Greek course—KEO equals poison, etc.

AIRFIELD TROOP

As the lightning state decreases, Airfield Troop once again look forward to a long summer of barbecues, brandy sours and brown bodies. We first say goodbye to **Cpl Jack Parnell** who's off to 3 Div.

If it's any consolation, even OIC M & RO didn't know why. **Cpl Paul Norrie** has gone to Catterick, and there's a rumour that he's soon to be joined by **Lt 'Do you want to buy a MG Metro' Harwell**. Congratulations go to **SSgt Graeme Hillhouse** on his promotion and move to Episkopi Troop. A warm welcome goes to our three new arrivals. **Sgt Rocky Hudson** and wife **Sheena** from Blandford, **Cpl Al Armstrong** and wife **Ann** from Harrogate and **Sig Van Gough** from Benbecula. Welcome back to **Sig Bing Crosby**, who, after one day in Akrotiri, applied for another tour in the South Atlantic, and to **LCpl Lee Kerridge** who is recovering in TPMH after a brief spell at Troodos.

The recent spate of IS exercise went very well. **Sgt Dave Pickersgill** discovered a 'Burm' in Systems Control and promptly carried out the appropriate drills. The umpires decided that we *would* have informed the COMMCEN that they were about to be killed if the bomb had been real. **Sig P. J. Gruncell** can take comfort from the fact that the petrol tanker probably didn't see him, and **Sig Mark Groth** didn't have to spend too much time in the guardroom . . .

Finally, well done to **Sig Roy Gradwell** (now in the Outer Hebrides?) and **Shep Shepherd** on passing their B1.

MOUNTAIN TROOP

The Troop no longer operates on the roulement system, something which goes a long way to explaining why people now sleep easier in Episkopi and Akrotiri. This change in Squadron policy should see a resurgence of Troop fortunes, especially on the sporting front where the normally powerful Mountain men have been going through a lean spell.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL QUIZ

During the months of April and May 24 three man teams, representing every department and section within the Squadron, took part in the 259 Coca Cola Quiz. Each team decided on its own original name and the organisers/questionmasters—**WO2 (FofS) Frank Cashen BEM** and **Sgt John Godfrey**—were bewildered by the variety and origins of some of the names.

The first two rounds of the competition supplied a few surprises and brought about a lot of speculation as to who the favourites should be. Eventually three 'hot' ones emerged—Eggs and Legs **(SSgt Roy Habergham, Sgt Fred Thompson, Mrs Bunnie Thompson)**, The Bodgers **(Sgt Dave Holton, Cpl Brian Price, Sgt Bob Lond)** and the Oddballs **(Capt (TOT) Ben Lawson, Capt (QM) Mick Jennings, 2Lt Bob Parry-Jones)**. Fancied outsider was Mountain Moaners, **(SSgt Pete Matthews, Cpl Ian Rutherford, LCpl Rev Revill)**. The teams proved their supporters correct by all reaching the semi-finals.

One factor that was brought out in these rounds was the phenomenal speed of **Cpl Brian Price** and his wide range of general knowledge. Teams were desperately trying to find a way to 'gag' him.

In the first semi-final Eggs and Legs took on Mountain Moaners and emerged winners by a very narrow margin after a very close, hard fought match. In the second semi-final the Bodgers were victors over a hastily rearranged Oddballs team. **(Capt Lance Byrne** (2IC) stood-in-for, **Capt (TOT) Ben Lawson** absent through illness).

The final, held in Mates Social Club, lived up to all expectations, with the competition between Eggs and Leggs and **Cpl Price** (OOps sorry—The Bodgers) was very sharp. Although they made a bad start Eggs and Legs rallied well but just failed to catch the Bodgers.

The Bodgers were presented with their trophies by **Mrs S. Payne** wife of Comd Comms, **Lt Col M. A. Payne**.

After the buffet the second match of the evening took place. This was a challenge match between the Quizmasters 'Select III' **(WO2 (FofS) Frank Cashen, Sgt John Godfrey, Mrs Elizabeth Cashen)** and the winners of the Squadron Quiz—the Bodgers. Questions for this match were set and asked by the OC Squadron—**Maj M. S. Reid**. The Select III were obviously taking the match very seriously as they turned up sporting black bow ties and 'shades', toting pistols and smoking cigars, saying that if they can't win fairly they were going to shoot **Cpl Price**.

It was a closely fought match with the Select III making a very bad start but fighting back strongly (the male members of the team now know the difference between Wham and Spandau Ballet) even beating **Cpl Price** to the buzzer time after time in the last round. It was a valiant effort that only just failed, The Bodgers emerging winners by a very narrow margin indeed. Once again they received their trophies from **Mrs S. Payne**.

All in all it was a very good quiz competition well fought and all matches played in the right spirit. The Quizmaster, though, he says he is looking forward to the next quiz—it's being run by someone else!

LS & GC

Since our last report, four members of the Squadron have been presented with LS & GC medals. During his recent working visit to Cyprus earlier this year, **Col Colman**, OIC M & RO, presented **Sgt Rick Reay** and **Cpl Seamus Mooney** with their medals in the Squadron Club. **Sgt Rolly Thomson** and our Chief Clerk, **SSgt Nick Round**, received their medals from **Lt Col Payne**, Comd Comms Cyprus, during March.

Col Mike Colman with Sgt Rick Reay and Fiona and Cpl Seammo Mooney and Rene after the presentation of their LS and GC

CHARITY

The Squadron has put a lot of effort into raising funds for charity over the past few months, and these efforts have been very well rewarded. We intend to donate to three very deserving causes—The Save the Children Fund, BLESMA and the Theotokos Institute for Retarded Children in Limassol. We are pleased to report that during 1985 we have already donated £1,000 to the Save the Children Fund and £300 to the Theotokos Institute. Recent fund raising activities, including sponsored car washes in NAAFI car parks, are proving to be very successful, and so more donations are in the pipeline.

Col Mike Colman receives a £1,000 cheque for the Save-the-Children Fund from Sig 'Webster' Anderson—smile—you're on Candid Camera!

SPORT

The 1984/85 Hodgson Shield competition was eventually won by HQ Troop, despite valiant attempts by both the Technicians and the Telemechs of Episkopi Troop. Airfield Troop did almost as badly as Mountain Troop; their excuse is that they put all their efforts into the RAF Akrotiri Station Commanders Cup, where, after 14 events, they finished a very creditable second out of 16. Indeed, they were only denied the Cup by the success of 34 Sqn RAF Regt, in the very last event.

The Squadron were very unfortunate to be put out of the minor units football cup in the semi-finals. Despite a fine goal by **Cpl Monty Monteith**, we went down 2—1 to our communicating rivals, 12 SU RAF.

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:

04450557	WO2 E. Collins
14453097	WO2 R. M. Goldberg
22837459	Sgt K. Harris
02310614	Sgt W. G. Adams
05881222	SSgt F. L. Cox
14193789	WO2 B. E. Cracknell
14187244	Cpl C. P. Bessant
2323143	Sgt F. E. Gamble
24237305	Cpl S. J. F. Allen
22146137	WO2 A. J. Horton
2329601	Cpl G. W. Cornfield

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

VETERANS REUNION

Report by E. E. Bayley Esq, Honorary Secretary

Normandy Veterans of 3 Divisional Signals Reunion Club and their wives set off by Transline Coach for Soest to attend a weekend where they were joined by Normandy veterans of the other arms. This was the first occasion that members of the Division had met since they landed on Sword Sector in June 1944 and again in a common cause to unveil a beautiful memorial window at the Garrison Church of St Luke's. **Maj Gen D. J. Ramsbotham CBE** Comd 2 Armd Div was our host. The window was designed and made by **Philippa Heskett**, and symbolised the triumph of Good over Evil, the predominant colours being those of the Normandy beaches, fields and sky. The dedication of the window was conducted by **The Venerable Archdeacon W. F. Johnston, CB QHC MA**, the Chaplain General and was unveiled by a Normandy veteran **Mr A. Horn**, (9 Bde Signal Section). The address was given by **The Right Rev Gordon Strutt BD** Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Canterbury, himself a Normandy veteran (Chaplain of the 2nd Lincolns) landing with them on D Day and wounded during the early part of the Normandy Campaign.

The Division put on a very comprehensive programme which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Everything was 'no problem'. The organisation of the weekend was undertaken by the Sappers whilst we were looked after by 3 Armd Div. After a tiring trip we reached Soest at 0945 am where the veterans mini-bus conveyed the party to San Sebastian Barracks and where we were greeted by **Capt Tim Randall RE** and **WO2 Jim Mutch**. We collected our Security passes, signed the next of kin proforma which was required for those who would be taking the helicopter familiarisation flight, lasting 15 minutes, over the Mohnesee and Mohnedam.

3 Division Memorial on the centreline of Sword Beach

Maj Gen and **Mrs Ramsbotham** entertained us at Hill Top House at lunchtime on Saturday. After getting back to the mini-bus the skies opened up and we got drenched, but, nevertheless, went on to see the demonstration of vehicles and equipment staged by 4 Armd Bde. Here we were shown the rations as used by the troops in the field, and this turned out to be our lunch served in the tents and where water flowed through like a river. The heavy rain showers did not dampen our spirits and we pressed on avid to see the demonstrations. The veterans and families were invited to drinks in the Officers' Mess in the evening to honour The Queen's birthday. There were German visitors, ex members of the Africa Corps present who mingled with their British counterparts and stories (where language difficulties permitted) exchanged of experiences from both sides. A bugle call at 1955 hrs summoned us to the parade ground where we were shown to our seats by members of 6 Airmobile Bde. The music for The Queen's Birthday Parade was provided by the Pipes, Drums and Band of 1 Battalion the Royal Scots, the Band of 1 Battalion Gordon Highlanders (this pleased me as my Great Great, Great Grandfather served with the Royal Regiment). The ceremony of Beating Retreat was carried out. When this was over, all concerned moved to the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess for supper. Our party was honoured by **Gen** and **Mrs Ramsbotham** joining us and talking to us all.

After the service of dedication at St Luke's, Salamanca Barracks a veterans' group photograph was taken, followed by lunch at the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess. After that the helicopter flights, which I am pleased to say we all enjoyed immensely. The Mohnefest followed in spite of the very wet weather. In the evening we were invited to supper as guests of **Col** and **Mrs Dick Baly** who were the hosts of our chairman **Maj Ken Smartt** and **Mrs Smartt**.

Monday was departure day for the majority but the Signals party had an extra day with the Regiment. This gave us the opportunity of visiting the NAAFI and looking at the beautiful town of Soest. The Regiment arranged a Barbecue in the evening and later the married members were taken out by their hosts.

Another wet day dawned on the 11th when we took the Transline Coach back to UK after taking leave of our hosts and thanking them for a wonderful time. We sailed on the *Prince Albert* from Ostende arriving in rain at Dover, reaching London at 0530 hrs. Those who have served with 3 Armd Div Signals or with the 3 Div Sig Regt are most welcome to join the Reunion Club. We hope to spend a Regimental weekend at Soest sometime next year. Meanwhile don't forget that our next reunion at the Victory ex-Services Club, Marble Arch will be on 22 March 1986. We shall have the ladies with us on this occasion which will also mark the 40th anniverary of the Division departure from the UK to Palestine and Egypt.

Those who attended—**Mr E. Bayley, Mr W. Spittal, Mr E. Packham, Mr** and **Mrs F. Timms, Mr** and **Mrs W. Holden, Mr** and **Mrs S. O'Dell, Maj** and **Mrs K. N. Smartt**.

GUERNSEY BRANCH

ON LIBERATION DAY

Members from Lincoln Branch of the Association visited Guernsey for the week of celebrating the 40th anniversary of the liberation from German occupation on 9 May 1945. They brought their Branch Standard with them, but unfortunately the marshals were unable to make room for them to parade.

However, among the party was Guernseyman **Bill West**, who was serving in Belgium when the island was liberated and was taken to Guernsey two days later. We invited **Bill** to carry our Standard on this year's parade. **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent** asked **Bill** about his experiences—a moment featured in the BBC television report.

Bill is seen on the left of our picture. **Her Royal Highness** is escorted by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, **Air-Chief-Marshal Sir Peter le Cheminant** and behind The Duchess is the Bailiff of Guernsey, **Sir Charles Frossard**. (Photo: Guernsey Evening Press).

On Liberation Day 9 May 1985
Courtesy of Guernsey Evening Press

THE GUERNSEY 'ROYAL SIGNALS' WEEKEND

The Channel Islands—the only part of the British Isles occupied by the enemy in World War 2—celebrate every year the anniversary of their liberation on 9 May 1945. This year being the 40th anniversary a whole week of celebrations took place in Guernsey from 6 May under the auspices of a Committee drawn from a wide cross-section of Island life and with a great deal of financial and other help from the Guernsey Government—the States of Deliberation.

As well as supporting these 'official' celebrations, the Guernsey Branch of the Association made its own special contribution to the anniversary year by presenting a 'Royal Signals Weekend' in the Island from 20 to 22 April. This was warmly welcomed by the 'official' Committee who helped the Branch where they could and invited us to use their logo.

Our objectives in presenting the Weekend were to show our pride in the Corps and to entertain the public in a way which we hoped would bring to their notice the vital role of the Corps in active service and the work of the Association in preserving the esprit de corps—with all the benefits that flow from that spirit. Within these generalities we achieved some valuable successes. One was a much closer contact with the Elizabeth College CCF, which has a Signal Section in frequent touch with Blandford and of which some members may well join the Corps in the future. Others were to bring us into contact with numerous island authorities and States departments and with schools, while we were given excellent coverage on BBC Radio Guernsey and in the Guernsey Evening Press, plus a very pleasing five-minute transmission on Channel Television.

We were very honoured to receive as distinguished visitors for the Weekend **Brig Jack Westlake** (Deputy SOinC) and **Mrs Georgina Westlake**, and both of them attended every function. **Brig Westlake** came to represent both the serving Corps and the Central Committee of the Association.

From UK we were delighted to receive members of other Branches who came specially to be with us. The largest contingent—10 members, of whom nine were ladies—came from Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Among those who came individually were **Lt Col (Retd) Eric Thompson** and **Mrs Mary Thompson** and **Capt (Retd) Denny Rochester WRAC.**

We were also delighted to be able to invite as our guests two In Pensioners, **CSM A. T. Nash** and **Sgt W. R. Hulme**, by courtesy of Guernsey Airlines. They brought dignity and colour to the events and were good company for us all.

Guernsey Branch Chairman John Rudkin takes the salute after the Retreat Ceremony

The final concert—the Corps Band, under the direction of Maj Gordon Turner, in the Guernsey Royal British Legion, Northern Branch Club

'They used these when your grandfater was in the war'. Early visitors to the 1943 Bedford QLR LCV

Inside the LCV, In Pensioner Sgt W. R. Hulme tries the key of a modern ham transmitter, watched by In Pensioner CSM A. T. Nash and Cadet Cpl Ian Ross of Elizabeth College CCF. In the background Cadet Cpl Rodney Eggink tunes up
(Photo: Guernsey Evening Press)

THE EVENTS

The central attraction of the Weekend was the Corps Band, under the direction of **Maj Gordon Turner**, Director of Music, R Signals. In the three days and four nights they had very little free time to relax or enjoy the pleasures of Guernsey, but their performances in the very varied programme of events (and their personal bearing when off duty) drew the admiration of everyone in Guernsey—and an ecstatic report in the Guernsey Evening Press.

All day Saturday 20 April we had on display a 1943 LCV kindly lent to us by **Mr Gerald Przenisławski**, and an enthusiast with a remarkable collection of historic military vehicles. **Gerald** painstakingly repainted the vehicle with all the correct markings and this was the vehicle's first public display since he acquired it. **Mr Julian Vaughan** who is an equally enthusiastic collector of historic military signalling equipment lent us our own selection from his personal museum. With this and some modern ham radio gear, typical of that used by members of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society, a museum of wide interest was created. The display was organised and run by our member **Jim Cobb** (GU4WRO) who gave an excellent description of the equipment on Channel Television. Talking to Channel Television presenter **Roger Bowns, Jim** described his experience working in a similar vehicle in the mediterranean theatre in World War 2. Among the nostalgic items on view were a 52 set with all accessories, an 18 set, an R107, an RAF 1392 and a Hallicrafter receiver made in America in about 1936 and used on the beach at Dunkirk in 1940—still working perfectly. From outside, the tableau looked very much like the real thing as many of us remember it, complete with charging set alongside and Dispatch Rider standing by.

Volunteer NCOs from Elizabeth College CCF kept an informal guard on the exhibit and helped the many visitors to the dispaly. The part of waiting Dispatch Rider was acted with enthusiasm by **Chris Jinks**, the son of our well-known member **Vic Jinks.**

SUNSET

As the shadows lengthened on the bright but cool early Spring day, the stirring sound of the Corps Band, marching from close by the LCV, echoed across across the waters of the yacht marinas to the waiting crowd on the Albert Pier where the Band performed the Retreat Ceremony. For the slow march, **Maj Gordon Turner** had specially arranged a much-loved local tune, 'Sarnia Cherie'. This thoughtful act delighted the crowd as much as the precision and splendour of the display. (During most years, several military bands perform the ceremony on the same site, hence Guernsey people have experience by which to judge.) The honour of taking the salute was given to Guernsey Branch Chairman **John Rudkin**—a memorable occasion which he accepted as an honour for the Branch.

That evening, members of the Association and many others who had given practical help to the Weekend enjoyed a social evening at the Carlton Hotel, when **Brig Westlake** gave a most interesting talk about the Corps today—something which retired members of the Corps always enjoy. A Guernsey Branch plaque was presented to the Brigadier, together with the congratulations and good wishes of everyone present to him and **Mrs Westlake** on their Silver Wedding Anniversary which was also celebrated that day. A plaque was presented also to the Chelsea Pensioners for the Royal Hospital, received by **CSM Nash** who then presented a Royal Hospital Plaque to the Guernsey Branch, with a much appreciated speech. The evening closed with a view of the Corps at work given by the video 'Signal Decision'—the story of a young graduate who successfully applies for a Commission in the Corps.

SUNDAY

On the Sunday morning the Band marched through the town of St Peter Port to the town church where they played for the morning service. This was attended by **Brig** and **Mrs Westlake** and many members of the Association. The beautiful old church has a high musical reputation so that the Band was very much appreciated by the congregation. The service was conducted by **The Very Reverend Canon J. W. Foster**, Dean of Guernsey, who offered special prayers for the Corps. **(Canon Foster** served in the BEF in France in 1939/40 and entered the Church after the War.)

Sunday evening saw the first of the Band's indoor concerts. The theatre of the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre offered a fine setting. When the tabs opened, the scarlet backcloth bearing the Standards of Guernsey Branch and Newcastle Branch toned perfectly with the uniforms of the Band and, cleverly lit by the theatre technician, the scene was quite breathtaking. The performance was superb, a wide range of music to display the versatile talent of the Band and with something to please everyone.

MONDAY

The morning began with the Director of Music, **Maj Gordon Turner**, being interviewed by BBC Radio Guernsey personality **Felicity Quevatre** in her 'Island Magazine' programme. He was asked about his early life and the various instruments he can play, and explained how he achieved his wish to become a musical director. He talked about the life and work of the Corps Band and the wide scope and geographical spread of their work. Meanwhile, the Band was setting up on stage in the Hall of St Peter Port School where a one hour concert was given for the children.

In the evening they made their fifth and final appearance of the weekend in the ex-Service ambiance of the Guernsey Royal British Legion, Northern Branch. In the scaled-down terms of life on an island this amounted to taking a major entertainment out into the country and bringing it within reach of many who might otherwise not have been able to enjoy it. Again a wonderfully varied programme with more emphasis on lighter music, several humourous numbers and **Maj Turner**'s own arrangement of 1940s nostalgia, 'We'll meet again'.

At the end of each concert, the Band's records and tapes were bought eagerly by members and the public.

QED

Many members of the Branch worked extremely hard to stage the 'Royal Signals Weekend', some taking part of their holidays to put in more time on the organisation and in raising sponsorship. We raised some money for the Army Benevolent Fund and we learnt many lessons—next time we shall do it even better. Certainly we showed our pride in the Corps, certainly the Island knows we are here. It was wonderful to welcome so many Association members from elsewhere in our own Island home.

In the words of the front page of the 'Guernsey Evening Press' on Monday 22 April: 'The Royal Signals entertained at the weekend. Their band provided music to gladden the heart, while they also had on display a 1943 lorry housing a wireless museum.'

AFTER THE SUNDAY EVENING CONCERT

Most of the Association members who came to Guernsey from UK for the weekend stayed at Les Rocquettes Hotel. On the Sunday evening they invited all members of the Band back to their hotel for a drink (or two, or three, or . . .).

This was a very happy evening which somehow became morning. Here are some informal photographs taken by **Lt Col (Retd) Eric Thompson**:-

Mrs Mary Thompson safely escorted by no less than three members of the Band

Ladies from Newcastle Branch share a joke with members of the Band and an earnest conversation with Mrs Vera Falla (Guernsey Branch Committee member) while on the right Capt (Retd) Denny Rochester WRAC has a most attentive listener

HARROGATE BRANCH

Report by B. B. Gallagher Esq

The recently reconstituted Branch continues to grow in strength and the numbers attending our monthly meeting have shown a marked increase since the Branch arranged to meet at the Conservative Club in East Parade, Harrogate. Old, new and prospective members are always welcome so why not come along on the third Friday of the month and join us for a drink.

A total of 18 members attended the Catterick Weekend last year and it is hoped that the Branch representation will be even greater this year.

We were pleased to welcome **Brig** and **Mrs Paddy Evans** at our annual dinner on the 18 October. This year the event was held in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess at the Army Apprentices' College, by kind permission of the RSM, **R. E. Lyne** who, we were pleased, was also able to attend with his wife. The dinner was a great success and a nice surprise was the appearance of a Piper.

Several members represented the Branch at the Remembrance Day Parade in Harrogate; **Mr Nick Ledger**, as usual, carried the standard and a wreath was laid by **Maj Ken Doyle**.

The AGM was held at the Royal British Legion Club in January. **Col John Davies** has, regrettably, had to resign as our President due to other commitments but we are pleased to record that he has accepted the appointment as our Honorary President. He is succeeded by **Maj Ken Doyle** as President and **Mr Ken Parnell** has been elected Chairman. We would like to put on record the Branch's gratitude to **John Davies** for the enthusiasm and vigour shown during his period as President. Without his efforts the Branch would surely not have been reconstituted. We wish **Maj Ken Doyle** and **Mr Ken Parnell** every success in their new appointments.

Once again the Branch joined the Leeds Branch at their annual church parade at the Army Apprentices' College on Sunday 4 March. After the cold, wet parade, members were pleased to retire, with their families, to the various messes for lunch.

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

Report by W. L. Grandsome Esq, Honorary Secretary

The 37th Branch AGM held at Burniston Barracks in April was attended by 30 members. The Branch President **Maj (Retd) Wilf Richardson** indicated his wish to step down from office, in his words, to make way for a younger man: our younger man, **Maj (Retd) Willie Watson** was duly elected President. There being no other ambitious members, the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer were duly retained in bondage. The AGM was followed by the usual buffet social evening.

Earlier this year the idea was mooted that the Branch, with the cooperation of the staff at Burniston Barracks should celebrate the 40th Anniversary of VE Day. **Lt Col Brian Cleaver**, CO, STC Scarborough, and his permanent staff took over all aspects of the planning, and organisation for the event, which was to be held in the gymnasium, Burniston Barracks. The Branch involvement was in publicity, and the distribution of tickets. The event came to fruition on Saturday 4 May, with some 300 guests from 14 ex-service Branches from the Scarborough district, plus their Standards, the British Red Cross, and the St John's Ambulance Brigade were also represented. 34 Sig Regt (V) Band, by kind permission of **Lt Col G. C. Mitchell TD**, beat retreat under the baton of Bandmaster **WO1 D. J. Harrington**. Dancing to the Paul Broadbent orchestra, and a superb buffet made an outstanding, and successful evening. The Branch Committee, and all our members wish to record our tribute to **Lt Col Brian Cleaver**, and all his staff for promoting this memorable event. The only sad note is that yours truly, the writer of this narrative, was smitten with 'flu, and was not able to attend.

The Branch Committee, and members congratulate our Treasurer, **Mr Derek Rigby** on being awarded Honour Membership of the Association for his long and excellent service to this Branch, **Derek** is indeed a worthy recipient of this award.

The Band of 34 Sig Regt (V), playing Retreat at the 40th Anniversary VE Day celebrations at Burniston Barracks
(Courtesy of Scarborough Evening Newspapers Ltd)

HERE AND THERE

34 REGIMENT (V)

SSM HQ Sqn, WO2 Ron Garrett enjoys a chat with the SOinC

13 REGIMENT

The Regimental Football Team 1984/85

204 SQUADRON

'Captured'
Sig Ed Ward in the tender care of the Fantasians played by Sgt Lambird and Sig Dennis

28 REGIMENT

WO1 (RSM) Pete Bawden has a few words with Cdt Cpl 'Maggot' Washington

259 SQUADRON

Coca Cola Quiz Winners 'The Bodgers'—Sgt Peter Childs, Cpl. Brian Price, Sgt Dave Holton

CRICKET

R SIGNALS V RMA SANDHURST
Report by Lt Col S. A. Coltman—Capt, Corps Cricket
Played at Sandhurst on 29 May 1985

Sandhurst won the toss and put the Corps into bat on an easy paced wicket on a warm and sunny day. The Sandhurst opening attack was penetrative and the Corps struggled to 52—3 in the early stages. However, **Sgt Ian Gilbert** (49) and **Sgt Nigel Scott** (73) led a recovery. The former was out one short of his 50 having batted for nearly two hours. The latter carried on in his cavalier fashion supported by **LCpl Allan Barnet**. The Corps reached 165—5 but were unable to capitalise on this and the innings floundered to a close at 178—8 declared.

The Corps opening bowlers, **Maj Tom Richardson** and **Sgt Stephen O'Dare**, bowled well and Sandhurst were soon in trouble at 25—3. The Sandhurst Captain made an excellent 50 and they had caught up with the clock. The remainder of the Sandhurst batting was too inexperienced against the wiles of **Sgt Nigel Scott**, our Combined Services spinner who took 4—43. Sandhurst were glad to settle for a draw with their score at 125—8.

R Signals	178—8 declared
Sgt Scott	73
Sgt Gilbert	49
RMAS	125—8
Sgt Scott	4—43

The team was:	
Col S. Carr-Smith	**AAC Harrogate**
Maj S. Coltman (Captain)*	**MOD**
Maj T. Richardson	**MOD**
WO1 B. Balding	**Signals Wing RMAS**
SSgt P. Knight	**30 Sig Regt**
Sgt N. Scott	**4 Div HQ & Sig Regt**
Sgt S. O'Dare	**30 Sig Regt**
Sgt I. Gilbert	**10 Sig Regt**
Cpl A. Howard	**8 Sig Regt**
Cpl T. Gigg	**11 Sig Regt**
LCpl A. Barnet	**1 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn**

*** (Maj—now Lt Col Coltman)**

R SIGNALS V REME
Played at Arborfield on 30 May 1985

The REME won the toss and put the Corps into bat on a very slow wicket which got progressively slower during the day. The REME attack was accurate and after losing an early wicket, **Sgt Ian Gilbert** (59) and **Cpl Terry Gigg** (24) took the score to 56—2 after 90 minutes. The pace increased when the former was joined by **Sgt Nigel Scott** (21). Unfortunately a collapse followed lunch and the Corps went from 107—3 to 122—7. However, **LCpl Allan Barnet** (24), **Maj Tom Richardson** (26no), supported by **Cpl H. Glean** took the score to 175—8 when we declared.

The REME opening pair started extremely slowly against accurate bowling by **Maj Tom Richardson, Cpl H. Glean** and **Sgt Stephen O'Dare**. When the opening partnership was broken at 74, the REME wanted to score at six runs/over to win the match. The spin bowlers, **Sgt Nigel Scott** (2—60) and **Maj (now Lt Col) Steve Coltman** (4—33) suddenly caused a collapse to 106—6. The REME then shut up the shop and the game died with the REME ending at 121—6.

R Signals	175—8 declared
Sgt Gilbert	59
REME	121—6
Maj (now Lt Col) Coltman	4—33

The team was:	
Maj (now Lt Col) S. Coltman (Captain)	**MOD**
Maj T. Richardson	**MOD**
WO1 B. Balding	**Signal Wing RMAS**
SSgt P. Knight	**30 Sig Regt**
Sgt N. Scott	**4 Div HQ & Sig Regt**
Sgt S. O'Dare	**30 Sig Regt**
Sgt I. Gilbert	**10 Sig Regt**
Cpl A. Howard	**8 Sig Regt**
Cpl H. Glean	**10 Sig Regt**
Cpl T. Gigg	**11 Sig Regt**
LCpl A. Barnet	**1 Bde HQ & Sig Sqn**

R SIGNALS V RM
Report by Lt Col S. A. Coltman
Played at Blandford on 3/4 June 1985

The Corps won the toss and put the RM into bat on a fine sunny day. The RM were suspicious of the wicket and perhaps failed to apply themselves. The Corps bowlers, **Cpl 'H' Glean** (1—22), **Sgt Stephen O'Dare** (2—15), **WO2 Dave Taylor** (3—24) and **Sgt Nigel Scott** (3—17) proved too much for the RM, all bowling well and the RM were all out by lunch for 80.

After lunch, we saw a fine opening stand by **Sgt Ian Gilbert** (64) and **SSgt Pete Knight** (41) which put the wicket into perspective. The Corps batting then went all out to get enough runs to obtain a declaration before the close of the first day. Wickets were lost chasing runs and only **LCpl Allan Barnet** (38) shone and we ended at 198—8 declared. In the last hour the RM scored 65—2.

On the next morning the Corps bowlers worked through the Marines batting and by lunch on the second day the RM had been dismissed for 149, **Sgt Nigel Scott** taking 4—49 and **Stephen O'Dare** 3—20. After lunch the Corps scored the 32 required for victory for the loss of two wickets.

RM 80	**Sgt Scott** 3—17
	WO2 Taylor 3—24
and 149	**Sgt Scott** 4—47
	Sgt O'Dare 3—20
R Signals	**Sgt Gilbert** 64
198—8 dec	**SSgt Knight** 41
and 32—2	

The team was **WO1 B. Balding** Signal Wing RMA Sandhurst, **WO2 D. Taylor** (Captain) AAC Harrogate, **SSgt P. Knight** 30 Sig Regt, **Sgts N. Scott** 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt, **I. Gilbert** 10 Sig Regt, **S. O'Dare** 30 Sig Regt, **Dawson** School of Signals, **Cpls T. Gigg** 11 Sig Regt, **H. Glean** 10 Sig Regt, **A. Phillips** 30 Sig Regt and **LCpl A. Barnet** 1 Bde and Sig Sqn.

GOLF

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS SPRING MEETING
Report by Maj W. D. Wilkie, Capt Blandford Garrison Golf Society

The School's Spring Meeting was held at Sherborne Golf Club on 17 April. The fine weather and the excellent condition of the course left no excuses for the poor scores that some of us managed to produce. To be among the prizes however one had to play well below handicap. Those who managed to do so were well rewarded as the organiser had arranged joint sponsorship by Frank Sharp Catering Supplies Maidenhead and Hortons Ice Cream Ltd Bournemouth. This meant that the quality of the prizes was well above normal standard and the BGGS would like to take this opportunity to thank both companies for their support.

The results were:

Best Gross	**Maj E. Shaw (US Army)**	80
2nd Gross	**Lt Col H. Morrison**	84
1st Handicap	**Sgt Miles**	64 (net)
2nd Handicap	**Maj Shaw (US Army)**	69 (net)
1st Stapleford	**Col De Bretton-Gordon**	39 pts
Joint 2nd	**Maj Shaw**	37 pts
	LCpl Jones	37 pts

HOCKEY

DIVISIONAL MINOR UNITS HOCKEY

The 1 Div Minor Units Hockey Competition began for the Squadron with a match in Hohne against 1 Armd Fd Amb with the Squadron gaining a comfortable win 4-1. Having successfully overcome the first obstacle, the next was to defeat 1 Regt AAC in the semi-final. After a number of postponements due to bad weather, the match was eventually played at Hohne in late February. It was a closely fought game which went into extra time before the Squadron team managed to snatch victory 2-1, the winning goal being scored by the team Captain, **Cpl Tony Brine**, from the penalty spot. The final was played in Osnabruck on 6 March in pouring rain and our opposition turned out to be our old adversaries 12 Armd Wksps who we lost to in the same final last year. It promised to be a needle match. The Squadron started the game well and after pressurising 12 Armd Wksps scored two early goals through **Maj Andrew Stewart** and **Sgt Mark Holden**. 12 Armd Wksps fought back valiantly and managed to pull one goal back before half-time. The second half was fiercely fought, but produced no further goals. The final result was a 2-1 victory for the Squadron and our names on the Trophy for 1985. Revenge for last year's defeat was sweet!

Team Capt, Cpl Tony Brine receiving the Trophy from Brig Mackenzie, Comd 12 Armd Bde

The winning team—1 Div Minor Unit Hockey Champions
Back Row Left to Right: SSgt Hacket, Maj Schuler, Sgt Holden, Lt Leigh, Sgt Loughton, Maj Stewart, Capt Gower
Front Row Left to Right: Sig Bremnan, Cpls Arbuckle, Brine (Capt), Sgt Eddy, WO2 Williamson, Capt Weston

THE BAOR HOCKEY COMPETITION

As a result of winning through to the Divisional final we automatically went through to the BAOR Minor Units Hockey Competition. In the quarter final we faced RAOC Viersen. In another closely fought match played in Osnabruck, the Squadron managed to win 3-2, thus putting us through to the semi-final in which we played and beat 20 Electronic Wksps 1-0 at Hameln. 20 Electronic certainly had their noses put out of joint by their unexpected defeat.

The final was played at Herford on 27 March and our opponents were SHAPE—a team with an awesome reputation having sailed through the earlier rounds with convincing victories. The game played in miserably wet conditions produced some extremely good and exciting Hockey with the teams being fairly evenly matched. SHAPE went ahead through what can only be described as a lucky goal just before half-time. Despite consistent and determined pressure, the Squadron failed to level the score, the ball seemed to go everywhere but in the opposition's goal! The result was a 1-0 victory for SHAPE. Despite our defeat, it still proved to be an exciting climax to what has been a very successful season for the Hockey team.

7 REGIMENT—WINNERS

STOP PRESS

The Regiment have just had a resounding victory in the Morrison Cup held at Sennelager on 4/5 June. The team led the competition from start to finish and ended with a commanding 100 points margin over 16 Sig Regt who came second.

We are now training hard to qualify for the Army Championships in July.

THE 1985 ROYAL SIGNALS SKI TRIAL
25 MARCH 1985 TO 4 APRIL 1985
(Sponsored by 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt)

At the end of March (four months ago by the time you read this) some 40 signallers from 11 different Royal Signals units drove in blazing sunshine through the green fields of Bavaria to join the annual Corps ski camp. In the warm spring weather skiing prospects looked bleak, but in fact above 1,200m there was plenty of snow in good variety—powder, ice and spring snow.

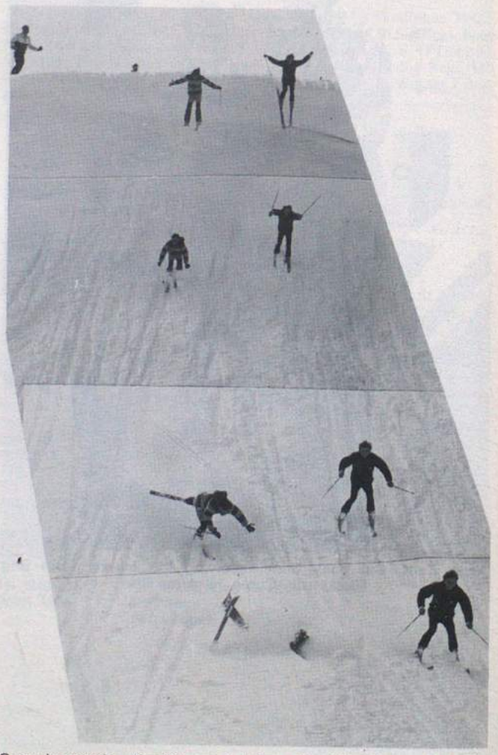
22 Sig Regt provided all the trainers except for **Sgt Pete Harris** from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Their quality speaks for itself: **Lt Paul Ford** is Captain of the Army Alpine Team, **LCpl Andy Brown** is an Army Alpine Team Member, **Cpl Paul West** is a member of 22 Regt's Army Alpine champion team, **Sgt Pete Harris** is one of the best technique instructors in the Army, **Lt Peter Gillespie** captained 22 Regt's successful Princess Marina Cup nordic team, and **LCpl Scottie Scott** is a British biathlon triallist.

Training was in small groups (about five each). Alpine students were given three days technique training and six days slalom, giant slalom and downhill training. Nordic students interspersed technique training with interval training, tours and races. Our superior equipment was invaluable, particularly the new hinged slalom poles, the ice drill, the Army team radios and **Lt Peter Gillespie**'s video camera. We had more than enough snow on the mountain and in Oberjoch, although latterly the warm weather made the hill unskiable after about 1330 hrs. There were no lift queues in spite of Easter week, and the absence of holiday skiers allowed us to do some fast downhill training with both jumps and compressions. A pre-breakfast run with exercises was standard, as was an evening briefing and lecture with a public video critique.

The Corps Ski Trial once again proved its worth. It identified at least 12 potential racers with real aptitude, and a further seven potential *Snow Queen* instructors; it gave some 27 junior ranks from 11 Royal Signals units a nine-day ski training session; and, less tangibly, it focussed the attention of our emerging skiers on to ski racing and drew them into the ambience of the Corps ski organisation.

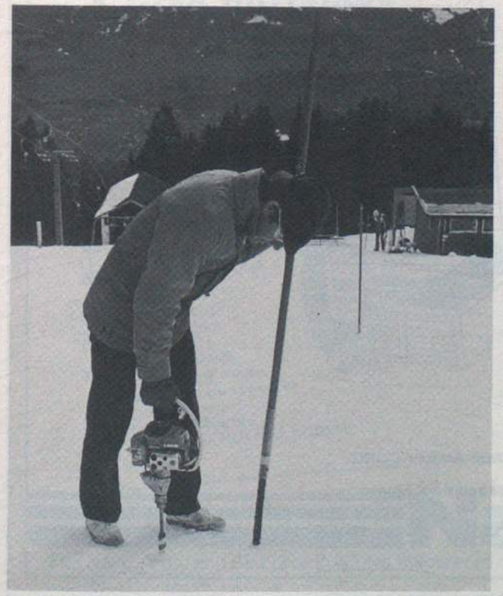
Maj Gerry Funnell (Corps Ski Secretary), Sgt Pete Harris (trainer), Lt Paul Ford (Army Alpine Team Captain) and Cpl Paul West (trainer) watching LCpl Andy Brown (Army alpine team member) finishing a run. Stop watches by Omega, bendy poles by CPM, radios by Racal

Technique training. Encouragement and abuse from Lt Gillespie and LCpl Scott, both members of 22 Sig Regt's successful Princess Marina Cup team



Over the cornice. Confidence training—Dvr Mick Kemp falls, Sig Nigel Berry survives

Ben Funnell catches a tip and loses a ski. LCpl Andy Brown's favourite exercise of leaving one ski at the lift and doing alternate runs on alternate skis, one ski at a time, was useful training for this kind of situation



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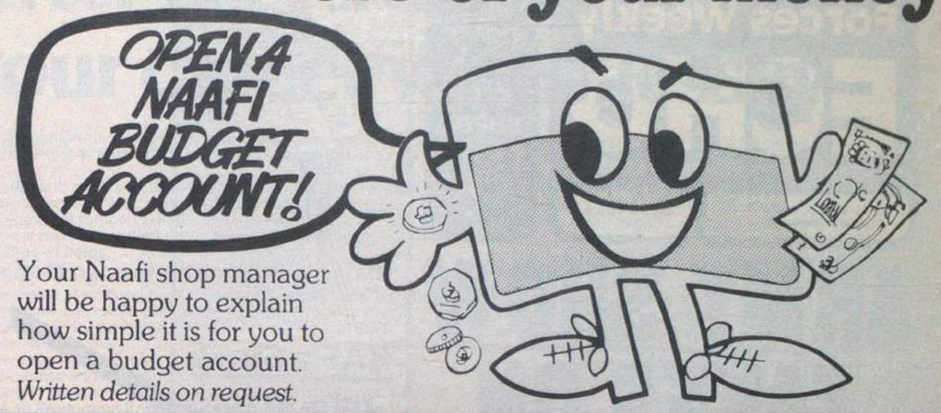

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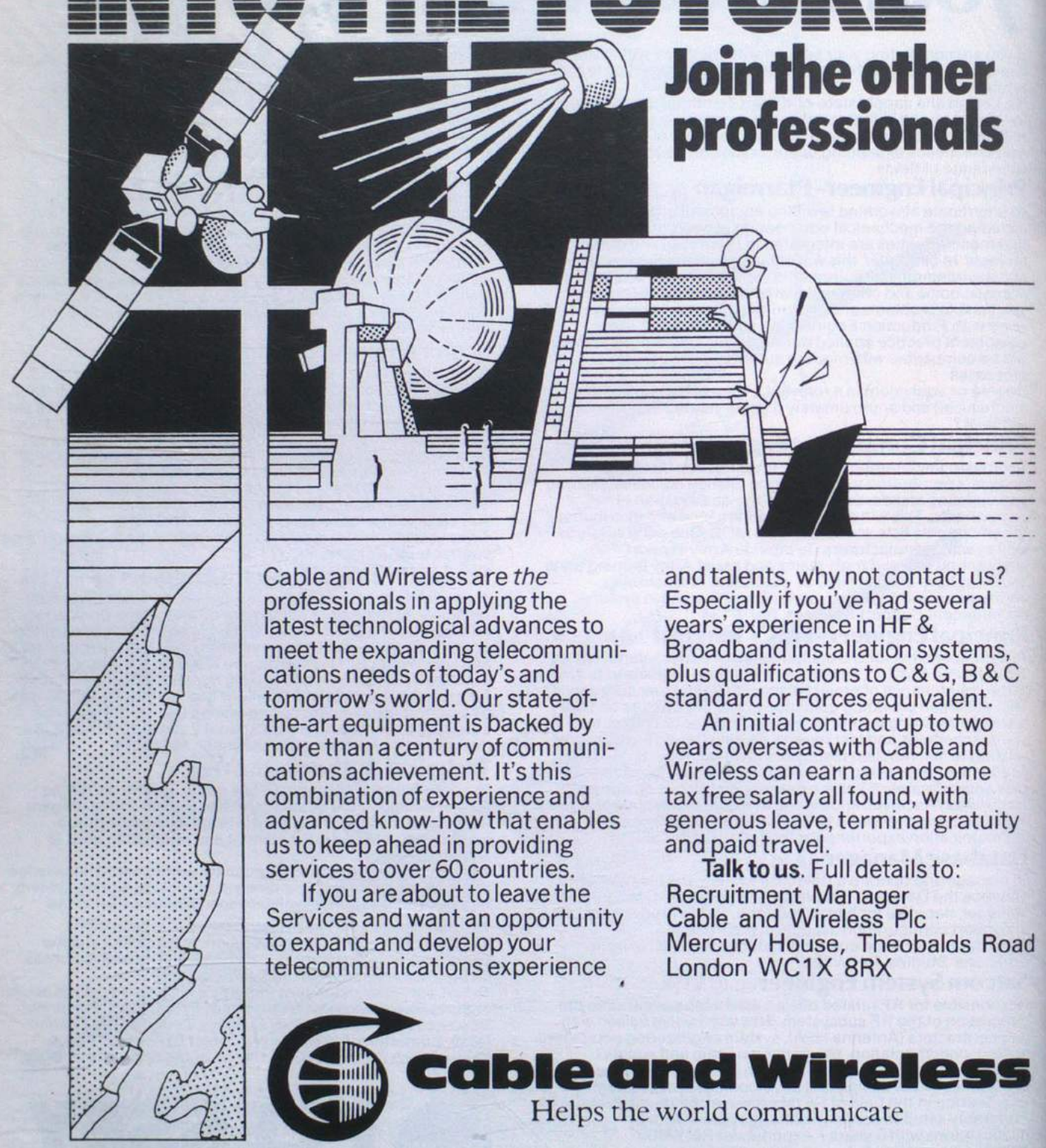

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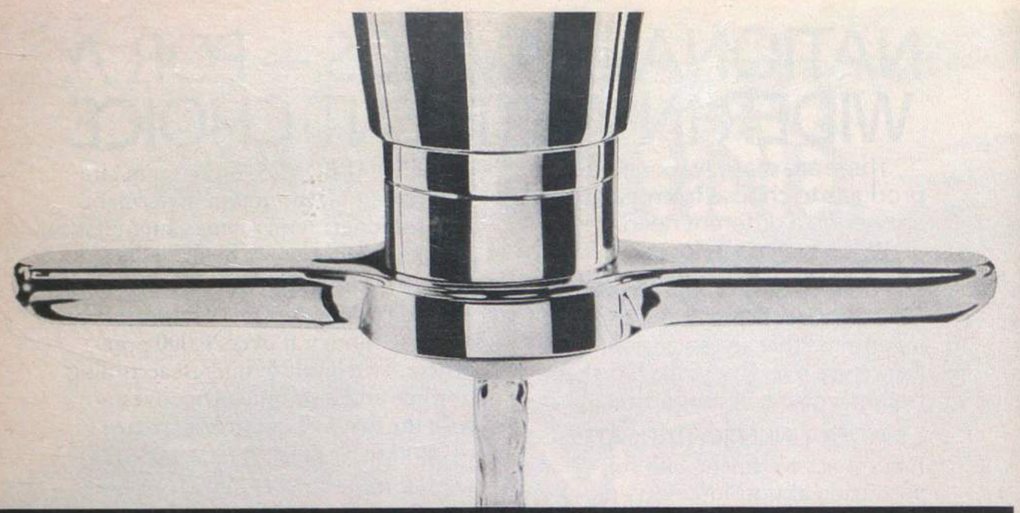

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EDITORIAL

OUR COVER PICTURES

Our cover pictures record three recent successes by officer of the Corps at Sandhurst. The upper photo shows 2Lt Nicholas Pope receiving The Queen's Medal from Her Majesty The Queen at the Sovereign's Parade in April of this year. This medal is awarded to the student officer judged to be the best in his course for graduate officers. It was the first time for 20 years that Her Majesty had taken the salute.
2Lt Pope entered the Corps on an Army Cadetship, obtained a 2.1 Honours degree in Economics from Jesus College Cambridge and whilst at Sandhurst captained the RMAS hockey team. He is now serving with The Queen's Gurkha Signal Regiment in Hong Kong.
The centre photo shows Junior Under Officer Stephen Jackson BEM when he was commissioned on the Sovereign's Parade at RMAS on 9 August 1985. He is receiving the Sword of Honour from the Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall. This award is made to the officer cadet judged to be the best on the Standard Military Course. Before entering Sandhurst 2Lt Jackson (as he is now) was a Sergeant Radio Technician in the Corps. In 1983 he won a gold medal in the World Canoe Championship and became the first British World Champion in this sport. He also represented the UK in the canoe events in the 1984 Olympics. He has been posted to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.
The lower photo shows 2Lt (now Lt) Julia Hands after receiving the Sash of Honour from Field Marshal Sir John Stanier, who at the time was General and Chief of the General Staff. The Sash is awarded to the student officer or officer cadet judged to be the best in her course. Lt Hands joined the Army in January 1984 and completed her course at Sandhurst in August 1984. She is a graduate of Durham University where she obtained a degree in German. After a short spell in 22 Sig Regt she attended the Troop Commanders Course at Blandford between March and July 1985 and is currently serving in 16 Sig Regt.
The Corps has thus gained what is probably a unique Triple First—to parody an academic phrase—in having three young officers achieving the top places in their respective courses at Sandhurst in a single year. They deserve our congratulations.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Due to an error in the July 1985 edition of *The Wire* the names of those included in the Birthday Honours List was incomplete. We apologise for this error and for the sake of completeness publish below the Corps list in its entirety.

OBE
Lt Col (QM) F. M. Orr

MBE
Maj H. M. Adams
Maj A. H. Warde MC
WO1 (RSM) D. J. Walker
WO2 (AWO1) A. M. Wells MM

BEM
SSgt M. J. Davis
SSgt M. G. Eady
SSgt J. Keohane
SSgt O. J. McGuinness
SSgt (FofS) J. Murray
SSgt P. R. Rumsey
Cpl (ASgt) R. E. Potter
Cpl A. M. Snaith

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ANNE VISITS VERDEN

A display of Morris Dancing is an unusual form of entertainment for a visit of our Colonel-in-Chief. Nevertheless this was just one event seen by **Princess Anne** on her visit to 1 Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment.

Princess Anne combined this visit to the Regiment with a visit to the scenic German town of Verden, which this year celebrates its millenium.

The Regiment was granted the Freedom of Verden in 1980, and on this occasion made use of its right to parade through the town with bayonets fixed.

Escorted by the Burgermeister, **Dr Friedrichs**, and the Master of Signals, **Major General John Badcock**, Her Royal Highness took the salute as over 300 members of the Regiment, led by their Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Mervyn Lee**, marched through the town. They were accompanied by a band drawn from the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, the Royal Hussars and the 1st and 2nd Royal Tank Regiments.

The crowds of enthusiastic German spectators emphasised the unique relationship that exists between the Regiment and the local people.

Immediately after the march-past **Princess Anne** moved into the Rathaus to meet **Herr Füllgraf**, the Stadtdirektor, and local dignitaries and to sign the Golden Book.

In a short ceremony in the Rathaus Her Royal Highness presented the OBE to **Dr Friedrichs**, in recognition of his services to Anglo-German relations.

The public part of the day over, **Princess Anne** started her visit to the Regiment. The Princess was escorted to the Regiment's Caithness Barracks by **Lieutenant Colonel Lee**, where she was introduced to members of the Headquarter Squadron including the Officer Commanding **Major Joe O'Gorman**.

At last the excited school children got their chance, cheering the Princess en route to the Sergeants' Mess where she was entertained to lunch. There, she was met by **RSM John Illingworth**, who presented the President of the Mess Committee, **WO2 Ben Britton**.

The Regiment were determined not to miss the opportunity to demonstrate PTARMIGAN, the Army's new battlefield communication system. From the Sergeants' Mess the Princess travelled to a camouflaged field location set up outside Verden to see the equipment in operation. At the 1 Squadron site she saw a PTARMIGAN trunk node, the nerve centre of the system, which routes signal traffic throughout the Divisional area. She then displayed keen interest in a demonstration of the operation of Main Divisional HQ accompanied by **Major David Elson**, Commanding 3 Squadron.

After the serious business of the field visits, the Royal Party returned to Caithness Barracks for a striking change of scene—2 Squadron had built a full size mediaeval fair, including a Punch and Judy show, wrestling, Morris dancing and a giant pig roast amongst others. The Princess commented on the hard work that must have gone into planning such an event. As the band played suitable mediaeval music, **Princess Anne** watched the various displays, chatted to members of the Regiment and their families, and praised 2 Squadron for all their hard work in setting up the fair. Having seen the soldiers resplendent in their smart No 2 dress uniform for the morning parade, and clad in drab combat kit for the field displays, Her Royal Highness was treated to the unusual sight of British soldiers dressed up as 'Bowmen of England' during the fete.

The end of the visit was marked by the officers of the Regiment entertaining our Colonel-in-Chief to dinner in the Officers' Mess.

Cpl Geoff Chadwick and son Matthew meet the Princess. Sig and Mrs Merrit (*left*) look on

Time to stop and chat. Princess Anne meets the Regiment's wives and children during her visit to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

It will take these 'Morris Dancers' a long time to live this down. *L—R:* Sig McDonald, Allan, Birkin, Davis-Morris, Shaw and Bowman

Accompanied by the Burgermeister, Dr Hartmut Friedrichs, and the Master of Signals, Maj Gen John Badcock, Princess Anne watches 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt march past in Verden

HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES VISITS BERLIN AND 29 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The Queen's Birthday Parade and Reception are two key protocol events in the Berlin calendar. This year **HRH The Prince of Wales** took the salute and was our principal guest. The Regiment as usual is heavily committed, with communications and PA very much in demand, and the linemen and technicians in particular under **Capt Gerry Sullivan** were very busy. Many soldiers are committed to ushering and other duties, and a few to the drive past which follows the march past of the three battalions. The RSM, **WO1 (RSM) John Walker** is the parade RSM.

After the parade the CO, **Lt Col James Budd** was presented to HRH and welcomed him to the Headquarters and to a Reception. The Regiment coordinates the reception, and much of the work is done by **Lt Col (QM) Len Wilson, Maj John Hayes** (SO2 Comms), **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Marsden, WO2 (SQMS) Paul Williamson ACC** and the mess staff. At the Reception **Maj Eric** and **Mrs Jean Carrel, Mrs Louisa Budd** and **WO1 (RSM) John Walker** and **Mrs Unni Walker** were also presented to HRH. As the Prince left the Reception he was confronted by a mass of scouts and guides, and was then escorted round by **Capt Alex Moses RAPC**, the Regiment's paymaster. Meanwhile part of the Regiment's communications were deployed under **Maj Sandy Lovatt** for HRH's visit to a river crossing.

Mrs J. F. Budd being presented to HRH

The march past

HRH accompanied by Capt Moses, the GOC and CO

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2 INFANTRY DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT CANOE RECORDS

The Regimental canoe team, having now attended all the major army canoeing championships, are proud to report the following results from their first season's efforts:

Army Wild Water Championships Richmond	Nov 84	1st
UKLF Slalom Championships Llandysul	May 85	1st
Army Slalom Championships Bala	May 85	1st
Army Sprint Championships Monmouth	Jul 85	2nd
Army Marathon Championships Monmouth	Jul 85	1st

As you can see, the regiment now holds three of the four major army canoe titles, a feat never before achieved by any unit.

As well as the above, the following team members have been selected to represent the army in the following classes at inter service level:

WO1 (RSM) Bill White	Wild Water Racing, Slalom, Marathon
Cpl Tony Tape RE	Sprint, Marathon
Sig Dobbo Dobson	Wild Water Racing, Slalom
Sig Taff Martin	Wild Water Racing, Slalom

UNIT CANOEING NOTES

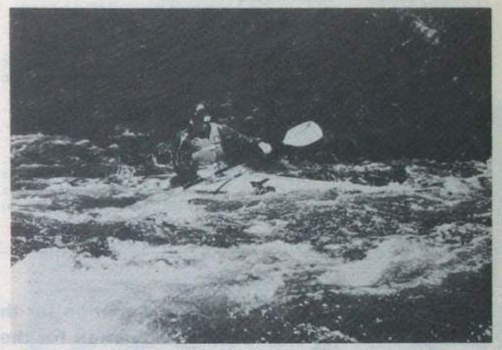
Shortly after our success at Llandyssul in the UKLF Slalom Championships it was time for our admin team of **Sgt John Leighton** and **Cpl Bob Booth** to load up and depart for the Army Slalom Championships to be held on the River Tryweryn at Bala in North Wales. This site is just below the one used for the 1981 World Championships with an amount of water and rocks that justified the packing of plenty of spare underwear. Our regimental team of **WO1 (RSM) Bill White, Sig Dobbo Dobson** and **Sig Taff Martin** paddled well to win what turned out to be a particularly close competition between 19 Field Regiment RA (the title holders for the previous three years) ourselves and 1WFR.

The RSM and **Sig Dobson** then went on to paddle with **Sgt Kev Truby** of 16 Sig Regt to win the Inter Corps Trophy. This is the first time it has been won by a Royal Signals team.

After the rough waters of Wales we trained hard back in York for the Army Sprint and Long Distance Championships which were held at Monmouth over the weekend 20/21 July 1985. We were narrowly beaten in the Sprint Championships by a very strong team from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment who had obviously put the waters of the River Weser to good use in their build up. We did however gain revenge and beat them into second place in the Marathon Championships by a clear margin of 38 Points to 30. 8 Sig Regt, last year's winners, came third in both events.

There were many individual successes in the Sprint and Long Distance Championships but the more notable ones were from our Asst Adjt **Lt Alison Mann WRAC**, the RSM, **Cpl Tony Tape RE**, and **Cpl Colin Dennis** all of whom had wins in their respective classes. It is also worth mentioning **WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison** who, like many other members of the team, was brought out of retirement, and came second in the Slalom Boat Class of the Marathon. It became quite a spectacle to see young stars of 2 Sqn paying their daily visit to the SSM to pay respects to his canoeing trophies.

We now go on with a number of the team having been selected to represent the Army in the forthcoming Inter Service events after what can only be called a successful first season's competition. How many other teams have won three Army titles in their sport in one year?



WO1 (RSM) Bill White in a relaxed pose

Sig John Collins paddling through one of the more hazardous parts of the course

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

INTERPRETER RESULTS 1985—R SIGNALS

Cpl H. Kiertzner, an EW Operator, gained a first class pass in the Civil Service Commission Russian Interpretership Examination in March 1985. His mark was the highest ever obtained by an NCO/WO.

At the same time, **Cpl M. H. Burrows**, an EW Operator gained a good second class pass in the Arabic Interpretership Examination. This is the first pass ever by an EW Operator in Arabic at that level.

Both these NCOs were students at DSL Beaconsfield from September 1983-March1985. The results reflect great credit on the individuals, the school and the Corps.

RHQ—MAIL COSTS

Letters sent out from RHQ R Signals are normally contained in an OHMS envelope and this will always have an ordinary stamps fixed to it. These stamps are provided officially under the normal military postal regulations, and they are paid for by the Government. This arrangement is routine for very small units such as RHQ.

This notice is published in response to inquiries, received from some members of the Corps who are under the impression that RHQ postage is paid from Corps funds. Their concern for our good stewardship is much appreciated!

THE PRINCESS MARY AND INSTITUTION SILVER MEDALS

THE PRINCESS MARY MEDAL shall be regarded as a rare honour to be awarded to mark an achievement, contribution or service of the highest order which is considered manifestly to have enhanced the performance, reputation or status of Royal Signals.

THE INSTITUTION SILVER MEDAL shall similarly be regarded as a rare award to mark the achievement of exemplary standard, an 'A' grading on the following courses will be the normal criterion:

a. The Royal Signals Officers Telecommunications Engineering Management Course
b. The Foreman of Signals Course
c. The Yeoman of Signals Course

RULES AND CONDITIONS FOR THE AWARD OF THE MEDALS

THE PRIZES are silver medals and an illuminated scroll and the name of the winner is annotated in the White List/Records as shown below.

Princess Mary Medal (PM)
Institution Medal (M)

RULES

- Nominations for these awards are to be submitted, through the Royal Signals chain of command to the Signal Officer-in-Chief for the serving Corps, and through the Royal Signals Association to the Chairman for the retired Corps, using the format below, and then to Regimental Headquarters in September for consideration by the council annually at its October meeting.
- When the Council considers that a case for an award or awards has been made, it shall invite the Selection Committee to review the recommendations in detail to decide whether the high standards required have been met.
- The Selection Committee shall consist of The Master of Signals, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, the Representative Colonel Commandant and co-opted members as required.

PRESENTATION

A full citation is to be prepared and the presentation made at a suitable Corps function for the Princess Mary Medal, and at a School of Signals occasion for the Institution Silver Medal.

RECORDS

The Secretary of the Royal Signals Institution maintains a permanent record of winners names and PB11 is to arrange for the White List to be annotated (PM) or (M) as the case may be against each winners name.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF THE INSTITUTION will be conferred upon recipients of these awards.

Nomination for the Princess Mary Medal*
Nomination for the Institution Silver Medal*

1. Rank and Name .....
2. Event/Course .....
3. Citation .....
.....
4. Comments
   a. Commander Communications/Association Branches* .....
   b. SOinC/Chairman of Signals Association* .....
5. Institute Recommendation .....
.....
6. Selection Committee Decision .....
.....

*Delete where inapplicable

CORPS DATES

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB
Dates for 1986:
Corps Dinner,
London Press Centre 14 May 1986
Corps Luncheon,
Headquarters Mess,
Blandford Camp 14 June 1986

REUNION
The Officers' Reunion planned for 5 October 1985 at The Royal Aldershot Officers' Club, has been cancelled.

APPRENTICES GREET GERMAN GENERAL

Gen Chalupa inspects the Guard of Honour

A 52-strong Guard of Honour of senior term Apprentice Tradesmen from the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, greeted a German General who, as a 17 year old private soldier, was a prisoner of war of the British.

Gen Leopold Chalupa, now the 57 year old Commander of the Allied Forces Central Europe with more than 500,000 Servicemen under his command, was visiting York from his Headquarters in Holland.

At the Headquarters of the 2 Infantry Division, which would be the largest single unit to reinforce his troops in Germany, he inspected the Guard of Honour accompanied by the Divisional Commander, **Maj Gen Peter Inge**, the Commandant of the Apprentices' College, **Col Stephen Carr-Smith**, and the Guard Commander, **Lt Michael Hancock**.

And afterwards he said. 'I am always impressed when I talk to soldiers of the British Army'.

The General, then a 17 year old Private, was captured by British troops in Italy at the end of the last war and was a prisoner of war in Britain before being repatriated in 1949.

Of those days he said: 'It was a most important span of my life. It was the re-education of a young man meeting the British people. They treated me so well'.

One of the places he lived in as a prisoner of war was a farm near Glasgow, Scotland, where his work included milking 26 cows a day.

He later re-visited the farm and renewed his acquaintance with the lady who owned it—now aged 94.

Gen Chalupa was in Britain seeing military formations which would reinforce NATO.

Others which he visited included 15 Infantry Bde Headquarters at Topcliffe, North Yorkshire, one of the Territorial Army Brigades in 2 Infantry Division.

THE CORPS AT WIMBLEDON

A report by WO2 A. Cheetham 37 Sig Regt (V)

Readers may be interested to know the Corps has been represented at Wimbledon for many years, together with WRAC Signals attached personnel. All three services including the women's services are represented each year. Working mainly as 'Service Stewards' the job requires personnel with the following attributes:- lots of tact, able to learn quickly the ground layout and all the various facilities, able to deal with differing situations such as, standing in the sun all day (not always as easy as one might think), floods, security and various other situations, all requiring 'lots of tact' and believe me sometimes one's 'tact' is stretched to the limit. Also be able to be on your feet for as long as 10 hours a day.

A well known member of the corps has been at Wimbledon tennis for many years in the person of **Lt Col Peter Webster** who has officiated on many occasions and this year was the Chief of Umpires a most arduous and hard working position but most rewarding.

Some have returned for duty for a number of years, and bearing in mind that it costs two weeks of your privilege leave and it is purely voluntary, it says much for the Wimbledon atmosphere.

Mention must be made of the Junior Leaders team who came to work at Wimbledon for the first time this year. With **Lt Couch** in charge they did sterling work helping the ground staff with various jobs and I am sure if they are required again they will certainly want to send a team.

Certainly everyone I spoke to agreed it was well worth giving up leave to be at Wimbledon, meeting old friends and making new ones, meeting the public, and I almost forgot—'to see a little tennis'.

For those interested, details are contained in DCI/DRO's about March each year. And finally the following attended this year's Championships:-

Chief of Umpires:	**Lt Col Peter Webster**	RMCS Shrivenham
Seating Stewards:	**WO2 'Chick' Cheetham**	37 Sig Regt
	Cpl Eddy Butlin	3 ADSR
	LCpl Phil Scofield	School of Signals
	Sig Glen Bennett	School of Signals
	Sig Dean Cargill	22 Sig Regt
	WO1 Elaine Willacy WRAC	28 Sig Regt
	LCpl Tracy Clarke	16 Sig Regt
	LCpl Mel Gerraghty	10 Sig Regt
	Pte Fran Graham	10 Sig Regt
	Pte Spud Murphy	10 Sig Regt

THE CORPS BAND AT SEVENOAKS

The Corps Band, under the direction of **Maj Gordon Turner**, made a return visit to the Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks on Saturday 27 July. In the audience was **Bill Finney**, Town Mayor of Sevenoaks who served in the Corps from 1937 to 1953 (TA, BEF and BLA), once secretary of Prescot Branch, and father of former **SSgt Allan Finney BEM**.

During the evening the Mayor presented **Maj Gordon Turner** and the Band with a shield bearing the Sevenoaks device and received in return a copy of the record 'Regimental Silver'.

Altogether a highly enjoyable, worthwhile, historic evening's entertainment. The audience's unanimous vote was that the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals return again next year.

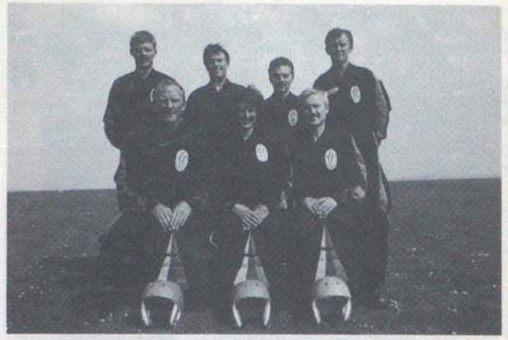
THE BLUE HELMETS

The Blue Helmets, The Corps Freefall Parachute Display Team and Competition Team are now in the middle of a very busy season; probably the busiest in their history.

The team has completed displays at Ripon Rugby Club, The Montague Motor Museum at Beaulieu and The Old Comrades Reunion at Catterick. All the displays have gone according to plan except Beaulieu. The turbulent wind conditions around the arena caught out three of the four jumpers on the display and they landed just short of the arena. Luckily no one was hurt except for a little damaged pride and the show was well received by the crowd.

The display for the second year at the old comrades reunion at Catterick went very well. Even though this year none of the parachutists managed to land on the WRAC flag pole the display was not without its dramatic moments. Having arrived over the dropping zone and dropped the wind drift indicators the aircraft climbed to altitude and was then held off because of problems with the ground to air communications. When the aircraft was finally cleared to run in and drop, **Sgt Steve Whittick** as ever the coolest man on the display, was reluctant to climb outside the door into his exit position. In his own words 'I'm not going out there, it's throwing it down with rain'. After some gentle persuasion from the other team members in the form of verbal abuse and threats of what would happen if he did not get out the exit was made into the middle of a hailstorm. Hailstones in the face when you are travelling at speeds of around one hundred miles an hour can be somewhat painful even though you may be subject to the torture for only a few seconds. Everyone on the jump managed to survive the ordeal and all landed safely in the arena to the delight of the audience. The team members who have been appearing at these displays are **Capt George Devine, Sgts Mick Thurman, Steve Whittick, Mick Honeyman** and **Cpl Phil Raven**. The team was also graced with the presence of the Infantry Advisor from 11 Sig Regt on the display at Catterick in the form of **Capt Phil Sturtivant RRF**. Thanks **Phil**, even if you could not catch the fastest falling four man star north of the Thames. One of the most important aspects of laying on a good parachute display is to have a good ground party. This side of the display has been very ably conducted during this season by **Capt Des Moloney** and **Sig Andy Butterworth**. Both have done an excellent job in the commentary and the control of the DZ.

July proved to be a busy month for the team, not on the display side but in training and competitions. Two team members are attending the annual advanced parachute course at the Joint Services Parachute Centre Netheravon. They are **Sgt Mick Moneyman** and **Cpl Phil Raven**. **Sgts Mick Thurman** and **Steve Whittick** will also be attending the course in an instructional capacity. During the course, students are taught advanced parachute techniques such as relative work and canopy relative work.



Back Row: Sgt Thurman, Capt Devine, LCpl McCormick, Cpl Norwood *Front Row:* Sgt Whittick, WCpl Woodard, SSgt De-La-Haye

Wedge
Sgt Thurman, Capt Devine, Sgt Whittick

Flag Jump
Sgt Thurman, Capt Devine

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

The Royal Signals Games Club provides assistance to Corps glider and hang glider pilots with financial aid towards meeting flying and competition expenses. If you fly gliders either as a pilot under training, or as solo pilot you may qualify for a grant towards your expenses. Royal Signals pilots should forward their individual claims for grants from the Corps Games Club for the period December 1984 to November 1985 to:-

Maj S. Falla Royal Signals
School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Blandford
Dorset.

Claims should arrive not later than 1 November 1985.

The following personal and flying details are required to support your claim:-

- Full name, unit and address of claimant (Including Regimental Number where appropriate).
- Flying fees paid in the period, less any sum received from other sources in respect of these fees.
- Number of launches flown in 1985.
- Results of competitions, or badge attempts.
- Competition expenses.
- Qualifications held.
- Details of claimant's UK bank, account number and address where the cheque should be paid.

Do not be deterred from making a claim because you have only just started gliding. All members of Royal Signals and WRAC serving with Royal Signals are eligible.

PARANG SAILS TO CYPRUS

In July 1984 the Royal Corps of Signals Yacht Club was very generously given a yacht by **Lt Col John Sheepshanks** a retired officer of the Corps. The Yacht is a 36ft Bowman and his generous gift was much appreciated by the Corps. The Yacht was moored in Malta and it was decided that she should be sailed back to the UK for a complete refit during the Winter of 1984/85. Her safe return to Gosport was made in September by **Maj John Gryspeerdt** and **Sgt Alan Morgan**.

The Yacht named *Parang* spent the winter being stripped down and undergoing a complete refit under the eagle eye of **Sgt Alan Morgan** and **Cpl Mick Hinks** at Gosport until in April *Parang* was considered ready for sea.

The Royal Signals Yacht Club gave much consideration to where the new Corps Yacht should be moored and it was eventually agreed that she should go to Cyprus to replace *Brigand of Changi*, rather than joining *Quicksilver* and *Skywave* in Gosport. The next problem was how to get the Yacht to Cyprus and the obvious solution was reached—sail it. It was decided to achieve this as a six week Adventure Training Exercise. **WO2 John Moody** from HQ 2 Sig Bde was nominated as Exercise Coordinator and he set about advertising the exercise to all units, but it was not until Mid April that the crews were finally chosen:

Leg 1 Gosport—Gibraltar

Skipper	**Sgt Alan Morgan**	—	30 Sig Regt
Mate	**Maj John Barrett**	—	School of Signals
Crew	**SSgt John Telford**	—	School of Signals
	Sgt Bev Swift	—	87 Sig Sqn (V)
	Cpl Graham Wilson	—	30 Sig Regt
	Sig John Payne	—	244 Sig Sqn

Leg 2 Gibraltar—Cyprus

Skipper	**Sgt Alan Morgan**	—	30 Sig Regt
Mate	**WO2 Paul Burdes**	—	MOD DAR (2)
Crew	**WO2 John Moody**	—	2 Sig Bde
	SSgt Karen Mercer	—	40 Sig Revt (V)
	Lt Suzy Reed	—	School of Signals
	Cpl Glen Sutherland	—	244 Sig Sqn
	Cpl Bill Martin	—	30 Sig Regt

Those who are quick will notice that the Skipper for both legs was **Sgt Alan Morgan**—who managed seven weeks away from work!

SSgt John Telford, Sig John Payne, Cpl Graham Wilson and Sgt Bev Swift try out their oilies before setting sail from Gosport

After countless briefings and much work on the boat, the crew for Leg 1 arrived at the yard of Camper and Nicholson on 1 May. It was a beautiful sunny day and much laughter greeted their arrival on deck in their full oilies and lifejackets but as they crossed the Bay of Biscay some days later, they were grateful for their oilies!

At 1400 hrs the crew cast off with **Sgt Alan Morgan** the Skipper on the helm—he didn't trust anybody else not to crash into one of the piles before they left Gosport harbour. The Mate, **Maj John Barrett** was soon scurrying below to plot a course for their first landfall at La Coruna and it was not long before a couple of the crew were suffering from seasickness but it was too late to get off—The Royal Signals Yacht *Parang* was on her way to Cyprus via Gibraltar.

It was not long before the Skipper had the crew whipped into shape and with plenty of faith took himself off to bed—but *Parang* nearly didn't get further than the Channel as **Sig John Payne** and **Cpl Graham Wilson** nearly had a head on collision with a very large oil tanker which made the Bay of Biscay two days later seem 'Plain Sailing' (excuse the pun).

Maj John Barrett—steering the yacht across the Bay of Biscay.

Crew One in the saloon of *Parang*

The Port of La Coruna Spain was reached safely although the inexperienced sailors in the form of **Sgt Bev Swift** were seen hanging on to the winches at times. *Parang* decided she had had enough and her anchor got fouled but a diver was sent down to recover it, and she was soon on her way to Villamoura in Southern Portugal. A long journey of 580 miles in 80 hrs saw *Parang* in Villamoura where the crew rested awhile. Then it was off to Tangier.

In Tangier, *Parang* nearly lost one of her crew as, **Sgt Alan Morgan** and **SSgt John Telford** decided to sell **Sgt Bev Swift** to some Arabs for a camel—unfortunately, once they found the camel was lame, they decided against it. Then it was on to Ceuta a Spanish enclave in Morocco where it was decided to spend the last night before meeting up with the crew for the second leg in Gibraltar. **SSgt John Taylor** was soon to regret this as the bottle of whisky and excellent meal he consumed are not the best thing for even a hardened sailor. However, at 1200 hrs *Parang* sailed safely into Gibraltar to be met by the second crew, who had flown out two days previously, with **SSgt (FofS) Paul Cross** and **Capt Bob Brannigan** the OC of 642 Sig Tp standing by to help with the administrative arrangements. That evening was spent very cordially at **Paul Cross**'s house in Gibraltar and the second leg crew took over, waving a farewell to the crew of her first leg who sadly packed their bags and flew back to the UK.

Cpl Graham Wilson—'Steady on the helm'

The second leg crew were soon to find that sailing is hard work and re-victualling the boat, and stowing away all their clothes and belongings for four weeks at sea was a big job. But after practising sail drills and the man-overboard drill (**Lt Suzy Reed** wanted to get off!) the crew were ready to set sail for Ibiza—or at least they thought they were going to Ibiza! On the 17 May at 1200 hrs *Parang* departed Gibraltar and the Mother Watch of **Lt Suzy Reed** was sent below decks to cook supper of chili con carne—but an hour later she was seen gripping the transom and being very ill—the meal was good though.

WO2 John Moody, Lt Suzy Reed, Cpl Glen Sutherland and SSgt Karen Mercer modelling their 'crew' (title well earned) 'T' shirts

After some very bad weather it was decided to pull into Mortil on the South Coast of Spain for the night and it was not until 22 May that *Parang* arrived in Ibiza. The crew were very definitely ready for a spell of shore leave and **WO2 John Moody** was seen heading determinedly towards a large pint of beer. On 23 May *Parang* set sail for Mallorca and the Port of Cala Nova where the King of Spain keeps his yacht. The weather was definitely hotting up and the race was on between **Lt Suzy Reed** and **WO2 John Moody** to see who could get the best sun-tan—but with three weeks more in the Mediterranean nobody was too worried, even **SSgt Karen Mercer** was seen to be studying her freckles ruefully in the mirror.

After a short stop in Mallorca, *Parang* departed for Cagliari in Sicily where **Lt Suzy Reed** was nearly arrested by the Italian Police for having the wrong name (a criminal name?) but was deftly rescued by **John (our hero) Moody** and after a short stop at Mazara del Vallo to get fuel for *Parang*'s engine they departed for Malta. Yes folks, you do need an engine in the Meditterranean as there is a slight lack of that commodity called wind in May and June. But on the way to Malta, both the ice box and the engine packed up. **Cpl Bill Martin** our Chief Engineer managed to get the latter started although the fridge was totally useless and no good for cooling **Cpl Glen Sutherland**'s beer. So it was with something like relief that the crew of *Parang* sailed into the Grand Harbour of Malta, although nearly being mown down on the way by the gunboat guarding the entrance.

It was decided to stop for two or three days in Malta to effect repairs on *Parang* but the crew was soon bored with port life and anxious to be on the way to Khania in Crete, although a days snorkelling in the Blue Grotto was thoroughly enjoyed by **WO2 Paul Burdes**. **WO2 John Moody** who decided the water was too cold for swimming sampled the local wine and viewed the local talent from the side of the yacht!

After a three day uneventful motorsail, *Parang* sailed safely along the coast of Crete stopping at Iraklion, Playa and Ay Nikolias which allowed our junior navigator to plot our course using landmarks, although **Cpl Glen Sutherland**'s ideas of landmarks were topless women on the plentiful beaches. After a short stay in Ayios Nikolias to stock up on food—*Parang* set sail for Rhodes. Sail was the operative word as the engine broke down again and the crew had to use all their hard earned experience to sail into Mandraki harbour—although the curses from **Sgt Alan Morgan**, now renamed 'Kipper' did help! (The nickname 'Kipper' stuck as he was frequently bitten by the Tsetse fly).

Rhodes was far too expensive for the crew and after a days swimming and sunbathing at Falariki beach (**Suzy** winning the suntan battle) the crew were eager to reach Cyprus. **WO2 Paul Burdes** safely navigated the yacht to Paphos and horror—the crew suddenly realised that the journey of over 2000 miles from Gibraltar was nearly over! So after a quick stop in Paphos to complete customs formalities a course was set for Limassol so that the crew could have a night out and a really good Meze with plenty of Keo wine, too much Keo in **SSgt 'Bubbles' Mercer**'s case!

It was a sad crew (wearing their crew T shirts) who sailed into Larnaca to hand over the boat to 9 Sig Regt, well represented on the quayside by **Lt Col Mike Galloway** and **Maj Bill Wylie**, who had organised an excellent reception committee which included a piper playing the Corps march!

But wait!—all was not lost, the flights were delayed until Friday 20 June so the whole crew after showers and another meal turned out by Supercook **Cpl Glen Sutherland** managed a trip down to Ayia Napa and another day on the beach before they flew back to their respective jobs in good old UK. The boat was handed over to **LCpl Neil Baxter** her permanent bosun—Good Luck in Cyprus with your new yacht; if you have half as much fun aboard her as we did, you will have a wonderful time.

WO2 John Moody, Sgt Alan Morgan, Lt Suzy Reed, Cpls Glen Sutherland, Bill Martin and WO2 Paul Burdes modelling their crew 'T' shirts

The Royal Signals Yacht *Parang*

SSgt Karen Mercer pours out the Champagne on the Yacht's arrival in Cyprus

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1986

Stocks of the 1986 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 two 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 1985, 1986 and 1987, listing of European holidays 1986, an Inter City Rail Plan and the London Underground Map.

The cost of the diary is £1.30 for orders within the United Kingdom, and £1.15 for overseas orders. Please use the order form when placing your orders.

To:
The General Secretary
Royal Signals Association
56 Regency Street
LONDON SW1P 4AD

From: _____
(BLOCKS)
Address _____

_____

_____

I/We wish to order _____ Corps Diaries @ £1.30/£1.15* each for despatch to the above address. (Cost within the UK is £1.30 and for overseas orders £1.15).

I/We enclose PO/Cheque payable to 'The Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund' for: _____

Date: _____ Signed: _____

NOTE: *Delete as appropriate.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S DINNER

The OWA President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck on Saturday 16 November 1985. Anyone wishing to attend should contact: **Capt A. Field**, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts S80 3LN. Telephone: Worksop (0909) 476326 X30, 485351 (evenings) by 2 November 1985.

Dress will be Mess Kit for Serving Officers, DJ for retired officers.

The cost will be £9 per head and there will be a cash bar.

Limited accommodation is available on request.

— Movements —

Officers

AUGUST 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt (QM) J. G. P. Akehurst	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj M. J. M. Alden	QG Sig Regt
Maj M. Allen	HS 11 Sig Regt
2Lt P. A. Bailey	11 Sig Regt
Capt S. E. Bates	10 Sig Regt
Capt N. J. Bateson	11 Sig Regt
Lt A. P. Bristow	11 Sig Regt
2Lt N. R. N. Caleb	7 Sig Regt
Lt F. J. Connor	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt N. D. Couch	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt M. A. Coupar	HQ AFCENT SP GP (Int)
Capt J. F. Davis	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj N. F. Fisher	7 Sig Regt
Maj F. R. Fletcher	APSG
Maj (TOT) D. J. Freeston	10 Sig Regt
Lt P. Gillespie	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt A. A. Goff	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt A. P. Hudson	11 Sig Regt
Maj M. N. Johnston	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn (BAE)
Capt (TOT) W. P. Kent	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
Capt J. S. A. Lancaster	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt W. R. Mawer	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt J. A. McDonnell	11 Sig Regt
Lt Col N. C. Muir	HQ AFCENT
Capt P. J. Oldfield	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj P. R. S. Ovenden	30 Sig Regt
Lt Col E. M. Powell	11 Sig Regt
Lt D. M. Pratt	MOD(A) PB11
Capt P. D. Robinson	16 Sig Regt
Lt M. G. Shaw	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj (TOT) F. A. Smith	HQ Trg Gp R Signals
Capt R. J. Steed	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt V. J. Thatcher	11 Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) M. A. Truran	8 Sig Regt
Maj R. J. Turnbull	7 Sig Regt
Lt T. C. Wadey	QG Sig Regt
Capt N. R. N. Wood	School of Signals

SEPTEMBER 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj R. D. Abbott	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj M. J. Anderson	HQ UKLF
2Lt K. W. Bowers	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt R. M. Butlin	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt C. M. Clark	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt M. Davis	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt R. M. Dobson	HS RMAS
Maj (TOT) A. F. Dyer	608 Sig Tp (EQPT)
2Lt P. R. M. Evans	22 Sig Regt
Capt D. S. Ewing	HS School of Signals
Capt (TOT) C. J. Field	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt P. J. Filby	HS School of Signals
Lt Col G. M. Finney	8 Sig Regt
2Lt A. J. Fletcher	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt H. M. Flint	HS RMAS
2Lt J. H. Fraser	244 Sig Sqn (AS)
2Lt R. J. Freeman	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj L. G. French	10 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) D. I. Gilchrist	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Capt (Tfc) R. J. Good	School of Signals
Capt K. W. Goodfellow	HS School of Signals
2Lt G. R. Grant	29 Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Griffiths	34 Sig Regt (V)
Capt T. Guest	FSS Mossy Hill
Capt S. J. Harris	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt A. J. H. Harrison	HQ 11 Sig Bde
2Lt C. J. Hinsley	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt D. P. Hix	39 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn
2Lt J. M. Hodges	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt S. D. Hodges	7 Sig Regt
Capt P. S. Holden	School of Signals
Lt Col (for A/Col) D. Hunt	DCIS(A)
2Lt S. N. Jackson	HS RMAS
2Lt H. A. Jenkins	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt Col M. K. Jennings	HQ Londist
Maj (TOT) P. Johnson	240 Sig Sqn
Lt G. R. Leyland	7 Sig Regt
2Lt N. P. Longley	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Lt J. P. A. Luckins	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj (TOT) R. Lund	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt D. G. Macaulay	HQ BF Belize
2Lt F. G. S. Maclennan	QG Sig Regt
Maj A. McVittie	LE (A)
Capt (QM) R. G. Mills	Bristol University OTC
2Lt A. K. Munday	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) P. A. Noble	28 Sig Sqn (NORTHAG)
2Lt G. R. Norton	28 Sig Sqn (NORTHAG)
Maj (TOT) D. O'Connor	SANGCOM
Lt Col D. G. McH. Overton	35 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt G. L. Owen	21 Sig Regt
Lt R. J. Quinlan	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt S. K. Reed	PTARMIGAN Intro Unit and System Support Team
Capt A. K. Ridley-Jones	HS 7 Sig Regt
Col C. D. M. Ritchie	ACDS (Overseas)
Lt F. P. Roberts	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt A. G. Ross	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt (Tfc) J. M. Ross	School of Signals
Capt J. Rowley	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt D. E. Rowlinson	RMAS
2Lt S. R. Sharman	30 Sig Regt
Capt P. D. Shawyer	HS 21 Sig Regt
Maj M. A. Sheehan	School of Signals
Capt G. Smith	HS 71 Sig Regt (V)
Lt D. W. Somerville	RMCS Shrivenham
Col M. C. Spence	11 Sig Regt
2Lt A. J. Stringer	259 Sig Sqn
2Lt I. G. Standen	HS RMAS
Capt D. M. Steele	21 Sig Regt
2Lt C. J. Thackray	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt J. E. Thomas	HS School of Signals
Maj W. P. B. Thomas	QG Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Tuson	7 Sig Regt
Lt D. J. Walker	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. G. Walker	HS School of Signals
Maj B. A. Watson	Army Personnel Selection Group
2Lt D. I. Whimpenny	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Wilson	22 Sig Regt
Lt Col H. S. Wilson	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Lt R. P. Wilson	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt S. R. Workman	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj J. A. Wraith	2 Inf Div HQ Fwd Element

WOs and SNCOs

AUGUST 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 T. K. Muir	11 Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) R. G. West	HQ Trg Gp
AWO1 P. J. Welch	13 Sig Regt
WO2 V. E. Bingham	28 Sig Regt
WO2 R. H. Gladwin	227 Sig Sqn
WO2 S. M. Jones	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) N. Blavins	School of Signals (Cadre)
WO2 V. A. Hoyle	HQ 11 Sig Bde
WO2 (Supvr R) R. C. Armstrong	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) S. J. Walls	RMA Sandhurst
AWO2 R. S. Keen	22 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) M. L. Drake	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) M. M. Taylor	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt M. Hague	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt S. M. W. Hutchins	HQ 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn
Sgt H. B. Anacoura	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison
Sgt S. R. Sharma	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) T. C. Frize	14 Sig Regt
SSgt (Supvr R) I. M. Henderson	9 Sig Regt
SSgt A. J. Knight	8 Sig Regt
SSgt D. A. Coker	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt P. J. Doherty	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. I. Hill	21 Sig Regt
SSgt T. W. Hughes	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt R. T. O'Hara	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
SSgt E. J. Larkin	DEF ADP Trg Centre
SSgt I. C. Stewart	HQ AFNORTH
SSgt J. Hall	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt R. F. Parsons	7 Sig Regt
SSgt J. Marsden	School of Signals
SSgt (FofS) R. Thompson	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt A. Dipple	FSS Stenigot
SSgt A. C. Hedgley	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
SSgt R. W. J. Mitchell	8 Sig Regt (Cadre)
SSgt J. Kerr	4 Sig Gp
ASSgt P. F. Hayward	4 Sig Gp
ASSgt J. Bird	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASSgt G. Walters	7 Sig Regt
Sgt E. J. Thomas	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sgt D. A. Piggott	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. J. Hancock	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. Johnson	29 Sig Regt
Sgt I. A. Simpkins	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Pickersgill	HQ AFCENT SP Gp(In)
Sgt J. M. C. Bevan	16 Sig Regt
Sgt C. C. Pederick	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. C. Pollington	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. J. F. Cutler	FSS Mormond Hill
Sgt M. I. B. Keith	FSS Cold Blow Lane
Sgt S. R. Buxton	Int & Sy Gp (M1)
Sgt J. J. Treen	23 SAS
Sgt L. F. Hollne	598 RLD
Sgt J. A. J. Brooks	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt M. Kindness	4 Armd Div Sig Regt
Sgt J. Salter	227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
Sgt J. Grandison	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. M. Perkins	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. W. Findlay	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt H. Wild	9 Sig Regt
Sgt A. C. Williams	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt D. R. Little	14 Sig Regt
Sgt E. London	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt G. McMillan	HQ Northern Ireland
Sgt W. J. Smith	10 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Gaylard	633 Sig Tp
Sgt P. Jackson	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASgt S. Ludlam	8 Sig Regt
ASgt J. W. Marsden	642 Sig Tp
ASgt P. L. Shenton	1 Armd Div Sig Regt

SEPTEMBER 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 R. Jeffery	11 Sig Regt
WO2 J. Fowler	55 Sig Sqn (V)
WO2 C. P. Martin	28 Sig Regt
WO2 I. E. Murray	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
WO2 K. E. Clark	11 Sig Regt
WO2 M. J. Davis	33 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 A. Gavillet	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 W. J. O'Rourke	11 Sig Regt
WO2 W. A. Starling	Leeds UOTC
WO2 P. K. Sutherland	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (EW Op) K. M. Hall	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. R. Channing	633 Sig Tp
SSgt (YofS) R. A. Childs	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) G. Pickersgill	30 Sig Regt
SSgt R. Stanton	AA College
SSgt H. T. Dillon	7 Sig Regt
SSgt W. J. Celtel	21 Sig Regt
SSgt A. T. Kidd	16 Sig Regt
SSgt P. D. Penfold	242 Sig Sqn
SSgt (FofS) J. Naylor	AA College
SSgt (FofS) C. Wilkie	7 Sig Regt
SSgt N. B. Staden	School of Signals (Cadre)
SSgt S. R. Davies	16 Sig Regt
SSgt J. Clark	9 Sig Regt
ASSgt L. E. Oehme	30 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. F. Hardy	1 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASSgt K. J. Dunn	16 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. R. Metcalfe	35 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt M. W. Ellis	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt W. J. Hunt	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt P. C. J. Lavers	7 Sig Regt
Sgt P. C. Winder	UK Sp Gp SHAPE
Sgt M. R. Layborne	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt R. D. Gigg	3 Cdo Bde Sig Sqn RM
Sgt S. J. Hemmings	Int Centre Ashford
Sgt P. K. Fielder	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt L. Johnson	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. C. Webb	608 Sig Tp
Sgt D. W. Smith	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt M. A. Turfrey	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Richardson	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. C. Woolley	BR Contingent UNFICYP
Sgt J. K. Dodsworth	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sgt N. Parsons	School of Signals (Cadre)
Sgt P. J. Plant	30 Sig Regt
Sgt G. I. Maroney	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A Llewellyn	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Snape	262 Sig Regt
Sgt M. G. P. Bohanan	School of Infantry
Sgt J. R. Pearson	AA College
Sgt B. J. Barnes	School of Signals
Sgt P. M. Dignam	School of Signals
Sgt C. Doughty	School of Signals
Sgt G. S. Grove	School of Signals
Sgt K. J. Glasby	School of Signals
Sgt W. Jackson	School of Signals
Sgt C. D. Pugh	School of Signals
Sgt T. A. Hope	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt R. M. Wilson	School of Signals
Sgt R. A. Chew	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. M. McCrindle	School of Signals
Sgt P. D. Murton	School of Signals
Sgt G. M. Robinson	School of Signals
Sgt M. J. Lawrence	8 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Briggs	9 Sig Regt
Sgt R. D. Colley	School of Signals
Sgt R. R. Bell	AA College
Sgt E. A. Page	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Shannon	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Bellion	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. E. White	13 Sig Regt
ASgt S. R. Rofe	14 Sig Regt
ASgt E. D. Baker	14 Sig Regt
ASgt R. A. Smith	School of Signals
ASgt A. B. Doherty	596 RLD
ASgt J. F. Murray	School of Signals
ASgt D. Greaves	3 Armd Div Sig Regt
ASgt J. W. Latimer	33 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt B. Penny	31 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt S. Greaves	40 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt R. A. Snow	7 Sig Regt
ASgt D. G. Hopcroft	7 Sig Regt
ASgt C. A. Lambert	7 Sig Regt

The White Helmets

Venues

NOVEMBER

14	Military Tattoo, Kiel, West Germany (Provisional)
15,16	Military Tattoo, Hamburg, West Germany (Provisional)

Welfare

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

Ex-signalman aged 51 has been crippled with Rheumatism for many years and unable to work was unable to afford the fare to travel and see a specialist on a regular basis. In addition he felt the cold badly due to his illness. We made a grant to purchase a gas fire and to meet his travelling expenses.

Ex-Cpl who served for eight years has been unemployed for a long period after being made redundant. He has a young family and his youngest child died recently after a long illness; apart from the distress caused to the family they were unable to meet the funeral expenses. A grant was made to meet this immediate need and in addition further assistance was given to help with his expenses of trying to obtain work in another area of the country.

The elderly widow of a signalman, who served through the war experienced many problems in coping with her severely mentally handicapped son, who is still living at home. She has lived on a low income for many years and was finding difficulty in replacing essential items of furniture and bedding. A substantial grant was made to meet these needs and arrangements made for them to have a holiday at a centre that could cope with her son's problems.

An ex-Cpl who was extremely disabled following a series of strokes was being cared for at home by his elderly wife, who was in poor health herself. In order to relieve the pressures on her it was arranged for the couple to have a fortnight's holiday at the Star & Garter Home to enable both of them to relax and be looked after.

JUNE 1985

Number of cases assisted financially:	54
Amount spent:	£9,655.27

JULY 1985

Number of cases assisted financially:	63
Amount spent:	£10,107.04

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1985:

Estate of the late R. Dennington	£3,000.00
Memorial Church, Catterick Garrison	£ 263.88
7 Sig Regt	£ 256.41
RN Hutchings	£ 100.00
242 Sig Sqn	£ 50.00
In memory of Lt Col H. Napper MBE	£ 41.00
G. Claridge	£ 30.00
P. C. C. Chilbolton	£ 5.00
Capt K. A. Smith	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous	£ 6.48
	£3,757.77

The following donations were gratefully received during August 1985:

Certa Cito Lodge	£ 50.00
J. Dunn Esq	£ 35.00
In memory of Maj Gen C. M. F. White CB CBEDSO	£ 20.00
'Gillespie'	£ 10.00
	£115.00

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.

NOTICE

In the March 1984 issue of *The Wire* we published a notice recording the death of **Brigadier G. L. G. Pollard CBE**. In the summary of his career we stated that he was appointed Commandant of 3 Signal Training Centre in the rank of Colonel. This was in error as he was promoted to acting Brigadier on appointment. We are happy to be in a position to correct this error and apologise to his widow **Mrs Patricia Pollard** for the inaccuracy of the original report.

DEATHS

Armitage — Capt John Pearce Armitage was tragically killed in a hang gliding accident on Saturday 10 August 1985 at Porta Westfalica, Germany.

John was born on 15 October 1958, educated at the King's School Canterbury and commissioned into the Corps on 9 December 1978 from RMA Sandhurst. After completing the Communications Qualifying Course at the School of Signals he moved to Herford to command T Troop, 7 Sig Regt. He married **Rosemary Alison Boobyer** on 19 December 1981 and returned to Sandhurst for the Regular Careers Course. Before joining the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate as a recruit troop commander in September 1982, he spent two months as an instructor at the Joint Service Hang Gliding Centre (JSHGC). It was during this time at Harrogate that **John** went to command JSHGC for three months in 1983. He joined 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in January this year and commanded Oscar Troop in 2 Sqn.

John, in addition to his dedication and enthusiasm for hang gliding was a keen alpine skier and also enjoyed sailing. He was a very able and immensely popular officer and a devoted family man. He is sadly missed.

He leaves his widow, **Rosemary** and his two children **Katherine**, 17 months old and **Benjamin**, 11 weeks.

Davis Ex WO1 (RSM) K. O. Davis — Ken was born at Leominster on 2 September 1938. Enlisting into the Corps in 1957 he quickly developed into a fine soldier and earned early promotion on the Electrician Drivers roster.

Between home postings, he saw service in Aden and several units in BAOR—where he gained an AOC's commendation whilst a WO2 in 21 Sig Regt—and was RSM of 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. Following that tour of duty he opted to go for his final three years of service with the Army Work Study organisation and was the exchange member on the Royal Navy team.

Perhaps his happiest tour was as a Drill Sergeant at the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Newton Abbot between 1960-63. It was whilst there that he met and married **Margaret**—a local school teacher. Their only child, **Andrew** is now an Oxford undergraduate.

Ken completed his 22 years service in 1979 and built up a thriving business in Kingsteignton. A keen sportsman he was an active member of the Somerset Cricket Club and Newton Abbot Horse Racing Club. He died suddenly, as a result of a heart attack on 24 July 1985, aged 46.

Gostling — LCpl Paul Gostling. It is with much regret that the death of **LCpl Paul Martin Gostling** is announced. **Paul** was killed in a road traffic accident whilst on duty in the early hours of 15 May 1985. He had only recently joined 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt from Harrogate, but in his very short time in Herford, had made many friends and had shown that he was a highly skilled and competent technician with a bright future ahead of him. Our sincere condolences go to his family in their tragic loss.

Naish — Ex Sig Eric Leonard Naish, served with the Corps throughout the last war with 64 TO Section first 2 Army Sigs, then Eastern Command, and then 12 Corps. He died suddenly at his home at Yatton (Somerset), aged 70 on 26 June. He leaves a widow and a married son and daughter.

Nicholls — Ex SSgt T. P. Nicholls BEM — see page 559.

Paton — Ex WO2 (FofS) Robert Alexander Paton — see page 462.

Salloway — SSgt Paul Joseph Salloway passed away in Glasgow Royal Infirmary on 8 August 1985, after spending three weeks in a coma. He enlisted, as a boy, in Derby on 6 May 1961. After qualifying as a TG Op he saw service in BAOR, Cyprus, Sharjah and the UK, culminating in his present post as a PSI within 32 Sig Regt (V). He was awarded the LS & GC, UN Medal Cyprus and GSM Northern Ireland.

Turpin — Maj (Ret'd) John Richard Turpin MBE joined the Army at the outbreak of World War 2 and was commissioned into the KOYLI. After being evacuated from France in 1940 he joined the Special Service as a Commando seeing service in France and Burma where he was critically wounded. He returned to active service in time to take part in the campaign to repossess Hong Kong and remained there to command the Guard of Honour at the surrender of the Japanese in 1945. At the cessation of hostilities he returned to civilian life for a short period before accepting a further short service commission in the KOYLI. He saw service in England, Germany, Nigeria and Kenya where he was Mentioned In Despatches for his part in the Mau-Mau conflict. In 1965 he accepted extended service and transferred to the Corps. He served with 266 Sig Sqn, 18 Sig Regt and 2 CTT at Waterbeach. In 1973 he was appointed to an RO3 post as Commandant of Strensall Training Area and was awarded the MBE in 1974. He retired in October 1973 and died suddenly at home on 15 July 1985.

Ward—Mrs Doris Ward who worked in the welfare section of RHQ for some years died on 13 July 1985. Her warm and caring personality will be deeply missed by her many friends. Loyal, conscientious and sweet-tempered, she gave devoted service to Royal Signals from 1977 to 1985. Her never-failing sympathy and help to the families for whom she worked so hard, together with the many hours spent on the despatch of clothing parcels for those in need, will be long remembered.

FOR SALE

Mess Dress. Jacket 38"-40" (with Sgt badges of rank) trousers waist 32" inside leg 31", cummerbund plus white dress shirt—15½ collar. £50 incl p & p.

Mess Dress. Jacket 40"-42" (with Sgt badges of rank) waistcoat, trousers waist 38" inside leg 31" plus bow tie and white dress shirt—16 collar. Only worn four times. £70 incl p & p.

Apply to **Mrs V. Wayling**, c/o 7 Beech Avenue, Grimsby, South Humberside DN33 2AS.

SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A NON-REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
35 (SOUTH MIDLAND) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

A vacancy for a Non-Regular Permanent Staff Administrative Officer in 58 Signal Squadron (Volunteers) based at Newcastle-under-Lyme will occur on 6 March 1986.

58 Signal Squadron (Volunteers) is an independent unit recruited on a wide geographic basis. The unit is administered by 35 (South Midland) Signal Regiment (Volunteers) and is operationally under command of 11 Signal Brigade (Volunteers).

The terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 3.

The post carries the rank of Captain (TA) with an annual salary of £10,993 rising by six annual increments to £12,767.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army as an Officer or Warrant Officer Class 1. A sound knowledge of G1 duties and financial accounting is essential for this post. A good knowledge of stores accounting is desirable. Applicants with some experience of the operation, management and support of Army communications systems will be well suited to this post.

Short listed applicants will be required to appear before a Selection Board on a date yet to be decided.

Applications, including a 'curriculum vitae' and details of two referees should be forwarded to:-

The Adjutant
35 Signal Regiment (V)
Cateswell House
TA Centre
Rectory Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands B75 7RY

Closing date for applications is 1 November 1985.

REUNIONS

RED HAND REUNION

The Red Hand Gang will be holding a 244 Sig Sqn (AS) reunion during the weekend 26/27 October 1985 at RAF Brize Norton. All details are available from either the Chief Instructor Army Apprentices' College or the Chief Clerk 244 Sig Sqn (AS). On current planning a coach will be departing from Harrogate on Friday 25 October. It is also hoped that a coach will be travelling from 16 or 21 Sig Regt.

7 ARMOURED DIVISION OFFICERS' CLUB

The date of the 40th anniversary dinner has been brought forward to Wednesday 30 October 1985.

Please send cheque for £14 to **Maj Gen Cowley**, The Old Post Office, Nuthurst, Horsham RH13 6LH. Seats at table may be reserved as indicated on the ticket.

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW

If you're Leaving the Services within the next 12 months and would like to start a New Career consider GCHQ as a

Trainee Radio Officer

If your trade or training involves Radio Operating you may wish to continue in the work you know and enjoy. Government Communications Headquarters can offer you a career in communications involving the very latest technology. It starts with 32 weeks thorough training to fit you for the post of Radio Officer with extremely interesting work, good salary, good prospects for promotion and also the opportunity for overseas travel. Add to this the security of working for an important Government Department and you could have the start of something new.

The basic requirement for the job is 2 years' radio operating experience or hold a PMG, MPT or MRGC. Registered disabled people are welcome to apply.

Salaries start at £4,988 at age 19 to £6,028 at age 25 and over during training and then £6,832 at 19 to £8,915 at 25 and over as a Radio Officer. Increments then follow annually to £12,328 inclusive of shift and weekend working allowances.

For full details and an application form phone 0242 32912/3 or write to:

GCHQ

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

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

COMMS UPDATE

Planning for the introduction of Cougarnet radio still keeps everybody busy, especially the 2IC, **Capt Mike Dent**, and the Foreman, **WO2 Norman Blavins**, who have been deeply involved in site surveys and works services. A recent newcomer, **Capt Steve Hunt**, who as OC Comms Tp has taken over responsibility for Ops Rooms, will shortly be seen travelling the brigade with a tape measure preparing the way for the installation team.

Replacement of the old telephone exchanges is now complete with Clogher being finished on 25 July. **WO2 (YofS) Gus Hartley** is now pressing British Telecom into speeding up work on the enhancements to the ATN system which includes installing extra inter exchange tie lines and expanding the network to all deployed company locations.

Reconfiguration of the Battalion's Comd Nets is now also complete with 6 UDR having been finished, not without problem, on 12 July after personal intervention by the FofS and 2IC.

Our Line Section has been very busy installing intercoms at all the PVCPs, rewiring, rationalising and tidying up after the 2IC's round of inspections of unit locations. Together with the YofS, **Sgts Cliff Swailes** and **Neil Thomas** have been updating all the line and telephone records.

The electrical storms on the night of 25 July, reported to be the worst in living memory, brought havoc to the Brigade and Battalion communications. Power surges and cuts caused problems to both radio nets, the BT and ATN telephone systems and also several of the larger intercom systems. However by mid morning 26 July everything had been repaired and returned to normal working except the Clooney Base telephone exchange which had suffered serious damage and was not fully operational until 1 August.

VISITORS

Visitors to the Squadron have included on 6 June, the Dep Comd designate 8 Inf Bde, **Lt Col M. A. Benjamin** and on 12 June the new SO2 Comms HQNI, **Maj Chris Greig**. The Comd School of Signals, **Brig J. H. Almonds**, accompanied by Comd Comms HQNI, **Lt Col M. R. Stephenson**, visited the Squadron on 14 June. **Brig Almonds** was briefed by the OC and 2IC on the organisation, role and communications provided by the Squadron. After visiting Brigade HQ he inspected vehicles belonging to Comms Troop before touring SF bases in Londonderry accompanied by **Lt Col M. J. D. Walker OBE**, CO **1 R ANGLIAN**.

SHQ

Report by Capt Richard Walkin RA

'Morning Sir.'
'Morning Chief.'
'*Wire* notes Sir.'
'What.'
'*Wire* notes Sir.'
'But I have just done the *Wire* notes Chief.'
'I know Sir, but the 2IC wants them early this time.'

'I suppose this has something to do with him swanning off to Hong Kong.' I wonder how he will manage his long weekends from there?

Well SHQ rolls on (sorry Chief) from the top down. The OC, **Maj John Kirby**, can be seen around muttering to himself something about, 'Press return', 'double line space', 'track fed paper', 'Oh ****, try again', strange things these computers! 2IC **Capt Mike Dent** and his ops staff are always beavering away, so they tell us! The engine room, sorry orderly room definitely is, **Sgt Bill Simpson** our training expert is begging for a mention so here goes, **'Bill Simpson'**.

Nothing extraordinary has happened during this period except that the sun came out last Tuesday, it didn't like what it saw and went back in again. Oh, and the AO is over the hill. That means, into his last 12 months here.

RUMOUR

Cpl Ned Kelly has ordered a pair of webbed feet from Survival Aids ready for his trip to the Falklands.

TM TROOP

Report by SSgt Omparsad Chhetri

'Throw out the old and bring in the new' seems to be the current trend in this troop because by the time these notes are published the 'Boss', **WO2 (FofS) Norman Blavins** will be safely ensconced in Blandford, **SSgt Om Chhetri** will be savouring German beer and curried bratwursts (just for a change) in 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in Verden, **Sgt Mick Tucker** (Wot's an Exercise?) will be in the ulu somewhere near 7 Sig Regt, Herford and **Sgt Phil Tait** will be 'two-timing' in sunny Cyprus. **WO2 (FofS) Thompson** and **SSgt Williams** should have their feet firmly implanted in their respective posts by then and we wish them the very best in producing the next lot of '*Wire* Notes'.

The Rigging Section has been really stretched to its outer limits in recent weeks due to **Cpl Mac McKittrick** away EPCing, **Sig Paddy Brown** being posted to 2 Inf Div as LCpl and **Sig Danny Hart** enjoying newly found 'marital bliss'. **LCpls Geordie (I can't spell, staff!) Gray** and **Des Carter** bravely persevered until **LCpl Dave Girling** from Comms Troop and **Sig Ade Pierce** from Line Section joined them on Temp Loan.

Life in the TE Section is enviously quiet—so quiet in fact that **Sgt Phil Tait** is seen wandering around in shorts in preparation for his Cyprus posting, **Sgt Martin Leighfield** deploys on the odd task whilst in 'transit' from Bisley and monthly long weekends in the UK, **Sgt Colin Brown** was able to take time off to tend to 'vital' (albeit painful) matters of a private nature, **LCpl 'Baby-Tech' Toft** has returned from a long leave and **LCpl Colin Brown** has had a profitable stint as the Squadron Club's barman.

The 'new brush' in the Line/Telemech section, **Sgt Neil Thomas**, is seen rushing around the Province getting the feel of his new post. He is also getting used to his new uniform consisting of a Donkey jacket, jeans and boots. The rest of the section keep occupied by partaking in the various sports, marathon races and adventure training escapades organised by **Sgt 'Djebel' Swailes**.

Radio section is as busy as ever and is currently nearing completion of the 're-crystalling' programme. **Sgt Ben Mee** swears he will never look at another crystal or module when he leaves here. The majority of the Battalions have had their Coy Nets UHF-linked and their comms are now 'crystal-clear'—weather permitting.

Finally the Troop bids farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Norman** and **Nora Blavins, SSgt Om** and **Kathy Chettri, Sgt Mick** and **Biddie Tucker, Sgt Phil** and **Carol Tait, Sig Steve Griffiths** and **Paddy Brown** and to **Cpl Geoff Hay**, off to civvy street. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Q TROOP

Report by Cpl Tony Bowen

The Troop bade farewell to the QM, **Capt Jimmy Akehurst**, on 27 July, he and **Ellie** have left us for sunny 1 Div. We wish them as happy a tour as they have had here and hope they get a quarter sometime.

We welcome the new QM, **Capt Brian Young**, and his wife **Judith** and hope their tour in the Province is an enjoyable one.

Sgt Alex Crawford, our FAMTO man and his wife **April** are also off to 1 Armd Div whilst **LCpl Mac McCormick** is having a month's holiday in Germany, he swears it's for a parachuting course though!

Our Congratulations go to **Sig 'Jon-Jon' Mackrodt** on his forthcoming marriage to **WLCpl Carol Tubman** in September, to our clothing storeman **Stuart McGough** on his recent promotion to Sergeant in the UDR, and finally to **Cpl Andy O'Shea** on his recent selection for promotion to Sergeant.

MT TROOP

Report by 'Sgt John Gillan

First of all we welcome the following newcomers to the highlife of Londonderry: **WO2 Rod Brassington (MTWO), Cpls Jimmy Shaw, George Dodsworth** and wife **Lynn, LCpl Dave Ellitson** and **Dvr 'Stickey' Davenport**.

Secondly we say a sad goodbye to: **WO2 Pete Yates (MTWO), Cpls 'Geordie' Strachan** and wife **Sue, Ken Goodger** and wife **Eve, LCpls Ivan Gibson** and wife **Caroline, 'Brummie' Wainwright** and wife **Lorraine** and **Sig Ken Marshall** and wife **Jenny**.

As you can see the Troop has undergone a drastic change in personnel but is now beginning to settle down after all the farewell parties.

The new MTWO, **WO2 Rod Brassington**, a Port Operator, has already got the Troop practising their knots and splices and learning to tell Port from Starboard. However they have so far refused to wear 'bell-bottoms' and dance the 'Hornpipe'.

Note: It has yet to be confirmed that **Sgt John Gillan**'s nickname has been changed to 'Mr Christian'.

COMMS TROOP

Report by Capt Steve Hunt

For a change, a quiet period for the Troop operationally, the Orange Day parades passed off remarkably quietly for us, not even the deployment of Heli-Tele. The City still produces its surprises. Rumour control in the Troop has decided 'It's too quiet—something's going to happen'. Predictably nothing did, until noise and activity levels had risen to normal, when we had the long overdue IED. No Troop members anywhere near it, so life continues as normal. We had only one visit—from **Brig J. H. Almonds**—after the round of visits reported in the last issue, the demonstration teams welcomed the break.

Brig Almonds being briefed on the intricacies of Heli-Tele by LCpl 'Nobby' Nevill

Brig John Almonds meets the Pioneers of Comms Tp. (*L—R*) LCpl 'Smiler' Smales, Pte Bill Colclough, LCpl Mickey Dawson

Rover Group, most offended by not being allowed over into the city for a short period for operational reasons, were somewhat mollified when they realised that all trips to the city were being made by ferry. They quickly appreciated that whatever mods are introduced it's almost impossible to make a macralon protected landrover float, even if you do drain the radiator and put the doors back on.

The standby team of **LCpl 'Young' Stuart** and **Sig 'Taff' Rees** were just explaining how quiet life had become when they were deployed twice in rapid succession for the same fault. People have been seen shouting '6 UDR' at them and then taking cover.

The Radio Room had continued to work quietly and efficiently, despite the number of nets it holds, until the electrical storm hit the province. **Sig 'Archie' Archibald** handed over to the day shift with the quietly optimistic words 'nothing is working, so I'll just go off to bed'. **LCpl Jeff Richards** turned white, then set to work to restore comms, whilst **Sig Franky Faith** immediately adopted a philosophical pose, reasoning that he had better be the one to maintain the sense of humour by injection of subtle comment when he thought it appropriate. This resulted in the deployment of **Sig 'Rooster' Staff** to the Rebro. When he realised that he may miss purchasing his ticket to the RUC disco he returned, under false pretences, shattering all previously held land speed records.

The Commcen, still in temporary residence awaiting the completion of the rebuild, has also had a remarkably quiet time. A Bn op from 1 QO Hldrs joined them to learn Commcen procedure at the hands of our 'experts'. How successful he will be as a DTg only time can tell. **WPte Jane Crowther** tried improving promotional aspects by going sailing with the OC, but after suffering from hypothermia considers her chances not as good as they might have been. The Commcen personnel have decided to knit themselves a 10ft long scarf to keep them warm on these long summer (is this really summer?) nights and are still trying to keep their coffee stocks away from marauding 233 Techs. **WPte 'Snake' Llewellyn** continues to amuse by her efforts to narrow down the choice of buttons on the T100 that turn the tape on and off. She has however, become very proficient with the use of the backspace key.

SSgt Dennis Rutter is to be congratulated on two counts. Firstly, for organising a highly successful summer ball with his team of helpers and secondly for taking the Squadron Shooting Team to RASAM, of which more later.

We bid adieu to **Cpl Paul Stammers** off to 242 Sig Sqn, **Cpl John Hunt** off to 633 Sig Tp and **Sig Ian Tolley** who has left us to join the RUC. Thanks for all your hard work and hope all goes well in your new units. In the same breath we welcome two new R Pioneers to the Troop, **Cpl Taff Shaw** and **Pte 'Gambo' Gambino**. Welcome also to **Cpl 'Nig' Richards, LCpl Mal Clark** and **Sig 'Jock' Barrie** and **'Geordie' Johnson**. We hope you enjoy your tour.

Finally congratulations to **LCpls Andy Cameron** and **Debby Alcock** on their promotions. To **Cpl 'Nobby' Nevill** on his promotion on posting and to **LCpl 'Scouse' Inman** and **Kathleen** on their engagement.

SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

The Annual Sportsman's Dinner and colours presentation was held in the Waterside Inn on 14 June and was, once again a resounding success. The Comd 8 Bde, **Brig M. I. E. Scott DSO**, presented the colours. The Sportsman of the year cup went to **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson** who has represented the squadron in almost every sport and who holds seven different colours. Well done. The dinner was followed much later by a funny walks and slurred speech competition.

The Comd 8 Inf Bde, Brig M. I. E. Scott, presents the 'Farrimond Cup' to Sig 'Jacko' Jackson for outstanding services to squadron sport

SQUADRON SHOOTING TEAM

Report by SSgt Dennis Rutter

The team, after qualification for CORSAM, arrived at Belfast docks to find the ferry delayed by five hours, forcing them to spend an evening with arch rivals 233 Sig Sqn. Was this an omen? The subsequent late arrval at Bulford on Sunday eliminated any chance of practice prior to the competition scheduled to start on the Monday. Predictably the Whitehead Cup did not see the Squadron off to a good start, but things started to improve in the Association Cup with good scores from **SSgt (YofS) Chris Rogan** and **LCpl 'Nobby' Nevill**. This helped the rifle team to gain in confidence by the Roupell Cup where **Sgt Martin Leighfield** did particularly well.

Our first real success was achieved on the second day of the competition. **LCpl Nevill** shot the highest individual score of 41 in the Moving Target Competition. The team subsequently winning the Team Moving Target Competition. The day ended on a high with good SMG scores from **SSgt Dennis Rutter** and **LCpl 'Smiler' Smales**. The real minor unit competition had now been whittled down to three teams—233 and 201 Sig Sqns and ourselves.

The final day was to prove nail biting stuff and with the arrival of the Section Match only five points separated us from 233 Sig Sqn. Superb shooting by our rifle section and the gun team, recording our 'best yet' score of 208, secured the Royal Signals SAM Minor Units Championship 1985 for us.

We moved to Bisley full of confidence, and although unable to lift any of the honours we continued to improve both team and individual scores to emerge again the top Royal Signals Minor Unit and 13th Minor Unit overall. **YofS Rogan** improved considerably, qualifying to compete in the Roberts Cup and was selected to represent the Corps in the Methuen Cup with **LCpl Nevill** as reserve. Both were then selected to represent the Corps in the National Rifle Association Championships, achieving good results and bringing home more medals.

A good first year for a team that has only been together for four months in a busy operational environment, and our thanks and best wishes go with **LCpl Nevill** on his posting to 249 Sig Sqn.

Royal Signals Minor Units Champions and Moving Target Champions (*L—R*) SSgt (YofS) Chris Rogan, Sgt Martin Leighfield, LCpl 'Nobby' Nevill, SSgt Dennis Rutter (Team Capt), LCpl 'Smiler' Smales

FIFTH ANNUAL DUMFRIES HALF MARATHON

Report by Sgt Cliff Swailes

The team: **Sgt Cliff Swailes (Capt), Sgts Phil Tait, Mick Tucker, Martin Leighfield, LCpls Dick Tredwell, Nick Stapleton, Mick Crean (RAOC), Sig Steve Griffiths, Steve Bickers** and **Pte Dave Cooper RAOC**.

The squadron had never before entered a team for the event so were not too sure what to expect. We departed for Dumfries on 8 June and were accommodated overnight by 1/52 Lowland Volunteers in their TA Centre. Their overpowering hospitality on the Saturday evening nearly put paid to certain members of the team.

Sunday 9 June saw nearly 1100 registered runners line up for the start and the high standard of fitness of the lead runners was reflected in the times of the leading finishers. Nevertheless the individual results of the team compared well, especially as training is very difficult in Londonderry.

The 13.1 mile course was set over undulating countryside which proved quite demanding with one uphill stretch covering some three and a half miles. However the encouragement and support along the route was tremendous. With the race completed our presence was requested at the prize-giving. The team was presented with a special plaque and bottle of Bells Whisky by the organisers to mark our special efforts and for being the only team from Northern Ireland.

Our next problem was the cleaning of 10 sweaty runners, unfortunately all the local facilities had closed so we decided to try the local Police Station. The lads were somewhat nervous as they were led towards the showers which just happened to be in the general direction of the cells.

Sunday night proved to be most enjoyable and the return journey to Londonderry uneventful. Our thanks go to **Capt Ed Martin KOSB** and **Sheila Howat** for the assistance given to us during our stay in Dumfries and of course to the Police for allowing us to use their facilities.

OLD BUSHMILLS 24 HOUR DINGHY RACE

Report by Sgt John Gillan

This year we entered the only Wayfarer in the race, the team comprised: **Maj John Kirby, Mrs Kim Kirby, Capt Mike Savage (29 AEC), Sgts John Gillan, Phil Tait, LCpl Ivan Gibson, Sig Keith Hankinson** and **WPte Jane Crowther**.

As strong winds were forecast it was decided to have a crew of a helmsman plus two. After a slow start the wind picked up and it looked as if our decision was right, however as the day wore on the wind dropped and the lighter boats gained the advantage.

As darkness fell it became impossible to beat against the light wind and outgoing tide so to prevent being carried too far downstream it became necessary to anchor.

Four hours later the wind was strong enough for us to get underway again and the race continued. Our final position was 13th out of 16, nevertheless, consolation prizes of a bottle of Old Bushmills Whiskey, commemorative mugs and a large cake helped us to overcome our disappointment.

The Squadron *Wayfarer* crewed by Maj John Kirby, Mrs Kim Kirby and LCpl Ivan Gibson

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Proceeds from the Squadron Summer Fete
Presentation of £100 to Riding for the Disabled at Lessans Riding Stables, June 85
The cheque was presented by WO2 John Skipper

SUMMER FETE

A record £1,800 was raised at the Summer Fete on Saturday 1 June. The proceeds all went to charity and were divided between the Royal National Lifeboat Institution—Donaghadee Lifeboat Appeal—£800; Royal Signals Association—£700; Lisburn Garrison Cub Scouts—£100 for camp; and Riding for the Disabled—£100.

The photograph shows **Lt Margaret Wilton** and **WO2 John Skipper** making the presentation to riding for the Disabled at Lessans Riding Stables, Saintfield.

The remaining £104 was given to fund the Lisburn Garrison Youth Club's trip to Denmark.

Arena displays included the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, the Lisburn Dog Section and a bomb disposal display by an EOD team. Stalls and side-shows were well patronised, among the most popular being Victor Troop's 'Beer and Bratties', and Tech Troop's raffle which raised over £650, offering a microwave, a home computer and many other prizes accumulated during months of hard work.

Everyone should be congratulated on such a good effort, and excellent results achieved.

. . . and after the fete . . . presentation time
Handover of the £800 cheque to the RNLI for the Donaghadee Lifeboat Appeal
L to R: Lt Margaret Wilton, Mr Wilson Irvine (RNLI), Maj Charles Kemp, Mrs Beth Duffin (RNLI Regional organiser), a staunch supporter of the cause, and WO2 (YofS) Nigel Cox

WHISKY TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Ian Fielder**
YofS	**WO2 Geoff Gibson**
FofS	**SSgt Graham Wood**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Taff Jones**
Te Tech SSgt	**SSgt Iain Haldane**
Ops Sgt	**Sgt Rod Rodriguez**
Librarian	**Sgt Mick Brown**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We have recently said goodbye to **WO2 (FofS) Terry Witts**, and his wife **Val** and daughter. They have moved on to Bonnie Scotland. Also off to the land of vanishing LOA is **LCpl Steve Summers**, his wife **Cathy** and daughter. We wish them all well.

We welcome **SSgt (FofS) Graham Wood**, his wife **Margaret** and children, newly arrived from his Foremans course in Blandford. We would also like to welcome **Sgt Phil Scott** and his wife **Cathy**, **Cpl Darrell Atkinson** and his wife **Julie**, and **Cpl Steve Chiswell** all from BAOR. Also armed with tons of rare money we welcome **Pte Kim Rush** from BAOR and after a quick check of her posting order it was confirmed that she was to serve in the North and not in the South. We hope they all enjoy their stay with us.

SUMMER FETE

Under a blistering sun the troop displayed four stalls in the annual Squadron Fete. 'Beat the Goalie' ably controlled by **SSgt Iain Haldane**, assisted by a gorilla doing an impression of **Sgt Tony Byrne** and **Cpl Rick Allmark**. The old favourite, 'Plate Smashing' stall was its usual success and during the course of the day it involved **Sgts Mick Brown** and **John Payne, LCpl Sue Hilton** and **LCpl Ian McKay**. The usual vandals turned up to have a go, although sometimes requests were made to buy crockery rather than break it. The OC, who cannot be kept away from computers, produced a fortune telling programme which ran on his Sinclair QL to produce a printed character analysis. After many letters appealing to the generosity of the Squadron Pads a successful 'Bottle Stall' was set up, ably controlled by **Sgts Keith Aspin, Dave Piggott, Phil Scott** and **Cpl Sally Alexander**. After a very successful day a special 'Thank You' to all involved, especially the wives and girlfriends of the troop.

COURSES

After the usual juggling of shifts we have managed to get many troop members away on some varied courses. **LCpl Andy Maynard** fancies his chances after a Restraint and Arrest techniques course, while **LCpl Keith Walters** has just completed the Joint Services Sub-Aqua course. **Cpl Phil Raven** is a regular with the Corps Freefall Team the Blue Helmets and **Cpl Mick McKenna** is currently attending the Sub-Aqua Boat Handling course. In addition many troop members have successfully attended promotion courses. All this and skiing yet to come.

PROMOTIONS

We would like to congratulate **Cpl Matt Hughes, LCpls Andy Maynard, Keith Walters** and **LCpl Sue Hilton** on their recent promotion.

COMMCEN TROOP

This comes to you from the members of 'A' SHIFT, and for all our readers we start with the infamous changing chain of command:

Troop Commander	**Capt (Tfc) John Nichols**
Yeoman	**WO1 (YofS) Dave Wright**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Joe McKenzie**
Day Sgt/APVRO	**Sgt Steve Smedley**
DSO A Shift	**Sgt Rickey Sloggett**
DSO B Shift	**Sgt Alec Campbell**
DSO C Shift	**Sgt Gary Quick**
CDA NI	**Sgt Gus Hales**
Switchboard NI	**Sgt Jan Garnett WRAC**
Stats NCO	**LCpl (Still making the tea Lesley) Young**

It has been a busy time and, we welcome back to the fold our beloved Tp SSgt, (**SSgt Joe McKenzie**). We would like to congratulate him on passing his RQMS course, (by the way when did you say you were posted?). Other notable passes on courses lately were **Pte Sally Fawcett** and **Sig Kev Wade** who recently passed their B1 courses; well done.

In the troop we have had a few new arrivals namely, **Ptes Karen Gordon** and **Amanda Jane** along with **Sig Mick Harman, Steve Voyse, Mark Berger**, and **Jaimie Garner**. We say welcome to our illustrious troop and hope you will enjoy your tour.

As always with arrivals we had a few notable departures as well, one in particular was **Cpl George Strachan**, a man (we think) of many talents, **George** is sadly missed on all fronts and we hope his new unit can handle his buoyancy. We also say goodbye to yet another typing phenomenon **Cpl Dave Fowler** who is off on holiday to Norway. Good luck **Dave**.

We move on to the sporting front now and say well done to Sgt **Gary Quick** on getting together a squad to compete and come a disputed joint first in the McKelvie Trophy swimming. This month also sees the commencement of the troop squash ladder and I am sure we will have reports on the injuries in the next issue. Also to be included this month are congratulations to the COMMCEN girls for their supreme efforts in winning the WRAC Sports Trophy. (All this and shifts too—well done girls). We conclude with a report from **Cpl Glynis (Hitler) Ball** and **Sig Kev Wade**.

'A' SHIFT STORMS PORTRUSH

29 June was a cold and rainy day when the members of 'A' Shift decided to brave the elements and set off for the beach and whatever else was available at the seaside resort of Portrush. As we assembled to board the coach it was apparent that some of us were not feeling quite as healthy as we should due to the Garrison Sergeants' Mess Summer Ball the night before. Our leader and mentor namely **Sgt Ricky Sloggett** looked decidely ill as did his family and the two dogs Ziggy and Ben; what a start! But **LCpl Smudge Smith** has agreed to hold on to the bucket and the bosses dad has agreed to go to sleep.

We have now just left camp and are heading over the lovely winding roads which one associates with this country of beauty. About two miles on and we believe we see a ray of sunshine, no it is yet another shower of God's fine fluid so we have all decided to have a crafty sleep. Forty winks later we are in this lovely town of Portrush, where the weather is a little better, so we are heading for the beach. Now complete with buckets and spades it starts to rain again so **Sig Mark Brown** has decided that liquid refreshment is the only solution to the problem so off to the pub he goes with **Pte Jackie Smith, Sig Wayne Coates, LCpls Smudge Smith** and **Jim Knight** in tow, along with the **Sloggett** family, pretending not to be there. Splitting up for a couple of hours we hear that the following damages are in progress, one dodgem, one roller coaster, the burger is now sold out and the candy floss machine is running out at the rate of knots. Having assessed the battle field the DSO has decided its off to wreak havoc, once again, on sunny Lisburn, so out of Portrush singing we go. Entering Lisburn the wierdest thing happened, a bright sun appeared over the coach. We finish with a comment that was heard from the DSO's dad which read—that lot ur mentul (he's scottish). Look out Newcastle it's your turn next!

TECH TROOP

At the moment involved in a number of major system changes, projects Brinton—Cougar, the troop has found time to compete, successfully, for the Winter McKelvie Trophy and have at the moment won the swimming, basketball and badminton towards the summer trophy.

There have been many job related achievements so far this year. Worthy of note must be the collapse and the subsequently quick re-installation of a mast at Mullaghcarn (collapsed Saturday—re-instated by Thursday with mast sections delivered from Denmark). Also the completed HQNI re-wire, well before the planned target date, who said it couldn't be done? (CPD).

Farewell to **SSgt Pete (Stento King) Dyson, Sgt Gerri (VIS) Walters, Sgt Mal (what colour's my nose?) Metcalffe** and **Sgt 'BJ' Johnston** and their families. Welcome to **Sgt Tony Woolaston** and family.

As a final note, if you're bored, why not volunteer to join us: Tech, alias Martini (any where, any place, any time!) troop, with **Capt (TOT) Henry Connor** and **WO2 Doug Rackham**. The men from Delmonte (They always say yes!)

COMMS TROOP

The troop as a whole have had a hectic time the last few weeks, with Summer Camp, and a visit from our Colonel-in-Chief and from the Chief-of-Staff!

A few members of the troop were also engaged in the Welsh 1000, but more of that later. Weren't we lucky to be able to do all these activities and somehow manage to carry out our operational role within the Province?

SUMMER CAMP

It would appear that everyone who participated in the summer camp enjoyed themselves. With special mention to **Lt (I don't need a boat licence) Paul Bailey, LCpl Mick Hazelgrove, Sig Tony Martin** who formed the backbone of the permanent staff. Condolences must be extended to **Sig Steve Brown** who was taken along as the HGV driver but, unfortunately for him, it was discovered that you require a licence to drive an HGV vehicle.

WELSH 1000

This was to be the troop's ultimate achievement for the year, but it did not turn out that way as the weather conditions were not conducive to walking over the Welsh mountains.

LCpl (Gay Boy) George Ferrar made it all the way to the fifth checkpoint but was disqualified because he missed out the fourth.

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LCpl (Taff) Donovan who unfortunately left his breakfast on the side of the mountain, was accompanied by **LCpl Mick Hazelgrove** who managed to reach the third checkpoint before weather conditions forced them to retire.

The last members of the team who were forced to retire after reaching the first checkpoint were **Lt Paul Bailey** and **Sig (Jaws) Alan Taylor**.

Never mind lads, there is always next year.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We would like to welcome into the bosom of the troop, **LCpl Clive Reynolds** and family along with **Cpl Woodie Power** and his family.

We must say goodbye to **Cpl Andy Wilson** and his family who are off to sunny Tidworth, **Sig P. J. Chapple** to Germany, and **Sig Geordie Coggins** to Catterick—good luck to them all in their new units.

WRAC SPORTS TROPHY

The 233 Sig Sqn (NI) WRAC Sports Trophy was initiated in 1983 and awarded to the team scoring the most points after a series of eight sporting events. The competitors were the Switchboard, the COMMCEN and the All Stars, ie everyone else. In 1984 the All Stars were the overall winners, but 1985 brought a new element of skilled competitors in the COMMCEN ably led to victory by **Cpl Jackie Oliver**. All Stars were beaten into second place this time and the Switchboard team was a close third.

The season started with netball, followed by a rigorous orienteering course in Hillsborough Forest, won individually by **LCpl Frith**. Nobody got lost or disqualified, although some competitors took a long time to reach the finish. The QOHldrs played host to the badminton tournament, when **Ptes Karen Freeman** and **Ross Wilkinson** starred—more by effort than natural talent. Squash, hockey and volleyball took us through the Winter months, followed by swimming in May. The swimming competition proved to be fun, particularly with the novelty race at the end with a couple of bats (little canoes!) which insisted on sinking. The last event in the calendar was a Rounders Special, organised by **Cpl Kim Neilson**, not just restricted to WRAC players. The men were quite good, but effective fielding by the girls stopped an onslaught of rounders. And so to the presentation to the COMMCEN—watch out next year, the Switchboard want revenge.

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— News from Headquarters —

Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

THE SUMMER TERM

The Summer term has been remarkable in that, despite the most atrocious weather on record, all events have gone ahead as planned. The following records the more notable ones and some deserve special mention. On a very sad note we have to record the deaths of two stalwarts from the College who will be known to many of our readers:

MR ROBERT ALEXANDER PATON

Bob Paton joined the Army Apprentices' College as a boy in 1957 graduating in 1960. He served as a technician in BAOR and Cyprus before returning to the United Kingdom for a Foreman of Signals Course. He qualified as a Foreman in 1968 and took up a teaching appointment at Harrogate. In 1971 he was posted to SHAPE for three years and 244 Sig Sqn before returning in 1979 to the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate as the WO2 Foreman in charge of the Technical Workshops, a post to be held until 1981 when he retired on completion of his military service and became an IO III in Technician Wing.

Bob died suddenly on 9 May, his funeral service at Stonefall Cemetery was attended by a large gathering of his family and friends. At a packed memorial service held in St Albans Church at the Army Apprentices' College the Chaplain, **The Rev John Blackburn**, paid tribute to **Bob** and his work over the years both as a soldier and a civilian. We in the College extend our deepest sympathy to his wife **Kath** and family.

MR WILLIAM VERNON THOMAS

Vernon Thomas joined the College in September 1954 as an IO III Fitter, he transferred to AAC Carlisle in December 1961 and returned to Harrogate in 1969.

He was a great character, extremely popular with the boys he taught and his colleagues on the staff both civilian and military. A good sportsman, he regularly played cricket and soccer in his younger days before taking up golf.

Vernon died suddenly on 24 April 1985. His death was a great tragedy for all his friends and colleagues at the College and in the town. At the funeral service tributes were paid to **Vernon** by the College Chaplain, **The Rev John Blackburn**, and by **The Rev David Hoskins**. The College extends its deepest sympathy to his wife **Jessie** and his family.

CHANGES

An event that many thought would never occur, **Maj Harry Feber** finally handed over the reins of Adjutant on 20 May. This was no ordinary handover however, as the man affectionately known as **'Harry the Pen'** was retiring after an eight year association with the College. On this, his second tour, he spent six and a half years as Adjutant and the guidance he gave from his desk in College Headquarters will be sorely missed. It is therefore with some regret that the Army Apprentices' College is saying farewell to **Maj Harry Feber** and we wish him and his wife **Joan** all the very best for their retirement in Harrogate. It is hoped that he will continue to frequent the mess at lunchtime on Wednesdays as part of the 'Wednesday Pie Club'.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Adjt, **Capt Steve Jones** and his wife **Marion**, recently arrived from a two year tour with the Australian School of Signals. We welcome **Lt Col Leslie Steane** on taking over the vacant chair of Chief Instructor. We hope that he and his wife **Anne** will have a most enjoyable tour in the College.

GRADUATION DAY

The Graduation Parade was held on 2 August 1985 where the Reviewing Officer was **Lt Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett KCB MC, GOC** South East District. **Gen Howlett** congratulated all those on parade for their excellent turnout and drill in less than ideal weather conditions.

During the parade he presented the LS and GC medal to **Sgt Robinson REME**. The graduating term, together with the many parents and friends who had braved the elements then moved up into the Cinema where **Gen Howlett** presented the prizes.

EDUCATION PRIZES

For the best academic achievement whilst at the College:

Technicians won by **AT D. C. Mudway** Rawson
Telegraphists won by **AT Sgt L. E. Weston** Rawson

BTEC PRIZE

The Business and Technician Education Council Award for the Technician who has made most progress in his BTEC studies:

won by **AT A. J. Boon** Bradley

DIRECTOR OF ARMY EDUCATION PRIZE

For outstanding academic progress whilst at the College:

won jointly by **AT LCpl M. J. Pryme** Rawson
AT LCpl I. C. Noble Penney

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ROYAL SIGNALS CORPS COMMITTEE

For the best Apprentice in each Trade:

Technicians won by **AT D. C. Mudway** Rawson
Telegraphists
Radio Telegraphist Prize won by **AT Cpl C. MacDonald** Scott
Special Telegraphist Prize won by **AT RSM J. E. Sutton** Rawson

RACAL PRIZE

For the Technician with the best performance in Advanced Technology:

won by **AT D. C. Mudway** Rawson

COMMANDANT'S PRIZE

For conduct, discipline and example:

won by **AT RSM J. E. Sutton** Rawson

DIRECTOR OF ARMY TRAINING PRIZE

For the best individual military performance:

jointly won by **AT A. Forbes** Scott
AT RSM J. E. Sutton Rawson

SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S PRIZE

For the best all round tradesman:

won by **AT RSM J. E. Sutton** Rawson

MASTER OF SIGNALS PRIZE

For the best all round Apprentice:

won by **AT RSM J. E. Sutton** Rawson

We thank the graduating term for the support they have given to the College and wish them all the best of good fortune for the future.

INTAKE 85B

Finally, we welcome intake 85B to the College. This is the first intake to have a mix of apprentices and junior leaders. We will all watch with interest to see who emerges to pick up the prizes for best recruits.

NEWS FROM THE SQUADRONS

RAWSON SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Geoff Allen**
2IC	**Capt Bernie Neillings**
OC Rct Tp	**Lt Malcolm Llewellyn**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Matt Matthews**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Phil Clifford**
	Sgt Pete Griffin
	Sgt Fred Tedby
	Sgt Clive Sear
SQMS	**Cpl John Rutland**
Clerk	**Cpl Radar Paterson**
AT RSM	**AT RSM John Sutton**

SUMMER TERM

The Summer term which is traditionally the start of the silly season in the College saw the arrival of **Sgt Clive Sear** and his wife **Chris** on posting from Ouston and we wish them a happy tour in the College.

Standing (L—R): Sgts Griffin, Clifford, Tedby, Sear, Cpl Paterson
Sitting Front Row: Lt Llewellyn, Capt Neillings, Maj Allen, WO2 Matthews

ISLE OF MAN CAMP

Report by AT RSM Sutton

Not even the attempts of **AT Stu 'I can't hack my drink' Bowskill** and his motley crew could dampen the enthusiasm of Rawson Sqn as they waited to depart for the Isle of Man via Heysham. When we finally made it to the port, a hundred or so bleary eyed ATs left our coach and wandered towards the boarding point. Once on board the virgin sailors among the group made it towards the fruit machines to try and win their fortune—while the old hands indulged in a much more pleasant pastime—sleeping. They were scattered amongst the rubbish, death packs and the seats, even on the tables!

The smooth night gave way to a sharp blue morning, and the coast appeared through the mist. We awoke to the surprise of **AT Pat Barnes** gingerly mincing around a bit of local experienced talent. Young! No, denied **Pat** as he looked deeply into her eye, and fed her another Farleys Rusk. Anyway we all enjoyed our stay on the Isle of Man, except **Stu** and **Mick** who had their own break—in the College's own One Star hotel!

The actual training was kept as light as possible with the emphasis on enjoyment rather than qualifications. The activities included rock climbing and abseiling, mine exploration, pony trekking and rowing a replica of a Viking ship. 'Running the Oars' on the Viking ship proved very popular.

In all we were able to spend three days on the Island finishing with a day's R and R in the capital, Douglas, but were out of luck with the weather. It did not hold out and the indoor arcades and amusement parks were well used. The passengers on the ferry trip back were well supplied with the death packs that the shipping company provided, not because there was anything wrong with them, it was just that the lads were sick of the sight of sandwiches and pork pies.

We arrived back at the College about 0200 hrs with only the drivers awake (just).

CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of all the Squadron Permanent Staff and their families we would like to offer our congratulations to the Sqn Comd **Maj Geoff Allen** on his recent selection for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the New Year and we have decided to release what could be a collector's item photograph of himself and his staff.

FOCUS ON BRADLEY SQUADRON

The Champion Squadron Competition was again a very close event with Bradley Sqn finally taking the honours by the closest of margins—congratulations to them.

Report by Lt A. J. Wilson

Jump order or is it shirt sleeve order? The intrepid Harrogate weather has made it difficult to determine whether it is the Spring term or Summer term. The new term however, gives us the opportunity to welcome to the Squadron **Lt Andy Goff**, his wife **Debbie** and **Cpl Simon Coburn** and his wife **Karen**. We also bid a very fond farewell to **Maj Dicky Dyer** who has been affiliated to the Squadron since his arrival in the College.

EXERCISE *BRADLEY BASHER VII*

The second weekend of the new term saw the Squadron on Exercise *Bradley Basher VII* at Warcop. A useful training exercise in which all were involved in a number of different activities ranging from clay pigeon shooting to watching a superb demonstration of how to lay an ambush. The water obstacle and command task provided some light relief from an otherwise busy exercise.

AT Scarr attempting one of the obstacles at Warcop

EXERCISE *FELDOM MOOR*

On 8 June elements of the Squadron departed for Catterick on a helicopter training exercise. After **Sgt John (Bog Rat) Salter** went out to marshal the Chinooks in with a loaf of bread the Squadron departed to initial locations. The night time activities consisted of a mixture of ambushes and patrolling. It was during the latter activity that **AT SSM Ian Robinson** impressed everybody by map reading off a packet of crisps. The highlight of the exercise was the flight back to the College, courtesy of the RAF, which more than made up for the map reading on the exercise.

J. L. Johnston and J. L. Rowan practising the art of flying on the Command Task Area at Catterick

EXERCISE *MUD BATH*

Saturday 15 June found Bradley Sqn on their annual barbecue at Bishop Monkton. Fortunately the weather held and a round of potted sports soon got off the ground with the permanent staff volleyball team taking on all comers.

There was a lull in the activities when **AT Sgt Carl Budding** complete with a pig detector went searching for **Sgt Peter Fitzmaurice**. When he finally tracked him down, he called in the pig disposal team and **Sgt Fitzmaurice** was unceremonially despatched into the river Ure. At this point the CSM, **WO2 Dennis Bowes** disappeared and was later traced to the river bank where he and **AT LCpl Craig Bruce** were drowning maggots. He claimed later that he had caught ever such a large chub but rumour has it that he takes a freezer chest with him on all his fishing trips conveniently stocked with different sized fish which he whips out at opportune moments.

The two Squadron subalterns, **Lt (Beau Geste) Wilson** and **Lt (Task Force) Goff** were later seen to be posing on the volleyball court whilst the OC, **Maj (I'll get my volleyball court even if I do have to move the indoor arena) Rollo Rumford**, was in complete command of the situation and surprised everyone with his abilities on the volleyball court.

KNARESBOROUGH BED RACE

8 June found several members of the Squadron involved in the Knaresborough Bed Race, a charity event to raise money for the people of Knaresborough. Whilst some 20 members of the Squadron were deployed in providing a Radio Safety Net, six members found time to take this year's passenger/incumbent, **Miss Dawn Thompson**, for a ride around the streets of Knaresborough in the Rocket. The day was a great success with some five thousand pounds being raised for charity and the Rocket coming 16th out of a field of 64 beds. Special mention must be made of **Cpl Simon Coburn** and **ATs Peter Connery, Tim Entwistle, Billy Riley, Ronald Clinton, Simon Buckeridge** and **Adrian Bohanna** for their efforts in producing and pushing this year's entry 'The Rocket', not to mention the passenger who is still suffering from a cold, gained when crossing the river Nidd.

The End. After a gruelling race the Rocket emerges from the River Nidd

CHAMPION SQUADRON COMPETITION

The Squadron made a good start to the term's Champion Squadron Competition. In the first competition of the term the Juniors Cross Country, **AT LCpl Ronald Clinton** came first in a new College record time helping the Squadron to clinch first place overall. In the Seniors Cross Country the Squadron ended in second place. **AT SSM 'Robbo' Robinson** led his section around the assault course in the Seniors Assault Course Competition in the fastest time of the day enabling the Squadron to get a very creditable second place. The juniors fared better in this competition and the Squadron took first place. Having suffered from coming only third (after a recount) in the Orienteering Competition the juniors went on to come first in the shooting competition with **AT LCpl Martin Tombs** and **AT Stewart** producing some fine shooting.

PENNEY SQUADRON
SUMMER TERM

Welcome to the Squadron and College, **Maj David Bannister** and his wife **Jenny** (no, **David**, you cannot wear your Red Beret) and to **WO2 (CSM) Mick Knight** and his wife **Amanda**.

The beginning of Summer term saw Penney Sqn vastly changed due to the departure of not only the graduating senior term but also the OC, **Maj Bill Price** and, in an apparent crash move, **CSM Joe Marshall**, on promotion. However, under the temporary guidance of **Capt John Newman** the Squadron steadied itself and started preparing for what was soon to become one of the most closely fought and competitive Inter Squadron Competitions seen at the College.

It was apparent after the first Inter Squadron event, the Cross Country, that it was going to be very difficult to maintain the Red 'Champion Squadron' flag flying on the Penney Sqn flagpole after both juniors and seniors turned in poor performances finishing third and fourth respectively. After an excellent showing in the Orienteering where the Squadron finished in second place, our form slumped again in the Assault Course Race with both seniors and juniors propping up the other Squadrons at the foot of the table. The last event, the Drill competition, saw both **Sgt Peter Rixon** and the new Company Sergeant Major, **CSM Knight**, putting in long hours on the square with both seniors and juniors. The seniors managed to maintain their enviable record by winning again but with the juniors disappointed that they could not match the seniors excellent performance.

On the whole this has been a term of new faces and settling in for the Squadron, a period in which trial and error (although the error seemed more prevalent!) was obvious. Although well beaten in the Champion Squadron Competition we have every confidence for Winter Term 1985 and intend to prove this upon returning from Summer break. Since our last notes we welcome the arrival of 85A Junior Leaders, the first to step over the College threshold. Although it is still early days it is pleasing to report that they have fully integrated into College life and appear to be enjoying their training.

SCOTT SQUADRON
Report by Capt G. Lumley

Day three in the chair as 2IC of Scott Sqn was memorable for one thing in particular. The OC, **Maj Graham Thomas**, casually slipped a paper on my desk and pointed out the list of my duties. His finger rested on item six 'Sqn PR, Gate magazine, *Wire* and local PR—Editor'. So here goes.

I have been asked to dispel some rumours and say that there is NO truth in the following:

That the SQMS has indented for a ball and chain to keep the regimental donkey away from our petunias.

That **OC Bradley** is thinking of attaching hanging baskets to his scaffolding in an attempt to keep up with the Joneses (or the Scotts or Penneys).

That Scott Sqn has finally got a 2IC (if we can persuade people to believe that, then we may be able to keep him for a while).

That **AT Knox-Crichton** has harvested the mushrooms under his bed and sold them to the cookhouse for a handsome profit.

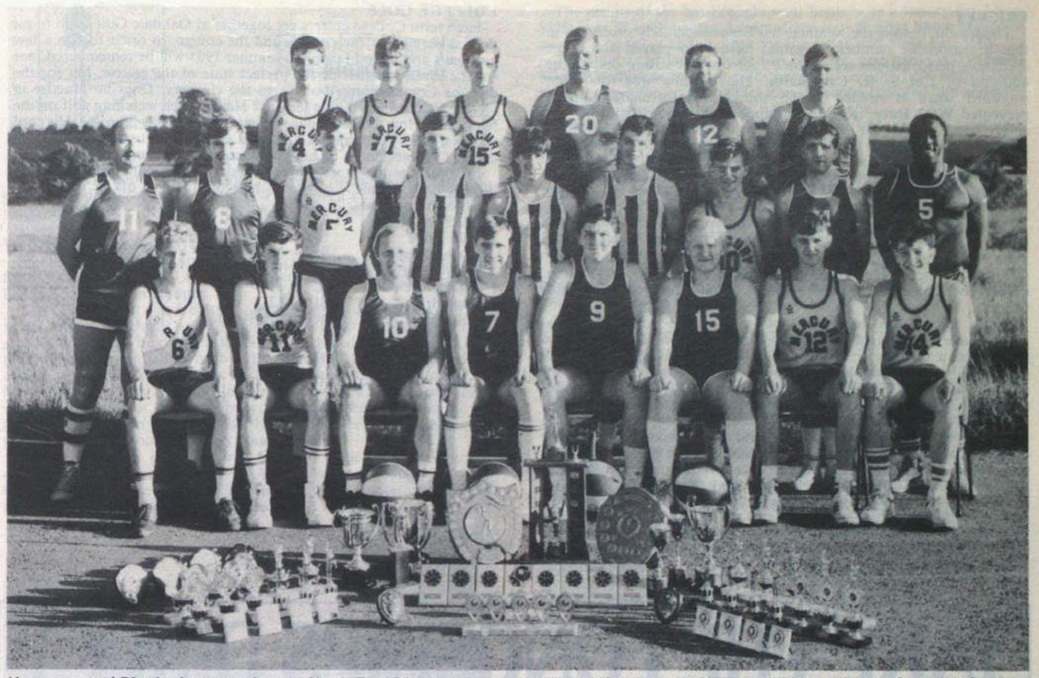
That **Sgt Caffrey** has sold his uniform; but he is open to offers—low mileage one careful owner.

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS
Report by AT LCpl Paul Lumb

Wednesday 8 May was the date for the Inter Squadron Athletics Competition. Scott Sqn having won both junior and senior competitions last year were hoping to make it a double. The programme of events started at 1400 hrs with 400m hurdles (the 3,000m having been run the previous evening). Looking at the results of the field events we didn't have any real success. **AT Taff Treharne** came second in the shot with **AT David Coffey** a close third. **AT John Davies** who had hardly thrown the hammer before, came third with **AT Coffey** in eighth place. We gained a second and a fourth in the long jump and a second in the triple jump. If we were to do well we had to make up a lot of points in the track events. **ATs Christopher Price** and **LCpl Paul Lumb** both won their heats of the 100m. **AT Price** made it a double by winning the 200m and **AT LCpl Andrew Munro** and **AT LCpl Roger Philp** had fine wins in their respective heats of the 110m hurdles. These good performances on the track raised our hopes of winning the competition.

After a great deal of effort from everyone the final result depended upon the last event, 4 × 100m relay. We had to win that to take the cup. The team of **ATs Price, Anthony McTear** and **LCpls Glen King** and **Lumb** knew that they had a hard and tense race ahead of them but rose to the occasion and won the event. This was much to the relief of the PS troop Sgt, **Sgt Brian Black**, who had already bitten his fingers down to the knuckles before the race.

Overall it was a good afternoon's athletics and was much enjoyed by competitors and spectators alike.



Harrogate and District League winners, North East District minor unit winners (Snrs), Army major units Jnrs winners, Catterick Garrison League winners, Catterick Garrison knockout cup winners, Army Snrs minor units runners up, Inter-Apprentice College Triangular games winners

Front Row (L—R): AT Stroud, AT Johnston, Capt R. Tranem RAEC, AT Reeves, AT LCpl Edes, AT LCpl Winter, AT LCpl Penketh
2nd Row (L—R): WO2 (SSM) B. P. Matthews, AT SSM Cowie, AT Cpl Johnstone, AT Lawn, AT LCpl Hankins, AT Prosser, AT Cpl Barr, Sgt D. Wright, Cpl P. Grimes
Back Row (L—R): AT Haycroft, AT Turton, AT Howlett, Sgt F. Tedby, WO2 (SQMS) P. Reeson ACC, Sgt R. Spencer

SPORTS NEWS
BASKETBALL

The College Basketball Squad was promised a long, hard, but enjoyable season by the coach **WO2 (SSM) Matt Matthews**. In all events they rose to the challenge and with the assistance of **Sgt Fred Tedby** and **Sgt Dougie Wright** produced a string of fine results.

In the Harrogate and District League the apprentices overcame their strongest opposition, the Wetherby Wizards, with **AT Mark Reeves** and **AT LCpl Podge Winter** combining well up front to run out winners in the final game of the league.

The North East District Minor Units saw a closely contested game between the College PS and York Station with some excellent basketball being played by both sides with the advantage to each team alternating throughout the game. Eventually a combination of man to man, fast breaks and consistent shooting from **Sgt Fred Tedby** proved too much for the York Station Team and the College PS ran out winners by 71 points to 64.

Down at Shorncliffe in Kent the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion were the hosts for the Army Junior Major and Minor Units Championships with the apprentices competing for the Major Unit Trophy. The competition saw some fine basketball being played at junior level, with the College under pressure for the first time in the season. However, all the hard work in training and the games in the Harrogate and District League paid off with the team dictating the play in the final minutes of two games in particular, their opponents being unable to cope with the shooting and driving of **AT Mark Reeves** and **AT LCpl Podge Winter** in attack and **AT LCpl Scouse Whipp** and **AT Lofty Howlett** in defence, with **AT Paddy Johnstone** controlling the play.

The College eventually ran out Army Junior Champions (Major Unit) with the following results:

AA College Harrogate	62	Army Catering Corps	43
AA College Harrogate	63	Princes Marina College	62
Junior Leader Regt RE	61	AA College Harrogate	62
Infantry Junior Leader Bn	41	AA College Harrogate	69

Aldershot saw the final of the UKLF (Senior Teams) Minor Units Championships being contested by the College PS and the Army School of Physical Training with the latter leading by 11 points at half time. Having only five players with none on the bench as substitute, the previous games were now taking their toll with the game being played at a fast and furious pace. A half-time talk and change of tactics by the coach paid dividends and the College came back into the game to trail by only three points with seven minutes to go and with both teams having problems with four. The ASPT experience and depth on the bench now showed by holding out under pressure from the College to win the game by three baskets. The final score being:

AA College Harrogate	64
Army School of Physical Training	71

The season finally concluded on Thursday 16 May with the College team of apprentices and permanent staff winning both the Catterick Garrison League and Tournament by beating 8 Sig Regt in a game where the College were put under pressure by 8 Sig Regt in the first half but came back strongly to take the second half comfortably. The final score being:

Army Apprentices College	49
8 Sig Regt	34

Graduating this term are **AT SSM Mike Cowie, AT LCpl Sandy Sanderson, AT Lofty Howlett** and **AT LCpl Vince Edes**.

We thank them for their support in the past and wish them every success for the future. Our photograph shows a combination of the winning PS and apprentice team.

CRICKET

The season, despite the weather, has been moderately successful in that a reasonable number of games have been played and some creditable performances seen. The PS XI was not strong despite the addition of **Col S. R. Carr-Smith**. The bowling was too often wayward when it needed to be straight. Unfortunately injury prevented **WO2 Dave Taylor** from appearing regularly and he was sorely missed. With the occasional help of apprentices the College performed creditably in the North Yorkshire Services League. To date they have won five and lost three of the games played. The outstanding innings in this league has been a hard hit century by the Commandant. RAF Church Fenton thought that World War 3 had begun! The team reached the final of the NE District section of the Army Minor Units Competition losing to ASMT Leconfield after having scored 180 for 8 wkts. In the semi-final **Maj George Horne** and **WO2 John Tope** had scored 86 not out and 79 respectively. Regular stalwarts in the side have included **Sgt Taff Thomas, WO2 John (Superclaw) Knell, WO2 Sam Smith** and **Cpls Kev Wilkinson** and **Clarke**.

Junior cricket has been enjoyable and several potential Corps players have been spotted. The highlight of the season came on 18 July when after a thrilling final the College won the Army Junior Cup defeating Junior Leader Regt RE, Dover by 4 wkts with an over to spare. Match winning performances were given by **AT Lamb** who scored 44 and **JL Hill** who made a maiden 50. The side was capably handled by **AT Cole**, a promising off-spinner who can, like wine, only get better with age! **AT Lamb** is a batsman of real promise and should continue to improve. In the Harrogate and District Evening League the juniors played some enjoyable cricket winning more than they lost. The quietly effective coaching of **Maj (Retd) Don Robinson** showed in increasingly effective team performances during the season.

COLLEGE GOLF

Each term College golfers get together at Oakdale Golf Club to pit their skills against each other, and the course, in order to win a few golf balls and the odd trophy. Summer 1985 will be remembered, not for the lovely weather or the perfect state of the course, but for the day the Commandant took us to the cleaners. Does he practise in secret? Has he been taking lessons? Has he been watching golf on the television? How did he manage a Nett 63? Yes 91 – 28 = 63. His card was marked by a Major RAEC and checked by two retired RAEC officers. There has to be another factor not yet considered.

It cannot be the gross score. Could it be his handicap? Ah, now thereby hangs a tale. Let's see if he scores as well off 22 next term.

Other participants:

Richard Hall	77 – 12 = 65
Bill Price	87 – 22 = 65
Pete Shephard	94 – 28 = 66
Gus Vigurs	87 – 19 = 68
Benny Newell	82 – 14 = 68
Jim Briggs	81 – 13 = 68

Congratulations Colonel, well played.

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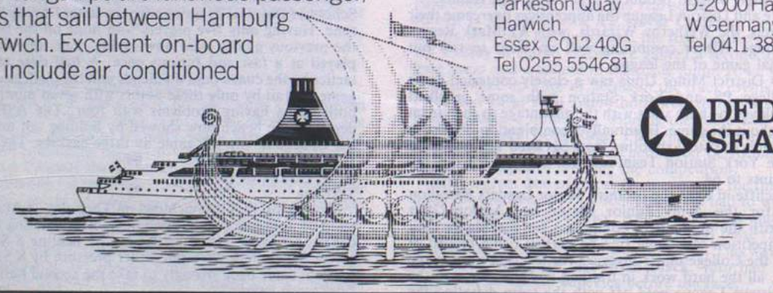

DFDS SEAWAYS

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

The last few months at Blandford have seen considerable activity in sporting and adventurous pursuits. This month's report is a small, representative slice of all that has taken place this summer.

YOUNG OFFICERS' EQUITATION

Number 3 Troop Commanders Course held an excellent end of Course Competition at Leigh Equestrian Centre, Sherborne for the historic Silver Horse Trophy.

The Competition was well supported by the spectators who turned up to witness the thrills and spills and also to partake of the Pimms and sandwiches. The competition which included both dressage and jumping, was eventually won by **2Lt Alan Hill** on Barnaby, a close runner up was **Lt Nick Caleb** on After Eight otherwise known as Minty and third was **2Lt Tim Cooper** on Starsky. **Lt Nick Caleb** also won the rosette, for the most improved rider, probably because he managed to remain on board his horse for once! The prizes were presented to the Course by **Mrs Anne Mulley**.

The presentation of prizes was followed by a team photograph and then a meal at the Fox in Ansty. Well done No 3 Troop Commanders Course for providing such amusing spectator value and the bruises, for those who bit the dust, will soon heal!

Team

Front Row (L—R): Lts Simon Purser, Matt Fensom, 2Lts Tim Cooper, Alan Hill, Lt Andy Walker

Back Row (L—R): Lt Suzy Reed, Lt Andy Allman, Mrs Anne Mulley, 2Lts Greg Horn, Jamie Compston, John Field, Lts Duncan Spencer, Mike Dunne, 2Lts Mike Nott, Mark Billingham, Julian Swindells, Capt Chris Millard, Lt Julia Hands, 2Lt Drew Llewellyn, Lt Nick Caleb

SIX A SIDE HOCKEY COMPETITION
Report by Capt M. Gilyeat

A marked lack of goals in the first two games of the competition left everybody wondering if any match would be decided outright. PWSST relied upon **WO1 (ASM) Brian Darbon** and **WO2 (FofS) Alan Huey** to qualify on penalties whilst the Odds and Sods led by **SSgt Paddy Bovenizer** beat Rad Ex Tp on short corners. They would have scored if **WO2 Dave Hooper** hadn't missed an open goal.

Eventually the goals came, particularly for, **SSgt Mal Linton** of PTT and the Odds and Sods in the guise of **WO2 Dave Hooper**. Also on an obvious winning streak were SHQ 2 Sqn (Trials) ably led by **SSgt (SQMS) Butch Maycock**. Other marked performances came from 51 FofS course (B) team who with determination and aggression made up for lack of skill but were narrowly beaten by PTT 2 Sqn in the quarter finals.

The results of the hard fought semi finals were a victory for 2 Sqn SHQ over 51 FofS course A team. Even though **SSgt Butch Maycock** missed a penalty, and another for the Odds and Sods over PTT.

The final as promised proved to be close, and hard. **WO1 (FofS) Mick Woodhouse** found it extra hard and left the field at half time with a broken finger. **Capt (Tfc) Ron Chisholm** replaced him and with the first touch of the ball was flat on his back.

Two break away goals by **WO2 Dave Hooper** who had been ably supported by **SSgt Ian Bolby** up front for the Odds and Sods resulted in their winning the 1985 competition.

The CI, **Col P. Webb** presented the prizes, but before doing so congratulated the administration staff on a well organised competition. Particular mention should go to, the two umpires **SSgt Eric Tai** of DADPTC and **Cpl Lander** from 1 WFR, **Cpl Pete Mason, LCpl 'Albie' Luke** and **SSgt Ray Willis ACC** for their part in the running and support for the competition.

All three 2 Sqn (Trials) teams would like to apologise to **WO1 (RSM) Ian Cairns** for causing him 'nightmares'. We'll probably see you on the cricket field.

2 SQUADRON (TRIALS) ADVENTUROUS TRAINING
Report by Capt Mike Gilyeat

With the coming of Spring the OC decreed that the Squadron should take part in some Adventure Training. So it was on 22 May OC R Tp, **WO2 Mick Flanagan** and **Sig 'Bugsy' Bugby** set off for Portland Harbour as the advance party and loaded with windsurfers and canoes. They and the first group to arrive noticed that somebody had failed to demand good weather; it wasn't surprising that there was a mad rush for wet suits.

While the windsurfers carried out dry training the volunteers for canoeing familiarised themselves with the canoes and after initial instruction with a view to moving in straight lines it was time to teach the group how to carry out a rescue. This change of emphasis was created by **Sgt Terry Toye** closely followed by **Sgt Rod Fox** (now Mr) capsizing in the calm, cold harbour. Having uprighted this pair of ducks it was time to learn how to avoid capsizing. Some students decided to ignore all instruction. **SSgt Ian Higgerson** adapted the 'slap for support' to a 'slice to capsize' creating great amusement amongst the onlookers. Some and especially the OC and SSM, who having woken up to the outstanding weather, had been well pleased that their commitments had prevented them taking part. At least one or two managed to stay upright, refusing to ripple the water for those windsurfing.

The early stages of instruction
Sig Paul Davis, 'Smudge' Smith, Cpl Andy Winter, LCpl 'Pinky' Pheonix and Sig Paul Waterson trying to reft up

WO1 (FofS) Mick Woodhouse started the day well with an imitation of an out of season water buffalo. All his attempts at mounting the board proved unsuccessful. **Capt (TOT) Peter Davis** soon mastered the delicate manoeuvres whilst **SSgt Mal Linton** at least managed to sail in a straight line. **Cpls 'Maggie' McGrath** and **'Bev' Beverley** eventually got the hang of it whilst **WO1 (YofS) Alan Doane** dared to sail without wearing a wet suit.

Lunchtime marked the departure of Development and PTARMIGAN Trials Troops and heralded the arrival of R Tp accompanied by SHQ. A much more determined bunch, eager to demonstrate their courage and determination and to the disgust of the canoe instructor OC R Tp, difficult to capsize.

To enliven his afternoon he had everybody sit outside their canoes and watched them fall like skittles. **Cpl Andy Winter** must have been on a spring as he was falling off with great regularity. **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** and **Paul Waterson** also found they had a few difficulties outside the canoe. The afternoon finished with a game of canoe polo during which **Sig Paul Davis** continually dived for the ball forgetting

the surface was a bit wet. A remarkable recovery by OC R Tp prevented him taking a ducking despite the efforts of **Sgt Gordon Thursfield** his new Troop Sergeant. Not a nice way to start Sarge!

All was also going well on the windsurfing. **WO2 (YofS) Dave Bartlett** professionally demonstrated the many ways of stepping off the board whilst **Sgt Dave Milne** was all set to go on an ocean cruise. Some of his talent rubbed off on **Sgt Dave Whiting** who also performed well but was too embarrassed to be seen with his own troop—PTT.

Even **LCpl 'Albie' Luke** and **LCpl Al Daniell** (now Cpl) demonstrated competent skills.

At the end of the day, all had thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills, mostly from their mistakes. The organisers thank those who took part for an enjoyable day's entertainment.

Cpl 'Bad Karma' Nuttall 'tacking'

GARRISON CRICKET
'CRICKET FOR ALL'

The Garrison team, known as 'Royal Signals Blandford', played throughout the season in unbeatable fashion, emerging for the first time as Champions of the Salisbury Plain Cricket League. The photograph shows the 11 in the earlier days of the tournament. In all 20 individuals played for the team at some stage. Stalwart members were, **Sgt Mike Dawson** (for consistently good batting), **Sgt Steve O'Dare** (for turning up at every game and taking the odd wicket), **Cpl Don Bascombe** and **SSgt Pete Knight** for sharing the captaincy throughout. **Cpl Andy Phillips, Chris Moye** and **Dai Jones** for their match-winning bowling performances.

The opening batsmen, **Maj Geri Maddren, SSgt (FofS) Dave Gunn, Lt Col Roy Shiner, Sig Paul Goodhand** and **Mr (yes we play civvies) Mike Elliot** ensured the opposition were well exercised in every game. Special mention must go to **Cpl Dave Ryan** who was awarded the 'Scorer's Cap' for his tutelage in the sport, **Sgts Dave Shuttleworth** and **Mick Bahado** for dedication and **Lt Col David Collyer** the Chief of Staff for being on our side (literally!).

Cpl Don Bascombe in addition to his Corps, Garrison and Regimental responsibilities in the sport has also played regularly for the Army this season.

At the time of going to press **Don** has just been selected for the Army XI in the Inter Services matches in August. Army colours, a possibility of selection for the Combined Services Team, a tour of Spain and Hong Kong within the year *and* substantive promotion, and all achieved during his first year at the School of Signals.

While the Royal Signals Blandford Team set the standard for Salisbury Plain units, the Garrison has been running its own internal knockout tournament known quaintly as 'Victorious and Inglorious'. The two magnificent trophies, built by the craftsmen of Training Aids Workshop run by **Maj (TOT) Eddie Holland** are fiercely being competed for by 16 teams in the Blandford Garrison. **Maj John Doody**'s boys have just been eliminated from the competition so 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt can rest assured that delivery and acceptance trials on PTARMIGAN are being resumed.

'Cricket for All' then at Blandford this season, with over 40 matches played to date in major fixtures, internal and external tournaments.

GARRISON ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Report by WO2 (FofS) Mick Flanagan

After overcoming the inevitable run-up problems such as a lack of event venue etc the Championship day 1 May finally arrived and we were blessed with fine sunny weather and the promise of a good day's orienteering in the beautiful Ringwood Forest.

Thanks to the careful planning of **Capt Chris Payne** and **WO2 Mick Flanagan** and the expert stats back-up of **WO2 (QMSI) McQuilkin, WO1 Mick Woodhouse** and **SSgt (SQMS) Butch Maycock** and their teams the event ran smoothly with the minimum of hitches. During the course of the day approximately 170 competitors including serving members, civilian staff, dependants and guest runners took part. All tried their skills on the one hour score event. Inevitably, with the mixed bag of experience of the competitors, results varied from the maximum points achievable to some minus scores. Commendable performances to note were **WO2 (YofS) Dave Bartlett** who on his first try at orienteering managed to find only one control. Notable performances were:

Overall Champion	**Maj Hill**	30 Sig Regt
Champion Lady	**2Lt King WRAC**	30 Sig Regt
First Senior Officer	**Lt Col Backhouse**	30 Sig Regt
First Junior Officer	**Lt Windsor-Brown**	30 Sig Regt
First Warrant Officer	**WO2 (YofS) Palmer**	School of Signals
First JNCO	**Cpl Boyle**	30 Sig Regt
First Soldier	**Sig Wood**	30 Sig Regt

The day ended at 1530 hrs with the Commander School of Signals, **Brig Almonds** congratulating the winners and presenting the prizes.

WO2 (YofS) Palmer on his way to winning the First Warrant Officer's prize

Brig Almonds presenting first prize to the School of Signals ladies team

FAREWELL!

No 3 Troop Commanders Course produced their own version of 'Captain Beaky and his Band' as a farewell gesture to the School of Signals. Those who know the Staff of the Instructional Wing will have little difficulty in recognising **Lt Col Roger Thompson, Maj John Barrett, Capt Mike Dyer** and **Capt Scott Ewing** and not forgetting our SO2 (Infantry) **Maj David Innes-Wilson KOSB.**

COLONEL ROGER AND HIS BAND

The bravest Officers in the land
Are Colonel Roger and his band
That's Hopity Hog, Dotty Dyer
Rupert Bear and Scott the flyer.
They march through 1 Wing holding hands
And sing their songs of better lands.

Once T C 3 an evil course
Arrived at Blandford full of sauce
So Colonel Roger and his band
Decided life should not be grand.

'I've got a plan', said Hopity Hog
'We'll take them for a weekly jog'.
Said Colonel Roger 'Have no fear'
'For I alone will volunteer'.

'No make it me', cried Dotty Dyer
'I want my picture in The Wire*'.*
Said Colonel Roger, 'Stop your wailing'
'You can take the whole Course sailing'.

'Good idea', said Rupert Bear
'And all my lectures will make them flare'
'Then when we've finished HQ siting'
'I'll baffle them with some Service Writing'.

Said Hopity Hog, 'I'll make them wait'
'I'll use their postings as the bait'
'And those that want 233'
'Shall go to 7, just you see'.

Said Colonel Roger, 'The idea's heaven'
'But how will you send them all to 7'
Poor Hopity Hog just scratched his head
'I hadn't thought of that', he said.

Said Scott, 'The rest of us hold back'
'There's only one that they'll attack'.
Cried Hopity Hog, 'I like your plan'
'Good luck', said Scott 'for you're the man'.

So Hopity Hog his eyes a popping
Into HQ Mess went jogging
Colonel Roger waved his hand
Followed by his trusted band
That's Rupert Bear, Dotty Dyer
And above it all was Scott the flyer.

'STOP', cried Roger 'I hear squeaking'
'It's T C 3', said Scott 'they're speaking'
'It's all in code it's rather nifty'
'I think they're using Bid 250'.

'Dot a dash, two short, two long'
'I rather hope I've got it wrong'
'It reads WE'RE GOING FOR A JOG'
'THE COURSE HAVE CAPTURED HOPITY HOG'.

'Quick men', cried Dyer 'No delay'
'We mustn't let them get away'
And leaping off said, 'Follow me'
And ran head first into a tree.

Dot, Dot, Dot, signalled T C 3,
Said Dyer 'It's far too hard for me'
Cried Colonel Roger 'perhaps we're gaining'
'No', said Scott, 'They say it's raining'.

Oh how they ran along the road
For they must find the Course abode,
Guided by old Rupert Bear
'Now go this way'
'No, go there'.

Then T C 3's lair they espied
Was it too late, were they inside.
Cried Rupert Bear, 'I'll be a star'
'And stop them hiding in the bar'.

Then into sight the Course came jogging
Straight past the bar, no sign of stopping
Said Dotty Dyer, 'That's rather odd'
'What have they done with Hopity Hog'.

Cried Colonel Roger, 'Well I never'
'T C 3 are running together'
And as the Course ran out of sight
Off they chased into the night.

At last they found them tired and dizzy
No sign of Hog, they said 'Where is He?'
'He's in the moat', the whole Course cried
'We've got our postings, we're satisfied.

Said Dyer, 'A clever step to take'
'You captured Hog to know your fate'
'That was brave of you', said Scott
'Quite a clever little plot'.

Said Colonel Roger to his men,
'We'll not see T C 3 again'
And as they marched off down the road
They sang in praise of the old Trunk Node.

And all the Course were feeling fine
They opened up some beer and wine
It was Dyer's idea, the clever fella
To open up the messes cellar.

THE BRAVEST OFFICERS IN THE LAND
ARE COLONEL ROGER AND HIS BAND.
THAT'S HOPITY HOG, DOTTY DYER,
RUPERT BEAR AND SCOTT THE FLYER.
THEY MARCH THROUGH I WING HOLDING HANDS
AND SING THEIR SONGS OF BETTER LANDS.

YEOMAN OF SIGNALS COURSE 37A
ADVENTUROUS TRAINING
WALLACE'S RAIDERS

Having spent a mere four weeks on the course (all in the classroom), it was about time we aired our lungs and did some adventure training. The organiser of our little adventure was our resident course Royal Marine **Sgt Bob Wallace**.

On the morning of Saturday 18 May we set off in convoy from Blandford, to our destination 14 miles away, in Poole. We were duly met by a 'chunky' Royal Marine of the Landing Craft Company RM Poole, who led us into their museum and gave us an interesting short talk on the type of craft they use. After a good look around the museum, we were given a quick demonstration on how to put on the strange looking life jackets, which looked more like parachutes, judging by the harness. The general idea from here, was to have a quick spin around the bay and then do our impression of the Normandy Landings on some distant beach, and finally 'tab' back in.

We were quickly introduced to our 'Rigid Raider' boats, which are capable of 30 knots, and off we went. Our two official photographers **Sgts Andy McIver** and **Paul Curley** were having their work cut out trying to take pictures amidst the twisting and turning of the boats.

The speed and ability to turn of these 'Rigid Raiders' was becoming increasingly obvious by the number of white knuckles hanging onto the side. **Sgt Robbie Davies's** face paled in sympathy with his knuckles, but everyone else seemed to be really enjoying themselves. Our Naval representative **CRS Les Taylor** was obviously in his element teaching all the lads the shanty songs. We had an extensive tour at high speed around the bay, only to find that one of the three boats developed engine problems. A quick command decision was taken by the RM NCO, to head back and abort the Normandy Landing, to the complete dismay of the course. We thanked our guide for what was an excellent visit and returned to Blandford.

SHAPE
BFPO 26

UNITED KINGDOM SUPPORT UNIT SHAPE

The Corps members of SHAPE continue to come and go, and recent changes have produced the usual tearing out of hair.

Congratulations on their recent success on the promotion board go to **Cpl John (what's an exercise?) Fisher** who shortly joins 22 Sig Regt. **Cpl Dave (is 39 in Edinburgh?) Clarke** who leaves for 39 Sig Regt (V), and to **Cpl Walt (but I'm posted) Disney** who did join 16 Sig Regt as a Sergeant—we think.

SHAPE Signal Group (SSG) decided to confuse everyone and change its name to Regional Signal Group SHAPE (RSGS). **WO1 (YofS) Taff (or is it Rocky?) Dunbar** now becomes Regional Operations Controller (ROC). This enabled him to move his office behind a secure door where **WO1 (RSM) Mick (Is there a map of Top SHAPE?) Davis** couldn't 'drop in' regarding the Sergeants' Mess Christmas Draw.

In LIVE OAK (Are they with us or are they not?) **WO2 (FofS) Mac (All I want for Christmas is . . .) McDonald** joins us as replacement for **WO2 (FofS) Colin (TV repair) Bachelor** who joins 8 Sig Regt on promotion. Another new arrival is **Cpl Dave (I've been to New Zealand) Crooks** fresh from 30 Sig Regt.

Our most important new arrival was to **Cpl Chris (I've been to New Zealand too) Harvey** and his wife **Karen**, who are experiencing the delights of a first baby.

In ACE COMSEC, temporary detachments are the order of the day for **SSgt Bob (anyone for softball) King, Sgt Brad (I've gone off Venice) Bradley** and **Sgt Andy (I'm a military Training instructor really) Hill**.

On the sporting scene **WO2 Graham (swift but not sure) Campbell** continues to achieve excellent results in marathons and half marathons.

Other mention must be made of **Sgt Tony (I do it in the clouds) Hunt**—Gliding; **LCpl Dave (my car doesn't move) Smith**—Rugby.

Finally no mention of SHAPE can end without mention of the one SHAPE **Sig Charlie (why only me?) Roger** who took up his post in RSGS like an old hand under the guidance of **SSgt Tom (Have a nice day) Dean**. No-one else in the Corps can have so many senior ranks phone him.

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8th Signal Regiment
Catterick Camp
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News from Regiments

Junior Regiment Royal Signals
Ouston

Sadly, by the time you read this The Junior Regiment Royal Signals (26) will have disbanded and our cadre posted from Ouston. These notes therefore are our last and are more comprehensive than usual.

In the last two months the Regiment has been very busy with normal training for our last two troops, Ulster and Rapier, and the never ending chores of closing a Regiment. No member of the cadre dare stand still for a second for fear of being nominated for an essential task, such as becoming a member of an audit board, or the organiser of the last all ranks party. For all that, the disbandment has gone well, the necessary work completed and a sense of humour, though tinged with sadness, maintained.

HISTORY OF THE JUNIOR REGIMENT ROYAL SIGNALS (26)

In 1926 all boy soldiers, as junior soldiers were then called, were formed, into F Company at the Signal Training Centre at Catterick in North Yorkshire. Before this time boys had been trained with adults in the various trade training companies. Following the war, in 1950, the boys left Catterick to form 6 Training Regiment at Beverley and later at Denbury, on the edge of Dartmoor.

In 1967, the Junior Leaders Regiment, as it was then known, was disbanded and the remaining boys moved to Harrogate. The Army Apprentices' College at Harrogate also trained young signalmen as technicians and telegraphists.

1972 saw yet another in a series of moves. In that year a separate Junior Signalman Squadron was formed and it became part of 11 Sig Regt at Catterick. The raising of the school leaving age the following year, resulted in a forecast reduction of the junior intake, and so the Squadron moved back to Harrogate. In 1974, however, the junior intake actually increased and the Squadron moved again to Catterick, where as part of 11 Sig Regt it had a charter strength of 200 junior soldiers.

By March 1975 the revised recruiting forecast indicated an annual junior intake of 1,000 young men, of which half would be junior soldiers as apart from apprentices and bandsmen. It became necessary to form a second Junior Signalman Squadron. Hooge Barracks at Catterick was not large enough to accommodate the projected increase so both Squadrons moved to Albermarle Barracks, Ouston in September 1975.

In September 1980 the two Junior Signalman Squadrons became independent of 11 Sig Regt and reformed as The Junior Regiment Royal Signals, taking the number 26.

Junior soldier training does not cease with our disbandment, as the traditions and spirit of our training will be devolved to 11 Sig Regt and the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate. The training will change though, in that our Juniors completed a 35 week course, whereas the revised Common Military Syllabus reduces the training requirements to a six months course. It has therefore been decided that the juniors over 16½ will go to 11 Sig Regt to do their six months course and those under 16½ will do a year's Junior Leader course at Harrogate.

HADRIAN'S HIKE

On Monday 10 July The Junior Regiment Royal Signals was seen to be 'marking its boundaries' by the energetic, but simple method of walking Hadrian's Wall. Lack of training time and the impending closure of the Regiment prevented us doing the full march from Carlisle to Wallsend, a distance of about 70 miles. Instead, a cross country distance of about 16 miles was chosen, covering some of the best parts of the wall and the wildest areas of Northumberland. As ever, in these wild areas there were some good steep hills to march up and down, which makes one wonder why on earth the Romans bothered to build their defences in such desolate areas. Nevertheless, one cannot but be impressed by the dedication and energy that the Roman Army displayed in the building of such an artefact.

The march was completed in remarkably short time, and was concluded with each individual receiving The Junior Regiment's Hadrian's Hike medal and a cup of tea. It was a tiring but thoroughly enjoyable day and all credit must go to **2Lt John Charnock** for organising the event.

THE BEN HARDWICK FUND

One of our Burnham Lecturers has been running hard for charity, and earning a lot of money for the Ben Hardwick Fund, set up by the TV programme 'That's Life'. He is **David Baldwin**, and his task was to buy a Vickers Volumetric Pump machine for the heart unit at Addenbrookes Hospital Cambridge. He successfully raised the money by completing two half marathons, one in Norfolk and the Great North Run. He declared, after the Norfolk event, that it was the hardest one he has ever run, even though there shouldn't have been any hills.

Well done, **David**. The photograph below shows **David Baldwin** behind the Volumetric Pump machine, with his wife, **Sheila**, on the right, during the presentation.

(Courtesy Cambridge Evening News)

A GIFT TO STAMFORDHAM VILLAGE

The village of Stamfordham, in whose parish Albemarle Barracks resides, must have thought that the war had started all over again on 30 July, as they were invaded by a strong contingent of uniformed members of the Junior Regiment. The occasion, though, was far more peaceful, as it was to present the village with a bench to mark the closing of the Regiment. During the presentation speech **Lt Col Mike Powell** said that not only was the bench to commemorate the end of the Royal Signals presence in Stamfordham but also as a mark of the excellent spirit that was prevalent throughout the Regiment's time in the Parish. The Chairman of the Parish Council, **Councillor Colin Pinder** who accepted the seat on behalf of the Parish, thanked the Commanding Officer and said that he was sure that the seat would be used by a lot of people who would remember the Junior Regiment with happiness.

Lt Col Mike Powell seated with Councillor Colin Pinder at the presentation of the bench

THE FINAL PASS OFF—9 AUGUST 1985

The Regiment's final Pass Off Parade was held in fine weather and provided a colourful occasion for the press and television. The Junior Soldiers of Ulster and Rapier Troop were sad, yet proud, to have the privilege of being the last of our Juniors, and showed their pride in the high standards of the drill and humour.

The parade was concluded with a short ceremony of handing over the keys of Albemarle Barracks to the Junior Infantry Battalion, who start training their first Junior Soldiers in September. We wish them luck in their future in Albemarle Barracks.

Champion Troop (Ulster) marching off

JSgt Lappin paying attention to the SOinC

The command of the barracks passes from the Junior Regiment to the Junior Infantry Battalion

WHITESPEAR TROOP
TROOP NEWS

After a sluggish start to the Champion Troop Competition (coming last in the first three events) bribery proved to be the best means to success and Whitespear Troop made a startling late change to gain second in the March and Shoot event and first in both the Athletics and Drill Competitions—the latter win costing **Sgt Andy Trivett** several drinks in the Mess for the second time in a row. The Troop also did its share on behalf of various charities, raising £175 as a result of a sponsored walk over 23 miles of Cumbrian hillside on a hot June Sunday. The event was the Mallerston Horseshoe and Nine Standards Yomp competition and the Troop entered four 3-man teams. Although the teams had to compete against seniors in the Regular Army event, **JSig Wayne Harland, Neil Chilvers** and **Tony Chalk** finished sixth, closely followed by **Lt Eric Heritage, JCpl Clive Whitehouse** and **JSig Geordie Harrison** in seventh place with both teams ahead of a considerable number of more renowned Regular Army units.

Shortly after the event, having recovered from all the aches and pains, the CO's wife, **Mrs Anne Powell**, presented a cheque for the sum of £135 on behalf of the Troop Yompers to the National Childrens Home at Stelling Hall. The money will be used to help the mainly voluntary-aided Home to provide the much needed resources to properly cater for children with serious disabilities or as is normally the case from broken families.

Despite narrowly missing out on Champion Troop honours, there were still Regimental prizes for Whitespear individuals at the end of the Troop's training. JCpl Bob Mundell was awarded the Military Studies prize for the best student in Communication Skills—mere coincidence his Tp OC was also his Military Studies Instructor—whilst **JSig Gary Teeven** received the Instructional Wing Trophy for being the student who had shown the most significant improvement in all aspects of physical training, **JSig Teeven** also received the Troop's own shield for the Best Junior Signalman in Whitespear Troop (not including JNCO's)—a presentation made many years ago by 7 Sig Regt but there were no prizes for his acceptance speech at the Pre-Pass Off Parade drinks reception with the parents at the Bay Horse Inn the night before the Pass Off Parade: nerves and inexperience slightly won the day!

The March Off in Ouston weather

Whitespear Yompers
Back (L—R): Cpl Trevor Cartledge, JSig Spain, JCpl Whitehouse, JCpl Mundell, JLCpl Ramdehal, JSig Chalk, Lt Eric Heritage
Front (L—R): JLCpl McLaren, JSig Stevens, Chilvers, Harland and Harrison

ULSTER AND RAPIER TROOP BATTLECAMP
Report by JSig Mark Rhodes (Rapier Troop)

The beginning of Battlecamp 85 started several days before the troop actually arrived at Otterburn Training area, with a realistic scenario being set by **Lt Stuart Hodges**. He produced reports of a terrorist organisation and personalities including one Powellski who sounded suspiciously like our CO. As their activities increased so our state of readiness followed suit.

At 0200 hrs on Monday we were woken by our troop cadre and sent to collect our weapons and load ourselves onto the waiting 4 tonners. As we arrived at Otterburn the troops were looking forward to the week ahead, as we had two Close Quarter Battle Ranges, night patrols and a night defence shoot, grenade throwing and many other military activities. Our spirits were somewhat dampened when the fine weather of the early morning turned to heavy rain while we were erecting our bashas.

Yours truly and his basha buddy **JLCpl Jonathan Skillett** built a most effective basha that did not let in a drop of rain, though it looked rather like a marquee. Unfortunately, we soon became the laughing stock of the section as we had built our basha only four feet from an enormous ants nest. The ants used to crawl all over us in our rare resting moments, biting us everywhere, until we looked as though we had chicken pox.

On Tuesday morning we boarded our faithful 4 ton trucks to go to one of the best CQB ranges in Britain. It was the first one that any of us had used, and although we were all apprehensive about using live rounds we thoroughly enjoyed it.

That evening we patrolled through the Yardhope Patrol Range, about which we had heard the most horrific stories. The point man in my section was **JSig O'Brien** who led the way with extreme caution to our first obstacle, a bridge.

Once **JSig Mark O'Brien** had thought out how to tackle the situation he stood up and carelessly strolled across the bridge, but he had a shock when he hit the fourth plank. A sandbag came towards him at the speed of light, hit him and knocked him firmly into the pond! The section never stopped laughing until the patrol had finished.

At last, a scorching hot day arrived to dry our kit and clothing, which did much to boost our morale. During the day we carried out a live section attack and an advance to contact, both of which were very tiring but nevertheless enjoyable. On the Thursday we had a shower run in Otterburn Camp and completed some more live shooting with an Individual Battle Skills Range. That night we were transported to Healy Dodd for a night shoot which everyone enjoyed.

Bright and early Friday morning we boarded the 4 tonners once again and set off to the grenade range. Everyone was quiet and looked nervous and apprehensive about throwing grenades, with the exception of **Cpl Greg Doughty**. He was his normal bright and cheery self, with his humour maintaining the morale of Section 3 high. The grenade throwing turned out to be great fun and we were all disappointed, but safer, not to see the explosions.

At 0300 hrs on Saturday morning the Company was up and about making sure that the webbing did not rattle, in preparation for leaving the patrol base and getting into position for the Company attack, the attack was due at 0410 hrs. As the last two troops of the Regiment we had to use up all the blank ammunition and the pyrotechnics.

At 0410 hrs the gun group opened fire and the attack started. The Company advanced through the rough terrain aiming blanks at the enemy. Some people could not be seen because of the ferns. One of the enemy tried to trip **Cpl Alan Livermore**, who noticed that the enemy had no respirator or webbing on so he chased him around the area with a canister of CS gas.

Eventually the attack was successful, and after the declarations had been made we returned to the patrol base and packed up. The rain started to come down in torrents as we boarded the trusty 4 tonners for the last time. So ended our Battlecamp.

It had been a well organised Battlecamp; **Lt Stuart Hodges** had obviously put a lot of effort into the organisation. It had been a great success and everybody enjoyed it. More important though, we all learned a lot from this very useful exercise.

THE SUNDAY SUN SUPER GIRL COMPETITION

The scene—Saturday morning at Ouston and the Junior Regiment Royal Signals; the weather—cold windy and wet not unusual for this part of the world. Into this scene came 27 gorgeous girls, competitors in the Sunday Sun Super Girl Competition. Suddenly the clouds parted and the sun came out—and Ouston appeared at its best.

The first round in the competition was the intelligence test held in the Military Studies Wing under the close supervision of the SEO **Maj Duncan Bell**. This was conducted with absolute fairness—the SEO trying to pick the winner whilst the girls attempted to answer 115 general knowledge questions in one hour. The girls went on to do a one mile run and the assault course, to neither of which did they look forward.

LCpl Geordie McDine being rather Macho with a bevy of beauties

On the Monday the Officers and Sergeants' Mess were invited to see the finale of the Competition at a night club in Newcastle, the CO being on the panel of judges. If the truth were known we were there to guard the 'moral integrity' of the CO! We were well entertained and saw the CO present the prize to the winner, a teacher of handicapped children, with the first prize a holiday for two in USA.

For the young members a night out—for the elderly officers a flash of feeling young as the finalists paraded, were questioned and judged. Then return to reality and a wet and windy night in Ouston.

LCpl Ian Roberts handling the goods with care

OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS FAREWELL DINNER

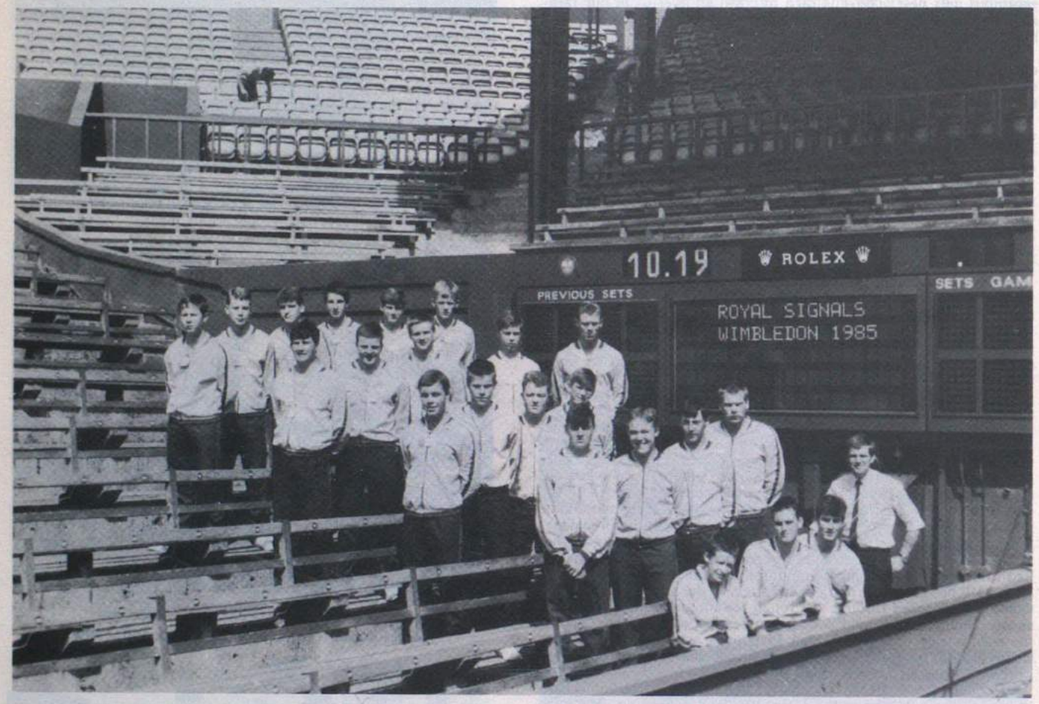
To mark the closure of the Regiment the Officers and Sergeants arranged a final dinner with wives, which the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir**, kindly agreed to hold in the WOs and Sergeants' Mess. Thus, on Saturday 20 July at 2000 hrs the whole Regimental heirarchy was foregathered to enjoy the last combined function. And what a function. The culinary masterpieces were rushed from the kitchen under the supervision of **WO2 (QMSI) Ken Mackenzie ACC**, who was thoroughly enjoying his meal with the rest of the two messes!

The dinner also marked the end of army service for **Sgt Eddy Bell**, the Provost Sergeant, who was presented with a multitude of gifts. Indeed, he and his young lady, **Brenda Knox**, are reported to remember little of the festivities, and may require photographic evidence that they were there. The Regiment wish you **Sgt Eddy Bell** all the best in the future as a prison officer. (I wonder how many of us he will offer accommodation to in the future?)

Aside from the presentation to **Sgt Bell**, there were speeches from the CO, **Lt Col Mike Powell**, the Adjt, **Capt John Steed** and the RSM. The evening ended with a Disco that went on into the early hours of the morning.

THE OFFICERS' MESS LAST DINING OUT

There is to be no report on this particular evening in order that the innocent may remain anonymous. Circumstantial evidence was felt to be relevant.



WIMBLEDON 1985

When asked by the CO what he was doing between 20 June and 7 July this year, **Lt Neil Couch** mumbled something about exercises and courses but, fortunately for him, he was a little slow when asked for more details. He almost succeeded in talking himself out of one of the most enjoyable fortnights of his career, but managed to catch on just in time when the Colonel mentioned 'Wimbledon'.

Lt Neil Couch and **Cpl Jeff Dean** took a party of 22 soldiers from the Junior Regiment and 11 Sig Regt to provide the court coverers for the All England Lawn Tennis Championships 1985. The lads worked on courts numbers one, two and three and, therefore, managed to see some of the best tennis played. Nobody who saw the torrential downpours of this year can say they had an easy time.

On the second Friday of the tournament, during a bright sunny afternoon, the boys wandered through the crowds enjoying the atmosphere and impressing the assembled ladies with their 'of course we work here' lines when suddenly the cry of 'it's raining in Chelsea' went up. Within 90 seconds the players, officials (some still sat in their 'high chairs') and court furniture had been removed and the covers were on. After another two minutes the heavens had opened and some places were waist deep in water. As the boys paddled out to attend to the covers one young lady decided to make her name by swimming through the tunnel entrance to Centre Court, and was caught by the Press to produce the now famous front page photograph. Despite floodings and drenchings there was great good humour amongst both spectators and officials. Thanks to quick action by the court coverers play was able to resume within an hour, for which all concerned were very grateful.

The sight of the Royal Signals soldiers in their Corps tracksuits pulling out the rain covers became as much a part of the entertainment as the players! The Corps PR effort thus received a considerable boost and all agreed that they had done a good job. This is a commitment the All England Club would like Training Group to continue next year and **Lt Col E. M. Powell**, in his future appointment as CO 11 Sig Regt, hopes to be able to meet. The lads all agreed it was a marvellous fortnight and would like to go again. **Lt Couch** and **Cpl Dean** (now looking like a fugitive from a sports shop!) have decided to resign and become full time ball boys!

Emma Meyer (nee Alden) and Capt David Meyer toasting their marriage

WEDDING

On Saturday 27 July a major Officers' Mess reunion took place to celebrate the marriage of **Miss Emma Alden**, daughter of 2IC **Maj Mike Alden**, to **Capt David Meyer**, lately of the Regiment. The wedding took place at St Mary the Virgin's Church, Ovingham and was followed by a reception in the Officers' Mess.

Uncharacteristically, the Northumbrian weather was very kind and the rain held off. The reception was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the evening's celebrations carried on long into the next day!

Capt David Mayer and **Emma** left for a honeymoon in Morocco before they return to Germany to begin their married life together in Munster where **David** is currently commanding 604 Sig Tp. The Junior Regiment wishes you both all the very best for your future happiness together, and we'll all stop by to see you on our way through BAOR!

ALL RANKS FAREWELL PARTY

On the evening of 31 July all ranks and civilian staff of the Regiment convened in the NAAFI for a final farewell party. The Specialist Catering Officer, **Capt Alan Clacher ACC**, aided by **QMSI Ken MacKenzie ACC**, and their staff provided their usual spectacular standard of buffet. The CO presented Regimental plaques to **Mrs Viv Yates** (the NAAFI Manageress), **Sister Carol Aitkenhead** and **Miss Pamela Riddell** (WRVS) as a thank you for their work on behalf of the Regiment.

Mrs Yates provided some excellent professional entertainment in the form of the Linda Layton Roadshow which, with the aid of considerable amplification, just succeeded in overcoming the competition from the combined efforts of the Rapier and Ulster Troop choirs.

As an interlude, to give the professionals a well deserved rest, each Troop and Department produced a short sketch. The RSM, **WO1 Tom Muir**, was quite surprised to find **Sgt Keith 'Eammon Andrews' Fisher ACC** there to present the latest edition of 'This is your Life' in which his dog Trooper played a starring role.

All agreed the evening had been a great success and the Troop choral competition was declared a draw.

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FAREWELL VISIT OF CGS

On Tuesday 2 July the CGS, **Gen Sir John Stanier GCB MBE ADC** made his farewell visit to HQ 2 Infantry Division. The programme included an inspection of various parts of the regiment. He was escorted by the CO **Lt Col Mike Taylor MBE**. The CGS also inspected a main staff complex provided by 1 Sqn and 49 Inf Bde Sig Tp.

The CGS meets Capt Bill Olive, also in the picture are the GOC, Gen Peter Inge and CO, Lt Col Mike Taylor

Confusion Reigns!, but the RSM, WO1 Bill White manages a smile for the camera. (He wasn't canoeing on this particular occasion!)

The CGS talks to members of the Sig Regt

OC 49 Bde Sig Tp, Capt Johnny Rollins meets the CGS, SSgt Larry Little awaits his turn

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER COMMANDING OFFICERS

On 5 July we bade farewell to **Lt Col Mike Taylor MBE** on posting to a more sedentary role in HQ UKLF, and welcomed our new CO **Lt Col Hugh Elford MBE** and his wife **Irene**, fresh from the School of Signals.

To mark the occasion **Lt Col Mike Taylor** addressed the regiment which he had brought back from BAOR to York, before being driven out of Imphal Barracks in a horse drawn carriage. We wish **Lt Col Taylor** and his wife **Mary** every success at Wilton and thank them for their magnificent efforts on behalf of the regiment.

Lt Col Mike Taylor at his Dining Out in the Sergeants' Mess. 'Yeoman, is the shot in or out?'

The CO and RSM chat away as SSM 1 Sqn WO2 Robbie Burnett gets his priorities right!

HQ SQUADRON

Headquarters Squadron are really setting the pace in the regiment at the moment and what a record breaking few months we have had! Firstly, the OC **Maj Peter Mitchell** has been with us for six months now, our longest surviving OC. Is it the pipe or the fact that he is a Sapper that keeps him going? Our warmest congratulations go to our SSM, **WO2 Dave Skinner** on being awarded the MBE in the recent Birthday Honours list. We all know that he has earned it in a thousand different ways and we are very proud of him. The award was announced in the 'wee' small hours as members of the Sergeant's Mess gathered to dine out the CO, **Lt Col M. G. Taylor MBE**. As expected it was a hectic night and the SSM took the announcement to be just another of the evening's practical jokes. It was not until the RSM actually pinned the miniature on to his mess kit that the news sank in. The story goes that he then rushed to the phone to ring his wife . . . (the next few lines should be read in a Welsh accent) . . . ring, ring, ring . . . 'What are you doing waking me up at this time in the morning?' 'Darling I've just been awarded the MBE' 'What's that?' **SSM Skinner** had received the LS & GC the week before, two awards in less than two weeks must be a record. SSM and **Jan**, we are delighted for you both.

On the sports field we have taken on all comers and won! Inter squadron athletics, football, cross country and, even as I sit typing this, our valiant teams battle on in the inter troop basketball competition. May the best team win (as long as they are in HQ Sqn!). The inter squadron football was a real nail biter, by full time the scores were even and going into extra time first 2 Sqn and then HQ Sqn would score leaving the teams neck and neck at the end of extra time. The decision was to be made on penalties and we stood breathless as the teams prepared to kick their way to victory. After some excellent goals the match depended on the final kick from the Adjutant, **Capt Steve Johns**. Pleas and threats were made and the crowd fell silent. The ball sped towards the net, for a few seconds it looked as if the goalie had stopped it but then it trickled over the line. Victory for Headquarters Squadron but what a game.

1 SQUADRON
SUMMER CAMP
Report by Lt Ardagh-Walter

'Hm!' thought **Capt Colin Whittaker**, OC F Tp, as he was watching the TV Series 'Behind the Lines'; 'That looks fun! I'll set up something like it for the Squadron . . . Yes, and I'll call it 'Summer Camp'—that sounds harmless, doesn't it?'.

So our Summer Camp was conceived—a week in the Lake District designed to mould the Squadron into shape (I don't know which one) for its role on Ex *Brave Defender*. Camp was pitched in a beautiful and rural setting above Coniston Water—so beautiful and rural, in fact, that hundreds of woolly bleating animals shared the site, and in some cases the tents, with us.

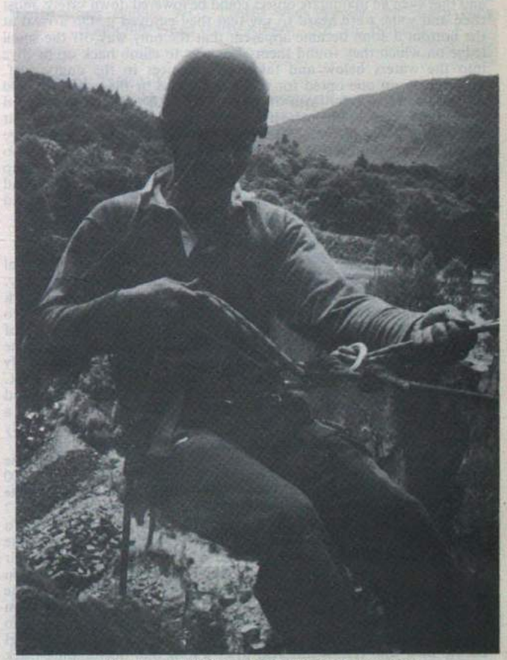
A programme of climbing, windsurfing, canoeing, orienteering, hillwalking and monsoon acclimatisation was arranged to entertain everybody! **Sgt Dave Meggitt** and **Cpl 'Doc' Ash** caused not a few palpitating hearts on the climbing and abseiling; windsurfing and canoeing took place every day, and **SSgt Dave Cloake** (an experienced windsurfer) demonstrated his skill at amphibious operations by walking his board a full half mile along the shore after beaching in the wrong place. **Dave** wins a Silva compass and the 'Mary Rose' sailing prize. Orienteering proved a popular pastime (as can be imagined), along with the inevitable command tasks: the officers, SSM and SNCOs would like to thank all who, blindfolded, followed a rope through some woods and a river for a splendid morning's entertainment. **Lt Alison Mann WRAC** and **Cpl Ian Johnstone** led the hillwalking, which proved a real test of physical stamina.

The monsoon acclimatisation was a spontaneous activity and took place during the whole of the last 48 hours. It reduced every tent floor to a sea of mud, and tent roofs to temporary reservoirs. A damp end to an otherwise very successful camp.

2 SQUADRON
SUMMER CAMP

At 1000 hrs on Friday 12 July the main body of 2 Sqn departed from Imphal Barracks aboard a 57 seater coach, destined for Fremington Training Camp in North Devon to take part in the annual summer camp. The officers on the bus soon became exasperated by the strange tropical bird noises which apeared to be emanating from somewhere near the middle of the bus. It was some days before it was revealed that the noises were aimed at a certain junior NCO who had on some past military exercise used a variety of such noises as signals between members of his section. The thought immediately sprang to mind that it must be difficult to emulate a tropical bird when you have to work with turkeys!

A dangerous moment: Sig 'JC' Connolly does his aerobics at 1,500ft



Sig 'Fangs' Skipp descends over the edge

After a not too arduous run and breakfast on Saturday, the activities for the camp got underway, the major ones being climbing, surf canoeing, trekking, board sailing and dinghy sailing. There were inevitable problems on the first day.

When the sailing contingent arrived at the estuary at Instow, they discovered just how low low tide was, the water being so far out that it was difficult to see it. Undeterred, the masts were detached from the Boards, mast feet buried in the sand and a line of soldiers hung in classic pose from full sails trying to understand why their instructors were not so optimistic about how they would manage when actually on the water. Eventually the tide came in some way and after a great deal of carrying, the boards were placed on the water. The, by now, confident soldiers climbed on and very soon learned how to fall off. Most had perfected the art of falling off long before they had the exhilarating experience of actually sailing along, an experience which was almost invariably terminated by . . . falling off.

The trekking was, on the face of it, an activity at which very little could go wrong. The plan was beautifully simple, they would be taken to the start of the walk by truck and then walk until mid-day when they would stop at a pub for lunch before setting off on the second half of the walk in the afternoon. On reaching the finish point they would RV with the truck for their return journey to camp. All went well until the light refreshment at the pub had been taken and there was still no sign of the solid rations which should have been delivered at the pub. Keeping cool they decided to take more light refreshment and wait a little longer. If only they had known that **Capt Bill Olive** and **Sgt Brian (PQ) Rice** who were bringing their rations had broken down en route and were not going to make it to the pub, they may not have stayed until closing time! During a rather difficult walk in the afternoon, especially on empty stomachs, the trekkers learned that whatever they had drunk at their mid-day break had refreshed the parts that all beers reach!

The climbing party felt tricked by their instructors, Yeoman **Steve Rose** and **Cpl 'Doc' Ash**. The first activity was an abseil down a cliff face, which, once they had been persuaded that they were quite safe and that even an inanimate object could be lowered down safely, most tried and some were heard to say that they enjoyed it. On arrival at the bottom it soon became apparent that the only way off the small ledge on which they found themselves was to climb back up or dive into the waters below and take their chances in the angry surf. Fortunately no one opted for the latter course or these notes would possibly be taking the form of an obituary. All eventually managed the ascent and those men who had not the courage to make the descent in the first place (or the foresight to realise the implications) were made to eat humble pie when **Pte Alex Alexander WRAC**, who discovered she was wearing totally unsuitable footwear, climbed up bare foot. The camp lasted for a week during which time everyone had a chance to try all activities and on Saturday 20 July the Squadron and instructors returned to York for a well earned rest.

ATHLETICS

Since the R Signals UK Team Championships, when the regimental team came second to 30 Sig Regt, the team has improved dramatically. This had been partly due to the arrival of two army athletes, **Sig Mark Vile** and **Wayne Taylor**; however, success is largely attributable to two months hard work by all members of the team. After a series of successful local sharpening competitions, and having won the Northern Area Championship, the team beat 30 Sig Regt comfortably at the army Zone B championship, finishing second behind 1 WFR. This qualified us for the army finals at Aldershot where we reversed the Zone result by beating 1 WFR convincingly. The team finished a creditable sixth just behind 7 Sig Regt. Having begun training only two and a half months earlier this result augurs well for next year.

Throughout the season the team has, however, dominated the middle distance events at every meeting. **Sig Mark Vile** won the 5000 metres at Aldershot by a clear 200 metres while he and **LCpl Pete Freeman** share the Carrington Cup 1500 metre team trophy with 7 RHA. **LCpl Tim Royle**, fresh from his Falklands tour, ran a courageous 5000 metres to win his string. The younger members of the team, most in their first full season, although not winning, held their own against army-level opposition. These included **Sig Vince Key** in the 400 metres and **LCpl Keith Milnes** and **Sig Eddie Edwards** in the 400 metres hurdles. It is due to their efforts and all other team members who achieved minor placings that the regiment has done so well. A mainstay of the team throughout the season has been **Sgt Dickie Bird** who retires this year after a long and outstanding track and field career which has taken him to the top of army athletics. We look forward to benefiting from his coaching skills next year.

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING —
Report by: Lt A. G. Brand

The Regimental Shooting team had a very good year, building on last year's efforts at Bisley. The team started training in January under the supervision of **Cpl Mick Hellewell**, and later **Cpl Don Ward**. The first competition of the year was the North East District Skill-At-Arms Meeting, where, although we did not take any of the major prizes, we achieved our aim by qualifying for Bisley. The next event was the Royal Signals Skill-At-Arms meeting at Bulford. The team performed above all expectations by achieving third place. We had the distinction of being the only team to beat the Queen's Gurkha Signals in any of the rifle matches, thus preventing a 'Gurkha Whitewash'. The team reached the final of the Falling Plate Competition by eliminating the Queen's Gurkha Signals, only to be beaten by 4th Division.

The Team for the Royal Signals SAM *Back Row (L—R):* Pte Eglinton, Sig Lole, WO2 Ashburner, Lt Brand, LCpl Pattison, Cpl Smith, LCpl Allen *Kneeling (L—R):* LCpl Shane, Cpl Johnston

LCpl Taff Shane won the B Class stage of the Rifle Match, and **Cpl Jimmy Johnston** won a medal for the best A Class rifle shot. **Lt Brand** won the best B Class Pistol shot.

Having performed well at Bulford, the team went to Bisley and with the sun blazing down, put up a creditable performance. Special mention must go to **LCpl Rob Allen** who was selected for the Corps team. The Shooting team would like to thank **Cpl Crutchley** for all his administrative support during the season.

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210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn Catterick

PERSONALITIES

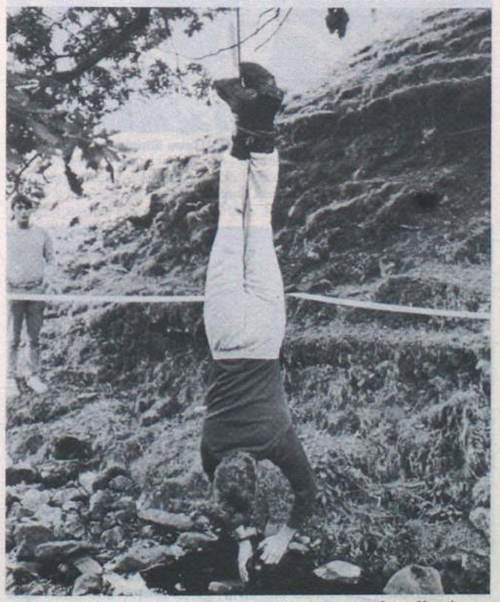
OC	**Maj Tony Elford**
2IC	**Capt Nick Blampied**
OC HQ Tp	**Capt Henry Jennings**
OC O Tp	**Lt Gary Mason**
OC P Tp	**SSgt Gerry Knight**
SSM	**WO2 George Hedge**
YofS	**WO2 Mick Taylor**
FofS	**SSgt Chris Wilkie**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Cambell**
Ch Clk	**Sgt John O'Donnell**

SUMMER CAMP 85

Summer Camp again and 210 descended on Morecambe bay with all the paraphernalia needed for two weeks of sun and fun. Due to an oversight on the part of our organisers an indent for the sun was not submitted to the correct department; waterproofs were the order of the day for much of the time.

During the first week the activities were numerous and varied. **Sgts Mick Rees** and **Neil Wadey** led pot-holing expeditions. Any hole that would accept these troglodyte's ample girths would surely take the rest of the Squadron marching in line. **Lt Gary Mason** and **Sgt Tom Burns** looked after the ups and downs of rock climbing and abseiling; vertigo is now a thing of the past in the Squadron. Canoeing, board sailing and falling in the water was catered for by **WO1 Tony Worthington ACC** and **Sgt Fred Barnes RE**, who joined us from Regional Catering Group York and 51 Engr Sqn respectively, for the first week. An interest in the cavalry roots of the Corps was awakened with horse riding across the bay; the results, however, were more like a spaghetti western than Horse Guards Parade!

In between these interesting pursuits the Squadron managed to fit in a few military activities such as the OC's Cross Country Fun (?) Run (won by Papa Troop) and the 'Pot Shot' shooting competition (won by HQ Troop). Success in the shooting gave HQ Troop the Pot Shot Trophy for the third year running, brain again beats brawn.



The OC has some novel ideas on punishment for offenders

CUMBRIAN WALKABOUT

Week two of summer camp was taken up with a navigation exercise and skill competitions. Under the watchful eyes of the DS the Squadron was split into teams of four and set off to find their way between dead letter boxes, pubs, and DS check points. The tasks included a stretcher race with **Sgt Robbo Robinson** as the unwilling casualty. Abseiling down a disused quarry allowed the teams to put their new found skills to the test, Ribble Head viaduct was proposed as a venue for the abseiling but the trains tended to get in the way. A river crossing over the Lune with the aid of leaky raft plus several problems involving trees and ropes were also put to the teams to test their ingenuity. Everyone succeeded in crossing the river with nothing worse than wet feet except **LCpl Jock Tierney** who fell off the raft and demonstrated his ability to breath under water. The winning team consisted of **Cpl Frank Jolley**, **LCpls Steve Brammer, Jock Tierney**, and **Sig Cliff Clifford**—a long weekend was their well deserved prize.

The DS rough it during week two (*L—R*) SSM George Hedge, SSgt (FofS) Chris Wilkie, WO2 (YofS) Mick Taylor, 2IC Capt Nick Blampied, SSgt Gerry Knight, Sgt Stu Rickard

POSER OF THE WEEK

SSgt Gerry Knight formed a close association with the wet suit he wore while doing DS for the river crossing, rumour has it that he even slept in the wet suit and that it had to be cut from his back at the end of camp. **Gerry** was awarded Poser of the week.

Intrepid aquanauts brave the raging Lune

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Since the last *Wire* issue the following people have joined the Squadron. **Sgt Tony Heaton** and **Carol** who have come from the warmth and wine of Cyprus to the rain and beer of Catterick. **Cpl Steve Beverly** has joined us from Tidworth, **LCpl Taff Mallaney** from 39 Bde, **LCpl Geoff Crossley** from 11 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Tarzan' Smith** from 8 Sig Regt, **Sig Trev Ellis** from York, **Pat Kenny** from 549 RLD, and **Paddy Brown** from 8 Bde.

Departures are **Sig Maddo Maddison** to 4 Div Sig Regt, **Sig Biff Bailey** to 3 Div Sig Regt, **Cpl (now Sgt) Les Brown** to 563 RLD. **SSgt Chris Wilkie** and **Anne**, after many years in Catterick, go to the fresh fields of 7 Sig Regt.

The last word must go to **Capt Henry Jennings** (he usually gets the last word in). After 37 years in the service **Henry** and his wife **Jan** are to become Mr and Mrs. There can be few people in the Corps who have not crossed paths, and sometimes swords, with **Henry**. He is a formidable fisherman and in his younger days was the scourge of basketball and volleyball courts; **Henry**'s experiences and stories would fill several books, these few words cannot do justice to a man of his calibre. We all wish you well for the future and many happy uninterrupted hours of fishing.

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

1 SQUADRON
VOGELSANG 85

After months of planning, all crammed into the last three days, we somehow arrived at Vogelsang for the social event of the year. Canvas apartments, dining rooms with a breathtaking view of the forest and of course, the rain, all made for an interesting battle camp for the 'First' Squadron.

A quote from one young soldier who shall remain nameless, mainly because I've forgotten his name, 'why sleep in a barrack block with washing and cooking facilities when we can live under canvas and transport half our G1098 across Europe'!

The first week involved mandatory training, rangework and a section competition. The competition itself consisted of a river crossing, SLR assault course, night navigation, command task, stretcher race and an entertainment sketch. The highlight of this phase must have been the barbecue and entertainment. **LCpl Stan 'mine's a herfy' Haynes** compered the show superbly, whilst the impartial jury of the OC, **SSM 'I'll vote the same as the OC' Lumb** and **Lt 'where's the bar' Adam**, provided a few unexpected laughs of their own.

Sunday morning raised its ugly, thick head (no comment) and we moved on to phase two, a Regimental Assault Boat Race, which we won, and a Squadron exercise, *Diggers Delight*. By the end of this phase **Cpl 'my name's Dave, but you can call me Corporal' Cross** had emerged as the victorious section commander.

The Camp ended with a Regimental exercise in which 1 Sqn had a chance to operate in a battalion role, which was probably a first for many people.

Many PXR points have emerged from the two weeks, and in conclusion it has been decided to include in next year's programme two new events; the Inter Section Ankle Breaking Run and the Landrover Tyre Bursting contest. Finally, the OC **Capt 'Flipper' Evans** has flatly refused to provide next year's under water entertainment.

Stop Press: It has been confirmed that **'Flipper'** and his mate are to introduce a little fish into the world in about seven months time. Congrats from all at marine land.

Sgt 'Rambo' Keith can now be found crawling through the undergrowth in UK. Good luck on the new posting.

SUPERSTARS 85

On 16/17 May, Korbecke staged the 3 Div round of the BAOR Superstars Competition. **Lt Tony Rock** was the sole representative from the Regiment in what was a gruelling two days. After canoeing, biathlon, gym test, cycling, football skills and assault course our 'superstar' found himself in a creditable fourth place. Unfortunately only the top three qualified for the BAOR event at Lippspringe. It seems that the football skills were his downfall. After managing only one goal from three attempts he had to settle for fifth place and only one point (disaster). Mind you, many have said his footballing days finished years ago. Rumour has it he has now retired from football to take up Nordic skiing (there's more time away from work). To his credit he cycled faster than anyone else and recorded most points in two of the four gym tests. Perhaps 1986 will be his year!

There is no truth in the rumour that Lt Tony Rock is shortly leaving the Army to work for a reputable Cross Channel Ferry Company!

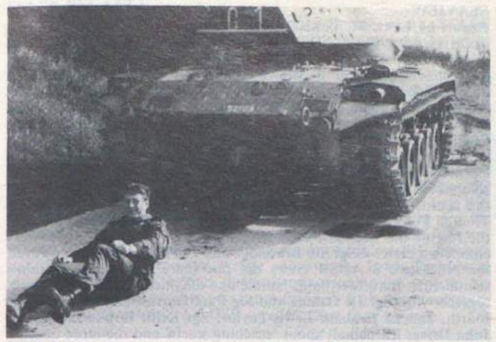
2 SQUADRON
BATTLE CAMP—FROM EIFEL TO EIFEL

June and July were busy yet enjoyable months for 2 Sqn when they turned their renowned versatility and talents in the direction of Summer Camp in the Vulcan Eifel followed by Battle Camp at Vogelsang. The pictures tell it all (well nearly!) . . .

G3 Ops will never be the same again . . .

LCpl 'Don' Donnelly on the gun, Sig Dave Shimmons at No 2

(*L—R*) Sig 'Dusty' Miller, 'Geordie' Asprey, Dave Shimmons, Cpl 'Baz' Egan, LCpl 'Don' Donnelly, Sig 'Pol' Culleton and Brian Lane all battle prepared and rarin' to go

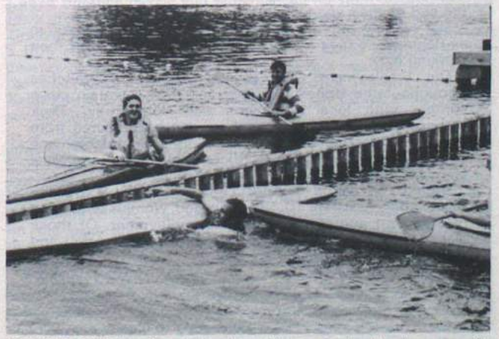


Sig Dougie Purce about to discover that the tank has reverse gear too!

Not all work. Wannell's marauders prepared for the inter Squadron raft race

3 SQUADRON

Since the last issue of *The Wire* we have seen several members of the Squadron 'A-Team' depart. Farewells and thanks must then go to **SSM Robert Atkinson** who leaves us to become RQMS(Tech), **SSgt Don Chester** who leaves to become SQMS at 206 and **Sgt MacLaughlin** of Papa Tp, who leaves to become accommodation SNCO with 3 Sqn 8 Sig Regt. Each and all of these will be missed and our best wishes go to them and their families on their departure from the Squadron.



LCpl 'Ned' Kelly tries to get into his canoe the hard way, with advice from Cfn Alan Finnigan (LAD) and Cpl John Bryant (RHQ)

VOGELSANG BATTLE CAMP 1985

Monday 8 July saw 3 Sqn embark upon a two week Battle Camp in sunny Vogelsang! Along with the rest of the Regiment we caught the train from Soest and arrived none the worse for wear at Bivouac area ZB2 in time to erect bashas and settle into the area.

Week one consisted of Squadron training and we were soon to become familiar with the local area by night and day. Some were destined to spend more time out than others as training took in night navigation and night recce patrols as well as section attacks, ambush techniques and the usual NBC, first aid and range work.

As the week wore on all eyes were searching for material for the Squadron smoker to be held on Saturday. This proved a memorable event, with a barbecue and the bar doing a roaring trade. Stars of the evening were undoubtedly **Cpl Jacobs** and **LCpl Sutcliffe**, who with the assistance (?) of several members of Papa Tp proceeded to send-up as many members of the Squadron as possible. The format was suggested by the N-N-Nineteen song and was well received by all present—especially **Capt Kodak!**

(*L—R*) LCpl Steve Lovell, LCpl Andy Coughlan, Sig Trev Bailey, Brian Lane and Steve Harper wait for opening time

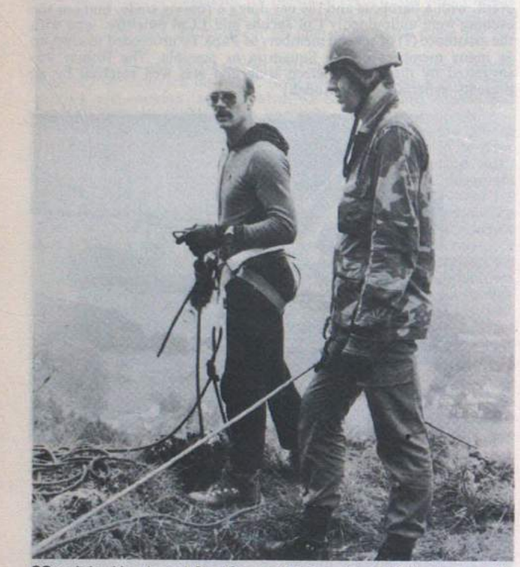
Sgt Neil Turnbull doing his heron impersonation whilst reflecting on the supply of bread rolls

Week two was set around the Regimental Exercise and the training of the previous week was put to good effect with an advance-to-contact followed by a regimental assault on the enemy stronghold. FIBUA was practised and enjoyed by one and all as, in true British style, the enemy were routed.

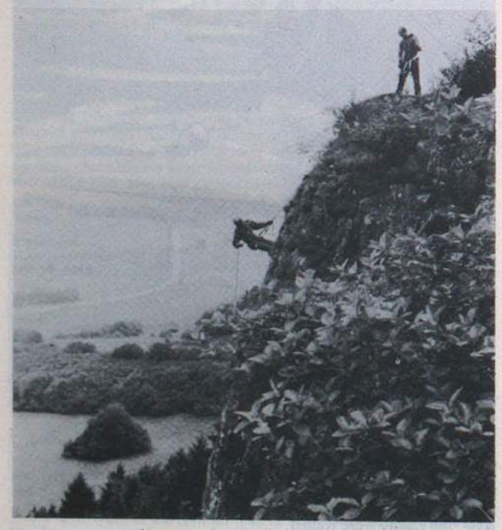
The next day saw the Regiment in hides whilst recce patrols scoured

the area and recced routes for the climax of the exercise, a regimental cordon and search. After a dark and wet approach march ably led by **Lt 'Grizzly Adams' Lewis** 3 Sqn were all in position by dawn. The grand finale was rather disappointing as the cordon was hardly tested, however the call Endex was enough of a morale booster as by then we were all cold and wet.

Breakfast and a clean-up later we boarded the trains for Soest, tired, wet but much wiser. Thanks must go to **Lt Lewis** for all the photographs and **Sig 'Flash' Cutts** for lighting. Our congratulations also go to **Lt Steve May** who has found a unique way to get out of Battle Camp—get married! We wonder what he will do next year?



SSgt John Hatch and Sig 'George' Roper debate if the knot really is secure . . .



. . . and eventually decide that it's probably OK!

SEAVIEW

Report by Lt G. M. Lewis-Taylor

On 11 June the 3 ADSR Sailing Team took to the road in the recently overhauled PRI mini-bus, destination—the Isle of Wight. After much success in the BOAR Individuals (**Cpl Chas Cowell**, first and **FofS Dave Ellis**, second) and with their recent 'signing' from 22 Sig Regt **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor**, expectations were high for success in the annual Royal Signals Regatta to be held in Mermaids at Seaview.

After a day and a half of practice in strong winds, the team had learned some of the more important survival techniques, though spinnakers were hardly tested. The wind persisted for the two days of the regatta, which nevertheless saw some very competitive racing. Though **FofS Dave Ellis** was beaten in two races, it was his transom the rest of the fleet saw most, much to the amusement of his very competent crew—**SSgt Stu Bromidge** and **Cpl Phil Jeffries**. However, the other two 3 ADSR crews did not share their team captain's sentiments—that 'Mermaids handle like dinghies'. **Cpl Chas Cowell**, together with **Sgt Lu Oehme** and **Sig Paul Downie** came a creditable fourth, and **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor, Sgt Keith Robinson** and **Sig John Driver** learned all about 'reaching starts' and the more obscure rules of the Seaview Yacht Club.

With a slight alteration of crews, 3 ADSR manned two of the four boats in the Royal Signals Team against the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery in the annual Triangular Match. Having beaten the regular winners, the Sappers, and narrowly losing to the Gunners, the team was in high spirits for the Dinner after the first day's racing. Perhaps it was too much port (liquid variety) for dinner, (or maybe not enough!) but we could not repeat the previous day's performance against the Sappers, and ended up second in the Regatta.

After Seaview, 3 ADSR challenged a Royal Signals (UK) 'All Stars' Team to a match in Enterprises at Rockley Sands. The conditions were light and flukey, more typical of the Mohnesee in summer, which suited the 3 ADSR team, who after some good team racing won the match. It was a fitting finale to a superb week's racing. Grateful thanks are due to **Lt Col Keith Powell** and **FofS Dave Ellis** for their hard work in organising the teams and events, and to the Royal Signals Yacht Club and 3 ADSR PRI for financial support.

ROYAL SIGNALS REGATTA

Overall Winner/Unit Prize	**WO2 (FofS) D. Ellis**
Best Soldier Helm	**Cpl C. J. Cowell**

AWARDED FOR 1984

Most Promising Under 25	**Lt G. M. Lewis-Taylor**
Most to Promote Corps Sailing	**Lt G. M. Lewis-Taylor**
Best Racing Record	**WO2 (FofS) D. Ellis**

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers, Corps, Regimental and Service Associations, Post Offices, Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1984-31 March 1985 the Association assisted 10,452 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,290 in employment. Of those placed 2,220 were men and women from the Army and 173 were from your Corps.

SSAFA REGATTA

Saturday 29 June saw a large turnout of 18 dinghies for the SSAFA Regatta held at the Mohnesee Yacht Club. The impressive assortment of book stalls, bratty stands, fishing and darts games lent a carnival atmosphere to an otherwise damp and gloomy day. 3 ADSR were well represented in the dinghy fleet, with four boats entered, all keen to limber-up for the Inter-Unit and BAOR competitions later in the season.

After a close first race any one of the leading five boats was capable of winning the regatta. **FofS Dave Ellis** played the windshifts well up to the first mark and quickly gained a commanding lead. **Cpl Chas Cowell** was second and the **Lewis-Taylor**'s struggled to master the fluctuating breeze, but pulled up to third by the end of the first lap. If these positions were maintained **FofS Dave Ellis** would win the regatta on the strength of his position in the second race. However, in spite of an almost faultless performance by the **'Cowells', Trevor**'s sail-trimming was somewhat erratic allowing the **Lewis-Taylor**'s to sail through to finish second, consequently winning the regatta. **Sig Paul Downie** sailed another good race to finish fifth, his consistency meriting fourth overall. 3 ADSR took the first four places.

RESULTS

1st **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor/Capt Cherry Lewis Taylor**
2nd **WO2 (FofS) Dave Ellis/Sgt Lu Oehme**
3rd **Cpl Chas Cowell/Trevor Cowell**
4th **Sig Paul Downie/Sig Hugh Potter**

ARMY KEELBOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS

In contrast to the Royal Signals Regatta at Seaview, 4/5 July, the Army Championships were plagued by light, fitful breezes. **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor** and **Cpl Chas Cowell** returned to Seaview to prove that the standard of sailing in BAOR was at least as high as that in the UK, and that Royal Signals could beat the rest.

After the first day's racing only three races out of five had been sailed but the two R Signals boats were well placed with two firsts

Left to Right: Sgt Keith Robinson, Sig Paul Downie, Sgt Lu Oehme, Cpl Chas Cowell, WO2 (FofS) Dave Ellis, Cpl Phil Jeffries, Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor, SSgt Stu Bromidge, Sig John Driver

between them. The second day brought mixed fortune with **Cpl Chas Cowell** finishing second and third, though the third was disqualified for a premature start, and had to count in the final points total. **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor** added to his first with a second and fourth, and a fifth place discarded. Though equal on points and discard with another competitor, the result of the last race was enough to secure the championship for **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor** and his crew **Lt Col Keith Powell** and **LCpl Mick Hicks**. **Cpl Chas Cowell** and crew were seventh overall out of a fleet of 16.

ASA DINGHY REGATTA

The Army Dinghy Championships were held on 6/7 July in Kestrels at Netley this year and attracted 14 entries. Fresh from success at Seaview the drive to Netley was interrupted by the law. On sighting a London registered car with some poorly hidden silverware exposed on the back shelf, the local 'Bobby' stopped the vehicle and questioned the occupants concerning recent thefts in the area. After much debate, the car was allowed to proceed to its next engagement.

Cpl Chas Cowell crewed by his arch rival **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor** after a shaky start with untried boats and new sailing area, managed to accrue a sixth, two fourths and a second, to get fourth place overall and collect a couple of glass mugs. The Championship proved to be useful experience for future events including the Inter-Unit Championship to be held in August.

3 ARMD DIV INTER SQUADRON REGATTA

3 Div Sig Regt held their Regatta on Friday 5 July at the Mohnesee Sailing Club. Bright sunshine and a Force 3 wind greeted the 23 boats entered from all Squadrons of the Regiment, and some good sailing was enjoyed by all the competitors.

Individual results were:

1st	**Sig Downie** crewed by **Sig Potter**	1 Sqn
2nd	**Capt Armitage** crewed by **Lt Thornber**	2 Sqn
3rd	**Sgt Robinson** crewed by **D. Robinson**	HQ Sqn
4th	**Sgt Oehme** crewed by **LCpl Putman**	HQ Sqn

Team results were:

1st 2 Sqn
2nd 1 Sqn
3rd HQ Sqn
4th 204 Sig Sqn
5th 3 Sqn
6th 206 Sig Sqn

SSgt Stu Bromidge receiving the Inter Sqn Trophy from Mrs Wallis who presented the prizes

206 (6 AM Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 106

Summer camp took place during the first two weeks of July. After a long drive up to Eckenforde, near Kiel, it was found to be worthwhile with sunny weather and a warm sea. The wind was too strong for windsurfing but canoeing and swimming were sufficient entertainment. **LCpl John Ginty** caused considerable alarm by swimming upside down with just his nose breaking the surface. We played a German unit at various sports, losing the volleyball, drawing the football (they led 4—2 at one stage but when we pulled level they called time), and totally confusing them at baseball.

After the holiday came some hard work in the form of a Cadre course. Despite the effort involved it proved to be enjoyable and finished with a polished display of drill.

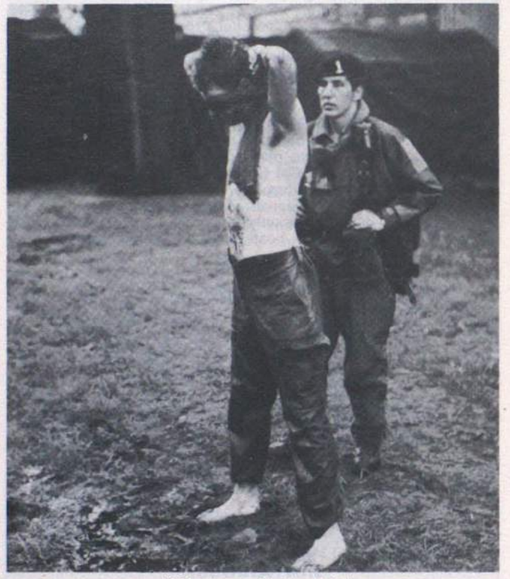
The cricket team continued their very successful season by playing 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn in the 3 Division Minor Units Final. 206 won the final, getting 204 all out for 53. The stars of the show were **Maj Chris Harper** who scored 42 before being bowled out and **Sig Tony Edwards** who only stayed at the crease for one over and managed to score 14 before the end of play. Not exactly Test cricket standard but a very exciting match all the same.

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

LOCATION: THE REGIMENTAL CONFERENCE ROOM
Event: Regimental 'O' Group for Ex *Mainbrace*
Situation:

Commanding Officer stands up, steely stare, 'Gentlemen be aware, I am deploying some new sophisticated equipment on the coming exercise'; audience sits back stunned, too soon for PTARMIGAN, WAVELL or the SA80 System. CO carries on, 'It's small, highly portable and deadly in the wrong hands, one can be compromised so easily with it,' audience leans forward expectantly. CO with great panache flourishes his new camera, 'Gentlemen, this is the ultimate, the new PENTAX ME Super, with its new one touch Macro 200mm lens'. The comments which followed have been censored to protect the innocent, however, the artist goes on and on and on, and as they say the proof of the pudding etc.

I'll make you feel 10ft tall said the CO to Capt Mick Hannagan (Comment: I didn't know I had to stand on my Ferret) Ferret Dvr LCpl Tony Holcroft



'SSM keeps his hand in'
WO2 (SSM) Bob Rylance proving to a rather incredulous 2Lt Matt Hanson that he had been trained in Field Interrogation techniques on his Combat Survival Course

'Endex'
'Oh the sheer delight of winning'
(*L—R*) Sig Brooks, Hadley, Marvel and Lawrence

TOP MARKSMAN AWARDS

In a recent presentation ceremony to mark the success of the Regimental shooting teams, the CO **Lt Col Bob Wright** presented Regimental colours and medals to those marksmen who had represented the Regiment over the past 12 months at both small bore and full bore meetings.

It was to be a mutual presentation, as the team returning from the UK were runners up in the Major Units Championships at the Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms meeting, and presented the trophies that they had won to the CO for display in the regimental silver cabinets.

Special congratulations were due to the Regiment's Falling Plate team, which won the competition at the Divisional Skill-at-Arms meeting, and the Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms meeting, in the grand finale of which the team beat the Royal Artillery in the Invitation Inter-Corps Falling Plate Match in the UK.

A special mention must be made of **Cpl Mark Evans** who won the 'Furby Cup' in the Roberts Match, and also the superb Queen's Gurkha Signals 'Khota Muhri Kukri' trophy for the top British shot at the Corps Skill-at-Arms meeting.

On the small bore scene the regimental .22 teams have been equally successful in being placed fourth in the Rhine Army SLR competition, runners up in the Army eight man Rifle competition, and Champions of Division 3 of the Army Match Rifle Winter league.

Behind every successful team there must be a good team manager and it is with regret that the regiment has to say goodbye to **Capt Eddie Humphreys RPC**, who has over the past three years coached, guided and advised all the regimental teams. Our best wishes and thanks go to him and his family as we wish them 'Bon Voyage'.

The CO congratulating Pte Martin Caldwell prior to presenting him with his regimental colours

The CO receiving the 'Furby Cup' from Cpl Mark Evans

BRADLEY CENTRE DRIVING SCHOOL NOTCHES UP ITS 200TH PASS

The Bradley Centre Driving School run by the Wives' Club of 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt at Herford, recently notched up its 200th pass. Since its inception in October 1983 the Driving School presently run by **Mrs Phylis Townsend** has taught well over 200 people from the Garrison to drive.

The successful student was **Mrs Annette Ellis**, who succeeded in passing in record time, only 12 lessons, **Annette** said, 'When you have an instructor as good as **Cath Spowage** you can't help but do well.'

The Driving School has recently taken possession of another new replacement Ford Fiesta from NIEBAUM and HAMACHER of Herford who supply and service the School's vehicles.

200th Pass
Mrs Annette Ellis receiving her pass certificate from the CO's wife, Mrs Tricia Wright
(*L—R*): Mrs Cath Spowage (instructor), Mrs Annette Ellis, Mrs Tricia Wright

3 SQN
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. Blake**
OC A Tp	**Capt E. S. Hocking**
OC B Tp	**Lt G. Hearn**
OC L Tp	**2Lt M. G. Hanson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) R. J. Rylance**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) A. W. Todd RA Signals**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) W. P. Ruthven**
SQMS	**SSgt M. O'Brien**
MT Sgt	**Sgt I. Gill RCT**

Over the past few months, we have seen many changes in both manpower and equipment as the conversion to PTARMIGAN has started. For the present, however, the faithful, but old, BRUIN system is still in service and has been deployed effectively on Ex *Flying Falcon* and on our Divisional CPX, Ex *Main Brace*.

Ex *Main Brace* brought with it some interesting challenges for the Squadron. The theme was 'marching to the sound of the guns' with plans being made at short notice, little time for recce and long overnight moves. After three crash moves Commhead Oscar was beginning to wonder who the spy in their midst was; they discovered the 'deep cover' plant in OC Line Tp which led to their fourth crash out—and thankfully, the end of the enemy attacks. The exercise also was chosen as the time for the handover of Bravo Tp from **Capt Charles King** to **Lt Garry Hearn**. **Capt King** and **Yvonne** have now left for the sunnier? climes of Northern Ireland.

PTARMIGAN TRAINING

The Squadron has nearly completed its training for PTARMIGAN and is confident that it will now take the Introduction Programme in its stride. The forthcoming changes have resulted in a number of arrivals and departures, too many in fact, to list individually. To those who have departed we wish good luck and to the arrivals, to quote President Reagan 'You ain't seen nothing yet!'

FOCUS ON LINE TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING—EXERCISE *QUADRANT FLY*

One bright Sunday morning the Troop departed from Herford in search of the Mosel. On arrival at Cochem we found that our advance party had actually done some work and had prepared everything for our arrival. Our accommodation was somewhat spartan with only five swimming pools, a sauna, a solarium, and a video but it did have the bare necessities of showers and room service. These facilities had been made available only through some very hard work from our recce team of **Sgt Ian Selkirk** and **Cpl Bill Hadland**. During the day the Troop spent most of their time improving watermanship skills, canoeing or climbing in this mountainous region of the Eifel.

Whilst engaged in the adventurous pursuit of fishing **LCpl Russ Martin** and **Sig George Window** found they had been doing it all wrong when they saw **LCpl Fulton** catch a bigger fish with his canoe paddle than they had managed with rods and tackle.

The Troop also drew large crowds of spectators for the daily game of softball or it might have been for **Sgt Ian Selkirk**'s extravagant headgear.

As well as all the hard work put in each day the Troop still had time to enjoy themselves and visit the local Bitburg brewery. We also took a boat trip down the Mosel, sampling some local wines on the way.

After a week of training the Troop returned to Herford and started to plan the next adventure training week at the same location.

Sgt (Boss Hogg) Selkirk, LCpl (Scouse) Melotte, Sig (Judd) Window

Line Troop about to set sail on a five hour arduous voyage

200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

FOCUS ON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Jim Evans**
2IC	**Capt Kevin Barrett**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Orrell**
YofS	**WO2 Bill Tosh**
OC A Tp	**Lt James Harris**
Tp SSgt 'A'	**SSgt John Bird**
OC B Tp	**Lt Charlie Miller**
Tp SSgt 'B'	**SSgt Geoff Armstrong**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Mick Kidd**
SQMS	**SSgt Barry Evans**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Alan Fiddes**

EXERCISE *MAIN BRACE*

This Div CPX will be remembered by many! Who said the era of long moves was over? Eight hour 'cabbies' followed by numerous counterstroke operations tested everybody to the limit especially **Lt James Harris** who had to be kept awake whilst out with Bde Tac by numerous cups of coffee supplied by the Bde Comd himself. The Recce Officer, **Capt Kevin Barrett** was kept busy trying to stay ahead of the battle during these long moves, and in fact could only achieve it by going ahead in Gazelle helicopters (well they are recce helicopters aren't they) and then RV with his tireless driver **Cpl 'Baz' Ennels** who had to bribe the farmers. This team excelled themselves in one location; just picture it—schloss, large barns, completely surrounded by a picturesque moat (ideal for defence), electric gate, large 'overhangs' for the rover-park, toilets. But the staff played the battle for real for a change and moved after six hours—there's no justice in life!

(*L—R*) Maj Jim Evans, Capts Howard Floyd, Peter Watson and the local farmer
Note: The RA complex is *not* on the right

OFFSHORE SAILING
4 ARMD DIV REGATTA

The Squadron entered a team consisting of **Cpl 'Baz' Ennels, Capt Kevin Barrett, Dvr Jock Gray** and **Sig Rick Saunders**. A rather inexperienced crew but at least consistent. Out of a total of 11 boats in the regatta, and six races between Kiel and Denmark we finished fifth twice, sixth twice and seventh twice finally finishing fifth overall. Nevertheless the weather was absolutely gorgeous and the evenings in Denmark were very cultural!

Sailing
Skipper Cpl 'Baz' Ennels relaxing

R SIGNALS OFFSHORE REGATTA

This time a slightly more experienced crew comprising **Cpl 'Baz' Ennels, SSgt Barry Evans, Dvr Jock Gray** and **Sig Mike Lowndes** represented the Squadron. The first race in this regatta is traditionally the Kiel-Copenhagen leg for which the winner is presented with the Mermaid Trophy. **Cpl Ennels** actually was defending his trophy which he won in 1984. After 40 hours solid sailing, the team crossed the line with absolutely nobody in sight and naturally thought they had won for the second year running. Alas this was not so as the 22 Sig Regt boat had crossed 10 minutes earlier, so the boys decided to commiserate over a few beers in Copenhagen. Apart from this and fleeting visits to Handestedt and Korsor the rest of the time was spent on board racing; by this time **Sig Mike Lowndes** had got to grips with his sea sickness and **Dvr 'Jock' Gray** was thinking of going on a 'Cordon Bleu' course. With one race abandoned, and another second and sixth places to their name, they finished second overall and were awarded a 2½ cwt cannon.

(Afternote: this is to stand outside the OC's office for ORDERS).

FAREWELL TO THE SSM

On Saturday 15 June, the Officers and SNCOs of the Squadron said farewell to **Dave** and **Eve Simpson**. Normally a farewell present is handed over along with a handshake and the customary speech; however the SSM decided to be different and it took four able persons to carry in his telephone table seat. The 'boys' in the Squadron decided to say farewell to the SSM in a different way—with a kissogram. We wish him well in his new post as RMS of 16 Sig Regt.

FAREWELL BY THE WIVES' CLUB

Mrs Eve Simpson was dined out by the Wives' Club on 19 June at the Alte Mühle Restaurant. The evening could have been marred by poor service but the gallant 28 ignored the inefficiency and enjoyed the wine that flowed freely. Halfway through the meal, when we had dispaired of ever seeing the sweets ordered, a presentation was made to **Mrs Simpson**.

Firstly a 'duty plant' was offered, this was discovered however to be well past its prime. So, as a more lasting memento of the Squadron a piece of Kaiser porcelain was offered and graciously accepted. Towards the end of the evening the 'duty plant' did however stage a wonderous recovery—to the extent of producing a second shoot. For those of you who would like to know how this was achieved please contact the Wives' Club Secretary.

Last but not least the Wives' Club would like to thank **Cpl Lindsay** for getting all 28 wives, as well as the 'duty plant', home safely.

ARRIVALS

We would like to say welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Orrell, Sgt Wood, Cpls Donno, Braint, Blackburn, Sig Sorbie** and **Lowndes**, and wish them well during their stay with the 'senior squadron'.

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202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

MORRISON CUP

Sennelager being the venue meant maximum support for our Squadron Gladiators in this year's Morrison Cup. Confidence was high and the optimistic view that the results were to be reversed this year was evident, but alas this was not to be.

DAY ONE

This proved disappointing with two fifths and a sixth in the Discus, Javelin and 1500m respectively. Some credibility was salvaged by **LCpl Sean Day** in the shot with a putt of 10.6m to clinch second place and **Sig Nigel Medford** with a leap of 6m in the Long Jump also securing the runners-up medal. This left us trailing badly, equal last—12 points behind the leaders 207 Sig Sqn.

DAY TWO

After the poor start, our rivals were confident we had little or no chance of pulling back the deficit. Sheer determination coupled with magnificent support (a hallmark of this Squadron) brought about one of the closest and most exciting Minor Unit Championships seen for many a year.

LCpl Sean Day initiated the revival with a superb second place in the 200m in a time of 25.72 secs, a gutsy and well timed finish secured the runners up spot for **LCpl Mick Hughes** in the 800m in a time of 2 min 15.20 secs. The comeback continued with a demonstration of willpower by **Sig Ian Stringer** with third place in the 400m, not to be outdone **Cpl Mick O'Connell Fosbury** flopped over 1.70m to gain third place.

THE FINALE

History has a habit of repeating itself and this year proved the maxim. Prior to the 4 × 400m the positions were 207—36 points, 201—35 points, 204—34 points, and 202 fourth with 33 points.

With everything to gain our 4 × 400 team of **LCpl 'Doris' Day, LCpl Mick Hughes, Sig Nigel Medford** and **Sig Ian Stringer** gave their all in a very exciting and close fought contest, coming in second to 201 Sig Sqn with 204 Sig Sqn close on our heels.

A truly excellent comeback by the team, meant an equal first overall but the runners up shield (again) on countback of first positions. Well done 204—but look out, we shall keep trying!

1984-85 FOOTBALL SEASON

This season saw the team amongst the big boys, having won promotion to Div 3 under the guidance of **Capt Kevin Fisher** the previous season. Five of the 10 teams being major units made for a very tough and formidable season.

Pre season saw a very physical and demanding fitness programme in progress every evening which brought about the unearthing of hidden talent. This training coupled with the formation of the Jokers Club, (players and supporters) which swelled to a total of 34 members, proved beneficial in cementing a truly remarkable team spirit and will to win.

Far too many games and a fogging of memory prevents a detailed run down, suffice to say the record over the season in League and Cup games shows we more than held our own.

P	*W*	*D*	*L*	*F*	*A*	
22	15	1	6	55	29	
Army Challenge Cup Minor Units				4th round		
4 Armd Div Minor Units Cup				Semi Finals		
Comd Comms Knockout Cup				Winners		
4 Armd Div FA League Div 3				5th		
4 Armd Div Inter Squadron competition				Winners		

FAREWELLS

On 25 May the Jokers Club held its end of season dinner to say farewell to a few members of the squad namely **Cpl Brian Smith, LCpl Mal Clark, Sig Jack Lawes**—many thanks for your contributions lads and all the best.

That evening also saw the presentation of the 'Players' Player of the year award, which was won by **Cpl Derek Leach** with **Cpl Steve Barrington** a close second.

THE SQUAD

Considering the size of the Squadron the football squad is large. Each and everyone has contributed greatly in one way or another. It was a great team performance and therefore no individual praise; however one must list those concerned.

WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence Captain/Coach, **SSgts Pete Alves, Bill Magee, Cpls Steve Barrington, Steve Clark, Derek Leach Brian Smith, Kev Winkles, LCpls Mal Clark, 'Doris' Day, Ian Drysdale, Dave**

Hindley, Mick Hughes, Sig Jack Lawes, LCpl 'Chip' Strowger, Sig Peter Dimmack, Gavin Edmiston, Nigel Medford, Pte Dave Olive, Sig Andrew Salmon, Andrew Shepherd and **Pte Andy Thornton.**

ARRIVALS/FAREWELLS

On 4 July the Bde Comd, **Brig E. M. Westropp CBE**, relinquished command. A simple but effective parade was arranged involving the Squadron and Brigade Staff. The Commander was driven from Brigade Headquarters in his TAC 432, driven by **Sig Vernon Bird** and **Cpl Sean Cooper**, and led by **Maj David Willis 1/7 GR** (COS), **Maj Mark Jackson 1 WFR** (DCOS) and **WO1 (SSM) Bill Thomas RAOC** (Staff Asst). The remainder of the Brigade Staff flanked the vehicle.

The 432 slowly rolled through two guards of honour made up of 432s and soldiers. **Brig Westropp** was presented with a small memento and said a few words before departing in his staff car. We extend our best wishes to him and his family and hope that settling into civilian life will not prove too difficult.

In turn we welcome **Brig A. G. H. Harley OBE** and his family and hope they have a happy and rewarding tour in Paderborn.

After three years in the job, our 2IC **Capt Ted Banham** left for the sunny climes of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. As 2IC and recce officer he gave magnificent service and his vast experience helped nearly everyone from troop commander to junior signalman. **Capt Banham**'s memory will linger on in the form of our 'Top Tom' trophy—presented annually to the best all round soldier in the Squadron.

He was dined out at a magnificent Ladies Dinner Night by the officers and SNCOs of the Squadron when his praises were sung, (literally) by the OC, in his 'Ode to Uncle Ted'. We all hope **Capt Banham**, **Jan** and the family have an enjoyable tour in York.

The Comd, Brig E. M. Westropp, drives through the guard of honour during his farewell parade

211 (11 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

There were several changes in the Squadron management in July. **Capt Brian 'Buttons' Young**, fully recuperated after his Falklands tour, finally left for Northern Ireland. This promised to ease the confusing situation whereby almost all our officers are called either **Brian** or **Andy**. However, nobody was surprised to find that his replacement was **Lt Brian Peel**. **Capt Frank Riley** took over as 2IC from **Capt Andy Kendall** who left for the School of Signals to pass on his knowledge to unsuspecting Troop Commanders' Courses. Good luck **Brian** and **Andy**, welcome **Brian** and **Barbara**.

We are often reminded that 'a picture is worth a thousand words' and to 'keep *Wire* notes short' so here is the equivalent of several thousand words showing the Squadron activities of the past few months.

LCpl Billy Chambers erecting a Band 3 antenna during PTARMIGAN Training

LCpl Bob Peters and Sig Taff Hughes guarding the bridge on Ex *Flying Falcon*

Maj Brian Chubb welcomes the families to Tac Stand 3 during the Staff College Demonstration

Lt Andrew Trimble and Capt Frank Riley about to demonstrate that even an officer can set up the new TRC 481

Cpl Eddie Grattidge (*L*) and Sig Taff Skey (*R*) pose for a photo during Battle Group Training in Soltau

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

ATHLETICS

The Regimental team topped off a very good season of athletics by achieving a notable fourth place in the Army Inter-unit team championship held at Aldershot on 14 July. The standard of competition this year was very high with 50 Missile Regt toppling the Grenadier Guards to win by a convincing margin. The team was pipped to fourth place by 7 RHA by half a point. Some personal best performances kept us in contention throughout the day, the most significant of these was put up by the 4 × 400m squad who had the spectators on their feet throughout the race with **Sgt Neil Killen** pulling back a deficit of some 10m to give **LCpl Alan Poulson** the lead for the nail-biting last leg. It was a good performance which came very close to the Inter-unit team record for the event.

Under the very able management of **Capt John Kirkman**, the team achieved success in the following events:

Morrison Cup—Winners
Divisional Championships—Winners
BAOR Championships—Runners-up
Army Championships—Fourth Place

BAOR DECATHLON TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The team consisting of **LCpls Kev Jarvis, Chris Mark** and **Cpl John Williams**, achieved second place with **LCpl Jarvis** being placed third overall and first novice.

BAOR INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

10,000m	**Cpl Dave Carr** 1st
5,000m	**Cpl Dave Carr** 1st
400m	**LCpl Alan Poulson** 1st
400m	**Sgt Neil Killen** 2nd
Discus	**Sgt Neil Killen** 1st
100m	**Cfn Smith** 2nd
200m	**Cfn Smith** 2nd
Hammer	**Capt Mike Heelis** 2nd

ARMY INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

400m	**LCpl Alan Poulson** 1st
400m	**Sgt Neil Killen** 2nd
Pole Vault	**Cpl Dave Amos** 1st
Pole Vault	**LCpl Kev Jarvis** 2nd

SUMMARY

The 'find' of the season must be **Cfn Smith** who has had an excellent season's sprinting coming second in both the 100m and 200m in the BAOR Individual Championships. He went from strength to strength, culminating in two new records for the REME in the 100m and 200m events.

Certainly a very good season for the team, for which thanks must go to all the members who put in a lot of hard training throughout the winter and early summer to achieve good results in top army circles.

Finally, a sad farewell to **Capt John Kirkman**, our team manager who put in a tremendous amount of effort to lead us so close to the top.

7 Sig Regt athletes who can be justifiably proud of their outstanding efforts during a memorable season

Members of the athletics team saying a traditional farewell to Capt John Kirkman

1 SQUADRON

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Just around the corner PTARMIGAN is spreading its wings and the big shake up is on: We say farewell to **SSgt (FofS) Clive Cooper** and wife **Jackie**. He is accepting promotion and early retirement in his new posting in Loughborough. Also packing their bags are **SSgt Ray Haydock** and his wife **Jane** as he is off for six months R and R at 10 Sig Regt. **Sgt Steve** and **Christine Cocksedge** take a stroll down the Strasse to 4 Div and **Sgt Dave** and **Jan Gilbert** stay in the Regiment but **Dave** will have a hard time bringing 4 Sqn MT up to speed.

Lt John 'No neck' McDonnell is taking leave to mould the shape of things to come at Trg Bde and **2Lt Joe 'But . . .' Cooper** is planning a summer holiday in New Zealand on Ex *Long Look*. **Capt** (Swimming, Canoeing, Windsurfing and Horseriding) **Owen** is planning hard in preparation for his posting, but three more months won't hurt.

Welcome back **Sgt Mick Strefford**, we hope the penguins and beer kept you warm. A big welcome also to all the new recruits who seem to have been posted in en-masse from basic training.

EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

The Squadron and **Cpl Lewis** watched the approach of April with dismay. The month heralded not only spring rain and range days but Ex *Flying Falcon* as well. Commcen Alpha, the first word in communications, began the exercise with its head in the clouds and its feet in the snow on the highest peak yet recorded in the locations book.

The exercise progressed with the flock of new drivers making their marks on FMT3. It was stated that in the future we would not need TARIF so **Sig Morrison** decided to put it over a cliff. One by one the old BRUIN vehicles gave a last gasp, shuddered briefly and laid down in the nearest ditch. The last formal signal to be sent over the BRUIN system from 1(BR) Corps Commhead was received just in time to see 'Patch' chatter and roar its last in a flurry of ticker-tape. Farewell old ALPHA.

THE BAR

Any recent visitor to the Regiment could easily gain the impression that a virulent virus known as 'Rebuild-a-bar-itis' was epidemic in the unit. The strange disease which originated in 1 Sqn has spread rapidly to the LAD, Officers' Mess and the other Squadrons.

A team of 'master' carpenters, painters, decorators, electricians and artists (?) led by **LCpl 'Mike Harding' Lees** attacked the existing drab and expiring bar in a three pronged assault and rapidly converted it into a veritable gin-palace of the highest order. The sawdust has now been replaced by a 'sort of carpet'.

Cpl 'Van Gogh' Benson oversaw the decoration of walls, first stripped bare of three layers of paper and red lead by a combat team led by **LCpl 'Titch' Taylor** and **LCpl Geoff Holdsworth**. Logistics **Cpl '264' Williams** acquired a new dart board—fell off the back of a lorry, honest—and we gave **LCpl 'Yes' Bray** his old one back. To the many others who contributed to the disorder, our thanks. The reopening (it never closed) of the bar was celebrated by a night of cowboys and indians with genuine bangers and mash and beans and a cacophony of cap guns and bow strings. Most people said that they had borrowed the cap guns from their sons or their friends. Now we know what some of the single soldiers do in their spare time.

EXERCISE *SOUTH SEARCH/PENTAGON QUADRANT*

In May the Squadron dashed off to Bavaria for a spot of sun and fun in a combined military and adventurous training camp.

We arrived at a Luftwaffe camp having travelled by train, car and four-tonner and found ourselves accommodated in comfortable German barracks. The first week was spent leaping about in Noddy kit, shooting every army's weapons but our own, learning how to join the Russian infantry and what we'd be charged with if we did so. The training week culminated in an inter-section orienteering march with a difference: some of the checkpoints were military training tests. Imagine running for two hours in hot sun and then being asked (by a very cool and relaxed **Cpl Benson**) 'How do you treat heat exhaustion?' Some of the answers were unprintable.

In week two we broke up into two platoons to play hide-and-seek. 1 Platoon led by **2Lt Cooper** set up a re-enactment of Rorkes Drift and invited the enemy to spend a rainy night under the command vehicle. 2 Platoon under **Lt McDonnell** took a leaf from Ronnie Barker's book and stayed 'Open all hours'. The final score was; 1 Pl—Nil captures, 2 Pl—11 captures.

The final week involved the Squadron's recovery to Pfullendorf and another German barrack block. After a hot sun had dried out the equipment and **LCpl Riley**, we loaded canoes, windsurfers and hiking boots and took to the hills and valleys.

Cpl Jarvis demonstrated how to get on to a windsurfer and after a few minutes practice **Lt McDonnell** demonstrated the easy way to get off. **LCpl 'Nobby' Hall** instructed groups on getting into a nice warm canoe and then falling out of it into a cold Bodensee. Meanwhile **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** practised his canoeists posing techniques on the beach.

On a visit to the Super Swimming Pool 'BadKap', **Sig 'Pinky' Weaver** found that the solarium was a little too strong for his sensitive skin. We believe his skin texture was catagorised as medium rare.

Sgt 'Mel' Bull and **SSgt 'The YofS' Chapman** led the sections up hill and down dale for eight hours every day and although they are now claiming for new hiking boots from the Squadron funds we still maintain that it took them far too long to cover the 5Km trek. By the way both have been nominated for a Map Reading Instructors Course. **Cpl 'Short legs' Dodd** discovered that the snow can still be deep in May and **SSM Dave Fox** found the sun a little too strong to go without his toupee. It's a good job we did not have a bald headed dwarf with us.

The exercise was summed up by a presentation to a local German of a crate of Coke to show appreciation of the 'Nice lads of 1 Sqn'. If you believe that!. . .

'Beans for Breakfast'
(*L—R*) LCpl Steve Conway, Cpl 'Mac' McMullen and SSgt 'Mo' Harkin

'Are you sure the OC's supposed to be there?'
(*L—R*) SSgt 'Mo' Harkin, Sig 'Coops' Cooper and LCpl Steve Conway

'I'm sure it fitted last time'
(*L—R*) Cpl Pete Turner, Sig 'Coops' Cooper and 'Hammie' Hamilton

'Who put that glass on here?' Sgt Les 'Geordie' Deeming

4 SQN
SHQ
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Marten 'Boff' Clarke**
SSM	**WO2 Mick 'The Book' Pawlak**
FofS	**WO2 Bob 'Tracksuit' Morley**
YofS	**WO2 Alf 'Lone Ranger' Edwards**
SQMS	**SSgt Arthur 'Taff' Williams**
MT	**Sgt Thomas 'Tam' Anderson**

B TP

Tp Comd	**2Lt Jerry 'Pinhead' Bradshaw**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Morrice 'Mo' Harkin**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Phil 'Freddie' Fielder**
	Sgt Barry 'Smudge' Smith
	Sgt 'Clem' Clements
	Sgt Keith 'Powerpack' Glasby

LINE TP

Tp Comd	**Lt Richard 'Wacko' Wilson**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Les 'Geordie' Deeming**

EXERCISE *WET FOOT* 85
DAY 1

Vogelsang was the setting for 4 Sqn's annual battle camp. The Squadron left a sleeping Herford on a frosty morning by the ubiquitous helicopter simulator to the Bahnhof. Once all the sheep and cattle had been herded from the train, the Squadron embarked and was shunted to its destination where **SSgt 'Taff' Williams** eagerly awaited our arrival. At Vogelsang the lads were pleased to find encouraging signs such as 'more sweat less blood', 'pain is just a figment of one's imagination' and 'medical facilities are scarce', which they took as a taste of things to come.

The Squadron split into two platoons, commanded by **Lt 'Wacko' Wilson** and **2Lt 'Pinhead' Bradshaw**, then completed administrative tasks prior to the evening briefing. That night the DS were briefed by **SSgt 'Mo' Harkin** on all aspects of the battlecamp, except for the ground paragraph which was covered fully by the OC who told us it was to be 'wet and muddy'.

DAY 2

The OC 'unfortunately' missed the early morning run and promised to set his alarm clock for 0600 hrs on the remaining days, a feat he never actually achieved. **SSgt Bob 'Para' O'Hara**—on loan from 3 Sqn—was Range conducting officer for the IBSR and all ran smoothly despite **Sig Paul Quinn**'s many and varied attempts to assassinate some of the DS. **Quinn** is known to be a great fan of the 'A' Team.

Later in the day, the two platoons were instructed on the use of booby-traps in villages by **LCpl 'Brummie' Fellows** on loan from 5 'Aussie' Sqn ably assisted by the OC. The tank override, conducted by **WO2 (FofS) 'Tracksuit' Morley** provided entertainment for all, particularly **Sig 'Para' Jones** who decided to headbutt the tank track. Now we know why he jumps from perfectly serviceable aircraft—no sense.

DAY 3

It is not often that Royal Signals personnel get the chance to fire 66mm Sub Call or 84mm TPTP but Wednesday provided the opportunity for both. The 66mm range was especially exciting because the dangers of the LAW were subtly pointed out to the OC who was booked for persistent infringement of the rules, shown the red card and subsequently sent off.

The pistol CQB range provides excellent opportunities for soldiers to play cowboy. **Sig Chris 'John Merrick' Walker** decided to audition for the part of the U-boat Captain in 'Das Boot 2' when he dived into the river headfirst and with his torpedo-like 9mm Browning engaged the target. The OC has offered to produce and direct a film about his next attempt providing OC PRI can be persuaded to part with DM10.

DAY 4

On Thursday, both platoons had an excellent day's shooting across the famous Vogelsang lake, although poor weather conditions hindered visibility. The competition was hotting up for the best section and best soldier award. Our thanks to **LCpl 'Digger Ditch'**—OIC Targets—for eventually waking up and allowing us to shoot and our congratulations go to **Sig Mohabat Ali** who won the best angler award for bagging the most fish. Great shame he didn't hit the target. Unfortunately the OC was unable to see 2 platoon in action as **2Lt Jerry Bradshaw** had inadvertently taken all the transport leaving the OC stranded in camp; he still maintains this was 'accidental'.

DAYS 5, 6 and 7

The week's training culminated in Ex *Swollen Knee*. This exercise was to include driver training, vehicle recovery and recce patrol techniques.

During the infiltration march and advance to contact phase, the enemy contacts always coincided with the sudden appearance of the OC a few minutes beforehand. He still maintains he had nothing to do with it. The exercise finished on a high with both platoons putting in successful attacks on well-defended enemy positions; unfortunately, the OC arrived too late to see the action but in time to trip over an enemy tripflare which **Sgt 'Tam' Anderson** says he did not put there on purpose. **'Cpl' Anderson** is now our oddjob man and gardener.

The final outcome of the section competition remained in doubt until the very last 'activity', the Assault Course. Although keenly contested by all, it was No 3 Section, 1 platoon commanded by **Cpl 'Mac' McMullen** which won the honours and with it the prize for the best section. The DS entered a team and cheered on by the OC and the remainder of the Squadron managed to achieve the fastest time of the day. There is a moral in there somewhere. However I did hear that this particular run was timed by a certain alarm clock. That night amidst celebrations, in the bar, trophies were presented to the best section and to **LCpl Wilce**, also of 1 platoon, who won the best soldier award.

FINAL COMMENT

An interesting and varied week enjoyed by all.

STOP PRESS

CHEQUE FOR CHARITY

The CO **Lt Col Nigel Wood** hands over a cheque to the Burgermeister **Herr Dr Klippstein** for distribution to various German charities. This 3,000.00 DM added to the 2,000.00 DM the Commanding Officer has set aside for the Annual Christmas Party for the children of our local Kindersheim.

The money was raised at our Annual Regimental Fete in aid of both English and German charities. The total sum distributed was over DM 10,000.00.

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8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION REUNION WEEKEND

Once again the end of June heralded the arrival of 'The Old Comrades' in Vimy Barracks.

On Friday 28 June the Corps celebrated the 21st Anniversary of the granting of The Freedom of Richmond. One hundred and thirty members of the Regiment took part in the parade which was followed by a Playing of Retreat by The Royal Signals Band in the impressive setting of Richmond Castle. The salute was taken by **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** and The Mayor of Richmond.

A thoroughly enjoyable weekend followed, including another Playing of Retreat at 11 Sig Regt, a church service in Catterick Garrison Memorial Church and displays, stalls and sideshows.

8 Sig Regt leading the Freedom of Richmond Parade through the town

The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals. An aerial view, taken by Peter Deverill, of the band in action in the grounds of Richmond Castle

THE TYNE TEES FUN RUN

The fourth annual assault course fun run, organised by Tyne Tees Television and 8 Sig Regt took place on 16 June, £20,000 was raised for charity and over 4,000 people took part. After completing a six mile run across moorland, the entrants then enthusiastically (in most cases!) tackled the assault course.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

The regiment has had a highly successful swimming and water polo season. Successes have been as follows:

Swimming	NE/NW District League	Winners
	Group 5 Army Championships	Winners
	Zone B Army Championships	Runners Up
Water Polo	Group 5 Army Championships	Winners
	Zone B Army Championships	Runners Up

These competitions resulted in the regiment qualifying for the UKLF Water Polo and the Army Swimming Final. In addition the regiment provided the bulk of the Corps team which played against the RAF Signals Support Command.

Great credit is due to **Sgt Ivor Williams**, for the swimming team's success. His constant coaching at regular evening training sessions ensured continuing success throughout the season.

Congratulations are due to **Sig Duncan Ledger**, who, in the Army Individual Finals finished second in the 100yds breaststroke and third in the 200yds.

NOTES FROM 3 SQUADRON

It has been some time since our management was mentioned, so here we are . . .

OC	**Maj R. C. Etheridge**
2IC	**Capt G. G. Haughie**
STO	**Capt S. A. Mohan WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 G. Coude**
C Tp	**SSgt B. Johnson**
D Tp	**SSgt A. L. Blood**
'Beds'	**Sgt R. Walker**

We welcome, somewhat belatedly in some cases, the following, who have joined us over the past few months: **WO2 Gary Coude, SSgt Bob White, Sgts Roy Boulton, Graham Guy** and **Ray Walker, Cpls Derek Gwyn, Kevin Hatcher, Bob Hope, Bill Medland, Micky Poland, Steve Somers** and **Les Whittaker** . . . coming soon **Sgt J. McLaughlin**!

Having gained so many, sadly we have had to lose a few. We said 'Goodbye' to **Capt Roger Courtney** who became Adjutant, to **SSgt Bob White**, now 'upstairs' with 2 Sqn, to **Sgt Vic Chivers, Cpls Dave George, Jim Hillan, Dave (Casanova) Jones, Steve Osman** and **Keith Storey**, on promotion.

SPORT

We have taken part in a variety of sports, and being a 'beefy' Squadron, we won the Inter-Squadron Tug of War Cup, under the management of our quiet walrus, **Cpl Bill Medland**.

3 Sqn Tours Ltd is still operating and many members have been given a wider experience of the benefits of Army life by filling vacancies in various military and adventure training courses.

Although we put on the appearance of a hardened bunch—the guys are really soft hearted. A lot has been done for various charities. **Sig Dougie Wroe** and **Tim Calder** from 1 Sqn being the most outstanding examples.

A WEE RAMBLE
Report by Sig Tim Calder

At 5 o'clock I was woken by **Mrs Wroe**, singing at the top of her voice, as she casually folded up the camp bed with me still inside! I was then informed that it was time to get up.

After a light breakfast we were driven to Richmond market place and told to 'get on with it then'. The first half mile was disastrous. We ran down the largest hill in Richmond only to find that we had to run back up it because we had set off in the wrong direction.

The first leg of the run was 11 miles to Reeth along Swaledale. The dale is wooded with birch and pine and was extremely beautiful at that time of the morning. The day was becoming clear with a slight breeze. The time at Grinton showed that we had covered the first 13 miles in one and a half hours . . . good running for us.

Sig Wroe and Calder raising money for the Bradford Fire Appeal

The road from Grinton to Askrigg is a typical dales road—steep! We were expecting our back up crew to have caught up with us by now. Just as our tempers started fraying the girls overtook us. After refreshing ourselves we headed downhill at full pace into Wensleydale and the village of Askrigg. After more navigation problems we headed off for the Buttertubs Pass. Twenty miles came to us harshly, it was the first pain barrier . . . every step was painful, but soon we had our second wind. The day was becoming hotter as we started the long haul over the Buttertubs Pass from Wensleydale into Swaledale. The pass rises steeply for about 1,800ft. The sun beat down on us, our calves felt tender and our thighs were burning. Sweat streamed from us but at last the Buttertubs Pass was conquered. We sat down for a five minute breather and drank our bars of chocolate!

We dropped steeply into wooded Swaledale where we met our back up team once more providing refreshments and words of encouragement such as 'It's only 20 miles more now'. We followed the Swale for some miles then came our last uphill section to Tan Hill, a climb of about three miles. After 39 miles we felt we had achieved something when at last Tan Hill came into view.

Just 11 miles now, no trouble . . .
Just six miles now, knee trouble . . .
Just three miles now, trouble!

The last three miles was a test of willpower—to do what we had started. After each mile we were forced to walk a little and trying to start running again after each walk was like no pain I had ever felt.

At 1510 hrs after eight hours and twenty minutes running (and stumbling), we arrived in Reeth. We felt no great joy, just a quiet deep satisfaction that we had completed the task we had set ourselves.

Sig Tim Calder and **Dougie Wroe** ran 50 miles around the Dales on 8 June and raised £244.11 for The Bradford Fire Appeal.

ANOTHER WEE RAMBLE!

Officers' Training Day for July was the annual walk in the Dales, and **Capt Iain Brownlee** was given the unenviable task of organising the venture. He chose a route through Upper Swaledale with beautiful scenery and a perfect riverside barbecue site at the end. We chose the only hot day in an otherwise very wet Yorkshire summer and some even bared their legs for the occasion.

THE RICHMOND MEET 1892-1985

Each year at Whitsun local people and those from surrounding districts come to Richmond to enjoy a programme of events organised by The Richmond Meet Committee. The Committee and its helpers, volunteers from all sections of the local community have a very simple aim, it is:

> 'To provide enjoyment and entertainment including participation for the populace of Richmond and its surrounds over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. If funds are raised as a result, they are distributed to charitable organisations in and around Richmond.'

The origin of the Meet stems from the late 1890s when cycling was in its heyday and clubs used to hold periodic gatherings called 'meets'. Programmes include such events as visits to beauty spots, athletics, fancy dress parades, open air concerts, tableaux, picnics and cricket matches.

The President of the Richmond Meet this year is **Mr Stan Church** who served in the Corps from November 1947 to March 1972, and now instructs in Admin Trades Group in the Trade Training School of 8 Sig Regt. Each year the President designs a badge to commemorate his period of office, and this year **Mr Church** has chosen to depict the Friary Tower in Richmond against a background of Corps Colours, which not only recognises his long service in the Corps but also symbolises the close links the Corps has with Richmond.

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9 Sig Regt
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FORWARD

As the Regiment swelters in the July heatwave, several distractions have cropped up to relieve the boredom in Paradise.

Regimental Battle Camp provided action in the form of section attacks and weapon training and agony in the shape of blistered feet and broken nails (for the WRAC enemy). There were some moments of leisure which were put to good use as the photograph of the intrepid fishermen shows. (It's not entirely clear just who caught it).

The Regiment was also delighted to receive a visit from **ex-LCpl J. F. S. Brown** now **Mr Jimmy Brown** who used to serve in, what was then, No 2 Wireless Regt from 1949-50. **Mr Brown** visited the Regiment whilst holidaying with his daughter in Cyprus. Not surprisingly, he saw many changes and was able to recall what the landscape was like before much of the present development took place. The present RSM **WO1 Mick Besant** presented **Mr Brown** with a Regimental plaque and tie as a memento of his visit.

Sig Brown pictured in 1949

Mr Jimmy Brown when he revisited the Regiment 36 years later

2 SQUADRON INTRO

Cyprus is a good place to be, in the summer, even if the work does sometimes interfere with the hectic social round.

2 Sqn is no exception and we are currently in the midst of numerous beach parties and Troop Summer Balls. A high standard of physical fitness together with a great deal of personal motivation is required to ensure a good attendance record at all these events. The most recent beach party featured such activities as canoeing, water-skiing, diving and board-sailing. The climax of the afternoon featured **Lts Turner** and **Glibbery** demonstrating the recovery of a bogged in landrover and trailer.

The past month has also seen a change in the Squadron hierarchy. We bade farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Alec Gavillet** and his wife **Jean** on promotion and posting to Colchester. In their stead we welcome **WO2 (SSM) Tom McGinnis** and his wife **Sue**. We wish them a happy and rewarding tour with the Squadron.

PARACHUTE JUMP TO HELP SAVE LIVES

On Thursday 2 May, 10 members of C Tp, 2 Sqn, including three wives met at the Combined Services Sport Parachute Club, Pergamos, to start their training for a sponsored One Jump course, organised by **Cpl Kev Porter** and **SAC Paul New** in order to raise money for the Ethiopian Appeal.

The training was intense and under the strict guidance of **Sgt Tony Johnson**, also a member of C Tp, we were put through all the different types of landings to shouts of 'Forward Left, Forward Right, Side Left, Backward Right etc' we threw ourselves about the mats completing dozens of practice landings.

'Exit! GO. One thousand, two thousand, three thousand, four thousand, five thousand, six thousand Check Canopy' these words are now firmly etched on the minds of everyone on the course, over and over again **'TJ'** had us spreadeagled on the floor adopting the 'Stable Free Fall Position' the position we were to maintain until the static line deployed our parachute. (We hoped.) If not on the floor we were in and out of the club's mock up aircraft practising exit drills.

To many sighs of relief the jump had to be delayed for two weeks, due to a damaged propeller on the plane. (**WO1 Jim Dodds** was seen prowling around Larnaca Airport with a hacksaw.)

Finally, on 16 May the aircraft was ready (by now the hacksaw blade was blunt), we had all done two hours refresher training and at 0545 hrs arrived at the club, eager and raring to go.

Now you could begin to see looks of doubt on faces, but this was it. No backing out now. **TJ** gave us one final briefing, indicating that there was very little, if any wind, to worry about, he also pointed out the few obstacles that we had to steer away from, the DZ was amply big enough anyway, though not for **Sig Phil Donaldson**, who decided he would land on the runway.

We were taken up in lifts of three, with **Sgt Tony Johnson** now in the role of despatcher giving a fiendish cackle as he led each lift out to the aircraft.

The aircraft climbed slowly to the despatch altitude giving those who were able to appreciate the scenery some fine views of Larnaca Bay and Dhekelia Garrison. Heads were spinning trying to remember all that had been taught. 'What am I doing here?'

The engine cuts, 'Exit', you were on your way, out on to the step, clutching the wing strut with super human strength, adrenalin racing throughout your body, a quick look back into the plane.

'Go' (Was **TJ** smiling?)

There was no returning to the comfort of the aircraft, although I would very much have liked to have done so, nothing else to do out there at 2200ft up, I pushed off into thin air and whoosh down I went. Everything happened very fast after that. Did I actually get that stable position? Probably not. Did I count to six thousand? Not all the way, Did my parachute open? With a grateful sigh I could say, yes it did, and there I was drifting gently to the ground suspended under a beautifully deployed canopy.

Having recovered from the exit I now had to remember the canopy handling drills. 'Oh yes' grasp the toggles, locate the DZ and steer towards it. Shouts of left or right toggle came up to me from the DZ Controller via loudspeaker to make sure I didn't drift away from the DZ.

At 300ft I turned into the wind as instructed and adopted the landing position. Elbows in, chin on chest, legs together, knees slightly bent. All too soon the ground was rushing up to meet me and then . . . Oomph! You find out that the ground is much harder than those mats in the gym.

A quick signal to the DZ Controller to indicate you're all right and then gather up the parachute and make your way over to the others. Everyone's emotions were high, a mixture of relief and achievement, and smiling faces.

Our achievement meant a lot to us, and we hope the money raised, with thanks to all who sponsored us, will bring some relief to those suffering in Ethiopia.

We would like to thank those who helped in our training, especially the instructors of the Joint Service Parachute Club, Pergamos, for the use of the facilities and their support and encouragement throughout.

Those who successfully completed the course and jump were, **WO1 Jim Dodds, Sgt Mick Hartley, Cpl Kev Porter, Sig Phil Donaldson, Dale Wright, Toby Forster, Chris Cullington, SAC Nick Goldspink, Jayne Lay, Corrine Hartley** and **Geraldine Nightingale**.

COMMS TROOP ROUND-UP

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Capt George Lile**
YofS	**WO2 Tony Tait**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Brian Cullen**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Tony Bottomley**
Tp Clerk	**LCpl Mary Cobban**
Absent on Duty	**Sgt Barry Iseton**

DSOs
Sgt Mick Reynolds
Sgt Angie Bailey
Sgt Trev Davies
Sgt Phil McSorley

CHARITY

Comms Tp held a referendum on the choice of charity they wished to sponsor and the final result was an overwhelming win for Dr Barnado's Homes. Since December 1984 a few fund raising schemes have been undertaken which deserve a mention.

SPONSORED PARACHUTE JUMP

LCpls Maisie Bayley and **Gina Cutts** (now 16 Sig Regt) who are 'game for a laugh' decided they would try their hand at a one jump para-course. After six hours training they then took to the sky. **LCpl Bayley** took to it as if she had already done 'P' Company, however **LCpl Cutts** had a minor problem, whilst waiting on the wing prior to the jump, she couldn't (wouldn't) let go. After several attempts by the instructor to persuade her to jump (a few well aimed kicks) and nearly falling himself, **Gina** decided it was time to go. However, the aircraft by this time was nearly over the Northern Border when our little bird decided to jump. With all the skills which she had learned the previous day **LCpl Cutts** manoeuvred herself gracefully through the sky and landed on our side of the Island, and in fact dropped in on a Greek Cypriot farm just to enhance Anglo-Greek relations. Had this been a free fall competition I feel that she may have finished last as the distance from the DZ was so great.

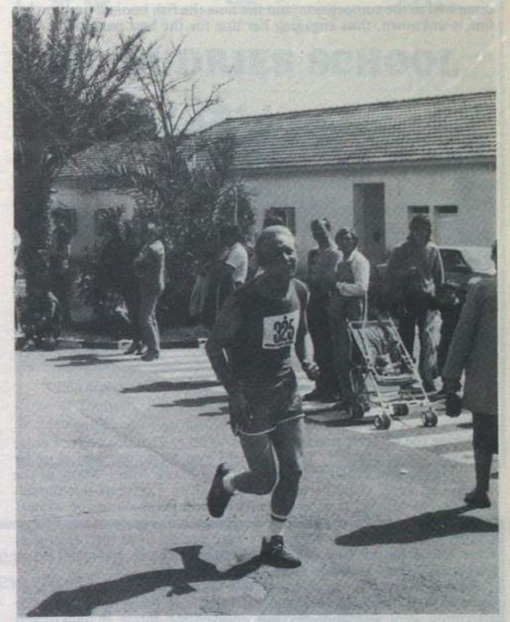
LCpl Maisie Bailey attempting a confident smile before the 'off'

SPONSORED 'SLIM'

SSgt (Middle-aged spread) Cullen, having wintered well on kebabs, pork chops and kokkinelli decided to become a beach boy for the summer. After being mistaken for a great white whale whilst floating around Cessac Bay he decided to take remedial action in the form of a sponsored slim. Weighing in at 12st 8lbs, he finished a 30 day fast (except for weekends); topping the scales at 11st 6lbs. The total amount raised through these sponsored activities amounts to £160 sterling and our new Troop motto for the future is 'No pain without gain'.

SPONSORED HALF MARATHON

Capt Lile, LCpl Trev Acres and **Sig Graham Birse** elected to run the Cyprus half marathon for charity. A few members of the Troop also entered just for the exercise, and everyone who participated finished the run. Positions in the race are immaterial although the OC's position is still classified and is not yet ready for public release. **Sig Graham Birse**, to show that chivalry is not quite dead, stopped a few yards from the finishing line to slake his thirst from the glass of **Sgt Mick Reynolds'** beer allowing **SSgt Cullen** to overtake him on the line. A special mention here for **Cpl John Bridges** and his 'talking watch' which kept a few of us on line for individual time targets.



Cpl John Bridges staggers to the finish of the ½ marathon

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

GOLF

Comms Tp—sometimes known as Commcen 'GOLF' entered a troop team in the Regimental Inter-Troop Golf Championships. The team was skippered by **YofS Tony Tait** throughout the 27 Holes Stroke Play and against all the fierce competition on the day finally finished in second place (we really expected to win it).

Team: **WO2 Tony Tait, SSgt Brian Cullen, Sgts Mick Reynolds** and **Barry Iseton**.

FOOTBALL

LCpl Vic Bannister successfully captained a well drilled Comms Tp football team. Every game was played as though it was the Cup Final, and everyone who played gave his all for fear of being dropped. Comms Tp have been the strongest team within the Regiment for the last two seasons holding up the rest of the teams from bottom position. A special mention is required here for those brave lads who turned out every game to strengthen our position at the bottom of the league. Having used two or three different goalkeepers throughout the season we now have a serious problem of chronic back trouble within the Troop. Get well for next season lads.

VOLLEYBALL

The All Stars Volleyball team led by **Cpl Derek Barker** is doing reasonably well. Although we are not the best team in the league we managed yet again to compete as a Troop. Our standard may be reflected through our Captain, who has a broken leg and gets around with the use of crutches, but his leg is getting better every week and so are our results.

TROOP PURSUITS

Comms Tp participate in various troop pursuits whether or not we are any good at them. The inter shift golf competition was finally won by 'D' Shift, **Sgt Phil McSorley** and **Pte Dawn Williams**. Most of the competitors had never played before but had an enjoyable morning's golf (or whatever it was) thanks to the PRI leasing their golf clubs to our Troop for the occasion.

A few lads and lasses decided recently to enter the Regimental Fishing Competition, setting off at 0500 hrs for Yermosia Dam. Having drawn their pegs they got down to some serious fishing. While the competitors baited the water **Cpl Esther Moth** got down to catching up on her missed sleep. It was rumoured that she might have done well in the competition, but the time the fish hooked itself on her line is unknown, thus engaging her line for the best part of the day.

Members of 1 Sqn with the one that didn't get away!

During the winter our activities took us up to Troodos Leave Centre for some skiing practice. This was held over a two day period under the eagle eye and expert guidance of **LCpl Frank Jones**. Many of the Troop had never skied before, but once given a taste of this pursuit went on the Mil-Ski courses which were run throughout the winter.

After trying its hand at skiing the Troop had a go at water-skiing. Unfortunately the water conditions were against us at the beach near Cape Greco on the first day and for part of the second day. Beach barbecues helped to while away the afternoons.

Having swept the league prizes last season in the skittles leagues, some of the Troop tried their hand at Ten Pin Bowling in Nicosia. The afternoon went well and everyone enjoyed the subtle change of not having to reset pins by hand. The skittles league has just started again and we are holding our own (up until now).

***PARANG* ARRIVES IN STYLE**

At exactly midday on 19 June 1985, the cosmopolitan inhabitants of the many yachts moored in Larnaca Marina were roused from their pre-lunch drinks by the skirl of the pipes, played by **Rgr Jackson** of 2nd Royal Irish Rangers.

A small crowd gathered to watch the object of his serenade, the arrival of the new Royal Signals Yacht Club (Cyprus) (RSYC(C)) yacht *Parang*, which had sailed from the UK to Cyprus. *Parang* was arriving to replace the ketch *Brigand of Changi*, which has recently been sold after being based in Cyprus for 14 years.

The itinerary from UK had been a travel agent's dream: Portsmouth-La Corunna-Vilamoura-Tangiers-Ceuta-Gibraltar—(where all of the crew except the skipper was changed)—Motril-Ibiza-Palma-Cagliaria-Mazara Del Vallo (Sicily)-Malta-Khania (Crete)-Iraklion-Ayios Nikolaos (Crete)-Rhodes-Falariki-Rhodes-Paphos-Limassol-Larnaca. The crew were delighted to go for a 'run ashore' in Larnaca, but showed a curious reluctance to leave *Parang* and return to UK courtesy of the RAF.

Skipper throughout the voyage was the experienced **Sgt Alan Morgan** from the Joint Service Sailing Centre, Gosport. The crew—like the skipper, drawn from the Royal Signals—were **Lt Suzy Reed** (School of Signals), **WO2 Paul Burdes** (MOD), **WO2 John Moody** (2 Sig Bde) (exercise co-ordinator), **SSgt Karen Mercer** (Belfast), **Cpl Bill Martin** (30 Sig Regt) and **Cpl Glen Sutherland** (244 Sig Sqn).

Parang was met on arrival by the CO who is chairman of the RSYC(C). He welcomed the crew and read a signalled message of congratulations from the Commodore (Offshore) RSYC. The welcoming party included **Maj Bill Wyllie**, the Secretary of the RSYC(C), and **Cpl Neil Baxter**, who was the bosun of *Brigand of Changi*, and is now the bosun of *Parang*.

Parang in her new berth in Cyprus

Parang is 36ft long, and has seven berths. She is fully equipped with everything necessary for offshore cruising; should the wind fail, she can fall back on her 43 hp engine. Three radio transceivers, a satellite navigator and a full range of sailing and navigational aids form part of a detailed inventory, which ranges from lifejackets to knives and forks.

She will be berthed in Larnaca Marina, and run by the Regiment. Her principal purpose is to provide adventurous training but she may also be chartered by other units, either in Cyprus or elsewhere, and by approved private individuals. Chartering groups may provide their own skipper, who should be qualified under Royal Yachting Association rules. Alternatively, the boat can be chartered with **Cpl Baxter**, the bosun, as skipper.

Parang will, no doubt, become a familiar sight off the coast of Cyprus. Anyone wishing to arrange a charter should contact **Maj Gryspeerdt** at 9 Sig Regt.

REGIMENTAL IRON FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP OR THE 9 SIG REGT GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Early on 8 May, 32 men from all departments of the Regiment set out to do battle. These were no ordinary men, but iron fighters all, or more commonly known as golfers, who awoke that still morning to do battle at a well known place of iron fighting called Ayios Nikolaos Golf Club.

Men from the clans of Richmond, Dhekelia and Pergamos mounted their chariots, most of which were made in Japan, to speed their way to this well known tournament field, whilst the clansmen from Ayios Nikolaos set out on foot pulling hand chariots, which carried their finely tempered fighting irons.

The meeting of the clans was arranged for 0630 hrs at Shed Castle, the Keep of 'Baron Galloway' and on arrival clansmen were looked after by the maidens of the keep, who plied them with vast amounts of toast and tea.

Lt Col Mike Galloway presents the (gross) prize to Sgt Marshall

Soon, it was plain for all the clansmen waiting their turn on the forecourt of the Shed that the dirtiest blow in Iron Fighting had been struck. An 'OB' Egad! And so early in the day. (Note. This is a blow which one has to counteract with three parries to evade disqualification).

The Iron Fighters took it in turns to enter into the fray. The sound of fighting rang throughout the countryside that sunny morning and their anguished cries and shouts for help, and other Anglo-Saxon words, could be heard from all quarters, as the dreaded 'OB' was delivered. The fighting was halted at midday and the weary warriors returned to the safe area of 'Shed'. After planning their strategy for the afternoon they ate heartily and slaked their thirst on local ale, and some were known to have applied Keo healing ointment to their injured bodies.

The fighting resumed around 1330 hrs. It was rumoured at this point a young nobleman had edged into the lead, having been allowed the use of Net, (Note. Net is an added protection allowed for novices against the more skilled fighters.) The battle raged into the early evening and only at the end of the day was it known to most, that the Baron himself had entered the fray.

The last dull thud of a putting away iron was heard about 1900 hrs and a banquet of crisps and ale was prepared. The Lords of the land then busied themselves to find a champion for the day's event. After much counting of blows and taking into account the Net (dreaded weapon) the eventual winner was the young nobleman **Dwyer**.

After much merrymaking the favours were presented by the Baron himself and the honours were as follows:

Champion and Novice (Net) Winner
Mr M Dwyer

Novices (Net)
2 Lt R. Harris
3 Cpl K. Kay

Fighters (Gross)
1 Sgt A. Marshall CR
2 Capt P. Monkley
3 Mr R. Parnaby

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WO2 M. Stone

Afternoon Champion
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Wilton

CEREMONIAL

A good month for Barrack Quarter Guards must be July. The familiar faces turned out no less than three times in a space of 16 days. The first visit was by **Gen Leopold Chalupa** CINCENT on the 9th.

(*L—R*) Sgt Dave Piggott, Cpl Alan (Slaphead) Keers, Pte Harvey Reed, Sig Scouse Arnold, Quazi Meade, Cpl Billy Allan, Pte Simon Wilkinson, Sig Dave Thomas, LCpl (Robo) Robinson

The second visit was by Field Marshal Sir John Stanier CGS on the 15th
(*L—R*) Sgt Dave Piggott, Cpl Alan (Slaphead) Keers, Pte Harvey Reed, Sig Scouse Arnold, Quazi Meade, Cpl Billy Allan, Pte Simon Wilkinson, Sig Dave Thomas, LCpl (Robo) Robinson

The third visit was by Admiral Liberal CDS Spain
Added to the line up was Cpl Colin Tye and LCpl Wain Ratcliffe
With the Inspecting Officers was WO1 (RSM) Fred Winton, Capt Jackson, Maj Brown, Maj Hardwick

SPORT

The past couple of months at Wilton have been busy and successful so far as sport is concerned.

Firstly, on 18 July as a reminder of the last season's success, girls from Wilton were presented with the West Area Netball Trophy for 1984-85, which now sits proudly with Bruno Bear in the RHQ trophy cabinet!

Many of the girls from 1 Sqn along with those from 22 Sqn RCT have recently been involved in the SWDIST tournaments. On the whole the 'Wilton Wanderers' have aquitted themselves very well. In the SWDIST Rounders Tournament they came second only to the Bulford Garrison team from a field of nine other teams. In the SWDIST Tennis Tournament **Sgt 'Service!' Senior WRAC** was the runner up in the singles and **LCpl Geraghty** was the runner up in the plate competition.

Teams also entered the SWDIST Swimming Championships (and may I add there are definitely no fish amongst us!) and the SWDIST Volleyball Championships.

Generally this season has been successful and great fun for all those involved.

ANNUAL CAMP

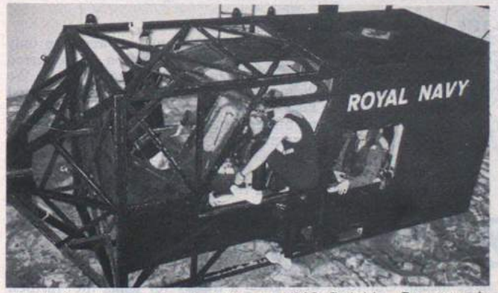
Most of the Squadron managed to go to the camp and although they were not looking forward to it, many surprised themselves by having quite a good time.

One of the more hair raising events was done with the help of 20 Maritime Regt RCT at Gosport. Here about 20 people attempted the helicopter underwater escape. This involved being strapped into a simulated helicopter and then turned upside down under water, the snag was that you could not get out until the helicopter was totally submerged! This resulted in many pale faces and nervous twitches but the majority managed four immersions, the last one in complete darkness, necessary for their certificate.

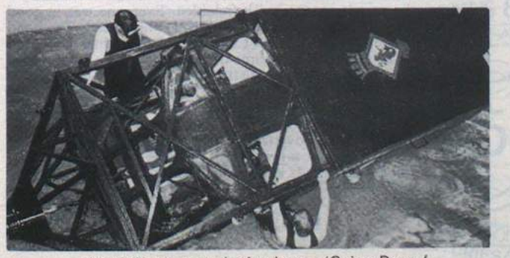
1 Sqn also put on a Signals Display at a local school. The team set up teleprinters on a simplex circuit and also printed off several 'letter pictures' of Andy Capp, Cowboys and the like. The Clansman Radios were the main attraction although the phone board rivalled them towards the end of the evening. The team was so busy that the only time taken out was when they were hoisted up 84ft on a fire engine's extending ladder by the Fire Brigade.

Having entered a team for the Chichester Marches 1 Sqn have been having some practice walks (and sing-alongs) in preparation. These have been held within a 10 mile radius of the camp and have been enjoyed by all.

Dry training on the ranges at Gosport on this year's Battle Camp



The helicopter crash simulator at HMS Dolphin, Portsmouth. (Note the Asst Adjt having a slight sense of humour failure in the rear seat and contemplating an early escape!)



The helicopter crash simulator—'Going Down'

2 SQUADRON

LETTER FROM LONDON

The Squadron is now firmly established in Chelsea Barracks although the last three months have flown past in a haze of unpacking, organising, reorganising, disorganising . . . and now, just when the dust has settled the decorators are about to move in—'Won't be long guv', just six weeks or so!

Having just about survived an extremely hectic summer ceremonial season all the troops now see the wisdom of the move; previously this had rather paled in the chaos of packing. Radio Tp and Tels Tp are particularly happy that trips to town, bedecked in Christmas Tree order, now take a fraction of the former time. In fact they have been known to arrive early and completely shatter their hard earned reputation.

Yet again Radio Tp have been rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous at the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties and a couple of receptions. **Cpl Ian Rushmer** was somewhat infatuated with **Elaine Page**, while **Sig Kev Cunningham** was rather unimpressed with **Bob Geldof**. The 2IC had to be restrained from asking **Phil Collins** for his autograph and **Sig George Walker** upset **Ted Heath** by not recognising him—Oops. Members of Tels Tp (the old SWS Tp to dedicated *Wire* readers) have flung themselves around the countryside with their usual dash—the International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, the Presentation of New Colours to the Yeoman of the Guard, the Old Comrades weekend at Catterick, Beating Retreat Ceremonies on Horse Guards, the Royal Tournament at Earls Court . . . Their present OC, **Maj Roy Lund**, has obviously tired of this 'high life' and is soon to depart for the calm of Harrogate. The troop is sadly disappointed—they have spent nearly three years waiting for the calm unflappable exterior and they are fast running out of time.

VISIT BY COMD 2 SIG BDE

Shortly after the main party of the Squadron moved into Chelsea Barracks, Comd 2 Sig Bde, **Brig K. Olds** visited, to lend added support to our remonstrations with PSA and the like. Never being one to miss out on an excuse for lunchtime drinks in the Bruno Club, the SSM **WO2 Tod O'Brien** remembered that a medal presentation ceremony was due. The event was captured by our intrepid photographer, **Cpl Don Fraser**.

Whatever the Brigadier said to Sgt Karen Barbe certainly amused Cpl Steve Goater and LCpl Ray Carter. Fortunately OC2 Sqn, Maj John Stuart's, expression is hidden

Sgt Graeme Cross is congratulated by Comd 2 Sig Bde upon the award of the LS & GC. WO2 (SSM) Tod O'Brien looks on

3 SQUADRON

The Regimental Summer Camp came to a successful conclusion on 6 June and life assumed a more leisurely pace. Having said that June and July turned out to be very 'physical' months for 3 Sqn.

Sgt Warnes, assisted by **Sgt Watts**, arranged an inter-Squadron Rounders Match on 20 June. The civilian members of staff were invited to play and their support was very encouraging. The match, which the combined team of Squadron HQ and MT won, was followed by a barbecue. Perhaps the highlight of June was the first WRAC Assault Course Competition held at Blackdown on 26 June. The following is an account of the competition and the events leading up to it.

WRAC ASSAULT COURSE COMPETITION (OR WHO DARES WINS)

When the idea for a WRAC Assault Course Competition originated at the beginning of the year OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Wilson-Brown** said very firmly 'we will enter two teams and we will win'. Needless to say those of us involved in the event were not quite as optimistic. For one reason or another training for this historic event didn't begin until 11 June. Anyone who wasn't sick, on leave or in possession of a reasonable excuse was enlisted to form two teams of eight. **Cpl Karen McGrath**, our PTI, then set to work. Training went something like this:-

11 June—Our first taste of the assault course at Blackdown. Broken in fairly gently.

17 June—Another crack at the Blackdown Assault Course.

18 June—Once more at Blackdown our training was beginning to pay off and there was less fear of heights. Unfortunately we suffered our most serious injury during this training session. **Pte Jane Dobinson** leapt from one of the walls and injured her back. She was carted off to the Cambridge Military Hospital and had to remain on her back for a couple of weeks. This created problems as we were now short of people so **Ptes 'Taff' Otteson** and **Sharon Stirman** were enlisted.

19 June—Log training and the scramble net. Our training logs were 10-12ft long and this was to prove an advantage on the day. **Pte Terri May** found the whole business too hot to handle and sat, none too gracefully, in the water ditch complete with log!

20 June—Training in the multi-gym to build up our muscles.

21 June—More log training and scramble nets. The idea was there and the co-ordination was coming.

24 June—Our last practice at Blackdown. The teams were chosen and we were numbered off according to size. We could only do our best now.

25 June—A day of rest!

26 June—The Competition. The weather was, fortunately, dry and bright unlike some of our practice days. Nine teams had arrived for the competition. The competition was split into two parts; Part I was the major assault course consisting of 12 obstacles. Part II was a smaller version of Part I but included a burden. The burden caused some amusement to the 3 Sqn gladiators! It was a log, as expected, but it was only about 5ft long and light enough for one person to carry.

LCpl Jo McBroom (Team Captain) receiving the team award as winners of the SEDIST (W) Assault Course Competition

The Winning SEDIST WRAC Assault Course Team
Standing (L—R): Ptes Duffield, May, Silversides, Mulholland
Seated (L—R): Lt Cooper, LCpl McBroom, Capt Cunningham, Cpl McGrath

Our 'A Team' achieved record timings in both courses to finish a good minute and a half in front of our nearest rivals. Our 'B Team' also did well and finished in seventh place.

Our victory was celebrated in style by a bottle of bubbly donated by our confident OC who turned out to be right after all.

The teams were:

A Team	B Team	Also ran
Pte Briody	**Pte McGhee**	**Pte Stirman—Res**
Pte May	**Pte Lampon**	**Pte Dobinson**
Capt Cunningham	**Pte Arthurs**	**Pte Hooper**
Lt Cooper	**Pte Goulter**	**Pte Bolder**
Pte Silversides	**Pte Batten**	
Cpl McGrath	**Pte Lawrence**	
Pte Duffield	**Pte Shepherd**	
LCpl McBroom	**Pte Otteson**	

On Saturday 29 June 1985 **Capt Eileen Cunningham** took a team of 14 3 Sqn girls (and **LCpl Ian Harrison**) over to BAOR to participate in the Mönchengladbach and Rheindahlen Marches. **Ptes Jayne Batten** and **Celia Duffield** wrote the following accounts.

THE MÖNCHENGLADBACH MARCHES

At the Mönchengladbach March on 30 June we were the only military squad present and were the centre of attention. We gathered at the start of the walk with the German families all raring to go. We marched through woods during the first few miles and were sheltered from the sun. Everyone kept up a good pace and sang loudly.

Eventually we were out of the woods and on to the streets of Mönchengladbach. We were watched by the astonished German folk, who looked as if they hadn't seen anything like it before.

There were five checkpoints altogether on the 30Km march and at each checkpoint we got a good reception from the not-too-sober Germans. We all looked forward to reaching the checkpoints because we knew alcoholic beverages would be available at a cheap rate. This made the singing more boisterous.

At about the fourth checkpoint our feet and legs began to hurt but it was all worth it in the end when we each were presented with a lovely large medal. Our team were given a trophy for being the 'furthest away team' to enter.

THE RHEINDAHLEN MARCHES

We started the Rheindahlen Marches at 0730 hrs on Wednesday 3 July from the parade square in Rheindahlen. Everyone was in good spirits and looking forward to the march which lay ahead. The band led us off the square and it wasn't until they left us that the march really seemed to start and the teams of people began to spread out.

There were five checkpoints along the way. We reached the first two in good time but then it began to get very hot and people's feet started to blister. The singing stopped and the march turned into a death march!

As other teams began to overtake us they were singing and cheering which carried us along for a few miles. We marched through woods as well as going along roads and through villages.

By the time we reached checkpoint four it seemed downhill all the rest of the way. Although **Capt Cunningham** said it was only 2Km to go it was really about five miles!

We were looking forward to the band giving us a big reception when we finished but they had all packed up and gone (!) so we made do with a feeble clap from the sun-stricken crowd. We then collected our well deserved medals for the 40Km march.

Capt Eileen Cunningham was selected to march with the WRAF UK Team at the Nijmegen Marches and completed her fourth Nijmegen and another 100 miles with the 'blue jobs'!

Marching has become quite a popular pastime and we are now looking forward to the Chichester Marches on 11 August.

ROYAL SIGNALS TENNIS CHAMPIONS

The regiment has been busy playing in numerous tennis tournaments throughout the south of England this year. The Adjt **Capt Nigel Moore** and **Cpl Tony Clarke** have both represented the Corps over the past season with mixed success. However their recent entry as doubles partners in the Corps Championships produced a fine win in the Inter Unit Doubles Title, the first time in 10 years the Cup had left Blandford. Together with **Sgt Marie Senior WRAC** the following results were achieved during the season:

1. Corps Open Singles Runner Up	**Capt Moore**
2. Corps Open Doubles Champions	**Cpl Clarke** (10 Sig Regt) and **Lt Mason** (210 Sig Sqn)
3. Corps Mixed Doubles Runners Up	**Capt Moore** and **Sgt Senior RAC** (both RHQ 10 Sig Regt)
4. SWDIST WRAC Singles Runner Up	**Sgt Senior WRAC**

Next year we hope to see the addition of a few of the missing trophies at both Corps and District level!

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RHQ

Could it have been the drastic cuts in LOA that caused our staff to flee to the UK? In a particularly busy period we have lost **Maj Geoffrey Maude** our 2IC, on retirement, and the RSM, **WO1 Ray Jeffery**, who moved to Catterick to take up a Troop Commander's post. Concurrently the Adjt, **Capt Peter Walker**, is packing up his (single) MFO Box and he will be handing over to **Capt Richard Evans**.

The best kept secret of the year, still to be unravelled, is the amount of transfer fee paid to lure OC 1 Sqn, **Maj John Stuart**, to take over the post of 2IC.

The 2IC leaves the Regiment complete with the trappings required for Civvy Street, and the RSM gets things all wrong by pushing him *up* the one way street

Balancing the postings out we welcome the new RSM, **WO1 Phil Welch**, from 40 Sig Regt and **LCpl Jim Park**, from NORTHAG, into the Orderly Room. We wish both of them and their families a happy tour in Birgelen.

The Regiment was indeed lucky to be visited by the White Helmets Display Team during July. Mercury Barracks was opened to all for this visual feast and the entire performance was conducted with great precision, thrilling all those who turned up to wish the White Helmets 'Bon Voyage' after their highly successful tour of BAOR.

Just one feature of a thrilling display by the Corps' own

SUMMER CAMP

Summer (Meteorological licence permitting!) Camp (Military euphemism for lots of slit trenches) took place at Grobbendonk in Belgium this year (just for a change!). This was to prove no doddle to those misguidedly believing that the Training Wing would take this opportunity to relax after their more usual role of taking Detachment Commanders courses.

At this point I will hand over to **LCpl Sue Lisle WRAC** who will describe in her own words her impressions of 48 hours at 'Grobbers'.

On 18 June I set off to Grobbendonk with a large proportion of the Regiment for what is known as Battle Camp. I was to remain with my section commanded by **SSgt Jim Leivers** for the entire camp. Needless to say I was well looked after. On the first night we were sent out to a location where we dug trenches and settled down for the night carrying out all round defence—probably for my benefit!

The following morning we returned to our hide location to prepare for the morning's tasks. The tasks were all subjects we had been taught in theory during normal in-barracks military training but you definitely can't beat the real thing. That night we dug 'Shell Scrapes' and carried out recce patrols. On the second morning we got up bright and early and I prepared a lovely breakfast of sausages, bacon, eggs, fried bread and fresh mushrooms—I also tell lies—actually, I washed my feet! After completing a medevac we carried out a clearance patrol through the woods. It was rather like playing hide and seek. The final phase included the assault course, a four mile forced march in full kit and a river crossing. We then sorted all our kit into wet and very wet, cleaned our weapons, and collapsed on to the transport back to camp. It certainly was an experience with plenty of humorous events to maintain sanity, but I am certainly in no hurry to go back.

Sgt Nick Neilsen pins down Cpl Geoff 'Rambo' Astill and LCpl Sue Lisle WRAC hopes it isn't her turn next

SERGEANTS' MESS

The Dining Out of RSM **Ray Jeffery**, which took place on 14 June, proved to be a night to remember not only because the President for the night **WO1 Nick Naylor** managed to get his speech right, but we managed, also, to get the admin right and were authorised by the German Border Guards to bring a horse in from the stables across the border—with the owner's permission of course. Well done **SSgt Roy 'Knight Rider' Davis** on your horsemanship! and to **WO2 Jo Bolland WRAC** and **WO1 Nick Naylor** for 'fixing' the border guards and stable owner. All in all, a highly successful evening.

On the first day of August we were honoured by a visit from Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman**. Equally honoured were the five recipients of the LS and GC award and **WO1 John Neal** who received a Certificate of Merit from the Americans as the result of a detachment to them.

The RSM leaves the Mess in style

Comd Comms poses with the five LS and GC award winners and WO1 Neal, recipient of the US Army Certificate of Merit. Anyone spot the deliberate mistake?

BLANDFORD SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

On a rare fine Summer's day Blandford School held their annual Sports Day. The school has very strong ties with the Regiment, not only because the children are nearly all from the unit, but because of the part-time help they receive from mums and dads.

The Winners:
(*L—R*) Mrs Chris Cooper, the children, Mrs Jackie Bryson, Mr Malcolm Moss (the Headmaster), Mrs Stuart

NOTES FROM THE TROOPS
3 SQUADRON (BFPO 45)
BERLIN SKILL-AT-ARMS 1985

The Berlin Infantry Brigade Skill-At-Arms Meeting took place on 7 May. The 3 Sqn team consisted of **Sgt Kev Bailey** (Capt), **WO1 John Clark, WO2 (FofS) Stan Grimmitt, WO2 (SSM) Mal Heaney, WSSgt Jan Sykes, Sgt Widdy Widdicombe, Sgt Ted Roberts, Cpl Bob Brewster, LCpls Joe Malia, Denver Owens, Wright.**

Day one began better than we expected with the Rifle team leading after our first three men had shot. Unfortunately, our next three men did not shoot up to their usual standard and the opposition shot well above theirs. We finished the day bottom of the league with zero points.

Day two arrived and the Rifle team were determined not to have a repetition of the previous day. In fact, they produced their best ever results, finishing the day in the Silver Medal position as Minor Units Runners-Up. They also won the Minor Units SMG Match and gained a Silver in the LMG Match.

The pistol teams could not match the excellent shooting of the local GSU and Major Unit teams and finished well down the field. A special mention must go to **WSSgt Sykes** who took the Gold Medals in both the Women's Pistol and SMG shoots. Her excellent score in the SMG shoot had many of the chauvinist males blushing. Well done to all.

Standing L—R: Sgt Bailey, Cpl Brewster, LCpls Wright, Malia
Kneeling L—R: WO2 Heaney, LCpl Owens, WSSgt Sykes, Sgt Roberts

THE BERLIN 25KM ROAD RACE

The annual 25Km Road Race was held on a bright clear morning, on Sunday 5 May. The race increases in popularity every year, and this year over 7,000 competitors took part.

The race starts in front of the Olympic Stadium and takes the runners through the streets of Berlin before bringing them back to finish in the Olympic Stadium itself. This year, as in every year, the run proved to be gruelling, but the pain was lessened by the sight and sound of the cheering crowds as they urged the runners towards the finishing line.

Twenty four competitors from the Regiment entered the race, 21 of them from 3 Sqn, all entrants completing the course. A special mention must be made of **Cpl Craig Turner** who with a commendable time of 1 hr 35 mins 54 secs was only 19 minutes behind the race winner.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

The past three months has seen an increase to the Squadron strength with the arrival of **Capts Longhorn, Good** and **Gaw, SSgts Derek Glover, Taff Smart** and **Kev Mulloy, Sgts Jeff Wilson, Chris Jones, Andy Barbour, Jim McRoberts,** and recently promoted **Steve Millar, Cpl 'Norm' Boorman, LCpls Morley, Salmon** and **Finch**. On the WRAC side **LCpl Mandy Simcock** and **Pte 'Matty' Matthews.**

We bade farewell to **Capts Mike Donovan** and **John Walker, WO2 Robbie Seaword, Sgt Nick Fordyce, WCpl Carol Young, WLCpls Maureen Evans** and **Kim Atkinson.**

H TROOP (BFPO 27)
SCHUETZENFESTZEIT

Once again, the past few months have seen the troop involved in a variety of activities, not least of which are the five Schuetzenfest marches, which lasted many hours, and to which we are regularly invited between May and June. At this year's Dannenberg fest we decided to make our own contribution to the day's festivities by adding some typical British 'refreshments', seen here being served by **WO2 Dave Green, Cpls Alan Brownsall** and **Bob Quinn.**

Those troop members whose children attend our primary school in Dannenberg (only a dozen pupils), felt particularly proud this year as they were presented with second prize for their marvellous dragon costume, under which they sweated proudly throughout the Kinderschuetzenfest march.

WO2 Dave Green and Cpl Alan Brownsall

Head Teacher, Mr Ken Horton, Secretary, Mrs Elain Hebden, followed by the children of the Dannenberg Primary School

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?

In May a total of 16 troop members sat and passed the German colloquial test. This was the last course taken by **Capt Englishby RAEC**, who is moving on from 47 AEC, and was presented with a Troop tie in recognition for all his hard work and help. **Maj Wilson**, the area Education Officer congratulated the troop on the high level of results achieved over the recent years.

German Colloquial Presentation
Rear L—R: LCpl Colin Tomlinson, Cpls Brian Davidson, Paul Meadows, Steve Rofe
Centre L—R: Capt Wayne Coupland, Sgt Tony Wall, Cpl Phil Adams, LCpl Steve Davis, Cpl Alan Brownsall
Front L—R: SSgt Steve Jarvis, Mrs Gayle Jarvis, Mrs Linda Robinson, Mrs Chris Bowman, Capt Chris Englishby
Absent from the photograph: Capt Alan Romanis, Sgt Clive Turner and Mrs Jan Gardner

EXERCISE *COLD WATER* 85—NORWAY

On Monday, 17 June a party of seven Sub Aqua Divers left the cold climes of Birgelen and arrived, rather haggard, in sunny Norway on 18 June.

The expedition, led by **WO2 John Scullion**, enjoyed 10 days of diving in the seas and fjords of Norway. All diving activities were supervised by **WO2 Dennis Mustard SADS**, who, to everyone's disbelief refused a beer on more than one occasion.

Based in a Norwegian hut, on a civilian Evangelist campsite, and sponsored by BOBC Norway, the expedition soon settled into the Norwegian way of life. 0700 hrs starts and 0100 hrs finishes.

A total of 122 dives were logged with an overall submerged time of 52 hours.

The novice divers, **SSgt Rich Ruff, Cpls Mat Morley, Paul Eden, Spr Nigel Benny** finished the exercise well on their way to sports diver qualification. After the exploits of our boatman, **Sgt Ian Mitchell RE**, it was decided that on future expeditions, we would take a cook instead of a boatman.

Back Row L—R: Gnr Russell, SSgt Ruff, WO2 Scullion, Sgt Mitchell, WO2 Mustard
Front Row L—R: Cpls Worley, Eden, Flt Lt Pedley, Spr Benney

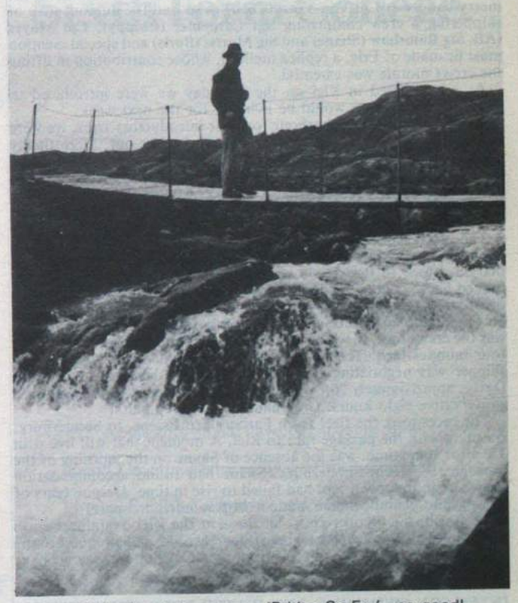
MT TROOP

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since MT Tp last graced the pages of *The Wire*. We successfully negotiated our way through various inspections, passing all with flying colours and as if by some divine reward received several new vehicles to replace our senile stock. No one was more pleased than **Cpl Dave Simpson**, our FAMTO/POL storeman who had the unenviable task of trying to find non-existent spares for our ageing postal truck.

On the sporting scene, the MTO, **WO2 John Smith**, and **Cpl Dave Forbes** recently successfully completed the Rotterdam Marathon and in the process added much needed Deutschemarks to the meagre coffers of the Rothenbach Rangers, our local children's Football Club.

ADVENTURE TRAINING
EXERCISE *VIKING TRAIL*

Between 15-26 July, five intrepid members of 13 Sig Regt went north to meet the Vikings. Using the facilities of the BOBC Norway, the expedition began on the 17th with a climb to 1,600m in the rain and snow with **LCpl Bob Ackland-Snow** becoming the first to fall into one of the many fast flowing streams. At the top the mist was down and the snow was deep, but we struggled on with **Cpl Griff Griffiths** leaping about the countryside chasing wild reindeer. **Cpl 'Indiana' Jones** led the way across the rope bridges with **LCpl Tom Morris** keeping watch at the rear. The ground was difficult to cross but the scenery made it all worth while. On the last day the team leader, **Lt Steve Baston** demonstrated to all how not to do a river crossing by falling in head first, much to the amusement of everybody else. We were picked up by the BOBC on the 26th exhausted but glad that we had beaten the Vikings.



Cpl 'Indiana' Jones on a 'Bridge So Far'—so good!

BIRGELEN GOLF CLUB NEWS

The golf course continues to show improvement despite the long winter and the wettest June on record. The club currently has 47 members who pay only DM40 a year for membership. The course is maintained by a part-time labourer and, of course, the members who are responsible for various areas. All the expensive machinery needed to keep the greens and fairways in good order has been purchased through club subscriptions, Nuffield Trust and (BR) RCZ funds. The two prime movers consist of a clapped out Toyota saloon which now favours a drop-head coupe and a tractor (thanks Joe!) which pulls the gang mower to ensure the entire sports area is kept well cut.

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

The Regiment is enjoying a reasonably quiet period with time for summer leave and plenty of opportunity for adventure training.

The long awaited new 2IC **Maj Derek McLuckie** arrived in the middle of July and was welcomed with open arms by those who have been coping with parts of the 2IC's job since the departure of **Maj Chris Urquhart** last December.

We held a very successful Open Day on the 27 July when the barracks were open to the families and local Germans. There were a great many stalls and side shows but the greatest success was the ducking stool—the rope being pulled expertly by **Cpl Mick O'Brien**.

The move of 1 Sqn from Langeleben to join the rest of the Regiment in Taunton Barracks is now well under way. This should be completed by the end of August and we look forward to seeing some members who usually manage to keep themselves well hidden.

1 ARMOURED DIVISION SAILING REGATTA 14 SIGNAL REGIMENT (EW) VICTORIOUS

On the morning of Saturday 13 July, a group of intrepid mariners gathered at Taunton Barracks to make their way to Kiel to participate in the 1 Armd Div Regatta. Armed more with enthusiasm than skill, little did the group realise the glory that awaited them. Leader of the merry band was **Cpl Van-Veen (Theo)**, who had the dubious task of skippering a crew comprising **Sgt Carpenter (Chippy)**, **Cpl Moyes (Al)**, **Sig Ramshaw (Shane)** and **Sig Morris (Boris)** and special mention must be made of **Eric**, a replica mallard, whose contribution in lifting the crews morale was essential.

As we gathered in Kiel on the first day we were introduced to *Petasus* the yacht we would be living in for the next week.

As the yachts left the harbour for their introductory trips, we were left behind with engine problems. Not to be put out, after finally giving-up with the engine, and when the rest of the fleet had returned, *Petasus* sallied forth. However, by this time the wind had dropped, and paddle power was the order of the day. After paddling around for 40 minutes we returned, still no wiser in sailing matters, but with much sorer hands!

The wind perked-up for the first day's racing the following morning, a run from Kiel to Farbung, which *Petasus* won with a good margin, much to the crew's surprise. From then on, *Petasus* never looked back, coming second in only one of the eight races. With the discount system, this score was made void, leaving a final score of the best possible, 5¼ points. An extra race that took place out of Dyvig, was the crews race, in which again *Petasus* romped home, with a good four minutes lead. The most colourful moment came when a guest skipper was negotiating the very narrow and dangerous exit from Dyvig, approximately 20ft wide, under full canvas in a force six, at a conservative eight knots. Grey hairs? What grey hairs!

The races took the fleet from Farburgh to Essens, to Sonderburg, finishing with the passage race to Kiel. A moment that will live with **Theo** for some time, was the absence of **Shane** on the morning of the Passage race from Sonderburg. **Shane** had found accommodation elsewhere in the town, and had failed to rise in time. Despite fears of leaving him behind, **Shane** made it with minutes to spare!

To finish, our thanks go to all those at the Kiel Training Centre whose hard efforts made the whole thing possible, and a request to the unit who won last year and are currently in Colchester. May we have the Trophy?

INTER-SQN SWIMMING AND WATER POLO COMPETITION

This event was held for the first time by us probably because our new barracks are close to the Celle Hallenbad.

3 Sqn had two weeks training prior to the event and this showed in the convincing victory over HQ, 1 and 2 Sqns in both the swimming and the water polo. **Maj Hewitt OC** 3 Sqn, in true fashion, led from the front, winning the individual medley, the breast stroke and helping win three of the relays. **Cpl Chris Gopsill** won the 50m freestyle, was second in the individual medley and helped win two relays. **LCpl Danny Thornton** won the 25m butterfly, was second in the 50m freestyle and helped win two relays. A mention must be made of **SSgt (YofS) Harry Elkan**, beginning to show his age at last, but still putting in fine performances in both the 25m butterfly and the 50m backstroke and strong swims in the relays. Though only the 'stars' of the team have been mentioned the rest swam magnificently, giving 3 Sqn a clean sweep.

The water polo was played on a knockout basis straight after the swimming with 3 Sqn beating 1 Sqn and 2 Sqn beating HQ Sqn. In the final, 2 and 3 Sqn played a close fought match, with 3 Sqn eventually winning, even with **LCpl Dan Locker** in 3 Sqn's goal scoring for 2 Sqn.

The medals and trophies were kindly presented by the CO's wife, **Mrs Shaw**, thus rounding off an excellent inaugural event.

3 SQN ADVENTURE TRAINING

This year 3 Sqn adventure training was held in the Harz Mountains, during the first week of July. On day one (Monday) the weather was wet and miserable, but from then on we had glorious sunshine. The activities offered were canoeing, wind surfing, trekking and swimming.

Tp **Sgt Phil Carroll** kicked off the day (literally) with a chirpy call to don running gear and get out on a cobweb-clearing hill run which was especially popular with **LCpl Danny 'The Winge' Locker**. This was followed by a dip in the stream and a hearty breakfast to start the day right. **SSgt John Cullen** and his shadow **Sig Waggy (lets walk some more) Wagstaff** took the trekkers in search of the promised land only to find hills, hills and more hills.

Meanwhile **Cpl Philpott** teaching canoeing on one of the local lakes soon found he had his hands full, when **Cpl Billy Boxhead Brothwood** came alongside and declared his canoe was fast filling with water. Seconds later he found there was a whole lot more water outside. **LCpl Vick Hayes** was our resident 'expert' wind surfing instructor whose claim to fame was keeping dry except when he stepped off into 6ft of water! However he must come second to the Sqn 2IC **Capt Bob 'I will stand on this board' Williamson** who then gave it up as a bad joke and settled for wet suit, mask and flippers.

On Wednesday the OC Sqn and SSM visited, with OC RCP Tp **WO1 Ron Clay** who took over as OC of the camp. Friday saw us packing up and returning to camp after an enjoyable and interesting week.

HAS ANYONE SEEN N TROOP?

N Troop—who are rarely seen by the rest of the Regiment due to the fact that they spend so much time on exercise (the EW in our title now stands for Exercise Weekly), have continued with their exercise commitments. Firstly with an American unit and then Rapier hunting with 22 Air Defence Regiment. Unfortunately any ideas of recuperation were dashed by a completely outrageous weekend spent in and around Wiesbaden and organised for us by the Americans. **SSgt Bill 'Moon' Brennan, Cpl Cliff Mountain** and **Cpl (now Sgt) Pete Gilbert** were just three of the many members of the Troop who went to particular lengths to further Anglo-American relations.

Having returned from our brief sojourn in Southern Germany we spent a couple of days at home before undertaking the biggest deployment of the Troop yet. *Whirligig* was a large Air Defence Exercise involving RAF Regiment, Dutch and German elements, and between them having enough equipment on the ground to keep the Troop busy from day one. Unfortunately the weather was appalling, some of the worst ever recorded in June, and at one stage a tree was blown on to Det Delta much to the consternation of **Cpl Vince Elliott** the Det Commander. Meanwhile on Det Charlie the cuisine was up to its usual high standard, **LCpl Iain Campbell** having given up some of his terminal leave to keep the crew in filet mignon. A Detachment was also deployed with **Cpl John Gower** and **Sgt Eddie Birmingham** at the controls with catering provided by **Cpl Ally Crook**, and between them they managed to cause considerable consternation.

The exercise ended successfully and we were able to spend three days at Wesendorf, two of which were spent introducing Staff College students to life at the sharp end, before getting back out on the road for a joint exercise with a German unit.

Whirligig. Part of the Troop after the Exercise
Sgt Dick Hanlon seems to be showing aspirations towards the OCs job

Y TROOP—COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

What's got three pips, nineteen stripes and four spades? Not a joke in fact. Answer: Y Tp's specially trained elite pioneer section, led by the OC **Capt Jefferies**. **Sgts Allan** and **England, Cpls Marshall, Nixon, McDougall, Ralphs, White, Rhodes** and **Phillips**, and **Sig Keay** and **Wilson**, spent half a day engaged in a community service project, digging a sand pit for the local Kindergarten in Trenchard Barracks. Hand crafted by a Captain, 7 EWOP/LING(SI)'s, 2 RTG's and 2 Radar Ops it becomes the most expensive sand pit in the history of sand pit digging.

Y Tp—Community Service Project
—half way there

Y Tp—Community Service Project
—the completed sand pit

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Army Officer

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RING OUT THE OLD—RING IN THE NEW

The main feature of this period has been the departure of **WO1 J. Bonnett** on commissioning (now serving with 7 Sig Regt) and the arrival of the new RSM **WO1 D. Simpson**, fresh from 200 Sig Sqn. Our best wishes to **Lt John Bonnett** and a warm welcome to the new RSM.

DINING OUT OF THE RSM

The WOs and Sergeants' Mess dined out **WO1 (RSM) John Bonnett** on 15 June. The dinner was attended by members from all Squadrons within the Regiment even as far afield as Bielefeld. The RSM was presented with a sword to mark his commissioning and in return gave two signed and framed prints to the Mess. The Mess wishes **John** all the best in the future.

DINING IN OF THE NEW RSM

Of course as is tradition, the incoming RSM, **WO1 Dave Simpson** was dined into the Mess, again support from all Squadrons and a good night was had by all, with the RSM meeting all personalities within the Mess.

Other highlights of this period have been a series of highly successful troop camps, a Regimental deployment exercise, a visit by the Director WRAC **Brig H. G. Meechie** and the annual confrontation on the cricket pitch between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes.

The final act of the hand-over/take-over. 'It's all yours' WO1 (RSM) John Bonnett (now Lt John Bonnett) shakes hands with WO1 (SSM) Dave Simpson *(on the left)*

EXERCISE *HARD RIDE IV*

On Saturday, 8 June, we held an Enduro on Egelsberg training area near Krefeld. It all started on Thursday morning when members of the 'Handlebar Motorcycle Club' deployed to Egelsberg to set up the course. Armed only with Tac signs and mine tape, organiser **Sgt Paul Engering** and **LCpl 'Four-Stroke' Richmond**, bravely marked out the 'Special Test' which consisted of tight twisting paths through trees and bushes with a hill climb, and all the time getting eaten alive by mosquitoes, and never a word of complaint was heard. The day soon went with about a third of the course marked out and it was time for a quick sleep before rising at 0515 hrs (is there really such a time?) to complete the marking of the course.

It was 5Kms long and riders had to do 25 laps in five hours. Points would be lost for laps not completed in that time. Also riders had to do two special tests in which they lose one point per second that it takes them to complete the 1.5Kms special test track. It was a fast course with a couple of nice jumps which provided good vantage points for spectators/photographers. In the woods the going got very muddy after only three laps and many riders had a great deal of trouble in simply keeping the machines going in a straight line.

For the race on Saturday our team consisted of **Cpl James 'Please Keep This Tree Out of my Neck' Holt, LCpl Steve 'Appleyard' Molson** and **LCpl Mick 'Our Hero Son Of The Famous Geoff Duke' Duke.** Unfortunately after a superb show of motorcycle riding **LCpl Duke** had to retire with engine trouble, so we were out of the team awards. **LCpl Molson** rode a very good race to finish in sixth place. **LCpl Holt** rode well but had a 'nasty' when he saw he was being video'd—he pulled a wheelie (poser) and promptly hit a tree, but all in all had a good ride and managed 11th place in the competition class.

The CO, **Lt Col I. E. Kerr**, presented the prizes.

Military Class
1 **SSgt Barraclough** (1 Armd Div)
2 **LCpl Lamplough** (1 Armd Div)
3 **Capt Jupp** (4 Armd Div)

Competition Class
1 **CSgt Kirkland** (Irish Guards)
2 **Sgt Porter** (1 AAC)
3 **Sig Thomas** (7 Sig Regt)

Best Team
1 Armd Div RCT

Best Novice
Sig Thomas (7 Sig Regt)

2 Team
4 Armd Div RCT

Best Team
1 AAC

Special thanks to the CO and to **Maj C. D. Melhuish, Maj R. S. Bresloff** and everyone else who helped on the day and with the background work done before.

C IN C'S COMMENDATION

During this period two loyal and very popular German civilian members of staff were awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation for 25 years meritorious service to British Forces Germany. **Frau Lumma** has worked for many years in RHQ and is well known by many members of the Corps who have served with 16 Sig Regt. **Frau Lumma** is a tower of strength to the thriving Anglo-German Society and voluntarily does much of the administrative and clerical work associated with this active club.

For many years **Frl Breit** has run the Station library, a part of 43 AEC which is co-located with the Regiment. It is a superb facility for which we owe much to **Frl Breit** whose enthusiasm and helpfulness is well known by a large number of past and present members of the Regiment together with their families.

Many congratulations to both ladies on their award.

Frl Breit receiving the CinC's commendation for 25 years meritorious service to British Forces Germany

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

This year the Regiment was fortunate enough to be able to enter two teams one male and one female in this prestigious, popular and demanding event which took place on 16-19 July. The teams were led by **Lt Alistair Ross** and **2Lt Dia Allen** respectively with **Capt Jim Allen**, the overall co-ordinator and manager.

Training for this arduous event commenced in March and prior to departure for Nijmegen the teams had covered some 700Kms in training, which proved to be of great value with both teams successfully completing the four day marches with no major problems other than hot feet and the odd blister.

The teams consisted of:- male: **Capt Jim (Hi Daughter) Allen, Lt Alistair (Golden Pillow) Ross, Sgt (Speedy) Huntington, Cpls (Dad) Laws, (Red Light) Taylor, (It's only pain) Hayley, (Who said that?) Brown, LCpls (SAS) Rogers** (now 4 Sig Gp), **(No Sweat) Boldero, Sig (Hooter) Jones, (Trousers) Arnold, (Tug) Wilson** and **(Assie) Farr**. Female: **2Lt Dia (Hi Dad) Allen, WO2 (SSM) (ALt) Smith, Cpl (Zelda) Wraith, LCpls (I did it all) Broder, (Bouncer) Crowther, Ptes (Molly) Millward, (Knees) Corns, (Wiggle) Watson, (Not well) Boorman, (Pinky) Borland, (Walker) Douglas** and **Pte (Who) Galway**.

Due to their turnout, bearing and noticeable fitness both teams were classed as outstanding during the marches by the British Administration within Nijmegen, with the WRAC being given a special mention for their exceptionally high morale.

The two teams photographed in Krefeld prior to their departure for the Nijmegen marches

ARU INSPECTION

On 11 June Comd (BR) RCZ **Brig A. K. Dixon** escorted by **Maj David Wills**, who is on his staff, visited the Regiment. The Commander has a certain reputation for producing the unexpected on these occasions so all sorts of contingencies had been planned. However, on the day he kept religiously to the programme, which we had prepared for him, without the slightest deviation. The morning was spent with 1 Sqn at Rheindahlen and in the afternoon with Krefeld viewing all aspects of Regimental training. He left the barracks bang on schedule well satisfied, a sentiment echoed in the ensuing report.

OFFICERS' MESS V SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET MATCH

On Saturday 27 July the sound of leather on willow could be heard coming from the Krefeld Test ground in the annual Officers v Sergeants cricket match. The Officers' team was led by **Capt Peter 'Chopper' Russell** while the Sergeants' Mess were managed by **Sgt Bill 'Sloggit' Watts**. There were some notable performances in what was a closely fought game. Amongst the most impressive performances were the bowling of **Capt 'Wide' Thomas** which was matched only by the batting of **Sgt 'Sloggit' Watts** (102 runs). The match, played to CO's rules this year enabled his son, **Cameron 'Botham' Kerr**, to stand in for his father's two bowling overs. Both teams put up creditable performances although the Sergeants' Mess did have the advantage of understanding the rules. The final result—Sergeants' Mess 212 for 8, Officers' Mess 187 for 8. Other noteworthy performances came from: **Capt Mike Cost** 48; **Sgt Joe Hodgson** 3 for 21; **Sgt Lawrence 'Of Liverpool' O'Neil** 0 for 4.

The event was concluded with an excellent buffet barbecue. Our grateful thanks go to the players, spectators and guests.

RHQ SUMMER CAMP

RHQ Tp had a well deserved week off at the end of June to participate in its own summer camp around the lovely Eifel hills and lakes. The idea which was conceived by **Capt Rod Thomas**, our surf-boarding Adjutant, was organised by our AAdjt, **2Lt Pauline Lucas** to give members of the troop a half week away from the Krefeld down-pours.

The mornings began with an early cup of coffee, brought by Chief Clerk and camp SSM, **WO2 (I'm only Band 5) Tim Craven**, which was then followed by a camp run.

The days were divided into windsurfing, canoeing (courtesy of **Lt Alistair 'Eskimo Roll' Ross**) and map reading/trekking exercises.

Morale was kept high by **Cpl Dave Mulroy** who warded off evil spirits by regaling us with his life's experiences.

We picked the best week of the year, high temperatures necessitated a large intake of fluids to combat heat exhaustion! All men and our gentle WRAC had an enjoyable training break and a lovely tan to show for it! Our thanks go to the CO and 2IC who allowed us to go and to **WO2 Mac McKenny** and his chef **Cpl Longmore**.

Lt Pauline Lucas keeps an eagle eye out for any passing food, prior to her 'lunching out in the field'
From Left to Right: Lt Lucas, Lt Alistair (It's my farewell too!) Ross, A very nice rear view of the CO, Capt Grace Harrison and Brig Helen Meechie

TUG OF WAR TEAM

It was in the month of April that anyone in the vicinity of the Rugby Pitch would have seen a nefarious bunch, busy exhuming a 40 gallon oil drum from its pit in one corner of the field. A day later saw them digging the hole underneath the drum even deeper. Rumours were rife within the Regiment, but no, it was not a grave for the team coach, just the revival of the Regimental Tug-of-War Team after an absence of several years.

A combination of dedicated effort and participation in the RCZ training league saw us winning both the RCZ League, which was catchweight, and the 640kg Championship thus qualifying for the BAOR finals a week later. In the BAOR finals the team were second, in its league, to the eventual winners (40 Fd Regt RA) and qualified for the semi-finals against 3 RHA, the 1984 Champions. Unfortunately the Regimental team were beaten but only after three ends. Against fierce competition for third place the team lost to 27 Fd Regt RA after another three ends. The fourth place now qualified the team for the Army finals, much to the delight of the squad, and it also earned the team an invitation to pull in the Rhine Army Summer Show 680kg Competition. Although well under weight for this competition, another very respectable fourth place was achieved. The Morrison Cup saw the defeat of a very good 22 Sig Regt team by two straight ends; it was then all out for the UK.

The beginning of July was spent in the UK pulling in some warm-up competitions prior to the Army Finals and achieving second place in the Tewkesbury Carnival Catchweight. Also a first place in the Ashchurch 640kg open beating both CVD Ashchurch and 27 Fd Regt RA in the process. On to the Army Finals, for the first time the team's luck was all bad with a draw that pitched them against the four top teams. To the credit of the team the challenge was met and their efforts were appreciated by many. The team was back the following weekend for the Corby Highland Games, competing against some of the top teams in the country. While no great success was achieved at these events a lot of lessons were learned and respect from the civilian teams earned. They could hardly believe that we had started only four months previously!

Tug of War Team 1985
Standing Left to Right: Sig 'Taff' Drakes, LCpl 'Pete' Smoothy, Cpl 'Jock' Lamont, LCpl 'Mark' (used to be 'Rock' but we soon changed that for obvious reasons!) Hudson, LCpl 'George' Burns, SSgt 'Pete' ('love me, love my dog') Halstead (Coach)
Kneeling Left to Right: Sig 'Tug' Wilson, Cpl 'Steve' Brown, Cpl 'Derek' Smeaton, Sig 'John' Harris, LCpl 'Russ' Dalton
Missing from Photo was Sgt (SI) 'Andy' Horn APTC

CANOE CLUB—SLALOM AND DOWN RIVER RACING

After losing a number of our team during the winter, it was a somewhat smaller team from 16 that travelled to Hildesheim for the opening competition of the BAOR Canoeing season, the BAOR Slalom Championships. This year with the competition being held for the first time on an artificial course, there was some apprehension showing on the faces of intermediate and novice paddlers. The sight of **Lt Julian Bunce** from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt reverse looping on the first drop (intentionally he says!) did little to convince paddlers that the tight difficult course was in fact safe.

If the size of the team was depleted from the previous year, the haul of medals certainly wasn't. **Sgt Kev Truby** regained his BAOR title, leaving **Lt Bunce** some 20 seconds adrift. **LCpl Ian McKinley** improved on his result of last year to finish in fourth place—certainly giving the Army team selectors something to look at.

Other paddlers who will certainly have benefited from the experience of competition on such difficult water were **LCpl 'Cactus' Custus** showing that there is always more than one way down a rapid, and **LCpl Dave Owen** who impressed us with his late night boat repairing techniques.

The next competition was the 3 Armd Div Downriver race held at Hohenlimburg over the weekend of 18/19 May. The best weather we have seen at this race for a number of years brought out a record entry. Again **Sgt Truby** took the Gold Medal with (again) **Lt Bunce** from 4 Div second. **Sgt Stevie Penn** raced well but the youngsters were always just out of his reach. **Steve** will be looking forward to his alte herren (veteran) days which must be drawing close.

Cpl Cath Truby made it a husband and wife double by taking the ladies race and but for a disqualification in the team event we would have been close on the run in on that event.

The RCZ championships in June on our home river (centrally heated by special arrangement with the North Rhine Electricity generating authority) proved to be our best result this far. **Sgt Truby** again took the first place in a personal best time for the course but the best result of the day came from **Pte Melanie Crowther** who took the ladies event in a very respectable time. **Cath Truby** took second place to keep a hold on to the top ladies' placing in the league to date. The C2 event proved to be a clean sweep for 16 with the team of **LCpl Custus** and **Sig John Harris** proving too strong for the very confident team of **Sgt Penn** and **Cpl Shane Wright**.

Sgt Kev Truby, BAOR Slalom Champion shows how to negotiate gate 24 on the course

Sgt Truby and **LCpl McKinley** travelled over to Bala in North Wales for the Army Slalom Championships at the beginning of June. They were rewarded for the trip by being selected for the Army Slalom team. **Sgt Truby** went on to take the third place in the open event and along with **WO1 Bill White** and **Sig 'Dobbo' Dobson** in the Royal Signals A team, raced to a convincing win in the Inter Corps event.

With so much success with such a small squad in the early part of the season we are now looking forward to the Inter Services Slalom Championships and the final races in the BAOR Downriver League with optimism. If you are a paddler why not come to Krefeld?

CANOEING/FLAT WATER RACING

Once again, the Regimental canoeing team were in action in the BAOR's sprint and marathon championships, which were held on the River Weser at Hameln over the weekend of 6 and 7 July.

The first event of the day was the 500m sprints in which **Cpl Shayne Wright**, a new member of the team, started by gaining second place in the WWR open.

During the rest of the day the results varied with **Sgt Steve Penn** taking two fourth places, **LCpl Chris Custus** taking a fourth and a sixth place, **Sig Alan Northcott** taking a sixth and seventh place, **Sig Terry Arnold** taking a sixth and sixteenth place and **LCpl Tony Lake** taking a ninth and twelfth place.

The ladies of the team achieved good results and **WLCpl Melanie Crowther** taking two first places and **WCpl Terry Lake** taking two fourth places.

The 4 × 500m relay race of the day was the hardest, as we had all been sprinting up and down the course throughout the morning, but with great determination the team took third place.

The opposition in the long distance race on the Sunday proved to be too strong for most of the team, except for **WLCpl Melanie Crowther** who canoed well and gained her third first placing of the weekend.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

Yet another successful season for the Regimental Swimming and Water Polo Team. Following a useful seven day tour in the UK, the team came back to win the RCZ Water Polo Championships for the 21st consecutive year and the RCZ Swimming Championships for the 18th consecutive year. Despite the odd injury, the team went to the BAOR finals full of confidence. The standard in Berlin was high and the team did well to improve on last year's result by gaining fourth place in the swimming, only one point behind 50 Msl Regt RA in third place. The Diving came next with **Sig 'Bruce' Ward** second and **Sig 'Stan' Stanley-Jones** third on the 3m Board. **Sig 'Stan' Stanley-Jones** also came second on the 5m Board. The preliminaries of the Water Polo went as planned with the team qualifying strongly for the semi-finals despite losing 6—5 in an extremely tight match against 21 Engr Regt who were our co-favourites. The semi-finals, however, proved a major upset with both ourselves and 21 Engr Regt being knocked out much to the disappointment of the team.

Finally we say goodbye to two long standing and staunch members of the Squad, **Cpl 'Griff' Griffiths** and **Cpl Dave Young**, who have both played a major part in our achievements past and present; we wish them all the best in their new postings. Newcomers to the Squad who now take up the flag and show potential are; **LCpl Eddy Williams, LCpl Dave Middleton, LCpl 'Crin' Crinnion, LCpl 'Olly look at me I'm a warm water diver' Oliver** and **Sig Lloyd Bath**. The rest of the squad were: **Capt Mike Cost** (Team Captain), **WO2 (SSM) Dave Hogben, Sgt Martin Bamford, Cpl Pete 'Carp Head' Taylor, Cpl Roger Toye, LCpl Andy Price, LCpl Rick Richmond** and **WCpl Leslie Eyre** (Diving coach and official).

Some of the Squad in a thoughtful pose behind the Berlin Military Government Building

LCpl 'Dave' Middleton flashing a goal past 14 TOPO SQN RE with LCpl 'Crin' Crinnion snarling at their No 2 and Capt 'Mike' Cost waving at the crowd

Regiment WRAC Swimming Team Runner-Up in BAOR (WS) Swimming Championships—June 1985:
Back Row: Pte Terry Parker; Cpls Caroline Parker; Wendy Wharton; Lt Col I. E. Kerr; Pte Jill Crafts; Cpls Lesley Eyre; 'Fred' Sleightholme
Front Row: 2Lt Pauline Lucas; Ptes Mandy Nimmo; Julia Skinner; Tracy Smith; Debbie Bowley

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON . . .

The Regimental Shooting Team led by **Lt Jim Body** have had a successful season concluding with the Regular Army Skill-at-Arms Meeting at Bisley. The team consisted entirely of B Class Shots with the exception of **Cpl Geoff Copley** in his final year at Bisley. The team also included **Geoff**'s son, **Sig Dave Copley** who is now a Combat Lineman in the Regiment and promises to be just as good a shot as his Dad. **Cpl Andy Owen** also met his Dad at Bisley—and shot against him as Captain of the 8 Regt RCT Team.

Father and son at Bisley. Cpl Geoff Copley (HQ Sqn) and son Sig Dave Copley (3 Sqn)

VISIT OF ALLEYNS SCHOOL CCF TO KREFELD

During July the Regiment played host to a party of 51 male and female cadets from Alleyns School in Dulwich. Under the watchful eye of **Capt Jim Allen** and **WO2 Dave Hogben** the youngsters were quickly engaged in a full programme including line laying, a drill completion and endless BFTs. One highspot of their visit included a chance to provide a 'live enemy' for the Field Squadrons on exercise at the time.

Led by **Sgt Stu 'Rambo' Huntington** and **Cpl Dave 'Shotgun' Mulroy** an intrepid raiding party set out to visit Commcen Juliet and NAG Mobile intent on inflicting 'first blood' on their unsuspecting victims.

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

TOT AND FOREMAN'S CONVENTION

The Regiment recently hosted the annual TOT and Foreman's Convention at RAF Wildenrath which was attended by 45 of the Corps senior technical management. The theme this year, introduced by **Lt Col Phil Whitemore** (SO1 Tels and Equipment, Comms Branch HQ BAOR) was one of change, with the main emphasis being on the introduction of PTARMIGAN to 1 BR Corps.

One of the more notable presentations was by **Capt (TOT) Bill Kent**, the outgoing OC RSIT, entitled 'The Fruits of Your Labour'. It was an amusing but poignant reminder that in the world of comms equipment maintenance you get out only what you put in!

The 'Piece de Resistance' was a presentation on Airfield Communications by **Maj (TOT) Cliff Webb**, the Regiment Airfield Communications Planning Officer. With immaculate timing, the audience was startled by two loud explosions, which signalled the start of the demonstration of UG Cable Bomb Damage repair in pouring rain, by a team of telemechs from K Troop, under the leadership of **Cpl Mick Senior**, with a commentary by the Troop OC, **Capt Pete Kearns**.

After a few lively discussions in Open Forum, the Conference was wound up by the Commander Comms, HQ BAOR, **Gen Alan Yeoman**, who, in his address, reviewed the last year, touching on such topics as visits, exercises, sport, manning, equipment and the importance of maintaining the high standards required of Foreman of Signals.

Taken in the Jubilee Club on the second day—convention audience and some of the guest speakers

EXERCISE *NORFIN BACKSTOP*

In May a percentage of the LAD took part in an adventure training exercise in Sardinia. After much planning the first party left Wildenrath on a two hour flight to Decimomanou, courtesy of the RAF.

The activities began on the second day with **Cpl Raye Bray** instructing the canoeists. **Sig 'Lightning' Peters** teaching windsurfing and **Sgts Mike Duffin, Mal Thomas** and the author instructing the sub aqua activities. The mediterranean offered an abundance of marine life including fresh octopus for our barbecue.

Cfn Jimmy Tough learned a lot about floating, especially after he lost half of his weight belt. **Cfn (now LCpl) Neil Easy Ley** took to water like a stone but still managed to enjoy his diving. **LCpl Danny Marr** suffered few problems on the expedition apart from losing a lot of weight on his crunchy bar and cornflake diet. However his calorie intake was supplemented with plenty of fluids.

The Mike Troop and LAD summer camp from 21 June to 7 July was in two parts. The second party, under the able command of **Cpl Scouse Anwyll** travelled down by coach to Fussen, in Bavaria, on the shore of the Baldwaldsee. When we arrived we learned from the first party what a good time they had had, even though, due to the bad weather, they were continually in boots and waterproofs.

On the first day, before canoeing, we had swimming tests. Newly promoted **LCpl Kev Butler** refused to believe that he would ever surface again if he put his head under water!

The next day's activity was hill walking which seemed to go on and on. We even included the odd river crossing.

Windsurfing followed, despite the lack of wind and, instructed by **WO1 (FofS) Ern Billsberry** and **Cpl 'JB' Beaty, LCpl Nick Dalton** and **Cpl Billy Reilly** (who left us recently) were converted from complete novices to very keen enthusiasts.

The barbecue at the end of our stay proved a great success. All the neighbouring campers were invited, and with music supplied by the Germans, and drinks by Dutch campers, the festivities carried on until the early hours.

It proved to be a good summer camp even though the weather wasn't on our side (maybe Decimomanou next year). Very many thanks to the organisers and instructors.

HQ SQUADRON
TRAINING WING
PERSONALITIES

SSgt Trg	**SSgt Willie Ireland BEM**
Sgt Trg	**Sgt Allan Hoensch**
Instructors	**Cpl Bunny Hutchinson**
	Cpl Colin Riddell

From the middle of March, until the end of July, has been quite a hectic time. Because of the diversity within the Regiment, the Wing has found itself running its normal commitment of Battle Camps for HQ and 3 Sqns in Belgium, and assisting in both 2 Sqn's Battle Camp at Altenwalde Cuxhaven and 1 Sqn's in the Ahr Valley.

Added to this, the Wing also ran a three week Junior Military Certificate (JMC) Course, for the REME detachments in the Rear Combat Zone. The course originated from a request made to the CO, which, much to the pleasure of Messrs, **Hoensch** and **Hutchinson** (both former Depot instructors) was accepted.

JMC is a course, which REME personnel need to pass in order to qualify for promotion from Lance Corporal to Corporal, so with that aim in mind, it was run on the same lines as a Detachment Commanders Course.

Soldiers from seven different units, including four Signal Regiments took part. After three weeks of very hard work, by both students and instructors, 18 out of the 19 entrants, paraded before the Inspecting Officer **Lt Col Wright** (Comd Maint RCZ) for the pass off parade. During the parade the Inspecting Officer presented a trophy to the best student, **LCpl Baker** from 28 (BR) Sig Regt LAD. He concluded by saying that the course had proved to be a great success so with that in mind we look forward to planning and running similar courses in the future.

The LAD has seen some changes over the past few months and sadly we have had to say goodbye to several members of the Troop. From Osnabruck we have lost **Tiffy Nolan** and **Sgt Spike Thornton** to other units and **Cfn Paddy Young** who has made his way to Civvy Street. We welcome **SSgt George Raw** and **Sgt John Hayes** to run our troops detachment and back in Wildenrath we say hello to **Cfn Boggy Connor**.

Rear Rank: Cfn Tough, Cfn Blight, Cfn Calder, Cfn Swift, Cfn Jones, Cfn Sneddon, Cfn Whatman, Cfn Twist
Centre Rank: Cfn McCreath, Cfn Saward, Cfn Sloan, LCpls Baker, Jennings, Cfn Kelland, LCpls Bryson, Brace
Front Rank: Cfn Walmsley, LCpl Robertson, Cpl E. A. Hutchinson, Sgt A. G. R. Hoensch, SSgt W. Ireland BEM, Cpl C. R. Riddell, Sgt J. Hayes, Cfn Lemon

1 SQUADRON

Here are a few comments on some of the characters.

As **Lt Margaret Johnson WRAC** was heard to say 'The thing I like about 1 Sqn is the men', which provoked a lot of amusement from certain quarters of the Squadron. However, it is the lads who make this unit such a pleasant one to serve in. **Sig Benny Bennetts, Jock Laird** and **Mark Freeman** keep you in touch with stark reality and prevent life from becoming boring, whilst those from across the Solway Firth, **Sig Jock Govan, Cpl John Davidson** and **LCpl Archie Fulton**, keep you wondering whether or not German is the hardest language to understand.

The stalwarts are of course the SNCO's. **SSgt Bill Ponder**, for instance, who swears blind his job is a combination of mindless violence and discipline, but has now agreed to drafting in of new recruits—such as **'Lenny the Log'** and **'Terry the Telegraph Pole'** for our pleasure. There are also the ever cheerful morale boosters of **Cpls Bob Snow, Neil Gabb, Chess Chesslett** and **LCpl Fleming**, to name but a few.

One person whom I cannot forget of course (because I've been told not to in no uncertain terms) is the SSM, the one and only **WO2 (SSM) Trev Johnson**, the man who, on the one hand, spends his time watching over subalterns and digging us out of the proverbial, and on the other, ensures that we buy more than our fair share of beer to make up for clangers on exercises.

If I am Pinky, then Perky is the only other Army Subaltern in the Mess **Mr (If you can find him) Ian Hume**, a combination which strikes terror into all but the most resilient of Sergeant Majors.

The 2IC, **Capt John Hogan** arrived at the same time as I did having recently taken over from **Capt Nigel Wood**, whom I shall be seeing in the near future at the School of Signals.

Last but not least is the OC Sqn **Maj Tim Bushell**, who, when not teaching lads how not to offshore race in the Baltic Sailing Regattas can be seen coolly zooming round the station on his Dax Honda—no not a huge 1000cc motorbike—more like a miniature monkey bike.

However all these characters can pull together to make 1 Sqn a unit of which to be proud.

BATTLE CAMP

Report by Lt Hume

Battle Camp was held in the red wine area of Germany; the Ahr Valley. The countryside was a combination of rolling mountain slope and beautiful dense woods.

It took the form of a section patrol exercise. Each day the patrol would set out to accomplish various tasks under the constant threat of encountering orange forces groups.

The first four days were a real test of the BCH and the sections map reading skills. The next two days was the defence stage and for this the sections were grouped into platoons and a company was formed under command of **2Lt Nick Walker**, otherwise known as the Major. By last light the trenches were complete and the company settled down to an active night. Patrols were sent out to discover enemy strongholds and the enemy did likewise.

The remainder of the night was spent repelling enemy thrusts and concluded with a massed dawn attack along the whole company frontage.

Battle Camp 85 was an extremely testing time for all, especially for the JNCO's who had to cope with the responsibilities and problems of running a large section, something that happens all too rarely in the Corps.

SOMME STUDY PERIOD

The latest in a series of Military Days commenced on Wednesday 31 July and was attended by **Col Mike Hales** Comd 4 Sig Gp and more than 50 Officers and SNCOs of the Regiment. The subject of this Study was the Somme Battlefront and in particular the events of 1 July 1916.

The scene was immediately set by the whole audience entering the lecture room via an excellent simulation of a WW1 trench complete with sandbags, ammo boxes and wire, accompanied by the sound of artillery, snipers and 'It's a long way to Tipperary'.

With the aid of a huge and well made model of the area, numerous slides and viewfoils and several Imperial War Musuem films the presentation was given by **Capt Paul Oldfield, Capt Chippy Woods** and **WO2 (SSM) Trev Johnson**, and by mid afternoon everyone was well acquainted with the build up, the actions and the aftermath of that day in 1916.

After the presentation and a tea meal in the Bristol Mess we boarded our coach and headed west towards SHAPE in Belgium.

A 'quiet' night was spent at Mons and we all awoke to reveille at 0600 hrs, some managed breakfast others just managed an aspirin and at 0700 hrs we once again boarded our coach for a battlefield tour, thanking our hosts for their kind hospitality before we left.

Throughout the next day we visited some 14 battle locations and at each our presenters/guides pointed out scenes in such detail that one felt transported back in time to 1916.

The tour finished late in the afternoon and it was fitting that it should be at one of the many cemeteries located at and around the Somme Battlefields.

The number of British soldiers killed on that day in July 1916 on the Somme is very close to the number serving in the whole of BAOR at present.

Having been fed magnificently throughout the day by **SSgt (Sweeny) Todd** and his cooks we boarded our coach for the return trip to Wildenrath and a chance to reflect on the actions, decisions and outcome of that historic day in July 1916.

2 SQUADRON
OSNABRUCK DETACHMENT

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

The 1985 Nijmegen Marches were entered by a team of 13 men from 2 Sqn at RAF Det Osnabruck. They consisted of **SSgt Steve Singers RAPC, Sgts John Stevenson, Dave Parry, Steve Grantham, Cpls Dave Murphy, Geordie (Rambo) Ramshaw, Jeff Smyth, Paul Youd, LCpls Al Churchward, Tony Ball, Steve Newman, Sig Sean Doughty** and **Pete Earp**.

The team assembled in Nijmegen two days prior to the start of the marches in order to settle in. The settling-in process was soon in full swing with the teams from other NATO countries 'serenading' each other until the early hours.

While **Cpl Jeff Smyth** represented the Regiment at the opening ceremony the remainder went to Arnhem to visit the Museum.

The first day began at 0530 hrs. Despite the hour the pace was brisk and the bike orderly **(Sgt Dave Murphy)** enjoyed his less taxing role. Towards the end of the day the new BCH were having a nasty effect on **Sgt Steve Grantham's** feet but after a quick visit to the medics he continued bravely. The second day brought blisters for most people but nothing bad enough to cause anyone to withdraw. The hilly sections of the third day proved to be the most difficult parts of the march. **Capt Phil Filby** arrived to join the festive atmosphere and lend moral support. It was a long day but with the aid of **'Father Abraham'** and **'Captain Jock'** the kms skipped by almost unnoticed, almost.

The final day began poorly when **Sgt Steve Grantham** decided that his feet were too bad to continue and returned to camp. However he had forgotten his identity tag and wasn't allowed to pass the sentry, so turned, ran back and rejoined the team. Having completed that small feat (pun) he continued to complete the final 40km, thus qualifying for a medal.

It was an exhilarating finale to the gruelling days to find so many people lining the streets and to have the bands playing.

And so the entire team completed the four days. The medals were collected and will be treasured, although the immediate reaction was 'never again'.

Sig (Dave) Doughty, LCpl (Tony) Ball, Sgt (Stevie) Stevenson, Cpl (Geordie) Ramshaw, Sgt (Dave) Parry, Cpl (Dave) Murphy, WO2 (Steve) Singers (RAPC), LCpl (Al) Churchward

INDIA TROOP

EXERCISE *INDIAN BACKSTOP 85*

Ex *Indian Backstop 85* started in true 'I' Tp spirit with the advance party making the pilgrimage south by road to the plush five star hotel (1 RHA Ski Hut) in the scenic town of Bad Oy, Bavaria. The remainder of the troop equally excited were to join them the following day, courtesy of 18 Sqn RAF, who took us away from the hustle and bustle of a busy RAF station to the quiet peace of Bavaria.

Once all the kit had been stowed away and beds were made it was down to the bar for a quick brief (honest) by the OC Tp **Capt Pearce** before splitting into our respective groups for the planned activities. How long would the programme be followed? Only time would tell.

The day to day activities consisted of canoeing/windsurfing, rockclimbing/abseiling and hillwalking (mountain type).

Night time activities also separated the troop into two groups, group one being the occupants of the bar and group two the 'TV/Video' buffs!

A nightly Volleyball match was also staged in which the teams gave 100% effort and really put the meaning into the saying 'team spirit', (bacardi and brandy).

This year, as last, we kept up the record of one person in hospital, with **'Chaz the Spaz' Young** performing the dance of the loose staircase and giving our medical expert **Cpl 'Bill' Clark** a moment of glory.

Our only visitor to the camp was OC SH **Capt Brian 'Boss Hog' Campbell** who really entered into the spirit of the barbecue by eating five men's rations amidst the cries of 'keep your hands and feet away from his mouth.'

Once again the presence of the **SQMS 'Danny Marriott'** and his tribe were greatly appreciated along with his new sidekick **Sig 'Brum, I've got no team to support' Terry**.

This year, unlike last, the catering support was provided by **LCpl 'Slops' McCann**, who although under constant flak from all members of the troop, managed to feed all of us later and later every night. The camp was a success all round and a great time was had by all.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome the following to the troop. **Cpls Graham** and **Shirley Lamberton, Paul** and **Pauline Watts** and **Steve** and **Pelicia Webb, LCpl Ian** and **Debbie Druce**.

FAREWELL

We also bid farewell to the following members, **Cpls 'Benny' Bywater** and **'Mick' Purves, LCpls 'Mark' Jordan, 'Mark' Whiting** and **'Steve' Barnes, Sig 'Andy' Keay, 'Brummie' Leese** and **'Geordie' Lambert**, we wish them all well in their future postings.

ECHO TROOP

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

Tp OC **Lt Mark Baines** is being whisked off to university and we wish him the best of luck. We give a warm welcome to **Capt Steve Heath** from 3 Div who is already lining up the courses.

Other farewells include **Cpls Mickey Poland, Steve Greaves, LCpls 'Buch' Buchanan, Des Ross** and **Sig Steve Schofield** and **Steve Terry**. Welcome to **LCpl Ryan** and **Sig 'Alfie' Atkinson.**

BATTLE OF KREFELD STUDY DAY

Lt Baines found himself chief instructor for this study period and guide for the battlefield tour. He quickly enlisted the help of the Troop. **Sig 'Bopper'** and **Errol Ricketts** looked quite at home in their Eighteenth Century Prussian and French uniforms. **LCpl Ian Leyland** and **Sig 'Digger' Diggins** built an excellent model of the battlefield. **Sgt Mick Tharme** dressed as a surgeon complete with blood covered apron and hacksaw and **Sgt John Stevenson** demonstrated a hazel wand used for disciplinary beatings. To the great surprise of **'Mr B'** all went well on the day!

MARCHING

A 2 Sqn team (mainly E Tp) again achieved a very respectable place in the Osnabruck Garrison March and Shoot Competition against strong opposition. Following this an E Tp team was one of twenty in the Voxtrup Marching Competition. We were the first British team to finish with just one German team ahead of us. The team was **Lt Baines, Cpl 'Shuggy' Cowan, LCpl Ken McGirr** and **Sig 'Bopper' Bromiley**.

Lt Mark Baines collecting the team prizes after the Voxtrup Marching Competition

SUMMER CAMP

This years Troop camp was based in a hut in Wertag, Bavaria. It started on a high note with **LCpl Ken McGirr** making an unusual 'discovery' in Munich! (say no more). **LCpl Des Ross** our canoeing (and singing) instructor gave a great demonstration of getting stuck in a weir. Meanwhile, **LCpl Carlos Sinclair**, in a bid to escape the canoeing, threw himself on to a barbed wire fence. **Sgt Mick Tharme** (following the OC's example!) much preferred canoeing upside down and **LCpl 'Lopez' Longworth** lost his canoe altogether! **SSgt Ken Counsell** and **Sgt John Bowers** led a hill walking section so far along the Austrian border that they had to drink gallons of beer—to numb the pain in their feet.

Sig 'Digger' Diggins couldn't resist living up to his name and threw himself headlong into the mud.

After warming up on the rock-climbing **SSgt Danny Marriott** found us some 'mind blowing' abseils off autobahn bridges. **Sig Rob Sullivan** tried one, slipped, and was seen clinging to smooth, vertical concrete with just two finger nails and his nose. At this point the OC pointed out that although it was a 150ft drop it was quite safe. We believe you, sir!

At the end of the week the Troop nutters climbed the Zugspitz but were forced to turn back close to the summit. Roll on next year's camp!

Cpl Martin Henley pausing half way up a climb on the E Tp Summer Camp

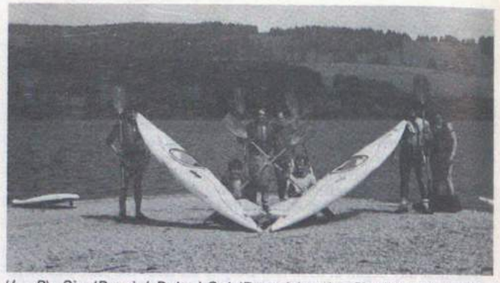
FOXTROT TROOP
HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We would like to welcome **Sig 'Rodeo' Roberts** to the troop, may your stay be long. We also bid our farewells to **Cpl 'Ken' Kennedy** and **Annette** who are posted to 22 Sig Regt and **Sig 'Scottie' Scott** and **Audrey** who are off to 7 Sig Regt, with **Scottie** promoted to Lance Corporal. All the best in your future postings. Congratulations go to **LCpl** and **Stephine Philbrick** on the birth of a bouncing baby boy. We also congratulate **Sig** and **Carol Yardy** on the birth of their daughter.

SUMMER CAMP

F troop set off on summer camp on the 14 July, the promised Chinook ride turned out to be most unusual. It seated 38 men, has six wheels, was white and made a habit of stopping on the autobahn. Not that any of the boys noticed, it could have been the star ship Enterprise as far as they were concerned, thanks to NAAFI's wine of the month. Twelve hours later we arrived in Wertach Bavaria. The first night was spent meeting the local population and swopping local/F troop customs, which both sides enjoyed. Eventually we had to leave our favourite pastime and get down to some adventure training. We were assisted by **Sig 'Heide' Lobbon**, straight from the sound of music, leading the boys across pastures green and to the occasional pub. **SQMS Danny 'Hop along' Marriott** coaxing the boys off a 190ft unused autobahn bridge, and **LCpl 'Robo' Roberts** introducing the boys to the murky depths of the Gruntensee, with the Squadron canoes.

The highlights of our week were; **Cpl 'Murph' Murphy** deciding to adopt the Free Fall pose on the abseiling. The 'Good the Bad and the Ugly' giving the local riding school a few words of expert advice, mainly **LCpl 'Jessie' James, Cpl 'Wild Bill' Kennedy** and **Sig 'Billy the Kid' Jevons** all said it was great and are going to do it regularly. Thanks must be given to **Sig Jonah Jones** for his bravery on the white water. As **LCpl 'Robo' Roberts** and **Sig 'Wham' Thomas** saw their lives flash before them whilst manoeuvring in a stopper, **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** shouts out 'smile' and duly set about photographing the event. Cheers mate!



(*L—R*): Sig 'Bernie' Bolt, LCpl 'Poser' Lewis, Sig 'Harry' Taylor, LCpl 'Robo' Roberts (instructor), Sig 'Willy' Williams, 'Wham' Thomas, 'I've been left out' Evans

LCpl 'Robo' Roberts, that's the way to do it

The climax of the week was the Tp BBQ, there was masses of curried beans followed by a light breeze. Lots of liquid refreshment, which all led to the Rodeo! HA! **Sig 'Rodeo' Roberts** decided that he wanted a horse, couldn't find one, so opted for a cow. A few bruises later it ended with the cow winning round one. The week eventually came to an end, we all bade farewell to our Bombadier friend. It remains only to thank **LCpl McCann** for cooking and putting up with F troop's sense of humour, no easy task.

INTER TROOP MAST RACE
Report by F Troop

On 6 July F troop took part in the Osnabruck Garrison Open Day which consisted of three teams of six men with the gruesome task of conveying a 12m Clark Mast complete with accessories, over an assault course, gathering the bits and erecting it.

It was inevitable to the budding young Newtons of G troop, that what goes up must come down irrespective of the Regimental pause of 2.3, as G troop mast swayed towards the horror struck crowd. How **Cpl 'Tommy' Steele** and his crew defied the laws of gravity to keep the 'apple from falling from the tree' . No one knows how they achieved it.

With under four minutes gone F troop refused to let the beer slip from their fingers, winning the event was as easy as taking sweets from a baby. Despite G troop's difficulties they managed to pull back into second position with E troop; they brought up the rear paying the price for not knowing what a piece of wood will do to stop a mast going down. Never mind there is always next year!

3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Jack Fiskel**
OC ACPO	**Maj Cliff Webb**
OC H Tp	**Capt Bob Bates**
OC K Tp	**Capt Peter Kearns**
OC L Tp	**Capt Billy Miles**
OC N Tp	**Capt Dave Longhurst**
SSM	**WO2 Jim Neil**
FofS ACPO	**WO2 Bruce Wyllie**
SQMS	**SSgt Bob Rack**

AIRFIELD COMMUNICATION PLANNING OFFICE (ACPO)
Report by SSgt Hilton

The Airfield Communication Planning Office (ACPO) is situated in the 'Big House' in Rheindahlen. The Office is the Communication Installation Design Authority (IDA) for many of the varied RAFG Airfield Communication Projects. Essentially this involves production of SWS Projects including the civil work element necessay for their introduction. The office is manned at present by OC **Maj Cliffe Webb** with **WO2 FofS Bruce Wyllie** and **SSgt Kev East** (just arrived from 28(BR) Sig Regt). They provide the technical support for the Comms planning. To enable planning support to be given to the large number of Telemechs employed on the Airfields, we have **SSgt Mick Read** (note the correct spelling) and **SSgt Stephen Hilton**. The rest of the office is made up of **Cpl Terry Woodward** our Draughtsman and his brand new Drawing Assistant **Mrs Louise Cullis**. Last but not least, our clerk/typist **Mrs Michelle Matthew**, who for the last four years has been responsible for all the standard clerical office work and also keeps the telephone records up to date.

TOT/FofS CONVENTION

At the recent BAOR convention ACPO was given a one hour slot to present Airfield Communications. From the comments received after the presentation it was obvious that the majority of the audience were very surprised at the detail and quantity of work required to ensure that RAFG Airfields remain fully operational. 21 Sig Regt (AS) cannot be included in the 'sleepy hollow' tag that is usually given so wrongly to units in the RCZ.

FAREWELLS

We have recently had to say goodbye to **WO2 FofS Joe Aquilina** who departed for his last six months in the UK before being let loose on civilian technology, and **Mr Russell Cook** who was our Assistant Draughtsman for the last two years. Both are missed by us all.

SUMMER CAMP

The two Telemech Staff Sergeants recently spent a week in Obersdorf Bavaria with 'N' Troop from RAF Gutersloh, teaching canoeing (**SSgt Hilton**) and rock climbing (**SSgt Read**). Both the Students and the Instructors had an enjoyable if hard week, with many horror stories from the day's activities being told over a beer each evening. Both Instructors would like to thank the OC and men from 'N' Troop for making them feel part of the Troop.

CONGRATULATIONS

Cpl Terry Woodward is to be congratulated on passing his Advanced Draughtsmans Course which he attended in Catterick in July. **WO2 (SSM) John Davis** is also congratulated on his recent promotion and posting to 22 Sig Regt.

N TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Dave Longhurst**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Tom Ginty**
Ug Sgt	**Sgt Bob Orchard**
Proj Sgt	**Sgt Dave James**
i/c Techs	**Sgt Barry Vargas**

Following the success of the cross country competition, the second part of the N Troop sports spectacular was volleyball. Again 25 members of the Troop made up five teams of five, each with at least one SNCO. The referee was **Sig John Bower**, who although under pressure handled everything very well especially as he had been advised of the basic rules only an hour before the start of the competition.

It was run on a league basis and it wasn't until the last two games that the four teams competing could be separated. Two teams had finished level on points and it required a play off to decide the winners.

The winners eventually were team D which consisted of, **Sgt Bob Orchard, Cpl Taff Morgan, Sig Dobber Fielding**, (who is making a habit of winning medals), **Sig (now Mr) Jock Stewart** and **Cfn Ollie Swift**. They beat team E, which at least had the satisfaction of having the man of the match, **LCpl Taff Gumm** the Troop Clerk.

Thanks goes to **LCpl Bob Hindle** for organising the afternoon and also the OC's wife for taking the photographs.

We bid farewell to **Sgt Al Davey** and his family on his promotion and their posting to 1 ADSR, **Cpl** and **Mrs Ian Johnson** on his promotion and their posting to 8 Sig Regt, **LCpl** and **Mrs Maz Warrington** to Mossy Hill and **Sig Jock Stewart** on his demob to civilian life.

We welcome **Sig Buddy Rich** to the Troop and hope that he will enjoy his stay here as Troop storeman. We also say goodbye to **ACpl Ade (wait till I'm a Sgt) Downs** and **Mrs Downs** on posting to Maastrict.

Congratulations on promotion to Corporal for **LCpl's Hindle** and **Wrath** also on promotion to Lance Corporal for **Sig Sartorius** and **Wise**.

K (AIRFIELD) TROOP RAF WILDENRATH
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Peter Kearns**
SSgt	**SSgt Chris Biddlecombe**
UG Sgt	**Sgt Martin Chapman**
Proj Sgt	**Sgt Billy Allen**
IC Techs	**Sgt Ian (Battle Camp) Barnes**

The first three months of '85 saw the troop with a change of management, with **Capt Platts** departing for Northern Ireland in December and **Capt Kearns** arriving in January.

SSgt Ken Schindler decided after 22 years, which commenced at RAF Wildenrath, that Wildenrath was the ideal finishing place. So he packed his bags and departed to the UK, leaving us without a replacement for nearly a month. During that time of turbulence **Sgt Billy Allen** decided to take what he says was well deserved Renleave and departed for Australia and Fiji for a month, leaving **Sgt Martin Chapman** holding the fort.

FALKLANDS

3 Sqn has commitments in the Falklands, to which each Airfield troop contributes. At present **Cpls Steve Brearly** and **Garry Gillings** and **Sig 'Taff' Workman** are 'down there'. **Cpl Garry Gillings** being given less than a month's notice to depart; we wish them all a speedy return. In July we welcomed back **Sig 'Tiny' Blatcher**, who was prematurely relieved by **'Taff' Workman**. Dont worry **'Taff'**, your replacement **Sig Steve Senior**, is on his way.

SPORT

K Troop although limited with the amount of time available, has produced some notable results. We were semi-finalists in the Station Rugby 7's narrowly missing the final, **Sig 'Bazz' Bazzard** not trusting **Sgt Billy Allen**'s kicking tried but failed to place the ball between the posts.

Football saw us again reaching the semi-final; this time in the Inter Section Cup. Not a bad result due to the fact that we eventually gained third place in the second Division. Our chances were reduced due to courses taking players away and **Sig 'Tiny' Blatcher** 'holidaying' in the Falklands. We are now looking forward to next season.

A special mention must go to **Sig Eddie (The Snake) John** who was voted Sportsman of the Year for his achievements during 84/85 season. To name but a few, he has represented the Combined Services at Athletics, been selected to play for the Corps in BAOR at Football and Rugby (although he didn't think much of his first night's accommodation at 7 Sig Regt). Finally due to his performance for the Corps Rugby team he was selected to represent BAOR, an offer which he had to decline. He has shown a great aptitude as a truly all round sportsman, and is an unselfish and very loyal member of the troop. We wish him well on his posting to Cyprus in September, where we're sure he will set some new records.

FAREWELLS

In the last two months we bade farewell to **Sgt Tony** and **Sue Johnson, Sig 'Snowy' Cartwright** and **LCpl 'Raff' Cannas**.

WELCOMES

We welcome into the Troop **LCpl 'Taff'** and **Jackie Skinner, LCpl Bob** and **Heather Shotton, LCpl 'Murph' Murphy** and **Sig Mick** and **Rosemary Ryan**.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

In recent weeks various Squadrons within the Regiment have had the opportunity to exercise, more or less independently, enjoying summer adventurous training camps in pleasant locations throughout Germany. These interspersed with a lengthy period of Site Guard have ensured that the spirit of summer does not allow us to become too complacent.

PTARMIGAN RR(W) CONVERSION TEAM

As the increasing impact of PTARMIGAN is felt by all signallers in 1 (BR) Corps, the task of converting the Radio Relay vehicles has fallen to a small team based in M Tp. As with all such 'one off' jobs the impending work was initially viewed with much trepidation mixed with enthusiasm, but now that vehicles are starting to roll off the 'production line' most of the fears have been allayed. The garage facilities in M Tp, probably the best in the Corps, have been improved with the use of scaffolding obtained from our local Sappers, saving a great deal of time and effort that would otherwise have been spent in climbing on and off the vehicles. Specialist tools, storage shelves, workbenches and a variety of other useful items have been begged, borrowed or otherwise procurred from a somewhat bemused host of SQMS's, storemen, and otherwise innocent passing strangers, so that we now have a fairly passable imitation of a small scale factory assembled. Normal fitness and shooting standards have been kept up and although the team has little time for sport, we do have ambitions in the football sphere, and plan to take on the rest of the Regiment's departments in the coming season.

The team consists of two elements, both under **WO1 (FofS) Russ Davey**, OC M Tp. On the installation side is **SSgt Ray Cartwright BEM** and a team of eight technicians, the inspection side is provided by SNCO's of RSIT, led by **Sgt Wyn Harris**. The team is divided into four crews consisting of **Sgt Steve Jones** and **LCpl Ginger Lees** (7 Sig Regt); **Cpl Chris Mockford** and **LCpl Mick Phipps; Cpls Andy Cooper** and **Aussie Chapman; Cpls Tim Debell** and **John Forbes** (7 Sig Regt). The inspection team changes regularly as the RSIT element has many other commitments, but **Sgts Wyn Harris** and **Will Williams** have been pre-eminent in getting things rolling, ably assisted by **LCpls Mac McLuskey** and **Doc Docherty** from 21 Sig Regt.

Despite the fact that the techs spend most of the time stripping, cutting, marking, drilling, screwing and generally re-arranging the vehicles it is not true that being a Chelsea supporter is a pre-requisite for the job. We would particularly like to thank all the units involved for their co-operation and the hard work put in by the accompanying det commanders who bring credit to their respective regiments.

The PTARMIGAN RR(W) Conversion Team
Back Row Left to Right: Cpls Andy Cooper, Tim Debell, SSgt Ray Cartwright, LCpl Mac McLuskey (21 SR)
Front Row Left to Right: Cpl John Forbes (7 SR), LCpl Ginger Lees (7 SR), WO1 (FofS) Russ Davey, Cpl Chris Mockford, LCpl Doc Docherty (21 SR)
Absent: Sgt Steve Jones, LCpl Mick Phipps and Cpl Aussie Chapman

KAPE TOUR 1985

Sig Daryl Wilkinson showing off his knowledge of the Unit Level Switchboard to two young admirers

KAPE TOUR 85

Our KAPE Tour 1985 finally chugged into life and left Churchill Barracks on 24 July, after a hectic fortnight of vehicle and equipment collection, painting and cleaning. Following an extremely interesting 29 hour journey back to UK, during which we seemed to spend more time at border crossings than on the road, we arrived at our first display, an International Scout, Guide and Venture Scout Camp at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, somewhat less than lean, mean, fighting machines. Unfortunately, Army accommodation was not available, and so the team had to rough it in a two-star hotel, colour TV in every room and so on—somehow we managed to live with it. The first display, Peak 85, was a huge tented camp for 6,000 youngsters, all of whom wanted to try and see our display at the same time. On the two open days, when the camp was invaded by 20,000 Cub Scouts and Brownies, our display was swamped. **Sig 'JD' Hogg** discovered that it was in fact possible to fit 14 Cubs in the back of an FFR, getting them out proved a problem, however. All the young people at the camp appeared to be very 'pro-army', as were all the camp organisers, opinions echoed by the Chief Scout, **Lt Gen Walsh**, who visited our display; he thanked us for coming, mentioning that he was very familiar with 22 Regt, having been GOC 3 Armd Div.

Our two resident techs, **Cpls Paul Morton** and **Bill Owen** were kept very busy throughout; youngsters have a capacity to destroy kit that surpasses even our own, and the OC and 2IC, **Lt Jake Thackray** and **SSgt Pete Reynolds** were always on the lookout for the odd person who thought they'd take something home with them, such as T100s, band II heads and ¾ ton FFRs. Our second display was at the Bakewell Show, where we shared the limelight with about three regiments worth of Signallers, Infanteers, Guardsmen, Truckies, Marines and Sailors. We needed them, though, to take the pressure off, as there were audiences of 30,000 per day.

All in all the whole experience was great fun, including even the terrible weather. The word is, if there's another KAPE next month the whole team are volunteering now.

Lt Jake Thackray finds another excuse to eat more of the display rations, whilst Sig Chris Collin takes it easy after his seventh chicken curry that morning!

The KAPE team
Back Row Left to Right: Sig Nez Winter, Cpl Bill Owen, Sig Wilkie Wilkinson, Lt Jake Thackray, Sig J. D. Hogg, Jonah Jones, Geordie Divers
Front Row Left to Right: Sig Jon Stafford, Cpl Paul Morton, Sig Dave Mitchell, Tony Hussey, LCpl Scouse Swain

EXERCISE *MIDNIGHT GAMBOL II*

Ex *Midnight Gambol II* (it means to move in a 'frisky' manner) is a night map reading exercise used to practise night map reading and orientation in a tactical environment.

It takes place in the local Brenkermark—a densely wooded area of about 15 sq kms, and entails the movement of 10 man setions, through various grid references, directed by dead-letter boxes and soldier/partisans situated about the area.

After the success of the initial exercise, which was held in freezing March, it was decided to hold a second one in June, when 'the weather and moon-filled skies' would make life a lot easier for the participants—how wrong can one get! If the mere fact that you couldn't see your hand in front of your face was anything to go by, it was without doubt the wettest, blackest night ever experienced in normally sunny Lippstadt. A lot of basic facts came home to many a section leader that night. Three mains ones come to mind for your perusal and a possible chuckle!

Firstly—In the pitch-black and rain-soaked forest—count your men when leaving a position. You could spend all night (and someone did) looking for the 'lost-sheep'—only to find that he came 'home' an hour earlier with a different section which was on a different route and whose section commander wondered why he had 11 men at the finish—(that one is still baffling many people)!

Secondly—Partisans should learn to distinguish between wild boar and small deer (one soldier spent all night in the open—too scared to go back to his shell-scrape, having been driven out by a wild boar)—he has since been sent to see Bambi four times—one for each boar! (However **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** 266 of 4 Sqn shall remain nameless!)

Finally—if the DS say you are 'there' on the map—believe them—you are! They have been there before, and if the SNCO in question is still out there somewhere and reading this—you are forgiven—there are sandwiches for you at the start point and your section got back safely.

Seriously though—the exercise went very well indeed and much was learned by many—final hopes for *Midnight Gambol III* are that it will be run in daylight with participants wearing dark glasses—it will certainly be a lot easier!

EXERCISE *STROLL QUADRANT*—SUMMER CAMP

Having spent 17 gruelling hours driving from Lippstadt to Graswang, a small village hidden in the Bavarian mountains only a few kilometres from Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the advance party stretched out in the sun to recover. Their relief was short lived, as only minutes later the heavens opened and remained open until parts of the campsite were under two feet of water.

Sunday saw us without power as the generator still hadn't recovered from being struck by lightning during the worst of the storm. Conditions had vastly improved for the arrival of the main party, in fact the sun actually shone.

During the next five days three groups walked in the surrounding mountains and discovered many interesting views. The other groups divided themselves between windsurfing, canoeing, climbing and abseiling, managing to fit in a day's sightseeing to such diverse places as Austria, Dachau and King Ludwig's palaces.

The regimental second-in-command 'dropped in' courtesy of the Army Air Corps just in time to see the groups begin the second half of their adventure training. The walkers got their heads in with the water sports and three rather more adventurous types went back for more and joined QMSI **Chris Christophers APTC** in a gentle stroll up the Alpspitze and Zugspitze, aided by a border guard who refused to let them get lost enough to wander into Austria.

Those who hadn't yet done so also walked in the hills, different routes—more spectacular scenery! After two days the 2IC was forced to fly out—he could simply not talk the AAC into staying any longer.

All too soon the 10 glorious days of training, interrupted only by the occasional shower, when the sun stopped shining only with reluctance, came to an end. Having stripped all but the most essential canvas we were subjected to a final thunderstorm without a mess tent to shelter in—the cookhouse hadn't been so full all fortnight!

The Summer Camp was far too full of incident to make mention of all of them here but to mention a few 'stars' . . .

LCpl Steve Peacock for his rendition of 'Singing In The Rain' which had the Biergarten in Garmisch applauding long into the night.

Cpl Scouse O'Gorman who so liked Munich that he did at least seven laps of the city on the way back—in the rush hour of course!

Cpl 'Hobbit' O'Brien who insisted on wearing his Tyrolean hat so as to look like a local even in the face of severe criticism from the remaining 60!

SAILING REPORT

Report by Lt R. Giles

Not content with winning the Royal Signals Dinghy Sailing and Board Sailing Regattas, we have now completed the hat trick by convincingly winning the Royal Signals Yachting Regatta.

The Corps Yachting Regatta is a nine day race around Zeeland, in the Baltic. The intrepid crew; Skipper **Lt Col Peter Pritchard, Sig 'Smudger' Smith** arrived first in Copenhagen, and won the 'Copenhagen Cup'. Much to the disgust of **Sig (I've just paid 10 DM for a beer) Smith**, there was a beer strike on. The next leg to Hassteed was discounted because it involved rounding a buoy that did not exist. The leg to Korsar was also won by the 22 Regt yacht, although they were not first to arrive back in Kiel they still managed to come first overall.

This is the third time that **Lt Col Pritchard** has won the Corps Yachting Regatta. The only other skipper to achieve this was the late **Col Ian Spear**, who also won three times when he was CO of the Regiment.

The Regimental Dinghy Sailing Regatta was also held in the same month. Two competitions were run simultaneously; a Squadron team event and an individual event. The Inter Squadron competition was a closely fought battle with Commcen Echo marginally beating 4 Sqn by one point. The 4 Sqn team sailed well despite being given the slower boats! The Individual Competition was won by **Lt Col Pritchard**, coming first in all three races. The lack of rivals is believed to be due to a fear of gaining extras!

Results: Inter Squadron Trophy; Winners—Commcen Echo—**Sgt Don Shaw, SSgt Eric Sharp, Cpl Steve Adams, Sig 'Geordie' Martin**. Runner-up—4 Sqn—**Lt Rich Giles, LCpls S. Summers, Rick Greenland, Cpl R. Squires**. Individual winners; **Lt Col Peter Pritchard, Sig Crosbie**. Runner-up—**Sgt Don Sharp, SSgt Eric Sharp**. Both the 1985 Board Sailing and Dinghy Sailing Regattas are being held in September. Teams for each of the events are already in training with the aim of holding on to the Winners' trophies for a second year. So, watch out rivals!

22 Sig Regt rules the waves

Back Row Left to Right: WO1 (RSM) Phil Daisey, Lt Richard Giles, Lt Col Peter Pritchard, Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor (now with 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt), Sgt Don Shaw

Front Row Left to Right: Sig 'Smudger' Smith and LCpl Rick Greenland

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM 1985

With only very limited training the Regimental Shooting Team competed in this year's Corps SAAM held at Buford and Tidworth ranges.

The newly formed team left the wintry conditions of Lippstadt two weeks prior to the competition, fully expecting to practise in the UK in glorious sunshine. UK arrived and so did the bad weather which persisted until half way through the Corps Saam.

Scores were now starting to mount up—well actually less of a mount, but, more of a pile, a small pile. Compared with the team average, some very good SLR scores were produced by: **LCpl Bob 'XR3i' Hicks** and **LCpl Scouse 'Dr' Doyle RCT**.

Others had good reason not to produce such good scores. The torrential rain caused havoc to the spectacle wearing element of the team namely **Keith 'Baggy Trousers' Dwyer** and **Sig 'Lurch' Adamson** not to mention the team captain—so we won't mention him. The penultimate day saw the team shooting in the LMG match. Only one problem—The 'A Team', one looked like Laurel and the other like Hardy—what a pair. **Cpl Barry 'Brown Eyes' Robson** is by no means small and **LCpl Scouse 'Dr' Doyle RCT** must be one of the smallest men in the Army, if not the world. Good effort one and two's, but, next time please, please take the barrel with you. Congratulations to **LCpl Bob 'XR3i' Hicks** and **Sig Steve 'Look at my suntan' Sprague** who produced the only good score.

The final shoot was the falling plate competition. By now nerves were frayed, ears ringing and shoulders sore, but, we persevered.

The Queen's Gurkha Signals were very impressive with their obviously well practised routines. They won the Corps SAAM very easily. A good effort by the team, better luck next year.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Out with the old, in with the new.

It is with great regret that we say goodbye to **Lt Peter Gillespie**, best known here for his Langlauf Skiing. He moves to an energetic post with 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. **SSgt (YofS) Glover** leaves 2 Sqn to take up his new post (on promotion—lucky fella) with the Queen's Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong. We wish them both well in their new appointments.

Welcome to **Capt David Sullivan** who takes over as 2IC 2 Sqn from **Capt Jeremy Ellis**, who in turn moves across to the Adjutant's Office. Welcome also to **Lt Phil Brown** fresh from his desk at RMCS. He takes over his new desk at Echo Tp whilst **Lt 'Ollie' Halstead** recently arrived from 244 Sig Sqn takes over the reins of the Regimental Langlauf team.

Finally, we welcome, fresh from their Troop Commanders course at Blandford, **Capt 'Chris' Millard** who moves into 4 Sqn and **Lts Mike Dunn** and **Julian Swindells** who both join 1 Sqn. Our best wishes go to all of them for a successful and enjoyable tour in Lippstadt.

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28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

BATTLE CAMP 1985

Once again Vogelsang resounded to the moans and groans of the Regimental Battle Camp. For two weeks we practised skills at grenade throwing, LMG, SLR, SMG and Pistol shooting. All culminating in an exercise to let the troops practise their battlefield skills such as section attacks, house searches and wood clearing. **Capt Alan Sharp RPC** was OC Camp with Camp Admin done (from the prone position) by **WO2 (SSM) Bernie 'the Bed' Burnett**. To keep the men happy with soft drinks etc the camp SQMS **Sgt Terry Northedge** was assisted by **Sig Ted Vandennieuwenhysen**. Each week's training ended on Saturday night with a barbecue when prizes for Top Sections were awarded.

SSgt (SSI) John McGonigle ensured that the men lacked for nothing in the fitness aspect. Battle PT, Assault Course and the Trim Dick were perhaps not received with the same enthusiasm as the strongest Section competition. This included weight lifting, tossing the caber, pulling a Landrover, resupply race, shot putt and other strong man acts.

The camp had its fair share of visitors from the Regiment which naturally included the CO, **Lt Col Cliff Walters** who kindly invited the Officers/WOs for dinner in a nearby guesthouse. This went down quite well until the bills arrived.

OC 1 Sqn **Maj Judy Webb WRAC** came for the first week and found out why the men get more X factor. OC 2 Sqn **Maj Matt Helm** came the second week to encourage his men and stayed to putt the shot for the DS. **Lt Jim Richardson** with the aid of **WO2 (SSM) Bob Baggaley** and **WO2 (SSM) Terry Marsh** ran the exercises which taught the troops something apart from comms.

The range staff led by **Capt Alan Sharp RPC** consisted of **Sgt Mav Merrick** who leaves us for civvy street after 22 years' service, **Sgt Terry Frankel** (gone fishing), **Sgt Dave Price** with his fellow solarium twin **Sgt Danny McDonald REME**, who also was unit armourer, **Sgts Ricky Richards, Allan Young, Glyn McGlaughlan** and **Cpls Jimmy Frew** and **Nobby Clark**.

NBC, First Aid, Map Reading and Watermanship duties were all taught as background activities on the ranges.

Blisters, strained muscles etc were ably dealt with by **Sig 'Doc' Phillips** and **Cpl 'Tommo' Thomas**. **Cpl 'Quincy' Collier** had a chance to put his First Aid teaching into practice when a REME VM dropped a power pack on his hand. We were all treated to a stitch by stitch description. **Cpl George Merrie**'s para training didn't help him when he jumped off a platform into wood shavings; apparently it only works on firm ground. Our congrats must go to **Cpl 'Shergar' Shergold** and **Sig 'Rowland Rat' Relton** who produced the two fastest times for the close quarter battle range. Our resident Martial Arts Instructor, **WO2 (SSM) 'The Snake' Burnett** kept the troops amused with impressions of various styles of Kung Fu, ie snake style, monkey style and the drunken style. Apparently the video cassette has been booked a year in advance from PRI and may be included as mandatory unit training.

NORTHAG BOARDSAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Wednesday 31 July the first ever NORTHAG Boardsailing Championships were held at Roermond in Holland. The Regiment had two entries for this event, the CO **Lt Col Cliff Walters** and **Cpl 'Dod' Maher**.

Although the event was advertised as a fun regatta, with a dozen or so competitors of varying standards taking part, each race was keenly contested on the day.

With the wind gusting up to Force 3-4 for most of the day, we were off to a good start, with **Cpl Maher** winning the first race and **Lt Col Walters** coming a respectable third place.

The second race saw **Cpl Maher** again taking pole position (although beaten by a woman! on a div 2 board), and **Lt Col Walters** again well up the field. The final race of the day was again won by **Cpl Maher** with **Lt Col Walters** maintaining his average.

The prize giving turned out to be an unusual event, when **Cpl Maher** took the first prize of an Edam Cheese! Altogether a good day's sailing was had by all, with the boardsailors gaining good racing experience in preparation for the Royal Signals Regatta in September. Unfortunately **Cpl Maher**'s family ate his trophy before he could get it engraved!

REGIMENTAL DRIVING SKILLS COMPETITION

In preparation for the Garrison Driving Competition the MTO decided to test the individual driving skills of any HGV drivers who were unlucky enough not to be on leave between 23-26 July. During the four days a total of 30 drivers and a few brave Officers and SNCOs of the Regiment, who thought they were all potential 'Truckers', were tested.

The driving tests, conducted in an unbiased way, were supervised and marked by **Sgt Dave Burbidge** and **Cpl 'Banger' Leigh** of the Regimental MT Tp.

The standard of driving was reasonably high, but some cones, barriers and various other objects which formed part of the tests were destroyed!

The overall winner of the competition was **Cpl 'Dinger' Bell** (of football fame) with **Cpl Favager** the runner up. **Cpl Bell** spent a complete three days on the square spectating, on the fourth day took the test and was the outright winner!

GARRISON SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION

The Regiment entered four teams in the Krefeld Garrison Competition which took place on 29 July in 16 Sig Regt.

Each team consisted of a team captain, one HGV driver and one Land Rover driver (under the age of 21).

The standard of vehicle presentation and driving skills was high and the Regiment took first Regimental position and first individual team position out of the 16 teams taking part. The winning team was **Cpl Clive Evison** (team captain), HGV driver **Cpl 'Dinger' Bell** and Land Rover driver **Sig 'Junior' Appleton**. Besides winning the competition outright, they also took first prize for the 'best' Land Rover driver, and 'runner up' for the HGV class vehicle. A worthwhile achievement—well done!

DINING OUT OF SGT 'MAV' MERRICK ON COMPLETION OF 22 YEARS' REGULAR SERVICE

At a farewell dinner on 28 June we said goodbye to **Sgt 'Mav' Merrick**. We wish him and his wife **Maggie** all the best in civilian life.

WO1 (RSM) Peter Bawden highlights some of Sgt Merrick's colourful past

INTER TROOP SWIMMING COMPETITION

On a dark, cold and gloomy afternoon in 'flaming' June the Troop Swimming teams gathered at the Bradbury Barracks pool for the Inter Troop competition. As the teams shivered at the edge of the pool **2Lt David 'I'm all right Jack' Kenyon** showed that he had the right idea by appearing in shirt sleeve order plus British warm. No sooner had **Cpl Dai Williams** won the first race (33m freestyle) than the weather obliged by ensuring that the officials and spectators got just as wet as the swimmers! As the spectators put the sunshades around the pool to good use as umbrellas, the rest of the afternoon's races followed in close succession, (the swimmers eager to return to the warmer water in the pool). Finally, just before 1600 hrs the last race was completed and Papa Tp were declared the winners. There was a short prize giving ceremony, at which **Mrs Betty Ross** kindly presented the prizes. Afterwards the teams and spectators made a dash for their transport and left the pool to the rain. Thanks to **WO2 (SSM) Bernie Burnett** and his team of officials for the smooth running of the event, and congratulations to Papa Tp for a good win over their Squadron rivals, Oscar Tp. This account would not be complete without recalling the comment made by a certain BFBS radio presenter the following morning. He had visited Bradbury Barracks that afternoon and was absolutely amazed that there were 'lunatics' around who wanted to go swimming on such a dismal afternoon. Well, at least we got a mention on the radio!

Papa Troop pose for the cameras after winning the Inter Troop Swimming Competition
Back Row (L–R): Cpl Graham Wilson, Sig 'Windy' Miller, Willy Williams, Ally McKittrick (coach) and Cpl Mark Shergold
Front Row (L–R): Sgt Steve Bennett, LCpl Jim Barr, Cpls Barry Favager (Capt) and Dye Williams

NORTHAG ATHLETIC MEETING

This year 2 Sqn set about trying to retain the trophy that they had won the previous year. The Squadron team were quietly confident and had a strong nucleus of athletes who also represent the Regiment.

The NORTHAG meeting is very different from the normal athletic competition, points are awarded for achieving a set standard, and bonus points can be gained for achieving higher standards. With six competitors in each event it became nearly impossible to field six good sprinters, throwers, jumpers etc, so those who could do it, did, and other places were filled with 'willing volunteers'. At the end of all the events, points were totalled up to see who would be the Victors.

I am unhappy to report that the Squadron were runners up to 840 (GE) Sig Bn after a close run contest that was decided by the last relay. Numerous people deserve a mention for their efforts and the first would have to be **Maj Matt Helm** (nearly a veteran) who scored maximum points in the Shot, did very well at the Discus and pipped **Sgt Mick Palmer** at the 400m.

Cpl Andy Foster produced good results over both days and won his own age group individual prize. **Sig Mark Sturmey** came runner up in the youngsters age bracket dropping only two points in five events. **Cpl Mark Shergold** and **Lt Jim Richardson** also dropped only two points but dipped out on a prize. Hard luck. **Cpl Barry Favager** did some good jumping and was the overall winner in the high jump. **Sig Bob Ewart** did very well in his four events and could stretch to five next year. **LCpl 'Taff' Roberts** and **Sig 'Taff' Mustoe** contributed with good performances and also ran legs in the 3 × 100m relay. The 4 × 400m relay comprising **Cpl Andy Foster, Lt Jim Richardson, Cpl Mark Shergold** and **Sig Mark Sturmey**, won the event easily and placed the Squadron within striking distance of first place. However, 840 Bn's 4 × 100m relay team proved too strong and beat the Squadron into second place.

2 Sqn are now eager to try and win back the trophy next year. Well done to all those who took part and better luck next year.

NEWS FROM 1 SQUADRON

The last two months have been extremely busy for all of 1 Sqn, although **2Lt David Kenyon** has done several disappearing tricks along with **SSgt (YofS) Pete Jarvis**.

Ex *Canary Caper* in early June proved interesting, with Bravo Tp playing 'Sardines' in a small wood at the top of a steep hill. The Squadron 2IC, **Capt Cheryl Atchinson** spent most of her time trying to avoid the Deputy Commander for fear of being asked awkward questions about the siting of defence positions! Meanwhile, **Sig 'JD' Spiller** remained a constant boost to morale with his amazing reasons for why things went wrong.

On the sporting side, Alfa Tp did well in the Inter Troop athletics fighting off a strong challenge from Oscar Tp to win the trophy. Although they did not win the Inter Troop swimming, Alfa Tp were greatly assisted by **2Lt Paul Graham** who just happened to be an ex Scottish international. The NSSG Swimming Gala brought out further hidden talents—what was **Sig Bob McTague** doing with that tyre?

One of the major activities for the Squadron was the Francisca Fete. Preparations had started months before, but as the day loomed nearer everybody seemed to be involved in collecting gifts, organising stalls or selling raffle tickets. The day proved a great success. The Mini 'City' donated by Rankins, was won by **Mrs Sue East** (wife of **Sgt East** of 2 Sqn). Altogether nearly DM 15,000 was raised, all of which will be donated to various charities. Thanks to everyone involved in the organisation and running of the event, and to those who came along on the day.

Just after the Fete came the NSSG 'It's a Knockout' competition. The 1 Sqn team (clad in the second 15 Rugby strip) were somewhere near the bottom after the first two events, but fought back getting good scores on their joker game and the 'Fils Rouge' to end up in third place. After the event, the large tanks of water and a dry **WO2 (SSM) 'Boggy' Marsh** proved too great a temptation and he received the ducking he had been half expecting all along.

Finally, a welcome to our new Squadron members; **Sgts Al Young, Geoff Hodge, Phil Welham** and **LCpl Dave Seeley**. Farewell and best wishes to **WO2 (FofS) Pete Waring**, who left on promotion to WO1, **Sgt 'Mav' Merrick** who departed for civvy street after 22 years' service and **Sgt Mick Laybourn** (who missed out on the LOA cuts by going to the UK). Congratulations are due to **Sgt Phil** and **Mrs Wesna Welham** on the birth of their first baby, **Daniel**, and to **Cpl Dave Seeley** on his promotion.

WO2 (SSM) 'Boggy' Marsh moments before his ducking
(*L to R*): Cpl Steve Francis, SSgt (YofS) Pete Jarvis, Sig 'A-B' Allan-Burns, Sig 'Gillie' Gilfillan, Cpl 'Scouse' Parry, Sig 'Tomo' Thompson, Capt Therese Crook and Lt Jim Richardson

NEWS FROM 2 SQUADRON

Sunday 14 July saw the Squadron off on their annual week of Regimental Battle Camp at Vogelsang. The week was to comprise a four day field firing phase followed by a short exercise conducted by **Lt Jim Richardson**.

On Monday morning it was evident one of our fold was missing. **Sgt 'Fraggle' Hamilton** had missed the transport on Sunday and used his own transport to rendezvous with the remainder at Vogelsang. After running out of petrol twice and driving round in circles all night he finally made it. On Monday we shot on the LMG ranges and in the evening half of the Squadron fired a section in defence shoot. Imagine the scene of 10 SMG's, four SLR's and one LMG all bringing down fire on our unfortunate enemy. The three sections were led by **Sgts Kev Munnelly, John Laws** and **Cpl Keith Merrie**. They all found the practicalities of command and fire control of a section testing, as it resembled something from the Alamo.

The first day set the scene for the remainder of the camp, hectic to say the least. Other background activities included NBC by **Cpl Stu Lawson** and First Aid by **Cpl Tomo Thomas**. Also that day many fired the GPMG, quite a new experience for many. One or two appeared on the firing point almost wrapped up in belted ammunition.

The emphasis on the LMG range work continued with personal weapons being used for field firing. Wednesday's high point was the live section attacks. The previous night's conversation centred on who was to be in the fire team, hopefully the safest place to be on such a range. **LCpls Jim Barr** and **Chris McQuade** were worried about the prospect of a live section attack. The grenade range was also on the agenda for 50 lucky individuals and this went without a hitch though **Sig Daz Jones** was quick to hug the ground like a snake. **Lt Jim Richardson** started the build up to the exercise and he, **Sgt Derek Styles** and **SSgt Don Stewart RAPC** carried out instruction in wood clearing and house searching. Thursday saw everyone through the individual battle shooting range, 700m of sheer hell, or if you are a member of the DS up to 20km of sheer hell for the day. **Capt Alan Sharp RPC** made it known to everyone that he had conducted every run. Most enjoyed the shoot gaining valuable experience in battle shooting. Other activities included the final LMG shoot at moving targets in respirators, quite a difficult task for some. The shoot produced four good LMG pairs who deserve mention; **Sig Daz Jones** and **Mick Kitson; Cpl 'Dinger' Bell** and **Sig Mark Ewart; LCpl Mick Thompson** and **Sig Bill Binnington** and **Cpl Mark Shergold** and **Sig Ally McKittrick**.

Ex *Hide and Seek*, devised and planned by **Lt Jim Richardson** saw our three platoons conduct operations against the FROGS (Freedom Revolutionary Organisation against Government Secrecy) who were stirring up trouble in the area. Phase one was to move to TAOR's and set up patrol base. The platoons were commanded by **LCpl Scouse Shields, Sig Ricky Thorne** and **Mark Ewart**. Special mention should go to 2 Platoon who built four man bivvies and something resembling a skyscraper. It was this night also that someone mysteriously attacked **Maj Matt Helm**'s Rover as he visited 1 Platoon. The FROGS were starting to get everywhere.

Acting on information gained during the night, recce patrols were tasked to go to a house 7Km away, some only went 5Km but had a hill like Mt Everest to climb. Two of these patrols were led by **LCpl Jock McCallum** and **Cpl Wilf Greener** who was by now starting to show his age. Some fit ones also looked to be flagging. **Cpl Mark Shergold** especially so, as he was told he was now platoon commander and had to conduct a cordon and search of the house he had first recce'ed.

Phase three saw the platoons actually getting to grips with sorting out suspected FROGS members. The house was occupied by an odd bunch consisting of **Capt Simon Green, Lt Jim Richardson, SSgt Don Stewart** and **Sig Joey McKinley** most having some peculiar Irish accents and all decidedly anti British Army. The search was conducted in the presence of a policeman, **Sgt Derek Styles** and Senior House Member was **Capt Simon Green** who must have said 'Get out of my House' 100 times that day.

Information gained from the cordon and search led to a fix and destroy mission to finally stamp out the FROGS. A meeting was to take place between their leader, **Arthur L'Escargot** and many of the FROGS activists at a house nearby. After having been bumped from their patrol bases the three platoons conducted their final attack. The enemy were this time led by **Sgt Mick Palmer**, seen for the first time on the exercise. He and **Sgt Danny McDonald REME** provided surprisingly heavy rates of fire to repel the attackers. With more ammunition than the Falklands the attacks were carried out with maximum amounts of noise, smoke and confusion all ably controlled by **LCpl Stu Allister** and **Cpl Clive Evison** for 1 and 2 Platoons.

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BERLIN

29 Sig Regt (Berlin) BFPO 45

APOLOGIES

Never start by saying sorry. This however must be the exception to that rule. Our last notes were of such tremendous value that the Postal System couldn't cope with the weight of the photographs (all taken by **Sig Lloyd**) and the whole contribution arrived too late for inclusion. All we managed was a few notes on the latest visit of the GOC Berlin (British Sector). This issue is packed with the Berlin Signal Regiment's achievements though you will all notice one item of great importance missing—the regiment swimming team who are now the Army Minor Unit Swimming Champions 1985.

THE 1985 BERLIN HORSE SHOW

Once again in April 16 reluctant volunteers under the intrepid leadership of **Sgt Clive Hunter** gave their all at the Deutschlandhalle at the Show Jumping World Cup Final sponsored by Volvo.

None of us are sure how much 'work' was done, particularly with **Sgt 'Shop Steward' Hunter** at the reins, but a few of the lads were later found in the bar jostling for position with Harvey Smith and the Whitaker brothers. **LCpl Steve Nickerson** felt that the occasion merited a 1 Sqn presentation. We understand the barman of the 'Horse Shoe' is still trying to work out **LCpl Nickerson**'s age. Who says you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink?

The team members were: **Sgt Hunter, Cpls Brown, Laverick, Smith, LCpl Nickerson, Sig Inglesant, Lloyd, Whitehead, Sweatman, Barker, Taylor, Allen** and **King**.

'The team' at the 1985 Volvo Horse Championships

Harvey Smith returns LCpl Nickerson's teeth in return for his hat

25KM ROAD RACE

On Sunday, 5 May, the annual French 25Km Road Race took place. The regiment including the odd Staff Officer and Clerk had 63 runners competing, some for fun, some for glory and some still wondering why. All of our runners were home to beat the three hour cut off point, the last man coming in at 2 hrs 55 mins 47 secs. The best time in the regiment was achieved by our very own PTI **LCpl Smith** who romped home in an amazing 1 hr 34 mins 11 secs with **Cpl Churchill RAPC** coming in one minute later. Special mention goes to **Maj (Tfc) Gus Gurr** of the Allied Staff Berlin who beat a lot of youngsters home in a very respectable 2 hrs 30 mins. It was a good day out enjoyed by all who took part. We shall have the results of the half marathon and marathon in our next bulletin, though doubtless so will every other Royal Signals unit!

The Regimental contingent prior to the start

VISIT OF THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

We were indeed privileged to be honoured with a visit by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** between 19-21 June. A hectic programme saw **Gen Badcock** visit the regiment on 19 June, with a tour of Berlin on 20 June.

After lunch in the Comms Inn a whirlwind visit to all facets of regimental life and Berlin communications culminated in a visit to Radio Tp, where the majority of the men were either preparing posters for the Grand Military Concert (in lieu of the Tattoo this year) or erecting them, or out on patrol guarding them against souvenir hunters.

After a stunning Ladies' Dinner Night with superb entertainment from the Band of 1st Bn the Devon and Dorset Regt (where pheasant pluckers abounded), the Master set forth for a well deserved rest, though we think he left the mess when he did out of politeness to the ladies, who were starting to flag. With the second day basically belonging to the Master for familiarisation and 'Signals Business', the regiment had had its allotted time with this lively and respected General and we all hope it will not be long before we see him in Berlin again.

LCpl Williams greatest chance blown as he demonstrates how to hang a poster for maximum effect

The Master of Signals in serious mood with CSgt John Lawton and SSgt Steve McKechnie SQMS HQ Sqn and 1 Sqn respectively

WO1 (RSM) D. J. WALKER MBE

WO1 (RSM) John Walker has been the Garrison RSM in Berlin since April 1983, and of the regiment since its formation in September 1983. As the RSM he is closest to the British Sector and Brigade staffs, and the protocol events of Berlin, and thus suits the dual hatted appointment. It is a very difficult appointment to fill, and he was justly honoured with an MBE in the Birthday Honours. He was responsible for all the protocol events from parades and guards of honour, to tattoos and band concerts, which involve many personalities in the regiment. The large Headquarters Sergeants' Mess is also his and the regiment's responsibility, and is predominantly R Signals.

WO1 Walker, as his predecessors did, and successors will, spent a great deal of time on the organisation and direction of the Queen's Birthday Parade, the Allied Forces Day Parade, and in 1983 the tattoo. Dealing with the variety of organisations, and tactfully to direct the RSMs of the infantry battalions, is no mean feat, let alone the drill of the officers, or the infinitesimal differences from our allies. As RSM of the regiment he helps conduct many visitors, from **HRH Prince Charles, HRH Prince Michael, Mr Stanley MP**, Generals, civic leaders, to the leaders of civilian companies with whom we do business. The photograph shows him taking a rest from his responsibilities for some 40 cadets from Taunton and Canford Schools, who were seeing a regimental presentation of equipment. The expression on his face indicates that this is far worse than looking after royalty!

WO1 John Walker leaves us on commissioning, and by the time this is published will be serving with 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. We wish him and his wife **Unni** a successful and happy time in their next posting.

WO1 (RSM) D. J. Walker takes a well earned break

TUG OF WAR

We entered the 640 and 680 kilo weight classes in the Brigade Tug-of-War Championships on 14 May. A great effort was made by all participants but special mention goes to **Cpl Nigel Green** for his determined and inspiring leadership in giving the team the coaching and encouragement they needed when it mattered. The middleweight team came third but the heavyweights took the runners-up medal to qualify for the 'big pull' in BAOR, though their success in that competition doesn't deserve a mention. We win too many times as it is. Extra special mention to **LCpl Baxter** who gave the author all of the christian names for the photograph.

Back Row L–R: Cpl Nigel Green, Sig Alan McMillan, Michael Whithead, Cpls Peter Bagnall, David Whitaker, David Laverick, Sgt Gordon Hughes, Sig John Taylor, Paul Beattie, Cpls Roy Sant, Graham Smith

Front Row L–R: Sig Schaun Brennan, Charlie Ettienne, Capt James Dryburgh, Cpl Charles Tolton, Sig Simon Meyers, LCpl John Tayne

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT PRESENTATION

On 18 July **Cpl Robert Dodds** was awarded the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal by **Brig P. P. D. Stone CBE** Comd Berlin Infantry Brigade. **Cpl Dodds**' career includes two tours in Berlin as well as Service in BAOR and the Far East. Congratulations from all ranks of the regiment.

Brig P. P. D. Stone, Comd Berlin Inf Bde presents the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Cpl Dodds. LCpl Belam, cushion in hand, hopes he pins it on the wrong chest

FARAWAY PLACES?

UNUSUAL JOBS?

LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

THE THREE PEAKS YACHT RACE

Every June for the last few years, 2 Sqn has supplied the communications for the Three Peaks Yacht Race. For those unaware of this annual sporting event, it is a race with a difference: the start is at Barmouth, Wales and the boats must dock at Caernarvon, Ravenglass and Fort William. At each of the three quays, two men leave the boat and run to the top of three mountains: Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis. The winning team is the one whose runners arrive back at the Fort William quayside first. 30 Sig Regt won the race in 1982, and we have been connected with it ever since.

Communications consisted of a control station at Barmouth and vehicle detachments at Caernarvon, Ravenglass, Wasdale Head (Lake District) and Corpach, Fort William. A two-man tented detachment was also stationed on each of the Three Peaks.

The 2 Sqn contingent left Blandford a few days before the race began and the eight detachments were soon in location, confident of communications, having had a run-up test exercise 'in situ' in March.

At Barmouth, **Sgt Dougie Douglas**, and **Cpls Steve Knaggs** and **Kev Flagg** kept on top of things, whilst supplying the race organisers with sit-reps. At Caernarvon **Cpl Dave Titheridge** communicated to **LCpl Pete Prater** and **Sig Daryl Summers** on Snowdon; at Ravenglass, **SSgt Bob Hooper** divided his time between 'local liaison' quayside comms and comms with Wasdale Head. Here **LCpl Sid Holderness** talked to **Sig Dave Wooley** and **Mitch Mitchell** on Scafell Pike whilst watching multi-lingual videos of questionable artistic value!

At Fort William, **Cpl Andy Craig** and **2Lt Neil Griffiths** (30 Sig Regt's very own Larry Adler!) kept a 'watchful ear' on **Cpl Mac McKinnon** and **Sig Jim Parson**, who were braving the wind, snow and rain at the summit of Britain's highest mountain.

Communications worked well throughout the race, in addition to which, several members of the Squadron gained first hand experience of basic survival and tented detachment work.

Caernarvon
Cpl Dave Titheridge looks on as the front runners, and subsequent winners, ('Yacht Paint Centre' Metropolitan Police) check in before running up Snowdon

Fort William
The Metropolitan Police runners pass the Corpach detachment on their way towards Ben Nevis which lurks in the background. LCpl Paul Rushen (partly obscured) informs Barmouth of the first yacht's arrival

Ben Nevis
(*L—R*): Cpl Mac McKinnon, Sig Jim Parson and Cpl Andy Craig (Resupply Sherpa Extraordinaire) at the summit, next to the tent which blew away that night in Force 8 gales!

EXERCISE *JUMPING MERCURY*

The latest CONCOMMEX involving 1 Sqn took place in the Caribbean during late June and early July. Almost 150 men from the regiment, Tactical Comms Wing of the RAF and RN personnel from COMMCEN Whitehall were deployed to the Turks and Caicos, and British Virgin Islands, under the command of **Lt Col Mike Walker** and **Maj Peter Hryhoruk**. Despite cries of 'summer holiday!' from the rest of us, practising SATCOM and HF communication links to DCN anchor stations was the aim of the exercise. This was successfully achieved. In addition to the main bases on Grand Turk (Christopher Columbus had a sense of humour!) and Beef Island, a mobile detachment deployed by boat to other islands in the Caicos chain.

In spite of the almost overwhelming influx of servicemen, the local inhabitants (both native and expatriate) gave everyone a warm and friendly welcome. A constant round of sporting and social events ensured good relations for the whole three weeks. Cocktail parties were enjoyed by all, especially **Capt Paul 'I'm here because you need an imprest holder' King, 2Lt Nick 'Dive Dive Dive' Sanham** and **Flt Lt Barry 'Bluejob' Gray**. Alas the sporting events were not so successful. A combination of excessive heat and good athletic performances by the locals ensured the defeat of the football, cricket and volleyball teams. Strange how all the team Captains claimed they were 'diplomatic' results.

Since the sunny Caribbean sea was a mere 150m from the COMMCEN on Grand Turk, there were numerous watersports. **CPO Benny Goodman** taught windsurfing when he wasn't slaving over a hot teleprinter but generally spent more time rescuing than teaching. **SQMS Pete 'White Lightning' Allen** taught water skiing and showed us all how even an experienced skier can 'porpoise'. Snorkeling started

The Mobile Det arrive at North Caicos

well but interest tailed off after numerous sightings especially by **Cpl Ian 'Whoops . . . it's a shark' Thompson**.

The Mobile Detachment deployed by boat with a PRC 321 RATT to practise comms from South and Middle Caicos under command of **2Lt Phil 'Ears the lad' Davies**. Despite the efforts of Mohammed the mad boatman, underwater trials on the equipment were never completed. **Lt Pete 'Nice T-Shirt' Stephenson** took over on North Caicos in time for the exacting task of commanding the det on the barren wastelands of Providenciales. **Sig 'Jock' Keith** decided he wasn't an insect lover and **Cpl Nige 'Kung Fu' Metcalfe** decided he wasn't a spam lover.

After a very successful comms exercise and some useful PR work (installing a Post-Hurricane Disaster VHF Net), came the barbecue on the final Saturday. A huge success with the three stooges doing the cooking and two avid teetotallers behind the bar. Naturally by midnight everyone had ended up in the pool looking for the missing Quaker Oats. The water will never be the same again!

80 MILE BEAST

On 29 June **SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' Evans, Sgt Alun Coleman**, and **Cpls Mick Boyle** and **Cpl Rick Bull** decided to run/walk the South Downs Way. We started in the Queen Elizabeth Country Park near Petersfield, at a gentle jog (10 mins/mile), and with 500 other competitors, set off in excellent conditions.

While the four of us were visiting the 13 check points, **Sig 'Chippy' Lang** acted as the back-up support driver, impersonating a driver from the Le Mans Rally. This was due to the fact that our group had split up: **SSgt 'Scouse' Evans** had increased tempo with the increase in heat to a eight min/mile pace. **Cpl Mick Boyle** still maintained a 10 min/mile pace.

Snacks consisted of one × water, one × orange juice, one × electrolyte drink, two × jam butties and marmite spread, with a Mars bar to chew up hill. Total weight lost between the team was about three and a half stones.

All of the team finished with creditable performances: **SSgt 'Scouse' Evans** took 13 hrs 5 mins (position 21); **Cpl Mick Boyle** took 16 hrs 35 mins (position 63), closely followed by **Cpl Rick (I've got a salt imbalance problem) Bull** and **Sgt Alun (this walk would have been better in my QM suedes) Coleman**. Damage report: a few blisters; calves like pistons, and a shuffle that would make 'Ali' sick. Are we doing it next year? No chance!

EXERCISE *SECOND ADVENTURE*

Led by **Maj (Jack) Thomas**, 2 Sqn managed to sneak out of Blandford Camp on 30 June for a week of adventure training at Hamworthy Barracks, Poole. The vast distance was covered in record time: by 1930 hrs that day, the Squadron sub-units had all arrived.

On the first morning all the happy campers had the prospect of a BFT run, just to get them into the mood. Whippets like **LCpl Sid Perks, Sgt Mick Doherty, Cpl Rev Bolam** and **SSgt 'Oldman' Hooper** managed to fly around in less than nine minutes. In the afternoon **FofS Marty Webb** had a 'nice' walk arranged across the Purbeck Hills which ended up as a race. The FofS won, but I think the refreshment stand at Corfe Castle detained a large number of the field.

Climbing took place at the cattle troughs near Swanage, which had a great variety of climbs to amuse most. **Capt 'Caterpillar' McNeill** and **FofS Marty Webb** had drawn the short straw and had the honour of frightening the lads. **LCpls Sid Holderness** and **Paul Rushen** both made a special effort and managed a climb. There were also some good demonstrations of a nose-jam by **2Lt Neil Griffiths** and teeth holds by **LCpl Sid Perks**. **Sig 'Sewing-machine legs' Whittick, 'Human-fly' Barrie, 'Gorilla' Ross** and **Cpl 'Spiderman' Sheenan** put up some very good graded climbs. Later we found out that **Sig 'Gorilla' Ross** had previously done a lot of climbing!

There was sailing at Rockly Point, with **YofS (Captain Pugwash) McClelland** leading the way. He did have one notable instructor **Sgt (U boat Commander) Doherty** who managed to capsize every day. Then there were a couple of instructors (especially **Cpl Dave Titheridge**) who continually ran aground at the topless beach. The safety boat commanded by **SSgt (Bob-bino-eyes) Hooper** was very vigilant, making sure the grounded boats didn't capsize.

Overall the exercise was a great success, and finished with a great barbecue. **Cpl Kevin Bolam** easily won the sand castle building competition with a marvellous castle beautifully decorated with plastic soldiers. He was ably assisted by **Miss Pippa Lewis. Capt Gordon James** demonstrated the sinking windsurfer trick when he attempted to get three others on the board with him! Thus was brought to an end, one memorable week.

EXERCISE *CYGNET RING 85*

On Wednesday 22 May, early in the morning, a small innocent looking convoy crept out of Blandford. In the vehicles there were 16 grim faced men to whom this was going to be the culmination of months of hard physical and mental training. As we swept past the guard room and out of the main gate it had started to rain. The squeak of windscreen wipers went unnoticed as everyone's thoughts were thousands of miles away, across the Atlantic. We could already feel the sun on our arms and the sweat on our backs. 50 (US) Sig Battalion (ABN) and the rest of Fort Bragg, North Carolina were about to receive a visit from 2 Sqn, 30 Sig Regt.

The aim of the exercise was to demonstrate our Clansman HF and VHF radios and ancillaries, and provide basic instruction in the current procedures. Similar instruction would be received from the Americans. Various other activities were planned including a range day.

Soon we were waving goodbye to the rain washed tarmac of RAF Lyneham and considering the prospect of two days flying in a Hercules, with an overnight stop at Gander, Newfoundland.

When we arrived the temperature was 95 degrees and the next day was a public holiday, so **Cpls Andy Craig** and **Mick Boyle** rapidly prepared their detachments for the communications phase. Meanwhile, the old man of the exercise, **Cpl Wayne Gatesman**, was smoothing the way for our crypto. **Cpl Dave Amey**, our REME representative, was hurried away into the depths of the motor pool in order to do an in depth study of US Army vehicles!

The weekend prior to the comms exercise was dedicated to what you might call a cultural exchange. We found our hosts to be extremely hospitable and eager to give us a good time so we accepted the challenge.

The following week was the field exercise during which we deployed a detachment to a Marine Corps camp about 200 miles away, while the other detachment remained in Fort Bragg. US detachments were colocated so everybody had the opportunity to operate foreign equipment. This was an extremely valuable part of the exercise, as it demonstrated the type of problems we could expect when working with US forces.

During this field exercise the local population of biting insects took its toll of both patience and blood. A lot of time was spent devising methods of removing ticks but **Sig Ted Rogers** still reckons that gentle persuasion with a pair of tweezers is the best method!

The field exercise was followed by a trip to the infamous Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, for a bit of rest and relaxation. Again we sampled typical American hospitality although **Cpl Alec Sutherland** did discover that dogs (the four legged variety) can lead to sticky situations!

After returning burnt and bronzed from the beach, we spent a day on a multi-purpose range practising for the sequel to 'Apocalypse Now' with M16s, M60s and grenade launchers. **Sig Nick Wood** fancies himself as the next 'Rambo'—eat your heart out Sylvester Stallone!

For the few days prior to recovery we visited some of the museums around the Fort Bragg area and prepared to face the RAF loadmaster again. The move back was relatively smooth and we were able to sample the delights of Gander on a Saturday night. We arrived back at RAF Lyneham on Sunday night and, as expected, it was still raining. At least we all had a tan and empty wallets to prove that we had been away.

EXERCISE *NORMAN QUEST 85*

For a long time the regiment has had an affiliation with the Island of Alderney. This manifests itself in (amongst other things) an annual camp in the Saye Bay area of the island for as many members as can be spared, primarily from 3 Sqn.

This year's exercise was somewhat unique in that we took 23 'blue jobs' from RAF Odiham who also have an affiliation with the Island. The Odiham connection allowed us to deploy and recover in grand style in Chinooks, which are seldom seen by the locals.

The exercise was a mix of community projects and adventure training. Everyone taking part had the opportunity to try their hands at parascending, climbing/abseiling, windsurfing, sailing and

Members of 30 Sig Regt embark in a Chinook to head for Alderney and Ex *Norman Quest*

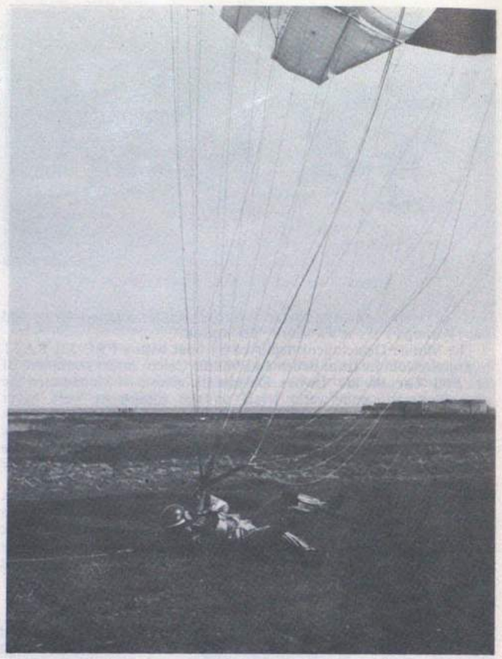
canoeing. The CO, who visited the exercise over the final (VIP) weekend with other members of the regimental hierarchy, renewed para skills first learned when most of the fellas on the exercise were still gleams in their fathers' eyes.

Whilst on the island a reasonable amount of socialising was undertaken (solely to enhance the existing ties of course) and reputedly most of the island's publicans will be holidaying in the Caribbean this winter. **WO2 Barry Watson**, as camp Sergeant Major, had the unenviable task of visiting every one of the 34 public houses on the island shortly after closing time each evening to ensure that no-one needed transport back to camp!

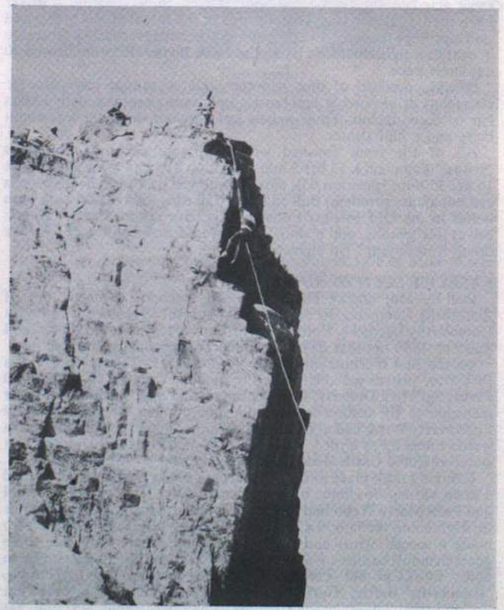
As well as the enjoyment which was had by all, the contingent completed a lot of valuable community projects including clearing four and a half miles of railway line of surrounding scrub, painting the yacht club's tackle house, digging a 100m trench for underground power lines and a multitude of minor tasks. In addition to the specific tasks carried out, assistance was given to the local flying club in the administration and organisation of the 50th Anniversary fly-in weekend and a great deal of time was spent instructing the junior militia in some of the adventure training pursuits being offered to our own personnel.

The very warm hospitality of our hosts ensured that a good time was had by all and we thoroughly look forward to next year when we can go back and build on the ties and friendships formed this year.

The CO, Lt Col Bill Backhouse, has final adjustments made before 'take-off'



The CO displays a perfect 'para' landing



Rock climbing on adventure training carried out whilst on Alderney

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V) Hammersmith

Saturday 8 June dawned bright and fine, and from its scattered TA Centres the Regiment's vehicles started on their long journey north; once again it was time to head for sunny Scarborough and defend STC Burniston Barracks.

As his swansong with the Regiment, **WO1 (MTWO) Harry Lund** determined that all would arrive in daylight and so it proved; yellow flags were rare indeed and despite a 47 Sqn Bedford RL silencer which put **Sig Andy Price** into ear defenders, a puncture which stranded **Sig 'Gunner' Metcalfe** only minutes from journey's end, and Kilo Troop (41 Sqn) who insisted on taking the 'pretty' route across London, everyone arrived in record time.

Inevitably one or two people were in just a little too much of a hurry to arrive; **2IC Maj Paul Whittle** discovered to his horror that most of his immaculately packed kit was still at home in the wardrobe and, as PMC, had to quickly relax dress regulations in the Officers' Mess until a rescue operation could be mounted.

'See you at Scarborough'—Sig 'Gunner' Metcalfe awaits rescue

ON PARADE

After a hectic first week of trade training interspersed with generous helpings of sport, the climax of the middle weekend was inevitably the regimental parade; as Inspecting Officer we were delighted to have with us our Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave KBE, MC**, and despite 34 Sig Regt's Band playing 'Rain Drops keep Falling on my Head' (which promptly produced a short sharp shower during the march past) everyone watching—including another welcome visitor, **Lt Col Sue Wing**, Comd WRAC London District—remarked how smart we all looked.

Immediately afterwards, **Maj Gen Redgrave** presented awards to:

Maj J. T. Fowler (HQ Sqn)	Territorial Decoration
Maj R. L. Miller (HQ Sqn)	Territorial Decoration
WO2 (FofS) L. S. Lawton (HQ Sqn)	Long Service & Good Conduct Medal
SSgt J. Mileham (41 Sqn)	2nd Clasp to the Efficiency Medal
Cpl M. W. Adams (41 Sqn)	Clasp to the Efficiency Medal

This was followed by an all ranks buffet on the sports field. 'We've not done it this way before' muttered the grey beard traditionalists, but by common consent yet another instant tradition (a 31 Regt speciality) has been born.

Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave presents Cpl 'Ditcher' Adams, 41 Sqn, with the 2nd Clasp to his TEM; next in line is WO2 (FofS) Lew Lawton who received the LS and GC Medal

TO THE WOODS

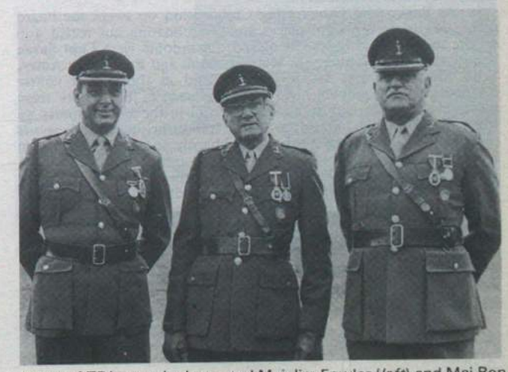
Rapidly moving into overdrive for the second week, virtually the entire Regiment adjourned to Wass Forest where cunning **Capt Susan Fenney** lay in wait ready to prove to us that running with a map was really fun; to be fair, that is exactly what it proved to be and the Regiment's future success at orienteering is now assured. In the line event **2Lt Tony Rose**, and **Sgt Keith Byatt** (41 Sqn) romped away to victory whilst, a little less impressively, **Maj Paul Whittle** and Adjt (now Training Major to confuse everyone) **Maj Graham Halliburton** met a 'very large snake' dropped their score card in the high speed retreat and retired gracefully.

WELCOME VISITORS

During annual camp we were, as always, delighted to receive visits from **Brig I. R. D. Shapter**, Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), and Dept Comd **Col P. R. H. Thompson OBE TD**, whilst 47 Sqn were hosts to the now traditional Mayoral visit, this year of **Councillor Peter Pitt DL, Col Harold Mote** and **Capt, Councillor (and Honorary Lineman) Bobby Feakins**.

Undoubtedly, though, our two most colourful guests were **CSM John Mondahl** and **Sgt Hugh O'Neal** from the Royal Hospital Chelsea; hosted by the not (quite) so old OC LAD, **WO2 (AQMS) George Collins** and by ever-young SSM HQ Sqn, **WO2 Steve Bland**. Both Pensioners entered fully into the life of the Sergeants' Mess, and on a tour of nearby York their famous red coats were as big a crowd-puller as the Minster itself.

An unexpected visitor to the Guardroom gave Regimental Provost **Sgt David Oliver** his moment of glory when he was instructed to lock up **SSgt (NRPS) Roy Smith**, the charge being that **RSM Jeff Shergold** 'thought he was ugly'. Fortunately compassion ruled again by end of camp, although knowing the imposed chaos of his SQMS stores whilst Southfields TA Centre is being rebuilt, it is rumoured that **SSgt Smith** was almost reluctant to receive his freedom again.



A trio of TD's; newly decorated Maj Jim Fowler (*left*) and Maj Ron Miller (*right*) flank Maj Roy Hughes

THE DUTCH TILE REBORN

A unique event at Scarborough 1985 was the presentation to 83 Sqn of the officially recognised, but until recently forgotten, arm badge known as the Dutch Tile. Several stories exist as to the origin of the badge, but perhaps the most interesting one is that the GOC 47 (2 London) Division (from which 83 Sqn is derived) admired the pattern of a tile on the stove in his quarter in Flanders during the Great War and promptly adopted it as his Divisional Sign.

The Dutch Tile was worn last by 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Regiment TA and its reintroduction leaves only HQ Sqn without any special insignia. OC HQ Sqn has been seen frantically combing his military history books to correct this injustice.

CO, Lt Col D. Strong presents Pte Julia Saville, 83 Sqn with the re-introduced Dutch Tile arm badge

83 SQUADRON

Since our last notes congratulations are due to **OCdt Jenny Hastings** who has survived the rigours of RMAS and is now **2Lt Hastings**; other recent promotions are **Sgt Graham Drew** and **LCpl Trish Kent** (both of A Tp) and **LCpl Sharon Driver** (C Tp).

The Squadron followed tradition and the rest of the Regiment to annual camp; everyone worked hard, played even harder, and achieved considerable success both as instructors and as pupils in the classroom, and on the sports field. Several more secondary trades have been gained but, more vitally, six Squadron personnel became qualified or better qualified in their primary trades; **LCpl Sharon Driver** as DTg 2, **Sig Robert Duddy, Mick Moriarty** and **Trevor Thurlow** as RR Op 3, **LCpl Andy Raynsford** as RR Op 2 and **Sig Harry Rayworth** as Cbt Lmn 3.

In the Regimental Orienteering Competition we swept the board taking nearly all top eight places and consolidating our recent grip on the sport. Proud recipients of sporting colours were **Capt Susan Fenny, Capt Ian Webber, Sig Mark Rushton** and **Ptes Karen Amey, Trish Monachan** and **Jackie Masset**. And in the assault course competition it was only the highly dubious tactics of the officers' team that prevented a Squadron victory. Overall in the Camp Sports we were placed second but this was not too surprising as the sports coordinator, **Capt Linda Webber** could hardly be seen to let her own Squadron win.

A fitting climax to Camp 1985 was the party, held at the Scarborough Cricket Club, and within walking/crawling (for BFT sufferers of course!) distance of the barracks. OC, **Maj Jim Mill's** demonstration of recovering peanuts spilt over an immobile and prostrate **Pte Donna Dawson** without using his hands will long be remembered and it is said that he had to concentrate extremely hard so as not actually to enjoy the experience.

TASAM 1985

Having qualified (just) at the London District shoot to compete at the Annual Territorial Army Small Arms Meeting at Bisley, the Regimental Shooting Team set out with high hopes, huge morale and a bleeper; this bleeper was perhaps the single most important factor which might have meant disqualification, as its owner, **Sig Chas Richardson** swore that if it sounded he would have to drop everything and run to the nearest phone as his first-born would be about to make it's debut on the world scene. Fortunately the obliging baby declined to appear until after the Shoot, and the team thus gained a second year's experience of competition shooting and achieved their main objective of not being placed last in any of the events.

POSTINGS

Since annual camp we have said goodbye to **WO1 (MTWO) Harry Lund** upon his well-deserved commissioning, with our thanks not only for keeping our wheels turning but also for the generous gift of an engraved pace-stick to be held by the Best Recruit of each intake. Farewell also to **Maj Peter Williams**, now somewhere deep inside MOD.

New arrivals include **Capt Andy Russell** (Adjutant), and **WO1 (MTWO) Paddy Dickinson** who, with only the temporary loss of **Sgt John French's** beautiful (one-wheeled!) recruiting caravan persuaded us all to come home safely again after our two weeks by the seaside in Yorkshire. Finally, a warm welcome to our new Yeoman, **SSgt (YofS) John Arkley**, and his wife **Joyce**.

WO1 (MTWO) Harry Lund presents OC Recruit Training, Maj Ron Miller with the Best Recruit pace-stick

Don't be disappointed!

COPY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 12th OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

CHANGES

Big hearted welcome to the new RSM **WO1 Brian Wilson** (from 8 Sig Regt) and the new chief clerk **WO2 Marsh Thomson** (from PB 11) who despite constant ribbing denies all responsibility for officers postings—quote 'I only process the paperwork' unquote—sorry Chief it won't work.

Fond farewells go to the ex RSM **WO1 (now Lt) Brian Peel**—congratulations on making it to the 'pippery'—and the chief clerk **SSgt John Powles** who is making threatening noises about joining the regiment as a TA soldier.

CCF

Glasgow Academy CCF Signal Section has recently been taken into the fold when it was officially formed as a Royal Signals Troop. The CO, **Lt Col Howard Culley** presented each member with a glengarry complete with the regimental tartan patch and the Corps badge. This was followed by a few words welcoming them to the Corps and looking forward to closer links between the regiment and the troop in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lt Janice McKee has recently passed the RCB at Westbury and will be leaving in January to go on her regular commissioning course. Well done and the best of luck.

EXERCISE *NORTHERN SKYWAVE*

The weekend 22/23 June saw the Regiment deploy on Ex *Northern Skywave*. A chance for many to see, and communicate from new locations. It was time for the Foreman, **WO2 Steven Randle**, to show off all TM Troop's weeks of hard work but alas it was not to be. Firstly the D11 Transmit antennae would not radiate and then a complete power failure by the electricity board put everyone in the dark. All attempts to communicate, other than by MOULD and CLANSMAN, were abandoned and a disgruntled Foreman was seen walking into the dawn muttering to himself.

51 (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON EVENTS

Down to earth again following the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Anne.**

We welcome to the Squadron **Sgt Angus Reid**, Technician/PSI. Also as a part time PSI **Sgt Pete Tyers**, (in his last six months) whose father **Capt Bill Tyers** came to 51 (Highland) Div Sig Regt as Regular QM in 1955 and continued to serve, post TA re-organisation in 1967, with 51 Sqn as Admin Officer until his retirement in 1973.

EXERCISE *TARTAN HERO*

On 1/2 June we had a successful exercise Ex *Tartan Hero* when the Squadron practised its new role in support of 51 Highland Bde and the civil authorities, communicating throughout the vast expanse of Northern Scotland.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Guests of Honour, **Maj Ken Sutherland** and **Maureen** were entertained at a Ladies' dinner night held by the Officers and Sergeants of 51 Sqn in a combined function to mark his retirement as Squadron Commander.

After nine years as OC **Maj Sutherland** relinquished command on 5 May to be replaced by **Maj Doug Bartlett**.

The presentation of a cast bronze figurine was made to **Maj Sutherland** to commemorate his term as OC while his wife received a bouquet.

Maj Sutherland will continue to hold a regimental post and is currently feverishly involved as Pipe Band President.

Judging by his track record the Pipes and Drums of 32 Sig Regt will soon be a force to reckon with.

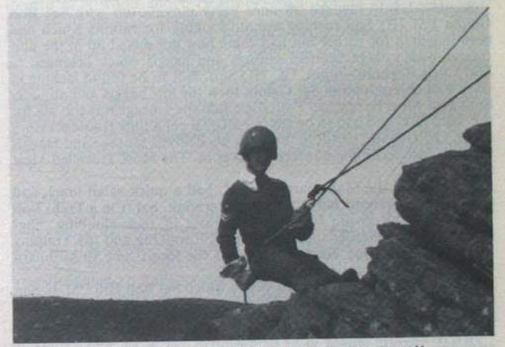
A local public holiday allowed 51 Sqn an extended weekend training in and around Aultbea, Ross-shire.

Based in the former Boom Defence Station, Squadron personnel, under the watchful eye of OIC Training, **Capt Saddiq Ahmed**, took part in such pursuits as route finding, map reading and a 'Treasure Hunt' involving vehicle navigation, while practising voice procedure.

A 70ft rock face within walking distance introduced the Squadron to the exhilarating, if nerve-wracking, sport of abseiling. After overcoming initial apprehensions, most could not wait to repeat the experience. Many thanks to **Cpl Smith** of the regular Corps who is currently with 22 Cadet Trg Team at SID Bridge of Don for his help in making it such a success.

Sgt Angus Reid, whose only periods of consciousness coincided with meal times, was awarded the 'Golden Blanket' for the weekend against some strong competition.

A barbecue, somewhat marred by the inclemency of the weather, was nevertheless voted a great success by all concerned and brought our active and worthwhile training to a satisfying end.



Cpl Fiona Phimister WRAC ready for the off

Pte Carol Nolan WRAC finds her feet

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

PERMANENT STAFF ACTIVITIES

Now that our Annual Camp 'fever' period has abated we have entered the season of pre ARU Inspections, which for a TA Unit, can be a little fraught when looking for manpower cover to meet all the extra tasks which are needed to put the finishing touches to our vehicles and equipment. The permanent staff who take the brunt of the Inspecting Officer's keen eye on these occasions, are prepared for the harrowing events ahead by being sent on a 'Permanent Staff Adventure Training Week' in the Lake District. The aim is to take the pallor out of their cheeks and give them a bright new outlook for the next 12 months.

With this in mind, the Training Major, **Maj Peter Hallett** went to the planning department and dreamed up an all singing, all dancing, five day physical endurance exercise to be carried out at the Patterdale Mountaineering and Climbing Club in Cumbria. We were not completely convinced of the intentions of the exercise by the appearance of wind surfers and **SSgt Ray Harkness REME** (Army Wind Surfing Expert) who volunteered to go along for the experience. (Do they really use these things for jumping off mountains?).

Sunday 7 July saw the advance party moving out with **Sgt Ron Galpin** PSI HQ Sqn rushing around looking for rations which had been indented for earlier but had some how got mixed up in the unit freezer with a large Scottish sausage and haggis which belonged to **Maj Chris Reynolds-Jones**, OC HQ Sqn. Not to be found lacking in spirit and determination **Sgt Galpin** took the lot, haggis and all; only to be told when he reached Patterdale that the sausage was too big for the 'cold box' and had to be cut in half! To cut a long (sausage) story short, OC HQ Sqn is still looking for his beloved sausage and Haggis which is fast becoming a record breaker in 'The Most Travelled Meat Competition'.

On Monday the Main Party arrived, had a quick salad lunch and then followed various pursuits in the afternoon. **Sgt (I'm a Tech) Rob Young** took his group for their first taste of rock climbing. **SSgt (YofS) Duncan Manser** took his group hill walking and the Training Major and **SSgt Ray Harkness** showed the locals how to sailboard successfully (on occasions).

Tuesday was a well organised day in which **Sgt Bob Hill** PSI 42 Sqn (Manchester) specially kitted himself out in new walking boots and showed us how we should look when tabbing around Ullswater (some 20 miles). Hopping on the lake's pleasure steamer looked a very attractive proposition half way round and rumour has it that the Training Major may have been tempted to try it. The CO **Lt Col R. F. Willsher** visited the training and was introduced to the Ullswater Mild—an occasion not to be repeated. **Lt Lyndsey Rawson WRAC** had rather sore feet from walking the week before and was eyeing up **Sgt Hill's** new walking boots (the size of them however was a bit daunting).

The Anglers had more success than the year before. **SSgt Eddie Doubtfire** PSI 59 Sqn (Liverpool) showed **Sgt Ron Galpin** how to catch more fish than he could (show off!) He was also heard to say to the RSM, **Gary Mason** 'as a special treat, Sir, would you like this fish I caught for you', at the Barbecue? (Are 2048's due in July?)

All in all it was a very good week. The local pub, the White Hart was pleased to see us and we enjoyed a very good musical night singing with our Yeoman in the Gloamin, rounded off with Old MacDonald and his farm animals, (the FofS being the prize bull).

All too soon it was over and we had to return to Liverpool. A special mention however must go to **Pte Colin Roberts ACC**, who looked after our taste buds with his Cordon Bleu cooking skills and who battled gallantly to get more food allowance out of the Training Major at supper times.

FOCUS ON 59 SQN

59 Sig Sqn (V) formerly 59 Sig Regt, is based at Edge Lane in Liverpool and is one of the Regiment's 'Sabre' Squadrons providing Radio Relay and Line Communications.

The Management Team has experienced quite a few changes, so for readers who have served with the infamous '59' here is the update.

OC	**Maj Gordon Harrison TD**
2IC	**Capt Mervin Deighton TD**
OC Eng/Line	**Capt (TOT) Len Hind TD**
Ops Offr	**Capt (Tfc) David Griffiths**
OC SHQ Tp	**2Lt Lyndsay Rawson WRAC**
OC Line Tp	**Lt Neil Thomas**
OC RR Tp	**Lt Clive Stuart**
2IC RR Tp	**2Lt Suzanne Jones WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 Brian Worthington**

As in most TA Units there are strong family connections and '59' is no exception. They currently have three husband and wife teams with **Sgt John** and **LCpl Margaret Taggart, Cpls Gary** and **Carol Fogg** and **Cpls Paddy** and **Jan Cavanagh**. Father and son/daughter combinations of **SSgt John** and **Sig David Barlow, Sgt Billy** and **Cpl Steven Wilkes** and **Capt Len** and **Pte Pamela Hinds**. Brothers and sisters serving together are also very popular with brothers **Sig David, Kevin, George** and **Ray Gilbert** and **LCpl John, Sig Frankie** and **Pte Sharon Goodwin**. Nearly enough to call '59' 'The Gilbert and Goodwin show'.

The Squadron also has its wonder woman in the form of **Cpl Eileen Halliday**—she puts everyone to shame with her physical achievements in long distance marathon running, her latest conquest being the Lyke Wake Walk of 42 miles in seven hours. (I wouldn't like to be chasing her!).

Cpl Eileen Halliday WRAC, flanked by SSgt (YofS) Duncan Manser and Sgt Bob Young completing their marathon run

OVER EXPOSURE

From previous Regimental reports, readers will no doubt have spotted frequent photographs of **Sgt (Poser) John Hough**, well, not to disappoint you here he is again (being a member of 59 Sqn) trying to convince **Lt Neil Thomas** that he hasn't seen the latest model Bundespost phone (craftily concealed on his back). **Sgt Jim Stevenson**, to his left, hasn't seen it either!

A final mention must be made of the stalwart Permanent Staff/Non Regular Permanent Staff members who keep us on the straight and narrow on so many occasions.

They are:-

PSAO	**Capt Ron Meyer**
SSI	**SSgt Eddie Doubtfire**
SQMS	**SSgt Alan Proudlove**
PSI	**Sgt Gerry Horan**

Lt Neil Thomas asking Sgt John Hough and Sgt Jim Stevenson some in-depth questions regarding the disappearance of a brand new Bundespost phone

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

It is 90 Sqn's turn to feature in this issue, but there have been one or two things going on in the Regiment which may have escaped their notice.

Pride of place must go to the Band (see photograph) who achieved another notable 'first' when they played for the regular recruits' pass-off parade at 11 Sig Regt on 14 June. Never before has a TA band done so. By all accounts their performance was well up to standard. We understand that when they arrived for a rehearsal the previous evening, the appearance of this group of somewhat 'older than the average regular' bandsmen caused some apprehension among the hierarchy at 11. But on the day all went well and the critical moment of the 'Break into Quick Time' was perfectly synchronised.

In this SSAFA centenary year the services of the Band have been much in demand. Earlier in the year they played in Durham Cathedral, and more recently they played for the annual SSAFA curry lunch in Darlington.

90 (NORTH RIDING) SIG SQN (V)

OC	**Maj J. P. W. Forster TD**
PSAO	**Capt J. M. Lemon**
OC J Tp	**2Lt I. T. Hall**
OC K Tp	**2Lt J. A. Lambton**
OC O Tp	**Capt H. North**
Trg Offr	**WO2 G. Thirlwall**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) R. Grainge**
PSI	**SSgt D. Aldous**
NRPS	**SSgt R. Georgeson**

If members of 90 (North Riding) Sqn expected a rest on their return from Annual Camp in Scotland they were sorely disappointed for the Squadron's programme offered only two free weekends during the next eight weeks.

A major event in June was the Squadron's participation in Ex *Torver Trot* with 11 Sig Regt's adventure training team in the Lake District. Those attending for the first time were doubtless impressed by **Sgt Jeff (The Bear) Duffy's** introduction to the camp washing facilities, the shower (waterfall), the bath (deep pool), hand basins (shallow pools), and having opted out of all three discovered his alternative when an early morning run culminated in a swimming test in Lake Coniston. Hauled back up a cliff when her trust in rope manufactuers failed, **Pte Katherin Ayres** proved she was made of sterner stuff by tackling an even longer descent; but she insisted that the Sqn Comd (**Maj Peter Forster**) go first and wait to catch her—such faith! Sqn Sgt Maj **Dick Grainge** plumped for terra firma when his alternative to the Don Whillans sit harness allowed him to descend in an unconventional upside-down position into Cathedral Cavern. Forgetting he had a safety rope the sight of his only hold on life sliding slowly up towards his feet did little for his nerve. He has since taken to the comparatively safer climes of Beirut for a period of convalescence. **Sgt Sue Burton** opted for more leisurely pastimes (so she thought) only to find her canoe travelled wherever she did not want to be and usually with her underneath. All who attended *Torver* offer congratulations to **Pte Janice Roper** on, at last, surviving a training weekend without sustaining a single injury.

The end of June brought a fresh recruit cadre to the Squadron. Sent only to try the patience of **SSgt Ray Georgeson, Sig Terence Pursey** discovered the Georgeson method of determining left from right; the bunch of flowers he carried throughout the day no doubt continued to serve as a reminder in a vase that evening. Six weeks of intensive training culminated in a field exercise. The recruits have shaped up well, confirmed somewhat by **Sig Kevin Sowerby** who was tasked to approach, unobserved, within grenade range of the DS. He faced an almost impossible task but, determined to succeed, he used the only dead ground available, the River Ure in full flood, and thus forced a surrender from the now infamous **Georgeson** and his inseparable companion Edward Nichols (the yomping teddy bear).

Everyone keeps telling us that TRIFFID will soon be with us. Being good TA soldiers we will believe it when we see it. Anyway Ex *Summer Sun* (whoever named the exercise did not consult the weatherman first!) in mid-July saw (hopefully) the regiment's penultimate exercise with C41. 90 Sqn's Commcen OSCAR was located in a wood above Helmsley. With comms established they awaited the arrival of enemy forces, the deadly foe, (Trg Maj) **Sidi El Falla's** band of PSI's, led by **RaSMa Coffill**. Inclement weather is normally met with distaste, but a torrential downpour accompanied by violent thunder dramatically reduced the odds on **RaSMa Coffill** pressing home his attack. The younger members of the Squadron seized this as an opportunity to see at least some of the Live Aid concert, which coincided with the exercise, on the television installed in a 12 × 12 by the Squadron's enterprising new **SQMS Don Rouse** who remained throughout the performance to control the volume or so he says.

SOCIAL

The season for summer festivities is well on its way. From long and hard earned experience we have learned to hold ours indoors! The WOs and Sergeants' Summer Ball in Middlesbrough was a great success, as was the Officers' Ball in Darlington. At the latter event we were delighted to have as our guests the Mayor and Mayoress of Darlington, **Councillor** and **Mrs J. Anderson**.

Summer is also a time for weddings. Those which have come to the attention of RHQ were: **Cpl Mac McConaghy** one of our regular techs to **Angie Long, LCpl Ian Ferguson** to **LCpl Elaine Morgan WRAC**, both of Catering Troop HQ Squadron and **2Lt Jonathan Tomlinson** to **Miss Sylvia Elizabeth Call**. We offer our good wishes to them all.

Finally in welcome two newly commissioned officers. **2Lts Karen Harrison** and **Sandra Lee**. Having survived many weekends of infantry training at Otterburn and Catterick they have just successfully completed their commissioning course at Sandhurst.

34 (N) Sig Regt (V) Band
(The Royals Signals TA Band) on parade at the pass off of No 6 Tp, 11 Sig Regt on 14 June

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND GALA CONCERT

The Regiment was delighted to provide the Lining Party at the Hippodrome Theatre to welcome our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Anne**, to the Birmingham Army Benevolent Fund concert on 12 May 1985. We also provided most of the programme sellers. The concert raised the considerable sum of £23,500 for the Fund. Stars of the concert included **Sir Harry Secombe**, Birmingham Comedian **Don MacClean, Kenneth Kendal**, and **Bill Dainty**.

HRH The Princess Anne talks to Cpl Tony Kelly of HQ Sqn and other members of the regiment who provided the Lining Party prior to the Army Benevolent Fund Gala Concert at the Hippodrome Birmingham

ANNUAL CAMP 1985

This has been the highlight since our last notes. The aim of the camp was to qualify as many 'trades persons' as possible and enjoy it at the same time.

For the 'old soldiers'—even older than the Training Major!—who were attending their 19th annual camp, Scarborough was not perhaps such an exciting project. A programme of PR organised by the CO, **Lt Col Mike Louden** dispelled all doubts—the programme was very simple: We are all going to enjoy camp. (Camp Motto—hard work is fun.)

On arrival at Burniston Barracks it was immediately obvious that the MTWO—**WO1 Terry Dodson** was in his element. The prospect of training all those HGV drivers was music to his ears. There is however no truth in the rumour that all the vehicles on the square switched on their headlights and blew their horns every time he passed by! Special mention must also be made of **SSgt Stan Adams**, who the MTWO tells me, held the whole thing together.

For the students starting the day with a run at 0630 hrs and ending after trade and military training at 2000 hrs, their time was certainly occupied. As usual the harder they worked the more they enjoyed it—or so they said! The day was occasionally extended with Squadron and Troop parties and if *they* didn't feel the strain some of their guests certainly did!

YofS Chris Whitehead well earned his nick-name **Radar**—what would we do without these Yeomen of England? (or Scotland, Ireland and Wales!)

Sgt Jock Gibson revelled in all the tape relay procedure and delighted in passing on his knowledge to his pupils. It must be said that all those SNCOs in charge of training took great pride in passing on their professional expertise.

At this stage we must mention the Regimental Detachment Commanders Course. Twenty eight entrants consisting of three potential officer cadets, three WRAC and 22 young soldiers, and they all volunteered—except the Officer Cadets!

The course organised by **RSM Geoff Marshall** ably assisted by **SSgt Bob Sharpe, Sgt (NBC) Phillips** and many others. **Capt Tony Jones** as Supervising Officer was able to pass on knowledge gained over many years to the 'young soldiers' in his own inimitable fashion—no comment! There were 23 passes on the course and the best student was **Cpl Mick Purdy** (89 Sqn). Officer training included all those things which are good for you—or nearly all those things which are good for you—and we lived up to the Army tradition that if it hurts, is uncomfortable and preferably is tackled in the rain at 0300 hrs, it must do you good! However **Maj (TOT) John Wall**—of the 19 annual camps—actually persuaded everyone that the young officers should take part in a Signals Engineering Exercise. He actually let them loose with screwdrivers and lived to tell the tale. **FofS Tony Jacklin** still doesn't believe all the equipment still works.

Happy Families: Father and Daughter
SSgt Bob Heaslegrave, NRPS 48 Sqn photographed with his daughter Jane who is a Tech Stwmn in HQ Sqn

The 'Middle Week-End' activities included Potted Sports controlled by **Capt Derek McConnell** and organised by **SSM Bill 'Sailor' Eccleston** of 58 Sqn. A Regimental Orienteering Competition was organised and run by 'The Paynes' **Lt Jean Payne** and **OCdt Andy Payne** of 48 Sqn ably assisted by **Cpl Paul Fundak** of 89 Sqn. This was most successful and many participants requested further events.

It is very unfortunate that the Officers' Mess won the Bone of Contention despite all their efforts to alter the score—young officers fail again! The Officers' Mess is now looking for a suitable resting place for this incredible trophy—Sergeants' Mess beware!

During Annual Camp we were pleased to welcome several visitors: **Col Mike Haycock CBE TD DL** our Honorary Colonel, **Brig Ian Shapter**, Comd 11 Sig Bde, **Col Peter Thompson OBE, TD**, Deputy Comd 11 Sig Bde, all of whom showed great interest in our activities.

Finally we hope we proved that hard work is fun and it is simply mind over matter . . . I don't mind and you don't matter! With a total of some 120 'trades persons' qualified, a 90% pass rate at the Annual Tickle Test and enough HGV drivers to last for ever, we feel we achieved the aim.

Cpl Ernie Stubbs of the LAD in the grease as usual

Pte Sue Bicknell with a knowing smile; Just you wait until you try this!

Pte Sue Richers, LCpls Joyce Greendalgh and Chris Griffiths: Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil?

Pte Karen Ingley certainly the best looking VM in the LAD!

LCpl Tony Halton, Sig Tim Burke, Cpl Kevin Hand and others await the culinary delights of cooks Sgt Roy Wallace and Pte Sue Bicknell

(All photographs courtesy of Sutton Coldfield News)

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

FOCUS ON 54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
Squadron Personalities:

OC	**Maj Roy Gransbury**
2IC	**Capt Derek Blake**
PSAO	**Capt Danny Kay**
OC 706 Tp	**Lt Julia Black WRAC**
OC 707 Tp	**Lt David Gouldsmith**
OC 754 Tp	**2Lt Wesley Blewett**
OC 755 Tp	
OC 818 Tp	**Lt Nigel Deaves**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Watson**
SQMS (NRPS)	**SSgt Ray Whall**
SQMS	**SSgt Frank Sharp**

EXERCISE *HIGH LIVING 85*

Following two Regimental signal exercises in early 1985, 54 Sqn decided to embark on pastures new in May by spending a weekend on hillwalking/navigation training well away from the flatlands of East Anglia. The area chosen was Snowdonia, North Wales (Capel Curig, Training Camp) which purely by coincidence (of course) happens to be the birth place of the Squadron Training Officer, **Lt Nigel Deaves**. A vile rumour quickly spread around the Squadron that Snowdonia was chosen because it is well known to the Training Officer who would therefore, not need to do any map reading and therefore would not get lost—needless to say names have been noted in this connection and the Training Officer will be working on the principle that 'vengence shall be mine'.

Immense preparations were put in hand for the weekend with the 'Q' department surpassing itself—special mention must be made of **SSgt Frank Sharp** who produced everything required (nearly) including himself albeit late and in a totally different uniform from everyone else! Special mention must also be made of **Cpl Glen Baker** and **LCpl Brian Dodd** who unselfishly took it upon themselves to be responsible for liquid refreshment for the weekend and who in a logistic feat, unsurpassed in Squadron memory, moved such refreshment over 250 miles without touching a drop. Indeed, thanks must be given to all members of the Advance Party/Rear Party for a job well done. **SSM Dave Watson** could be heard muttering at regular intervals about guard duty, rosters, fire piquets, 'quiet time', Gurkhas and such subjects.

Saturday dawned bright and clear and parties of dedicated and fit walkers set forth into the mountains—first party away was led by **Lt Julia Black** ably assisted by **Sgt Dave Rydlewski** armed with a camera. This party quickly distinguished itself by missing a turning point on the route and would have ended up back at the start point had not the benevolent Training Officer gently pointed out the error of their ways. Other parties distinguished themselves in different ways particularly that led by **SSgt Ralph Collingridge** (assisted by the OC), this was the only party to tackle the depths of an impenetrable Welsh forest—indeed had it not been for the SQMS implementing the emergency procedure (shouting 'cuddles' at the top of his voice) it is probable that they would still be there today.

At the halfway stage for which **SSgt Sharp** was again late but at least this time in correct uniform the opportunity was taken for a break and to check that all was well—valiant sales efforts by **LCpl Brian Dodd** led to a reduction of only two small bottles of cola in our stocks as all personnel appeared to prefer the free orange juice obtained from the 'Q' staff. Is there a moral here? After a break, all too short for some people, the exercise continued as the parties made their way back to Capel Curig Training Camp. All arrived safely and after an excellent dinner prepared by **Sgt Ann Stocks** and **Cpl Chris Francis** the Squadron retired to a local rendezvous to reminisce about the rigours of the day before the long journey home on Sunday.

All agreed that it had been an excellent weekend and one to repeat next year—in many ways it had been a weekend of discovery, for example, the new OC, **Maj Roy Gransbury**, discovered his Squadron. The plaintive question 'Are they always like this?' has passed into Squadron folklore. Meanwhile, **Sig Eddie Kikas (Sakik** to his friends) discovered Ghurka style curry; will he ever be the same again?, **Pte Sue Farndon** discovered the tactical use of talcum powder, **Cpl Dave Berry** discovered rocks in his rucksack and filter coffee, **SSgt Frank Sharp** discovered more rocks, (where are they now?) **2Lt Wesley Blewett** discovered blisters and guard duty, **Sig 'Jock' Dougan** discovered tomato sauce, **Lt Nigel Deaves** discovered black pudding. Finally, the whole Squadron discovered the joys of North Wales and singing—no one will ever forget **SSgt Chapman**'s rendition of 'Alouette' with gestures!

Welsh water is good for you, but is everyone in 54 Sqn losing their hair?

Proof that the Advance Party didn't spend all its time in Land Rovers as Lt Nigel Deaves, LCpl Crian Dodd, SSM Dave Watson and Cpl Glen Baker tackle the route

45 (ESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

After the vehicles had found their way to Scarborough, in spite of the best attempts of several people to get lost, an enjoyable time was had by all.

The SSM, **WO2 Pete Minshall**, attempted to leave the exercise early by throwing himself off the back of a four tonner. This led to witticisms such as, 'Where do the Squadron get their Sergeant Majors from?', 'Off the back of a lorry.'

Pte Tina Hack was caught plundering the OC's 'goodies' box and was reported to have eaten a whole packet of lemon pancakes by herself. Before leaving Scarborough, the Squadron held a funeral for the C41 which is now being replaced. YofS, **SSgt John Fayers** commanded the firing party, **Capt Jackie Allan** played a cat, cunningly disguised as bagpipes, and the procession was led by **Lt Chris Whitworth** complete with sam browne and sword. Admiring groups from other Squadrons rushed to see 'the' working equipment.

Lt Phil Penfold has been promoted to Captain thus proving the old adage 'what the eye doesn't see . . .'

The Squadron Party, held in the Royal Hotel, Scarborough featured a presentation to three officers of toy tractors. This is reputed to have become necessary after they had mistaken, at extremely close quarters, a sand bag covered civilian tractor for an enemy landrover. A presentation was also made to **Capt Roger Buston**, who has been prised out of the Squadron squealing and kicking, to add a little style to HQ Sqn.

Ptes Susan Bean, Joy Donoghue and Tina Hack out on a man hunt. Each is reported to have been successful

Maj Douglas McLay, seen beside a captured 56 Sig Sqn TRIFFID vehicle. Note the towel, thrown in during the surrender

TE Tech Sig John Thorn from Ilford proving that techs did not just sunbathe at Scarborough

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

Col Alan Hawksworth—Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde talking to RQMS John Reid-Robertson and Capt (QM) Bill Evans on his valedictory visit to the unit. Half hidden is Capt (QM) Eric Webster with WO1 (RSM) A. R. Lovell in attendance

Lt Col Nick Henwood—CO, welcomes Maj Gen Charles Ramsay—GOC EDist to 46 Sig Sqn at Derby

VISITORS

The regiment was honoured and pleased to welcome several important visitors during July. The start of the month saw **Maj Gen Charles Ramsay**—GOC Eastern District make his first visit to 46 Sig Sqn. **Maj Gen T. B. Palmer CB**, the retiring DGEME and **Col Bob Cooper** Comd Maint NE/NW Dist paid their second visit to the unit. During the visit DGEME presented **SSgt Bob McClafferty** with his LS & GC award at a ceremony in the Sergeants' Mess. The General expressed his particular pleasure at the presence of **Mrs McClafferty** at the ceremony, for he believed that generally the wives of LS & GC recipients had contributed to the service which attracted such awards.

Col Alan Hawksworth—Deputy Comd 2 Sig Bde and a former CO of the Regiment, paid a visit to RHQ HQ and 64 Sqns on the drill night of 16 July. We were also pleased to welcome other distinguished former members of the unit—**Majs John Wardley, Ian McCulloch, Nick Bradley** and **Capt Keith Headleand**—who joined the late supper party for the Dep Comd after the drill night.

46 SIG SQN

The Squadron conducted a 'mixed military bag' training weekend on 14-16 June. The weekend was made somewhat special by the effective presence of our Home Service Force detachment. This new element is thriving and is very enthusiastic.

Saturday morning and the usual early morning run started the proceedings which went on to include a full range classification programme; basic military skills—first aid and NBC skills training—finishing with a six mile route march by the instructors and WRAC component. An evening barbecue and smoker provided some light relief before Sunday dawned with another early morning run and a similar intensive military training programme.

Lt Col Nick Henwood—CO, presents the 'Troop of the Month' trophy and Assistant Cadet Instructor certificates to members of the attached Manor Top ACF detachment
(*L to R*) SMI G. Corns, Cpl Toothill, Lt Derek Sivell—OC det, Cpl Blades and WO1 (RSM) A. R. Lovell
(*front*) LCpls Williams, Shaw, CO, Sgt Monette and Cdt Lowrie

No 14 Recruit Selection Course at rest before their Krypton Factor assault course at Holcombe Moor. *Seated centre* is Lt Col Toby Seymour—2IC, Maj Bob Barnes is *standing* at *left* with 2Lt Simon Blagden on right

Miss Julie—candidate No 5 climbing through the Krypton Factor tunnel

2Lt Simon Blagden aloft on the Krypton Factor

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to Millbank Military extension 245, please.

	Overseas £	UK £
'Jimmy' in bronze. Height 11½" including plinth. Produced by Peter Hicks for the Association	39.00	43.70
Royal Signals stick pin, for ladies wear. 9 carat gold with spring safety stud.	42.50	48.00
Sterling silver with spring safety stud. Complete in presentation case.	8.60	9.50
Corps table mats (set of six)	26.00	28.50
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)	4.60	5.00
Framed, illuminated Corps badge 4½" × 4½"	1.85	2.00
Blazer badge (as approved by the Corps Committee) (on navy or black background)	5.00	5.60
Crested glass ash trays	1.80	2.00
Corps ties—terylene 3½"	3.10	3.50
Car badge—square, acrylic	3.40	3.75
Key ring with Corps badge tag	0.85	1.00
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	0.85	0.95
Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only)	0.40	0.45
Vinyl 'coasters' with Corps Crest (set of six)	1.45	1.55
Corps crest on foil. Framed and glazed	5.00	5.65

THE ABOVE PRICES INCLUDE VAT, POSTAGE AND PACKING

Cheques payable to:- 'Royal Signals Association' please

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

CORRECTION
REGIMENTAL BADMINTON TEAM

It is regretted that the photograph published on page 417, July issue bore an incorrect caption. This should have read: Comd Education NI presenting winner's prizes to **Sig Clasper** left, and **Pte Brown** 1/9 UDR—Mens Doubles. *Editor*

OPENING OF NEW SERGEANTS' MESS BAR—SMUGGLERS REST

On Friday 5 August the members of the Sergeants' Mess were assembled for the long awaited opening of the new bar. The CO, **Lt Col Rodney Clare** cut the ribbon and then pulled the first pint. **WO1 (RSM) David Brown**'s eyes lit up as the CO handed it to him, and after downing it in one he stated that it was the very best pint he had ever tasted (we think because it was the first one the CO had ever given him).

The remainder of the evening was spent being entertained by the more vocal members of the Mess.

Some of the more serious ones were fighting and scrabbling over bar positions and needless to say **WO2 (RQMS) Tommy Smith** claimed pole position.

At long last, RSM about to demolish the first pint while the CO wonders what he has done to the tap or maybe he is worried in case he doesn't get one

FAREWELL TO ARMS

During a training weekend held on 1/2 June, the regimental officers had the honour of dining out **Lt Col Bill Michie. Col Bill** commanded the regiment from January 1977 until September 1979.

After a varied career starting at Sandhurst in August 1954 and including service in the Middle East, BAOR, UK and Belgium, the Colonel leaves the Army in October this year.

From all his friends at 40 go the warmest and best wishes to him and **Angela** both now and in the future.

Lt Col Bill Michie receives a Tyrone Crystal Decanter from the CO during the dining out

RECRUITING—BELFAST STYLE

Recruiting in the Province is a continuous problem for all TA units because of fierce competition from the UDR and RUC reserve.

The Ulster Sig Regt has of course the added problem of requiring individuals with the right aptitudes for signal training.

However in spite of the difficulties the recruit reception and training teams are kept busy throughout the year with the various tasks involved in pre-recruit course reception and training.

Under new management the first new all singing and dancing basic training course got under way on 1 June. Out of the 20 or so aspiring individuals who started, 11 successful entrants were handed over to the Squadrons.

The training cadre wish them all the best in the future, especially on their recruits course.

Recruiting Belfast Style
Left to Right: Sig Peter Davis, LCpl Janet Coates, Cpl Carol Boyd, LCpl Jackie Kelly and LCpl Bobby Maynard, press ganging recruits on the streets of East Belfast

EXERCISE *MAGIC MAN*

During the early winter months of this year our overworked and underpaid Training Major had a rush of blood to his head (probably after a feed of Guinness or Bush) and decided that it might be a good idea for the regiment to carry out some training on the Isle of Man.

As we had not been to the Island for a number of years the CO agreed and planning began.

The last two weekends in June were chosen and the plot for *Magic Man I* and *Magic Man II* thickened with the first weekend attended by 66 Sqn and HQ elements, and the second by 85 Sqn and remaining HQ elements.

In spite of the fact that the logistic problems from Belfast to the Island were greater than first anticipated we were glad the effort was made as two superb weekends were enjoyed by all.

The CO, after a similar rush of blood to the head, took on the responsibility for planning both exercises which consisted mainly of a cross country navigation exercise for which the Island is superbly suited with its mountains and coastline.

What's a Paymaster doing this for? Maj Jim Chambers prepares to move on DS duties

D-DAY

Friday 14 June finally arrived with the first element flying out of Belfast Harbour Airport in the afternoon and being met at Ronaldsway Airport by the Admin Party who duly bussed them to Jurby Camp in the north of the Island.

Friday night was spent planning, preparing and reconnoitreing before departure on foot in the early hours of Saturday morning for revision of fieldcraft, patrol tactics, map reading and other essentials for the impending exercise.

After the revision phase the patrols departed at intervals to navigate the central mountains of the Island. All patrols passed through the tourist attraction of the summit station on top of Snaefell Mountain which has a mountain railway to help lesser mortals reach the top; however our gallant warriors did it on foot.

Descending from Snaefell to the next check point the patrols marched alongside part of the Island's famous TT course.

After an overnight bivouac, the patrols returned to base at Jurby on Sunday afternoon, foot sore, weary but elated with the fine views and natural beauty of the Isle of Man.

On Sunday evening they were rewarded with a unit smoker and barbecue. The regiment had an added bonus during the weekend with a visit from the Commander United Kingdom Field Army, **Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst** and his Military Assistant, **Maj David Montgomery**. They arrived on Sunday night for the smoker and on the Monday morning watched activities which included rock climbing, navigation and military training. During the Monday morning programme, the General gave a demonstration of his rock climbing abilities.

Monday afternoon saw the weary but happy soldiers flying back to Belfast after a hard but, enjoyable weekend.

An article on the weekend would not be complete without mentioning our thanks to our Honorary Colonel, **Col Elliot Wilson** for his visit and taking an active part in the proceedings. He managed to keep his Conducting Officer, **Maj Robyn Wymbs** and the PSAO on their toes for the whole weekend.

EXERCISE *MAGIC MAN I*
Report by Officer Cadet Hilary Bustard

'During war in the regimental deployment area it may be necessary, as a result of enemy action, to withdraw on foot to a Squadron or regimental concentration area. This may involve cross country movement and navigation coupled with the ability to live with the equipment that can be individually carried'; thus read the start of the exercise instruction for *Magic Man*. 66 Sqn were not too sure after reading this if the so called 'fun-weekend' in the Isle of Man was going to be such fun after all—only time would tell.

The first phase of the exercise was instruction by **Lt Col Clare** on basic survival and navigation techniques. This took place in Ohio Plantation—a nice little wood up a very steep path. The Colonel did a very good impression of Paul Daniels by amazing the captive audience with how much you can actually carry in a combat jacket: from a very lethal looking knife right down to a crystal of potassium permanganate for water purification. Tip of the year was that a soldier's personal weapon is his/her most vital asset in the battle of survival. Walk into any shop in any country in the world, point a loaded weapon at the shopkeeper, point a finger to your mouth and you're more than likely to get some food! Having mastered the techniques of basha building it was onward to Mullagh Ouyr (opposite Snaefell) for instruction in map reading and navigation by the YofS.

Group A (Patrols 1, 2, 3 and 4) were whisked away in a four tonner to a cattle grid in Sulby Glen where they were unceremoniously dumped and told to make their way to the bivouac area about a mile down the road. The bivouac area turned out to be a field in Tholt-y-Will Glen in a very picturesque setting—river, trees and hundreds of midges. Bashas were built amongst screams of anguish as people were eaten alive, even the fumes from hexi burners didn't deter those wee black insects from enjoying themselves. The CO briefed the Patrol Leaders on the next phase and after having supposedly planned their routes it was time for bed as reveille was at 0300 hrs.

On Sunday morning the patrols set out at approximately 0400 hrs aiming for their first checkpoint which was the café on top of Snaefell. The route was very steep and even though it was not yet 0500 hrs, jumpers and even shirts were removed due to the heat. But Snaefell lived up to its reputation for bad weather and soon it was completely shrouded in a thick mist. Visibility was so bad that compass work had to be abandoned and the patrols went the safer but longer route to the top following the railway line. The mist was possibly a blessing in disguise because it prevented people seeing what they were climbing otherwise they mightn't have made it!

After a welcome cup of coffee it was on to checkpoint two. This was just a straightforward road march (one and a half miles), once down Snaefell, to spot height 429 on the slopes of Bein-y-Phott. Checkpoint three was approximately three miles further along the road—by this time feet were giving considerable trouble to some. However the majority of sufferers did not give in and continued but naturally

Rock climbing team prepares to move

the pace had to be slowed to accommodate them. At checkpoint three it was major decision time—to go cross country or not to go cross country. The cross country route to the gate on the edge of Greeba Plantation was definitely shorter and more direct: however it was over rough terrain which would aggravate the already sore feet so three of the four patrols opted for the longer route which was more on the road but the last couple of miles would be cross country and uphill. This route was approximately five miles in length.

By 1100 hrs the patrols were beginning to show the effects of tiredness, from walking and the heat, and the frustration of the end of the march apparently not coming any closer—so to raise the morale the Patrol Leaders called a halt for a brew up at a lake at Ardwhallin. This certainly lifted the spirits but it was difficult to get the patrols to move again once they had settled. One and a half miles along the road in the hamlet of Baldwin the patrols set out into the wide open spaces on a public footpath—which even though shown very clearly on the map never quite materialised on the ground. There was a slight period of panic when the exact position was in doubt but eventually after some nifty compass work the objective was sighted in the distance and the patrols plodded on.

At checkpoint four there was a very welcome alcoholic beverage and it was downhill all the way from there, literally. The very steep descent through the plantation was probably the most difficult part of the yomp for the tired legs, but it was also the final part as the four tonner was waiting at Greeba Castle to take the patrols back to Jurby Camp. By 1300 hrs all the patrols had successfully completed the yomp.

The whole weekend was enjoyed by all and a remark made by one of the members of Patrol 4 just before checkpoint four as a helicopter hovered overhead summed up the determination of those taking part—'Even though my feet are agony, and I'm exhausted—if that helicopter landed and offered me a lift I'd refuse as I'm determined to finish'. With that kind of dedication, who could ask for more?

OCdt Hilary Bustard raring to go

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

AIRBORNE FORCES WEEKEND 1985
Report by Capt Jimmy Campbell

For the first time in recent years, Royal Signals were in a position to properly host ex members of Airborne Signals who were able to make the journey to Aldershot for the weekend 5-7 July. It really was a tremendous occasion. The Quartermasters department, under **Maj Ray Danells**, pulled out all the stops and managed (after many hours overtime) to build a new Squadron Club. This was the focal point of the whole weekend, and we hope will be the rallying point on future reunions.

Events began on Friday evening as past and present members gathered to swap stories over a beer. Those soldiers who did not have a story to swap, were issued with a couple by the RSM, who always has a few to spare. During the evening the OC, **Maj John Allan** welcomed ex members and **Lt Col (Retd) Robbie Laing** replied for the guests.

It was one of **Colonel Robbie**'s shorter speeches, the dawn was beginning to break as he returned to his seat.

Saturday arrived, accompanied by many hangovers, as squadron personnel involved in the parade vanished in the direction of Long Valley. The RSM, **WO1 John Aspinall** thought it was a good idea to go for a run, to clear the head. The lads agreed, but the 0730 hrs start was a great shock.

All survived, and participated in an excellent parade. This year, for the first time the parade RSM was our own **John Aspinall**. Having participated in or been a spectactor at a total of 13 ABF parades, I can say that this was one of the best. All who took part are to be congratulated on their sharp drill and immaculate turnout.

The parade over, guests were given a presentation on communications equipment, followed by a briefing by the OC and a showing of the squadron video. After lunch and a drink, guests enjoyed the various side shows and presentations on Depot Para sports pitch, before assembling on Montgomery Square. A free-fall demonstration by the Red Devils followed by a most excellent retreat ceremony by the bands of the Parachute Regiment, ended the formal proceedings of the weekend.

For those who were able to stay on Saturday evening, the club offered the chance to catch your breath and wind down after a very heady day.

Maj John Allan has asked me to thank you all for coming and to spread the word, 'Airborne Signals are back'.

Finally special mention has to be made of our bar and catering staff. **SSgt Steve Toms** and his team of barmen did a magnificent job in the club and **WO2 Frank Boyd** did us proud with buffets and extra meals.

Well done and thank you on behalf of all who attended the weekend.

Lt J. S. Lugg commanding a half company on the Airborne Forces Day Parade

CYPRUS
1 PLATOON
Platoon Commander **Lt Lugg**
Platoon Sergeant **SSgt Grossmith**

The Platoon consisted of a mixture drawn from all troops of the Squadron plus members from 10 Field Workshop, 63 Squadron RCT and 82 Ordnance Company. After a very successful range session in Dhekelia we moved on to the tactics phase. Much was learnt about section attacks, platoon attacks, patrolling and even more about putting out bush fires. The first was started by **Cpl D. J. Reynolds** using a thunderflash. This was quickly put out by **Lt Lugg** who, not to be outdone, started another fire the following day. This took the whole section 10 minutes to put out. The grand fireman's prize, however, goes to **Lt Noel (Stab) Aitken**. Always willing to accept a challenge he started a fire that took the whole Platoon half an hour to quell.

From tactics we went on to military training at Melanda. In this phase we covered map reading in all phases of war and then promptly got lost on the night exercise. The phase finished with a barbecue where **LCpl Lang** felt it appropriate to make a burnt offering of himself as thanks for the good weather. After an excellent live firing phase most of the Platoon moved up to Ayia Napa to assume the beach role. Apart from **LCpl Lang**, the only casualty was **Sig Rosser** who had to have his shorts surgically removed by **Cpl Waterston** and **Sig Cheshire** (anaesthetist).

2 PLATOON EXERCISE ***LION SUN 85***
Platoon Commander **Lt (Map Reader 85) Donaldson RAOC**
Platoon Sergeant **Sgt (Secret Rules) Ara**

The Platoon officially formed on the first day in Cyprus. It was a mixed affair with soldiers from sub units within 5 AB Bde HQ and Signal Squadron.

The first part of training was minor military tactics, luckily **Cpl John Cakebread** had picked up a few lessons here and there and after a few days we managed to carry out simple drills such as harbours, obstacle crossings and basic section patrols under the watchful eye of **Lt Noel Aitken**, Para Regt.

After a few more days we got really ambitious and stepped up to platoon attacks etc. **Cpl Nidge Barnett** took on the role of P1 Sgt.

After the military training we had a spot of water sports under the command of **WO1 (FofS) Jackson** and his highly trained team of beach bums. Because of bad sea conditions we had to retire to the beach and do a bit of Egyptian PT. By this time we were all on the way to becoming sun bronzed gods.

The next stage of our training was the live firing phase, the Squadron OC came very close to gaining his second pair of wings when he got a little carried away and rushed ahead of the Platoon. At the end of the day we had fired about 5,000 rds and managed to score one hit on the OC's poncho.

Having done three weeks of running around we headed for Nissi Beach and R&R; then back to sunny UK for the Bde concentration.

Pathfinders firing SF

3 PLATOON
Platoon Commander **Sgt Dave Wilson**
Platoon Sergeant **Sgt Rog Taylor**

Having volunteered to write our *Wire* notes for Ex *Lion Sun* my problem was how to write about how hard we worked and make it convincing. A 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn exercise is never easy and on arrival in Cyprus we very quickly came to the conclusion that this was not going to be an easy one either.

Many of the Platoon had never worked together before and in some cases had never met each other, but were soon split into sections and working well as teams under their respective section Corporals, these being Section 1 **Cpl Chris Bean**, Section 2 **Cpl Smudge Smith**, Section 3 **Cpl Bob 'Cancer' Elliott**.

The first part of the programme took us to Melanda beach camp, after three days acclimatisation, briefings and weapon training ably instructed by **Cpl George 'BDB' Crozier**.

Those three days thinned out the ranks of the Platoon a bit and we lost **Sig Steve Hope** to go for a 'Moon Tan' and **LCpl Charlie Chalcraft** had a problem with his heels and turned up later in 2 Platoon as **Sig Chalcraft!**

Once out at Melanda things settled down and the instruction went ahead, sports were organised and the team spirit started to appear. After sports, responsibility was passed to the Lance Corporals and Signalmen for certain command tasks and brought to light some born leaders in the shape of **LCpls Andy 'Virgil' Allen** and **Taff 'Higgins' Rowlands**. This was followed by a night *Navex* which despite the difficult terrain and pitch black was handled well by all sections.

The next day it was off to the ranges at Dhekelia and as well as the usual hard work put in on the ranges a few trips to Ayia Napa (of Nissi Beach fame) were arranged and good fun was had by all. The ranges produced some good marksmen the top one being **Sig Smudge 'Crow' Smith**—next stop Bisley!

Ranges over, off we went on patrols. The first two days were spent revising our battle skills under the watchful eyes of **Sgts Wilson** and **Taylor**. Revision over, we carried out a beach landing followed by five very busy days patrolling. Several brushes with the enemy followed, the most memorable of them being when **LCpl Dave 'Rambo' Woods** caught and nearly scared to death one of the enemy provided by 259 Sig Sqn.

Next we moved to Akamis for live firing, this was the most interesting part of the exercise with everyone completing an SLR and SMG CQB and a pairs fire and manoeuvre range. The climax to the week was a live platoon attack at dawn, this was surprising considering some of the snoring and other strange noises in the FRV!

After this extended period of hard work the powers that be ordered us to take R&R and being good soldiers we immediately obeyed, so to the sound of high revving hire cars and motorbikes the Platoon disappeared in every direction. From some of the stories emerging a good time was had by all, even by **Cpl 'Pinkie' McKay**.

To wind up the exercise we finished with two days watersports and a couple of budding **Mike Hazelwood**'s appeared in the shape of **Cpl Pete Duffy** and **Sig Scouse 'Dollies' Delaney**.

Many thanks go to the Platoon 'Bosses' and all other staff who made the exercise such hard work but good fun.

Sgt Taylor doing what Techs do best!

3 Platoon preparing themselves for their next battle

Sgt Wilson working hard

Cpl Smith giving patrol orders

Cpl MacKay giving orders

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

ARU. THE FIRST FOR MANY YEARS

In January the Squadron learnt that an ARU was to be carried out by Comd (BR) Comm Z. Amid cries of astonishment that this was the first for nine years, the Orderly Room clerks **Sgt Barry Jackson** and **Cpl (now Sgt) Alan Gillard** were soon complaining that the numerous statistics required were not available. The SSM, **WO2 Neil Brown** applied for leave immediately, claiming that he would never be able to get everybody through mandatory subjects required by ATD's, in time.

Despite the initial concern, everything was ready when **Brig W. J. Hiles** visited the Squadron on Thursday 2 May; (the Orderly Room even managed to get the paper work away on time). After a briefing on the role and organisation of the unit from the OC, **Maj Andrew Gale**, the Brigadier visited all areas to meet the soldiers. At the completion of the formal inspection **Brig Hiles** visited the Sergeants' Mess to present the LS & GC to **Sgt Dave Hughes** and then lunched with the members.

VISIT OF SENIOR BRITISH STAFF OFFICER (SBSO AFCENT)

Having just recovered from the ARU, we received a visit on Wednesday 15 May from the new SBSO AFCENT, **Brig A. L. Meier OBE**, who was keen to see all aspects of the Squadron. The photographs show the Brigadier meeting some of the soldiers.

Brig Meier being briefed on the steam operated radio equipment in the unit by SSgt Dave Letts and Sgt Gerry Pickett. Sgt Derek Pocock has evidently heard it all before

Left to Right: Sgts Mick Blakley, John Bell, Brian Hair, Mick Lightfoot, Brig Meier, WO2 Brian Lawrence, Sgts Mick Legg and Gerry Pickett look on

THE SUMMER CAMP

After many months of speculation, the Alternate War Communications Squadron (AWCS), actually deployed for its first ever International Summer Camp. This is a major achievement as AFCENT has no structure to support any such venture and so with equipment, stores and manpower, begged, borrowed and stolen from many outside agencies, we eventually arrived at Haderwijk in North Holland.

Although the site chosen for the base camp was reminiscent of many postings experienced in the Middle East, **SSgt John Keohane** and his black-hand gang soon had the place organised and habitable for the first group of international soldiers to arrive for their week of training.

Early in the week we were fortunate to be able to fire the weapons of other nations on the local Dutch ranges. The American M60 machine gun proved most popular, except with the local Range Warden when he saw the damage it was inflicting on the wooden cladding on his range! A tactfully offered bottle of Dutch gin however soon restored international relations.

The 24 hour exercise later in the week produced many useful training points as well as catering to the British sense of humour; some things are, unfortunately, lost in the translation.

— Like watching an American soldier eat a complete 24 hour ration pack for one meal and then inquire where his next meal is coming from.
— To watch a light display that would do credit to an ELO concert, all eminating from an overnight defensive position.
— To hear the screams of protest from **Sgt Derek Pocock** as his sleeping bag turns into a mushroom cloud of feathers courtesy of **Sgt Bryan Hair** and his uncontrollable thunderflash.
— To listen to the running commentary of **Sig 'Bomber' Brown** on the ensuing battle as he commits his imaginary weaponry of belt fed mortars and nuclear anti-tank pistols.
— To feel the stamp of marching feet as a Dutch infantry patrol marches over the small of your back as you lie in ambush. (Good job it was **Sgt Bryan Hair** again, he is so thin that the patrol didn't even notice him!)

Sgt Bryan Hair instructing four nationalities of soldiers on the complexities of the LMG. He must be good, some of them even hit the targets

Sig Geordie Gordon and Waz Dent lead the other nationals across the Aerial Confidence Course

International effort. German, Dutch, American and British soldiers all stretch together during summer camp early morning PT

Four nationalities strain together, coached by Sig Dave Crashley. He was excused holding the rope because of his delicate operator's hands

The sporting events of the week were both humorous and instructive, particularly the board sailing and canoeing under the watchful eyes of **Sgt Bob Hailstones** and **Cpl Shaun Wyld** (on loan from 13 Regt).

Having mastered the art of actually standing up on the sail boards, many of the Squadron were then lost to the sea, as nobody had told them how to turn around and sail back towards shore.

Sgt Bob Hailstones, the Squadron's current sail board expert; that's him without the sail, attempts to get the nations upright

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

June saw the Squadron off to Denmark once again, on Ex *Albatross Exchange*. With the LAD team working frantically to keep our fleet of vehicles on the road, **WO2 (FofS) Chris Fielding** commandeered local transport and kept our vital communications working.

While the FofS and his team worked long and hard **Sgt John Munro** our senior chef took it upon himself to arrange for some fresh rations. The method he used was the half ton landrover knock down method using **LCpl Pez Turner** as bait. The OC Squadron was seen to go weak at the knees when the SSM informed him that **'Sgt Munro** had killed an old deer'.

SQUADRON LEADERSHIP CADRE
Report by a potential leader of men

The Squadron runs a Leadership Cadre Course annually and this year the course syllabus was drill, method of instruction, leadership, group and personal command tasks, and generally getting as much fun and knowledge out of the course as was possible in the five days.

The DS for the course was led by the OC Squadron, **Maj Cook**, the QM **Capt Nicoll** and SSM, **WO2 McArdle. SSgt Beattie** was the drill instructor and was tasked with whipping us into shape. This was no mean feat when you consider the time and material he had to work with. The first couple of days consisted of blending us into a team while still concentrating on individual qualities, which few of us realised we had.

Lectures on leadership, MofI and elaborately produced view foils, helped to cram vital statistics and information into our fairly vacant but willing minds; all part of the plot to confuse.

Meanwhile on the square, we are introduced to the left about turn; the plot thickens. No course would be complete without a BFT and CFT and this course was no exception. The CFT was carried out on the afternoon of day three under the watchful eyes of the QM and SSM, who in true RD style beasted us around the course in 1 hr 40 mins—why don't these old soldiers just grow old gracefully and leave us young lads alone?

The following evening we all turned up at 1730 hrs to continue our series of lectures only to find ourselves arrested, stripped to coverall order and generally given a hard time by a band of indescribable villains from Line Troop 1 Bde Sig Sqn. This was quite off putting but was accepted in the right spirit—everyone unsure of what was to come next. The exercise was the brain child of our devious OC Squadron, who had nothing better to do that evening. He must have thought a touch of escape and evasion was just the sort of treat the course needed. We did not.

Each day we were tasked with completing a wide range of command tasks. The climax of these was a group task over a distance of two and a half miles with many pleasant surprises along the way.

The finale of the course was a spectacular drill display of double sentry drill (now I know why the left about turns) in front of the reviewing officer, **Col Brown**, Comd 1 Sig Gp, who praised the efforts of all those on parade.

Top student was **LCpl Alan Balsdon**.

SQUADRON BIRTHDAY

The Squadron held its 25th birthday on Friday 5 July. **Capt J. R. Nicoll**, our 'Peter Pan' QM 'I was in 249 in 196?', had done a splendid job of demanding fine weather for the day. The celebrations started with the arrival of our guest of honour, **Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB**. After inspecting the quarter guard the General was guided around our equipment display by the OC and SSM.

The General then had a barbecue lunch with the soldiers and their families. The afternoon was taken up with an inter troop Potted Sports Competitions, Main Tp were the overall winners.

Later that evening the Officers' Mess Log Sp Bn took part in the Retreat ceremony with The Corps Band in good form and **Maj Gen Macfarlane** taking the salute.

LCpl Freeman sings the praises of the Thermo Reactive Ski

KAPE TOUR

This year's KAPE tour with **Lt Wise** at the helm, started at the Army's Exhibition for Schools at Bassingbourn.

The display set up, the team moved to the hotel in Cambridge and shortly afterwards commenced the first of many social evenings. It was quickly discovered that most of Europe's students move to Cambridge for the summer and everyone of them is equipped with a bicycle. However, **Sig 'Fittipaldi' Jones** managed to persuade them to make way for our GS rover every morning.

The next three days were short but hectic with around 5,000 school children visiting our display of arctic equipment and clothing every day. **Cpl 'Sammy' Simcox** displayed his way with children by offering to demonstrate the use of the survival knife to several youngsters who after two minutes in a Volvo found the horn and spent the next 20 minutes ensuring it still worked.

From Cambridge we moved to the area of the Isle of Sheppey for two days of school visits. With a more controlled situation and a smaller number of children at any one time, all members of the team were able to make full use of their new found ability to discuss any aspect of the display for any length of time, including the occasional political discussion with one or two of the teachers.

The next stop was the Kent County Show where **Cpl Terry Petherbridge**'s Land Rover decided it had had enough and retired to the local workshops. The arrival of another vehicle meant the paint tins were once again removed from the four tonner as the new vehicle was rapidly transformed to arctic guise.

The show lasted three days and provided us with the hardest work of the tour. The snowshoe walk proved as popular, if not more so, than it was in the other locations, with everyone from the youngest to the oldest having a go.

One of the opposite sex astonished **Lt 'I'll have a pint of your strongest bitter' Wise** when asking him to put a pair of snowshoes on her, decided it was warm enough to remove the rest of her attire down to her underwear. No one is claiming responsibility for the Kissogram but **LCpl Bill Nicholson** was helpless with laughter and refused to go near her.

The last leg of the tour took us to Brighton for the final four days of schools visits. By now the team could take down, move and reassemble the complete display in around one and a quarter hours allowing us to successfully visit two schools daily.

During this hectic three weeks we still found time to celebrate **Cpl Tim 'Graveyard' Abbott**'s birthday in style and brush up on our volleyball and frisbee skills. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable three weeks for everyone concerned and as long as the Squadron can still supply large quantities of white paint, masking tape and NRSA, our tour next year should be as memorable as this one has been.

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QM DEPARTMENT

Mentioned elsewhere in these notes is the Squadron Headquarters Charity Fete held in the Quartermaster's Compound, and the organisation and hard work put in by all troop members to make it the success it was. Well done and thank you all.

Mention must also be made of our pet Combat Signalman, **'Bounce' Spring** who recently created havoc on the Cypriot roads with his two week driving course, he compounded this by attending a dog handlers course. Bets are circulating in the Troop as to who is the more dangerous **Spring** with a vehicle or **Spring** with a dog. But what about our **SQMS (Milk Bottle) Faherty** at present on his Guards Drill Course?; it could be that on his return, he will be the most dangerous!

None of this of course bothers our unflappable, ever suffering, (he suffers from the QM) **Cpl Dave Thorpe,** who goes on in his own indomitable style. Although he has been heard to mutter 'I'm cutting it off this year'.

RADIO DET CHARITY 85

As well as being heavily involved in all island communications the RTGs have also been hard at work earning money for charity; recently, we had the HQ Troop Charity Fete in which well over £C450 was made. A lot of hard work went in to preparing the fete. We had **LCpl 'Ginge' Willimont** begging on the streets for bottles of booze, and **Cpl Pat Halfpenny** preparing the fortune teller's den. (A home from home **Pat**?) We even believe **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** made it in for the day but had to be shown the way to get there.

PROMOTION

Congratulations go to **LCpl 'Andy' McKie** on his promotion, and the passing of his A1 entrance exam, we welcome him and his wife to Cyprus and hope they enjoy their stay.

CHANGEOVER

We have had to say good bye (ish) to our Troop **Sgt 'Colin' 'Hump' Thompson** who is taking over from **SSgt Frank 'The Beast' McAleer** as Training SNCO although all ties won't be lost as he will be remaining as the SNCO IC RTGs. That is if he ever manages to get his head over the paper level.

BORN LEADER

Congratulations go to **Cpl 'Pat' Halfpenny** on the good result he obtained on his Leadership Course; we were surprised he even got there. Well done **Pat** . . . Sir!

BARMAN RETURNS

We welcome back **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** who has just spent some time on the bar and then comes to work in a Colt Turbo; any volunteers for the bar?

SPORTS NEWS

On the sporting front we should congratulate **LCpl 'Ginge' Willimont** on winning the Inter-Services High Jump and setting a new record. Also a mention for **Sig 'Jeff' Vear** who, during the Hodgson Shield Cricket, never missed a ball . . . he was run out three times!

MT SECTION INTRODUCTION

Overall a busy period for the 'Squadron Truckers'. It would take too much time and space, to run through all our recent activities/involvements, so, I'll just highlight the main topics.

MT MANAGEMENT INSPECTION

In May we had a visit from our local transport Support Unit (TSU), for our annual MT Management Inspection. All went well and the OC TSU went happily on his way (in fact he was singing!).

HQ TP FETE

'Wouldn't it be a good idea to hold a Charity Fete, in the Compound?'. 'Would it, Sir'. 'Yes, organise it!' — It was, we did! Overall a good day out, which resulted in a healthy £C450 donation to Charity (also a good soaking on the ducking stall for most of us!).

PRE INSPECTION

The dreaded PRE (a periodic epidemic, known to all drivers) was also upon us in June. All hands were on deck, beavering away to the chorus of, wash it, polish it, paint it again. With the odd squeal emitting from TM Troop like 'Who's nicked my dust caps?'. The fruits of our labours, once again, resulted in a good report (what about those, 'days off', Sir?) No!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

First of all a warm welcome to **LCpl Millington** and family. We hope you have a pleasant tour of duty. Now to a 'sad farewell' to **LCpl 'Rev' Revill. 'Rev'** leaves us shortly for a tour with 3 Armd Div. The whole Troop gathered in strength at **'Rev's** 'Gozome' (they had heard that he was buying the drinks!). The pinnacle of the evening being **Rev's** farewell speech, that went on and on and—snooze. Has he finished yet? We would also like to say 'au revoir' to **Monty's** mum-in-law, **Alice**.

EPISKOPI TROOP

The troop is currently working hard helping the CPD team from Blandford put in the new all singing/dancing telephone exchange, which will give a better and more reliable service to subscribers. This will also give the technicians more time to drink their tea. I don't have a lot of time to write this as the 1,200 new Statesman telephones have to be fitted before NAAFI break.

On the sports side the troop is doing well in the Squadron's sporting event 'The Hodgson Shield' with wins in the cricket and athletics and a very close second in the swimming putting us top of the table, at least for the moment.

We welcome back from the Falklands **Sig 'Frankie' Cooper** and say goodbye to **LCpl Vince Cunningham** on promotion to Corporal and also to **Cpl Shamus Mooney**. They are both going to 7 Sig Regt. Aren't they lucky?

MOUNTAIN TROOP

Over the past few months, the troop has seen several changes and is once again manned on a permanent basis—apart from the last two or three who are still holding on. We welcome the following who have recently been posted in: **Sgt Jim 'Scouse' Walmsley** from 233 Sqn; **Cpl Steve 'Hutch'** or **'Starsky' Hutchinson, Cpl Steve Johnston, LCpl John 'Geordie' Bell, LCpl Don Rodham** and **Sig Neil Callow** from 8 Sig Regt; **LCpl Bob 'cheap phone calls at only C£12.50 a minute' Turner** from AAC Harrogate and **Sig Craig 'Jock' Dunbar** from 227 Sig Sqn. We also welcome in **Sgt Graham Blondel** from Tech Tp and **LCpl Steve Bailey** from Airfield Troop.

To compensate for the overcrowding we have just lost **Sgt 'nearly a civvie' Bob Scrivener** to 10 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Gez' Gerrard** to civvie street.

We send our congratulations to **LCpl** and **Mrs Rodham** who became parents on 21 July 1985; they were blessed with a daughter, **Emma Louise**.

HODGSON SHIELD

After only three events we are a very creditable third, even though we still have to borrow from our neighbours to make up the teams.

The swimming was a disappointment. With what looked like a reasonable team, we only managed fourth place—a ladies' handicap might have helped. Most team members had to swim three events, so we have indented for fins and gills for next year.

In the cricket, we were the underdogs, but due to our two Botham lookalikes, namely **Sgt Graham Blondel** and **LCpl Don Rodham,** we came equal first. As the troop is not allowed to come first in any event—it goes against our religion—we were relegated to second place.

CO'S CUP

After seven events in this competition, we are in second place—tied with the ladies and Troodos teams. With five events to go and only 16 points between first and last places, it is still very open.

IDX

In spite of all the sport we 'have' to play, the compulsory R&R to Ayia Napa (when we get a free weekend) and social events in the Signalmen's Bar, we do occasionally find time for work. Recently, the majority of this has been carried out at afternoons, evenings and weekends, in order to prepare for the installations of the two new—really they've not been passed over on retirement or redirected from anywhere else—digital exchanges at Troodos and Olympus, without upsetting the locals too much. After a few initial teething problems, the plugs were finally pulled on 6 July, to complete the first installation of this type in the Services.

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SQUADRON UPDATE

Since our last contribution many changes have taken place here. The first change occurred in March when the Squadron bade farewell to the OC, **Maj Malcolm Emslie** and his wife **Gail.** We wish them every success and happiness in their new posting with 39 Sig Regt (V) in London. We welcome in their place **Maj Ian Greig** and his wife **Lucy** who joined us from the School of Infantry in Warminster. Welcome to Cyprus, albeit belatedly.

Other changes have been firstly **WO2 ('Q') Joan Wilmot** our Commcen Supervisor and her husband **Sgt Ian Wilmot** who left us for London and Blandford respectively. All our very best wishes go with them to England and our thanks for being such active members of the Squadron both at work and socially.

The most recent and final change in the Squadron management was the loss of our 2IC **Capt Paul Wilkin** and his wife **Carolyn.** They leave us for a brief spell at the School at Blandford and we wish them and their family the very best of luck for the future.

Several momentous events have happened in Dhekelia in the last few months ranging from a vigorous and frankly disturbing I of E inspection to one of the largest scale Exercises, *Venus Rock*, that the island has ever seen. These were interspersed with a two week's Adventure Training Camp and the Squadron shooting team qualifying for and participating at Bisley.

On the sports field the Squadron continues to be one of the mainstays of the Garrison. Particular successes have been recorded in orienteering and football both of which are reported separately. In addition the Squadron retained the Garrison Minor Units Athletics Championship as well as a variety of individual successes in a multitude of sports.

In general, Cyprus life continues with its high level of involvement and enjoyment. Past members of the Squadron reading this can rest assured that the unit continues in the best traditions. 262 is riding high.

VISIT OF CLFC

Thursday 9 May saw a fleeting visit from the Commander Land Forces Cyprus, **Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley KCVO MBE**. The General was visiting Dhekelia Garrison and in a packed programme visited the Squadron during the morning.

He was met by the OC **Maj Ian Greig** and **WO2 (RQMS) Turvey** who was acting Sergeant Major for the day. On a whistle stop tour the General was shown all Departments: SHQ, the different elements of Maintenance Troop, the MT, the stores and the Commcen.

The Commander left after his tour obviously pleased with what he had seen, promising to return before his departure from the Island, later in the year.

The RQMS, WO2 Mick Turvey (*extreme L*) wonders how he is going to get out of this one as CLFC shares a joke with Sgt Archie Arnold in the 'Q' department. Also pictured are the ADC and OC Maj Ian Greig (*extreme R*)

EXERCISE *SUMMER SEAGULL*

Report by Lt Donna Tognarelli WRAC

This year's summer camp was a non-tactical (sighs of relief all round) adventure training exercise, Exercise *Summer Seagull*. It was planned and coordinated by **Capt Paul Wilkin**, the Squadron 2IC, and took place in and around the Evdhimou training area. The Squadron was split into two groups, each coming down for a week of activities

which included horse riding, canoeing, board sailing, water skiing, karting, parascending, dry slope skiing, rock climbing and abseiling. The latter was anticipated with a certain amount of trepidation and perhaps **SSgt Trev (Puppet on a String) Jones** can be forgiven for this. A 'lock off' on his abseil left poor **Trev** dangling from the rock face for nearly twenty minutes until the combined expertise of **SSgt (YofS) Mike Bell** and **Cpl Tom Forrest** (on loan to us from the RMP) brought him safely down.

The canoeing and board sailing lesson proved to be highly popular, not least because the sea provided a welcome respite to the blistering heat which by midday had turned the tents into ovens. Each Wednesday, activities were devoted to a potted sports competition. The crate of beer promised to the winners brought out some fierce competition, beginning with the volleyball competition—so much so that the OC, **Maj Ian Greig**, sustained a twisted ankle during one energetic match. A collision in the softball competition resulted in a home run for **LCpl Chris (Gizmo!) Jarvis** and a bloody nose for **Lt Donna Tognarelli.** It was in the water polo matches, however, that even the pretence of rules was abandoned with the winners being those who could hold their breath the longest while still holding on to their swimming costumes.

Back to the activities with horse riding and go-karting. The horse riding was completely new to most of us and as such proved to be very enjoyable. It was, however, the go-karting which was voted the highlight of the week, with each succeeding group trying to beat the previous lap record. The winner for the fastest lap time was **Sig Brian Booth** but the prize for originality must go to **Pte Flo Mitchell** who for some reason or other decided not to stop at the end of her laps and was last seen heading for the main road to Episkopi.

Finally to the end of camp barbecue, where, before the last activity got under way (ie the Kokinelli contest) the OC thanked all those involved in making the exercise such a success and hoped the Squadron had enjoyed it. We certainly did—who needs battle camps anyway?

Pte Flo Mitchell and Sgt Gaz Stratton wait for the snow to arrive at 'Episki' dry slope

EXERCISE *FUNNY TERN*

During the build up to Exercise *Summer Seagull* the wives decided that 'two could play at that game' and Exercise *Funny Tern* was engineered into the programme by the OC's wife.

Sixteen members of the wives club descended upon the camp for the middle weekend (shattering the peace and nerves of the instructors) to try their skills at rock climbing, abseiling and the water sports.

All went well despite **Mrs Brenda Tilley** finding that the canoes weren't quite the right shape for her!; **Mrs Bernadette Macarthy** managing to give the OC appoplexy when trying to break the sound barrier with the water skiing boat and the cook being upset by women trying to 'muscle in' on the cook house!

All the wives had a tremendous time—many overcoming their fear of heights and water, only wishing they could have stayed the week. They thank everyone concerned for their time, patience and for letting them join in. We can't wait for the next one—the 'enemy' for the next battle camp perhaps?

MINI WALKABOUT

This year this Orienteering Competition was slightly different with the start and finish being in Episkopi. The thirty mile course took in five controls and some very harsh terrain. The Squadron entered three teams. In the 'A' team **Sgt George Mayne, Sgt Alan Geddes,** and **Sgt Mick Buchan.** The 'B' team **Sgt Gaz Stratton** with **Sgt Mick Webb** and **Sgt Pete Wallace. WO2 (FofS) John 'Blue' Ratcliffe, WO2 (FofS) John 'Taffy' Mugford BEM** and **Sgt Ged Donelan** made up the 'C' team and provided the shock of the day by not coming last and therefore missing the 'wooden Spoon' prize of a walking stick.

The 'A' Team finishing the Mini Walkabout in Episkopi
Left to right: Sgts Mick Buchan, George Mayne and Alan Geddes

The 'B' team made a couple of suspect choices of route and had a few minor problems with a snake and in the end they flew in to come third from last. I must mention here that finishing was in itself an achievement. Out of 80 teams starting only 40 managed to finish. The 'A' team had a good run and in the end were just beaten into second place; a commendable performance.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and said they would do it again next year. A last mention must to go to **Sgt Mick Scull** for providing vital support and for driving for us.

ORIENTEERING
Report by Sgt George Mayne.

ORIENTEERING LEAGUE

The Squadron 'O' team went from strength to strength throughout the season winning all but a few of the league events. The team came first in the league with 16,969 points beating 2 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt. **Sgt George Mayne** came first in the individual league by winning all of the events he entered. **Sgt Alan Geddes** came a very good third with **WO2 (FofS) John 'Blue' Ratcliffe** in eighth place. Other notable performances came from **Sgt Mick Scull** in ninth place, **Sgt Pete Wallace** in eleventh place, **Sig Mitch Mitchell** in sixteenth place and **Sgt Gaz Stratton** in eighteenth place.

ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS
WSBA

The Squadron 'O' team ran as guests in the WSBA Championships (we are from ESBA) and won the day with ease.

	Individual Places		Team Places	
1st	**Sgt George Mayne**	1st	262 Sig Sqn	489.24
3rd	**Sgt Alan Geddes**	2nd	3 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt	618.32
4th	**WO2 (FofS) 'Blue' Ratcliffe**	3rd	259 Sig Sqn	
9th	**Sgt Pete Wallace**			
11th	**Sgt Gaz Stratton**			
17th	**Sgt Mick Scull**			

ESBA

All good teams have their off days and ours unfortunately happened at the ESBA Championships. Our first four runners came in well with **Sgts George Mayne, Alan Geddes, Mick Webb** and **WO2 (FofS) 'Blue' Ratcliffe** in second, fourth, sixth and seventh places respectively. But somewhere in the 'Bundu' behind Episkopi **Sgt Mick Scull** and **Sgt Pete Wallace** decided to call it a day, a decision they would live to regret. The all conquering 262 'O' team was disqualified as individuals, **Sgts George Mayne, Alan Geddes, WO2 (FofS) 'Blue' Ratcliffe** and **Sgt Mick Webb** with his best run to date.

COMBINED SERVICES CHAMPIONSHIPS

This Championship was a two day event—the first day being the individual event. The seven Squadron members taking part (four official and three guests) put in times worthy of first place. Four of the first five were from 262 with **Sgt George Mayne** first, **Sgt Alan Geddes** second, **Sgt Mick 'I've got something to prove' Scull** fourth and **WO2 (FofS) 'Blue' Ratcliffe** fifth. Able support came from **Sig Mick Webb** 22nd, **Sgt Pete Wallace** in 30th and **Sgt Gaz Stratton** in 36th positions.

Relays filled the second day—the Squadron entering one official team and one guest team. The official team of **Sgt George Mayne, Sgt Alan Geddes** and **WO2 (FofS) 'Blue' Ratcliffe** won with two minutes

to spare from the UN Support Regiment. The guest team of **Sgt Gaz Stratton, Sgt Pete Wallace** and **Sgt Mick Scull** came in sixth.

All in all it was a very good year for the Squadron 'O' team, as our team and individual honours will confirm.

HONOURS
League Champions 1985
League Individual Winner: **Sgt George Mayne**
League Individual Third: **Sgt Alan Geddes**
WSBA Championships Fastest Team
ESBA Championships Runner Up: **Sgt George Mayne**
Combined Services Champion 1985: **Sgt George Mayne**
Combined Services Runner Up: **Sgt Alan Geddes**
Combined Services Fastest Relay Team 1985.

BISLEY 1985

The story starts some months before Bisley at that wonderfully named meeting the Near East Skill at Arms Meeting (NESAM). It was on the results of this competition that selections for the representatives of the Island at RASAM would be made. Thanks to some very good, consistent shooting (runners up prize in the falling plate) the Squadron was selected as the one minor unit from the Island to go to Bisley.

This was success in itself but to return from England with the Tate Cup for the R Signals Target Rifle Team was even better. Shooting, however, in general could have been better, largely attributable to weapon failures. Nevertheless a great deal of valuable experience was gained by the younger members and an exciting competition was enjoyed by everyone. The Team was made up of **WO2 (SSM) John Carter, Cpls Joe Prescott, Taff Cummins, LCpl Yogi Cauldwell** and **Sig Dave Bullivant**. Special mention must be made of **SSgt Dave Belshaw** for his valuable contribution at NESAM and in the training prior to Bisley. Finally our thanks, to 1 Inf Bde and 5 AB Bde Sig Sqns for their help in administering the teams while in England.

NESAM Falling Plate Team
Left to Right: SSgt Dave Belshaw, Cpl Taff Cummins, Cpl Joe Prescott and WO2 (SSM) John Carter

SOCCER
Report by SSgt Trev Jones

From a small band of gladiators the Squadron manages to enter a strong team in most sporting events. Soccer is certainly no exception and last season saw some nail biting matches. The team was runner up in the ESBA league, losing only twice to the eventual winners, and an old enemy HQ Dhekelia. Runner up in the Coca Cola Cup; winning the ESBA Plate Competition 7 a side; losing semi finalists in the All Island Plate Competition 7 a side. The season finished serving three very good purposes, firstly it introduced and improved many young players abilities, secondly, it helped form a Football Club within the Squadron and thirdly it enabled the 'professionals' amongst us, by recognition to go on to play in a higher grade of football. No fewer than eight of our players represented Dhekelia Garrison, playing in the Cyprus Major Units League. Special mention must be made of our star player and pin up boy, **Billy 'McBoggy' McKeegan.** He has become a feared and respected striker in all levels of football in Cyprus. His reputation brought him Garrison, Cyprus Army, and Cyprus Combined Services colours. For the record he scored 41 goals at minor unit level, 35 at major unit level and League top scorer and five for the Army in only four games. Just in case he gets too big headed, he didn't score in the two Combined Services games.

Alas, all good things must come to an end, it seems that most of the squad like myself are posted at the same time. By the time this is published the likes of **'McBoggy'** and the club captain **Mick O'Toole** will be frightening the pants off teams in other parts of the world. (Football Officers take note) I have no doubt that their places will be taken by other up and coming young hopefuls and I wish them and the Club well.

266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic) BFPO 666

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Sugdon**
2IC	**Capt Lynn Relph**
QM	**Capt Ron Collins**
OC Line	**Lt Tony Johnson**
OC Radio	**Lt Fred Connor**
SSM	**WO2 Gordon Townsley**
YofS	**WO2 Steve Whytock**
FofS	**WO2 Frank Rumble**
SQMS	**SSgt Mac MacFarlane**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Ray Williams**

Apart from our usual heavy work load, we have been active in a variety of sporting activities, one of which is recorded below. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Cpl Steve James on his way to another victory in the cross country championships. The Squadron won the series outright

Cpl Frank Strawn fixing a mast at Bombilla Hill rebro site

CBFFI, Air Vice Marshal R. J. Kemble RAF on his initial visit to Bombilla with Capt Graham Leyland (then OC Radio Troop)

– News from Troops –

NATO FSS (Shetland)

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Capt Tom Guest assumes command in September upon the retirement of **Maj (TOT) David Collins** who leaves the army after 38 years service. He and his wife **June** have decided to stay in Shetland and have bought a cottage in Toab. We wish them a long and happy retirement and look forward to welcoming **Capt Guest.** In the interim **WO1 (RSM) Dick Hamilton** is in command. **Dick** completes 22 year's service this month, several years of which were spent with 16 Para Bde.

GENERALS VISIT

Last month, CINCENT, **Gen Leopold Chalupa** of the Bundeswehr paid a short visit to us. This month **Lt Gen Sir Norman Arthur KCB,** GOC the Army in Scotland and Governor of Edinburgh Castle, came to inspect us. During his brief stay the GOC accompanied by **Lady Arthur** visited the NATO Sites at Mossy Hill, Collafirth Hill and Saxa Vord, the RAF Station at Saxa Vord, and toured the oil terminal at Sullom Voe. They met the Convenor and some senior members of the Shetland Islands Council and were entertained by the Lord Lieutenant and **Mrs Shearer** on Bressay. Before he departed the General presented **Sgt Mick Hickey** Army Catering Corps with the LS and GC medal at a short ceremony in the Maybury Club, Virkie.

640 Sig Tp (EW) Blandford

THE CORPS' NEWEST UNIT BECOMES OPERATIONAL

640 Sig Tp (EW) became operational on 1 August, and this historic occasion was marked by a parade and drive past, **Lt Col W. H. Backhouse,** CO 30 Sig Regt was the Inspecting Officer.

EXERCISE *HAVEN RETURN 85*

'Ideas for Troop Adventure Training by Friday' said the OC. South of France, Bahamas and other exotic ideas flashed by, but no ideas were produced! Plymouth to Bournemouth along the coastal path, about 200 miles, say two weeks walking—sounded like a great idea—for the Infantry or our two attached Royal Marines perhaps! At least we've learnt our lesson and we'll know next time.

Planning in earnest began in February, stores were ordered and camp sites booked. On the face of it 100 miles a week along the beaches of Torbay and Swanage sounded a doddle, nobody bothered to mention the cliff climbs or the 60lb packs. The troop was split into two groups, each one to complete one week under the happy guidance of **Capt John Terrington** and **Sgt Graham Miles** (aptly named perhaps). Pre exercise instruction complete, we set off for the remoter parts of Devon where tourists never went, or so we believed.

WEEK ONE

Report by LCpl (Sting) Ray

The 1985 troop south coast tour began on a wet and windy Bank Holiday Monday, it took only a couple of miles for us to come to the conclusion that another week of this might not actually be enjoyable at all. After a good drenching and sufficient distance to realise that it would be a lot easier to let the train take the strain we arrived at Camp one, a nondescript field in the middle of nowhere. A quick recce established the location of a hotel and beach bar, (only two miles away), and a chance to replenish the fluids lost during the day. A local jazz band were trying to warm up a fresh bunch of washed out holiday makers, that is until we arrived. After a quick display of formation dancing it was time to relieve the trombonist of his microphone and begin 'Scat Singing' to rapturous applause from both punters and staff, not to mention embarrassed smiles from the band.

The good weather began the following morning as did the mile-eating pace of **Sgt Danny (Speed Snake) Glover,** Salcombe and Slapton soon flashed by with even more remote camp sites. The only highlight was an impromptu survival lesson from **Sgt Dave Taylor** who caught a 1½lb eel, after gutting it, the fish was thrown into a mess tin still wriggling and supplemented the night's compo meal.

Day four saw us limping into our first real camp site on the outskirts of Brixham and a most welcome shower, we had all started to notice the smell and there had been no shortage of volunteers to map read and lead from the front of the group. Sixty miles down and the time seemed right for our second impromptu entertainment session, totally refreshed by the shower and 'in the mood' we located the sort of venue not normally visited by the average 'grockle'. A friendly manager and a less than fully sober trawler crew were a likely audience, the troop borrowed a guitar, stormed the stage and burst into song. The performance ended with an encore of Glen Miller numbers, Acapello style. Even the OC managed to drag himself away from a highly protected corner of the bar to join in.

Torquay and Dawlish Warren passed all too quickly although weary and footsore the intrepid bunch still managed to put in a final performance at Dawlish. A bit of fast talking to the Disco Manager and we were soon entertaining with Break Dancing squaddie style and other sundry tribal dances plus a half hour cabaret act.

The seventh and final day started badly with sore feet and heads which got progressively worse when the boss started talking about casualty recovery a mile from the finish. All too clearly we realised why the stretcher was on the support landrover. A quick lesson on improvised methods of carrying bodies and instant hatred when the casualty was chosen. **LCpl 'Sting' Ray,** lead singer and chief comedian got the free carry to the final camp site and did extremely well to hang on whilst being bumped over fences and walls. A quiet evening and late night 'all in' compo party concluded the first 100 miles. Whilst we sorted out kit to handover to Group 2 the DS were contemplating the second week and another 100 miles.

WEEK TWO

Report by Cpl Mitchell

The second half of 640 Sig Tp's Adventure Training started at a rather sedate pace, but by 1200 hrs on Monday 3 June the pace, along with the weather, was steadily hotting up.

Once we had said our fond farewells to the first party it was a quick brief from the OC and then into the nearest town for a bit of sightseeing and the all important bank-run.

Day one of the walk started with a head count to make sure everyone was present and then it was down with the tents and off to Beer, having first been mounted by the famous Berghaus Tortoises. (For the uninitiated, the Berghaus Tortoise is about 3ft high, weighs 60lbs and lives on your back). We set off at a fair pace on the first 20 mile leg. Once we had arrived at Beerhead the OC did a quick foot inspection and instructed the afflicted in the use of Friars Balm which is an ancient form of torture handed down from the first party and **Sgt Danny Glover** (some says it cures blisters)! Once the afflicted had bitten through several bricks and branches of varying thickness, it was a quick hobble into Beer itself for a top up of natural body fluids and a small discussion on the merits of an OC who thinks walking from Plymouth to Bournemouth 'a spiffing good idea'.

Day two saw a somewhat bedraggled dozen souls drag their Berghaus Mobile Homes on to backs to go 'once more over the top'. (Quote **Sig Sam MacLeod**). After several miles of rolling hillside it was into the steamy undergrowth of downlands cliffs and landslips to discover some 'interesting flora and fauna'. Safely through the jungle we emerged a mile short of our destination which was Newlands caravan site just outside Charmouth. Once more the OC inspected the feet and instructed those who needed it in the use of Friars Balm. However once bitten twice shy applied to most and perseverance was the key word.

Sadly on Day three we lost two members of the troop due to badly blistered feet. **Cpl Geordie Mitchell** and **Sig Rick Taylor** decided a day in the landrover would be more beneficial to their feet than a day on the hills. So now reduced to 10 it was back to the more serious side of the troop's training ie: the walking. The day was misty, overcast and unpleasant, but this did not deter us and within two hours we had defeated Golden Cap (the highest point on the South Coast) and were well on the way to West Bay, a well earned rest was definitely in store for us. We pushed on once more to Puncknoll our designated camp site. The site was poor, the beer was worse and the weather awful. The recce had been done by **Sgt Danny Glover,** now safe in Blandford!

Day four saw a glorious morning with some eager bodies itching to go. We set off at a good old pace hoping that our next port of call would be somewhat better than the last; we were not disappointed, the walking was pleasant, the weather was good and before we realised it, we had arrived. The RETC Camp at Wyke Regis is no Savoy, but it had its attractions. Weymouth is renowned for its beaches and night life, but the more mature members on the walk decided a return to civilisation was called for and set off for the nearest restaurant. Much refreshed by good food and excellent wine they departed leaving behind them a bemused waitress and a table full of empty plates.

Day five started with a real bang when we were forcefully reminded that we were staying in a military establishment by a lone piper playing 'There's no place like home' at 0530 hrs. So it was on with the mobile homes and off again on the next gruelling stage of the walk. Fond farewells were spoken under bated breaths as we walked through Weymouth town centre and on to the beach front. Up into the hills we went, taking in some of Dorset's most breathtaking sights.

A stop off at the Smugglers Inn soon revived the lads and it was off to Durdle Dor Camp site. The owner obviously knew we were coming because he had laid on a turn, sadly though, due to the Barry McGuigan fight, his efforts were not really appreciated. At the end of the night, **Cpl Geordie Mitchell** performed with a song which earned him more praise than the turn. A Cheese and Wine Party was hastily arranged and at 0100 hrs everyone fell into their beds knowing a hard day was ahead. For some Bournemouth couldn't come soon enough.

Day six was an overcast filthy day with the weather man forecasting snow storms, rain, hail and outbreaks of sunshine, but with only 30 miles to go we happily put on our mobile homes and set off. This particular stretch of the coastal path is described as being both arduous and strenuous, but it should be re-written to read training ground for Everest as some of the climbs would have been easier with ropes and crampons. We ploughed on and soon arrived at Worth Matravers which was to be the scene of the last night out and some of the best impromptu entertainment that the walk had yet produced. With members of the troop doing their own versions of some well known and not so well known songs.

Day seven (The Final Conflict). A somewhat earlier than normal start time saw us equipped by 0700 hrs and ready to roll, with it being the final leg spirits were high and all were looking forward to going home for one reason or another. Once the first hill had been negotiated Old Harry was in sight and so was the finish point Bournemouth. The pace was stepped up, Studland Point came and went, the ferry was boarded.

On the way back a small party had been arranged for the OC, who, in a moment of recklessness, had got engaged. We would like to take this opportunity to offer him and his fiancée our best wishes.

Golden Cap the highest point on the South Coast. LCpl Tony Halsey looking for the view

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

OC, Capt John (The Boss) Terrington, 2IC, Sgt Graham (Winger) Miles, Sgts Barry (Follow the Bear) Thorp, Steve (Slow Slow, Quick Quick, Slow) Hayward, Cpls Sam (Steam Ahead) Street, Sam (Hipflask) Shaw, Geordie (Sing-a-Longa) Mitchell, LCpls Chas (Breakdancer) Roberts, Tony (I've got no money) Halsey, Jonah Jones, Sig Rick (Get me a woman) Taylor and Sam (Mouth Organ) MacLeod and Sgts Dave (Fishy) Taylor, Danny (Speed Snake) Glover RM, LCpls Benny (The Hat) Benham, Jack (The Lad) Dempsey REME, Darren (Ghetto Blaster) Summerell, 'Sting' Ray and Sig Mick Ryan.

The final mile of week one
LCpls Jack Dempsey and Benny Benham take the strain

THE 1985 REUNIONS

BLANDFORD

Some 500 Association members with strong family support enjoyed a memorable day at Blandford on 5 May. Only those privileged to be there can bear witness to the quality of the occasion and the immensely high standards demonstrated by the many components of the School of Signals, The White Helmets and our Corps Band.

Our photograph was taken during the afternoon and prior to the dedication of the Winchester Branch Standard of the Association which is reported elsewhere in this issue. Left to right are **Maj Gen Alistair Anderson** (Chairman of the Association), **Lt Col Hugh Morrison** (Commanding Officer, School Regiment), and **The Rev David Jones** (Chaplain Blandford Garrison).

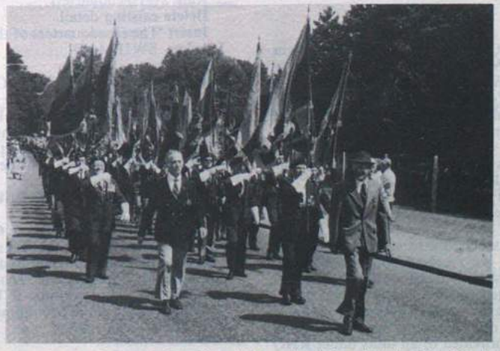
The dedication ceremony itself was conducted in a severe downpour and concluded in bright sunlight—seen by many as symbolic of the Second World War which was very much in mind as the Reunion coincided with the many national and international occasions of remembrance which commemorated the 40th anniversary of VE Day.

In the 'Red Corner' we have a mixed group under the watchful eyes of, *standing left*, Frank Stockdale (Sheffield Branch) and, *sitting left*, 'Pip' (Bomber) Haigh (Chester Branch). Nice to see that you have them well under control and there is no rough stuff in the clinches!

'Awa the lads (and lasses)'. Members of the Newcastle Branch wide awake (wake up that man in the front) and enjoying the evening's entertainment in the WOs and Sergeants' Mess of 8 Sig Regt

In the 'Green Corner' another mixed group (a smaller one who do not need looking after) who look as though they can dazzle the opposition with their gleaming smiles. Who needs to go to Morecombe to see the beauties!?

A round dozen bachelors (we assume) all looking prim and proper, or is this to impress the ladies back home in, and around, Chesterfield?



The March Past of the Church Parade being led by the 35 (a record) Association Branch Standard Bearers who attended the Reunion. *At the front*, duly escorted, is the Standard of the Bristol Branch which had just been dedicated during the Service in the Memorial Chapel. The Salute was taken by The Master of Signals Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE FORTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CATTERICK GARRISON ON SUNDAY 30 JUNE 1985

OFFICIATING

Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB	Chairman
Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE	General Secretary
Col J. A. D. Francis	General Secretary designate
D. Greenbrook Esq	Clerk to the General Secretary

PRESENT

Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL	President
Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB	Rep Col Comdt
Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO	
Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE	President Indian Signals Association
Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB MBE	
Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB OBE	
Brig P. J. Evans CBE	Vice-Chairman
Brig F. R. Maynard	Vice-Chairman and Commander Training Group

and some 90 members of the Association.

The Chairman thanked Commander Training Group and all those who had helped to organise the Reunion. He welcomed The President of the Association, the several distinguished senior officers and all members present.

Greetings from the Colonel-in-Chief

The Chairman read telegrams exchanged by The Master of Signals and our Colonel-in-Chief on the occasion of Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1985.

MINUTES OF THE 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the 39th AGM were approved unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRANCHES

The Coventry Branch which has not been active for several years is closed—although we have received an indication that new blood will bring it to life again. We are thus based on 61 Branches which includes seven Affiliated Branches.

FINANCE

The audit of our accounts was completed in March and we can look back objectively at 1984.

I sincerely thank All Ranks of the Serving Corps for their magnificent support to the Association under the One Days Pay Scheme. As in the past 21 years this represents our principal source of income which was some £180,000. Our total income was some £238,600 (£215,100 in 1983).

WELFARE

At the beginning of March, we lost **Mrs Doris Ward**—the assistant to our Welfare Officer, **Mrs Moira Mason**. **Doris** had moved to the coast on her husband's retirement. We have replaced **Mrs Ward** and **Mrs Pat Haw** started work in the Welfare department on 9 April.

During 1984 some 1,030 individual grants were made from the Benevolent Fund. The total commitment amounted to some £96,000 (£78,000 in 1983).

The total expenditure of the Corps Games and Yacht Club for the past year (just under £40,000) was also met by the Association.

Your Central Committee approved a grant of £37,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund. The benefits derived from the ABF which I would like to highlight, were:-

The ABF contributed with our Association in some 45 instances during the year. On this account, we received some £28,000 to supplement grants from our Benevolent Fund. Additionally, 55 weekly pensions of £4 were established for the elderly in real need.

Eighty two soldiers nearing discharge received interest free loans totalling some £110,000. The details of 'The Army Benevolent Fund Serving Soldier Loan Scheme' were provided to all units under RHQ Royal Signals letter reference SA/A/56 dated 9 November 1983.

The ABF contributed a little over £1,000,000 on behalf of all Corps and Regiments, to over 70 charities who provide help to either the soldier, the ex-soldier or his dependants.

The ABF arranged 38 holidays to deserving families—all formerly of the Corps—and met their travel costs.

THE WIRE

The subsidy to *The Wire* amounted to some £25,000 in 1984. (£24,000 in 1983). As you know, new subscription rates were introduced from 1 January this year. A retired officer of the Corps (**Lt Col Ted Andrews**) has succeeded **Lt Col Ron Murray** as Editor of *The Wire*. He will also edit the Journal of the Royal Signals Insitution.

THE OVERALL POSITION

At 31 December 1984, the accumulated funds of your Benevolent Fund amounted to some £540,500 (£502,900 in 1983). The Associations investments which cost some £497,700 had a market value of £1,049,000 (£905,700 in 1983).

As your Chairman and Treasurer, I can report that our financial position is sound.

STAFF

I congratulate the small staff who support the General Secretary for competing successfully with a demanding year:

Mrs Moira Mason	Our Welfare Officer
Mrs Pat Haw	Her Assistant who has just joined us
Mr David Greenbrook	Assistant to General Secretary
Ms Carol Penfold	Association Accountant
Mrs Marjorie Riggs	Assistant Editor, *The Wire*
Maj Bill Rose	Gives us one day's valuable support every month

THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1984

Following a summary of the Fund by the General Secretary, **Mr F. Elwood** (Sheffield Branch) proposed that the audited Accounts of the Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund for the year 1 January to 31 December 1984 be approved. The proposal was seconded by **Mr B. E. Clarke** (Bristol Branch) and approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The Meeting re-elected the following to the Central Committee unanimously by a show of hands:

Chairman	**Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**
Vice-Chairman	**Brig P. J. Evans CBE**
Vice-Chairman	**Brig F. R. Maynard**

RULES OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, AMENDMENT TO RULE 2

On the advice of the Association solicitor, **Col J. A. D. Francis** invited the Meeting to amend Rule 2 of the Association rules which defines the location of the Headquarters of the Association. This was necessary because of the proposed move of the Association offices due on 1 July 1985. The following amendment having been proposed by **Col J. A. D. Francis** and seconded by **Mr E. A. Leavesley** (York Branch) was approved unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO RULES

Rule 2—Headquarters.

Delete existing detail.

Insert 'The Headquarters of the Association is at 56 Regency Street, London, SW1P 4AD'.

THE OPENING OF THE CORPS HISTORICAL ROOM AT CATTERICK GARRISON

Mr B. MacDonald (Oldham Branch) asked that the opening hours of the Historical Room might be extended during the Catterick Reunion. The Chairman noted this request, and invited the organisers of the 1986 Reunion to consider this change.

ATTENDANCE AT THE REUNION BY TERRITORIAL ARMY MEMBERS

Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB stated that a number of members who are serving with the TA were unable to attend the Reunion because TA weekend training commitments were also scheduled for the Reunion weekend. He recommended that the Signal Officer-in-Chief be invited to consider if TA training at the weekend scheduled for the Reunion could be minimised. The Chairman noted this request for future consideration.

REUNIONS 1986

The Chairman reminded members of the following dates for future reunions in 1986:

The Blandford Reunion, 18 May 1986.

The Catterick Reunion, 5/6 July 1986 and Annual General Meeting 1986.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Sheet — 31 December 1984

1983			1984
	INVESTMENTS AT COST		
456,364	Listed (market value £1,049,591 1983 - £905,694) (Note 3)		497,742
5	Unlisted - Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited		5
456,369			497,747
7,830	LOANS		7,660
	CURRENT ASSETS		
8,547	Stock at lower of cost or net realisable amount	5,937	
6,725	Sundry debtors and prepayments	3,233	
8,413	Income tax recoverable	9,189	
37,645	Deposit accounts at bank	78,522	
-	Current account at bank	472	
22	Cash	11	
61,352		97,364	
	LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
14,831	Sundry creditors and accrued charges	62,227	
7,773	Current account at bank	-	
38,748	NET CURRENT ASSETS		35,137
£502,947			£540,544
	Represented by:		
502,947	ACCUMULATED FUND		540,544
	CHAIRMAN		
	AAG Anderson		
	SECRETARY		
	JAD Francis		
	8 May 1985		
£502,947			£540,544

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION CONCERNING THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

We have audited the accounts on pages 2 to 6 in accordance with approved Auditing Standards.

In our opinion, the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Fund at 31 December 1984 and of its excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

Chartered Accountants 8 May 1985

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1984

1983			1984
	INCOME		
	Receipts from Corps Fund:		
28,214	Officers		29,503
134,725	Other ranks		151,317
162,939			180,820
	Donations:		
2,995	Individuals and local branches	1,939	
1,273	Regiments and Squadrons, Royal Signals	2,876	
4,268			4,815
1,500	Benevolent grants refunded		1,635
42,639	Investment income (gross)		45,841
2,591	Bank deposit interest	3,521	
250	Subscriptions	300	
54	Receipts from branches	66	
888	Sundry other income	1,611	
3,783			5,498
215,129	TOTAL INCOME		238,609

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1984

		EXPENDITURE		
(77,948)		Benevolent grants and convalescent holidays		(95,864)
(10,000)		Royal Signals Games Club grant		(30,756)
–		Royal Signals Yacht Club grant		(9,124)
(5,706)		Memorial Chapel and Forch		–
		Donations:		
(36,000)		Army Benevolent Fund	(37,000)	
(3,825)		Other	(4,405)	
(39,825)				(41,405)
(24,173)		Contribution to costs of publications		(25,041)
(12,122)		Administration Expenses		(13,331)
(16,400)		Salary costs		(16,812)
(19,479)		Pension and gratuity for former employees		(2,393)
(2,220)		Audit fee		(1,995)
		Association reunions and Branch Representatives meeting		
(15,110)				(10,364)
(7,854)				(8,476)
(2,195)		Profit/(loss) on sale of investments		46,073
(10,049)		EXCESS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		37,597
		ACCUMULATED FUND		
512,996		Brought forward at 1 January		502,947
£502,947		Carried forward at 31 December		£540,544

Notes to the Accounts — 31 December 1984

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(1) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(2) 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 investment income includes imputed tax credits.

(3) 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.

(4) Pensions

The Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund provides pensions for certain of its employees and former employees. The pensions are provided by premium payments to a Life Assurance Society to purchase annuities for the pensioners and by supplementary payments from the Fund. These premiums and supplementary payments are charged against income in the year in which the payments are made.

FORMER PENSIONERS

We report with regret, the recent deaths of the following former Members of the Corps who were in receipt of a pension:

14078601	Cpl R. A. Hastead
2314593	Sig S. Butler
2323062	WO2 A. J. Ireland
22537552	WO1 A. E. Cooley
23549311	Cpl J. H. Peat
23516903	WO1 K. O. Davis
21182667	WO2 A. A. Piper
22562152	SSgt R. Hills
23666363	Sgt J. W. Laflin

CHESTER BRANCH

EX SSGT T. P. NICHOLLS BEM

An appreciation by Maj (Retd) D. J. Carnell

It is with great sadness that I have to pass on the news of the death on 24 May of **Tommy Nicholls**.

Before the Second World War, **Tom** joined the Cheshire Yeomanry later to be amalgamated into the Royal Corps of Signals, and in which he served continuously until 1960. He saw action in France and the Middle East. He was awarded the BEM in the Birthday Honours in 1955.

On leaving the service in 1960, **Tom** joined the Post Office and went over to British Telecom, until he retired in 1983. He was secretary of the Upton Branch Royal British Legion, and a RBL gold medalist. He was a stalwart member of the Chester Branch of the Signals Association and the Cheshire Yeomanry Association. He and his three brothers were admitted as Freemen of Chester and he was a past trustee and member of the Freeman and Guilds of the City (Joiners, Turners and Carvers Company). **Tom**'s eldest son **Kevin** is currently serving with the Corps in BAOR.

Tom always put everything into any activity in which he was involved—many of these were for the benefit of the community. He was a very popular and respected citizen of Chester.

The funeral took place at St Columba's RC Church, Plas Newton. Representatives of all the associations were there as well as civic dignitaries and a large congregation of mourners.

I am sure all his friends will join me in extending our deepest sympathy to his wife **Peggy** and family in their bereavement.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

Many will have seen **George** at the Catterick Reunions, at which he is a regular attender and this year, for the first time, using a wheelchair when a lot of walking was necessary. His 'turning of the page' in the Garrison church was most impressive for a man who will be 93 on 1 September! (See page 560.)

For those interested from World War I, the missed itinerary by **George** on the Monday was as follows: Leave Ypres sharp at 0800 hrs for Armentières via Ploegstreet to visit Greyvillers Br Cemetery, then to Transloy, Longueval, London Pozieres and the Thiepval Memorial (the largest English Cemetery) past Beaumont-Hamel to visit Serre Road No 1 and on to Arras for lunch. Then to Duissans Cemetery, Vimy (Canadian Memorial), call at Notre Dames de Loreette and to Bully Les Mines for tea (a favourite stop, the owner is an ex Guardsman and has a very nice restaurant, fancy goods and wine shop). After tea, next call at Houchin Cemetery, Bethune and through to Neuve Chapel to visit VC Corner at Fromelles. Continue to Armentières and Cite Ben Jean Cemetery, calling at Ploegstreet Cemetery on the way back to Ypres.

WEST LONDON BRANCH

ANNUAL DINNER

The Fourth Annual Dinner of The West London Branch, will be held at The Osterley Comfort Inn, Great West Road, Isleworth, Middx, on Friday 11 October 1985, 7.30 pm for 8 pm. The cost per head is £12 (including wine).

Applications for places should be sent to **Mr C. Wood**, 12 Village Way, Ashford, Middx TW15 2LB not later than 30 September 1985.

Report by Capt Jane Knight

We are pleased to say that the Branch has an increasing membership, our last monthly meeting having an all time record attendance which, mid-summer, we consider an achievement.

A contingent recently attended Sunday morning service at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. We had the honour of parading with the In-Pensioners and afterwards enjoyed the hospitality of their club and the pleasure of the company of many of the residents. Our Standard was paraded and the Padre commended our Corps in his address and prayers. The Choir was a joy to hear. We have to thank the Governor **Gen Sir Robert Ford GCB CBE**, the Regimental Sergeant Major **WO1 (RSM) L. J. Lamb BEM** and all concerned in welcoming us on this great occasion.

The Blandford Reunion proved a most enjoyable day and an organised coach contributed considerably to our pleasure. At Catterick we also had a record attendance this year and a fantastic weekend.

Our Standard was paraded at Blandford and at Catterick. At military celebrations attended recently by the reporter the Padre suggested we all pray for a fine weather parade the following day. We have to assume that we must thank the organisers at Blandford and at Catterick not only for their great hospitality and magnificent organisation but also for their undoubted devotions because on both occasions the rain waited until the very last minute.

WINCHESTER BRANCH

BLANDFORD REUNION

Report by Capt H. R. Steele (Retd)—Honorary Secretary

Despite a high wind, sunshine and heavy showers, 18 branch members and 12 members' families and friends attended and stayed all day to visit the Corps Museum, Amateur Radio Station and equipment displays in the Main School building. Pre-lunch refreshments were available in the Junior Ranks' Club and WOs' and Sergeants' Mess and a really splendid buffet lunch was served in the Junior Ranks' Mess—mine was a curry!

The White Helmets gave a magnificent display on Hawke Square. They improve every year and as I was with them for seven years at Tidworth when they were taking part in Tattoos in the thirties, the comparison was tremendous. The Corps Band too was great, despite the rain, which curtailed their programme. The service of dedication of our Standard was a very moving ceremony and, an omen for the future, the sun came out at the end of the Service. Our 'Rookie' Standard Bearer, **Phil Percival**, did an excellent job, despite the rain and wind and his regimental haircut! His family were all present and as proud of him as we were.

MEMOIRS OF MY LAST PILGRIMAGE TO YPRES WITH THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S MEMORIAL CHURCH, YPRES

Report by George A. Franklin Esq

Mr Franklin as a Sapper in Canterbury in 1916, aged 24 years

THURSDAY 2 MAY/FRIDAY 3 MAY

I travelled by coach from Altrincham, Cheshire, leaving at 2300 hrs and arriving in London at 0630 hrs on Friday morning. After a rest and refreshment I met two friends and we went to Victoria Station. We boarded the coach and left at 0930 hrs for Dover. There we met the remainder of our party (this is always an anxious moment as we look for familiar faces and wonder who will be missing). After customs check we boarded the Townsend ferry and sailed for Calais. Passed through French customs safely and because there were elderly people on board we were allowed to remain in the coach. Soon we were on our way to Ypres, visiting several cemeteries on the way. The first one was Bangagem, near Rosebrugge and is always difficult to find because it is down a muddy track and in the middle of a wood. Next was Dozinghem Cemetery at Proven and then to Poperinghe and Ypres (Ieper) where we were staying. After dinner, some of us went across to the Church Hall to meet the ladies, say hello to people, visit the sale of work organised for us, then back to the hotels and bed.

In the garden of Talbot House (TocH)—Poperinghe

SATURDAY 4 MAY

Early morning free to look around the market. At 1100 hrs we met in the Council Chambers in the Cloth Hall (Town Hall) for the Lighting of the Lamp Ceremony (Ypres is a stronghold of Toc H). Introductory speeches were made and replied to and the usual 'Vin d'Honneur' was taken. Towards the end the Burgomaster was informed that there were two World War I veterans and a teenager among the party and he asked to meet them, so we lined up with the young one in the middle and photographs were taken, ie **ex-Gunner H. Middick**, the teenager and myself, **ex-Sapper R. E. Signals G. A. Franklin**. After the ceremony we went to the museum adjoining the Council Chambers. I am a great friend of the curator and his assistant and always get a warm welcome, with a cup of coffee and a chair in which to rest. The museum was officially re-opened a short time ago by Their Majesties The King and Queen of the Belgians. I was shown some proofs of the official photos and was asked to choose one for myself, which I took to be a great honour. I was also asked to stand by a 'Mock-up of a World War I dug-out' for a photo. After lunch we set off to visit the local cemeteries, first to Artillery Wood, then Tyne Cot, Polygon Wood, Hooge Crater, Sanctuary Wood, Hill 62 and Hill 60, and Spoilbank Cemetery, also the New Zealand Parks at Mesen and Mount Kemmel. Then home for dinner, next the 'bring and buy' stall at the church and then to bed.

SUNDAY 5 MAY

I attended Holy Communion in St George's Church at 0800 hrs, taken by the Bishop of Gibraltar and of Anglican Churches in Europe. After breakfast the coach left for Poperinghe to visit Talbot House (Toc H). We wandered around the house and garden, climbed the stairs to the first floor and browsed among the photo albums of World War I. Later we went to the 'Upper Room' for a very simple short service, saw some of the wooden crosses from the early graves and signed the Visitors' Book. The reception in the Poperinghe Town Hall was given by the Burgomaster, a very charming lady and I was privileged to meet and greet her with a Belgian salutation. After lunch at the Palace Hotel, we called at the Reninghelst New Cemetery on the way back to Ypres. Afternoon tea was provided by the ladies of the Church. The Patronal Service was in St George's Church at 1830 hrs followed by the sounding of the Last Post at Menin Gate and the Parade at Menin Gate at 1950 hrs (medals worn), then back to the hotel for dinner.

MONDAY 6 MAY

I did not go on the coach tour with my friends because I had a reporter visiting me in the morning and a Belgian friend in the afternoon. My Belgian friend is a member of the Ghent Fire Brigade, who runs a movie crew and does research on World War I. We went across to the museum for a look around and chat with the curator's assistant. Back to the hotel to find that the coach party had returned and it was time for our special Patronal dinner. This is 'the' event of the Pilgrimage, with our own Special Guests. After dinner speeches were made and compliments paid. The last compliments were made to our ex-Gunner and myself and we were each presented with a Black and White sketch of the 'Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate'. The original was done some years ago by a well-known Belgian artist. A wonderful and constant reminder of our Pilgrimages.

In the Ypres 1914 museum
From L to R: Asst Curator Albert Beke, George, friend Laurent van Bosselle

TUESDAY 7 MAY

Breakfast in the hotel and last farewells to one and all. The coach left for Calais at 1130 hrs and the Townsend ferry left Calais at 1345 hrs; lunch on board for all the party and arrived at Dover at 1415 hrs and Victoria, London at 1700 hrs. I found that I had missed the 1630 hrs coach to Manchester and the next one was 2330 hrs. Our Bishop had travelled with us and he was able to transfer my booking to the 'Rapide'; so I got the 1830 hrs coach and was in Manchester by 2230 hrs, being met by my son with the car. So ended my last Pilgrimage with the Friends of St George's Church at Ieper or Ypres or Wipers, as it will always be known to World War I veterans. Many, many thanks to everyone who helped to make it the best, and may they continue for many years yet.

— Sport —

ATHLETICS

ROYAL SIGNALS (UK) ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 1985

Report by Maj R. H. Hoyle—Secretary Royal Signals Athletics

The first Royal Signals (UK) Athletics meeting was held at the Tidworth Oval on Saturday 18 May 1985. Pioneered by the President of Royal Signals Athletics, **Lt Col Mike Taylor**, CO 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, executed by **Maj Dick Hoyle** from HQ 15 Inf Bde and administered by **WO1 (RSM) Mick Bailes** from 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, the event was a great success.

The sun shone on five major units and six minor units who took part. The competition was extremely close, both between individuals and between the units.

In the major unit competition there was a lively battle on the track between **LCpl Freeman** a well known star of Army standard and **Sig Vile** the newcomer from 8 Sig Regt. **Sig Vile** showed his strength winning the 5,000m but **LCpl Freeman** showed his speed in a fine victory in the 1,500m in the creditable time of 4 mins 5.4 secs. The 3,000m Steeplechase saw **WO2 (RQMS) Pete Dring** win for 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in characteristic style. But, if RQMS **Dring** represents the mature end of Royal Signals Athletics, then **AT Moreman**'s second place showed hope for the future.

In the Pole Vault, another athlete from AA Coll Harrogate, **AT LCpl Gibbins** had a clear win with a height of 3.35m. Better known on the squash court **Cpl Pollard** of 30 Sig Regt ran an excellent race in the 800m against a competitive field to win in 2 mins 1.3 secs. It was also good to see a senior officer, **Lt Col Roger Thompson** from the School of Signals, getting the silver medal in the major unit discus.

The major unit competition was decided on the final race. 30 Sig Regt had just won the 4 × 100m and went on to win the 4 × 400m from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in a hard fought race.

Col Colin Brown, Comd 1 Sig Gp presented the prizes to the winning teams and the first, second and third individuals. In sum, an excellent day enjoyed by athletes and families. Hopefully, this will now become an annual event.

Final results were as follows:

MAJOR UNITS

Position (a)	*Letter* (b)	*Unit* (c)	*Points* (d)
1	D	30 Sig Regt	129
2	B	2 Inf Div Sig Regt	127
3	E	School of Signals	124
4	C	8 Sig Regt	112
5	A	AA Coll Harrogate	74

WO2 (RQMS) Pete Dring, 2 Inf Div Sig Regt comfortably in the lead on the final lap of the Major Unit 3,000m Steeplechase

MINOR UNITS

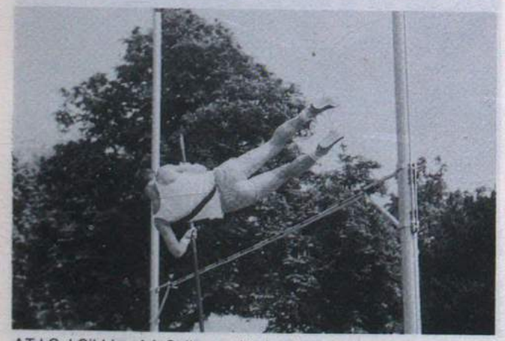
(a)	*(b)*	*(c)*	*(d)*
1	H	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn	70
2	L	233 Sig Sqn	58
3	G	11 Sig Regt	43
4	M	249 Sig Sqn	42
5	K	210 Sig Sqn	30
6	J	19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn	27

After two laps of the Major Units 5,000m, winner Sig Vile (C)

The Flying Colonel: Lt Col Thompson, School of Signals gaining second place in the Major Units Discus

Cpl Andrew of 233 Sig Sqn, the winner of the Minor Units Long Jump

Finish of the 800m with Cpl Pollard 30 Sig Regt powering to success with Sig Speight 8 Sig Regt passing Cpl Poster



AT LCpl Gibbins AA Coll turns his back on the camera but not the winner's medal in the Major Unit Pole Vault

SAILING

Report by Lt Col V. A. Montague

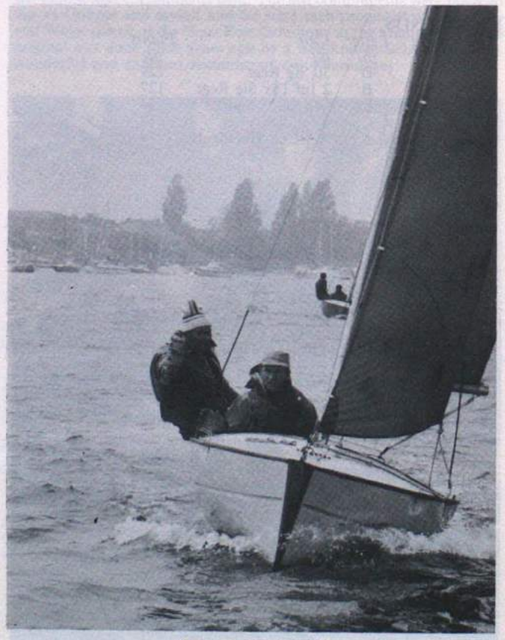
Perusing a copy of *The Wire* recently your correspondent realised that it was over long since he had read anything on dinghy and dayboat sailing activities in UK. So to prove that UK dinghy sailors are not a dying breed (quite the reverse in fact) he put pen to paper and camera to eye. (Not strictly true—the photographic credits must go to **Mr Geoff Parcelle** of the School of Signals, who risked life and cameras in a rather damp inflatable dinghy).

The Corps UK Dinghy Regatta is held annually in May and sailed in Bosun dinghies from Whale Island in Portsmouth Harbour. This year it was particularly well attended with 15 crews entered. After nine races over the two days the individual winner was **Maj Vaughan Smedley** from HQ 1 Inf Bde crewed by **LCpl Steve Pashley** of 30 Sig Regt. Runners up and winner of the Inter Unit Trophy were **WO2 (YofS) Derek McClelland** crewed by **WO2 (FofS) Pat Baldwin**.

The Whale Island dinghy regatta is followed by a series of meetings at the Seaview Yacht Club on the Isle of Wight where racing is in the unique Mermaids. These are small racing keelboats some 25ft long and sailed by a crew of three. Each year the Corps holds a two day regatta at Seaview followed later in the season by a Triangular RA/RE/R Signals regatta culminating in the Army Sailing Association meeting and the inter-service Gold and Conningham Cup races.

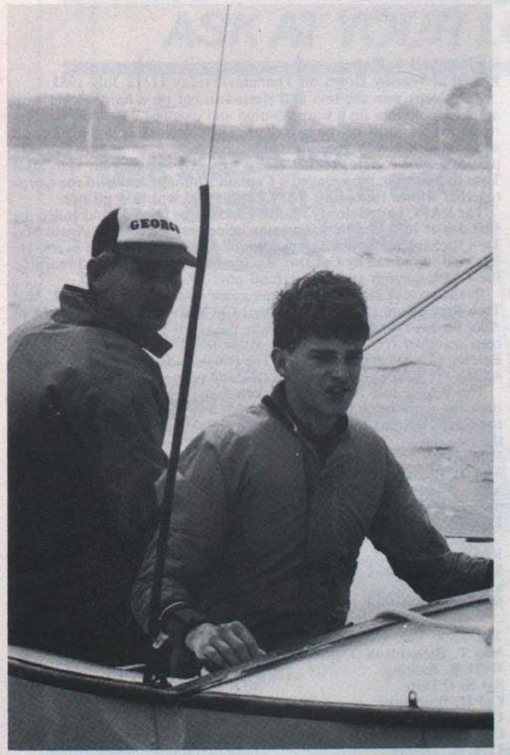
This year results at Seaview were dominated by the strong entry from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt—the first time that a BAOR unit has entered crews. **WO2 (FofS) David Ellis** won the Corps Regatta and **Cpl Chas Cowell** also took the Robinson Salver back to Soest. Then **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor** (3 ADSR) helming one of the Corps entries, and crewed by **Lt Col Keith Powell** and **LCpl Mike Hinks** won the ASA regatta and **WO2 David Ellis** (crewed by **Powell** and **Smedley**) was part of the Army Team which won the Conningham Cup, by a quarter of a point from the Navy.

Completing a most successful sailing season to date the Corps UK dinghy team has beaten the Sappers for the first time since 1972 and a handsome silver trophy known as the Wakeham Cup now sits in the trophy case in the School of Signals.



'Was that the gun?'
WO2 Bernie Medway crewed by Capt (TOT) Gavin Spearpoint during pre-start manoeuvres at Portsmouth

'On to the reach'
SSgt Eddie Harper and Sgt Keith Essam head a group of Bosun dinghies around the windward mark. In the background is HMS *Tiger*, venue of the meeting between Harold Wilson and Ian Smith during the Rhodesian UDI crisis



'Sailing really is a happy sport!'
Cpl George Hardstaff and his crew AT Mark Buffery from AAC Harrogate present a study in worried concentration during the Corps Dinghy Regatta in Portsmouth Harbour

CRICKET

Report by Lt Col S. A. Coltman—Capt of Corps Cricket

R SIGNALS V RCT

Played at Aldershot on Tuesday 18 June.

The Corps won the toss and put the RCT into bat on a cloudy day. The wicket was slow with a tendency for the ball to keep low. The RCT started explosively, scoring 29 in the first 10 minutes. However the first four batsmen succeeded in committing suicide against the opening bowlers, **Sgt Stephen O'Dare** (4—38) and **Cpl H. Glean** (3—29), and slumped to 40—4, **Sgt O'Dare** taking all four wickets. Good bowling by **Cpl H. Glean** saw the RCT struggling at 81—7. However the RCT Captain, **Woodman** (50no), held the innings together and the RCT finally ended at 134 all out. If the Corps had held all their catches the RCT would not have scored more than 80.

The Corps opening batsmen, **Sgt Ian Gilbert** (24) and **Maj Geri Maddren** (20) started the innings well and the game seemed to be going our way when the first wicket fell at 48. A very good bowling spell by the Army U-25 fast bowler, **Taylor** who bowled unchanged for 7—54, caused the Corps to collapse to 76—7 with only **Sig Paul Goodhand** (22) surviving. However, after tea, sound batting by **WO1 Bill Balding** (33no), supported by **SSgt Dave Gunn** and **Cpl Andy Phillips** saw the Corps to victory by two wickets in a fascinating game.

RCT	134
Sgt S. O'Dare	4—38
Cpl H. Glean	3—29

R Signals	136—8
WO1 B. Balding	33no

R Signals won by two wickets

Team	
Lt Col S. Coltman	MOD
Maj G. Maddren	School of Signals
WO1 B. Balding	RMAS
SSgt D. Gunn	School of Signals
Sgt S. O'Dare	30 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Gilbert	10 Sig Regt
Cpl H. Glean	10 Sig Regt
Cpl T. Gigg	11 Sig Regt
Cpl A. Phillips	30 Sig Regt
LCpl A. Barnet	1 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sig P. Goodhand	30 Sig Regt

R SIGNALS V RAC

Played at Bovington on Monday 24 June 1985.

The Corps won the toss and put the RAC into bat on a slow wicket that had somewhat uneven bounce. The weather was cloudy but improved as the day wore on. After a fine opening spell by **Cpl Tony Howard** (2—31) and **Sig John Taylor**, the RAC struggled to 50—4. **Watson**, the RAC Captain, and **Tucker** took the score to 96—4 but **Cpl Don Bascombe** (2—38) and the skipper, **Lt Col Steve Coltman** (3—8) precipitated an RAC collapse and they were all out for 107. The Corps fielding and catching were excellent.

In reply, the Corps started slowly against good bowling on a wicket that got more lively as the effects of the heavy roller wore off. When **Cpl Don Bascombe** was dismissed for 23 with the score at 50—2, the Corps collapsed to be 63 all out. The RAC had bowled and fielded extremely well.

RAC	107
Lt Col S. Coltman	3—8

R Signals	63

Team	
Lt Col S. Coltman	MOD
Maj G. Maddren	School of Signals
Lt P. Glibberly	9 Sig Regt
WO1 B. Balding	RMAS
SSgt D. Gunn	School of Signals
Sgt Shuttleworth	School of Signals
Cpl D. Bascombe	School of Signals
Cpl A. Howard	8 Sig Regt
Cpl T. Gigg	11 Sig Regt
LCpl A. Barnet	1 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sig J. Taylor	School of Signals

R SIGNALS V RAOC
Played at Blandford on Tuesday 25 June.

The RAOC won the toss and elected to bat on an easy paced damp wicket. The weather was not promising but did improve as the day went on. The opening bowlers, **Sgt Stephen O'Dare** and **Cpl Tony Howard** bowled steadily. The RAOC opening bats, **Bolus**, the Combined Services player, and **Cook** looked in no trouble. A superb piece of fielding by **Cpl Tony Howard** ran out **Bolus** and this was followed by some good bowling and fielding and the RAOC were suddenly reduced to 40—4. There followed some good batting by **Lowe** (41) and **Gelling** (39) to restore the position until **SSgt Pete Knight** broke the stand by catching **Lowe** with the score at 95. **Sgt Stephen O'Dare** came back after lunch and backed by more good fielding bowled out the RAOC for 143. **O'Dare** taking a well deserved 5—40.

The Corps got off to a reasonable start, lost three quick wickets and then recovered to 72—3 with **SSgt Pete Knight** batting well to score 24. However, a middle order collapse against some good swing bowling by the RAOC saw the Corps ending at 96 all out, losing by 47 runs. It was perhaps regrettable that this had now happened twice in succession.

RAOC	143
Sgt S. O'Dare	5—40

R Signals	96

Team

Lt Col S. Coltman	MOD
Maj G. Maddren	School of Signals
SSgt P. Knight	30 Sig Regt
SSgt D. Gunn	School of Signals
Sgt S. O'Dare	30 Sig Regt
Cpl D. Bascombe	School of Signals
Cpl T. Gigg	11 Sig Regt
Cpl A. Howard	8 Sig Regt
Cpl A. Phillips	30 Sig Regt
LCpl A. Barnet	1 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sig P. Goodhand	30 Sig Regt

R SIGNALS V RE
Played at Chatham on Wednesday 3 July 1985.

The RE won the toss and put the Corps into bat on a fine day on a slow but true wicket. The Corps batted slowly but steadily to 165. Although no one batsman scored prolifically, all contributed something. When the RE batted, a fine opening spell by **Maj Tom Richardson**, who took three wickets in his first seven overs saw the RE struggling at 29—3. With good support from **Cpl Don Bascombe** the RE were in trouble at 52—5, the Sappers improved their score to 127—7 thanks to a workmanlike 51 by **Grossmith**. However the Corps remained on top but were unable to get out the last RE batsman and the game ended in a draw.

R Signals	165

RE	150—9
Maj T. Richardson	4—58
Cpl D. Bascombe	4—48

The team was

Col S. R. Carr-Smith	AAC Harrogate
Maj T. Richardson (Captain)	MOD
WO1 B. Balding	RMA Sandhurst
SSgt B. Grossmith	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt S. O'Dare	30 Sig Regt
Cpl T. Gigg	11 Sig Regt
Cpl A. Howard	8 Sig Regt
Cpl D. Bascombe	School of Signals
LCpl Naylor	8 Sig Regt
LCpl Hartley	30 Sig Regt
Sig P. Goodhand	30 Sig Regt

R SIGNALS V RMCS SHRIVENHAM
Played at Shrivenham on Wednesday 10 July 1985.

RMCS Shrivenham won the toss and elected to bat on an easy paced wicket that gave little help to the bowlers. After a promising start by the RMCS opening batsmen, the Corps broke through and took four quick wickets before lunch. However the RMCS middle order batted well and although no one batsman scored a lot of runs, consistent batting allowed RMCS to declare at 211—8 leaving the Corps two hours to get the runs.

The Corps quickly lost wickets in attempting to get runs and slumped to 33—4. The wicket began to take some spin and although a young and inexperienced middle order fought hard to save the game, the turning wicket proved too much and the Corps were all out for 111 with five overs remaining. Although this was the heaviest defeat the Corps has suffered for many years, many of the younger players showed a great deal of promise for the future.

RMCS	211—8 declared
R Signals	111

R Signals lost by 100 runs.

The team was

Lt Col S. A. Coltman (Captain)	MOD
Maj T. Richardson	MOD
Capt R. Clague	30 Sig Regt
WO1 B. Balding	RMAS
Sgt S. O'Dare	30 Sig Regt
Cpl T. Gigg	11 Sig Regt
Cpl T. Phillips	30 Sig Regt
LCpl A. Hartley	30 Sig Regt
LCpl A. Barnet	1 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sig P. Goodhand	30 Sig Regt
Sig C. Casswell	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

R SIGNALS V RAPC
Played at Worthy Down on Thursday/Friday 11/12 July 1985.

The Corps won the toss and elected to bat on a hard wicket with an uneven bounce on a warm, humid and overcast day. This weather remained for most of the two days. The Corps struggled against an accurate attack with **Weatherstone**, the RAPC opening bowler being particularly successful taking 8—70, bowling unchanged. Only **Maj Tom Richardson**, who played a Captain's innings and held the Corps together with a fine 65no. The Corps ended with 133 all out.

The RAPC batted slowly against good Corps bowling and ended the first day at 103—8 with no batsman being very successful. Again **Maj Tom Richardson** featured, bowling well to take 4—19 in 18 overs. He was well supported by **Cpl Don Bascombe** (2—17). The next morning the RAPC innings ended at 116 all out.

In the second innings the Corps again started badly—29—3. **Maj Tom Richardson** (52) supported by **LCpl Mike Taylor** (20) and **LCpl Alan Barnet** (30) batted well to take the score to 131—4. The Corps then searched for quick runs to allow for a declaration. **WO1 Bill Balding** (22no) leading the way. The Corps ended at 165—9 declared setting the RAPC 183 to win in two and a quarter hours.

The RAPC lost two quick wickets but then **Oakley** and **Ingham** took the score to 60 but the RAPC fell away and ended 132—9. All the Corps bowlers took wickets in an encouraging performance over the two days.

R Signals	133
Maj T. Richardson	65no
and	165—9 declared
Maj T. Richardson	52
LCpl A. Barnet	30

RAPC	116
Maj T. Richardson	4—19
and	132—9
Maj T. Richardson	3—34

The Team was

Maj T. Richardson (Captain)	MOD
WO1 B. Balding	RMAS
Sgt S. O'Dare	30 Sig Regt
Cpl D. Bascombe	School of Signals
Cpl T. Phillips	30 Sig Regt
Cpl T. Gigg	11 Sig Regt
LCpl A. Barnet	1 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
LCpl M. Taylor	School of Signals
LCpl A. Hartley	30 Sig Regt
Sig P. Goodhand	30 Sig Regt
Sig C. Casswell	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

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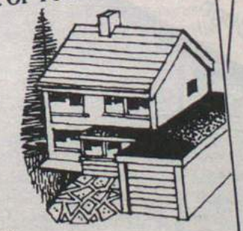

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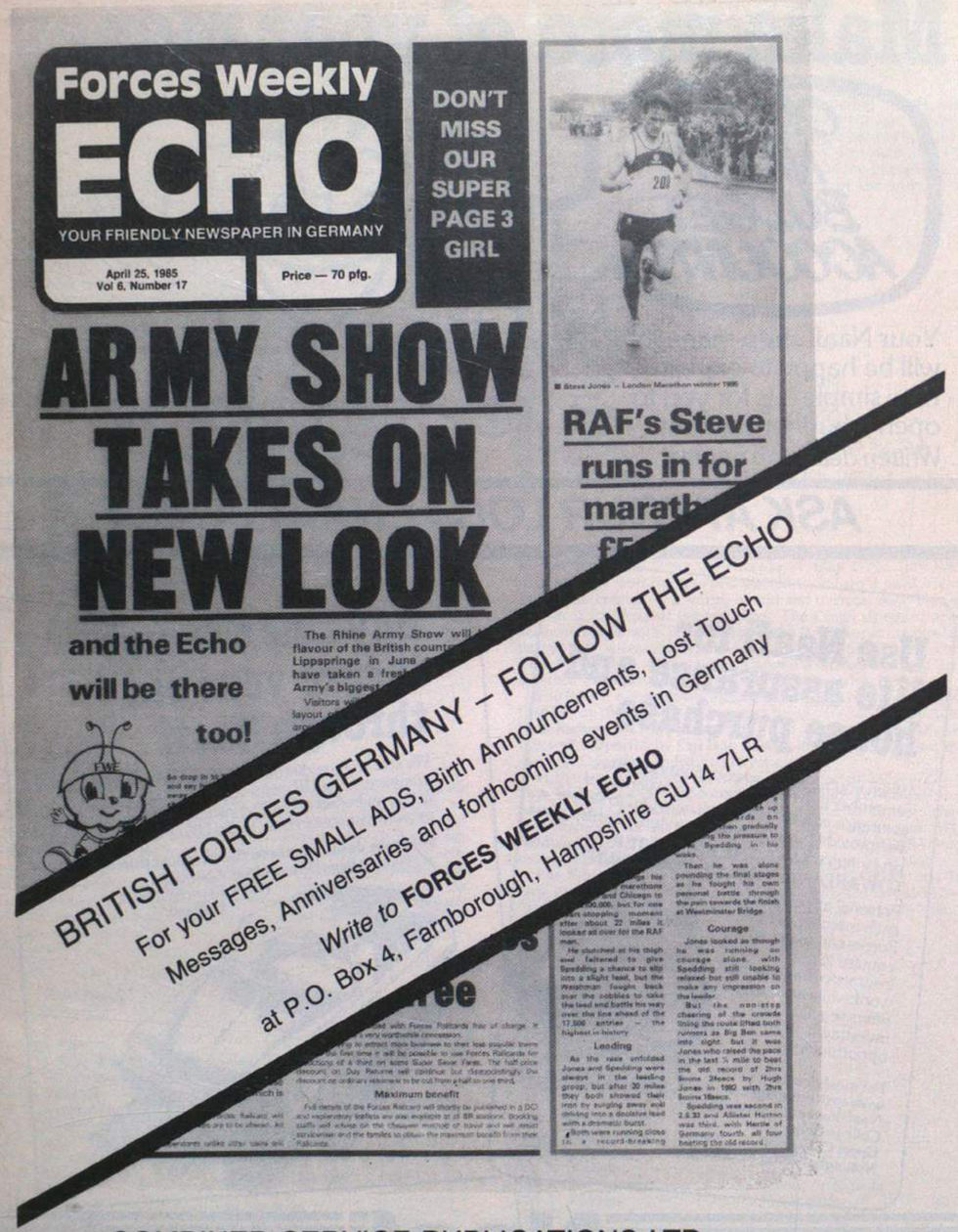

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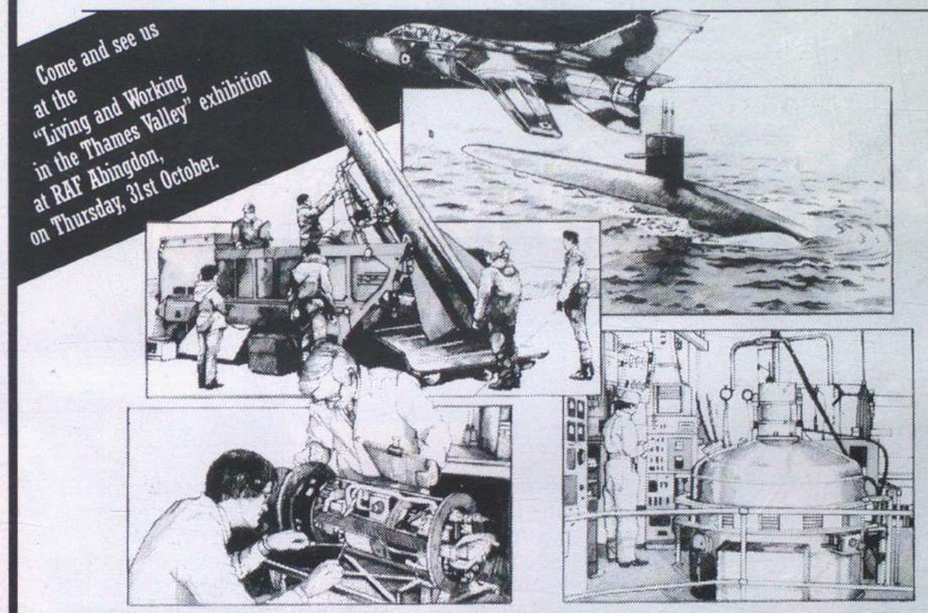

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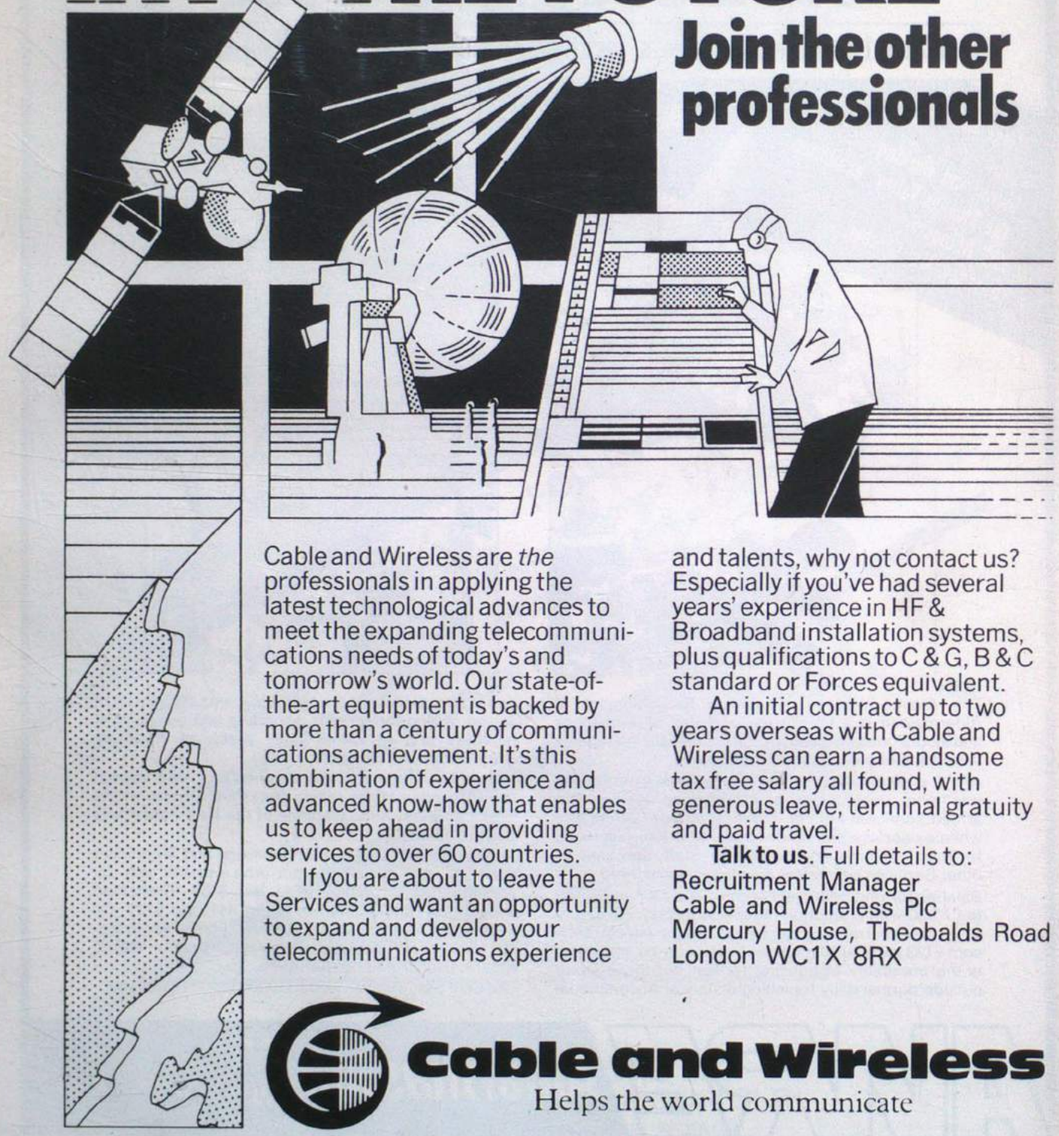

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THE **wire**

THE ROYAL SIGNALS MAGAZINE

November 1985

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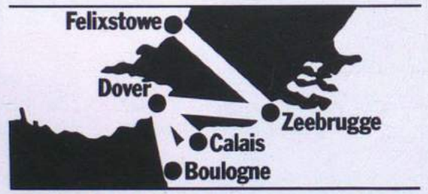

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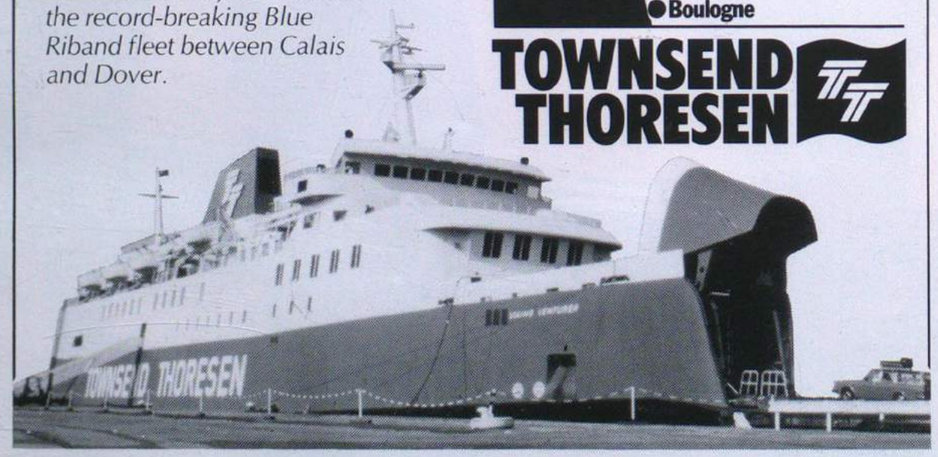

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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE TWO

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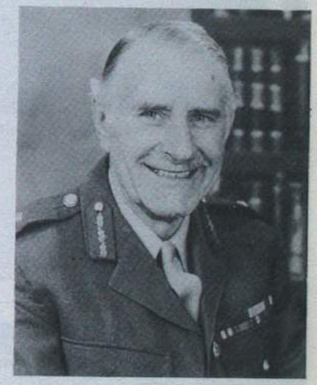
EDITORIAL



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

'Perhaps 1985 has been a year of few excitments but rather one of consolidation after the upheavals of its predecessor. And a year of orderliness now and again is no bad thing. Apart from everything else it allows soldiers and their families to enjoy their recreation and social life and perhaps this year, more will be able to enjoy the spirit of Christmas together. In this, my wife and I wish all members of the Corps past and present every happiness and good fortune in the year to come.'

AND THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

Looking back over the past 12 months there can be no doubt that 1985 was a year of significant achievement for the Corps. The introduction of PTARMIGAN, our continuing work in Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands and some notable personal achievements spring readily to mind, but there are many others, far too many to mention. It all adds up to a lot of hard work from everyone in the Corps. For that I thank you all. It is clear that our workload will not decrease over the next few years but that should not worry us for we are a Corps which thrives on hard work and strives for success.

This is my third and, sadly for me, my last Christmas message to you all. I have enjoyed every moment of my time as SOinC and I feel very privileged and proud to have been the head of the serving Corps and part of a great family. My wife and I thank you again for your support, friendship and hospitality. My best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful 1986.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS TRAIN

Our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Anne** named a 125 Inter City locomotive ROYAL SIGNALS at a ceremony at York Railway Station on 23 October 1985.

The plaque was unveiled by The Princess in the presence of the Master of Signals, The Signal Officer-in-Chief and the General Manager British Rail Eastern Region, **Mr Frank Patterson**. Our cover photograph records the occasion.

HRH was then presented with an inscribed model of the train, which The Princess has kindly presented to the Royal Signals Museum. The Corps Band trumpeters sounded off as **Princess Anne** unveiled the plaque, and soldiers of 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt lined her route.

The ROYAL SIGNALS train is now running on the line between Kings Cross and Scotland via Darlington, where it will be seen by members of the Corps visiting Catterick.

Railway enthusiasts will no doubt recall that the name ROYAL SIGNALS was previously borne by an LMS Patriot Class steam locomotive No 5504 and later by a diesel Peaks or 45 Class unit No 45144.

The Colonel-in-Chief on the footplate of the 125 Inter City train

The Signal Officer-in-Chief, Maj Gen R. Benbow alongside the newly named ROYAL SIGNALS locomotive

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VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ANNE, MRS MARK PHILLIPS GCVO
TO 10 SIGNAL REGIMENT ON 24 SEPTEMBER 1985

The visit of **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** took place in three phases in order to cover the large area for which the Regiment is responsible. Indeed the music for the dinner night best described the diversity of Regimental locations. From Cornwall to Kent and up to Oxfordshire the Corps Band followed traditional arrangements to represent the counties in which the Regiment was deployed. The visit, carefully planned by **Major John Tydeman,** utilised the three Squadron locations at Wilton, Chelsea and Aldershot. **Her Royal Highness** was to visit a cross section of Regimental activities from fixed communications to ceremonial duties and standard military training.

Some of the highlights of the Colonel-in-Chief's visit appear here but see page 620 for a complete report of this very busy day.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne speaking to LCpl Edlin WRAC whilst Pte Clearly listens intently

WOs' and Sergeants' Mess Pre Lunch Drinks
SSgt Hastie (Comms Branch HQ UKLF) and Sgt Henderson ACC engage the Princess

'We've been shooting partners a long time!'
Her Royal Highness meets Pte Alison Locke from 3 Sqn

Her Royal Highness tries out the Vermeer 454A. Plant Operator Mr Edwin Kite

— From our "In" Tray —

265 (KENT AND COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)
HRH PRINCESS ALEXANDER OPENS SHARPSHOOTER MUSEUM

The Kent and Sharpshooter Yeomanry museum has recently moved from Squerrys Court in Westerham to Hever Castle in Kent. To celebrate their 'new home' a Royal Parade was held on Saturday 25 July 1985. **HRH Princess Alexandra,** who presented the Guidon 25 years previously, came to open the museum, inspect the Royal Guard and visit the displays.

Rehearsals had been hard work for the previous three months, with **WO1 (RSM) Barry Williams** taking the Royal Guard through their paces every Tuesday and Thursday night until he was persuaded that we would no longer stab the man in front with the bayonet—or worse still, be out of time with everyone else.

The rain fell in the early morning of the Saturday, but rehearsals looked good. At about 1400 hrs, with about 3,000 people looking on, the guard marched on. At about 1415 hrs, as **Princess Alexandra** arrived, the sun came out and the crowds cheered. The parade was a great success. (See photographs). The Princess then visited the static and mobile displays and had tea in the marquee with members of the Squadron, the old comrades and their families.

A memorable day in the history of the Squadron.

Sharpshooters on Parade

HRH Princess Alexandra asking Sig Chris Hilless a pertinent question about his bayonet

ARMY CANOE SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS
7 SIG REGT TRIUMPH

The North Devon coast near Barnstaple provided the setting for this year's Army Canoe Surfing Championships. The complexities of this sport are too numerous to mention, suffice it to say that competitors are required to perform a variety of 'tricks' on the incoming surf.

I suppose it could be likened to surfboarding in canoes although I'm sure the purists will disagree with this description.

It was something of a surprise to 7 Sig Regt canoeists when **Sgt Jim Wilson,** proposed to enter teams in this year's event. Apart from the fact that the club did not have its own sea canoes and that the majority of the paddlers were novices, it was the daunting prospect of practising for an event on the sea, difficult when you are based in the middle of BAOR, which raised many an eyebrow. Nevertheless, twice monthly training sessions on local rivers using weirs to simulate surf, together with two weeks of intensive sea familiarisation, ensured that the 17 man squad participating in the championships were in a determined, if not confident mood.

Throughout the three days of the event, 4-6 October, the teams exceeded everyone's expectations and emerged with 14 of the 16 trophies available. A truly remarkable achievement.

Sgt Jim Wilson and his 'crew' are to be congratulated for their hard work, team spirit and enthusiastic response in overcoming the many and varied difficulties, prior to their outstanding success.

In addition to winning the Army Championships in both Open and Novice team events there were individual successes in the following:

1st—Novice Paddler Trophy—**Sig Colin Jones** (Posted to 21 Sig Regt)
1st—Open Paddler Trophy—**LCpl Ian Vincent**
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Novice Slalom—**Sig Colin Jones, LCpl Micky Millsop, Sig Shaun Arundel**
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Novice Surf—**Sig Colin Jones, Sig Shaun Arundel, LCpl Micky Millsop**
2nd & 3rd Open Slalom—**Cpl Richard Hall, LCpl Ian Vincent**
2nd Open Surf—**LCpl Ian Vincent**

Not bad for a team based 300 miles from the coast!

The successful team prior to leaving the UK for BAOR

13 AIR FORMATION SIG REGT REUNION

The 11th Annual reunion dinner of officers who served with 13 Air Formation Sig Regt in the North West Europe Campaign was held at the Kenilworth Hotel London on 5 October 1985. **Lt Col E. G. Day OBE, TD** presided and 16 officers were present.

The 1986 reunion dinner will be held again at the Kenilworth Hotel on Friday 3 October. Further details may be obtained from **Mr. S. N. Squelch** 'Delden', Fort Road, Alverstoke, Gosport, Hants PO12 2DT. Tel No 0705-584145.

LCpl Vincent on his way to winning the top individual prize

APPRENTICES ACHIEVE SUCCESS TOO

At rather short notice, and for the first time, the College entered a team in the Army Surf Canoeing Championship at Saunton Sands, Devon in early October. Results were:

INTER UNIT JUNIOR TROPHY
1st AA College Harrogate
2nd AA College Chepstow

INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR SLALOM CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS
1st **AT Manson**
4th **AT Haigh**

INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR SURF CANOE/SKI HANDLING CHAMPIONSHIPS
1st **Jnr Ldr Welch**
3rd **AT Hyde**
4th **AT Manson**

In addition **AT Manson** won the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Engineers Trophy. This is awarded to the junior soldier canoeist gaining the highest number of points in the championship, a trophy that has in the past always been won by a Royal Engineers apprentice or junior leader

Mr B. Miles the civilian lecturer of this College who coached the team and took them to the championships came fourth in the Surf Canoe Senior Championships.

NATO SCHUTZEN KOENIG

We are pleased to announce that **WO2 (SSM) Glenn Harwood** has recently become NATO Schutzen Koenig. **SSM Harwood** gained his title during the Osnabruck Schutzenfest held in August. The competition in which he won his crown involved shooting at a target depicting the traditional Schutzenfest Eagle. The title which is shot for every year by NATO teams of British, Germans, Dutch and Americans is won by the person who shoots the body of the Eagle from the target. In a cliff hanging finish the SSM managed to clinch victory and drop the eagle despite determined efforts from the other nations. Congratulations SSM, enjoy your year in office.

SSM Glenn Harwood receiving his title from the stadt Schutzenkonig Herr Gunther Poske

FOLLOWING IN FATHERS FOOTSTEPS!

In a small ceremony at SHAPE, on 26 August, 16 year old **Wayne Dunbar,** the youngest son of **WO1 (YofS) Allan (Taff)** and **Yvonne Dunbar,** was attested by **Brig P. A. Dally CBE ADC** Chief Systems Operations Branch CISD, the senior R Signals officer at SHAPE.

Wayne joined the Army Apprentices' College, in September 1985, 24 years after his father, who was a member of term 61A! **Wayne** recently left the Rodney School, Nr Newark, Notts where he was captain of Rugby and had represented the Midland Counties at Athletics. He hopes to follow his father, who is currently the YofS of the Regional Signal Group SHAPE, and enjoy a successful career in the Corps, both as a soldier and sportsman.

WO1 and Mrs Dunbar's elder son, **Mark** aged 19 years, is already a serving soldier, under training as an Avionics Technician REME at the Aircraft Engineering Training Wing, Middle Wallop.

Photograph shows Wayne with his proud parents, Brig Dally, Lt Col A. J. Hill and SSgt (ORQMS) Tom Dean

Courtesy of Formen Newspapers Ltd, Nottingham

OPERATION RALEIGH

EXPEDITION TO HONDURAS
Report by Capt R. T. Weston, Expedition Leader

I have just finished leading a 50 strong expedition to Honduras, Central America as part of Operation *Raleigh*. This article reports my experiences during the two months expedition.

WHAT IS OPERATION *RALEIGH*?

This is exactly what I asked when a letter from the Signals Directorate asking for volunteers arrived on my desk whilst serving as second in command of 212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, Osnabruck, in October 1984. It is a four year round-the-world expedition involving young people aged between 18 and 24 years, led by the Armed Forces of Britain and its allies, experienced civilians and scientists. Although there is a strong bias towards the British in staff and venturers, many other countries participate. Each phase lasts from two to three months. The projects are a blend of adventure, scientific projects and community tasks designed to promote character and qualities of leadership. British military personnel are required for future phases until 1988 and I can vouch that the experience is uniquely rewarding and a marvellous chance to see parts of the world one otherwise would never be able to visit. It allows a degree of responsibility unrivalled anywhere with the exception of active service.

Operation *Raleigh* expedition group photograph taken in Honduras. The author is seventh from the left front row. Other military members were; Lt Roger Weatherby 15/19H top left back row, Capt Anthony Slessor AAC second from left, back row and Capt Ross Nichols RE, right hand man, centre row

I was originally selected as second in command for the Honduras Phase under **Maj Anthony Stansfeld AAC** but the plan changed in late 1984 and I was made the Honduras Phase leader. **Maj Stansfeld** became the leader of the whole of the Central American Phase as, running concurrently with our expedition, were expeditions to Belize and the island of Roatan, off the mainland of Honduras. This came as a shock with PQS 2 (Progressive Qualification Scheme 2) examinations looming in February 1985 and much expedition planning and preparation to be done prior to my departure for Belize in March 1985 to prepare a jungle training programme ready for the main body. Stores, radios, frequencies, staff selection and letters to other members of the staff occupied my attention and weekends were spent in CHQ London during the Blandford PQS 2 refresher course. CHQ were a great help and scientists were found as late as one month prior to our departure. PB 11 and the OC Sqn, **Maj Schuler**, were extremely helpful and after the handover in Osnabruck I was able to spend a week in London making final arrangements before flying out to Belize, courtesy of the RAF. The Brigade Major's wife, **Estrella Stewart**, helped me to learn a few words of Spanish which succeeded in baffling the locals but impressed the expedition members.

Honduras is bordered by Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and the Caribbean Sea. It is one of the poorest countries in Central America and is roughly the same size as England. We were to explore the Mosquitia region of Honduras. This is the remote north eastern lowland coast of Honduras, and although its coastline was subject to English settlement in the 17th and 18th centuries it remains one of the least explored regions of Central America. Our expedition was to survey the Rio Paulaya River system concentrating on archaeology, botany, fresh water fish, reptiles and snakes. This river runs into the Black River 30 miles from the coast with its headwaters 80 miles from the coast. The plan was to set up a base camp on the coast and then use boats to move up river to carry out the projects.

The expedition assembled in Belize and carried out four days of jungle acclimatisation training with the help of the Belize Defence Force. This helped to remove the preconceived notions of snakes under every branch and constant harassment from insects. Bashas improved from mantraps to comfortable abodes within days. After a week in Belize we moved down to Honduras in the *Sir Walter Raleigh*, Operation *Raleigh*'s mother ship. The landing had to be made by small boats which proved hazardous in the heavy surf created by the tide, wind and sand bar at the mouth of the river. The drop off and pick up were amongst the most hair raising parts of the whole expedition. During the pick up one boat overturned in the surf and was rescued only minutes before it and its crew were smashed on to the beach by the swell.

The expedition comprised 21 staff and 30 venturers. The staff included six members of the British Army, one Royal Marine Corporal and two members of the US forces. The civilian staff were either scientists or with a specialist role; artist/cook, boatman, photographer, doctor, outdoor instructor. Although the venturers were mainly British we also had with us two Omanis, two Hong Kong Chinese, four Japanese and one American. There were 11 females on the expedition and their presence helped to raise morale when the going got tough. At times some of the girls seemed to be carrying packs larger than themselves but they still managed to keep going and proved extremely tough in adversity.

Once the camp was established on the shore of the lagoon half a mile from the sea the venturers were taught the basic scientific procedures of each project and were then allowed to choose their preferred science project after rotating around each one during the initial two phases. The expedition comprised three phases excluding the setting up and closing down. The first two phases were each of 10 days duration. Each group of 15 venturers with their group leader and scientists worked up river from jungle base camps in small groups of four or five. Whilst one group remained in the coastal region the other would work up river. After 10 days the groups changed over. The change-overs were marked with two day breaks which brought everyone together and led to amusing interludes such as 'It's a knockout' competition and a 'Caribbean Cocktail' competition. The final phase was to last three weeks and involved virtually the whole expedition moving by foot 60 miles into the mountainous jungle interior. This required considerable stockpiling of rations and equipment by mule up river during the second phase. The original plan to move mainly by river had to be revised due to the damage to propellers caused by underwater obstacles, a shortage of spares, and the problem of getting fuel from 80 miles down the coast by local small boats. It was during this phase that the quality of venturers and staff really showed. The training of the British Army personnel made

them invaluable. Careful planning and sensible decisions by leaders and venturers made the final phase a great success.

During their time in the jungle the venturers encountered large boulders whose surfaces were covered by ancient carvings, carved and decorated grinding stones, some up to a metre in height, and huge stone slab tables, some up to two metres square. Amongst the artefacts recovered and given to the Honduran authorities were a collection of elaborately decorated human masks moulded in clay. These objects were the first of their type discovered in modern times. Over 70 sites were visited, only nine of which had previously been recorded in archaeological literature. Fifteen were unknown even to the local people. Some of the sites were extensive complexes which included immense boulders, carved with human and animal faces. The Honduran Institute of History and Anthropology awarded the Senior Archaeologist, **Ann Robinson**, a certificate for this work and described it as the most important in Central America for 30 years.

In the fresh water fish survey 26 sites were visited including a number high into the mountains and taking six days to reach. These mountain streams were so remote even the local guides had not been there. Fifteen separate species which were known to the locals were collected plus two others with which they were not familiar.

The venturers also managed to collect over 50 species of reptiles and amphibians which was over 25% of the region's total and surpassed the expedition's best expectations. The snake survey resulted in the capture of 35 snakes including boa constrictors, tree snakes, water snakes and vipers. Some specimens of reptile had never before been captured in that area of Honduras, or indeed in Honduras as a whole.

Neither was the expedition short of adventure. The final phase objectives, 80Kms into the mountainous jungle, were found by a recce group which then got into difficulties and had to withdraw when some members developed suspected dysentry. A US casevac plane was sent to assist them and a rescue team from our expedition moved by river and on foot to reach them. The rescue team from our jungle base camp 30 miles upstream spent seven hours pushing their skiff over shallows until it could get no further. Fortunately the recce group was able to make it out of the mountains and RV'd with the rescue team close to the rescue boat. The final phase was punishing physically and mentally. Most members lost over a stone in weight (I lost one and a half) walking daily 15 miles in temperatures exceeding 100°F for four days carrying packs weighing 50-60lbs. The final five miles was impassable to mules and over this distance the bulk food and scientific equipment had to be manpacked adding a further 10-15lbs onto each load. Once high into the jungle the scenery was magnificent with almost tame wild turkey adding to the dehydrated rations. It was found that the best place to hold an O Group was sitting chest deep in the river! Having explored the wild mountains in groups of four (with no direct supervision) the expedition returned on foot 50Kms to a pre-arranged RV. From here we constructed rafts from bamboo and moved the remaining distance down river to base camp on rafts. The rafts took a real punishing from huge sunken trees and rocky shallows. The fastest time by raft was 26 hours but many were abandoned in the lower reaches due to damage, or perhaps fear of crocodiles which put in an appearance after dark.

Local children walking past the camp en route to school

There were trials and tribulations. The final objective was a ceremonial site which prompted national and international papers to observe that we had located 'The lost White City' of legends in those parts. Although this was hotly denied by our archaeologists, having agreed to make no sensational press releases, the Honduran authorities were close to asking us to leave. (Fortunately this only became apparent to the author on his return to the UK). Discipline, although not a problem, had to be maintained without the help of a strict code as in the Army, but two members of the expedition were sent home early. Flexibility was all important; plans were made and generally held to, but logistic problems created many small alterations. All fuel and fresh fruit had to be delivered by small plane or local fishing boats. At times we were without fuel because local storms made the boat journeys too hazardous. Yet these problems and their solution made the expedition more, rather than less, interesting. The differences between eastern and western attitudes and national characteristics were striking. Although western venturers in general did not have the same self discipline to work hard they showed greater individuality and flair. The experience of working with so many different races was extremely interesting.

In summary the expedition was a wonderful experience and the author wishes to thank PB 11 and CO 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **Lt Col S. M. A. Lee** for their help and encouragement.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Anyone interested in taking part in Operation *Raleigh* should write for further details to:-

Operation Raleigh
The Powerhouse
Flood Street
London SW3

The author is based at the ORLO Cell, HQ School of Signals until December 1985 and then moves to RMCS, Shrivenham. He will be happy to answer any queries about Operation *Raleigh*. The expedition is currently in Bolivia, Peru and Chile and will be crossing the Pacific en route to Australia in 1986.

A VENTURERS TALE

Report by LCpl D. Lucas—265 Sig Sqn (V)

I took part in Operation *Raleigh* from 6 March to 12 June. After a long interview, a strenuous selection weekend and a wait of almost a year, during which time I had to raise £1,400 through sponsorship, 6 March 1985 finally came.

I flew out to the warm and sunny Bahamian Island of New Providence, where I met the sailing vessel *Zebu*, a two-masted, 100ft brigatine built in Sweden as a Baltic trader in 1938. This was to be my home for the next three months. My cabin measured approximately 6ft by 4ft by 6ft—I have a broom cupboard at home larger than this! Two of us with all our kit were going to live there.

The trip to Honduras was hard work. Things are never finished on a sailing ship: there is a constant 24 hour battle against the elements to keep things shipshape and tidy. But with three hearty meals a day and temperatures touching 90, somehow it doesn't quite seem like work. On the voyage down to Honduras, we were quite often visited by dolphins and flying fish. The flying fish had a habit of flying on board at night; one crew member was even hit on the side of the head by one. Early one morning, a school of pilot whales swam with us for over 45 minutes—we counted over 50.

After a five day stop in Jamaica, we reached Honduras in early April. We were staying on a group of islands 30 miles off Honduras known as the Bay Islands. It was here that we met up with the main Operation *Raleigh* expedition. I stayed on the Bay Islands for six weeks, during which time I took part in a school building project, spent 17 days sub-aqua diving as part of a reef-watch survey and took part in archaeological jaunts into the jungle, looking for pre-Columbian Indian sites. Two other projects which also deserve a mention were the renovating of a clinic that had been derelict for years and the restoring of a mini-lighthouse.

Whilst on the Bay Island, we lived in cardboard igloos on a tropical beach—sounds like paradise, but we lived on nothing but compo and coconuts for six weeks.

Operation *Raleigh* for me was a real eye-opener. I experienced so much about life, learnt a great deal about other people and their ways and beliefs. We had a fair amount of free time in which we visited local towns and soaked up the sun.

The operation does have its lows. There are times when you can't take the insect attacks any more, the hygiene standards can be pretty abysmal and consequently your stomach suffers. There was also a tragic incident on a Columbian hillside, when a group of us had gone out for a day's walking. One venturer fell down a slope and over a ledge, fracturing his skull in three places and breaking his neck. We stretchered him off the hillside, but being 400 miles from the nearest Westernised hospital things looked bleak, until the American Air Force intervened and flew him to Panama where an eight-hour operation saved his life.

Operation *Raleigh* taught me a lot about myself. I finished my trip with the transit of the Panama Canal. I am convinced I also finished it a better person—they say travel broadens your horizons: I am convinced it does.

REPORT FROM THE COLONIES

Report by WO2 (SSM) D. Watson, 36 Sig Regt (V)

'How yah doin'? is not the usual greeting that one expects from officers first thing in the morning, but this was not the usual annual camp.

Two weeks before, I was preparing my personal kit and sorting out admin instructions etc when a telephone call at work informed me that I wasn't going to Scarborough after all.

'How would you like two weeks in the USA?'

'Great' I said 'I was getting fed up with Scarborough anyway.'

'You're going to Fort Drum on an exchange visit with the American National Guard and you fly out in 10 days' time.'

Where is Fort Drum?

Nobody knew, so I made some enquiries and looked in an atlas and found Fort Drum in Florida.

So I changed my packing list and included my swimming trunks, and lots of short sleeved shirts. I discarded jumpers and sweatshirts, put in trousers lightweight and left out trousers, combat.

Two days before leaving I had a meeting with a Sergeant Major from the US who told me that Fort Drum was in New York State and was about 25 miles from the Canadian border. So I changed my packing list. Out came most of the short sleeved shirts, in went sweatshirts, jumpers and combat trousers.

On arrival at Dulles airport, Washington DC I met **Sgt Don Brown** of the Nottingham Yeomanry and a Sergeant from the National Guard who was to take us to Fort Drum (eventually). Apparently the New York National Guard who were to be our hosts found out we were coming only the day before, (sounds familiar) and so we were going to be looked after by the Pennsylvania National Guard for a few days while New York got their act together.

We arrived at the Region One NCO school, Fort Indiantown Gap late Friday evening and after a few beers were shown to our rooms which were quite comfortable. We had a block to ourselves, with a washing machine, tumble dryer, refrigerator and colour television. Almost home from home.

The next morning we were introduced to the school's Colonel and the Commandant and we were shown around the school where SNCOs are taught leadership principles. For the next few days we were treated like royalty and everybody we met, both instructors and students alike showed a great deal of interest in us and the British Army. Nothing was too much trouble for them and during the short time we were there they took us to Hershey Park, a local theme park run by the Hershey Chocolate Bar Empire, and Gettysburg where we were given a personal guided tour by a National Guardsman whose family were at the battle of Gettysburg 122 years before.

After five days we were collected by the New York National Guard and driven the 300 miles to Fort Drum where we arrived late at night. The next morning we were introduced to our hosts, the 187 Signal Task Force who were spending their annual training in Fort Drum, a training area of over 100,000 acres and because of the inhospitable weather conditions during the winter was the headquarters of the newly formed 10 Mountain Division. We were told that Alaska was quite nice compared with 'Drum'.

The supply section of the 187 from Brooklyn, New York City, took us in and introduced us to the replacement for the old 'C' rations. MRE or Meals Ready to Eat comes in a heavy plastic bag about 12in × 5in and the meal is individually shrink wrapped to provide a main course and a sweet, plus crackers and peanut butter. After taking everything out of the plastic bag it is filled with hot water and the main meal is dropped into it for about five minutes. I found the meal reasonable, although fiddly to prepare and the general opinion of all those we met was not favourable. Nearly all of the soldiers said they preferred the old 'C' rations.

The following week was a whirl of visits to some of the units in the 1,500 strong task force, like the 1/210 Armour Bn from Albany, the 1/156 Field Artillery Bn from Kingston and the 1/152 Engineer Bn from Buffalo where we met National Guardsman who were on their annual training, and away from the big cities for their only field exercise of the year.

Although we were only 25 miles from Canada, the closest we came to it was when the State Sergeant Major, **CSM Claude Imagna** took us to Alexandria Bay, which is on the St Lawrence Seaway, for what I think was the best meal I've ever had.

The week soon passed and on our last evening in New York we were taken out to dinner by the 187, presented with a shield and then shown some American night life before returning to camp at 0230 hrs.

The next morning because the weather had closed in on us the aeroplane that was going to take us back to Fort Indiantown Gap was grounded and so we returned by road.

We spent two more days in Pennsylvania where we were shown around the Headquarters of the National Guard, the Department of Military Affairs, had a ride in a helicopter simulator, met a General and watched a Graduation Ceremony.

We finally left for Washington at midday on the second Friday where we met three more TA Soldiers coming in to spend two weeks with the National Guard.

In conclusion I think that the exchange idea is terrific. Although we were pioneers and had no real idea of what was expected of us, or what we were going to do, we enjoyed every minute of our tour. We learned a great deal. Like the amount of money that a National Guardsman earns (for the equivalent of our sergeant it was something like $173 for a weekend, while I could earn about $220). It's a good thing we're not in it for the money, which is something that the Guardsmen didn't really understand. They get all sorts of benefits, like a pension when they're 60, they get educational grants and are paid to go to college to get a degree, they get free sickness and dental benefits and more. Although most of them were extremely patriotic and believed in what they were doing, I got the impression that the money and the benefits were the great incentive.

Another area in which they differ from the Territorial Army is their dual allegiance. They can be called out by the state for natural disasters or civil disturbance as well as for war, and some of the lads that we met had just spent a few weeks in a prison. (They were covering for a prison officers' strike—It's an interesting life in the guard).

We met some great people, drank some terrible beer, and thoroughly earned our money, and if ever I get the chance to return to the US I would jump at it. In fact I think I will write to the 187 and get them to adopt me as their mascot and take me to annual training next year.

WO2 (SSM) Dave Watson and Sgt Don Brown with 156 Field Artillery at Fort Drum, New York

WO2 (SSM) Dave Watson with Sgt Don Brown and members of 187 Sig Gp, New York Army National Guard

EXERCISE PRONTO'S HIKE

Report by 2Lt N. Coldrey

In August the members of RSTCC 4, led by **Capt (Grandad) Ewing**, undertook an adventurous training exercise to cross 320Km of the Swiss Alps. Others who joined the Troop Commanders on their Alpine crossing were **Capt (Grambo) Leach, Capt Humphreys WRAC, Lt (Mummy) Ewing WRAC, Sgt (Mountain Leader) Crosby** and **Sgt (Been there, seen it, done it) Roden**.

The aim of the exercise was to complete a high level mountainous trek under arduous conditions. The outline plan was for participants to divide into two groups of twelve and to cross the Alpine Pass Route between Sargans and Montreux in opposite directions. A total distance of 320Km including 14 Alpine passes over 2,000m.

Initially the members of the two separate groups met at Victoria on Sunday 11 August and travelled down to Dover on the 'Boat Train'. From there it was a swift crossing to Dieppe leaving group B, bound for Montreux, a train journey through France and into Switzerland. Group A meanwhile caught the train through Belgium, Luxembourg and France and arrived in Sargans at 0830 hrs on Monday 12 August. After a cup of coffee the group set about the task of buying supplies for the next two days, after which we would again reach a town. The rations were funded by CILOR and we soon discovered that this afforded us a very good standard of living.

Our first day's walk was relatively easy and was intended to allow us to break in our new packs and boots. We set off at a phenomenal pace and by 1500 hrs we had reached our destination, at Weisstannen.

After our initial success we rose early the next day and were all rearing to attack the rather more difficult climb that lay ahead. By 1000 hrs the sun was beating down and we had conquered only half of the huge climb which led to the Foo Pass. When we finally reached the top the view was marvellous but by the time we had descended into the sleepy little village of Elm, we were all completely shattered.

The next morning we were again faced with another walk, which was most memorable not for the view but for the blisters! When we reached the top of the pass, at over 2,000m, we discovered that the Swiss Army were running a training camp and rifle range. They ceased firing when we came into view and as we passed in front of them we were surprised to see that the targets at which they were shooting depicted American tanks and helicopters.

Day four certainly 'took the biscuit' for the most tiring day and it was at this stage that we began to think that the writer of the guide book—'A pleasant day's walk, though quite long, not steep'—must have assessed the route by helicopter.

Day five was our first rest day and we spent it in the very beautiful town of Altdorf. The place where, it is thought, that William Tell shot the apple from his son's head.

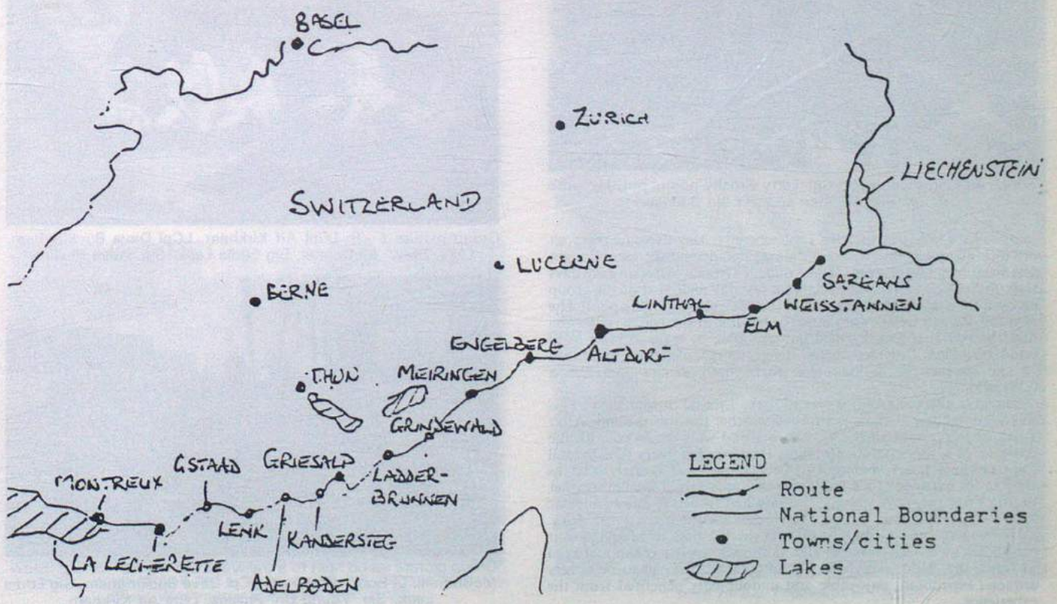
Saturday 17 August was our first day of bad weather with a thick fog shrouding the valley, we took some local advice and made our way, around to Engelberg by bus. From there we walked for two hours into our next day's journey. Camp was pitched a little way below the Jochpass, which gave us an easy following day's walk into Meiringen on the following day.

From Meiringen we walked on to Grindewald and camped in the valley just outside the town. It was here that we learned a vital piece of advice for any travellers in Switzerland. At about 1900 hrs a horn started to blow in the lower reaches of the valley. It was met by a barrage of not so complimentary comments from us, which rapidly halted when shots began to ring out over our heads. We despatched **Capt Scott (of the Alps) Ewing** to find out what was going on and he discovered that the horn was a sign from the local hunter which declared the valley to be a rifle range!

We spent the next day in Grindewald waiting to meet up with the other group and discover who had won the moustache growing competition. (Incidentally, the winner was not **Lt (beach boy) Mather**).

Days 10 and 11 were not particularly notable as we climbed around the lower reaches of the Eiger and encountered bus loads of American tourists around every corner. The most annoying thing was that having travelled everywhere by vehicle, many of them had better climbing equipment than we had. Some even carried ice axes!

Party A pose for a team photo. Capt (Grandad) Ewing and Lt (Mummy) Ewing in foreground



On Day 12 we had a really enjoyable yet very steep climb up to the Hotorli Pass, which was the highest point of our crossing. Having recorded our presence with a group photograph, we headed down the incredibly steep slope into Kandersteg. We were then completely unable to find a place to camp and we eventually ended up posing as 'Venture Scouts' to enable us to camp at the 'International Scout Park'. It seemed like a good idea but we didn't bargain for compulsory Wide Games and late night singing around the fire. However, **2Lt (Steady) Charnock** did enjoy swapping badges with the cubs!

Day 13 left us camping in Adelboden and all looking forward to completing the remainder of the route. However, disaster struck on Sunday 25 August and the heavens opened in no uncertain manner. We decided to take a day off and wait for better weather but by morning the rain had turned to snow. We could not afford to waste any more time so decided to battle on to Lenk despite appalling conditions. On arriving at Lenk completely soaked and with no sign of any improvement in the weather, we decided to call it a day.

Meanwhile Group B were following the route in the opposite direction. After taking a train out of Montreux to the mountain village of Caux the group completed a long first days walk and

Setting out—Party B in good spirits!

Which way now Sergeant! Sgt Terry Crosby points out the route to Sgt Steve Roden and 2Lt Ian Burleson

camped by a lake just short of La Lecherette. Day two saw them set off with many blisters but good time was made and the second night was spent by a mountain river just outside Gstaad. After an easy days walk to Lenk day four was declared a rest day and most of the group enjoyed the scenery from the side of the open air swimming pool! The next few days to Grindewald were the hardest of the whole route—by now the two girls had dropped out and gone by train to meet us in Ladderbrunnen. Complete again, the group completed the eighth leg of the journey to Grindewald where both groups met for a celebration.

The next aim for group B was to make Linthal in four days. This was achieved despite the onset of bad weather towards the end. After a day of heavy rain all the kit was wet and we were faced with the prospect of a very cold damp night. However **Sgt Terry Crosby** and **Capt Graham Leach** managed to persuade a local farmer to let us sleep in his barn. We then had a rest day and waited for the weather to lift. After two days waiting, the rain had turned to snow, and the local police advised us not to cross the next pass to Elm. Unfortunately like Group A this meant we had to abandon our expedition three legs from the end. Although neither group managed to finish the route, everybody found what turned out to be a very arduous expedition, enjoyable and undoubtedly benefited from the experience.

EXERCISE WORKMAN DIAMOND

Ex *Workman Diamond* was a hill walking and basic mountaineering exercise taking place in the Yellowstone National Park in the United States of America. None of the exercise members had been to the USA before or had any previous knowledge of the Yellowstone Park. The aim was to introduce a small inexperienced group to hill walking and basic mountaineering in an arduous environment.

MEMBERS
Lt S. R. Workman
LCpl M. A. Kirkham
Cpl D. Buckingham
LCpl S. J. McConnell
Sig S. Phillips
Sig C. E. Leek

Lt Workman was the only qualified person, holding a UEL Summer (unrestricted) qualification.

PRE-EXERCISE ADMINISTRATION

Maj Langdon (G3 Adv Trg) HQ BAOR provided expert advice and direction and without his assistance the exercise could not have taken place. HQ RA 1 Div and Trg Wing 1 ADSR also provided advice and guidance.

MAPS

Detailed maps were not available prior to arrival at the Yellowstone Park. This was a problem in the early planning stage when a detailed itinerary and locations of campsites was required. For the future, maps can be obtained by writing to: Hamilton Stores Inc, Mammoth General Store, PO Box 188, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Concessionary passages to Washington from Brize Norton were confirmed 72 hours prior to departure. At the same time it was confirmed that passages from Hannover to UK were not possible. As a result train tickets from Celle to Harwich were purchased at the last minute.

Group picture *L—R:* LCpl Alf Kirkham, LCpl Dave Buckingham, LCpl 'Stew' McConnel, Sig Eddie Leek, Sig Steve Phillips

Group picture stood next to a trailways bus *from L—R:* Sig 'Stew' McConnell, Lt Scott Workman, LCpl Dave Buckingham, Sig Eddie Leek, Sig 'Young Un' Phillips, LCpl Alf Kirkham

We flew from Brize Norton at 1200 hrs 2 August to arrive at Dulles Airport at 1900 hrs local time. Our first night was spent in the Youth Hostel in Washington as our Trailways Bus did not depart Washington until 1800 hrs the next day. The cost of the Youth Hostel was $12 per man per night.

A day was spent touring the sights in Washington prior to departure on the Trailways bus. Tickets for the bus had been purchased at a cost of $10 per 24 hour pass. These passes can be purchased only in the UK and any passes not used are refundable. This is by far the cheapest way of travelling cross country in America. Information can be obtained by writing to: Transalpino Limited, 89 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W OQL.

The next two days were taken up travelling to Billings Montana, via Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago, Omaha and Denver. A distance of 3,000 miles; a journey which was an experience in itself.

On arrival in Billings Montanna the group hired a car for a week. This proved cheaper than buying a return ticket to the Yellowstone Park. The final 150 miles to the Yellowstone Park was covered in the hired car. On arrival we checked into the Ranger station to obtain a 'Back Country Pass'. This is mandatory for people wishing to hill walk in the park. Detailed routes and intended campsites must be given to obtain a pass. Unfortunately we were informed by the Rangers that our proposed routes planned from the map were closed due to fire risk. This was a minor problem as the Yellowstone Park has thousands of miles of trails requiring both stamina and a high degree of fitness. The final route selected was in the area called Cascade Corner and a six day hike was planned. The Bechlev River trail was started and the group made its first camp on the night of day four.

The next day the weather was beautiful and good progress was made. The group covered 23 miles, seeing some spectacular waterfalls and scenery. The day ended with a bath in one of the many hot springs.

The weather was good on the following day and an average of 20 miles was covered each day taking us from Old Faithful to the South Entrance. The group was organised so that every soldier took a turn at leading the group for a day. During that day the leader was responsible for map reading, organising rest stops and general control of the group. This proved invaluable experience and a lot was learnt about basic group control and organisation in an isolated environment.

The last two days were spent hiking to the Heart Lake. On the eighth day a camp was established on the lake shore near Mt Sheridan. The plan being to climb Mt Sheridan (10,500ft) the following day. This was done but while we were away from our camp it was ransacked by bears in search of food. The group missed the bears by about 30 minutes, returning to a scene of devastation but fortunately damage was minimal.

Our final day in Yellowstone was spent driving around the Loop Road in our hired car, seeing as much of the Yellowstone Park as we could.

The remaining four days were spent covering the 3,000 miles back to Washington DC and on our return flight.

CONCLUSION

We had managed to spend a total of six days in the Yellowstone Park. During that time 120 miles of the most beautiful country-side were covered and a lot of the world famous hydrothermal features, the spouting geysers, the terraced springs, the steaming fumaroles, the boiling hot pools and bubbling mud pots had been experienced.

A happy Group after a day's hiking *L—R:* Sig Steve Phillips, Lt Scott Workman, LCpl Stew McConnell

In addition all the soldiers involved are now keen to gain the necessary qualifications to enable them to organise their own adventurous training exercises. It also broadened their outlook and provided invaluable opportunity to experience a new and very different country from their own.

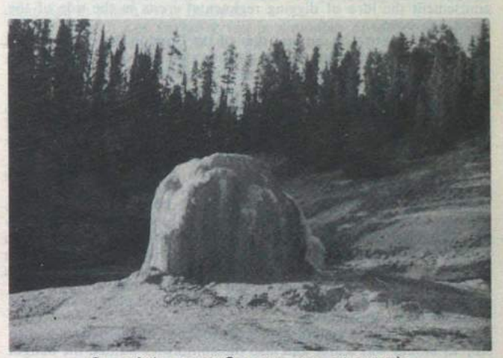
FINANCE

In addition to personal contributions from those taking part the following grants were received:

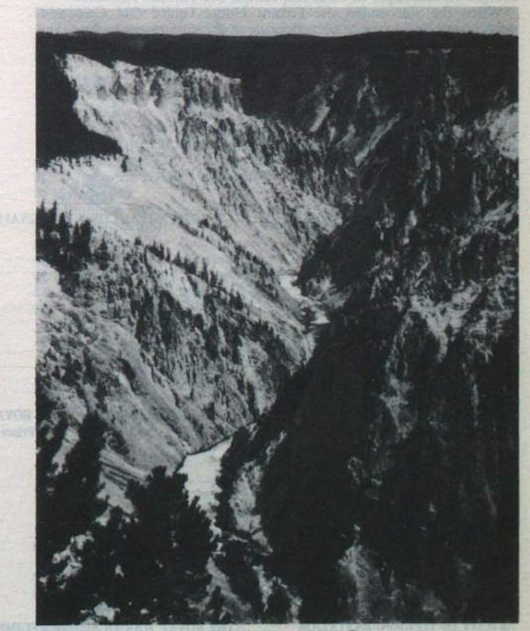
HQ BAOR Adventurous Training Grant	£500
PRI	£100
Royal Signals Corps Funds Grant	£200
Total	£800

These were gratefully appreciated.

A useful book 'Hiking in the Yellowstone Back Country' written by Orville E. Bach Jr can be obtained by writing to: Sierra Club, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, California 94108.



One of the many Geysers seen on our trip



Shot of the Yellowstone Canyon

THE HISTORY OF THE FOVANT BADGES

Report by Sig D. Edlin—10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF)

When visiting Salisbury, one of the many places of interest in the area is Fovant and its Badges, which have been carved from the steep chalk downs to the south of the village.

The many emblems here were started during the First World War, when Fovant was the site for a large military camp, which housed a division of troops along with supporting units, and a divisional hospital. There was even a railway, which was built specially to link the camps to the main line at Dinton. There was also a power station to supply electricity to all the camps, and water was pumped from a bore hole in the garden of a cottage in the village; this is still in use today.

Although the men were reasonably well cared for, life in those camps was probably dull and routine so perhaps to provide some amusement the idea of digging regimental crests in the side of the down was born.

The first crest to be cut was that of the London Rifle Brigade.

Volunteers were called for to do this work in off duty hours. It proved so successful that other units soon followed suit. There were many difficulties involved in cutting a badge, as the hillside, apart from being almost sheer, was also in the danger zone of the rifle ranges which were in almost constant use from dawn until dusk. So in summer, when most of the work on the crests was done the volunteers had to start work at 4 am and finish at 7 am to let the first detail start firing.

First of all the badges were marked out. This was done by men standing on the hillside and moving into positions indicated by observers on the road below, signalling was by semaphore. The turf was then removed and the cavities filled with chalk. The chalk was dug from pits nearby as the natural chalk on the hillside lies too deep to be exposed by removal of the surface turf.

When the troops departed at the end of the war, many of the badges became overgrown, but a few regiments paid local men to keep their emblems in good condition.

When war started again in 1939, the upkeep of the badges had to stop as labour was scarce and also the authorities wanted the badges camouflaged so they could not be used as a landmark by enemy aircraft. So nature took its course, and the badges soon became overgrown although, at close inspection, the outlines remained.

When the war ended the Fovant Home Guard Old Comrades Association (OCA) made a start on the restoration of the badges, and on the morning of Sunday 12 June 1949, 23 men of the OCA started work restoring the badge of 6 City of London Regt; by the end of 1949 CLR and the Post Office Rifles were completely restored.

The badge of the Wiltshire Regiment which was the cap badge the men of the Home Guard had worn during the war was cut in 1950. The map of Australia at Compton Chamberlayne was also restored and in 1951 the badge of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry was added, in the position of honour on the right hand side of the line, due to their position as number one in precedence amongst Yeomanry cavalry regiments.

It is impossible to give a complete list of all the badges that were cut as in addition to the crests some smaller units made their appearance and through neglect many of these and even some of the larger crests have completely disappeared. But in 1939 there were four London Regiments, the Devonshire and the Warwickshire Regiments, the YMCA badge, the Australian rising sun crest, and Kangaroo, and at Compton Chamberlayne a map of Australia. The badges of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, the Wiltshire Regiment and the Royal Corps of Signals are the only three that have been cut since the First World War, the latest addition being 'Jimmy'.

The crest of the Royal Corps of Signals, was cut in 1971, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Corps of Signals. Volunteers from C2 Troop, 1 Sqn, 3 Division HQ and Sig Regt took 28 days to cut the badge, which is 200ft high and 85ft wide. The invitation to cut 'Jimmy' was given by the Fovant Badge Society, in recognition of the help given by Royal Signals with restoration work by 30 Sig Regt in 1970, and in 1969, by 3 Division HQ and Sig Regt.

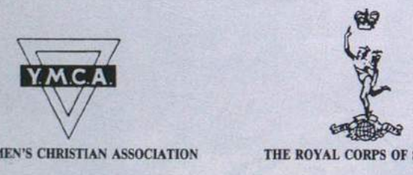
The Fovant Badge Society took over administration and repair work from the OCA some time ago, and now maintains these unique relics of our military history in the Salisbury Area.

The maintenance of the badges is paid for entirely by donations and fund raising events. Also, the Society has organised an annual Drumhead Service which usually has a large attendance, on the afternoon of the First Sunday in July.

Donations, offers of assistance and any equipment will be gratefully received by: The Honorary Secretary, The Fovant Badge Society, Fovant, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Membership of the society is not exclusive and anyone who is interested and prepared to make a small annual subscription, can join.

The badges that can be found at Fovant, Compton Chamberlayne and Sutton Mandeville, although not in order, are as follows: The Map of Australia, The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, The YMCA, The Sixth City of London Regiment, The Australian Imperial Force, The Royal Corps of Signals, The Wiltshire Regiment, The London Rifle Brigade, The Post Office Rifles, The Devonshire Regiment, The Seventh (City of London) Battalion the London Regiment and The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
in the First and Second World Wars

THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT
(Duke of Edinburgh's)

THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

ROYAL WILTSHIRE YEOMANRY
(Prince of Wales Own Royal Regiment)

THE 6th BATTALION, LONDON REGIMENT
(6 CLR)

7th (CITY OF LONDON) BATTALION
The London Regiment

THE ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

THE LONDON RIFLE BRIGADE

THE POST OFFICE RIFLES

NO 48 ROYAL SIGNALS QUALIFYING COURSE
25TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION SEPTEMBER 1985

In September 1960 19 R Signals 2Lts assembled at School of Signals, Catterick Camp to form No 48 Royal Signals Qualifying Course. Twenty five years later (almost to the day) 14 members of that course, and their wives, gathered at School of Signals, Blandford Camp for a reunion.

To mark this notable anniversary a splendid dinner was held in HQ Mess on 14 September. We were joined, as our guests of honour, by **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Alan Yeoman**, for it was a young and enthusiastic **Capt Yeoman** who was our Course Officer. The General, of course, was made to sing for his supper in front of his former 'charges' and he maintained that it was through his efforts that the seeds of success were sown.

Statistically the General may have a point as out of the original 19 Second Lieutenants on this course, 13 are still serving in the following ranks: one Brigadier, two Colonels, ten Lieutenant Colonels.

48 Royal Signals Qualifying Course
Back Row: 2Lts Hew Kim Yew, G. M. Finney, A. G. Stutchbury, M. K. Gbagonan, P. D. Jones, G. A. Maude, S. G. Gordon, A. W. Hunt, R. P. Shiner, P. M. Stamp, I. J. Hamilton, J. R. Dawson
Front Row: Capt A. Assali, 2Lts A. J. Hervey, V. M. Munro, R. F. Maynard, A. C. Prince, A. F. Carter, C. D. Blessington, B. L. Belton, K. P. Burke, I. J. Crouch

48 Royal Signals Qualifying Course
25th Anniversary Reunion Dinner 14 September 1985
Back Row (L to R): Maj (now Lt Col) G. M. Finney, Lt Col A. C. Stutchbury, Maj (Retd) G. A. Maude, Col S. G. M. Gordon, Lt Col A. W. de V. Hunt, Lt Col R. P. Shiner
Front Row (L to R): Lt Col A. J. Hervey, Col (now Brig) R. F. Maynard, Capt (Retd) A. C. M. Prince, Lt Col A. F. Carter, Lt Col C. D. A. Blessington, Lt Col B. L. Belton, Col K. P. Burke, Lt Col I. J. Crouch
Unable to attend: Capt (Retd) P. M. Stamp, Lt Col I. J. Hamilton, Maj (Retd) J. R. Dawson, Lt (Retd) V. M. Munro

CORPS DATES

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB

Dates for 1986:

Corps Dinner,
London Press Centre 14 May 1986

Corps Luncheon,
Headquarters Mess,
Blandford Camp 14 June 1986

VALE

MAJOR L. J. TAYLOR MBE

Maj Les Taylor finally retired from the Corps on 12 July 1985. He had been the Curator at the Royal Signals Museum since 17 September 1976 and during that time had become a well known figure there. His expert knowledge of radio equipment, and his long service with the Corps made him invaluable in the appointment of curator.

Les Taylor joined the Corps on 23 January 1939 and after training served in 3 Armd Bde in the BEF. After the fall of France, he moved to Egypt and the Western Desert where he served first with 1 Armd Div Signals and then with 7 Armd Bde. He was present at the Battle of Sidi Rezeg and in 1942 when 7 Armd Bde was moved to Burma to attempt to stem the advance of the Japanese Army he moved with that formation. After retreating on foot to India he again moved with them to Iraq.

He returned to Egypt, Lebanon and Italy and upon his return to the UK in 1945 he married and in the same year joined 30 Corps for the campaign in North West Europe.

After the war **Les Taylor** served in a number of regiments in the Middle East, UK and BAOR. He was promoted to RSM in 1956 and served in that appointment in Catterick and in Singapore.

He was commissioned in 1962 and also appointed MBE.

After serving for a year in Borneo he returned to Singapore to complete his tour. He served with 28 Sig Regt and as OC 608 Sig Tp before taking up his final appointment in Blandford Camp. It was soon after his retirement that his first wife, **Betty**, died.

In 1982 **Les** married **Dorothy Evis**, a Corps widow, and has settled down in Blandford having served in the Corps for over forty-six years.

He brought to the post of Curator a vast knowledge of the Corps during the war-time years and of the rapid changes in the early post-war years. He was a familiar figure in the museum, frequently giving conducted tours to a variety of visitors. The Corps wishes **Les Taylor** a long and happy retirement and thanks him for his work during his active service and during the years of his curatorship.

LETTERS

From: Sgt T. D. Reynolds

Dear Sir,

Over the weekend 27/29 September, along with my friend, **John Smart**, we made the journey to Newton Abbot for a Reunion of 'old Sweats' of the Denbury Camp era. We started off in the Jolly Sailor, in East Ogwell on the Friday evening and on the Saturday went to the camp. To be able to meet our 'mentors' again was tremendous fun and to be able to stand and chat to **'Drum' Yates** without the fear of being forced to join his band was an experience beyond words. To walk around the camp itself, rebuilt as a prison, was most interesting, and the fact that the Kohima/Jerboa spiders were the only ones left, apart from the NAAFI and WRVS Spider, certainly brought a lump to my throat.

Talking to so many ex staff over a pint or two certainly brought back many memories. The 'Yeti' supplied us with a slide selection of past days and the buffets were even better! A very memorable weekend for me; it was sad that so few ex boys made the trip. You certainly missed out. I would add that another reunion has been arranged for September 1988, so try to make the effort next time round, as, I'm certain that, like myself, you'll never recognise 'Floggit' now.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. Reynolds

27 Tydeman Street,
Swindon, Wilts
SN2 6AX

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION PRIZES

At its 85th Meeting on 8 October 1985 the council of the Royal Signals Institution agreed to increase the prizes awarded for the Chenevix-French Essay Competition. The new prizes are:-

First—£125
Second—£75
Special prize for Captains and below—£50.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

RHQ Royal Signals moved on 1 July to new offices at 56 Regency Street, London SW1, just a street or two behind the old Millbank Hospital and Royal Army Medical College. The management has changed too. **Lt Cols Ron Murray** and **John Beale** have retired; the Royal Signals Association and Institution are now run by a partnership consisting of **Cols John Francis** and **Alastair de Bretton-Gordon**. Both of them now cover all Association, Institution business money matters and other Corps domestic affairs. **Lt Col Ted Andrews** has taken over as editor of both The *Wire* and The Journal, working part-time, mostly from his home in Farnham. **Lt Col Gerrard Mellor** happily continues to manage Corps property and silver, again part-time, whilst **Maj Bill Rose** former member of the TA and a retired bank manager assists with the Corps and Association accounts and investments also on a part-time basis. The rest of the RHQ remains the same.

THE NEW RHQ TEAM

Col John Francis joined the Army in 1943 whilst at New College, Oxford and was posted to the 2 Indian Airborne Divisional Signals in India in 1945 at the age of 18 as a Second Lieutenant. He served in Korea with several distinguished officers including **2Lts Yeoman** and **Topple**. He attended Staff College at age 29 in 1956, a class mate of a **Capt Kitson** and was posted to Hong Kong where for some time he was the youngest Major in the Corps. He later did the usual rounds of BAOR with the Corps holding three straight staff appointments as a Major and a second staff college at Fort Leavesworth, USA before promotion to command 38 Sig Regt (V). He later served as a Colonel in Washington DC and at NATO before resigning to take up the appointment of Regimental Secretary in 1978. He lives at Maidstone with his wife **Jean**. His two sons work in the City one a solicitor the other in banking. He is Honorary Colonel 38 Sig Regt (V).

Col Alastair de Bretton-Gordon joined the Army in June 1950 and served with The Essex Regiment until July 1956 when he transferred to Royal Signals. His first appointment was with the Commcen Signal Troop in Ghana and other Regimental appointments include 212 Sig Sqn, two tours with 1 Armd Div Sig Regt and Command of 21 Sig Regt (AS). He attended the Army Staff College Camberley and the National Defence College, Latimer with staff appointments in Western Command, Chester, Bahrain, Joint Warfare Establishment, Old Sarum, Brunnsum in the Netherlands with Allied Forces Central Europe and the central Defence Signal Staff in the Ministry of Defence. His final appointment was as Chief Instructor at the School of Signals, Blandford. His main interest is sport and he has finally submitted to the addiction of Golf being unable to take part in other sports through injury and the onset of anno domini! He and his wife **Jill** spend their time between London and Dorset where they are in the process of buying a cottage in Hinton St Mary some two miles north of Sturminster Newton. Their daughter **Lyndelle** is living at home and working in Poole and their son **Hamish** is at Reading University reading Agricultural Economics before going to Sandhurst in 1987. **Col Alastair** is now the Assistant Regimental Secretary with duties which include a shared responsibility for Association and Institution affairs.

Lt Col Ted Andrews MBE entered the Corps from a Short University course at Oxford in September 1943. The next 18 months were spent as a Wireless Operator and a cadet culminating in commissioning from the Signals Officer Training School at MHOW, Central India in March 1945. Service in the Indian Airborne Division followed and during this time he was in Pakistan in 1947 during the granting of independence to India and Pakistan. He later served in 2 Parachute Brigade and the School of Signals then spent the next 20 years in a variety of appointments overseas; in West Africa, with the Singapore Military Forces, HQ NATO in France and later with Queens Gurkha Signals in Malaya. Returning from the Far East in 1966 he joined HQ 4 Division. Two tours in MOD DSS(A) followed and he was later appointed CO of the RAC Signal School. He retired in 1976 his final appointment being Military Liaison Officer in the Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications. His interests have included Hockey—(Army Inter Unit Final in 1968) and Shooting throughout his career. After retirement he spent eight and a half years in the Department of Transport dealing with pay in the Transport Industries, and Defence Planning and Civil Emergencies. He joined RHQ in February 1985 and took over editorship of The *Wire* in June 1985. He and his wife **Jackie** have four children and two grandchildren.

Col John Francis sitting in the refurbished Corps Committee Room

The Assistant Regimental Secretary, Colonel A. N. de Bretton-Gordon

Farewell to Cheltenham Terrace after 20 years. Malcolm York, Col John Francis, David Procter

The Editor of *The Wire* and Journal hard at work, Lt Col Ted Andrews and Mrs Marjorie Riggs

Angela Boulding, daughter of Lt Col Keith Boulding, former Director of Music. Word processor genius, super high-speed typist

The girls in the computer room, Carol Penfold on the 'phone and Sharon Jackson the RHQ mascot!

Mrs Moira Mason—the Senior welfare officer

Mrs Pat Haw, welfare officer and wife of Lt Col B. O. Haw

Mr George Latko—Assistant Corps Treasurer—communicating with his computer terminal

David Greenbrook, 'Mother' to all the Old Comrades branches, survivor of countless Catterick reunions

— Movements —

Officers Postings

OCTOBER 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj (QM) A. E. Abbott	East Midlands University OTC
Lt F. A. Bancroft	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt R. C. A. Briant	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt E. L. Budworth	259 Sig Sqn
Capt D. J. H. Burden	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. M. Crombie	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt M. J. Dent	HQ Gurkha Fd Force
Lt Col J. S. Doody	Within School of Signals
Maj S. G. Falla	School of Signals
Lt M. D. Fogg	37 Sig Regt (V)
Maj G. R. Funnell	Sennelager Trg Centre
Capt J. M. Gale	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt N. W. Gill	266 Sig Sqn (BFFI)
Lt Col H. Grenville-Jones	39 Sig Regt (V)
Maj N. C. Jackson	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col M. J. Lance	Cambridge University
Brig F. R. Maynard	DSS
Brig R. F. Maynard	HQ Trg Gp R Sigs and Catterick Garr
Capt (Tfc) J. R. Meehan	School of Signals
Maj A. W. Merrick	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt (Tfc) R. C. Papworth	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj L. A. Relph	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj (QM) F. D. Rogers	AA Coll Harrogate
Lt B. Smith	11 Sig Regt
Lt Col R. B. Smith	SANGCOM
Capt M. R. S. Stanners	11 Sig Bde (V)
Capt (TOT) L. Tanner	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Capt R. M. Thurston	School of Signals
Maj (TOT) R. L. Tricker	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col I. Turner	21 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) J. N. Turner	Queen's University OTC
Maj J. D. Tydeman	HS BDLS Washington (US Army Signal Center Fort Gordon)
Capt S. P. Wallis	22 Sig Regt
Capt C. J. Whittaker	HQBF Belize

NOVEMBER 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt S. J. Ardagh-Walter	HS School of Signals
Col M. I. Ayrton	RSRE (PE) (AE)
Capt (Tfc) C. H. Birchall	7 Sig Regt
2Lt J. S. Brammer	HS School of Signals
2Lt A. D. Burgin	HS School of Signals
2Lt G. M. Bushell WRAC	HS School of Signals
A/Maj L. K. Byrne	12 Sig Bde (V)
Maj R. G. Drake	HQ BFFI
2Lt J. A. Egan	HS School of Signals
Maj J. K. Ewbank	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
2Lt S. E. Felton	HS School of Signals
Maj T. G. B. Fish	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col C. D. Gale	36 Sig Regt (V)
2Lt R. P. Giles	HS School of Signals
2Lt M. G. Hanson	HS School of Signals
2Lt R. J. Healey	HS School of Signals
Capt E. S. Hocking	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt E. K. Jackson WRAC	HS School of Signals (for RN Exch)
Lt A. M. Johnson	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. J. Jessett	HQ BAOR
Capt C. B. Keegan	233 Sig Sqn
2Lt J. P. King	HS School of Signals
Capt (QM) D. A. Lamerton	266 Sig Sqn (SA)
Capt (Tfc) G. Lile	602 Sig Tp (Special Comms)
Capt M. Lithgow	HS 30 Sig Regt
Maj P. H. Macculloch	21 Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) A. B. McMullen	21 Sig Regt
Maj A. W. Merrick	SHAPE (BAE)
2Lt J. M. R. Morley-Kirk	HS School of Signals
2Lt L. L. Murray	HS School of Signals
Lt Col J. H. T. Nealon	HS 11 Sig Regt
2Lt N. A. W. Pope	HS School of Signals
Capt (Tfc) L. Rix	HQ BFFI
Lt Col R. W. Stark	DGWL(A) (PE) (AE)
Lt P. Stephenson	22 Sig Regt
Maj A. Sugdon	HQ 1 Sig Gp
2Lt D. Tognarelli WRAC	HS School of Signals
Maj (TOT) R. L. Tricker	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp International
2Lt N. A. Walker	HS School of Signals

WOs and SNCOs

OCTOBER 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (YofS) R. D. Wright	HQ 1 Sig Gp
WO2 (FofS) B. Law	Electronics Branch REME
WO2 (FofS) R. Morley	14 Sig Regt (EW)
WO2 (YofS) D. T. Wilson	16 Sig Regt
WO2 S. A. May	29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
SSgt S. J. Dunlin	10 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) G. H. Ralph	SANGCOM
SSgt (YofS) M. J. E. Wood	LSP Oman
SSgt E. Davies	School of Signals
SSgt J. T. Hyde	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
SSgt D. R. Marriott	632 Sig Tp
SSgt (EW Op) T. M. Lorrigan	13 Sig Regt
SSgt B. G. Webber	11 Sig Regt
SSgt F. A. Bennett	22 Sig Regt
SSgt D. Chhetri	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt B. Grossmith	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt J. T. Boyd	SANGCOM
ASSgt J. McKendrick	37 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt D. A. Rutter	8 Sig Regt
ASSgt N. Grant	21 Sig Regt (AS)
ASSgt P. McFarlane	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt T. J. Wallis	22 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. A. Witchell	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt R. C. Windows	AA College Harrogate
Sgt M. J. Tucker	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Bonham	30 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Wright	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt J. Hopkinson	13 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Mackenzie	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Pritchard	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. I. Hall	244 Sig Sqn (TAC Air Sp)
Sgt W. J. Ironside	7 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Duffin	7 Sig Regt
Sgt I. D. Richardson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A. Hill	21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. M. Tait	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. P. R. Teague	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. L. Bennett	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt R. P. Allum	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt P. Griffiths	HQ AFSOUTH (BAE)
Sgt P. Wordsworth	FSS Mossy Hill
Sgt D. F. Holton	FSS Cold Blow Lane
Sgt M. R. Tait	585 RLD
Sgt N. Cavanagh	20 Maritime Regt RCT
Sgt R. G. Sutherland	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. R. Hebden	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. M. Sparrow	HQ NE Dist
Sgt C. J. Heyward	71 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. J. Scales	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. P. Coster	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. A. H. Kerrigan	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. McLaughlin	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. H. Young	16 Sig Regt
ASgt I. Jackson	31 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt S. Rook	640 Sig Tp (EW)
ASgt D. McCluskey	21 Sig Regt (AS)
ASgt J. K. Williams	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt P. A. Billingham	36 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt D. Stapleton	14 Sig Regt (EW)
ASgt S. R. Rofe	14 Sig Regt (EW)
ASgt C. N. Garrill	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
ASgt R. J. C. Porter	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

NOVEMBER 1985

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) A. Robertson	233 Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) D. K. Mable	BDLS Australia
WO2 J. Fowler	29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
WO2 G. C. Air	30 Sig Regt
WO2 O. G. McArdle	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 B. A. Thomas	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 (EW Op) N. C. Mapp	13 Sig Regt
SSgt (EW Op) R. G. Crockart	14 Sig Regt (EW)
SSgt (YofS) K. A. Allen	HQ 12 Sig Bde
SSgt (FofS) S. J. Churchman	29 Sig Regt (Berlin)
SSgt N. A. Whittingham	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt L. P. Smith	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt R. Walker	NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
ASSgt H. R. Allison	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Purnell	FSS Brizlee Wood
Sgt C. C. Gardner	Int and Sy Gp (NI)
Sgt P. J. Bertram	233 Sig Sqn (NI)
Sgt D. Shaw	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. R. Christie	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. E. Egan	7 Sig Regt
Sgt A. W. Geddes	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Clarke	21 Sig Regt
Sgt K. L. Gilder	22 Sig Regt
Sgt R. F. Stonier	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
Sgt D. Meggitt	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt S. M. James	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. C. Hailstone	633 Sig Tp
Sgt H. J. Ripley	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt S. R. Sharma	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt K. W. Myerscough	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. P. Oliver	UK Sp Unit SHAPE
Sgt P. J. Mallard	641 Sig Tp
Sgt D. J. Ross	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
Sgt P. J. Stevenson	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. H. Gilbert	13 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Somerville	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. Mullen	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt D. S. Morrison	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt K. G. T. Simister	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. M. Fuller	8 Sig Regt
Sgt T. L. Burbidge	580 RLD
Sgt R. Standley	31 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt D. L. Hatton	16 Sig Regt
Sgt L. R. Searle	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. W. Anderson	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Leyland	HQ AFNORTH (BAE)
ASgt P. A. Szczesiak	233 Sig Sqn (NI)
ASgt D. Dorian	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt G. A. McFadyen	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
ASgt R. J. Stanton	21 Sig Regt

Welfare

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

Ex Sergeant served through the war is in poor health suffering from severe arthritis in most of his joints and he also needs to wear a surgical collar. His wife has a chronic progressive disease and she is now totally helpless and dependent on her husband. A substantial grant was made to purchase special aids and furniture to enable him to cope with the difficulties.

An elderly widow of signalman was recently rehoused by the local authority, in a ground floor flat, as she is unable to climb stairs. Unfortunately this flat was all electric and she previously had cooked by gas. We made a grant to enable her to purchase a new cooker and also replace the curtains which did not fit her new accommodation.

An ex-signalman was made homeless following a fire in his house which destroyed all the contents. As he had been unemployed for many years he was not insured. Although he was rehoused, the Social Services were unable to provide furniture, other than the bare minimum. We approached the Army Benevolent Fund on his behalf and they co-operated with us in making a substantial grant for furniture and bedding.

An ex-signalman died recently of a brain tumour leaving a widow and three teenage children. He had been ill for a considerable period and the family had no funds to fall back on. During his illness the expenditure on heating had been exceptionally high and the widow was unable to meet the bills. We made a grant to clear these debts and have offered to send the family on a week's holiday next year through our holiday scheme.

AUGUST 1985

Number of cases assisted financially:	38
Amount spent:	£5,609.78

SEPTEMBER 1985

Number of cases assisted financially:	35
Amount spent:	£8,905.02

LOANS TO SERVING SOLDIERS

May we draw your attention to the Army Benevolent Fund loan scheme? The conditions are as follows:

—Applications should be made in last year of service through Commanding Officers;

—If already in receipt of loan through MOD House Purchase Scheme applications may be made in the last two years of service.

—Loans are for the purchase of essential furniture and NOT for home improvement or house repairs.

Queries to Welfare Section, Regimental Headquarters, Millbank Military Ext 244.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during September 1985:

Maj R. H. Blizzard	£30.00
30 Sig Regt	£28.18
E. H. Godfrey	£10.00
Abingdon School CCF	£ 3.00
	£78.18

The following donations were gratefully received during October 1985:

Royal Armoured Corps War Memorial Benevolent Fund	£200.00
In memory of Capt E. C. Barker	£ 33.00
J. M. Alletson	£ 25.00
Miscellaneous	£ 24.00
J. Gatehouse	£ 10.00
H. A. Simons	£ 5.80
TOTAL	£297.80

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1986

Stocks of the 1986 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 two 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 1985, 1986 and 1987, listing of European holidays 1986, an Inter City Rail Plan and the London Underground Map.

The cost of the diary is £1.30 for orders within the United Kingdom, and £1.15 for overseas orders. Please use the order form when placing your orders.

To:
The General Secretary
Royal Signals Association
56 Regency Street
LONDON SW1P 4AD

From: _____
(BLOCKS)
Address _____

_____

_____

I/We wish to order _____ Corps Diaries @ £1.30/£1.15* each for despatch to the above address. (Cost within the UK is £1.30 and for overseas orders £1.15).

I/We enclose PO/Cheque payable to 'The Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund' for: _____

Date: _____ Signed: _____

NOTE: *Delete as appropriate.

An Housing Association bungalow is available for a disabled ex-officer at The Officers Association Garden Home at Watford.
Applications or enquiries should be addressed to:-
The General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 48 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JY. Telephone: 01-930-0125.

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

Bailey—Capt George Bailey was born at Tavistock, Devon on 12 May 1904 and enlisted into the Corps on 24 January 1921. He was commissioned on 21 February 1940. He then served with 4 L of C Sigs, 3 HQ Sigs as Adjutant, and 8 L of C Sigs until May 1944 when he returned from the Middle East to serve in the Depot. In July 1946 he joined 12 Air Formation Sig Regt in BAOR and in December 1947 joined the CAFSO Staff at Air HQ BAOR as a GSO3. His next posting was with HQ BTA where he remained for two years. His final two postings were with young soldiers, first with the Army Apprentices' School for two years and second with 6 (Boys) Trg Regt. He retired in March 1954 and died on 27 January 1985.

Brooke—Lt Col Arthur Reginald Brooke was born in Dewsbury on 5 April 1917 and served in the Corps from April 1935 until 19 July 1940, and was then commissioned. He served in a number of units in the UK including 11 Corps Signals. In December 1942 he was posted to Canada to serve on the British Army Staff where he remained until July 1944.

After his return he served for 14 months with 5 L of C Signals and in January 1946 joined 2 Inf Bde Signals.

In May 1947 he was appointed Adjutant of 49 Armd Div Signals TA where he remained until joining the Staff College at Camberley in 1949. He then served in a succession of staff posts; these being SO at HQ 3 Infantry Brigade, DAA & QMG at HQ Port Said and then as DAA & QMG at the Signal Training Centre until 9 June 1955. He was then posted to BAOR and served with various regiments including 7 Armd Div Sig Regt. On his return to the UK he was posted to the War Office where he served as DAAG in PS11 and then PS9 and for his final appointment held the post of GSO1 of Signals 8 from 24 December 1958 until his retirement on 3 May 1961. He died on 14 February 1985.

Coles—Maj George Coles was born in Wellingboro, Northants on 13 August 1897. He enlisted into the Corps on 20 September 1920 and after serving for twenty years in the Corps was commissioned on 20 October 1940. After a short tour of duty in the UK he moved to East Africa where he served with HQ East Africa and later with the Signal Training Centre. His work in East Africa extended from January 1941 until August 1945. In June 1946 he joined Palestine Command Signals and then moved to 4SCU. In June of the following year George moved to BAOR and served with 8 Army Sig Regt and followed this posting with two other appointments on the continent, these being with the Vienna Sig Sqn, Austria for two years and finally with 6 Armd Div Sig Regt for a year before retiring. He died on 3 April 1985.

Cross—Maj John Roland Edward Cross was born in London on 25 August 1919 and enlisted into the Corps on 17 January 1940. He served in the Middle East with 2 Armd Div Sigs from December 1940 until September 1944. He was commissioned on 16 September 1944 and continued to serve in the Middle East with 4 L of C Signals. On his return to the UK he spent two years with the Depot and Holding Bns. In November 1947 he moved to the Far East first serving with GHQ Sig Regt in Singapore and then with Hong Kong Sig Sqn and 40 Inf Div Sig Regt until September 1950. His next post was in BAOR when he joined 5 AGRA Sig Sqn for a year and then returned to the UK to join Scottish Command Sig Regt for two years.

He then moved to the School of Signals and spent three years first serving with the User Trials Squadron and then a year with OTW.

In June 1958 he moved to West Africa and served for six years with the Nigerian Sig Sqn. After a brief tour with 21 Sig Regt he moved back to Africa where he served with the British Army Training Team in Kenya for four years. His final active service appointment was as an SO2 in the Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications. He retired on 1 October 1971, and died on 8 March 1985.

Dobson—Maj Terence Eyre Dobson was born at Bedford on 30 September 1909 and was commissioned into the Corps as a 2Lt on 29 August 1929. After serving for two years with the AFV Signals at Tidworth he was posted to West Africa in August 1933 and remained there until 27 July 1937. On his return to England he became an instructor at the School of Signals until 20 June 1941 when he was appointed GSO 3 (Sigs) to 3 Comd Sigs. After serving as 2IC to 79 Armd Div Sigs he was posted to 81 (West Africa) Divisional Signals as CO from April 1943. In November 1944 after having served with the West African Division in Burma he was appointed CO of Waziristan Sigs in India. In September 1946 he returned to the UK and rejoined the School of Signals where he remained for two years. His last appointment was with 56 (London) Armd Div Sig Regt TA where he remained from July 1948 to September 1951 when he retired. He died on 20 April 1985.

Fearfield—Col John Anthony Stafford Fearfield MBE was born at Skegness on 19 March 1921. After serving in the ranks for eight months he was commissioned on 25 May 1940 and in June 1940 joined 2 Comd Sigs. In December 1941 he joined 44 Div Sigs for a year. He was then posted to 1 SRB (Allied Forces South East Asia) where he remained for three years.

In June 1945 he was posted as 2IC in Y Indian L of C Signals and in December 1946 he was appointed 2IC of Singapore District Signal Regiment and remained with that unit until 22 July 1948. On his return to the UK he joined the School of Signals in October 1948 and then moved to the Signals Wing, School of Infantry on 1 May 1950. After attending Staff College at Camberley he joined HQ Eastern Command as GSO2 (Signals) in January 1952 and remained in that post until 30 April 1954.

His next post was with 1 Commonwealth Div Sig Regt in Korea where he served for six months and then joined 19 Air Formation Sig Regt in Singapore for six months before moving to a staff appointment in CAFSO Branch, FARELF for a four year tour of duty. On his return to the UK he was appointed DAAG at HQ South West District for two years, this was followed by a tour of duty with 7 Sig Regt in BAOR.

In August 1961 he was appointed GSO1 at HQ 1 (BR) Corps and a second staff appointment followed when he was attached to the Directorate of Military Operations for a year commencing from 12 September 1964.

In November 1965 he joined the School of Signals and was involved in the move of the school from Catterick Camp to Blandford Camp in 1967 having command of the advance party. He retired on 24 July 1968 and died on 28 April 1985.

Fenton—Lt Col George Symmes Fenton MBE was born in Canada on 7 December 1914. **'Lucky' Fenton** was commissioned into the Corps on 1 July 1939 and served in a variety of posts with regular and TA units, and with 1 Commonwealth Divisional Signals in Korea. He was twice mentioned in Despatches and also awarded the French Croix de Guerre. After retirement **'Lucky'** lived in Fovant with his family, until his death in June. A fuller report and an appreciation will appear in the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution.

Goggin — Ex-Sgt J. J. Goggin (1940-60) died peacefully at home on 15 October 1985. **Jim** joined the Association, as a life member, whilst serving in November 1954. He was awarded Honour Membership of the Association in May 1974 at which time he was the Hon Secretary of the Shrewsbury Branch. **Jim** will be remembered by both serving and retired members as 'Oh no not that chap from Shrewsbury who has horses down to run in the Grand National at Aintree'. **Jim** for a number of years ran the 'Grand National Draw' which was sponsored by the Shrewsbury Branch for, and on behalf of, the Association. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Henwood—Maj Leonard John 'Chic' Henwood as he was known to all ex boys of the 1942/44 era was born on 15 February 1928, the son of an Army Schoolmaster.

'Chic' joined boys service in April 1942 and served in Royal Signals until he was commissioned into the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment on 22 December 1948.

He served with the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment until he transferred to the Royal Military Police on 22 December 1961, finally retiring on 7 November 1971 to enter Her Majesty's Prison Service. **'Chic'** was serving as the Governor of a Junior Detention Centre at Foston Derbyshire, when he died after a short illness.

Henwood—Lt (QM) Sam Horace Henwood was born at Lostwithiel on 26 September 1909 and enlisted into the Corps on 1 February 1928. In December 1929 he was posted to India where he served with A Corps Signals until March 1935 when he returned to the UK to join 3 Div Signals. He remained with that unit during their tour of duty with the BEF France. His next posting was to 1 Inf Div.

Brig C. H. Stoneley writes of **Sam:**

'Sam Henwood was RSM of 12 (Inf) Div Sigs in North Africa, Italy and Palestine during 1943-45, and took part in active operations including Anzio and the advance northwards to the Gothic Line in Italy, and the troubles in Palestine in 1945. His unfailing dedication to duty, his high standards, and above all his sense of humour kept things going when conditions were difficult; and his concern for the welfare of those in the Unit was outstanding.'

Sam was commissioned as Lt (QM) on 8 September 1945 and continued to serve with 1 Div Sigs remaining in the Middle East until his retirement from active service on 8 December 1948. **Sam** served for many years as Garrison Chief Clerk at Blandford Camp and was a founder member of the Dorset Branch of the Royal Signals Association. He died at Blandford on 1 May 1985 and the Corps extends sympathy to his widow **Mary.**

Howe—Lt Col Thomas Arthur Kingsley Howe was born in Dublin on 24 October 1908 and was commissioned into the Corps on 31 January 1929. Soon after the completion of training he was posted to A Corps Signals in India where he served from June 1930 until November 1934. He then moved to Peshawar District Sigs until January 1937 when he joined 4 Indian Div Sigs. He continued to serve in India and joined 12 Inf Bde Gp in August 1939. In April 1941 he was posted to 9 Inf Div Sigs and moved to Malaya. With the fall of Malaya and Singapore he was captured and became a prisoner of war until 16 August 1945. After leave in the UK he joined the School of Signals on 14 January 1946 but was later posted to HQ North West District as SOII (Signals). In May 1947 he was appointed CO of 60 HQ Sig Regt TA but was quickly moved to the Middle East and became CO of a Signal Regiment and in the following year took command of 4 Air Formation Sig Regt until December 1951. His next three appointments were on the staff where he served, in turn, in HQ Devon District, HQ SHAPE in Belgium and finally as a GSO in HQ NAG. On retirement in September 1957 he continued to serve in the Corps and became PSO with 63 Comd (M) Sig Regt TA in Salisbury. He finally retired from the Corps in 1965 having completed thirty-six years service in the Corps. He died on 20 April 1985.

Le Dan—Lt Col B. G. Le Dan AM, Royal Australian Signals who served as an exchange officer in 7 Sig Regt in the early 1970's. **Col Le Dan** died in Perth Western Australia in October 1985 at the age of 47. We are indebted to **Brig (Retd) A. A. Daere OBE** for this notification.

Livermore—SSgt (FofS) Kevin Livermore. It is with with deepest regret that the death of **SSgt (FofS) Kevin Livermore** is announced. He died in a tragic car accident at Paphos, Cyprus, together with his father, step-mother and daughter **Debbie**. His wife **Michelle** died one week later in hospital having not regained consciousness. He leaves one daughter **Tracy**.

SSgt Livermore, who was born in Braintree, Essex on 21 June 1956, started his Army Career in 1972 at the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate which he left as the Apprentice RSM in 1975. He subsequently served in 30, 8 and 16 Sig Regts, The School of Signals and latterly in 9 Sig Regt. In 1979 he attended his Detachment Commanders Course where he was the top student and he again passed out as top student on his Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course in 1982.

On his Foremans Course he gained an A grading in 1984, again filling the coveted position of Top Student. **Kevin Livermore** was a soldier of the highest quality, he will be greatly missed by the Corps.

He and those who died with him will be sadly missed by all those who knew them.

Marriott—Capt (Retd) Roland Marriott died on 31 October at Nuneaton where he lived with his family. After commissioning in 1967, **Capt Marriott** served in BAOR at RAF Laarbruch, RAF Gutersloh and with 21 Sig Regt. He retired in July 1974 after 32 years service in the Corps.

Needham—Maj Jack Victor Needham was born at Leicester on 7 July 1919 and enlisted into the Corps on 3 January 1939. During the first three years of the war he served in Iraq, India and Burma, latterly with HQ 4 Corps. In March 1944 he joined the Signals Directorate in GHQ India and remained there until August 1945.

On his return to the UK he spent two years with London District Signal Regiment. In March 1948 he moved to Singapore to join the CAFSO Staff at HQ FARELF where he remained until January 1951. On his return to the UK he joined 5 Corps Signals for almost a year and then spent a year with 1 AA(M) Sig Regt.

In July 1953 he was posted to HQ Scottish Command and in October 1955 moved to London to serve in the War Office. From there he moved to HQ Northern Army Group where he was commissioned in August 1961.

Following his commission he first spent two years in 24 Sig Regt, then moved to BAOR to serve with 13 Sig Regt in September 1963. In April 1967 **Jack** joined 223 Sig Sqn for three years and for his last active service appointment he moved to 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V) where he remained until his retirement on 7 July 1974. **Jack** died on 2 August 1985.

Denison-Pender—Maj Richard Ernest Denison-Pender TD was born in London on 6 November 1914. He was commissioned as a 2Lt in the TA on 14 April 1934 and served with 56 (London) Divisional Signals TA. In April 1939 he was attached to the War Office as GSO3 and in July of that year became ADC to the Inspector General of Home Forces. In November he rejoined his parent TA unit and became Adjutant. He served with 56 Divisional Signals through the North African and Italian campaigns and in March 1944 moved to HQ 5 Corps (CMF) as an SO2. He later joined 78 Divisional Signals still serving in the Middle East and was mentioned in Despatches in the London Gazette of 23 April 1946.

He rejoined the reconstituted TA and served, again with 56 (London) Armoured Divisional Signal Regiment, until his retirement on 20 August 1953. He died on 24 December 1984.

In 1937 he was the officer in charge of the motor cycle display team at the Royal Tournament. It was the first and only time that a Territorial Army Unit (The London Divisional Signals (City of London Signals) TA) has performed at all performances of the Royal Tournament.

Penfold—Maj (QM) Alfred Penfold was born on 2 July 1898 and joined the Royal Engineers on 26 July 1915. During the First World War he saw active service in France and Salonika. On 20 December 1919 he was transferred to RE Signals and then later into the Corps. He was with 2 Div Sigs in Turkey from October 1922 until September 1923.

He then moved to spend two years with Rhine Signals and in January 1932 moved to India to serve with 4 Indian Div Sigs where he remained until March 1937. He returned to England and joined 1 Armd Div Sigs until December 1939. He spent the next six years with 3 Holding Battalion in the UK and eventually retired on 7 May 1948. He died on 11 January 1985.

Richardson — Lt A. E. Richardson RAMC. All those members of the Corps who knew **Lt Tony Richardson RAMC**, formerly WO2 (Yeoman of Signals) will be saddened to learn that he died in the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Woolwich on 28 September 1985. His death came at the end of a short but determined fight against cancer.

Tony joined the Royal Signals in 1960 at the Junior Leaders Regiment Denbury prior to moving to 24 Sig Regt for trade training as a Tg Op. In his early career he served with 16 Sig Regt, 249 Sig Sqn (FARELF), 18 Sig Regt Singapore, 3 Div HQ and Sig Regt and 11 Sig Regt. In 1973 he qualified as a YofS and served with 1 Div HQ and Sig Regt, 27 Sig Regt Hong Kong and in 1977 joined the Project Wavell Implementation Team.

Tony was posted to his final Royal Signals unit, a return to 16 Signal Regiment, in December 1979 where he was employed as Assistant Operations Officer. In this particularly demanding job he used his breadth of experience, excellent communicating skills, a good sense of humour and above all an abundance of common sense, to the benefit of the Regiment and the Corps.

He applied and was selected for a commission into the RAMC to which he transferred in May 1984.

Our sincere condolences are extended to his widow **Rene** and son **Nicholas**.

Rylatt—Capt George William Rylatt was born at St Peter Port, Guernsey on 19 July 1914. He joined the Corps on 27 October 1932 and after five years service in the UK he was posted to India. In March 1941 he joined 9 Indian Division in Malaya. After serving in the Malayan campaign he was reported missing but later declared a prisoner of war. He was eventually released and returned to the UK in November 1945. After serving in 5 Trg Regt he was commissioned on 8 April 1951, and then joined 6 Armd Div Sig Regt, first serving in BAOR and then in the UK. His final active service posting was with the OTW, School of Signals. He retired on 5 September 1961 and died on 16 April 1985.

Smyth — Cpl Martin O'Grady Smyth. It is with much regret that the death of **Cpl Martin O'Grady Smyth** is announced. **Martin** was killed in a road accident whilst off duty on Saturday 28 September 1985. Since joining 242 Sig Sqn in January 1984 he had made many friends with his willingness to work and to help others. Our sincere condolences go to his family in their tragic loss.

Tidey—Maj Edward Jack Tidey was born at Kingston, Portsmouth on 23 February 1903. He enlisted into the Corps on 8 March 1921 and in the following year was posted to India where he remained until December 1928 serving with both the Signal Training Centre and A Corps Signals. After five years in the UK he returned to India where he served for five years on the North West Frontier and qualified for the Indian General Service Medal and Clasp '1936/37'. On his return to the UK he joined A Div Sigs until his commissioning on 13 April 1940. He then served with 1 Armd Div Sigs until his capture at St Valery. He was a prisoner of war until May 1945. In December 1947 he moved to the Far East and served with Malaya Dist Sigs and the Singapore Dist Sigs returning to BAOR to join 2 LofC Sig Regt where he remained for four years. His last appointment was with 4 Trg Regt and he retired from active service on 1 September 1956. He died on 3 March 1985.

Walsh—Lt Harry Walsh was born on 24 November 1909 at Oldham. He enlisted into the Corps in March 1930 and served until September 1938 spending five years in India. He was employed by the Foreign Office until he rejoined active service in November 1943 and was commissioned in January 1944. He then served with No 4 SCU and moved to India where he joined No 2 SCU and continued to serve with Special Communications units until 29 July 1946. He rejoined the Corps in September 1953 as a Lieutenant in the AER and served a further eight years with the Special Communications Pool, finally retiring in December 1961. He died on 20 February 1985.

Jackson—Maj (QM) Thomas William Jackson was born on 19 February 1923 and served in the Northamptonshire Regiment for his first 18 months of service. In October 1943 he joined Air Formation Signals and served with that type of unit in the UK and North West Europe until August 1949. He then served at the School of Signals but in December 1951 returned to BAOR and joined 6 Armd Div Sig Regt where he remained until October 1955. He then moved to the Far East and served in Korea and then with 19 Air Formation Signals in Singapore.

Immediately prior to his commissioning he served as the WO1 (RSM) in 51 (H) Sig Regt TA. On commissioning he joined 7 Sig Regt in October 1964 and remained with that unit until he returned to the UK to join 35 (South Midland) Sig Regt TA where he served until March 1972. He then moved south and spent three years with 30 Sig Regt until he joined the Scarborough Signal Training Centre in May 1975. He retired from that post on 14 February 1978. He died on 21 July 1985.

SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (CHIEF CLERK) STAFF SERGEANT IN 40 (ULSTER) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

A vacancy will exist on 1 January 1986 for a SSgt (NRPS) Chief Clerk in 40 (U) Sig Regt (V) based in Belfast, N Ireland.

Terms and conditions of Service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4.

The present salary is £9,639.65 (Gross) per annum rising to £9,676.15 after three years.

Applicants should ideally have served in the Regular Army as a WO/SNCO and have a thorough knowledge of clerical and administration duties. Additionally, experience of working with civilian clerical staff is essential.

Applications, including two Referees and a Curriculum Vitae should be forwarded as soon as possible to:

The Adjutant
40 (U) Sig Regt (V)
Clonaver Park
Belfast BT4 2EY

VACANCY FOR AN R-TYPE WRAC DATA TELEGRAPHIST IN 71 (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS)

A vacancy for a WRAC Data Telegraphist, with 71 (Yeo) Sig Regt (V) based at Bromley, in Kent, will be available from February 1986.

The post is for a Sgt/WO2, depending on previous service and experience. Applicants should be Class 1 (Corporals will be considered). Terms and conditions of service are set out in Queens Regulations Chapter 9.

The successful applicant will be responsible for planning DTg training for the Regiment in conjunction with the Yeoman of Signals; the day to day administration of the training wing and the maintenance of the training records.

The present salary is £9,180 pa rising to a maximum of £10,320 pa on promotion.

Applications, including a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees should be forwarded by 20 DECEMBER 1985 to:

The Adjutant
71 (Yeo) Sig Regt (V)
Hill House
Beckenham Lane
Bromley
Kent BR2 ODA

FOR SALE

Royal Signals Orienteering Club 'T' Shirts. High quality cotton, red and black design on white: 'Jimmy' superimposed on an Orienteering flag. Sizes: small, med, large, extra-large. Only £4.00 each incl P&P. No Corps Orienteer should be without one!

Apply to OIC Orienteering, Army Apprentices College Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 2SE.

ROYAL SIGNALS GOLF SOCIETY TIE

On behalf of the Corps, PRI School of Signals holds stocks of Jacquard woven ties with all-over rows of crossed golf clubs in white with golf flag in red and white superimposed on the Royal Signals Corps Tie, for sale to members of the Royal Signals Golf Society. Cost: £4.25 incl P/P.

From: PRI School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

SALE OF COFFEE CUPS AND SAUCERS

HQ Mess, Blandford is selling a limited quantity of Corps Coffee Cups and Saucers at £2.50 a cup and saucer. They are Lord Nelson Staffordshire ware, black in colour with Corps Crest and edging in gold. The cups all have some degree of 'crazing' inside. Bids should be addressed to **Lt Col M. R. C. Weiner**, SO2 G1/G4 HQ School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH. Cheques made payable to 'R Signals Corps Fund'. Please state whether to be collected or posted (preferably the former).

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER

The 34th AGM and Annual Dinner will take place at the Victory (Services) Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday 22 March 1986. Our Guest of Honour on this occasion will be **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**, Chairman of the Royal Signals Association. This occasion will mark the standing down of the present club president **Brig C. G. Moore OBE** and the succession of **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB, MBE**. Ladies are invited to be present. Details of the reunion may be obtained from the Chairman, **Maj K. N. Smartt**, 'Imber', Millway Road, Andover, Hants, SP10 3EU. Past members of the Division will be most welcome.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 807

VISIT OF COL M. A. BENJAMIN—DEP BDE COMD

Col Benjamin paid his initial visit to the Squadron on 26 September, having assumed his appointment four days earlier. Squadron Commander, **Maj John Kirby** and RSM, **WO1 John Stanley** escorted the Deputy Commander round the various departments to meet members of the Squadron at work.

We would like to say farewell to our outgoing Deputy Commander, **Col M. R. Tarver OBE**, and wish him and **Greta** good luck and good fortune in their posting to Jamaica.

Lt James Bertram explains the Incident Vehicle to the Dept Bde Comd. Sig Corky Corcoran looks on in disbelief

PRESENTATION OF LS & GC

Congratulations to **Sgt Len Twells** of Comms Tp and **Cpl Jim Shaw** of MT on receiving the LS & GC on 20 September. Their medals were presented by **Col M. R. Tarver** during his farewell visit to the Squadron.

Sgt Len Twells receiving the LS & GC Medal from Col M. R. Tarver

SHQ

Report by Capt Richard Walkin RA

The Administration Officer is writing these few notes with one foot in the starting blocks ready to go on a two week holiday in the Med. There have been a number of changes in SHQ since the last *Wire*. We have said goodbye to **Cpl Ned Kelly** the Orderly Room Corporal who has gone off to the Falklands and also to **Sgt Mick Leather** the Pay Sergeant who has gone off to Benbecula. Who says we don't look after our guys with two plum postings like that? Also leaving is **LCpl Richard (can I play cricket?) Tredwell**, Operations Room Clerk. He is posted to 21 Sig Regt and is getting married into the bargain. Which is worse Falklands, Benbecula or marriage? Taking over from the above we welcome **Sgt Chris (Tick Tock) Dean** the new Pay Sergeant from the Guards Depot, **Cpl Mick (Wanna buy a car?) Cole** and **LCpl Ted Stuart** on temporary loan from Comms Tp. We hope you all enjoy your stay with SHQ. If you work hard and keep your noses clean you too could end up with good postings.

We also say hello and welcome to the new **2IC Capt Paul (I'm a runner) Oldfield**.

Events of note since the last *Wire* include the Squadron Summer Dance. This was an excellent occasion organised by Comms Tp. The Squadron Barbecue was organised by MT Troop and was extremely successful. Even the weather was good, no rain for a whole afternoon. The OC and his wife, **Kim** were very brave and went for a swim.

Now to conclude with a quick sit-rep on personalities. The Chief Clerk, **SSgt Dave (Buddha) Barlow** still rules with a rod of iron. He has now started feeding his erring clerks to the dogs. **LCpl (Travel Bag) Windus** is still performing miracles with movements. **Sig Paul Turner** is the one who went to the dogs. **Sgt Bill Simpson** is in Berlin (Is it leave or is it a Recce?). **Pte (Rocky) Hudson** our resident Staff Clerk is soon to go to BAOR. The RSM **WO1 John Stanley** has recently attended the fire officers course and is now wondering what he should burn down. The two Yeomen, **WO2 Gus Hartley** and **SSgt Chris Rogan** are still happily at it and last but not least **Ginny** our typist is still dodging the Chief.

QM DEPT

Report by Cpl Andy O'Shea

Although there has been a change of QMs Golf continues to flourish in the department. **Capt (QM) Brian Young** won the Northern Ireland Army Golf Society's Scratch Competition and with **WO2 (FofS) McIlrei** of Comms Branch Greensome. **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Braddon** entered the 1 R Anglian meeting but failed to emulate the QM. However in the same competition the QM collected a prize and gave it to the RQMS for endeavour. Congratulations go to **Sig Jon-Jon Mackrodt** and **LCpl 'Scouse' Bunting** on their impending marriages, Best of Luck! We say farewell to **LCpl John Anglesea** who is posted to Oslo and welcome back to **LCpl Mac McCormick** after his stint with the Blue Helmets Freefall Team.

COMMS TP

Report by SSgt Dennis Rutter

Life has been as hectic as ever in Comms Tp during the past few months. A particular point of note is that **Sig Tony (Advanced Driver) Lee** and **Scouse Hale** have finally refuelled the 'Hill Top Sites' even if the vehicles took a bashing! And no FMT 3 to show for it either. On 11 August Heli-Tele was called into action again, this time for the funeral of Charles English the PIRA terrorist who scored an own goal by accidently blowing himself up. The next day Heli-Tele moved into the 'City' once more to cover the annual Apprentice Boys Marches. Both of these operations were very successful and a big well done goes to; **Capt Steve (I'm away again) Hunt, Sgt Lenny Twells, Sig Corky (watch out Menden) Corcoran**, and **Taff (I've not passed my BFT again) Rees**. The Escorts for both Operations were provided by the 'Foyle Taxi Service' better known as Rover Group, the Crews were; **Cpls Fossie Foster, Taff Shaw, LCpl Kev Neary, Sig Tony Lee** and **Archie Archibald** and **Pte Rambo Gambino**.

MASSED BANDS DISPLAY

As the rain poured down on Londonderry the 'Massed Bands Display' raised its ugly head again. **LCpl Scouse Dawson** and **Sig Tony Lee** departed to Edinburgh to collect the lights. All did not go smoothly as we discovered that a few parts were missing or broken and were obliged to delay **Sig Archie Archibald's** returning so he could collect the replacements, not that he minded two extra days leave.

The three nights prior to the display which took place on 21 September were spent with **Cpls Jim Moore, Taff Shaw, LCpl Scouse (Drum Major) Dawson** and **Pte Bill Colclough** imitating the 'Massed

Bands' and marching and counter marching around the square which enabled the Comms Tp Lighting Team to learn such production slang as 'Pan left', 'Pan right' or 'Get that . . . light out'. The day finally arrived and due to bad weather we were kept waiting until the very last minute to see if the show would go on. At last the rain stopped long enough (eased off anyway) to allow it to go ahead.

From the first beat of the UDR Band to the final march off by the Massed Bands of 8 Inf Bde we were treated to a superb display of marching to music matched only by the superb lighting from the 'Comms Tp Lighting Team' (available for hire at reasonable rates!). A tremendous effort by all concerned made it a very successful display.

The Production Team was:

Producer	**Lt James Bertram**
Director	**SSgt Dennis Rutter**
Music	**Sgt Lenny Twells**

Lighting by kind permission of **Cpls Fossie Foster, Dave Jowitt, Thomo Thompson, LCpl Boogy Bougourd, Ken Neary, Geordie Hurst, Sig Archie Archibald, Hanby Hanbridge, Jock Ramsdale, Taff Rees, Pte Billy Colclough, Martin Spedding** and **Rambo Gambino**. Duty Electrician—**Sig Tony Lee**, Main Switch Room—**Sig 'Tulip' Turner**. Well done.

FAREWELLS

We must say a sad farewell to **LCpl Dick (Silent but Deadly) Tredwell, Cpl Nobby Nevill** (well done on the promotion). Also leaving are **Sig Paddy Brown** and going to 'Civvy Street' **Ian Tolley**. Thanks to you all for the hard work put in over the last few years.

ARRIVALS

We welcome to the Troop **LCpl Stewart** and **Kathryn Alister** and family; have a good tour in Ireland.

COMMCEN

Report by W/LCpl Debbie Alcock and W/Pte Jayne Crowther

'Where are the *Wire* notes?' **Lt Bertram** did shout,
Oh dear, it's something we forgot all about!
With **Cpl Jowitt** bedded down, ill in his bed,
this task was passed on to us instead!

After four months of living in our temporary Commcen, work to rebuild the old Commcen has almost been completed! Well done PSA!

FAREWELL AND HELLO

Farewell to **Cpl Sandy Brown**, off to 10 Sig Regt, to further his football career, and hello to **LCpl Steve Allister**, newly arrived from 28 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **LCpl Scouse Inman** and **Kathleen**, and to **W/LCpl Debbie Alcock** and **Cpl Nobby Nevill** on their recent engagements.

MT TROOP

Report by Sgt John Gillan

Since the last issue of the *Wire* the MT have had a 'quiet period', having to produce only one miracle per day.

The new MTWO **WO2 Brassington** has settled into the routine, and the weekly trips to the local mental hospital are helping very much.

We would like to congratulate **Cpl Jimmy Shaw** on the award of his LS & GC after 15 years of 'undetected crime', and say a fond farewell to **Cfn Nick Holmes** and **Dvr 'Fingers' McCully**; we would also like to welcome to the Troop **Cfn M. O. Zulkernain**.

EXERCISE *MARRAKESH EXPRESS*

Ex *Marrakesh Express* is the Squadron's annual leadership Training Exercise, held this year in Ambleside, in the Lake District from 1-18 August. To allow as many members of the unit as possible to take part, the exercise was split into two, one-week phases. Activities included hillwalking, canoeing, climbing and abseiling, with a wide variety of standards.

Weather conditions were not what would normally be expected in August; the rain followed us across the Irish Sea, flooding our campsite and filling the rivers, making some good white water. Sp good that **Sgt Richard Carey** and **Cpl Nobby Nevill** 'wrote off' their canoes and swam for a stretch!

Low cloud meant that the hillwalking was slightly more difficult too. **Cpl Bob King** and his group managed to detour 5Km from their intended route, while **Cpl Mick Hunt** and his group managed to drink the OC, **Maj John Kirby**, out of whisky and gin, getting to the finish point, a pub, just on opening time!

The climbing and abseiling was very well led by **WO2 (SSM) Mick Stevens**, of 8 Sig Regt, who managed to coax everyone up a variety of climbs, and most people down a 150ft abseil.

The exercise award for dedication goes to **LCpl Dave Girling**, who went for a 20Km walk on his R&R day!

LCpl Tim Eyley checking his belay is secure

Marrakesh Express Phase 2. *Left to right:* LCpl Alcock, WPte Crowther, Pte Colclough, Sig Turner, Cpl Wilson, LCpl Stapleton, Pte Batty, Cpl Nevill, Sgt Carey, LCpl Davis, Sig Staff, LCpl Ellitson, Sig Parkinson, WO2 Stevens, LCpl Stuart and WO1 (RSM) Stanley

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

PERSONALITIES
THE MANAGEMENT:

OC	**Maj Philip Rouse**
2IC	**Capt George Whyman**
QM	**Capt Bob Vale**
AO	**Capt Pete Humphreys RE**
TOT	**Capt Jan Jasiok**
OC A Tp	**Capt Gordon Rafferty**
OC B Tp	**2Lt Adrian Metcalfe**
RSM	**WO1 C. J. Manning**
FofS	**WO2 J. F. Hanifin**
YofS	**WO2 J Haldane**
RQMS	**WO2 T. Hughes**
MTWO	**WO2 F. T. Osmond**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt J. McEwen**

SHQ TP

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This month we welcome our new Chief Clerk **SSgt (ORSQMS) John McEwen** and his wife **Anne** from AAC Harrogate and hope that his recently decorated MQ is up to scratch. We also welcome **LCpl 'Nobby' Clarke** from RSIT BAOR, who has firmly established himself in Squadron Operations.

We say farewell to **SSgt (ORSQMS) Pete Deam**, the 'Old' Chief Clerk who moves to Comms and Sy Gp (UK) on promotion. We understand he volunteered for this posting due to his love of MOD F102's. Also, on the move is **LCpl (I'm a Cpl) Wally West** who is posted to AFCENT and will receive the remaining contents of his bunk shortly through the post. Good luck to you both.

After an extremely busy 12 July the OC **Maj Philip Rouse** finally departed on UK leave (third attempt) along with the AO **Capt Bob Vale, WO1 (RSM) Charlie Manning, WO2 (YofS) Joe Haldane** and **Pte Andy McSweeney**. We welcomed them back to work with open arms in the hope that the rest of SHQ might take a couple of days off.

SHQ has had more than its fair share of wounded just recently, **Cpl Alan Smith** exerted too much energy in a game of cricket which culminated in a broken ankle. We look forward to his return to fitness and guard duties. Also in the wars, was our typist **Annette** who, one morning, insisted upon falling 'out' of the fire escape door, badly bruising both herself and the building. In England **Pte Andy McSweeney** came into collision with a car whilst crossing the road during a stag night; our condolences to Poole General Hospital.

Finally, a special mention must go to **2Lt (Isn't this easy?) Adrian Metcalfe** who joined SHQ for two weeks to 'Mind' the PRI.

QM'S DEPT

The Quartermaster's Department has seen a number of personality changes. In August we said farewell to **WO2 (RQMS) Steve Jones** and **Sam** off to do some Sergeant Majoring in Germany and welcome to **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes** and **Linda** from 249 Sig Sqn AMF(L) at Bulford. **Sgt Les Robinson** the RAOC FATSO Sergeant off again to Germany to be replaced by **Sgt Geordie Laing** and **Pat** from 94 Locating Regt at Larkhill. New arrival to the QM's Dept, is **Sig Niel Frank** who on completing a four month tour with Comms Branch HQNI likes it so much here that he has received his posting order to 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. To all those departing and to the new arrivals we wish you well.

The Quartermaster **Capt Bob Vale** has returned to quartermastering after handing his admin officer duties to **Capt Pete Humphreys RE**, the new AO.

Sportswise the QM's Dept continues to represent the Squadron in golf with **Capt Bob Vale** and **Sgt Torrance**, football with **Sgt Geordie Laing** and **Sig Niel Frank** and cross country with **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes**.

ALPHA TROOP

CHANGE OF COMMAND

In early July, **Capt Keith Durward** set off for BAOR with a noticeable grin on his face having handed over command of the troop to **Capt Gordon Rafferty**—fresh from Officer Recruiting at Blandford. We wish **Capt Durward** well in his new post and trust that he won't spend so much time sailing and skiing in future.

'God moves in a mysterious way' and the first thing **Capt Rafferty** had to stomach was that his troop 2IC, **2Lt Tony Burgin** was one of the first cadets he had recruited to Sandhurst, this penance was increased further by the arrival of **2Lt David Hix** on attachment in September, yet another of his recruits. Well they do say the proof of the pudding etc etc. . .

The troop has been kept very busy recently preparing for the arrival of a complete new comms system; COUGARNET. The normal workload has also been maintained by the occasional mortar explosion in Crossmaglen and New Barnsley.

The explosion in Crossmaglen meant that the 'Bessbrook Beach Boys' of the South Armagh crew **(Cpl Eddie Pluskota, LCpl Taff Boucher, Sig Andy Cook, Chris Davis** and **Beaker Nield)** had a funtime rewiring the base, working solidly (?) for 10 days.

The attack at New Barnsley RUC Station ensured an additional task for the West Belfast Crew led by **Cpl Geordie Robinson**—somewhat hindered by **2Lt Burgin** taking pictures of the damage for posterity!

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

In addition to the operational commitments the summer (!) passed in a flurry of Garrison Fetes, Field Gun runs, Tug-O-War competitions and Military Training exercises. The Military Skills competition was organised and controlled by **2Lt Tony Burgin** who writes . . .

SQUADRON INTER TROOP MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

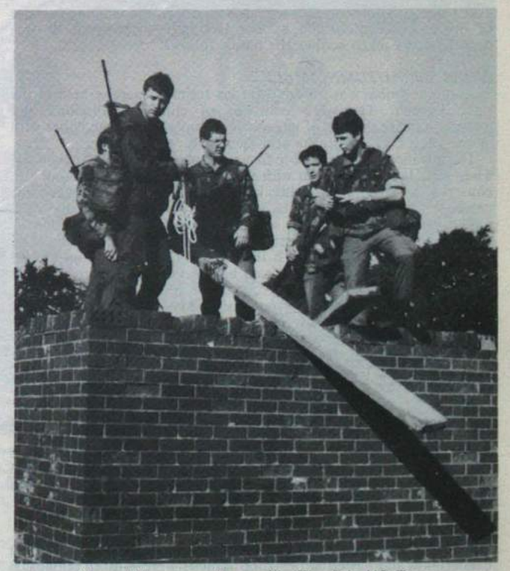
The Competition this year was held on the morning of Friday 6 September within the garrison. Six teams took part and each 'Brick' consisted of five soldiers led by an NCO. All troops/departments entered a team and they had been briefed in advance of the competition to help them prepare and possibly train.

The day dawned, and for once it was not raining, in fact, it was one of the best days of the whole summer.

The competition involved six stands located around the camp. The teams had to stick to a rigid timetable and had to carry a laden stretcher throughout the competition.

The topics covered at the stands were NBC, Map reading, river crossing (in the swimming pool) a command task, skill-at-arms and shooting and an urban patrol course.

All teams displayed good spirit, enthusiasm and a good sense of humour throughout the competition, however it was a close finish with Bravo Troop being beaten only on the last hurdle by the SHQ team ably led by **LCpl Simon Sloman** and his team of **LCpl Carl Mast, Pte Micky Varndell, Sig Dick Peacock** and **Pte Andy McSweeney**.



'How did you say it goes?'—The Bde HQ Team
L—R: Cpl Bob Pullan (Background), Cpl Pat Burns, Pte John Walley, LCpl Chris Stotan, Cpl Jock Swanson

Cpl Sharky Smith briefs Sig Mo Morrison on the arcs of fire on the section in defence range

Sig Ron Powell looks on confused

2Lt Burgin also organised a Squadron Adventure training exercise in the Lake District, and as **2Lt Hix** had just arrived he was despatched as token scribe. His report follows:

EXERCISE *AUTUMN AMBLE*

Autumn Amble was an adventurous training exercise held in the Lake District. The week consisted of climbing, abseiling and hillwalking with the aim of introducing people to these activities with an eye on a UEL certificate at a later date.

The advance party arrived in Stranraer on Saturday 28 September. They were later to meet up with the main body on the Sunday at a converted cottage in Ambleside, known as 'The Hut'. This was to be our base for the week's events, and it turned out to be ideal.

The weather was good to us and we made full use of this by cramming in as much as possible. The climbing and abseiling were particularly popular, and with the expert guidance of **SSgt (YofS) Tyreman** and his teddy bear we all became reasonably proficient in both activities.

At the end of the week we were visited by the Bde Comd **Brig H. M. Rose OBE QGM**, the OC Sqn and the RSM who beasted **2Lt Tony Burgin** around a rather hilly CFT course. They later visited the rest of the group abseiling down a 120ft rockface, where the Brigadier demonstrated his own proficiency at this skill. The week was rounded off with a couple of rockclimbs, some hillwalking, and the SOP social events.

All in all, Ex *Autumn Amble* was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

The group consisted of: **2Lts Tonka Burgin, David Hix, SSgt (YofS) John Tyreman, LCpls Wiley Rushton, Scouse Bradley, Dinga Bell, Sig Glen Weaver, Jacko Jackson, Mo Morrison, Ptes Adi Palmer** and **Craig Dower**.

TP GARAGES

The new troop garages were finally completed and after much deliberation and bartering the troop vehicles were garaged (alongside the waterski boat of course!).

Capt Rafferty had been in the chair only two weeks when the following conversation was heard in OC A Troop's office;

'**Capt Rafferty** sir, your MFO has arrived'

'Marvellous . . . where is it?'

'In the truck that's just crashed through the garage wall'

Sure enough a huge articulated truck had rearranged the new garages. However, the garages were repaired in due course. Unfortunately the MFO driver still hasn't learned to apply his hand brake when unhitching a trailer and six weeks later the following telephone call was received by OC Alpha troop . . .

'Sir, reference the garages . . .'

'Yes'

'Well sir, look out of your window and you'll see it's happened again!'

. . . the saga continues.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Along with the changes in leadership, the troop has seen various other changes. We welcome **Cpls Geordie Robinson, Roy Dangerfield** and **Dave Whittaker** and their wives and families, also **LCpls John Whitaker** and **John Reardon** to Rover Group and last but not least **Sig 'Pug' Weaver.**

LCpls Tommy Burns and **Paddy Irwin** both left us for the warmth of Cyprus and **Sig Ricky Birch**, and **Sandy** and **Rycky** to Tidworth.

A spate of marriages have occurred and our best wishes go to **Cpl Andy Fenton** and his wife **Mandy, Cpl Brian Cockcroft** and **Barbara** and **LCpl Taff Boucher** and **Debs**. At the time of writing **Sig Chris Davis** is counting the days to his forthcoming marriage to **Anne-Marie**.

EXERCISE *SPRING SAIL*

The exercise started with a trouble free crossing of the Channel by ferry. Messrs **Jones, Bradley, Wyatt** and **Morrison**—supervised (?) by **2Lt Tony Burgin** who joined the Corps yacht *Skywave* at St Malo.

After a friendly exchange with the natives we installed ourselves and set sail, six hours later and somewhat jaded by the experience we arrived at our next port. An introduction to French cuisine that night proved a success although several helpings were required to satisfy our needs.

The remainder of the week was spent mastering the art of mooring a yacht without the use of reverse gear—this involved the complicated process of throwing the anchor over the stern and praying that you had judged the correct amount of rope required to stop the boat! By the end of the week we had it down to a fine art.

Another favourite pastime involved attempts by the crew to get a suntan, most of which proved completely futile.

A two day stopover in Guernsey was much appreciated by crew and skippers alike. Due to their enthusiasm for sampling French cuisine every night, **Capt Keith Durward** and **Capt Dudley Smith** were smitten with a mysterious illness which laid them low for 24 hours! Their bank balance wasn't too healthy afterwards either!

Our return trip across the Channel was marred by tearful farewells from St Peter Port, Guernsey; **LCpl 'Casanova' Bradley** assures us he has nothing to do with this! The passage across the Channel was uneventful with the exception of the Alderney race which proved rather 'hairy' at the time, and on our return to Portsmouth such comments as: 'let me tell you about sailing!' and 'so that was your sailing!' were heard. With the lantern swinging and timber creaking we bid you farewell.

Sig Mo 'I'm not posing' Morrison is lookout while the rest of the crew look forward to a night in port. *L—R:* LCpl Scouse Bradley, Cpls Cocky Wyatt, Jonah Jones, Capt Dudley Smith in background

BRAVO TROOP

It's been some time since we submitted notes, and quite a lot has happened in the last few months.

In July we said goodbye to **SSgt (YofS) Jason Wood** who left us to take up a post with the Sultan of Oman's Forces. He also gained his well earned promotion to WO2. Congratulations **Jason**, and best of luck for the future. Remember to send a postcard when you get there! In his place **SSgt (YofS) Ron Coburn** arrived and soon settled in, although there is a slight change in job from Hong Kong! We wish him and his wife **Anne** a very happy tour.

On the operations side (if we have operations in this troop) there has been a very large move round in order to cater for the new COUGARNET system. For the last two months the workmen, electricians and decorators have been in the troop, knocking down walls, building offices and radio operator's consoles. They were here for so long the Troop nearly put them on the establishment. Well done **Paddy, Mick, Paddy, Pat** and **Paddy** for doing such a good job.

Very soon the Troop will be revamped internally to cater for the new system.

On the sports side, the troop has done well, and won the Inter Troop Hockey competition, beating the Bde HQ team in the final. In the Inter Troop Mil Skills competition, we were narrowly pushed into second place by SHQ.

Promotions have been going strong, and since the last notes we have promoted **LCpls Angus Palmer** and **Nick Hawley** to Corporal, and **Sig Luigi Dedman** to Lance Corporal. **Cpl Alan Balderstone** will leave us soon on promotion to Sergeant. Well done all of you.

Finally we congratulate **Cpl Hawley** on his marriage to **Angela** in June. He has now joined the ranks of of the 'Pads Army' and has become another eight thirty-to-five worker (or is 4 o'clock the knock off time in the crypto office? . . .)

TM TROOP

TM Troop has had many changes of personalities during the last few months. The photograph of the troop displays a lighthearted view of them in their support role. We are all eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new COUGAR radios to replace our old and overworked radio network.

(NB in the photo **Cpl Kev Simmons** thinks he is above the TOT, but this will be decided on the Golf course).

After the hectic months of May and June which included the PRE and various visits, the troop finally set a date for the long overdue Troop Party. This was ably organised by **Sgt Chris Christian** in early July and afforded an opportunity for the new members wives to meet the rest of the troop. The party was held in the re-furbished Horseshoe Club and an enjoyable evening was had by all. (OC's quote of the month—'Don't even think about walking on the new carpet'!)

Recent departures from the troop include **Sig 'Les' Lloyd** who has been posted to 2 Div in York, and also **LCpl 'Dean' Gaunt** who has left us for 22 Sig Regt.

New arrivals include **Cpl Vince Connolly** who joins the TE Tech Department, and **LCpl David Aspray** our latest 'Catterick Commando'. Welcome both.

On Saturday 12 August an intrepid team of sailors set off to compete in the Great Lough Neagh Raft Race. The crew was made up almost completely from volunteers from TM Trooop, and were **Sgts Dave Rutter** and **Barry Briggs**, **Cpls Scouse Bradley** (press ganged from 'A' Tp), **Chris Cadman** and **Paul Gardener** and **LCpl Kev Cotton** (i/c rigging) and the cabin boy **Andy Allan**.

The event consisted of designing a raft which on the day had to be passed through a 2ft guage before assembling and then sail 18 miles to the finish point on the Northern part of the Lough.

The weather on the day could not have been kinder and the sun actually shone, a rarity in the province this summer. A starting pistol set off the race and the crew went to their allotted tasks in Grand Prix fashion. Within 15 minutes the raft was ready for the water and after a smooth launch we set off.

The first two to three hours saw us making good progress but unfortunately the slight wind then failed and from there on it was down to paddle power.

Rear: Sgt Buckingham, Cpls Simmons, Wilkinson, Sig Jackson
Front: Sgt Partridge, Cpls Roe, Cadman, Sig Easby, Cpl Wragg, Sgt Rutter, LCpl Patterson, WO2 (FofS) Hanifin, Capt (TOT) Jasiok, Sig Rushworth, Sgt Allison, Cpl Hill, LCpls Allan, Conlon, Cpl Smith
Absent: Sgts Christian, Briggs, Horton, Cpls Bell, Smith, Gardner, LCpl Cotton, Sig Lloyd, Brown, Richards

We reached the half way point after eight hours and although the raft was still 100% seaworthy some of the crew were a little waterlogged. The safety organisers decided at this stage to start towing vessels in before dark, so we were forced to accept a tow to the finishing point.

Special mention should be given to **Cpl Paul (I can walk on water) Gardener** who made an heroic attempt to save some of the 'ships stores' which went overboard, items which were sorely missed later on in the race.

When we finally reached the finishing point after 10 hours on the

water all the crew were thoroughly exhausted. However, we all agreed it had been a worthwhile day and although we didn't win, our raft had not sunk, as had many of the original starters, so the design of the raft was successful.

Finally we would like to welcome, at long last, 8 Inf Bde as an active member of Heli-Tele support!

EXERCISE *IRONSHOE*

Yet again, the Squadron sent a composite platoon to the fourth and final week of Ex *Ironshoe* 85. This week was ably organised by **2Lt 'Tubs' Burgin**, with **2Lt Ady Metcalfe** and **Sgt Keith Storey** going along to run the ranges (or was it just another jolly?).

On the Wednesday of the Exercise the Brigade Deputy Commander, **Col Bryan Campbell** and the OC **Maj Philip Rouse** visited the training area to see how things were going. The Deputy Commander was briefed on the exercise, then shown the Section-in-Defence range and the Grenade range, he even managed to throw a grenade himself!

The grenade range was being conducted by **SSgt Larry Formosa** of 11 Sig Regt as our two range officers were not qualified. Everything was going smoothly until **Sig Ronnie Powell** decided to throw the grenade on the wrong side of the wall. Luckily he and **Sgt Keith Storey** managed to remove themselves from the throwing bay and no one was hurt. The Deputy Brigade Commander probably left thinking the whole thing was staged for his benefit.

That evening the lads did a CFT, and **2Lt Burgin** managed to lose the safety vehicle, the route guide and pace setter, himself, and the Squad. By some faint quirk of chance everyone made it back to Warcop, but all by different routes! Well done **Tubs**!

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Telephone: Bristol (0272) 734045

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Centre Block Maindy Barracks
Cardiff CF4 3YB
Telephone: Cardiff (0222) 20251/2

TAVR Association for West Midlands
Tennal Grant, Tennal Road
Harborne, Birmingham B32 2HX
Telephone: 021 427 5221

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

NI SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

As a pre season warmer the Squadron's hockey team led by **Capt David Smith** set off for RAF Bishops Court for the NI six-a-side Hockey tournament. With a soggy pitch the day proved to be a hard one. The Squadron opened with a win against 1 PWO, 3—1 but were narrowly beaten by 33 Indep Fd Sqn RE, 2—1 with a second goal being scored by **Sgt Paul Stevenson**. The team went on to beat 1 KOB with an excellent goal by **Sgt Keith Dunk** and a second by **SSgt Graham Wood**. **SSgt Graham Wood** went on to score another two goals in the final against Lisburn Garrison which we won 2—1.

Capt David Smith receives the NI Plate Winners Shield

THE SHOOTING TEAM

Having competed very successfully in the NISAAM in June the shooting team of **Capt Ray Briant, SSgt Jerry Nation, Cpl Paul Batchelor, LCpls Smude Smith** and **Dave Lyon** set off for the Royal Signals SAAM and the RASAAM at Bisley. The team won three of the rifle championships at the SAAM and both **SSgt Nation** and **Cpl Batchelor** showed potential for the future. Well done!

THE GREATEST SIGN ON EARTH

Once upon a time, 321 EOD Coy RAOC and Communications Branch HQNI lived happily together in a portakabin next to 233 Sig Sqn. The serenity was shattered; a big bad EOD sign appeared at the shared entrance to the Portakabin. The little Comms Branch sign was very sad, its heart broken, it began to rust. Wham! Flash of Light! 'I am your fairy godfather', says **Lt Col Rex Stephenson**. **'Charles . . .'** enter **Maj Kemp**, OC 233 'you must save our poor sign'. Enter **Cpl Ned Kelly** (being pushed on stage by **WO2 (SSM) Pete Doherty**) **'Cpl Kelly'** says OC 233 'you must save our poor sign' **Cpl Kelly**, 233 Sig Sqn's artist-in-residence slaved overnight to produce a bigger, better sign that everyone could be proud of—happiness. But hark! What is that banging in the EOD's garages?

Cpl Ned Kelly hands over the sign to Comd Comms, Lt Col Rex Stephenson

ECHO TROOP

Just to prove that life is not all work and that we do manage to enjoy ourselves despite our hectic routine; **SSgt Scot McDougall, Sgts Eddie Small** and **Mick Honeyman** play for the Squadron at football, **Sgts Taff Williams, Ellis Page, LCpl Bav Bavin** at rugby, **Capt David Smith, WO1 Rod Goddard, WO2 Dave Gorse, WO2 Jan Marshall, SSgt Dave Chalmers, Sgts Dave Tomkins, Lofty Wilkerson, LCpl Dave Allan** at hockey, **Cpl Dave Parvin** runs in the cross country, **WO2 Brian Libby, Sgt Dave Alexander** take part in orienteering, **SSgt Eric Langton, Sgt Mick Birchall, Cpl Tony Ballard** and **John Wheater** play volleyball, **WO2 Ian Thorburn, Cpl Keith Dawson, LCpls Phil Ralph** and **Wolfie Oldfield** play cricket and **W/Cpl Tracey Stokoe** plays rounders. The only members of the Troop who don't represent the Squadron at a sport are the rats under the floorboards!

As always we have had arrivals and departures and first we would like to welcome **WO2 Jan Marshall, SSgts Eric Langton, Ian Dales, Sgts Mick Birchall, Ellis Page, Cpls Jock Black, John Wheater, Flip Flippance, LCpl Wolfie Oldfield, Sig Paul Elgenia, W/Pte Angie Hummerston** along with their families and wish them a good tour. Our farewells go to **WO2 John Skipper, SSgt George Muir, Sgts Kev Bamforth, Steve Shannon, Simmo Simpkins, Cpls Alex Anderson, P. J. Smith, W/Cpl Gill Day, Sig John Leach, W/Pte Kay Robinson**. We wish you and your families every success in the future. To finish, our congratulations go to **Sgt Mick Birchall** and his wife on their newly born baby.

SQUADRON RUGBY

The Squadron Rugby Team has continued to do well this season under the leadership of **Sgt Gus Hales** whose experience has been invaluable. Unfortunately we have lost some key players recently on postings and some have taken early retirment!

A mention must go to the whole team's efforts in their fine win against 175 Pro Coy, the forwards under the leadership of **Cpl Taff Kessell**, outplayed their opponents. The backs ran in a couple of tries, with the try of the match coming from **LCpl Sean Hughes**, who ran the full length of the field to score.

Results to date:
233 v 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn won 26—4
233 v KOB won 23—16
233 v 175 Pro Coy won 16—6
233 v RAF Aldergrove won 4—0

Our next big fixture is against 39 Inf Bde and Sig Sqn in the first round of the Army Cup.

CROSS COUNTRY

The first round of the Inter-Troop McKelvie Sports Trophy, the Squadron Cross Country Race, took place on 17 September. Held within the Barracks, the race was keenly fought. Ably led by **Capt John Nichols** and **WO1 (YofS) Dave Wright**, who put considerable effort into watching the race, Commcen Tp yet again showed their running class, winning the Competition with Comms Tp second and Echo third. The Squadron team now lie third out of 23 teams in the NI league; best of luck with the weekly races.

The Victorious Commcen X Country Team
Back Row: Sig Geordie Maughan, Marek Berger, LCpl Sean Curley, Sig Stig Stanmore
Front Row: LCpl Paddy Potter, Sig Mark Brown, Tintin Phillips, John Macnamara

ROAD RELAY RACE

A very successful 4 × 2 mile Inter-Troop road relay race was organised by **Cpl Parvin** of Echo Tp. The course was within the barracks and 16 teams entered. Fastest individual time of the day was by **LCpl Hughie Latta** who led the winning team from Commcen Tp—**Sig John Macnamara, Tintin Phillips** and **Stig Stanmore**. Echo Tp came a close second and Admin Tp third—better luck next year **WO2 (SSM) Pete Doherty** (who ran an excellent lap). **Pte Amanda Jane** as the only WRAC in the event deserved her applause at the end for running a great lap in a torrential downpour.

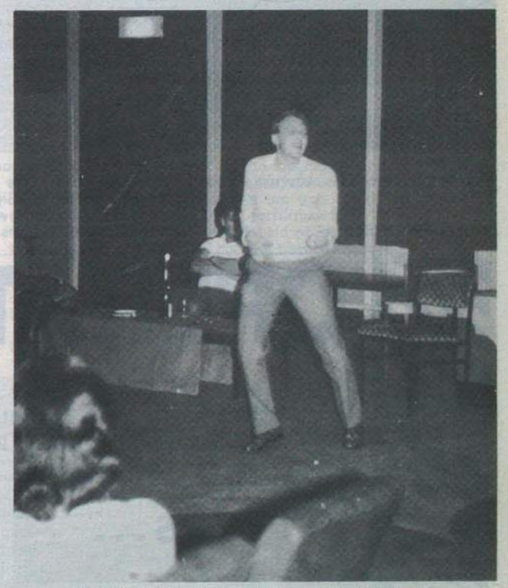
COMMCEN TP CABARET NIGHT

An excellent evening was had by one and all of Commcen Troop in the Shamrock Club on Monday 6 September. The main entertainment was provided by **Mr Wynne Roberts** hypnotist 'Extraordinaire'. Many younger members of the troop never having seen a hypnotist before decided to volunteer their services (is volunteer the right word?). During one and a half hours of excellent entertainment we saw, much to the delight of everyone, **Cpl Martin Allwork** giving a marvellous 'Elvis' impersonation, **Sig Jamie Gardiner** and **Pte Sally Fawcett** as Nureyev and Fontaine, **Pte (The Body) Bell** who astounded everyone with her striptease act (no clothes removed, by the way), **Mrs Debbie Sloggett** as Model 85 and the most entertaining of all **Sig Mark Hayden** giving a demonstration of how a RSM should act (well done **Mark**).

During the evening **Capt (Tfc) Nichols** presented plaques to ex stalwarts of the troop, **Sig Keith Dunk, Cpls Rusty Bullock**, and **Paul** (The Storeman) **Rutter**.

A word of thanks to **Sgt Ricky Sloggett** and A shift for organising a most enjoyable evening.

Sgt Ricky Sloggett has finally finished his sponsored diet, and was weighed in on 20 September, witnessed by **Sgt Steve Smedley**, total weight loss 15lbs. Well Done **Ricky** . . .



Cpl Martin 'the Pelvis' Allwork under hypnosis?

WRAC HOCKEY

The Commcen girls have done it yet again, and the WRAC Hockey cup is safely back in its rightful place, in the Troop Trophy cabinet. Well done to the team of **W/Cpls Glynis Ball, Karen Tindall, Ptes Sally Fawcett, Jackie Smith, Dawn Smith** and **Marion Runciman**.

THE JENNIFER BILLINGHAM APPEAL

Jennifer Billingham, daughter of **Cpl Phil (Bertie) Billingham** of Comms Tp is partially deaf; a phonic ear would help her learn to speak but, the cost of such an ear is almost £2,000! Comms Tp, having been tasked with the Squadron's entry in the Great Lough Neagh Raft Race (18 miles!), decided to put half the money raised towards buying **Jennifer** a phonic ear. With £100 in the kitty the campaign was on. Like all good ideas the one of a 24 hour sponsored disco in the Peake Inn came out of a melting pot of many minds. The committee swung into action and at 2000 hrs on Friday 20 September the dance was on. Seven dancers lasted the 24 hours with a back up team keeping them going. The target of £1,000 was reached easily and the money is still rolling in. The whole Squadron wishes **Jennifer** a successful future at her new school in Kent.

The Sponsored Disco Team
L to R: Cpls Newsome, Lawton, Pte Jones, Munro, Mason, Cpls Marshall, Lazenby, Pte Freeman, Brown, Johnson, Sig Doherty, LCpl Oldfield, Mrs Billingham, Sig McCarney and Sig Matthews
Kneeling: Cpls Andrew, Billingham and Jennifer
Absent from photo: Cpls McDonald, Mutter, Meehan

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News from Regiments

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

1 SQUADRON

Over the last couple of months 1 Sqn has been very busy with exercises and battle camp, both of which are hard work but also, enjoyable. The first exercise was *Highland Malt* IV, where we stayed static for the week, this meant **LCpls Joe Cresswell** and **Disco Darlow** could each pretend to be Picasso and brick paint the hessian. Their hard work would have been very effective if **SSgt Smurf Hayward** and **Sig Bill Ganly** had not erected the hessian with the bricks going up and down instead of across.

After *Highland Malt* IV we went straight into *Hurst Park*, during which we were static again. This allowed us to set up the TV and video, although Sig P B's TV had a slight accident in a cookhouse fire. Falcon Troop (known as the runners) were very lucky as they spent a week in a barn with showers and baths—an unheard of luxury in 1 Sqn. Half way through the exercise **Lt Steve Croft** decided he had had enough and went back to UK to get married. We all wish him the best of luck.

Battle camp was particularly enjoyable, our SSM, **Bob O'Hara** joined the Squadron and we welcomed a new 'Captain Canada', **Mike Maxwell**. They have both settled in well, although 'Captain Canada' is convinced most Brits are mad and alcoholics! There were many events including a tank over-run which **Cpl Maggot Greenwood** enjoyed and the making and throwing of petrol bombs, overseen by **Sgt Bo Clarke**. There was a great deal of sport played and we won everything except the volleyball, despite **Cpl Taff Donalds** valiant efforts.

On 25 May there was a parachute jump for charity, 21 soldiers and two wives participated. Everyone said they enjoyed the day but most agreed that one jump was enough. The day was concluded with **Mrs Judy Wright** making the draw for charity; in the end DM 4,000 was raised.

'Now what do we do with this?'
L—R: Mrs Judy Wright, Maj Wright

2 SQUADRON

By the time these notes are published the senior management of the Squadron will have undergone almost a one hundred per cent change. I only hope it's not a case of rats deserting the sinking ship. No one likes change, especially as the last few months have seen the Squadron reacting to more fastballs than are seen in the average game of American Football.

The visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, **The Princess Anne**, brought out the many talents for which the Squadron has become well known and for which the following individuals have our thanks.

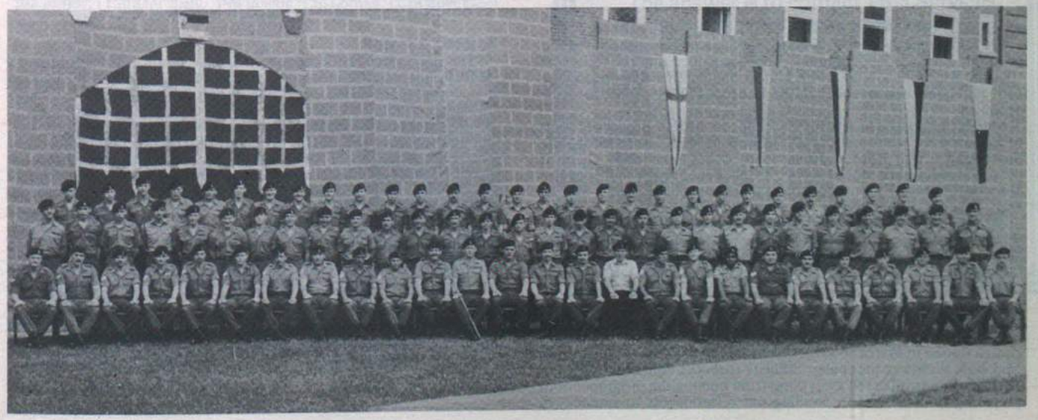
SSgt (SQMS) Alan Gibbons the builder and keeper of the excellent castle which formed the backdrop to the Village Fete.

Capt Steve Herniman who somehow managed to convince **Sig Jock McDonald, Darren Birkin, Trev Allen, Chris David Morris, Stewart Shaw** and **'Geordie' Bowman** that not only could they do Morris Dancing but also put on a Royal performance.

SSgt Skip Redman who with the aid of **Sig Phil Moon** and **Taff Power** looked as if they had actually roasted the pigs.

SSgt Tim Haynes who not only ran the Jousting Pole with the help of **LCpls 'Stiff' Corpse, Paul Cleavin** and **Sig Baz Barry** but also managed to use his abseiling skill in order to hang flags and bunting from some impossible places.

Lt Adrian Broad helped by **Cpl Gerry McGoff** and **Sig Fergi Ferguson** put Robin Hood to shame with their archery skill. HRH was



impressed and showed us the way by joining in.

Sig Scouse Thomas and **Sig Geordie Stenhouse** with **LCpl Rab Allward** put on a most exciting quarterstaff display, but why did they gang up on **Sig Garth Garfoot**?

The Royal visit was quickly followed by a Regimental and Divisional exercise where **Capt Steve Herniman** and the boys from Papa Troop found out that PTARMIGAN does not restrict the number of combinations one can have with a Divisional Headquarters. **Cpl Taff Mathews** and **Sig Trev Allen** also found out what happens when a German 'Woofer' drives into the back of an AFV 436. **Sig Geoff Martinez** and **Wilf Milnes** meanwhile found out what happens when an AFV 436 drives over a VW Passat . . .

On the last day **LCpl Michael Viney** proved that the AFV 436 is not fire proof—at least not G Plans.

The exercise was followed by Regimental Battle Camp and it was very kind of **Cpl Paul Prince** to entertain the members of 1 Platoon with his head butting act against a tank on the tank over-run (He claims it's good training for the coming Rugby season). Oscars must also go to **Sig Garth Garfoot** for his backwards, sideways flip in order to get out of the way of the said tank.

SSgt (YofS) Frank McCubbin who, when giving a fire order, using blank ammo, shouted 'Watch my tracer'—**WO2 (SSM) Bob Ohara** was most impressed.

Sig Geordie Stenhouse for his impression of how not fo fly a Chinook.

Sig Chalkie White for his impression of OC Papa Troop and **LCpl Jock Gemmell** for his impression of OC Rover Troop.

Sig Jock Campbell for his impression of Evel Knievel and finally the OC Squadron **Maj Jack Wraith** for his impression of a night navigator.

ROVER TROOP AND PAPA TROOP

The early part of 1985 saw a lot of change with the arrival of PTARMIGAN. Rover Troop has remained virtually unchanged other than losing **SSgt Phil Rumsey** and his merry men of Hard Rover Group to Papa Troop. Papa Troop which now provides the Main Divisional Headquarters is where all the change of activity has been taking place. Under the Troop Commander **Capt Steve Herniman** the troop has taken over all the new AFV 436s which contain the PTARMIGAN equipment. They also have their own Radio Relay AFVs under the eagle (sorry 1 Sqn) eye of **Cpl Phil King** and RR Ops **Sig Steve Randall, Jerry Browning** and **Jock McCoag**. These are not the only new faces that have been seen in the Squadron recently, as in March and April the Squadron played host to a troop of Queen's Gurkha Signals from Hong Kong, under the command of **Lt Elton Davis**. This has led to a number of new 'traditions' in the Squadron, the majority of which have to do with curries and beer.

INTER SQUADRON RUGBY

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy (sorry OC, sir) so time in the busy programme of events was found for an inter Squadron Rugby competition which included our Brigade Signal Squadrons. The favourites from the outset were 1 Sqn but they had not reckoned with **LCpl Paul Prince**, a recent arrival to the Squadron. From nowhere we produced a team which took on all comers and the final which was played between 2 and 201 resulted in a win for 2 by 12 points to nil. Congratulations must go to the team and their very vocal supporters for some intertaining Rugby.

AND THE CHANGE CONTINUES

We have recently said farewell to **Sgt Sean Wilson** who has stood in as our YofS for some months. This has gained him the nickname 'Plastic' which he will take with him to the Queen's Regiment along with our good wishes and thanks, Radcon will never be the same again.

Maj Jack Wraith has left for Bielefeld, **Lt Adrian Broad** will soon be enjoying the academic life at Shrivenham and **WO2 (SSM) Pete Sutherland** is now RSM at 30 Sig Regt. Other links in the chain of command who have moved on are **LCpls Pete Farmer** and **'Scouse' Horabin** (both to 1 Sqn, poor souls) and **Dave Sloan**. Lastly **Sig 'D-Day' Dixon** has gone to join the gunners in Dortmund.

To replace them we have 10 new arrivals and one visitor; **Capt Gus Boag** moves into the Squadron Commander's chair, and **Lt Duncan Warne** is OC R Troop. **WO2 (SSM) Jeff Ashwell, Cpls Steve Kemble, Jim McCready, Sig Bamber Downs, Dave Harris, Jonah Jones, Damian Lunt** and **Ginger Warman**. The visitor is **Lt Nick Borrill**, a refugee from Shrivenham.

The main event has been the Royal Signals and Verden Garrison Marathon. The event itself is covered elsewhere but the organisation, (which started in March) was the responsibility of 2 Sqn in general and **Maj Jack Wraith** in particular. Soldiers from the Squadron and their families were involved in everything from making the programmes to preparing the stadium, to handing out refreshments to runners, to hanging medals around the necks of the finishers. **Sig Jeff Martinez** and **Rob Allward** who were our only runners probably had the easiest time of all. For the rest, it was a 10 hour day in unpleasant weather but it turned out to be worth all the effort that had gone into it.

Still on the sporting side, the boxing team is now reaching peak form for the inter Squadron boxing competition on 26 and 27 September. **LCpl Tommo Thomas** and **Sig Andy Prutton** have put in much effort as team trainers and our boxers from deadly **Sig Duffy**, the bantam weight upwards have probably never been so fit in their lives.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to **Evelyn** and **Sgt Richardson** on the birth of a baby daughter.

3 SQN

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj 'Marathon' Elson**
2IC	**Capt 'Golfer' Peck**
OC 'O' Tp	**Lt 'Border Patrol' Favager**
OC 'N' Tp	**Lt 'Sober' Felton**
OC 'L' Tp	**2Lt 'Grandad' Hill**
SSM	**WO2 'C'est la vie' Britton**
SQMS	**SSgt 'Nippy' Taylor**
YofS	**SSgt 'Sincerity' Allen**
YofS	**SSgt 'Pathfinder' Thompson**

EXERCISE *HURST PARK*

Ex *Hurst Park* provided the must amusement in July. The exercise must have been a hard one because there were Linies sighted during hours of daylight. However OC Line **2Lt Duncan Warne**, was placed in Hicon for the duration. Do I sense an example of the blind leading the blind? I don't mean it **Duncan**, honest. **Maj Peter Maggs**, SO2, G1/G4 thought his time had come when **LCpl 'Selwyn' Froggatt** knocked his ladders over, narrowly missing him. **Selwyn** claims it was accidental. I wonder? **Sgt McCann** went fishing again. **Sig Greg Berry** is of the opinion that he deserves 'Jack of all Trades' as a title. He went as Driver to 1 Ord Battalion and was employed as Radio Op, Lineman, SCRA Op and Powerman. Not bad for a powerman.

BATTLE CAMP

The last two weeks of July saw the Squadron throwing headsets into storage bins and donning cam cream. The first week of annual camp was spent on range work which varied from 'MOLOTOVING' tank hulks to direct assaults on moving tanks! **SQMS 'Flames' Taylor** is now very warily observed 24 hours a day. **LCpl 'Chalky' White** demonstrated that it is impossible to knock out a tank by headbutting it and now follows the standard procedure.

The weekend saw the Regimental Barbecue with **LCpl 'Hank' Cappleman** leading the Squadron in his own version of 'Father Abraham'.

The second week was devoted to the ousting of PRUNE from Vogelsang—Peoples Revoluntionary Unit of Northern Europe. The Squadron split into three platoons which gradually by Intergrated Offensive Action 'IOA' destroyed the enemy (we thought it was attacking but **Capt Jerry Peck** insisted that it was IOA). The Squadron finally assaulted the PRUNE forces in a FIBUA attack and, surprisingly, everybody was found to be alive at the end.

SUMMER CAMP

The week after Battlecamp with headsets still in storage bins the Squadron left for Berchtesgaden in Bavaria. **Sgt Alec Carmichael** led a very successful diving expedition during the period, with a number of people qualifying at novice level. The remainder windsurfed—with **Lt Steve Felton** showing gymnastic talent both in and out of the water, hillwalked—ably led by **Cpl 'Teenager' McLeish**, rock climbed and sampled the delights of Munich. The events in Munich are better left unmentioned otherwise **LCpl 'Scouse' Downey** will have his recent promotion reversed!

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS

We bid farewell to: **2 Lt Duncan Warne, Cpls Gary Haslam, Woody Woods, LCpls Neil Perham, LCpl Panzer Potts** and **Sig Greg Berry** and extend a warm welcome to: **2Lts Alan Hill, Roy Freeman, Cpl Mac MacNaughton, LCpls Babytech Cave, Dave Beach Sig Tubby Neeve, Ghandi Greenhaulgh, Bren Brennan** and **Bill Nicholl** and finally congratulations to the following on their promotions: **Lt 'Follow me' Favager, Cpl 'Handbag' Cartwright, LCpl 'Scouse' Downey.**

LCpl Hank Cappleman and LCpl Joy Gillespie after their marriage at the Catholic Chapel in Verden on 31 August

Sgt N. Turnbull—3 ADSR receives his award from the GOC Maj Gen Sir David Thorne

THE FOURTH ROYAL SIGNALS/VERDEN GARRISON MARATHON

The fourth Royal Signals and Verden Garrison Marathon took place in Verden on Saturday 7 September. Although the entry for this year's event was down, some 300 competitors lined up to start, including five Cooks from 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt complete with uniforms, frying pans and pancakes.

The first runner home was **Mr Peter Bullen** (Ex Corps) in a time of 2 hrs 23 mins with **SSgt L. Wood** of PIU second in a time of 2 hrs 26 mins. Team awards went to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt first Major Unit and 204 Sig Sqn the first Minor Unit. The Jim Barry Trophy was won by **Capt Peter Cain** from 36 Sig Regt (V).

The Running Cooks
Pte Potter, LCpl McCarthy, Pte Blaikie, Cpl Lomas, LCpl Rollins—1 ADSR

Capt P. Cain—36 Sig Regt receiving the Jim Barry Trophy from the CO

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201 (22nd Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 30

VISIT OF HRH PRINCESS ANNE TO VERDEN

In common with the rest of the Regiment, the Squadron was heavily involved with the visit of **HRH The Princess Anne** to Verden on 18 June 1985, though we can not claim to have done anything like the amount of work put in by the Verden based Squadrons. However, we formed a composite Squadron for the Freedom of Verden Parade with 212 Sig Sqn, and also participated in the Regiment 'Village Fayre' which had a mediaeval theme. It was a sunny, happy day and all who met the Princess were thrilled and charmed.

Visit of Director WRAC
The Director, WRAC, Brig H. Meechie visited the Squadron on 31 July. Pictured with DWRAC are (*left to right*) Pte Karen Powell, Pte Andrea Smith and LCpl Vickie Simkins

EXERCISES

The pace continued with exercises *Morning Glory*, *Stag's Head* and *Hurst Park* not to mention other minor committments. In all of these the Squadron exercised with PTARMIGAN/WAVELL 2 and we are now getting quite proficient with our new kit.

EXERCISE *LEMON MOOSE*

This year the OC decided that it was time to find the sun for our annual Summer Camp, and so it was planned to hold it as far south as possible, we picked on the beautiful Bavarian town of Berchtesgaden. The camp was organised by the 2IC **Capt Steve Marshall** ably assisted by the SQMS **SSgt Bob Cook**. One of the major factors in the overall success of the camp was the excellent help and cooperation received from the US Army Recreation Centre in Berchtesgaden and from **SSgt Holten** (US Army) and **Herr Hans Kouer**. For the 2IC the camp often proved a test of patience. When on one occasion he was told by **SSgt Holten** —'Sir, I don't deal with Officers, I only deal with your top Sergeant. That way we get things done!—he just smiled, albeit through gritted teeth!

The move down to Berchtesgaden was completed in three phases. Phase one, the advance party was led by **SSgt (FofS) Tony McMahon** and set off in five landrovers—slightly late as **LCpl 'Taff' Parry** was a bit reluctant to leave his lovely wife **Michelle**. The party eventually arrived at Strb Kaserne late that evening after the Foreman (with his usual map reading skill) had taken us into Austria for a quick tour. That evening there was a barbecue in the Kaserne, so we went along, only to be thrown out by a long haired hippie from California! Not a good day!

Next day the four tonners arrived carrying the cookhouse, canoes, wind surfers and . . . oh . . . the Bar Stock! Finally the main party arrived the next evening after an exhausting ride in a coach hired from the PRI QOH which had no air conditioning and an 80kph speed limit! It is rumoured that **Cpl Jock Lambe** lost 10lbs on the journey—but he didn't look as if he had!

The exercise proper started the next day with the Squadron being split into five groups to sample five adventurous training activities that had been arranged. Luckily with assistance from other units and from the Rec Centre we were able to offer: climbing/abseiling under the German national rock climbing champion, trekking (euphemism for flogging up a mountain) under an instructor from the local Jaeger Battalion, and on the Chiemsee windsurfing under **Sgt Pete Wand**, canoeing under **Lt Scott Workman**, and dinghy sailing under **SSgt (FofS) Tony McMahon, Sgt John Bennett** and **Sig Leon Jennings**. Everyone was allowed one day off to see the local sights of Berchtesgaden, the salt mines, the Konigsee or the Eagles Nest, Hitler's mountain home. There were also a good many parties in the evenings and the finale was a Squadron Barbecue at which we were able to repay some of the incredible hospitality that had been shown to us.

It was an excellent exercise, a real escape and rest from the traumas, tensions and pressures of 1 (BR) Corps and PTARMIGAN/WAVELL 2, and we all returned much refreshed. As a measure of its success, many members of the Squadron have cancelled their leave plans, and have headed south again so as to relive the pleasures of the exercise.

1,970m above sea level we just happened on this little place . . . Sig Steve Phillips, Cpl Tom McCarney, LCpl 'Taff' Parry, Cpl Jock Lambe, and Cpl Gaz Thomas enjoy a well earned litre! LCpl Armstrong in the background looks a bit subdued, as he is getting over being the only Lance Corporal technician in the Squadron

Cfn Andy Armitage making it look easy on a seemingly smooth rockface!

Lt Scott Workman with a class of keen canoeists on the Chiemsee. *Left to Right are:* LCpl Phil Bird, LCpl John Symmons, Sig Paul Powell, Sig Eddy Leek, Sig Gaz Nuttall and Sig Steve Rose

SPORTING POINTS

MORRISON CUP

The Squadron entered this year's Morrison Cup held at Sennelager on 4/5 June with high hopes of getting in the silver. A late change in the rules after the competition had started put paid to our chances, but we stayed on and had an enjoyable competition, nonetheless. **Sig Viv Henry** put in some very creditable times in his events and has gone forward for selection for the BAOR and Army Squads.

LANGEMANNSHOF MARCH

On 27 June after a fairly limited period of training the Squadron team led by **Lt Tim Pender-Johns** and **SSgt (SQMS) Bob Cook** won the annual Langemannshof March. For those readers who do not know Hohne, the Langemannshof March is an annual event organised by a local Netherlands Tank Battalion and consists of a merry jaunt around the Hohne range ring road, some 65Km in all. Our team did it in eight and a half hours with our nearest rivals getting in some two and a half hours after we had finished. This brings the Squadron record for this competition over the last five years to three first, one second, and one third. Perhaps next year there may be some other Corps competition.

ROYAL SIGNALS SAAM

For the first time 201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn competed in the R Signals SAAM at Bulford, prior to going on to Bisley. We did creditably well for a first attempt, winning the Roupell Cup, the LMG Gun Match, the SMG Gun Match and the Section Gun Match. Overall we came second in the Minor Units Competition and we now have something to set our sights on for 1986.

RASAAM BISLEY 1985

The shooting team, hot from their successes at Bulford then went on to compete at Bisley for the second year running. Although we didn't come anywhere in the silver—we certainly bettered our last year's scores and gained valuable experience and training. Congratulations to **Cpl Dave Foster** on his successes.

SQUADRON SUMMER BALL

This Year's Squadron summer ball was held in the Roundhouse, Hohne on 29 July and was organised by **Sgt Gaz Grove** and **Sgt John Dunne**. An excellent (if loud) Disco played for us, and the buffet was prepared under the direction of our Chief Chef, **Cpl Mac MacDonald**. Over 100 people attended which is no bad thing for a maximum leave period, and our thanks and congratulations must go to the organisers for such an excellent function.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

At the end of June the Squadron bade farewell to the Squadron Sergeant Major, **WO2 (SSM) Gerry Whelan** and his wife **Lesley**. He has moved on promotion to 21 Sig Regt as WO1 (RSM) and we all wish them every sucess in the future. In his place we welcome **WO2 (SSM) Mick Boyle** and his wife **Kath** who join us from 212 Sig Sqn in Osnabruck. We also say farewell to **Lt Scott Workman** on his way to be educated at RMCS, **Sgt 'Smudger' Smith** to AAC Harrogate, **Sgt George Frith RAPC** to West London Housing District, **Sgt George Mussellwhite RPC** and **Debbie** who move to Tidworth, **Cpl 'Ginge' Battle** to civilian life, **LCpl Dave Proudlove RPC** (Honorary member, The Wives' Club) back to the UK, and **Pte 'Salty' Salt RPC** to CAD Kineton.

In their places we welcome **2Lt Mark Billingham** from Blandford, **Sgt Pete Want RAPC** and **Michelle** from RMAS, **Sgt Reuben Lynch RPC** and **Pat** all the way from 28 (BR) Sig Regt and **LCpl Sammy McLeod RPC** and **Marie** from 206 Coy RPC.

Congratulations to **Cpl Mick Wray** and **Yvonne** on the birth of their son **Christopher Michael**, and congratulations to **Cpl Wray** on his award of £70.00 from the MOD Suggestions Scheme for his re-design of the AFV 432 Rebro Station.

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 37

NEW ARRIVALS

The Squadron would like to say welcome to the following: **WO2 (YofS) Mick Drake, Sgts Mac McNeil, Charlie O'Neil, Alex Crawford, Mick Pettis, John Riley and Lt Calvin Owen.**

DEPARTURES

And say good-bye to: **WO2 (YofS) John Floyd, Sgts Fred Cottington, Paddy Shuflebottom, Stu Snell** and **Capt David Sullivan**.

Over the last two months the Squadron has put the successful finishing touches to another busy exercise season which saw our first fielding of PTARMIGAN. Ex *Pied Piper*, the Brigade's FTx was made memorable by the heavy rain and **Lt (now Capt) David Sullivan**'s attempt to make his Ferret swim. Ex *Hurst Park*, in complete contrast to last year was a more lively affair and the OC is to be congratulated for taking the Squadron to its first wood location in over a year, whilst the recce team of **Capt Paul Eaton** and **SSgt 'Compo' McKnight** were busy explaining to CO Royal Hussars that while the Brigadier was very grateful to them for looking after our luxurious location near Hannover, he was keen it should be vacated before the return of his HQ. The prompt arrival of the Commander himself assisted the decision-making process! The exercise was also a success for the local cream-cake shops which did a roaring trade.

Sig Sellick on Ex *Hurst Park*

Pte Allen guarding the '6' on Ex *Pied Piper*

EXERCISE *MOUNTAIN DIAMOND* 1985

After an uneventful journey, we started Summer Camp at Bad Tölz, with a guided tour of the camp site by the SSM. It ended at the bar where a more detailed recce was carried out. This site was well run by **Sgt Mike 'never closed' Applegarth** and **LCpl 'Beaver' Mitchell**.

All participated in this years Summer Camp's climbing, with the climbs ranging from very difficult 'upwards'. What with the four girls showing the boys how to do it and **Sig 'Jock' O'Neil** with his new hand holds showing everyone how to do it, fun was had by all.

Sailing due to no wind was about as exciting as a toothache, which reminds me of the occasion when the SSM decided it would be enjoyable to go for a drift. When wind arrived (via SQMS) we managed to break both our boats and the German hire one. Lack of wind didn't deter the canoeists who enjoyed the sun and the opportunity to visit all the topless areas. All groups enjoyed the competitions including **Cpl 'Mr Rotate' Schofield**, and our underwater survey correspondent **Cpl 'Doug' Hassell**.

Windsurfing, a most enjoyable and popular sport done under the watchful stares of **SSM Steve Bailes** and **LCpl 'Panda' Turner**! No one failed windsurfing although **Cpl 'Pugwash the missing link' Keevash**, came close. For after trying for 20 minutes to surf away into the sunset he decided that it could be advantageous to release the mooring rope.

No one really wants to talk about walking done by **Sgt 'Mountain Goat' Clark** and Orienteering by **Sgt 'Gazelle' Cottington**, so we won't.

Fun over and time for serious drinking at the Barbecue given to us by the hard working **SSgt 'Fred the smile' Kirk** and **SSgt 'Tom Thumb' McKnight**, thanks. With work over, we went back to sunny Soltau for a rest.

Sig Wyatt on the Summer Camp Orienteering Course

Canoeing on Summer Camp

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

The past two months have again been very busy for the Squadron. Apart from the normal Bde and Div CPXs, we have had two very important and enjoyable visits as well as a good number of sporting fixtures, with some successes and some near successes!

EXERCISES

The beginning of June saw the arrival of the last of the PTARMIGAN AFV 436s and there followed a few hectic days sorting out the vehicles in preparation for the Regimental work up exercise Ex *Highland Malt* IV. All the vehicles performed well, and so did the crews, which was fortunate as, after a weekend turn-round, the Squadron deployed with the staff on the Div CPX, Ex *Hurst Park*. For the uninitiated PTARMIGAN 'speak' is full of TLAs (three letter abbreviations) and the most gratifying one to hear from the staff is MBK, (magic bit of kit)!

VISITS

Two visits followed one another in the middle of June. As you will have read The Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** visited the Regiment in Verden. A contingent of 45 soldiers from the Squadron travelled to Verden to take part in the parade and the Village Fete. **Cpl Glen Ralston** and a team of linemen built the stalls for the fete and were rewarded on the day by being presented to Her Royal Highness.

Following the Royal visit, Comds Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman** visited to mark the arrival of PTARMIGAN. It was really a 'walk down memory lane' as he had commanded the Squadron when it was 12 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn from 1966-68. As **Gen Yeoman** had seen the arrival of the first armoured staff vehicles and the introduction of BRUIN during his command of the Squadron, it was particularly fitting that he should visit when it converted from BRUIN to PTARMIGAN.

On his arrival, he inspected a barrack guard formed up outside his old office. He then viewed the new PTARMIGAN vehicles set up on the Squadron Square and concluded his visit by presenting **LCpl Taff Fagan** with his LS and GC Medal.

Comd Comms BAOR, Maj Gen Yeoman inspects the barrack guard and talks to LCpl Garry Brooks. The Guard Comd SSgt Dave Mathews (*left*)

Presentation of LS and GC Medal to LCpl Taff Fagan. 'Are you sure they read out the right citation?'

LCpl 'Spider' Webb—all tied up on the command task

SPORT

The sound of leather on willow has been echoing round the Squadron since the arrival of Summer. **Lt Steve Turnbull** has managed to gather together sufficient talent to take to the cricket field. Sadly, oilskins have been the most suitable dress as most of the games played so far have been interrupted by rain. Once again, after one or two friendly games, the Squadron were drawn against 12 Armd Wksps in the first round of the Minor Units Competition and they proved the better side on the day.

In the Garrison Minor Units Tennis Competition the HQ and Sig Sqn team just managed to snatch the title from 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Sadly, the last two months have seen the departure of some stalwart members of the Squadron. **WO2 (YofS) Jim Williamson** has moved to Blandford, (or is it the near-by golf course?) and we wish him and his wife, **Chris**, the best of luck in the future. We have also said our farewell to **Sgt Paddy Fitzgerald, Cpls Dave Slater, John Roose, LCpls Willy Ryan, Pete Collins, Chris Hughes** and **Tomo Tomlinson**. Finally **Sig Tony (PC) Walton** has exchanged his radio relay vehicle for a Panda car and joined the Police Force. The Squadron wishes them all and their families good fortune in their new units.

We welcome **WO2 (YofS) Dave Wright, Sgt Sam Knight,** and **Cpls Graham Westall** and **Dave Hirst**.

As these notes go to print the Squadron has just returned from a 10 day exchange training exercise with the 143d (US) Signal Battalion, whose motto is 'Battle Ready'.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ALLIES

The end of the exercise season became, for 45 men from the Squadron in Osnabruck, 'Get to know your allies time', when they spent a week exchange training with the 143 Sig Bn, part of the US 3 Armd Div in Frankfurt.

The week coined 'survivability training' by the American's CO **Lt Col Joe G. Ricker**, consisted of live firing a number of US Army weapons; a section leadership reaction course (Command tasks to the Brits); NBC training and a miles exercise (small arms battle simulator). When all the work was finished the week's exchange culminated in a barbecue and sports day. To achieve full integration the British troops were divided into three groups, each group attaching itself to an American company, and within the company each man had his own American sponsor, achieving a real international buddy system.

As well as time spent in the barracks getting to know their American partners socially and comparing each others' life-styles both at work and at play, all the troops became involved as each company, in turn spent two days at the Wildflecken training area during the Battalion's annual camp. During that time all the soldiers from 212 were able to qualify on the M16 assault rifle and also fire other weapons including the M203 grenade launcher or M60 machine gun. Following up the range week was a round robin of more common soldiering skills. During the NBC tests the two groups were able to assess respective NBC survival clothing and be subjected to the standard name and number chamber tests. One field in which all were able to compete on an equal footing was the leadership reaction exercises, with each group working as a small syndicate, each man was given his problem to solve.

At the end of the field training period American GIs had the opportunity of savouring the British experience by firing the SLR and either the SMG or LMG. Reactions were mixed between satisfaction at the harder hitting power, to surprise at the greater kick in comparison with the M16.

The last day of the exchange saw the battle lines drawn for the American versus British sports day featuring softball, volleyball, cricket and rugby union. Honours were about even with the American rugby team having trained secretly all week, forcing the highlight of the afternoon to a very close game, the Americans finally coming out on top 8—4.

With the prospect of many exchange visits to come, this highly successful initial contact between the two allies joined by a common language, was summed up by the OC **Maj Adrian Schuler**. 'It is not necessary that we leave here with a detailed description of their equipment. It is more important that we get to know what their soldiers think'.

OC Maj Adrian Schuler presents CO 143 Sig Bn Col Joe G. Ricker with a memento of the Squadron's visit. The Signal Squadron looks on

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

HAVE YOU INFORMED 'THE WIRE'?

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

1 SQUADRON

EXERCISE *BRAVE DEFENDER*

A/ADJT GOES ON EXERCISE

Report by Lt Alison Mann WRAC

Having escaped the first week of one hundred per cent compo due to my underwater activities, I arrived at Dingwall in the early hours of Sunday morning. After wading through the MEL with OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Iain Robertson**, I went out on my first incident led by **Lt Alfie Brand** and his merry band. Our aim was to get men into the Royal Naval tank farm at Invergordon. We were very successful and five got in; unfortunately, I didn't quite make it through the barbed wire fence, and got chased round the streets by an armoured car, but managed to escape. That evening the police stopped me for kerb crawling in a 'red' Cavalier and so we thought it was time to leave Invergordon and move elsewhere.

Our Shetland group returned after a rather rough crossing, 10 out of 12 were seasick, as did the Loch Ewe rabble led by **Capt Colin (I've hurt my foot) Whittaker**.

We then moved to the RAF Kinloss community centre where OC Peace Demonstration gathered up his protestors. I had to play the unfortunate role of a pregnant woman (father not known). So with loud hailers, banners and bags of rotting fruit and veg we proceeded up the main Kinloss runway! The main group then split up into splinter groups; myself and **Lt Gill Potts** (a comrade from the infamous WRAC 6 and Yorkshire TV fame) attempted to climb a 12ft fence, we made it, ripping our jeans on the way, to the delight of our fellow protestors. We then went to sleep in the middle of the dispersal pens, and I went into labour from the shock of having a gun pointed at me. Unfortunately, I miscarried due to the ill-treatment from the RAF; they didn't consider a doctor necessary! The rest of the protestors were captured eventually, though they had problems getting a group out of a Nimrod—they had locked themselves inside—hoping to fly off somewhere sunny!

The next incident I became involved in was as a member of **Lt Barry (where's my dog?) Keegan's** fighting patrol. Our aim was to take out the Sergeants' Mess and main generator. At various times during the night six patrols were attacking various installations.

Our patrol set off armed not only with weapons but a massive pair of bolt cutters! Our first objective caused my nose to get attacked by a gorse bush, a canoe damaged—they don't show up at night—and a couple of glass doors belonging to the Sergeants' Mess. But, we reached our objective, put pink chalk on the wall and shot our way out.

A mention must go the dreaded green Cavalier who seemed to follow us everywhere, so we decided to chase it in a Landrover; we were never quite quick enough so we left if alone, after being told we couldn't set up VCPs on public roads. The vehicle turned out to be a 'sneaky beaky' policeman informing the RAF of suspicious looking groups and Army Landrovers, so the RAF tended to know in advance where we might attack next—not really fair play!

Our next attack target, the main generator, was best taken by blasting our way in with a Landrover, having cut the wire previously, and firing the 'Charlie-G' off the back (a thunderflash really). We captured the main generator, taking out several sangars on the way, but on our way out the umpires made us stop whilst we sorted out who was or wasn't dead. It was hard to understand how someone could be dead when the chap shooting him didn't have a magazine on his SMG!

We returned to Dingwall and to bed before our next bit of soldiering. The next incident and our last of the exercise took place at RAF Lossiemouth. Again a series of patrols were sent in to take out key installations inside the station.

Capt Colin Whittaker's and **Maj Iain Robertson's** patrols were both to attack the station Ops Room. One group painted a Landrover with yellow stripes and dressed up as RAF, whilst our group set up our own ops room inside camp and suddenly took off our white umpire armbands and became enemy. The attack was extremely successful—we managed to get right inside their Ops Cell, **Capt Colin Whittaker** putting his foot through the glass door. **Maj Iain Robertson**, with great expertise, managed to abduct the Station Commander as he was getting out of his car.

The patrols came back, in dribs and drabs, and we finally got back to Dingwall in time for a piece of real bacon! For us the exercise had finished and it was back to York to carry on our real role. But no doubt the 'Rambo' stories will last for a while!

VISIT OF COMMANDER TRAINING GROUP ROYAL SIGNALS

On Wednesday 28 August **Brig F. R. Maynard** made a brief visit to the Regiment at Imphal Barracks. After coffee with the officers and warrant officers the Brigadier addressed the Regiment on the square.

In his address he stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of training. He expressed his delight at being able to present prizes to **Lt Robin Clapp** and **LCpl Kevin Curlett** for their attainments at RMCS Shrivenham and the Trade Training School at Catterick.

Finally **Brig Maynard** presented the Meritorious Service Medal to **WO1 (RQMS) Tex Rainger**, The Royal Horseguards/Dragoons (Blues and Royals).

Lt Robin Clapp receives his prize for attainment at RMCS Shrivenham from the Brigadier

Brig Maynard presents the trade training prize to LCpl Curlett

INTER-TROOP CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

The Inter-Troop Cross-Country race took place at Imphal Barracks, York on Friday 20 September in perfect weather conditions. The mass start on the playing field included the CO, **Lt Col R. H. G. Elford MBE** whom the Adjutant had ordered to attend! The recently arrived 'Super Stars' **Sig Vile** and **LCpl Freeman** soon took up the lead with **Sig Andy Green** in contention. **Sig Green**, being a 100m runner, lasted only 100m and then fell back into the pack!

The pre-race favourites **Sig Mark 'Wally' Vile** and **LCpl Peter 'The Jogger' Freeman** soon showed their obvious class and developed a big lead, forming a race of their own, up front. It transpired it is better to be a 'Wally' than a 'Jogger' as the ex-junior international **Sig Vile** swept ahead and won quite convincingly. Further back a race was developing for the minor places in which **Cpl Alan Sallis, LCpl 'Big Al' Holyoak, Maj Johnny 'The Boss' Rollins** and **Cpl Charlie 'I've retired' Foster** were all in contention. **Cpl Charlie Foster** proved that even with his drinking and smoking habits he has still got 'it', and he soon moved ahead of the pack and jogged in, to take third place.

In the Inter-Troop competition 2 Div Staff/Mike Tp/Pay Office albeit with no real star **(Capt (TOT) Matt Campbell** was injured) packed their runners high enough up in the field to take the trophy. Full results were as follows:

'Can you feel anything Mr Rainger?'
Brig Maynard presents the Meritorious Service Medal to WO1 (RQMS) Tex Rainger

Some runners even took time out to look for worms

Individual Results:

1st	—	**Sig Vile**	Fox Troop
2nd	—	**LCpl Freeman**	RHQ
3rd	—	**Cpl Foster**	RHQ

Veterans (Over 40):

1st	—	**WO1 (ASM) Hague**	LAD

Team Results:

1st — 2 Div Staff/Mike Tp/Pay Office
2nd — Comhead Tp
3rd — Fox Tp

SSgt Balch and Cpl McKnight take great pleasure viewing Lt Alison Mann romping through the mud, she certainly enjoyed it too!

A REPORT ON THE CROSS KEYS BIMBLERS

Report by Lt R. N. Clapp

At 0530 hrs on 22 September a group of people assembled outside 2 Sqn Office block. It was a Sunday. Was it a clandestine meeting of the Special Air Service or a plot to overthrow the Government? The shadowy figures had appeared from differing locations; the Sergeants' Mess, Harrogate, Strensall and the living-in accommodation. The six men climbed into a GS Landrover and headed for RAF North Luffenham. Here they joined one other man, reported to a desk set in a hangar and started on their mission.

Their mission, since they had chosen to accept it, was to walk the 25 miles around Rutland Water in aid of the British Heart Foundation. The seven men were **Lt Robin Clapp, WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison, Sgt 'Porridge' Rice, Cpls 'Al' Westhoff, Eddie Mooney, 'Al' Hallgate** and **LCpl Gary Mountain**. All completed the walk within seven hours, in varying stages of pain, ranging from sore to heavily blistered feet. The weather had been brilliant for the bimble and it was an excellent day out. On returning to York, certificate and medal firmly grasped in hand, the task now was to collect the sponsor money. A rough estimate puts our contributions to the British Heart Foundation as £100—almost £10 a blister!

210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Elford**
2IC	**Capt Nick Blampied**
OC HQ Tp	**Capt Henry Jennings**
OC O Tp	**Lt Gary Mason**
OC P Tp	**SSgt Gerry Knight**
SSM	**WO2 George Hedge**
YofS	**WO2 Mick Taylor**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Campbell**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt John O'Donnell**

RETIREMENT OF CAPT HENRY JENNINGS

Sadly the Squadron has had to say farewell to **Capt Henry Jennings** after 37 years service in the Corps. The Squadron marked the occasion by holding a formal parade (including the Corps Band) at Somme Barracks, Catterick Garrison on 19 September.

Amongst those who attended the parade was **WO2 (CSM) Rakocevic** a representative from the 1st Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment (the 'Glorious Gloucesters') with whom **Capt Jennings** served in the Korean War. During the campaign **Capt Jennings** was Mentioned in Despatches and was awarded the Distinctive Emblem by the US Forces.

We feel sure that his many friends and acquaintances would want to join us in extending to **Henry** and his wife **Jan** our sincere good wishes for the best of luck in the future.

Capt Jennings boards the *Henry J*, watched by the Squadron Boarding Party

CHARITY MARCH TO YORK
Report by Lt G. R. Mason

Two members of Oscar Tp were talking one day—over some liquid refreshments—when it was mentioned, 'what a nice idea it might be to do a charity march to York', (some 50 miles away).

My attempts at quashing the idea failed hopelessly; and so on a rainy, windy August midnight the team assembled in Catterick for the yomp to York. It's worth mentioning that the two individuals mentioned above had found other things to do by this stage. The team consisted of: Team Leader **Lt Garry Mason**, Marchers **Sgts Tommy Burns, John Wykes ACC, Cpls 'Al' Chapman, 'Chippy' Davies, 'Andy' Lebillon, 'Joe' Turner, LCpls 'Jim' Cameron, 'Fred' Kirkpatrick, 'Jock' Tierney, 'Taff' Mallany, Sig 'Graham' Smith, 'Simon' Wallace, 'Dicky' Bird, 'Steve' Walker** and **Sig 'Steve' Blunsden**.

The March was completed without any great difficulty, except that I decided to test my suitability for 'P Coy' by falling out of the back of a four Tonner and sustaining a broken arm.

Having received treatment and with my arm in plaster, I returned to the team to complete the march.

On arrival at our finish point at York General Hospital, (my second visit of the day) we were met by representatives of the hospital to whom we handed over a cheque for £500.00 in sponsorship money to be used for the benefit of the children's ward; and to show their appreciation the staff of the hospital invited all the team to drinks and a buffet in the evening which rounded off what we consider was a very worthwhile venture.

Squadron 'Charity March Team', note the 'Beast' *bottom right* is not the Squadron mascot but Sgt Johnny Wykes ACC our ever popular chef

Lt Mason presents a cheque for £500 to the staff of York District Hospital 'note he has gone to pot'

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Since our last *Wire* notes the following people have joined the squadron. **LCpl Higgins** from 16 Sig Regt and **Sig Dring** from 8 Sig Regt.

Departures are **LCpl (now Cpl) 'Tam' Bennie** to 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Sig (now LCpl) 'Paddy' Doidge** to 28 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Snowy' White** to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt and finally **Cpl 'Pete' Garman** to his T1 Course at 8 Sig Regt.

EXERCISE *BRAVE DEFENDER*
A Report by SSgt G. N. F. Knight

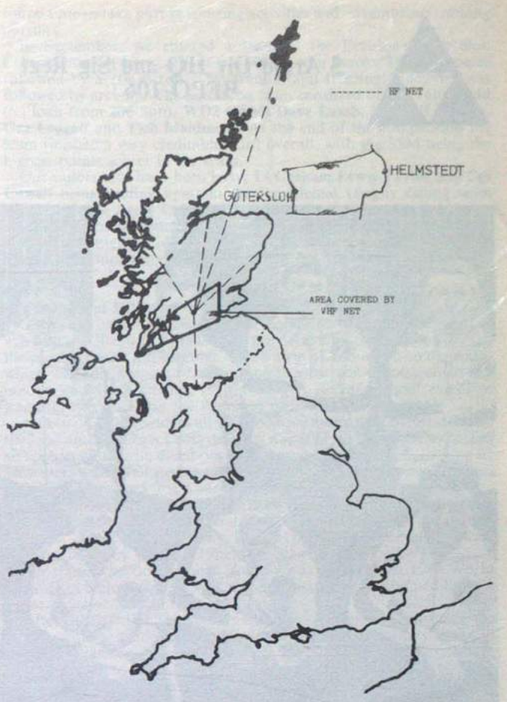
Ex *Brave Defender* provided a departure from the normal role of the squadron. Our job was to provide HF and secure VHF Umpire control comms over the whole of Scotland. The extent of the HF net covered Shetland in the north, Dumfries in the south, the Outer Hebrides in the west and Aberdeen in the east.

The VHF net stretched from Dundee in the north east to Dumfries in the south, with Campbelltown on the Mull of Kintyre being our most westerly station, one of the links holding this together was 75 miles long. A look at the accompanying map demonstrates the size of the area covered by the VHF net alone, in comparison with the whole of 1 (BR) Corps area, no mean feat for a Brigade Signal Squadron! Of course with just our normal resources, the task would have been difficult, if not impossible. 2 Inf Div at York helped out with two RRBs, a Relay and a number of terminal radio detachments. Thanks York, for once we couldn't have done it without you!

Control for the exercise was located at Drip Camp, Stirling, the camp being situated at the junction of the rivers Forth and Tieth. Within hours of reaching the camp the angling fraternity were hard at work along the bank attempting to wreak havoc on the migrating salmon. Sadly, at the time of writing not a single salmon has been caught, but hope springs eternal and all that.

'May I have Santa please', Maj Gen Inge, GOC 2 Inf Div speaks to Shetland over the HF Net. LCpl 'Smudge' Smith obviously doesn't want to be recognised by the General

Lt Col R. H. G. Elford, CO 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt vs Maj A. H. G. Elford OC 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn. Note who is umpiring the match!



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THE IRON DIVISION TRIATHLON COMPETITION

The Regiment fielded three teams in the Divisional Triathlon Competition. Competitors were required to swim 800m across the Mohnesee, then run 10Kms round a cross country course and finally shoot five arrows into an archery target. The Regiment's teams came a very creditable third, fifth and seventh from a field of nearly 20 teams from the Division. Special mention should go to the 1 Sqn team who came third overall. Also **WO2 (SSM) Dave Lumb** came second in the archery event, **LCpl Mark Bradley** was third in the swimming event and **Sig Dave Eyre** was sixth overall.

Back Row: Sgt Ibbotson, Sig Peel, Cpl Dean, Capt Harking, Sig Robbins, Sig Geeves, Sig Leggett, WO2 Lumb
Front Row Kneeling: Capt Davies-Scourfield, Capt Forster, Sig Maidment, LCpls Bradley, Bryant, Sig Eyre

SAILING CHAMPIONSHIPS
3 ARMD DIV A AND B SAILING TEAMS
ALMOST A DRAW

A Team	*B Team*
WO2 (FofS) D. Ellis	**Cpl C. Cowell**
Lt G. M. Lewis-Taylor	**Sig P. Downie**
SSgt S. Bromidge	**Sig T. Cox**
Sig S. Richardson	**Maj A. Duncan**
Sig J. Driver	**LCpl L. Hart**
Sig S. Harper	**WO2 (RQMS) R. Atkinson**

The excellent entry of 12 teams who turned out for the 3 Armd Div Sailing Championships at the Mohnesee were greeted by moderate to fresh winds and the prospect of some exciting racing. The teams raced in three leagues, with two from each league going through to the semi-final stage. 3 ADSR A and B teams both came through their leagues with three wins apiece, the other strong teams being 22 AD Regt and 26 Engr Regt. By Friday morning the wind had freshened to Force 5 making downwind sailing, especially gybing, a hair-raising experience. Racing became an endurance exercise rather than a team event, with 3 ADSR A and B teams surviving best to meet in the final. Despite the wind, and early gear failure the teams produced some very close and high standard team racing. Though **Cpl Chas Cowell, Sig Paul Downie** and **Sig Tim Cox** took the initiative early, **FofS Dave Ellis** and **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor** pulled through to take first and second places. **SSgt Stu Bromidge** was not so fortunate and capsized in both races, but still came up smiling to hear that the A team won the Championship by the narrowest of margins—half a point.

Photo shows the successful A and B teams 'offering refreshment' to a happy CO and RSM

HQ SQUADRON
TM TROOP, PRISON ANNEX
Report by SSgt Hindmarsh

With the assistance of the escape committee, I have finally managed to smuggle out these brief lines to let fellow readers know that TM Troop is alive and well and serving various terms of 'imprisonment' here at the infamous 'Prison Annex' technical workshops of San Sebastian Barracks (telephone ext 278 but don't call us—we'll call you!). Having been an inmate for 18 months now I felt it was time we were put 'on the map'. Geographical Note; Just south of sunny Soest in the Hoch Sauerland.

At the moment we are in the 'lull before the storm' as the dreaded PTARMIGAN creature looms on the horizon. Dictionary Note; PTARMIGAN (t-)n, bird of grouse family which turns white in the winter. Well, the Prison Annex certainly turns white in the winter—but after having quizzed the lads the only grouse we could come up with comes from the NAAFI and retails at DM12.50 a bottle. Financial Note; That's £3.10 at the current rate of DM4.02, eat your hearts out!

Our intrepid Foreman of Signals, **WO2 Dave Ellis** continually confounds the guards by escaping to UK where he wins medals and certificates for 'messing about on the river' and all things nautical.

Sgt Derek Payne, missing from photo 'cause he was playing Hockey/Rugby/Football etc, is now facing the perils of two children. Medical Note; Well done **Jan** on the birth of **Michael** at BMH Iserlohn on 11 September at 0200 hrs.

Sgt Steve Casey is also rejoicing, but this is because in November he gets parole which he will serve in Northern Ireland for six weeks. Conciliatory Note; Sorry **Steve,** but you'll have to come back in January to finish your sentence! **Cpl Howard Moseley** is making everyone jealous driving around in his flashy Porshe turbo whilst **LCpl Andy Garrett** continues to astound us with his Evil Knievel dare devil stunts on his Z1000R2 Kawasaki mean machine. **Cpl Ty Elliot** sends his love to the scintillating **Sandy** of Mill Hill whilst **Cpl Mark Gummow**'s German lass, **Beate Schikelgruber,** prefers personal visits. Historical Note; No relation.

The two new arrivals **LCpls Scouse Jones** and **Martin Kendal** have settled in their cells well, the former escaping on weekends to Langlauf around German countryside and the latter stows away with **FofS Ellis** on his watery wanderings.

Not in the photo are the comcen crew, **Cpl Colin 'see you now' Gordon** and **LCpl Ian 'Salmonella' Putnam**. Theirs is a happy life spent well away from our dismal confines.

STOP PRESS

Ex *Techs Triangle 85*. A special mention must go to **LCpl Kendal** who was a member of the runners up team, and, of course, **SSgt 'Albatosh' Hindmarsh** who actually was amongst the winning team.

SSgt 'Tosh' Hindmarsh, Cpl 'Gums' Gummow, LCpl 'Jock' Kendall, Cpl 'Ty' Elliott, Sgt 'Steve' Casey, Cpl 'H' Moseley, LCpls 'Andy' Garrett, 'Scouse' Jones and WO2 'Mr Elusive' Dave Ellis

1 SQUADRON

The high point of September, was the arrival of the new Sqn Comd **Maj Ron Abbott**, fresh from the corridors of power at UKLF. **Maj Abbott** immediately threw himself into the job, and soon made his presence felt. This means, of course, that **Capt Jim Adam** has had to be dragged screaming from the top office, and put back in his broom cupboard at the end of the corridor.

Whilst the hectic activities of preparing for PRE, the Ord inspection and the changeover to PTARMIGAN continue, the Squadron has also found time to take part in sporting activities and adventurous training pursuits.

In September, we entered a team in the Divisional Triathlon Competition. It consisted of an 800m swim across The Mohnesee followed by a 10Km run. This frantic (and freezing!!) activity was followed by archery. The Squadron team consisted of **2Lt John Field** (on loan from 206 Sqn), **WO2 (SSM) Dave Lumb, Sig Taff Robins, Gaz Leggett** and **Tich Maidment**. At the end of the competition the team finished a very creditable third overall, with the SSM being the highest points scorer in the team.

Our sailors too, have been busy; **Lt Graham Lewis-Taylor** and **Cpl Cowell** being leading lights in the Regimental Dinghy sailing team which won the Army Cup.

On the domestic sporting scene, the Squadron acquitted themselves well in the inter-squadron hockey and rugby competitions coming second and third respectively.

CANOEING
Report by Cpl Pallister

On our arrival in Sonthofen for 1 Sqn Summer Camp the weather was into the 30's which made the water level a bit on the low side. On the recce, I found a footbridge with a drop of about 15ft to the water which was 10ft deep and freezing, perfect for seal entries; obviously novices could not attempt such a dangerous feat without extensive training, two hours on the Alpensee had them fully trained!

And so on to the bridge; all who took part were apprehensive to say the least and **Sig Chris Cross** deserves a special mention here as he was so frightened that he dived out of the canoe as we were launching it. However, with a few gentle words of reassurance he climbed back in, and even came back for a second go.

After the first go, all involved tried different variations backwards, sidewards and eventually without a paddle, as someone forgot to hold onto his, namely **Sig Chunky King**. The troops were all budding Richard Fox's by now, so I mention Stage Two: Augsberg.

For those who don't know, Augsberg is the German 1985 World Champion Slalom course, bringing a taste of fear to any paddler, let alone novices.

After the first 100m there were a few British soldiers swimming the course with a canoe and paddle in tow, congratulations to **LCpl Sammy Johnstone** for getting through the 'Big' Stopper, shame about the standing waves though.

After seal entries and Augsberg the 20Km descent of the River Iller was childs play, all found it thoroughly enjoyable and scenic, floating along with the odd splash of the over confident.

Well done to those who took part; amongst the many were **Cpl Steve Frampton, LCpls Sammy Johnstone, Mac McIntyre, Revill** and **'Turkey' McRoberts**, and last but not least **Sig Andy Donald, Gupta Rothery, 'Fitz' Fitzgerald, Bonnie Langford, 'Pat' Pattison, 'Mac' MacDonald**, and the LAD support, **Cfn 'Windows' Carter** who did a good job keeping the wheels going.

2 SQUADRON
HIERARCHY

OC	**Maj Bob Wannell**
2IC/OC Oscar	**Capt Bruce Avison**
AO	**Lt Fred Bancroft**
SSM	**WO2 Andy Hickling**
YofS	**SSgt Sam McElreavey**
2IC Oscar Tp	**2Lt Andy Fletcher**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Norrie Clanachan**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Kevin Thornber**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt John Hatch**
OC Tango Tp	**Sgt Phil Crowther**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Neil Turnbull**
SQMS	**SSgt Bill Allan**
Techs	**SSgt Stu Bromidge**

THE TROOPS

Radio Tp have had a busy time recently, bearing the brunt of a number of varied Regimental commitments. Detachments have been deployed as far afield as Scotland for Ex *Brave Defender*, to 1 (GE) Panzer Division for Ex *Trutzige Sachsen*, to RAF(G) for Ex *Lucky Strike* and the troop as a whole to 4 Armd Bde for Ex *Quarter Final*.

Oscar Tp have had their own problems, in addition to these exercises, with vehicles being backloaded in preparation for PTARMIGAN conversion, but as always, are still smiling. **SSgt Norrie Clanachan** continues to reminisce about last year's brewery trip.

Tango Tp are also busy, keeping our vehicles and equipment well serviced. For those who don't know, Tango Tp includes all other essential elements of the Squadron, not included in Oscar or Radio. **SSgt Bromidge** continues to sail (and very well!) and **Sgts Neil Turnbull** and **Phil Crowther** run quite well too. The remainder work very hard.

ARRIVALS/FAREWELLS

Capt Steve Heath has departed for 21 Sig Regt and we send him and his wife **Anne** our best wishes. They are replaced by **Capt Bruce Avison** and his wife **Carolyn**; who arrive, fresh from RMCS and raring to go (what!).

Two newly commissioned officers have also been taken on the books. They might be called Messrs 'Autumn and Spring', although **Lt Fred Bancroft** and **2Lt Andy Fletcher** will have to argue the toss over who is who.

Cpl Tom Holmes and **Cpl** (well done) **Chris Binns** have also departed, as well as **Sig Martin Hoyt**. We also bid farewell and good luck in civvy street to **LCpl Dave Owen**—have you tried on the demob suit yet?

Other arrivals from training are **Sig Mungo Murdoch, Tonto Pettit** and his wife **Christine** (congratulations) and **Steve 'Funky' Gibbins**. All are welcome and good luck in your first posting.

MARATHON RUNNING

The Squadron has a number, a large number, of strong runners, and this is reflected in the speed of the daily run. Note: the 2IC nearly went AWOL after his first run, having had three years pen pushing, but, take note 37 Degree Course, is now down to a 10½ minute BFT! The Squadron put in teams for the Verden and Berlin Marathons as reported here by the SSM, **WO2 Andy Hickling**, (who was, by the way, very involved in persuading the 2IC not to go AWOL!).

After our success in the Inter Squadron Cross Country, a strong Marathon Team emerged, led by **Sgt Neil Turnbull**. Over the past month, the team entered two major marathon events, the Royal Signals Marathon at Verden, and the Berlin. A team of nine entered the first of these, doing exceptionally well against many of the major units, and the Squadron team finished Runners Up in the Major Unit competition.

Notable performances were:

Sgt Neil Turnbull	2 hr 47 min
LCpl Ned Kelly	2 hr 50 min
Sig Stephen Lloyd	3 hr 30 min

A fortnight after the Verden Marathon, the team joined some 11,000 runners in the Berlin Marathon. Contrary to rumours, the SSM didn't just attend to revisit old 'haunts' in Berlin, but had chosen this particular venue, as the course was apparently conducive to a good time (I mean fast time!).

A team of eight runners travelled up to Berlin, including a guest, **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Atkinson** (a chaperon maybe). Needless to say, a good time was had by all, although the marathon itself was given first priority. This was reflected in the times:

Sgt Neil Turnbull	2 hr 44 min
LCpl Ned Kelly	2 hr 50 min
WO2 Andy Hickling	3 hr 20 min
WO2 Bob Atkinson	3 hr 30 min
Sig Stephen Lloyd	3 hr 34 min
LCpl Don Donnelly	3 hr 42 min

The night life did, however, catch up with **LCpl Brad Bradley** and **Sig Robbo Robertson**, although they both finished in just over four hours, even though they were a little worse for wear.

Training has already begun for the next big marathon adventure, New York 86.

Top row, left to right: Sgt Neil Turnbull, SSM Andy Hickling, LCpl Don Donnelly; *front row:* LCpls Ned Kelly, Brad Bradley and Sig Stephen Lloyd

3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Allan Duncan**
2IC	**Capt David Vardy**
SSM	**WO2 Derek Coker**
YofS	**SSgt Tim Langford**
SQMS	**SSgt Gus Honey**
Tech SNCO	**SSgt Rod Whateley**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Ray Webb**
OC Papa Tp	**Lt Kit Lewis**
SSgt Papa Tp	**SSgt George Cook**
OC November Tp	**Lt Steve May**
SSgt November Tp	**SSgt Philip Atherton**

EXERCISE *FYN TRIANGLE*

Lt Kit Lewis and **SSgt Don Chester** recently took eight members of the Squadron for a week's sea canoeing in the Baltic. The aim of the expedition was to canoe through the Fyn group of Islands for approximately 150Km, supported by the shore party led by **Lt Lewis**. The canoeists would be fed and accommodated at camp sites along the way.

The first two days were easy canoeing, with good weather and calm seas. This enabled the group to discover their capabilities and to get into the rhythm of sea canoeing. This was vital, as the rest of the expedition was to be self sufficient and would entail travelling further each day with fully laden canoes.

Three days later a wet, tired and bedraggled group of canoeists made a rendezvous with the shore party. They had fought through rough seas, force six winds, a couple of capsizes and a dangerous night crossing. On reflection, the expedition had taught them valuable lessons, not only about canoeing, but about themselves.

The shore party had not been idle either. Providing safety cover, liaising with coastguards and beach recce are hard work too! **Lt Kit Lewis** managed to pick up a little Danish on the trip as well! Enough said.

A perfect start to day one

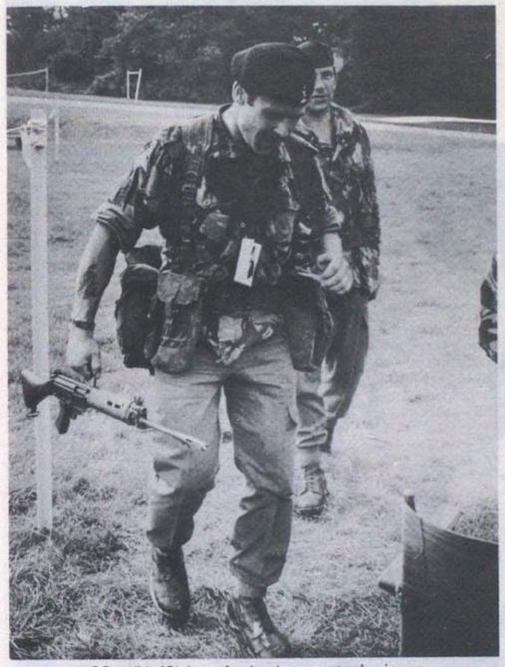
Cpl Beggs—Svendborg Harbour

THE DUNCAN CUP

How a quiet nature ramble became a full blooded March and Shoot Competition, is now part of Squadron history. **SSgt George Cook** organised it, **Maj Allan Duncan** named it, and the whole Squadron ran in it. The Duncan cup was born!

The aim was to navigate an 11 mile course in the fastest time with penalty points for poor shooting. Throughout the day the Squadron was visited by the CRA, **Brig G. P. R. Ransby** and the DCOS, **Col J. D. McDonald OBE**. Both the visitors were impressed with the enthusiasm and determination shown by the competitors.

SSgt (YofS) Tim Langford showed that he has what it takes (even at his age) by coming first with a time of 1 hr 47 mins. SHQ used the confusion of the moment to snatch the Cup from Papa Troop. Until next time . . .



SSgt (YofS) Langford—the eventual winner

100m Range—NBC phase

'The Cheerleaders'
Liz Coker, Frances Cook and Lorraine Dooley

The first runner away. Maj Allan Duncan. *L—R:* OC, SSM, Sgts Lambird, Wilkinson

SQUADRON PARTY

The 3 Sqn 'Doom and Disaster' fancy dress party was held on Friday 13 September in the 206 Sig Sqn Club. The standard of the party was excellent and everybody enjoyed the dancing, drinks and the superb buffet. As the evening came to a close and farewells were said, there was no hint of what was to come (up/out) later.

As Monday dawned, the truth became apparent. Less than 10% of the Squadron were on parade. Mutiny? Mass Desertion? Nothing of the sort. That 'magnificent buffet' so recently admired, was in reality holding a party of its own deep in the stomachs of all those who had dared to eat it! The medics have since diagnosed salmonella food poisoning and most of 3 Sqn took an unscheduled week-off.

Any rumours that the next Squadron party will be a 'bed pan and bucket' party may or may not be true. What is certain is that there will not be a buffet!

Finally best wishes to **2Lt Heather Collins** (Oxford UOTC) and **O/Cdt John Cox** (London UOTC) who were attached to the Squadron for a fortnight. We hope that they enjoyed their stay with the Squadron and that we haven't wrecked their future careers!

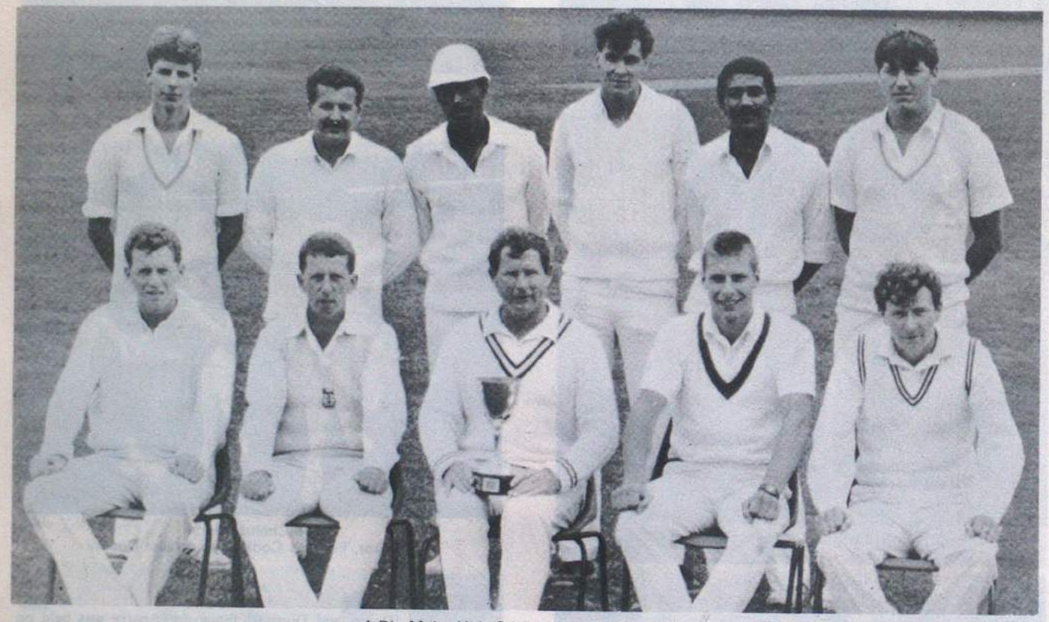
4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

REGIMENTAL CRICKET TEAM 1985

For the third year running the Regimental Cricket Team has won the 4 Armd Div Major Unit Championship.

Pictured below is the victorious team after the final, which was played at Kingsley Barracks, Minden the HQ of 11 Armd Bde.

On the path to victory the team played the following major units.
10 Regt RCT won by 19 runs
13/18H won by 6 wkts
Final 4 Armd Div Tpt Regt won by 7 wkts



4 Div Major Unit Cricket Champions 1985
L to R Back Row: Cpl Andrew Matless, Cpl Dave Griffiths, Sig Glen Bailey, LCpl Andy Lidstone, Cpl Roger Thompson, Cpl Adrian Bain
L to R Front Row: Lt Steve Vickery, Sgt Nigel Scott, Capt (QM) Ian Buckley, LCpl Richard Matless, Sig Bob Garrett

1 SQUADRON
REORGANISATION

The Squadron has recently converted from BRUIN to PTARMIGAN. This was an operation, not under anaesthetic, which took many months of hard work to achieve. Lost to the historical records of the Corps were Commcen Golf and Hotel. Brought into being were Panther, Kiwi and Cheetah Troops (Trunk Nodes) and Serval Troop (SCRA Centrals). The new management is

OC Sqn	**Maj Stephen Galpin**
Sqn 2IC	**Capt Paul Taylor**
SSM	**WO2 John Wooders**
FofS	**WO2 Andy Roberts**
YofS	**SSgt Andy Baron**
SQMS	**SSgt Phil Boon**

Panther Troop	Cheetah Troop
Lt Steve Vickery	**2Lt Neil Stevens**
SSgt Eddie Tunks	**SSgt Alan Hibberd**

Kiwi Troop	Serval Troop
Capt Colin Richardson	**2Lt Greg Horn**
	Sgt Ian Emmerson

RNZ Signals
SSgt Pete Probin

PTARMIGAN TRAINING

The majority of 1 Sqn reported to Caithness Barracks, Verden for training. Lesson one was how to spell PTARMIGAN. This was followed by several weeks of classroom instruction from the ever helpful PIU. The first hands-on training came on Ex *Sold Fight*, during which the following observations were noted:

RR Op: 'It must be sod's law again.'
D Tg: 'Another game of orange space invaders.'
RR Tech: 'Where do I plug in the bottle?'
TE Tech: 'I should become a short hand typist.'
Cbt Pmn Dvr: 'I can't sleep, the generator's too quiet.'
Node Comd: 'What, no quad maps?'

LCpl Paul Davies tuning a VHF radio in his SCRA Central detachment

APRÈS PTARMIGAN

Since the Squadron is back at full strength the sports have improved. The Inter Squadron Dinghy Regatta was won by the windblown team of the OC Sqn, OC Serval Troop, **LCpl Pearce** and **Sig Ketley**.

SQUADRON BOXING

The Squadron also won the Regimental Inter Squadron Boxing Championship. The team coached and persuaded by **SSgt Alan Hibberd** produced some spectacular performances. **Sig Scott Smith** deservedly won not only the Bantam Weight Title but also the Sharp Trophy for the Best Boxer of the Championships. **LCpl Taff Maul** won the Welter Weight Title, **Cpl Rick Norman** was runner up at Light Heavyweight and **Sig Stan Leighton** was awarded the Fearnought Trophy for the Best Losing Finalist.

Sig Bob Garrett The 'Team Coach'

2 SQUADRON
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Derek Howshall**
2IC	**Capt Neil Swainson**
OC A1 Tp	**Lt Steve Wallis**
OC A3 Tp	**Lt Julian Bunce**
SSM	**WO2 John Mullender**
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Dalton**
FofS	**WO2 Orph Mable**
YofS	**SSgt Mick Brady**

MILITARY TRAINING

With the summer 'lull' in exercise commitments upon us, the SSM and Yeoman took the opportunity to relieve the boredom by organising a two day Inter-Troop military training competition on the Minden training area.

DAY ONE

All five sections lined up for equipment inspections at 0630. At 0650 hrs one nonchalant member of 3 Section cycled past the parade enquiring who had changed the timings on Squadron Orders without first informing him. This set the pattern for points deduction for the rest of the day which was spent between the ranges and training area in shooting and fieldcraft competitions.

After a forced march to a designated patrol base area, each section was given an area of responsibility to occupy and defend for the night. A short time later the SSM moved in to give his verdict and mark sections on their efforts. His comments ranged from 'Very tactical and covert' to 'Is Billy Smart using this when you lot leave?'

After an evening meal the sections set out on a 10 mile night navigation exercise through five pre-determined checkpoints. Most of them completed the course in under two hours and some even in the correct sequence. Tired men returned to the bivvy area for a well deserved night's sleep, unfortunately the SSM had forgotten to tell the enemy and **Cpls Waite** and **George** attacked at irregular intervals throughout the night.

DAY TWO

The dawn chorus was broken by yet another attack and the sections were given an hour to pack up and be ready for inspection, this done they all sat down to a hearty breakfast. Immediately after breakfast it was back on with the cam cream and sections set out on a round of military training stands which tested section knowledge on First Aid, Soviet Recognition, Ambush Drills and NBC. At the end of a tiring two days the sections returned to Herford for a 'Happy Hour' and the presentation of the 'Kerr Anvil' to the winning section commander, who this year was **LCpl Craig** of A3 Tp.

SPORTS

The Squadron has been involved in a mixed bag of Inter Squadron and Inter Troop sports during the summer months. To help the younger members in these events the oldest recognised 'Scottish schoolboy' was dragged from his desk to add experience to the swimming, hockey and football teams. Suspicions of the Yeoman's true abilities were raised when he refused to represent the boxing team because of an old fight injury!

Results:

Inter Troop five-a-side	Winners A1 Tp
	Runners Up A3 Tp
Inter Squadron Hockey	Winners
Inter Troop Hockey	Runners Up A1 Tp
Inter Squadron Swimming	Runners Up

Inter Troop Five-A-Side Winners

VERDEN MARATHON

The four members of the Squadron team, **Cpl Waite, LCpls Harris, Smith** and **Craig** did us proud by coming second in the R Sig unit team event and also on being awarded gold medals for finishing in the first 100.

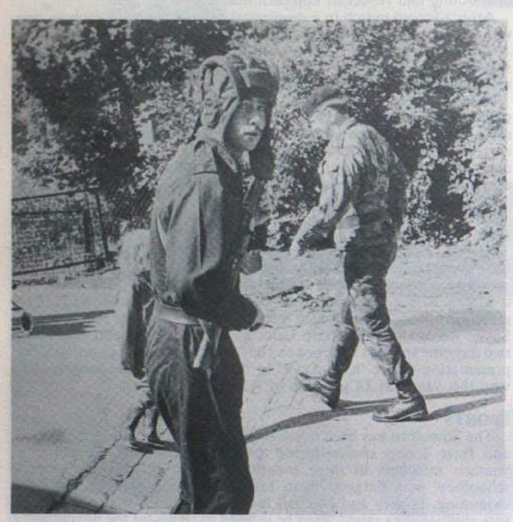
SQUADRON OPEN DAY

After a night of heavy rain the clouds cleared and the sun shone on our annual event for the families on Saturday 14 September. Under the direction of the SSM various stands, displays and attractions were

organised at a local range area to give some insight to the wives and children into what Dad gets up to at work.

At lunchtime our SQMS **SSgt Dave Dalton** opened the bar, the cooks served a tasty barbecue and the children were entertained to video cartoons and took breath before the next round of assault course, trampoline, 432 rides, .22 shooting and much, much more. There was even a group of Soviet soldiers on hand to assist with our recognition training.

By mid afternoon the children were tired and muddy, the competitions were over and the OC presented the prizes to the winners. Everyone agreed that the Open Day had been a great success . . . the next day saw more torrential rain.



LCpl Smith couldn't find his T72 anywhere

Best Dressed Soldier was Ian Dalton, aged five years

FAREWELL DINNER

On 20 September the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess provided a fitting occasion for a Squadron Farewell Dinner. The Officers, WOs and SNCOs and their ladies gathered to say farewell to three staunch members of the hierarchy.

Lt Steve Wallis moves on posting and promotion to 22 Sig Regt after just a year as OC A1 Tp. **Steve** has had a busy time coping with an armoured troop of 50+ men but has still managed to find time for his sport, playing hockey for the Corps and BAOR and squash and rugby for the Regiment. We congratulate him on his recent engagement to **Miss Clare Foster**.

SSgt (SQMS) Norman Cawthra has been here for two years during which time he has provided an excellent measure of support to the Squadron and Div HQ in the field. He has now moved to the QM(T) Dept before taking over as RQMS(T) in the new year. We wish him and **Lillian** all the best for the future.

WO2 (FofS) Orph Mable has been in the Regiment for four and a half years. For two and a half of those he has kept the technical end of things well and truly high and has ensured a succession of good reports from our various inspections. He is a very popular man and his wife **Janet** has done much more than her fair share on behalf of the wives. We wish them both well in their new exchange posting in Australia (not a hint of envy there) and thank them for their valuable contribution to Regimental life.

WAR BABIES

The post *Lionheart* influx of 'War Babies' have now been delivered and our congratulations go to: **SSgt Kev Nicholls** and **Trish**, a son **Steven**, **Cpl Steve Narns** and **Joanne**, a daughter **Michelle**, **Cpl Robbo Robinson** and **Ulrike**, a daughter **Anna**, **LCpl Geordie Winship** and **Heike**, a daughter **Jenna**, **LCpl Steve Bisset** and **Susan Anne**, a son **Stephen Arthur**, **Sig C. J. Jenner** and **Susan**, a daughter **Tracy Michelle**, **Sig Damian Greene** and **Gillian**, a daughter **Kirsty Gillian**.

3 SQUADRON

The Squadron has gone through a reasonably quiet period regarding exercises, however the normal day to day activities of vehicle maintenance, PT, and mandatory test passing has carried on without let up.

We have had notable successes at sport, both at Squadron and Troop level in the last two months. The Squadron recently won the Inter-Squadron Orienteering competition by a fine margin and followed this up by winning the Inter-Squadron Swimming competition. We now look forward to the Inter-Squadron Football and Rugby competitions.

SQUADRON MT

The Squadron has recently been issued with its own section of 'truckies'. This intrepid road running section is led by **Sgt Ivan Gill**, a man who is drawn to swimming pools like a tin tack to a magnet, his understudy is **Cpl Bowen**. The remaining members of the section are **Dvr Bott, Dvr Watts, Dvr Parkin** and **Dvr Meyler-Warlow** in order or speed. Although the section is often accused and abused they have proved to be an asset and do an invaluable job looking after our fleet of B vehicles, and answering queries from Troop MT reps.

A2 TROOP

The Troop has been involved in two recent exercises, Ex *Mosel Marauder* and Ex *Pulpit Quadrant*. *Mosel Marauder* being an adventure training exercise at Cochem. *Pulpit Quadrant* is an offshore sailing exercise in the Baltic during which **Sig Harrop** helped the Sqn Comd, **Maj Jim Blake**, manoeuvre the boat around the Baltic traffic and also helped him collect a few more sailing hours for his log book.

On the sporting front the Troop reached the semi finals of the Inter Troop Football and **Cpl Evans** achieved the best shot at Bisley recently whilst shooting for the Regiment.

B TROOP

The past few months have been an unusual period for the Troop as people seem to be everywhere but in the Troop. This is mainly due to PTARMIGAN training, cramming in leave and the fact that the Troop has many Regimental sports representatives.

Although we are reputed to be the smallest Troop in the Regiment we managed to reach the semi finals of the Inter Troop Football Competition with some notable performances from **Cpl Lovett, Sig Thompson, Miller, Cpl McNulty** and the OC Tp, **Lt Garry Hearn**. We also won the final of the Inter Troop Hockey competition although we were heavily reinforced by SHQ, notably **Maj Jim Blake, SSM Bob Rylance** and **SSgt Angus Whitton**.

As well as the Troop's physical attributes we also managed to win the 'Brains of 3 Sqn Competition' although it was a close run thing against the Linemen and A Tp.

LINE TROOP
EXERCISE *WIND UP*

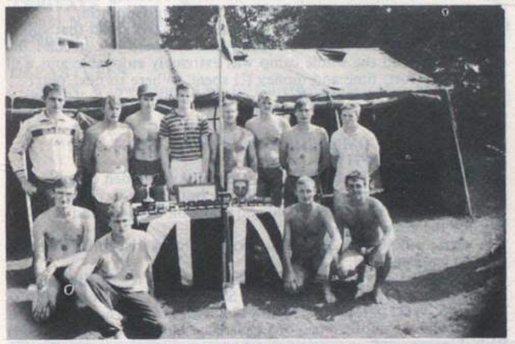
Ex *Wind Up* was held to show members of the Troop the line standards expected. It was organised by the OC Tp **2Lt Matt Hanson** and **Sgt Ian Selkirk** and the admin (cooks and bottle-washers) by **Cpl Grant Pocock** and **LCpl Agnew**. The rest of the Troop was split into two line teams led by **LCpl Melotte** and **LCpl Martin**.

The Troop departed Herford and arrived on Minden training area without loss and was immediately given an SOP check with a run awarded to those who were missing any kit. The next two days were a combination of line laying tasks and fault finding under a tactical environment of ambushes and attacks. **LCpl Sells** also added his own problems such as vehicle recovery. Everyone worked hard and found the exercise was worthwhile and enjoyable.

SQUADRON SWIMMING

Our one day of summer coincided with the inter-squadron swimming championship. After a week's hard training the team were prepared mentally by being psyched up in the Coffee Shop by the team coach, **Cpl Hadland**. When they were all finally ready we moved to our marquee in the pool compound, where the trophies we had won previously were on display. Soon the races began and 3 Sqn stormed into a commanding lead. To avoid too much embarrassment to others, we then let a few races slip! The pool almost cleared when Cpl Pocock took part in the backstroke as his nose closely resembled a dorsal fin!

Cpl Fowler, a hardened veteran, successfully completed his race but nearly required intensive care afterwards. **Cpls McNulty, Fallowfield, LCpls Sells, Agnew, Sig Mulley** and **Powell** all played their part in this magnificent performance. A special mention must be made of **LCpl Martin** who expertly coached the team to success. The chain of command race even forced **Sgt Selkirk** into the water, however, we allowed 2 Sqn to win as a consolation. Altogether it was an extremely good day for 3 Sqn.



The 3 Sqn swimming team

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200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

The Squadron has enjoyed a hectic but relatively pleasant few months recently, with many activities and trips being undertaken to get away from the inevitable cloud of rain that hangs over Detmold.

SEA CANOEING NORWAY

Lt Charlie Miller managed to get away on yet another adventure training course to Norway at the BOBC Centre at Isajefer. His idea of a quiet, couple of week's swan paddling the flat sunbaked seas were quickly squashed as (due to a shortage of instructors) he found himself on the Inland Whitewater Course!

The first week was fairly disastrous, he lost his watch in a series of rapids and the Norwegian fish are probably now enjoying a different 0700 hrs alarm tune every day of the week.

The water was exciting both from on top and underneath, and he has been awarded an honorary membership of the Norwegian Fjord and Rivers Underwater Survey Team (NFRUST).

The second week was far more idyllic as he found himself leading 18 members of three special expeditions down picturesque fjords covered in trees and cut by magnificent waterfalls.

Crossing the Voss was rather rougher than expected and became more exciting when **Lt Tim Cook** and **Cpl Burrows** capsized miles away from land. While the safety boat dealt with this **Lt Miller** was puzzled by the sight of two paddlers seemingly paddling up to their waists in water without any apparent sign of a canoe. The water-logged canoe had sunk below the surface and the two lads gamely paddled 800m to the shore. It's amazing what you can do when 'fear' is keeping you going.

After visiting a few islands, and viewing the German fortifications and tunnels from WW2 on the island of Sund, the weary travellers headed back to Isajefer and their first shower in a week!

Attached are some of the highlights (from spectators points of view!) of the course.

The Fjord underwater canoe killer snake at work!

Banjo playing in a stopper

RALLYING EX *MUNSTERMAN*

At long last the Squadron rallying team has been able to return to the roads after four and a half months away, courtesy of the REME workshops. The dodgy duo, **LCpl Leigh Northeast** and **Lt Charlie Miller** teamed up and proved a good combination by becoming first novice crew in the 200 mile Ex *Munsterman* rally on Friday 16 August.

The only problem came when **Lt Miller** nearly succumbed to the hospitality shown by a certain WRAC. He was also intrigued by the Don Barrow Potti, this was in fact a portable illuminated magnifying mapreading torch, and not as he originally believed a portable, illuminated, magnifying 'potty' for use on the move!

FUN WEEKENDS

Sgt John Perrett and his wife **Gloria** are to be congratulated for organising two splendid 'Fun Weekends' for the lads. Unfortunately the Detmold cloud seemed to follow us on both occasions down the Diemelsee resevoir, near Brilon. But at least **Pte Stephen Price** couldn't bother the RMP that far south! The windsurfers, apart from **Sgt John Perrett** (on his semi sinker or whatever daft name they call these planks with sails on top, retailing at £800+), spent most of their time falling into the water or paddling back from the far end of the lake and the dam. The canoeists like the windsurfers seemed impervious to the lashing horizontal rain. **Sig Keith Hunt** won the prize for the most capsizes (unintentional) that weekend. **Sig Batten** decided rock climbing would be safer. **Lt James Harris** finished **Batten** off on the Crags at Bruch-Haustien. A mention must go to **Pte David Hagan** who ably demonstrated how to climb rock faces using the 100 points of contact method.

SQN GOLF

The bandits of 200 Sig Sqn are still having a successful season. The merry six (**Capt Kevin Barrett, SSgt Geoff Armstrong, Sgts Brian Innes, John Fitzgerald, LCpls Billy Espie,** and **Callum Black**) are through to the last 16 of the BAOR Inter Unit Knockout having beaten two very strong teams, Sennelager Training Centre and 5 Ord Bn. In between, the Squadron took five out of the six trophies in the Regimental Autumn Meeting and came equal second in the 4 Armd Div Inter Unit competition. Special mention must go to **SSgt Geoff Armstrong** for winning 4 Armd Div 'B' Div Trophy.

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

It was decided to complement our military training week with a two day military skills competition on 11-12 September. It was intended to test the skills of the sections on a number of subjects culminating in a 45Km night navigation exercise.

The first day started bright and early with a timed BFT, and after a very good run, section 3 with **Cpl Wilson** their section Corporal took an early lead. After the BFT everyone went away to get ready for the dreaded No 2 Dress inspection followed by a drill competition. For this part of the competition we had the expert help of **WO1 (RSM) Coffey** to do the marking. All sections did well, considering that they had very little time to practise. After the drill competition everyone broke for lunch and to prepare for the afternoon's tests which consisted of weapon handling and a command task which had been set by the 2IC **Capt Kevin Barrett** (who was away playing golf, again!).

Again, thanks goes to the Regiment for allowing the Adjt, **Capt Philip Pratley** to adjudicate. The last of the afternoon's tests was a written one which included First Aid, NBC and Equipment Recognition. After this the positions were very close with the first four teams all within 10 points of each other.

At 1930 hrs the OC gave a briefing for the night march/navigation exercise with the teams departing at 15 minute intervals. They had to find six checkpoints over a course of 45Km approx.

As the cut-off time—0600 hrs approached—only two teams had completed the course, while everyone else had just missed out on the last checkpoint.

When all the points were added up only 10 points separated sections 1 and 3 with the latter holding the lead, so the shooting was to be the decider. After the shooting which was extremely close **Cpl Bob Clair**'s section came out on top and won for 'B' Troop. The Preston Trophy was presented by **Brig G. C. Barnet OBE.** It was a hard 36 hours and a lot of skill and effort put in by all. Well done.

202 (33 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN
EX *CANTER QUADRANT*

This year's adventure training exercise took the form of a summer camp in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria. The majority of the Squadron were involved over a two week period in August.

After much preparation, many disappointments and some frenzied searching for equipment, the advance party left on Saturday evening. The only casualty on the move down was **Lt Nick Metcalfes** Audi, which now resembles a Mini. However, with the help of **LCpl Strowger REME,** and **Cfn Heaton REME** the return journey was possible if somewhat slower.

The main party arrived the next day and after settling into the accommodation (which could be mistaken for the inside of a block at Dachau) quickly got into the routine of the camp and found all the local discos. Even with such bad weather everyone canoed, under the direction(?) of **Cpls Graham Preece** and **McDermott**, although **Sgt Paul Duffy**'s free windsurfing lessons didn't seem to be so popular. The walks over the Zugspitze were led by **Lt Nick Short RAOC** and **Sgt Paul Rylance. LCpl Dickie May** found that hiking up the Zug in torrential rain wearing shorts and a windproof wasn't as much fun as he thought it would be.

On the change over of groups, the weather also changed and the final week was superb. The planned climbing/abseiling was now able to take place, much to the concern of **Sig Steve Goodwin.**

After two weeks in Garmisch the instructors were glad that sunny Paderborn, and less reason to spend money, were just around the corner. All in all the whole camp was extremely enjoyable and well worth the effort, time and money (!) spent. Where to next year?

COMMANDER COMMUNICATIONS KNOCKOUT FOOTBALL TROPHY

This year's final took place in Kingsley Bks, Minden compliments of 211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn. A sunny but breezy day saw the old adversaries 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn take on 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn for the coveted trophy.

A vociferous 50-plus 202 Sqn supporters club were certainly treated to a typical cup final.

For the first twenty minutes of the game 204 tested the resolute defensive qualities of **Cpl Barrington, SSgt Alves, LCpl Dolan** and **Pte Thornton; WO2 (SSM) John O'Rourke** orchestrating the 204 attacks.

Gradually the midfield trio of **LCpls Day, Hughes** and **WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence** took control and started to feed the forwards; **Sig Medford, Cpl Winkles** and **LCpl Strowger** who started putting pressure on the 204 back four. **Sig Medford** went close twice, once in the 30th minute when a text book volley cannoned off the upright, and five minutes later a delicate lob brushed the bar.

At this stage it seemed to our supporters that the gods were against us, however, our confidence had now grown and we realised we had the upper hand. In the fifth minute of the second half our new found confidence was short lived when 204 took the lead with a scorching 20 yard effort from their left flank, which our keeper, **Pte Olive** had little or no chance of saving.

Winners Comd Comms Cup 1984/85
Back Row L to R: LCpl Ian Drysdale, Cpl Steve Clark, LCpls Strowger, Sean Day, Des Dolan, Cpl Kevin Winkles, SSgt Pete Alves, Pte Andy Thornton, Cpl Iain Clements, Sig Pete Dimmack
Front Row L to R: Sig Gavin Edmiston, Cpls John Linck, Steve Barrington, WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence, Pte Dave Olive, LCpl Mich Hughes, Sig Nigel Medford

The goal proved a tonic for 202 and stung the team into lifting the game. Within two minutes of the opening goal a throw taken on the right flank was nudged on by **WO2 (SSM) Rick Licence** and rifled in on the half volley by **LCpl Hughes.**

Fitness and finesse began to tell and once again 202 took control of the game.

In the 60th minute the spectators were treated to a marvellous individual effort from **LCpl Hughes,** after winning the ball 30 yards from the 204 penalty area, he beat two defenders and calmly curled the ball around the advancing goalkeeper. A very welcome final whistle ended an extremely hard fought sporting game played in the true spirit.

Maj McKinlay, OC 204 Sig Sqn, presented the Cup and medals on behalf of the Commander Communications 1 BR Corps, **Brig R. F. L. Cook.**

We look forward to hosting next year's final and retaining the cup.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES
ARRIVALS

Capt N. D. Couch, 2Lt C. J. Hinsley, Cpl L. Stimpson and Sig Campbell.

DEPARTURES

Capt N. A. Swainson, Cpls G. Garston, K. Winkles, M. Lelachur, LCpl P. Phillimore and Sig N. Street.

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211 (11 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN
THE ANNUAL DETACHMENT COMPETITION

On Thursday and Friday 19 and 20 September the Squadron held its annual detachment competition. Day one of the competition tested the detachment commanders and crews in military skills. The day began with an inspection of SOP kit, then a short landrover ride out to the start of a 1/4 mile march, where the crews were presented with a landrover wheel and told that the vehicle to which it belonged was somewhere along the route. The methods of carrying the wheel were many and various, the best perhaps being that used by the Plans detachment. **LCpl Stan Bruce,** casting his mind back to childhood days collected a stick and proceeded to 'bowl' the wheel down the track. A good method, if only the track had been straight.

When the crews eventually arrived at the stricken vehicle they found our 'Tiffy' **SSgt Ian Sparks REME,** who predictably, had no jack for the vehicle and had also lost the wheel nuts. After many grunts, groans, beads of sweat and ruptured hernias all the detachments, except one, managed to fit the wheel.

The detachments then carried on along the march route, where they encountered the Squadron Commander's second car, crashed into a tree with two very realistic casualties inside. The crews were expected to evacuate the casualties and carry out first aid treatment.

The march ended at the range where the detachments were asked to complete a simple shoot with the SLR and LMG. Unfortunately the weapons had conspired to come apart, mix themselves up and scatter themselves over the firing point. With only a three minute exposure in which to assemble the weapons and fire sixty rounds the detachments were hard pushed.

Day 1 finished with a test of Soviet recognition, and answers of 'It's a T something or other' were not accepted.

Day 2 of the competition saw the detachments once again mounted in their AFV 432s where they felt more at home, that is until the inspecting officers, **Capt Frank Riley** and **Lt Brian Peel** convinced most of the crews that they did not know as much about their vehicles as they thought they did.

The crews then deployed on a navigation exercise, and, for three hours the locals were treated to AFV 432s boldly going where no 432 had gone before. Eventually, they arrived at the local training area where they had to set up their detachments tactically as for exercise, face some searching questions from the directing staff, and, just as the last peg went into the cam net were told to crash out.

The crunch came, when all the results were added up, when it was realised that the competition had been won by the AFV 434 fielded by our fitter section and led by **Cpl McCarthy REME.** The win was well deserved, and a thoroughly enjoyable two days, in which many JNCOs discovered a bit more about themselves and their crews, culminated in the presentation of the Squadron best detachment trophy by the Squadron Commander.

'What do I do with the bits that are left over Corporal?'
LCpl Tony Wilson helping Sig Jack Frost to assemble the LMG

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

EXERCISE *SILVER SHIELD 85*

The HQ 1 Sig Bde exercise took place at Vogelsang during the period 6-20 September 1985. Under the watchful eye of Comd Comms and his staff, elements from this unit, 14 Sig Regt (EW), 16 Sig Regt, 22 Sig Regt, 40 Armd Engr Sp GP and 2 Mercian (V) completed unit training (7-15), and took part in the battlefield type exercise organised by the Brigade (16-19).

UNIT TRAINING

The advance party took over Camp Vogelsang on 6 September and although somewhat hindered by the outgoing unit were ready to receive the main party as they arrived from Schleiden railway sidings early in the afternoon of the next day. It would appear that the only excitement, in a somewhat tedious day, was created by the RSM, who, having instructed **WO2 SSM Roger Minty** to take the 'baggage' vehicle to the sidings became irate when he appeared at a particular location to find no sign of the luggage party. After numerous threats of 'torture', unspeakable references to the SSM's parentage and frantic journeys in **Maj (QM) Allen Davies**'s car the RSM finally arrived at the correct location to find the SSM and his crew lined up at the ready. Without 'batting an eyelid' the RSM congratulated the SSM on his organisation!

The next seven and a half days were very hectic for the composite companies commanded by **Maj Bob Turnbull** (A Coy) and **Maj 'tie me kangaroo down sport' Chester** (B Coy). Activities were varied and interesting, although on occasions the 'sausage machine' approach was required in order that as many soldiers as possible were given the opportunity to participate. In addition to dry training—at section level—soldiers threw grenades, fired the SLR, SMG, LMG, GPMG, Pistol, 84mm TPTP, 84mm 6.5 Sub Cal outdoor, 66mm Sub Cal, completed the Battle innoculation run and prepared and blew small charges of PE. During this period the JNCO's began to realise how difficult a section commander's job can be, whilst the soldiers gained valuable battle skills experience.

BRIGADE EXERCISE *BLAU VOGEL*

In the early hours of Monday morning 16 September, 18 Sections of between 8 and 10 soldiers commanded by a JNCO and accompanied by an officer or SNCO DS deployed to the exercise area to the east of Vogelsang. Their task was to reach an objective 30 to 40Km from their start point, via a number of agents, and complete specific tasks en route. The objective had to be reached during the night of 17 September and the whole route would be heavily patrolled by the enemy—provided by 2 Mercian (V). The majority of sections managed to avoid the enemy patrols with the result that their task was reduced almost to an exercise in navigation and 'yomping'.

Nevertheless there was some contact with the enemy in the form of planned ambushes and an NBC/First Aid task. When chance encounters did take place our soldiers were somewhat put out by the fact that the enemy did not carry 'kill or capture' cards and were thus thought to be not 'playing the game'. That is an official statement, the section's comments are unprintable.

On reaching their objective the sections dispersed to hide locations with instructions to return, at varying times, the following morning, 18 September. From there they were transported to an area near Vogelsang to start a march and shoot competition. This competition involved an 8Km forced march followed by a Falling Plate shoot with 50 rounds per section. Considering the distance already covered by the soldiers and the weight that some of them were carrying—we all thought that 95lbs was quite reasonable—the winning section's time of 55 mins for the march and 1 min 10 secs for the shoot was a good performance. Well done **Cpl Richard Head** and his team.

COMMENTS

Camp Vogelsang provided excellent training facilities and all those who attended Ex *Silver Shield* learned many valuable lessons. Not only did soldiers improve their basic battle skills but learned to work and train in small groups. Morale was high. Everyone felt as though he had contributed to a successful exercise and was pleased to have been given the opportunity to participate in the many and varied aspects of small arms training.

'A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO VOGELSANG'

Have you heard about:

The two officers **Maj 'Hawkeye' Davies** and **Maj 'Anyone seen my glasses' Wood** who couldn't remember where they had parked a car in Aachen. Because they spent some two and a half hours trying to find it, the CO has been approached and asked to ratify their search as a CFT pass.

The JNCO who wanted the RQMS to change his plastic belt because it was too big!

The forgotten driver **'Rambo' Scott** who, on being left in the training area alone at night, decided to have his own war. Eat your heart out Stallone.

The soldier on Range 14 who wasn't sure whether to throw the pin or the grenade—**WO1 Mick Fogg** was last reported leaping towards Range 10, despite ricochets bouncing off his helmet.

Two members of the Catering staff who went for a jog around the lake only to find that the Rhine got in the way and prevented 'circumnavigation'. Both have now entered for the next UK marathon as it is reckoned to be a much shorter distance than that completed by them.

A certain Regimental exercise where the captured escaped, failed to turn up at the designated time and the search party lost some of the searchers and went out searching for them again!

'Honest Sir I did have one here five minutes ago'
WO1 (now Capt) Mick Fogg seems highly impressed

Sgt Bill Dyson reminding one of the soldiers to make sure he throws the grenade in that direction

A member of the Regimental Cricket Team getting some bowling practice

REPORT FROM 6 SQUADRON
EXERCISE *RADIO QUADRANT*

This year the Squadron managed to squeeze in an adventure training exercise based at Kochel Am See, Bavaria from 6-22 July.

Due to commitments, only two thirds were available to take part in various arduous pursuits, the worst of which seemed to be the SSM's morning run/swim (yes Sir, we had morning runs). Rather than list the activities undertaken, a catalogue of injuries sustained may prove more enlightening. **Sig 'Taff' Minett** split his skull on day one when someone let the water out of the lake. **LCpl 'Bombadier' Holt** fractured his hand/index finger leading the mountaineering party up the steps from the campsite. The volleyball pitch claimed a few, the worst being **Cpl Skelland** with badly torn ligaments. Comments like 'Can I have your trainers?' were rife. **Sig 'I'm not a pretty sight any more' Barrie** suffered a fractured jaw and lost eight teeth whilst on a cultural visit to Munich, and of course **Sig Griffiths** who cut off the end of his finger whilst preparing packed meals. (He only noticed after much complaining from the rest of the lads). Quote 'Where's my finger end then?'.

The other activities appeared relatively harmless, rock climbing, free abseiling, white water canoeing, wind surfing and attending the local 'fests'. Still, a good break, blessed by good weather, good food and good admin.

100KM DEATH MARCH

With a 'Liberation Day' atmosphere, our team of 10 set forth on 9 August amongst a sea of nearly 4,000 participants at the start of the infamous 'March de Mort'.

The 'March de Mort', or Death March, is an arduous 100Km march held annually at Bornem in Belgium, in which those prone to irrational acts, lapses of memory, dizzy spells, have 24 hours in which to complete the said distance.

The Squadron entry was originally conceived by **SSM John Mold** and **Cpl Dave Devine** (bless them) back in April, with a well planned, progressive training programme consisting of personal, ongoing training and three progress marches, 25Km, 75Km, and the Squadron advanced training exercise in Bavaria. Needless to say, the third phase was the only achievable phase. Nevertheless, the whole team finished the event, with the SQMS **'Sammy' Stephenson, YofS Lee Pilling**, *and* **Sig 'Tadger' Donovan** honourably bringing up the rear. Whilst replacing lost fluids after the event all three stated that they could have finished sooner, but they got a great deal of pleasure from the superb leg massages given by the belles of the Belgian Red Cross, which were offered at each checkpoint.

Hearty congratulations to the team members who, between them, raised approx £1,000 in aid of the BHF and the Arthritis Research Fund. Many thanks to **Cpl Dave Devine** and his wife for the organisation and administration throughout the event.

Next year . . . perhaps, but without the 'break dancing'.

Back: WO2 (SSM) John Mold, SSgt (YofS) Lee Pilling, SSgt (SQMS) Sammy Stephenson, Lt David Somerville
Front: Sig Wagstaff, Donovan, Cpls Pollard, Devine, Sig Bowe, Richards

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For full details and an application form phone 0242 32912/3 or write to:

GCHQ

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

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

EXERCISE *BRAVE DEFENDER*

The Regiment's tasks for this exercise were wide and varied, involving most of the members of the Regiment in one form or another!

A worrying sight for any Spetznaz! Sig Grace and Morgan on the VCP

Cpl 'Gaz' Crouch puts the finishing touches to his new home. Sig Russell surveys the view

CRICKET'

Although the summer weather was generally unkind to cricket, the Regimental team were very fortunate in that only one fixture was cancelled during the season. 1985, in fact, proved a successful season for the Regiment, who reached the semi-finals of the Army Major Units Competition, winning the NE/NW District competition along the way. The team also reached the semi-finals of the Yorkshire Services League Cup Competition, and were runners up in the League, just missing the title.

During the long evenings of June the Inter-Squadron tournament took place. For the third year running HQ Squadron won the cup, beating T Tp of 1 Sqn on a very cold dark evening.

The Officers v Sergeants Mess match was played in August. The Sergeants Mess won a sturdily contested game by about 20 runs, the Officers batted second but failed to reach the target of 152. However, the RSM and his men suffered badly from the weather as they fielded for the best part of two hours in heavy rain. They were very wet.

Hosting the Yorkshire County Cricket team on their one week's pre-season training in Catterick undoubtedly brought some publicity to the Regiment and stirred up interest in bat and ball. It led to a good season with the most remarkable match being the victory over 38 Engr Regt by 1 run. The scores on a rather unpredictable pitch at Ripon were 29 to 28!

8 Sig Regt Board Sailing (wind surfing) club informally started in early June this year when **SSgt John Smith, Sgt John Lathbury** and **Cpl Gary Boyle** banded together for mutual protection against the local dinghy sailors.

Access to Thornton Steward Reservoir, some nine miles away, was negotiated and sailing takes place on Tuesday evenings, sports afternoons and weekends, (wind and weather permitting). To date our trophy cupboard is empty despite the clubs gallant efforts at the Army Individual Board Sailing Championships in June, where both **SSgt Smith** and **Sgt Lathbury** did not finish last!

However they fared much better at the NE District Championships in July and managed respectable 3rd and 5th places overall. It is hoped that with new equipment, 1986 will be a year remembered by 8 Regiments' Board sailors. So if you are an enthusiastic surfer and are due for posting to Catterick, don't hesitate to contact us when you arrive, we will do our best to make your stay a happy one.

THE GORDONS CUP COMPETITION 1985

On a cool and cloudy afternoon in early August, the Squadrons competed for the Gordons Cup. The race consists of three phases, each timed, with points being deducted for failures. Phase one is the assault course, phase two the obstacle course and phase three the log race. The winners were the 1 Sqn A team, followed closely by 2 Sqn.

A few of the 'lighter' moments were caught on film.

The Gurkha team on the home stretch

Sgt Neil Arden and Sgt Ken Mace doing monkey impressions, Sgt Mick Parsons waits his turn

THE TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL POINT OF VIEW

Lt Col Dick Smith's final gesture before departing for the shimmering sands of Saudi Arabia was to ensure that the instructors of the TTS would not miss out on the excitement of the annual Gordons Cup Competition.

Following Army tradition, 30 names were selected at random by the SWO **WO2 (SSM) B. Medway** and the 20 who could not find an excuse were formed into two teams with **SSgt John Smith** as team manager. Training commenced four weeks prior to the event and under the watchful eye of **SSgt Pete 'Rambo' Whitehouse** and **Sgt 'I've just done my Staffies course' Phil Abbot**, the teams were introduced to local beauty spots such as Whinny Hill, Bus Stop Hill and Sweethill Plantation. Full credit must be given to **Sgt Scouse 'De Sade' Yarwood** whose training programme boosted fitness, if not morale.

Members of the TTS Cadre team relaxed for the camera

Training completed, it became apparent on the day of the competition that the TTS teams were suffering a severe age handicap with an average of 34 years, but despite this, the youngsters found that they did not have it all their own way as TTS took the third and sixth places.

The best footwork of the day however came from the CO when, chatting to the teams at the finish, he was invited to enter an Officers' team in next years' competition.

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Lesley Smith WRAC**
Admin Offr	**Maj (Retd) Peter Studd**
SSM	**WO2 Syd Walley**
ALPHA TROOP	
OC	**Capt Andy Boyle**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Paddy Goslyn**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Toney Mann**
	Cpl Don Capron
BRAVO TROOP	
OC	**Lt Katy Munnoch WRAC**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Bob White**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Sadie Kemp**
	Cpl Tom Johnson

The summer months have seen a number of changes in the Squadron Cadre. **Capt Tom Guest** is now residing in Shetland and no doubt organising its entry into the next World Cup. We say thank you to our clerical officer, **Mrs Frances Pickard**, and wish her the best in her new appointment with 11 Sig Regt. Congratulations to **Mrs Doreen Galliers**, our typist, on her promotion to clerical officer and we welcome her to her new desk!

Welcome to **Maj (Retd) Peter Studd, Capt Andy Boyle** and to **SSgt Bob White**, temporary Troop SSgt of Bravo Troop while **Sgt John Smith** does his duty in the Falklands.

6-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

This was a good event and well supported. The PY330 team under the leadership of **Sgt Stu Read** should have won, or so they thought. **Cpl Brad Bradley**'s team had all the talent but was pipped in the final game.

MORE FOOTBALL . . . THE BELL TROPHY

This is the big footballing event on the calendar, and after winning last year the pressure was on to retain the trophy. The A team, under the leadership of **LCpl Scouse Cahill** won the plate competition. The B team, consisting mainly of basic trainees, under the captaincy of **Cpl Nobby Hall** got off to a great start by beating the favourites, 1 Sqn, but fell to battling 3 Sqn.

Col Austin presents Sig Christopher Lloyd of 2 Sqn with his Corps Colours for canoeing. Sig Lloyd has been selected to represent both the Army and the Combined Services. He is training to be a Radio Telegraphist

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

Looking back over the last few months the glorious weather continues as does the growth and popularity of all sporting and water clubs (work is OK as well)!

BATTLECAMP

Regimental Battle Camp in early September provided a light relief from mundane work, with hot section attacks, sweaty weapon training, dehydrating ambush drills and hyperventilating section attacks. The WRAC element, (all six of them), made excellent soldiers, suffering broken nails and scratches but no lack of enthusiasm, now in their permanent role as enemy.

MEDALS AT AY NIK

On Tuesday 20 August the Regiment was delighted to receive a visit from **Maj Gen Benbow**, the Signal Officer-in-Chief. The General had a busy itinerary, visiting all parts of the Regiment. He presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to **WO2 John Hudson, WO2 Tom Morrall, SSgts Dave Low, Rick Morris, Fred Share** and **Sgt John Brown** in a ceremony which took place in the Sergeants' Mess.

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

The All-Island Volleyball championships was hosted by 9 Sig Regt, the ladies on Saturday 14 September and the mens on Saturday 28 September. These all day events were well supported by enthusiastic spectators.

Winners: Ladies—Rustic Rebels
Runners up:—12 SU Ladies
Winners: Men—2 Sqn—9 Sig Regt
Runners up:—3 Sqn—9 Sig Regt

FOOTBALL

The most outstanding event in the football league's calendar so far this year was that the Regiment produced a team last week!

ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED SAILORS

Having recently taken possession of our new yacht based at Larnaca Marina, we were delighted to help aspiring sailors in less fortunate circumstances.

The Jubilee Trust is a charitable organisation which gives physically handicapped people the opportunity to learn to sail a ship at sea. Last year, the Soren Larsen (the Onedin line ship) was chartered for 26 weeks and many blind, deaf and otherwise disabled people experienced the challenge of crewing a sailing ship, assisted by able-bodied helpers.

The Trust now hopes to raise enough money to build a vessel of its own which will double the number of participants and save the cost of expensive charter fees.

As a gesture of support for this splendid effort 9 Sig Regt were pleased to contribute £500 to the ship's fund. The photograph taken by **Cpl Wayne Palmer**, shows the CBFC, **Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley** receiving a cheque on behalf of the Jubilee Sailing Trust, from **Lt Col Mike Galloway.**

STYX SIXES

On the last Sunday in September the Styx six-a-side hockey competition took place at Ayios Nikolaos, organised by the Regiments' Styx Hockey Club. A total of 24 teams from all over the island played throughout the day under the control of chief umpires **Sgt Dave Randall** and **Maj Alan Browne.** Included in the total were eight ladies teams playing in their own competition.

It was obvious from the start that the standard of play was going to be very high, with fast and furious play from both mens and ladies sides. In fact, the Regiments' B sides were both early casualties but the two A sides battled on and were unlucky to lose their respective semi-final matches in extra time. Eventual winners were the Akrotiri Ladies (with Dhekelia Nomads runners up) and Nicosia Old Boys (beating Akrotiri mens in the final), and all four of these teams were presented with their trophies by **Lt Col Mike Galloway.**

The entire day ran smoothly and to schedule, thanks to the hard work of all of Styx Hockey Clubs' members, but special thanks must go to **WSgt Gill Rich** for organising the ladies end of the competition, and **SSgt Dave Kent** whose overall control, organisation and careful planning resulted in an excellent day for all of those who attended.

Finally, a few remarks on some of the various characters taking part on behalf of the Regiment:

WPte Dawn Williams walks off in disgust if she misses an open goal.

Sgt John Morrison runs twice as far as anyone else during every match.

WSgt Gill Rich plays better with sea-anemone spikes in one foot.

Cpl Chris Talbot managed to deliver bar stock, more tables and chairs, play hockey, collect scores . . . but he doesn't know how to put up a 12 by 12, mind you, neither did—but let's save their embarrassment.

LCpl Jane Breen is the best ladies goalkeeper on the Island, but can't cook (This complete slander was started by **Cpl Keith Breen**, who was later seen being carried to the Medical Centre).

DOGS ATTENTION

Our security is based on a dog section of the RP. In the handler's spare time they are often involved in dog demonstrations and displays which abound in the summer months and are very popular with the public.

Doggy discipline was put to the test on Friday 6 September during a Regimental Dog Competition. A panel of judges awarded points for obedience, control, alertness, dog to handler relationship and general appeal to the judges.

The winning team, led by **Cpl Galloway** included; **Pte Leach** and Guard-dog **Bandit, Pte Stanley** and Guard-dog **Zak, Pte Lukes** and Guard-dog **Shep**.

This display of obedience in front of local spectators had taken many hours of training to attain. Hopefully the rest of the Regiment is as well disciplined! The photograph shows all the team members and individuals, on parade awaiting the decision of the judges.

CHEERFUL CHARITY FETE

The Charity Fete at Ayios Nikolaos was held on Saturday 5 October and proved to be a great success. Members of 9 Sig Regt and 33 SU (RAF) at this far end of the island put a lot of time and effort into the fete, working together to produce a wide variety of fun stands, with one common aim, to prise money out of our pockets.

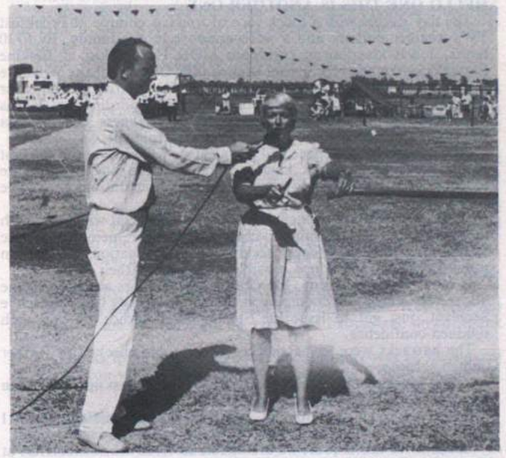
Mrs Marion Galloway opened the fete in fine style at 1300 hrs. The arena events included a band display, guard dog display and helicopter demonstration.

An inter Sqn Superstars competition was held, turning out to be a closely fought test of agility over an assault course. It was won by 1 Sqn (yet again!).

Parents enjoyed the children's races and the children's Fancy Dress competition arranged by the local school with lucky winners instantly eating the prizes.

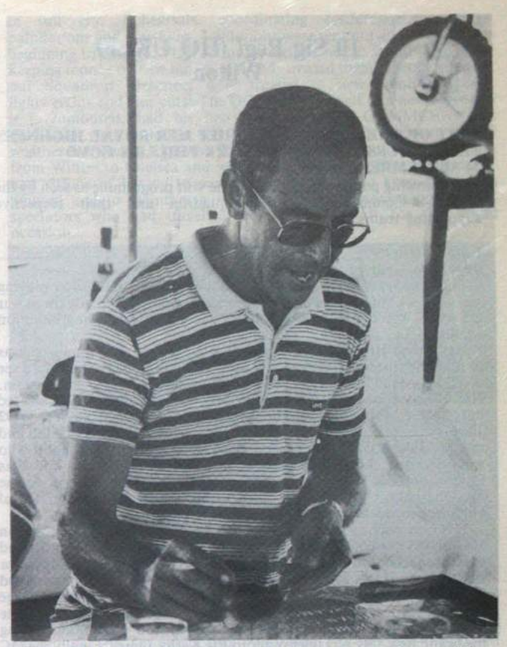
The auction towards the end of the afternoon raised a lot of enthusiasm and money. Chief auctioneer **WO1 (RSM) Mike Besant** has a charming sales patter.

The Grand Draw took place at 1700 hrs, this was the culmination of many weeks hard labour, selling tickets to unsuspecting passers-by. **Mrs R. English** was the lucky winner of the first prize, a Mitsubishi Towny car, followed by **G. Gree** of Civ Wing 9 Sig Regt, who won the Garelli moped. Congratulations to 1 Sqn who sold the most tickets (smooth talkers). The total amount raised for charity was C£2,500.

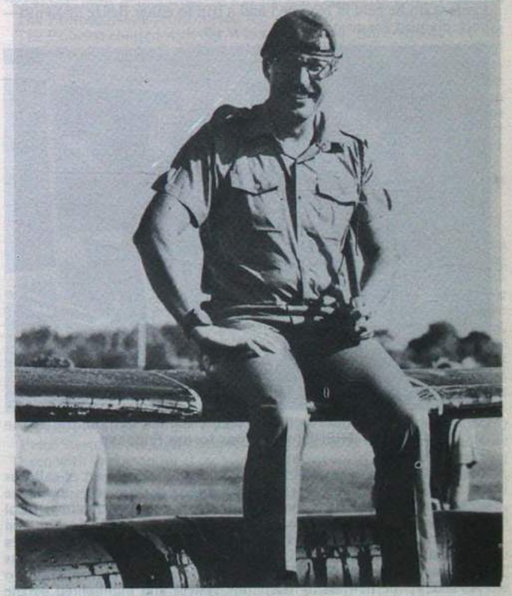


Mrs Marian Galloway opening the 1985 Fete

1 Sqn winning the 'Zako' Super-stars competition



WO1 (RSM) Mike Besant showed his true vocation as 'Bingo caller' at the WRAC stall



Dripping Sgt Maj Ron Potter (3 Sqn) on the ducking stool, showing he's game for a laugh

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) Wilton

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ANNE MRS MARK PHILLIPS GCVO 24 SEPTEMBER 1985

The following paragraphs will trace the visit programme as seen by the Second-in-Command of each Squadron and their respective supporting teams.

1 SQUADRON
Report by Captain Stuart Lockie

The final rehearsal was over—I had hung up my tiara after playing our Colonel-in-Chief for the last time. Everything was ready (or as our US allies would put it 'we were in a prepared on going situation condition').

Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne's visit to 1 Squadron was to take the form of a visit to U Troop at Wilton where she would see the Traffic Hall and Telephone Exchange and visit our training room. Her Royal Highness was met by **Maj Ian Bingham** and escorted into the COMMCEN where he presented **WO2 (YofS) Taylor. WO2 Taylor** then escorted Her Royal Highness around the Traffic Hall and met **Mr John Clarke** (our civilian on duty that day), **Sgt Piggott** who was SDO and the COMMCEN shift of **LCpl Helen Gray** and **Ptes Lesley Johnson, Anita Spink, Fran Graham** and **Juliet Green.** At the TARE transmit position **Pte Jane 'Kibs' Kibble** invited Her Royal Highness to release a signal to all Corps units.

The next part of the visit was the training room where **Sgt Alison Mason** was presented to Her Royal Highness. **Sgt Mason** then showed **Ptes Linda Hatton** and **Amanda Bratton** maintaining their operator skills on the T15 (a machine of venerable age) and **LCpl Sue Bond** testing **Ptes Stella Simpson** and **Sue Jardine** on ACP 127 and message routeing procedures. **Sgt Mason** also introduced **LCpl Joanne McBroom** (on detachment from 3 Squadron) who was demonstrating the brand new TREND teleprinter to **Pte Kathy James.** Finally the OC mentioned the adventurous training the Squadron has or will undertake. This was the cue for **LCpl Cheryl Plumley** to brief the Princess on *Valiant Stride*, an exercise in the Harz mountains held in August and for **Sgt Colin Swann** to brief the Princess on *Mountain Bear*, an exercise to be held in the Atlas mountains in Morocco in October. Unfortunately there wasn't enough time to mention *Vikings Venture* (to be held in Norway) and a trip to either Belize or Kenya—both planned for next year.

LCpl Joanne McBroom with Pte Kathy James demonstrates the new TREND teleprinter to the Princess

By now the visit was well into its stride and the next port of call was the telephone exchange where **Mr John Brown**, the exchange supervisor, escorted Her Royal Highness on a tour which allowed **Cpl Jane Garrick, Ptes Carolyn 'Polly' Poynton, 'Murph' Murphy** and our four civilians, **Debbie Hollis, Jane McCarthy, Joan Hargreaves** and **Kim Chant**, to share a few moments with the Princess. It was however left to **Pte Sue Peacock** to give a brief introduction to FASTNET, the new Army telephone system and highlighted by the MERLIN DX equipment we had on show.

It was fitting that the final element of the visit was devoted to representatives from outlying exchanges and COMMCENs as the Regiment relies heavily on a loyal civilian workforce. So, in the reception area at the entrance to the Traffic Hall the OC presented **Mrs Frances Waites** from Warminster, who in turn introduced **Mrs Wendy Grace** and **Mr Bernie Capper** from Bulford, **Mr Des Speed** from Andover and **Mrs Lois Reading** from Tidworth.

By now the visit was running behind time, but despite the CO's and OC's best efforts the Princess was not to be rushed. A 25 minute visit which had stretched to 45 minutes had just flashed by, and the Princess had left us for the Community Centre. Before finishing I must not forget to mention the other Squadron stalwarts without whom the visit could not have gone ahead. There was **WO2 (SSM) Jill Ryan** who controlled the pool of manpower/womanpower that is always required ('Sergeant Major can I have two girls to clean the conference room?'). **Sgts Bob Archer, John Green, Cpls Al Keers, Sam McCafferty, Dave Parker, LCpls Pete Allen, Mel Geraghty, Gill Hawes, Kay Gibson, Jeanne Marston, Jane Sage, Ptes Jenny Cleary, Julie Harvey, Sue Williams, Julie Harbon, Tracey Johns, Karen Townsend, Jane Edwards, 'Scats' Laithwaite** and **Sig Geordie Davies** and **Jimmy Watson** who were waitresses, car door openers, security guards and members of the quarter guard.

The visit was, however, seen in a more personal light by an unnamed Squadron Officer who submitted his experiences of the grand occasion.

HELLO ONE THIS IS ANOTHER ONE

The day started with a quick slice of toast, a glimpse at Breakfast TV's weather outlook and a wave goodbye to the family. By 0730 hours, I was standing at the Main MOD Police Post at Erskine Barracks surrounded by Special Branch (SB) Officers of the Wiltshire Constabulary; we were discussing the three-tier security measures for the day; Close Protection, Camp Security and Coordination. It was 24 September 1985 the day that **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** our Colonel-in-Chief was to visit the Regiment.

As many of you who have had Royal Visits will know, even the best thought out programmes have a habit of acquiring last minute touches. So many seemingly trivial details and preparations need to be coordinated in advance.

It was with a sigh of relief that the dress rehearsal was over, with the minimum of last minute changes. Various members of the Regiment, detailed to assist in security and coordination had all been suitably briefed, and where possible, practised in their duties.

H Hour was 1000 hours. My God it was 0830 hrs already and the SB 'sniffer' dogs were chomping at the bit. 'All ready here, Detective Sergeant, just got to issue the Stornophone Radios', I said with subdued confidence.

The barracks were to be checked and double checked to further tighten security.

'Good Morning Sir!' . . . **LCpl 'Give me three press ups' Robinson** and **Cpl 'Jock' Allen** reporting for coord duties'.

'I'll be with you in a moment, you'll be callsign One and Two,' I mumbled.

'Hello three this is four, we are unable to close the new barriers at the bottom barracks entrance, someone has padlocked them in the upright position. Over'.

'Three wait out'.

'Right quickly now all of you on building security to your posts prior to the sniffer dogs starting their rounds' I said.

The 'sniffer' dogs barked loudly from the back of the van, frightening my WRAC assistants into action. Off they all went, smart as new pins, mumbling about more valium tablets to calm their nerves.

'Hello three this is zero the MOD Police cannot gain entry into the Community Centre to let the sniffer dogs through, where is the key?'

'Three wait out'.

Just then members of the Press start to arrive in droves and I remember that I am to meet the G3 P Info at 0915 hours at the JRC. 0920 hrs already 'Oh what the heck!'

'Three this is five there are people wandering about beneath the bridges over the railway line Over'.

'Three Roger they are the British Rail Police; ignore them, Out'.

'Hello zero this is three, Mr Weston has the keys for the centre, out to you. Hello four this is three, use bolt crops if necessary as it would appear no-one has a set of keys to the padlocks Over'.

'Four its OK now someone has finally admitted to holding them Out'.

'Hello three this is one, I am now in position at the Helicopter Landing Area, Radio Check Over.'

'Three OK Over.'

'One, the area has been secured and the Royal Flight ground crews and ambulance are in position, Over'.

'Three Roger, report again once the Royal Helicopter arrives, Out'.

The barracks gradually takes on an eerie silence with traffic

restrictions, according to the master plan, kicking into action and with HQ UKLF personnel observing the minimum outside movement advice slips. Time passes, I quickly check that **Sgt Bleasdale** is fully conversant with her duties as C/S zero and then set off to meet the press.

I see the reception committee making their way to the HLP and dutifully C/S one reports this fact on their arrival.

The RSM struts over to the area of the Multi-Gym where the WRAC quarter guard are making final adjustments to their skirts and hosiery. All seems to be going to plan, good, I'll just scrounge a quick cuppa from the Press room.

'Ah Capt just the man, I've got a few questions that you can probably clear up being a local man in the Regiment', said a fat man in a faded grey suit.

'Certainly fire away' I said apprehensively.

A torrent of uncoordinated and intricate questions on the origin of BRUNO, the Colonel-in-Chief and various local details came my way in fast succession.

'Hello three this is one, I think I can hear the helicopter coming'.

'Three Roger Out'.

'Three this is one, yes, it is the helicopter, it's a Wessex and painted red. It should touch down soon. Over'.

'Three Roger no need for a running commentary over.'

'One Roger, it is now at the hover at about 30 feet, no wrong, 20 er 10 feet. Yes it has landed. The Royal Party are climbing out Over'.

'Three Roger just report as we discussed yesterday. Out'.

'Hello three this is one the Royal Visitor and Entourage have left the HLP I spell Hotel Lima Papa and are en route to the Quarter Guard at the flag posts. Over'.

'Three yes I see them, zero acknowledge.'

'Zero Ack Out'.

So the visit went on C/S one (an ex Radio Operator) gave a 'Murray Walker' performance on the visit, much to the amusement of all. His dulcet tones could be heard all over Erskine Barracks on the strategically placed Stornophone radios.

The visit? Well, of course, it was a resounding success with the Princess meeting as many as possible in the short time allocated to Wilton.

The visit included a quarter guard, briefing and cheque presentation, a tour of Salisbury COMMCEN and Exchange, a special gathering at the Community Centre, a reception at the Sergeants' Mess, luncheon at the Officers' Mess and finally a Royal walkabout with flowers being presented by **Amanda Lee, Cpl Dave Lee**'s daughter, fully attired in her Brownie outfit.

I hear you asking 'what happened to callsign one?' Well there was no need for me to confiscate his radio, his battery ran down, thank goodness.

My thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the success of the Wilton visit. This is the other one saying TTFN.

3 SQUADRON
Report by Capt Eileen Cunningham WRAC

The visit moved from Wilton by helicopter to 3 Sqn, not to Aldershot but to a field location. The reason for this is described in the following paragraphs:

The Squadron was buzzing with talk of the visit. What visit? Oh: THE visit. The day our Colonel-in-Chief **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** visited our Squadron. Great whoops of joy from the Admin Officer at the Duchess of Kent Barracks and dreams of long overdue works services at last being completed. Perhaps our COMMCEN would at last be repainted and, if we were very lucky, perhaps the awful chairs in the Exchange would now be exchanged. Alas! This was not to be, for it was announced that Her Royal Highness would visit us on Ash Ranges—where? Oh there . . . but that's in Surrey! The Range Officer would have the delight of keeping PSA and DOE on their toes. The idea put forward all began along the following lines as per the Range work concept:

'When is it?' SSM Page enquired.

'Oh! plenty of time yet—24 September' **Capt Cunningham** replied.

'But what do you want us to do—hopefully, not shoot—yelled the girls of Alfa and Bravo Troop.

'Why of course. In fact I've got a splendid idea—we'll get the girls firing the SA 80—that will be novel'—**Captain Cunningham** suggested!

'The What?'—the assembled congregation asked.

'You know, the SA 80. Ha! Got to show the WRAC as front runners with new kit, you know'.

'Yes . . . of course'—the assembled ranks murmured. 'Anything else you want us to display?' they whispered.

'Well, as you mention it . . .'

(3 Sqn Officers at this stage make a quick exit).

Tuesday 24 September rapidly approached and the Squadron was in full cry. Rehearsals, coordinating conferences, meetings, palpitations and grey hairs. Invitations were sent out and the plan was beginning to emerge. Thrilled mums dashed out to spend their house keeping money on new outfits and dads treated themselves to new ties; our Squadron personnel were treated to new combat jackets, lightweights and hair cuts! The OC treated himself to a new beret and it is rumoured, had his hairs trimmed. The COMMCENs and Exchanges were no longer filled with talk of that in the event of bad weather **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** would travel straight from Wilton to Chelsea and we would be omitted. The OC and 2IC had visions of having to perform a double act to keep the troops amused and to maintain a sense of humour amongst our 90-odd spectators who had travelled from far and wide for this grand occasion.

'We're not really white with fright Ma'am . . . It's the Fuller's Earth!'
Sgt McTernan introduces *from L to R:* Cpl Edwards, LCpl Matthews, Pte Thomson, LCpl Kirkwood, Pte McGhee (Pte Grant on Table)

The day itself was a memorable one. The sun shone and everyone present had the opportunity of a few words with Her Royal Highness. **Sgt McTernan** (who led the NBC display) reminded Her Royal Highness that the last time they had met was the occasion of the opening of his school when he was six years old—**Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** remembered the occasion but not **Sgt McTernan!** The Princess chatted with **Sgt Warnes** (leader of the dramatic first aid display) and joked with **Sgt Jeffery WRAC** who, with **SSgt Whittingham** of our Tropo Troop, controlled the SMG firing (yes SMG—not SA 80!) of 7 WRAC members of the Squadron. HRH then mingled with our spectators and held an engrossed conversation with young **Stephanie Bulmer** (Age 4)—daughter of our typist. **Stephanie** proceeded to tell Her Royal Highness at great length about her boyfriend at school who had to go to hospital with something stuck up his nostril! Fascinating!

Before the Princess moved from the Ranges a short drive was required to view the efforts of the SWS Troop.

ASH RANGES—SWS TROOP

The Signals Works Services Troop (Bulford) is at present engaged in project work at Ash Ranges near Aldershot. The troop are laying a 50 pair perimeter cable to update the communications on Ash Ranges in general, and in particular to provide telephone communications to Stoney Castle and Hedley Park Ranges. The excavation is being carried out using the troop's own plant vehicles, which are the Vermeer 454A and the Massey Ferguson 50D. One section, which was suitable for demonstration purposes, was left unlaid until the Royal Visit, so that the troop could demonstrate its skills to the Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne.**

Princess Anne was met on her arrival by the OC Troop, **Maj (TOT) Peter Steeples. Mr Colin Sainsbury** and **Mr Terry Winn**, who had only been with the troop for three weeks as members of the Youth Training Scheme, had the honour of opening the doors of the VIP landrover and were the first members of the troop to be introduced to Her Royal Highness. The Princess was then introduced to **Mr Mike McMahon, Mr John Thomas** and **Mr Trevor Stevens** representing troop headquarters.

Major Steeples then conducted Her Royal Highness through the various stages of the demonstration explaining the use of each vehicle and its various attachments and introducing the members of the troop—**Mr David Foyle** demonstrated the 454A in its trench digging mode and demonstrated a road crossing using the horizontal borer.

Mr Jim Nicols and his jointing team demonstrated heat shrink jointing, and **Mr Edwin Kite** demonstrated the 454A in its vibratory ploughing mode. **Princess Anne** was invited to try out the machine and she laid several meters of cable successfully. Ex RSM **Mr Reg Judge**, invited Her Royal Highness to operate the Massey Ferguson in its bucket digging mode and the Princess thoroughly enjoyed herself operating the machine. The Princess said that **Captain Mark Phillips** could do with one of them at Gatcombe Park to sort out the drains and would now be able to show him how it operated. Finally **Major Steeples** introduced **Mr Marty Noakes**, who had just completed a years YTS Training with the troop and has now been taken on as a permanent member.

Princess Anne showed great interest in all the aspects of the troop operations and greatly impressed the civilian workforce by her willingness to try out the machine for herself and for her very quick grasp of the essentials.

2 SQUADRON
Report by Captain Carolyn Wilding WRAC

Flexibility proved to be the keyword of 2 Squadron's contribution to the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief. All participants in display stands were poised to demonstrate their varied roles and many civilian members and families of the Squadron were practising bows and curtseys, prior to being presented at tea, when news was received that the Royal helicopter had been diverted. A bomb threat had been received at the barracks.

For two hours uncertainty reigned, buildings were searched and re-searched, more tea and 'stickies' were produced for the families, the red carpet was rolled and unrolled—until eventually the dreaded news was announced that the afternoon programme had been abandoned. Very disappointed families and civilian members of the Squadron made their way home and all the troops who had worked so hard looked decidedly dejected.

However all was not entirely lost. The 'all clear' was eventually given for a dinner night to proceed and the Colonel-in-Chief was able to tour the Squadron displays before she attended the Officers' Mess. Fortunately the headlights from the Royal car provided sufficient illumination.

A medal presentation was also re-scheduled and a delighted **Sgt Ron Potter** received the British Empire Medal from Her Royal Highness. **Sgt Potter** and his wife, **Pam**, had flown from Northern Ireland for the occasion before moving off to the bright lights of the Capital to celebrate in style.

After the medal presentation Sgt Ron Potter is congratulated by HRH. Mrs Potter looks on proudly

For once LCpl Dave Cutler is lost for words!

After all the excitement of the afternoon, the Dinner Night passed without a hitch and excellent food was complemented by yet another exceptional performance by the Corps Band. The post horn gallop played on whip sections of antenna was well received and the Grand March from Aida played on a dipole proved to be definitely different!

The Radio Tp team. Sig Colin Whiteway is presented to HRH by Capt Justin Johnson. Cpl 'Rich' Wicking is in the background

The Royal Visit coincided with the last day in the Army for OC 2 Squadron, **Maj John Stuart**—yes, this had been decided long before the afternoon's disasters struck; Rumour has it that he very graciously thanked the Colonel-in-Chief for honouring the Regiment at his dining out. Could this be true? All members of the Squadron wish **Maj Stuart** the very best of luck in the future and hope that being a student for a year doesn't automatically transform him into a hippy!

RHQ

RHQ has finally said goodbye to **Maj John Tydeman** and **Maj Colin 'Postman Pat' Heaps**. The latter seemed to be forever returning to Wilton with news of yet more Post Office purchase possibilities, before last month saying (possibly) his final farewell to the Army at a gathering of 20 Traffic Officers, organised by his successor **Maj Robin Dodman**. RHQ buzzed with the sound of 'Do you remember when we? . . .'. **Maj John Tydeman** 2IC is off to Georgia, USA and his successor **Maj Brian Robinson** doesn't arrive until December. However the 2IC departed with the biggest smile possible; he had spent two months of preparation for the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne** and as soon as the eventful day was complete, he was beaming radiantly.

Undoubtedly the Regiment will miss the two officers for all their intrinsic charm and wit. Sincere best wishes go to them and their families for their respective future careers.

EXERCISE *VALIANT STRIDE*

'Where is Silberhutte?' from such small beginnings sprang exercise Valiant Stride—a week long adventurous training exercise in the Harz mountains. Seventeen personnel from HQ and 1 Sqn under the command of **2Lt Jenny Ogden** spent a week in August shaking the dust of Wilton from their feet. **Cpl 'Ghandi' Lee** and **Pte Jane Chinery** take up the story:

The majority of the exercise was spent mountain walking—and believe me they were mountains. Everest couldn't be that much taller surely? However, the Harz do have one over the Himalayas. Schnellies!! With the Bratwurst and chips inside you even the highest peak can be reached.

However life wasn't all walking—though you try telling my feet that. As luck would have it the Royal Hussars were exercising nearby and they kindly instructed us in abseiling, wind surfing, top roping (rock climbing made safer for the novice) and canoeing. So, as well as blisters on our feet we were also given the opportunity to get soaking wet and suffer sore hands! But even then the packed programme was massaged to allow us time off to visit the East German border (a pretty daunting sight), to go ice skating and window shopping.

The worst part of the week was the last day when we all realised that Wilton was calling once again. Had a week really gone by? Wasn't there any chance that the calendars were wrong? Oh well, roll on next year and *Vikings Venture*!'.

SSgt Marion Amos and Sgt Sylvia Parry pause for a photo while walking around the Hartz

GOLD COMSTAR AWARD

In amongst all the hectic preparations for the Royal Visit, life has been proceeding as normal in the far flung outposts of the Squadron, for example, Mill Hill, Pirbright, Caterham. In Woolwich however the routine was interrupted by the award of a gold COMSTAR to the COMMCEN. Woolwich Garrison Commander, **Brig Young** was invited to perform the presentation ceremony.

After the COMSTAR presentation
From L to R: The Garrison Commander, Mrs Packer-Moore, Mrs Hughes and Mr Linskey, the Commcen supervisor

THE ERSKINE BARRACKS COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Erskine Barracks Community Centre, housing the Thift Shop, Coffee Shop and Arts and Crafts Centre was opened in May by **Lady Elizabeth Kitson**.

Lady Kitson was welcomed by **Mrs Karen Thorne**, and after a short speech **Mrs Thorne** invited **Lady Kitson** to cut the ribbon and declare the Centre open. There followed a champagne reception, with canapes prepared by our Master Chef, **WO2 Critchley**, and a tour of all the new facilities.

Regrettably, only tea and coffee can be offered in the future—we don't think our profits will stretch to champagne every day!

Thanks are due to all those who assisted in setting up the Centre—to **Karen Thorne, Margot Wilson, Sue Bingham, Barbara Nowak, Daphne Heaps, Babs Winton** (and her mother), **Mrs Hodkinson** and to **Nanette Pretzel** who was in hospital with a brand new son on the day of the grand opening. The Community Centre will provide a much needed meeting place for all service families in Wilton.

EXERCISE *BRAVE DEFENDER*

The Regiment's involvement in the Exercise was masterminded by **Maj Robin Dodman** who integrated the reinforcements into the Regiment with remarkable ease. The majority were used to boost the hard pressed shift rosters of COMMCENs and exchanges in the three Districts that are manned by the Regiment. There were though other demands, notably **Cpls Tomison** and **Walker** who both joined the Spetsnaz to test our defences.

The Regiment however survived intact and has since reverted to its normal shift rosters but would like to extend a note of thanks to all units who 'lent' support, for the valuable and professional contribution of their soldiers.

Left Cpl Tomison and *Right* Cpl Walker attached to 10 Sig Regt for Ex *Brave Defender*

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11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

Senior management changes occurred at the end of August. Sadly we said 'Feeammanillah' to the CO, **Lt Col Peter Brown** and his wife **Josephine** who are off to Saudi Arabia. We welcome **Lt Col Mike Powell** and his wife **Anne** and we hope they have a happy and successful tour in Catterick. **WO1 (RSM) Colin Miller** handed over to **WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir** fresh from practising his 'art' at Ouston.

On 25 September **Brig Roy Maynard** paid us a farewell visit. He handed in his kit and did a spot of gardening before leaving to take up his new post as Deputy SOinC in Whitehall. We wish **Brig Maynard** and his family good luck in the future.

'Plant a tree week at Helles Barracks'
Lt Col Peter Brown plants an English Oak prior to departure

'Here, you take it' 'No, you keep it'
WO1 (RSM) Colin Miller hands over to WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir

CO Lt Col Mike Powell and RSM WO1 Tom Muir see that the Brigadier hands in his kit

OLD COMRADES WEEKEND—DRILL THROUGH THE AGES

One of the many events over the Old Comrades Weekend was a 'Drill Through the Ages' Display; a sample of the performers appears below.

L to R: Cpl Barr—SA 80, SSgt Mackinnon—Pacestick, Cpl Talbot—No 4 Lee Enfield and Cpl McGinn—mid 17th Century Musketeer

REGIMENTAL FAMILIES DAY

1 Sqn organised the day, **Lt Neil Gibson** masterminded the arrangements. Fortunately the weather was fine, TV personality Pam Royale opened the fete which consisted of bands, stalls, displays, a very popular ducking stool and a free fall parachute display. The evening was rounded off with a barbecue and each Squadron producing live entertainment.

1 Sqn 'Dolly Birds' floor show

3 TROOP PERSONALITIES

2Lt Bert 'What can you make out of this?' Appleton
Sgt Kev 'That was my idea' Fitzpatrick
Cpl Jim 'I can lift heavy things' Scott
Cpl Stan 'The man' Stanford
Cpl Terry 'Sign this leave-pass, Boss' Gigg
Cpl Mick 'Watch that window, my pension's run out' McGinn

3 TROOP PASS OFF PARADE

The parade on Friday 9 August was a very special occasion not just for Number 3 Troop, who had completed 10 weeks of training in the Regiment, but also for the CO, **Lt Col Peter Brown**.

The parade was his 50th since taking over the Regiment in February 1985, and what better way to celebrate a half-century than by arriving on the square, as Reviewing Officer, in a Rolls-Royce? With five Troop Officers on parade, **Maj Jack Boyle** was able to have his subalterns 'pacing the minutes', which amused those watching and bemused those performing.

The parade was presented to **Lt Col Brown** and he then set about the mammoth task of inspecting five troops, as the Corps band played appropriate music. As **2Lt Debbie Davis WRAC** presented her Troop and the band played the opening bars of 'The Stripper', we were grateful that she restrained from doing anything more than saluting!

We all moved down to the NAAFI where the CO addressed the recruits and their parents, and presented the following prizes:

Best Recruit	**Sig Akesson**
Best Shot	**Sig Carmichael**
Marksman	**Sig Jones**
Commanding Officer's Section Cup	**Cpl Terry Gigg**

So, Number 3 Troop moved to the next stage of training, and **Lt Col Brown** stood down; we wish him all the best of luck for the future.

3 Troop Pass Off to Auld Lang Syne

The final General Salute for the CO, Lt Col P. J. R. Brown

The CO has a word with Sig Carmichael (Best Shot). OC 3 Troop 2Lt R. S. Appleton looks on

Sig Akesson (Best Recruit) presents a farewell Bouquet to the CO's wife, Mrs Josephine Brown

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

AUTUMN MANOEUVRES

During a pleasant few days in the last week of September the Regiment took time off from going home and stayed in camp for three days to carry out some Military Training. The fire fighting stand proved the most popular, especially when the direction of water was not maintained.

First Aid also provided a few smiles:

The QM, Maj John Haydon, tests some of his equipment while instructor, Sgt Keith Parsons, hopes the clove hitches hold

The Fieldcraft phase produced some very interesting aspects of patrolling—especially when WRAC were involved!

REGIMENTAL SPORT
CRICKET

It has been an extremely busy season for **Cpl Paul Gardner** of 1 Sqn. Not only did he get hitched, but he was promoted to Corporal, and to cap it all, was awarded the title 'BAOR Young Cricketer of the Year'.

'BAOR Young Cricketer of the Year'
L—R: Brig J. Hemsley (ACOS G2 BAOR) with Cpl Paul Gardner and the CO

HOCKEY

The Regimental team had a tremendous success at the Rheindahlen Garrison Hockey Festival by beating 5 Hy Regt RA in the final.

In the Regimental Six-A-Side Competition, the finals, which were held in monsoon-like conditions, were won by B Troop in the open competition and D Troop in the plate.

SSgt John Chapman takes possession of the Rheindahlen Hockey Festival Cup presented by the Chairman of the Rheindahlen Garrison Hockey Club, Lt Col Peter Robertson

The winners of the Six-A-Side
Back Row L—R: WO2 Jim Leivers, Sgts Tommy Hannon, Roy Davis
Front Row L—R: LCpls Eddy Fisher, Joe Jordan, Cpls Paddy Williams, Billy Corner

CROSS COUNTRY

To celebrate the start of a new season we held our Annual Cross Country Event at the beginning of September. The winner was **Cpl Billy McCreath** with the CO, **Lt Col Gordon Howard** second, and **Cpl Davey Forbes** third. The Veterans Event was won by **Capt Ian Livermore**, with the 2IC **Maj John Stuart** as runner-up. The CO very kindly withdrew from the Veterans competition and his wife, presented the prizes.

The ladies' prize went to **Sgt Terry Lang**.

Cpl Billy McCreath looking nervous as he receives the winner's trophy. The CO's wife reassures him that the CO wasn't too upset coming second

O TROOP

O Troop took time off recently to have a get together on the Sports Field with a Barbecue and Potted Sports.

We are grateful to the QMSI, **George Bryson**, for entertaining the kids whilst the parents enjoyed a more liquid afternoon.

O Troop's children on their umpteenth trip round the sports field

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FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE RIDICULOUS

No disrespect is intended from the title of this opening paragraph. It merely serves to indicate the wide diversity of the two most important events of this period—The 13th Anniversary to Celebrate the Regiment's Freedom of Krefeld followed immediately by a two week Battle Camp based at Vogelsang.

FREEDOM PARADE 1985

We are very proud of the fact that 16 Sig Regt was one of the first units to be granted 'The Freedom' of a Federal Germany city. This year we celebrated the 13th anniversary of this great honour with a parade in Theaterplatz. The normal parade venue, outside the Rathaus, was not available due to the construction of an underground car park.

We were particularly pleased this year to welcome, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** as the principal British guest, on his first visit to the Regiment since becoming Master of Signals.

The inspection of the Honour Guard, consisting of almost 100 members of the Regiment both male and female, was carried out by the Oberbürgermeister of Krefeld **Herr Dieter Pützhofen** and the Master of Signals. For the first time in Krefeld the parade included the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to five WOs/SNCOs of the Regiment; **WO2 (SSM) Dave Hogben; WO2 Mac McKenny ACC; SSgt Pete Halstead; Sgt Ian Walker** and **Sgt Joe Hodgson**.

Following speeches in both English and German by the Oberbürgermeister and the CO, the Regiment exercised its right of parading through the streets with bayonets fixed, flags flying and drums beating. The band of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, playing at our speed—not theirs! led us through the streets of Krefeld.

3 Sqn march onto the parade, WO2 (SSM) Dave Nixon leading the way

It was a marvellous occasion enjoyed by both participants and spectators.

To seal the occasion on All Ranks' Ball, attended by the Master of Signals, was held that evening in the gym. The event which was organised by Capt Grace Harrison and **WO2 (SSM) Dave Hogben** was a great success and a fitting end to a memorable day.

Thick heads had to be shaken off swiftly, for the next morning saw the start of Battle Camp 85!

The Master of Signals presents the LS & GC to Sgt Ian Walker

The Citation Party prepare to march on parade

The Oberbürgermeister of Krefeld presents the LS & GC to SSgt Pete Halstead

BATTLE CAMP 85

According to the Gemund and Schlieden tourist guide, the Eiffel region offers many varied outdoor pursuits and attractions, it does not, however, warn prospective visitors about the annual Regimental battle camp in and around the Vogelsang area. Suggestions for inclusion in the Guide are:-

Beware of sweating troops attempting a CFT.
Avoid contact with foraging personnel on combat survival exercises.
Take no notice of maniacal DS.
Trip flares are placed conveniently for public use.

Once under way, battle camp soon became a challenge to all personnel, both students and DS, testing all aspects of physical and military prowess. **Capt Jim Allen** the Training Officer, seemed highly delighted with the enthusiasm displayed, and proved this by contributing to the winners 'prizes'.

Notable candidates for inclusion in the scrapbook of characters were:- **SSM Tony Hand** for his excellent way with words during morning parades; **Sgt 'Rambo' 'X'** (name withheld by request), for instructing all students in the art of selecting and cooking various items from the woods, bringing us nicely to **Lt 'Nanook' Anderson** drooling over his own baked beret.

The patrol phase threw up its own bevy of stars, a well rehearsed dying swan act by a respiratored **Sig Kev Joyce** brought the house down and one, as yet unknown, Section Commander shouting above the clamour of **SSM Dave Nixon** and **SSgt Gordon Shelley** during the minefield section, 'Every man for himself' (**Cpl Dillon** beware!).

At the end of each week of training the tired troops motored back to Krefeld, each in their own way tested to the full.

Looking forward to next year, would all units attending Vogelsang who find themselves short of qualified instructors, give the training wing more notice of their needs?

STOP PRESS:-

Found on range, three soldiers claiming to know the Lippstadt area intimately, owners please collect soonest!

Battle Camp—Day three. The Assault Course Competition

VOGELSANG

Vogelsang is a NATO Training Area situated South West of Köln in the rolling hills of the Eiffel. It is currently organised and administered by the Belgian Army and during the month of September was the temporary home for a large number of Signal Regiments including our own. The Camp has an unusual history and a short resume is included here for interest.

It was built in the mid 1930's as one of three exclusive colleges established by the National Socialist Party of Germany. Its prime purpose was to train the young Nazi elite in political and military matters. It was never fully completed and was subjected to considerable damage by American forces passing through the Eiffel after the Battle of the Bulge in early 1945.

Since that time it has been used as a military training area by NATO troops. Many of the original buildings remain and it is an imposing and frightening monument to an age without reason. Hence the author's bad attack of poetry:

By Maj W. E. Brewin

Was borne of warlords here,
Nature and her legions threw not this pot.
Sculptured by warriors here
Beauty incidental, unseen and lost.
A frightening place,
Desolate and seething without purpose.

War babies weaned here.
From teutonic breast to ersatz faith
Their tiny ghosts live on
Sinister sirens silently screaming.
Children no longer play
Their unwanted innocence threatening.

Seeds of madmen fell here.
Growing grey square towers steeped in men's blood
The victors passed through here.
Angry, tired and bearing no antidote.
It has changed little,
Death and violence exist in their own absence.

Life and time stand still here.
Cocooned and cradled in strange remoteness.
Birds of prey hang over here.
Guardians of time, quietly watching.
These are killing fields,
Without corpse, casualty or conscience.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

On Saturday 5 October the Regiment entered three teams in this event organised by the German Reservists based in Rheindahlen Village. 2 and 3 Sqns each entered a male team and a WRAC team, **LCpls Louise Boorman, Jackie Hind, Ptes Linda Brooking** and **Sue Cheshire**. The competition covered all aspects of military training—fitness, an obstacle course, grenade throwing, uniform, aircraft and tank recognition (enemy and allied), first aid, land navigation, tactical map-marking and shooting. The course lasted about four hours and was physically demanding; all three teams are to be congratulated for the energy and effort they devoted to training and competing and for volunteering in the first place! Of the 46 teams who entered, 3 Sqn were placed 13th and 2 Sqn 20th. The WRAC team came second in their section, narrowly beaten by an American team, and they earned the respect and admiration of the many inquisitive bystanders for their effort and team-work, which was apparent in all they tackled.

The happy girls from 1 Sqn after finishing second in the military skills competition

Standing L—R: Pte Sue Cheshire; Lt Julia Hands; LCpl Louise Boorman

Kneeling L—R: Pte Linda Brooking; LCpl Jackie Hind

GOLF NEWS

Over the summer season the Regiment provided two teams to compete in the RCZ League as part of the overall Crook Shield competition. Both acquitted themselves well.

In August, as part of our affiliation with the 43 (US) Sig Bn we visited Heidelberg to play the Americans as part of their 'organisation day' celebrations. The result, even without our star player, **Maj Willie Brewin**, absent on Army Golf Duties, was a convincing win for 16 Sig Regt (three wins—one halved—one loss). The team contained a mixture of established golfers and a generous sprinkling of our new recruits to the game. It was: **Maj Terry Lightfoot, Capt Tony Morgan, Capt Des Heyes, WO2 Alan Bodimeade, SSgt Steve Bibby, Sgt Roy Jarvis, Sgt Brian Roxborough, Cpl Pat Vella, LCpl Al Murray** and, last but not least, our exchange Australian, Signaller **WO2 John Tate**.

More recently the golfers made a successful tilt at the prizes during the Royal Signals Autumn meeting at Sennelager GC winning no less than five individual prizes, including whisky donated by Grants and the major prize 'The Regimental Greensome' pairs cup. The latter being won by **SSgt Mac McDermott** and **Cpl Bob Grigg**, another successful pairing of old and new golfers.

With a golfing family now in excess of 20, including the present BAOR Captain **Maj Willie Brewin**, the Golf Officer **Capt Des Heyes** is looking for even more success in 1986.

LOCAL CHARITY BENEFITS FROM BRADBURY FAIR

The money raised during the Regiment's annual open day and fete is given to both British and German charities. In the past couple of years we have forged close links with the Forderverein Freizeit Behinderter (FFB) which is a Krefeld based charity providing a secure, residential base for mentally disturbed adults and which prepares them for a return to a normal life. Last year we presented the home with six bicycles but this year, **Frau Volkel**, a local councillor and Chairman of the Friends of FFB indicated that a cash donation to assist in providing a farm holiday for the residents in Bavaria would be most appreciated. On 24 September the CO accompanied by members of the Regiment who had been active in the preparations for Bradbury Fair presented a cheque for DM 1,000 to **Frau Volkel**. We all hope that they have a pleasant and sunny holiday.

The CO, accompanied by Maj Ian Grant, WO1 (RSM) Dave Simpson and other members of the Regiment at the cheque presentation to Frau Volkel

PRESENTATION TO LONG SERVING BARBER

In August **Herr Herbert Magdalinski** celebrated 25 years of keeping the hair of the male members of the Regiment and Krefeld Station neatly shorn. Throughout this period he has taken a keen interest in the welfare and well being of the Regiment assisting with background information on our newly opened Historical Room. In order to mark the anniversary a specially designed service certificate was presented to him by the CO as a token of appreciation from all past and present members of the Regiment.

The CO chats to our long serving barber, Herr Herbert Magdalinski, after the presentation

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

BATTLE OF BRITAIN TROPHY

The Battle of Britain trophy is competed for annually by all RAF and Army sections based at RAF Wildenrath. They have to compete in all sports throughout the year for the trophy presented by the Station Commander. 21 Sig Regt (AS) has always been prominent in this competition and so far this year we have not been let down.

Our picture shows the victorious HQ Sqn Six-a-side hockey team in the recent station hockey competition.

Top Row L—R: Daniel Whelan (RSM's son), WO1 (RSM) Whelan, Gp Capt I. A. D. McBride RAF, WO2 (QMSI) Wilson

Bottom Row L—R: WO2 (AQMS) McDonald, LCpl Didcock, Cpl Marston-Weston, SSgt (SQMS) Hamilton

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR 1985

Sig Ed John, Kilo Troop, 3 Sqn, was voted 'Sportsman of the Year' 1985 by a committee consisting of the CO, **Lt Col M. McI Ayrton**, 2IC, **Maj D. Dobson** and the RSM, **WO1 G. Whelan**.

As well as being an outstanding sportsman the recipient must also have significantly enhanced the reputation of the Regiment at Sport. **Sig John** is a terrific all round sportsman with a fine record of achievements. He has represented Royal Signals in BAOR at Football, and Rugby, represented the Army, BAOR and Combined Services at Athletics and represented the Regiment at Basketball.

Our picture shows Sig John being presented with his trophy by the 2IC, Maj D. Dobson, witnessed by the QSMI, WO2 Wilson and the RSM, WO1 Whelan

THE WILDENRATH TATTOO 1985

2 October this year marked the annual visit to the Regiment of the Corps Band. A few weeks before their visit the CO decided that we would use the occasion to provide a Tattoo as an evening's entertainment for the soldiers, airmen and their families from Wildenrath Station.

In the usual tradition of the Regiment all stops were pulled out to make it no ordinary evening but a musical extravaganza and included our own Corps Band and the Band of RAF (G) together with Phantoms, Chinooks, Gazelles, a Martian landing and a firework display. The unique association between the RAF and the Regiment was amply demonstrated by the quality of the tattoo.

To seat spectators and provide a spectacular stage setting, an aircraft hangar was completely cleared and stacked seating erected. As well as station personnel, many guests from the Army, RAF and local German community were invited to provide an audience of 2,000, with an unrivalled view of the main station runway.

The programme was split into two parts, the first part consisting of a Playing of Retreat by the Corps Band. The band gave a sparkling performance of music and marching which greatly impressed the RAF and German spectators and filled the rest of us with pride in our own band and Regiment.

The second part of the performance, timed to take place as dusk was falling, consisted of the RAF Germany Band playing a selection of music from Jeff Waynes' musical version of the 'War of the Worlds' based on HG Wells classic science fiction novel. During their performance, a simulated landing by Martians was staged while fireworks went off and Chinooks from the RAF together with Gazelles from 12 Flt AAC, searchlights blazing, flew menacingly towards us out of the night sky. To repel the invaders, two Phantoms were scrambled from just outside the hangar and took off with an ear splitting roar. The complete 'War of the Worlds' scene was enacted with Martians emerging from Chinooks, looking most realistic in silver painted NBC suits, complete with cowls and armed with light lance ray guns. Much to the relief of the spectactors, the Martians eventually succumbed to earth's bacteria and slumped to the ground.

The Grand Finale with both Bands playing and RAF Phantoms making a low pass overhead while the hangar intermittently glowed with special flash lighting effects and fireworks erupting on the horizon, had to be seen to be believed. It was a case of everything going right on the night, with all the hard work and behind the scenes activity, fully justified by the result.

The Regiment hopes that the Wildenrath Tattoo will turn into an annual event which grows bigger and better each year. If we can send home a lot of happy soldiers and airmen, together with their families, after a spectacular evening's entertainment, which rekindles pride in their Service, then the aim will have been achieved.

RHQ SUMMER CAMP

Report by Cpl (Scouse) Mahoney

This year the CO, **Lt Col M. McI Ayrton** decided that everyone would have a summer break away from routine tasks.

Sgt Steve Jones was tasked by the Chief Clerk, **WO2 Ray Smith**, to organise a slightly more unusual pastime for the RHQ Tp Summer Camp. With this in mind, **Sgt Jones**, with help from the Adjt, **Capt Paul Oldfield** came up with the idea of a week at Silberhutte, taking in the following pursuits:

A 10 mile march with full equipment.
An eight mile orienteering course.
A night march over unknown terrain.
and so on and so on . . .

Just as we were all booking doctor's appointments and searching out the leave passes **Mrs Oldfield** came to our rescue and gave birth to a bouncing baby boy, which meant we'd lost our chief instructor, to the enjoyable task of baby-sitting.

So on 28 June we set off to AMTC Silberhutte with a replacement instructor, **WO2 Ray Smith**, and a slightly revised routine.

On arrival we all unpacked and settled down to six days rest. After five hours on the road the 'Chiefs' first idea of a walk into St Andreasberg for a beer went down well with all concerned, but the enthusiasm was dampened slightly after we'd walked half-way up what to us seemed like Mount Everest, before finding the town. On arrival we had red hot feet and thought we'd had enough exercise for the whole summer camp (this was only a glimpse of things to come). On the trek back to camp the urge to run down the steep hills overtook some of our members and **LCpl Willie Leggatt**, using his infantry tactics, decided a short cut was in order, and ended up in a stream at the bottom of the hill much to the delight of those taking the long way round.

The next morning, after a delightful breakfast of mince and chips, we kitted ourselves up for a trip to Braunlage. The Germans had very kindly built a chair lift to the top of the 8Km (looked more like 20Km)

mountain. Guess what? We took the hard way! three long hard hours later we reached the summit (heavens).

Refreshments came in bottles, not beer I might add, and during our hour's stay at the top **LCpl Willie Leggatt** tried every trick in the book to get the Chief's agreement to use the chair lift down. No way! So off we set back down the mountain.

Well, that was routine for the next four days, some lovely walking, lovely views, tired legs and worn out shoes.

Thanks must go to the Chief Clerk and **Sgt Steve Jones** for all the organisation and for finding such fantastic walks, and to **Rod Shaw** for all the driving. Thanks must also go the the staff at AMTC for putting up with us. Let's hope that next year we can find a camp site that's based on a huge plateau.

SCRIBBLINGS FROM THE QM'S DEPT

October sees us into the last quarter of the year, with summer safely behind us and with it a tremendous amount of work involving the department in all kinds of activities such as battle camps, summer camps, expeditions and finally, but not least, the Wildenrath Tattoo, which was a huge success.

During this frenzied activity we also made time to say goodbye, in the time honoured tradition to the following stalwarts of the troop, **Maj (QM) John Cowe** to 39 Sig Regt (V), **RQMS Jim McGovern** to civvy street, **RQMS Rod Gladwin** on promotion to RSM 227 Sig Sqn, **Sgt Mac McDonald** to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **SQMS Brummie Parsons** to sunny 7 Sig Regt; he says he'll like it and finally **LCpl Mick Pegg** to 11 Sig Regt.

At the same time as we were saying our goodbyes we were also saying hello to the following, **Maj (QM) Tom Keany** from 10 Sig Regt, **RQMS Colin Ross** from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **RQMS Mick Hill** from 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Jock Johnstone** from 266 Sig Sqn, **LCpl Ian (Radar) Crawford** from 29 Sig Regt and **Sig Mick Bridges** and **Tony Miller** from 8 Sig Regt.

CHAFYN GROVE SCHOOL

BOURNE AVENUE, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE, SP1 1LR

Tel: Salisbury (0722) 333423
Telex: 477019 ASRG (weekdays only)

Headmaster: J. R. Singleton, M.A.(Cantab)

Chafyn Grove is a long established (1879) preparatory school, now co-educational, with special experience at caring for service and overseas based children. We prepare pupils for Public School entrance and offer excellent academic, cultural, and recreational standards adjusted to the individual child. There is a good scholarship record, including recent major awards for music and art, and a very wide range of games, sports, activities, and weekend excursions and outings.

A prospectus and further details may be obtained from the Headmaster.

MIKE TROOP—DIVING EXPEDITION IN NORWAY
Report by LCpl Lewis

The expedition started on 2 September at 0800 hrs and ended at 2230 hrs on 14th. The expedition was a 16 Sig Regt affair but fortunately **Cpl Andy Dingle** invited two divers from our Regiment, so **Sgt Mike Duffin** and I went.

The journey to Kristiansand, Norway took roughly 36 hours but it was well worth it. Norway is a lovely country. We arrived at our campsite cabin on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday we had our first dive. It was a 'shake down' dive to ensure that all our equipment was functioning properly. After that we really got into the swing of things. In all we totalled 19 dives, which included two night dives and five, 30m dives. We had two dives a day, the first being before breakfast, then for safety reasons we had to take a six hour break after which we would make our second dive. The marine life was very good as was the visibility; we saw jellyfish, crabs, pollock and a few conger, squat lobsters and flat fish. It was a very enjoyable fortnight, although fairly hard work.

Our group consisted of: **SSgt Barney Barnard, Sgts Mike Duffin, Steve Newton, Cpl Andy Dingle, Cfn Jim Lees** and myself.

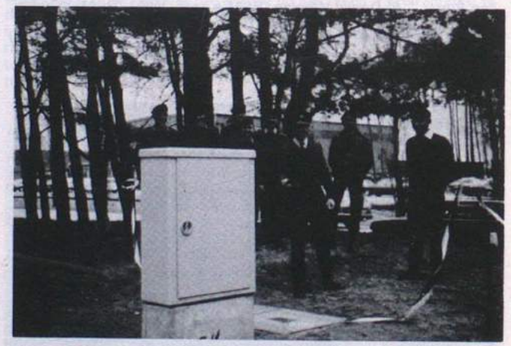
This expedition was one of few diving expeditions to Norway. Due to the success of this one, we hope they will be more abundant in the future. Many thanks to **Cpl Andy Dingle** who spent many weeks organising the event.

H TROOP RAF BRUGGEN
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Bob Bates**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Geoff Graham**
IC Techs	**Sgt Mick Campbell**
IC Maint	**Sgt Rod Hicks**
IC Projects	**Sgt Geoff Shipton**

Last month there was cause for celebration at RAF Bruggen. At long last test point 13 was completed. There are many Telemechs throughout the Corps who will remember 'the hole next to the COC' at RAF Bruggen. This existed because of the constant replacement of aged cable and the introduction of additional cables with the advent of the Tornado.

Our picture shows OC EES, **Sqn Leader Alan Berry RAF** performing the opening ceremony and suitable smiles coming from **Cpl Pete Atkinson , Sig (now LCpl) John Palmer, Sig Brad Bradley, Sid Steel, Sgts Rod Hicks, Geoff Shipton** and-stood at ease **Capt Bob Bates.**



EXERCISE *NORFIN CERTA CITO*
Report by Sig Scott Cree

Between 21 and 23 September, several members of H Troop took part in Exercise *Norfin Certa Cito* 1, a three days introduction to moving water canoeing.

The first day was taken up teaching or brushing up on basic canoeing strokes and capsize drills. We were also introduced to the taste of the Rhine, a particularly unpleasant experience.

The next two days were spent canoeing down and swimming in the river Erft.

Admin, cooking etc were left in the hands of **Sgt Dave Fraser** and **Sig Gary Drury**. We do not hold them responsible for the fact that 90% of those on the exercise came down with poisoning.

FOOTBALL

We recently completed our most successful season in the RAF Bruggen inter section Soccer league, having won promotion to division one and retaining the Plate trophy. This is a fine achievement as we are a small Troop playing against teams of Squadron strength.

Our undoubted superior fitness, good team spirit and a 'never say die' attitude saw us through our harder games. Although a team effort, special mention must be made of **Sgt Mick Campbell**'s goal scoring efforts and **Sig Geordie Maughan**'s excellent goal keeping. Both are Regimental players.

The Plate-final was a hard fought affair which we won 4—2, goals coming from **Sgts Mick Campbell, Dave Fraser, Sig Brummie Bryan** and **Col O'Brien**. Let's hope our success continues next season.

Back Row Left to Right: Sig Gaz Drury, Cpl Pete Atkinson, LCpl Stu Nicholson, Cpl Derek Carman, Sig Jimmy Dahlstrom, Jammo Hartley, Brummie Bryan, Kipper Hett, Mick Gotheridge
Front Row Left to Right: Sig Sid Steel, Col O'Brien, Geordie Maughan, Sgts Mick Campbell, Dave Fraser, Sig Taddy Tadman, Sgt A. J. Ridley

K TROOP RAF WILDENRATH
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Pete Kearns**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Chris Biddlecombe**
IC Tech	**Sgt Ian Barnes**
IC Maint	**Sgt Martin Chapman**
IC Projects	**Sgt Billy Allen**

The last two months have seen the Troop finalising an enhancement project on one of the fighter Squadrons and a start on a large computer programme throughout the Station. The project work is still immense with the new missile servicing flight soon to be handed over to **Sgt Billy Allen**, for the comms side. **Cpl Gary Gillings**, on return from the Falklands, is taking on the computer installation so there is still no end in sight for Tele Mech's work.

We welcome **Cpls Gary Gillings, Steve Brealey** and **Sig Taff Workman** back from the Falklands, after taking what we hear is a well earned rest. **Cpl Steve Brealey** on return from the Falklands will now be packing again for posting.

Since the Troops last entry **Cpl Phil** and **Debbie Wood** have increased the size of their family by one more bouncing baby boy. **Cpl Mick Senior** was voted soldier of the year and three members of the Troop, **Sgt Ian Simpkins, Cpl Phil Wood** and **LCpl Taff Skinner** represented the Regiment in the RAF Wildenrath rugby festival; well done.

FAREWELLS

November sees **Sgt Martin Chapman** promoted and posted to Hong Kong after a four year stint in K Troop and **Cpl Steve** and **Sylvia Brealey** depart for the sunnier climate of Cyprus. We wish them all the best in their respective postings.

WELCOME

We welcome into the Troop **Sgt Ian** and **Sally Simpkins, Sig Terry Brice** and **John Copley.**

VISIT TO KRUPP STAHL A G

On 29 August, as part of the Regiment's policy of getting to know the people and the way of life of our host country, a party of 16 Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCOs paid a visit to the Bochum works of Krupp Steel. On arriving we were met by the Head of Public Relations, **Dr Berg**, who gave everyone a detailed, but clear, insight into the workings of the monolithic Krupp Steel empire. A substantial lunch was then served washed down with several glasses of the local brew.

Suitably fortified, the Officers and Seniors set off for the main purpose of the visit, namely to see the manufacture of steel, using the Electric Arc Furnace, the most modern system in the world. Escorted by Krupps Chief Guide, **Herr Erwin Wenzel**, we experienced the first of many surprises that day, the very small number of men in view in the area of Molten Steel production. The reason for this was soon made clear when we visited the Control Room. There, one man, surrounded by banks of computers visually and with the aid of TV screens, controlled production. The only link with the old picture of steel making was that he wore a metal safety helmet.

Although steel production is now a computer controlled, exact science, we were still treated to a display that hasn't changed in centuries, that of the showers of sparks and tongues of flame leaping high into the sky as scrap metal is added to the furnace; the whole accompanied by a thunderous roar. A truly awe inspiring experience.

We then followed the molten steel through several processes until it was finally rolled in a mill, each roller speeding up the steel as it grew thinner until it emerged from the mill at colossal speed.

With the tour completed, we returned to the administration building to sample some more of the deservedly famous German hospitality.

In thanking our hosts, the organiser of the trip **WO2 (YofS) Roger Secker**, presented an inscribed placque to Krupp Stahl A G on behalf of the CO **Lt Col M. Mcl Ayrton**. A truly enjoyable visit and one that will be long remembered.

The Regimental Plaque being presented to Dr Berg by WO2 (YofS) Secker

1 SQUADRON

COCA COLA RELAY RACE

On Saturday 14 September, RAF Wildenrath was the venue for a road relay race sponsored by Coca Cola. Teams of four runners from each Squadron and Section on the Station ran a circuit of 2.2 miles.

1 Sqn entered three teams, whose aggregate position would count towards the Battle of Britain competition, a Station competition embracing most sports throughout the year. Some of the other teams ran in fancy dress (for which there was a separate prize), and there were also veterans' and ladies' teams.

The Station Commander, **Gp Capt A. D. McBride RAF**, started the race, and the fifty or so first runners sprinted off. It proved somewhat difficult for the spectators to keep track of the positions of their respective teams, especially towards the end, when the winning teams were crossing the finishing line just as the fourth runners from the weaker teams were starting. However the race officials had it all in hand, and 1 Sqn A Team took second place to a visiting team from the Royal Engineers.

Cpl Bill Bailey had the fastest lap time of the race, with a time of 10 mins 18 secs, and the total A Team time was 45 mins 44 secs, with fine running from **2Lt Guy Owen, Cpl Neil Allamby** and **Sig Graham Goodall.**

The other Squadron teams finished 11th and 14th, a very creditable result, beaten only for the competition prize by the runners from HQ Sqn on the aggregate score.

2 SQUADRON (OSNABRUCK)

A WELL KNOWN 2 SQN PERSONALITY.

GUESS WHO?

EXERCISE *HAZEL FLUTE*

What they never tell you before you come to the Harrier Force is that if you like extremely loud noises, the smell of kerosene, cam cream and having your nets blown down every 10 minutes, then this is the place for you. Our friends in blue got in lots of flying hours and immensely enjoyed the sport of trying to blow Radio Relay dets away. **LCpl 'Grizzly' Sanders** and **Sig 'Bopper' Bromiley**, the Triffid lads have different opinions of the jets antics. All the flying sites moved during the exercise which was an unusual and welcome addition to the routine.

Down at the sub-sites **Cpl Paul Youd** and his crew impressed by standing-to almost before it was called. Remember lads; good intelligence is useless without good timing. At site three **Cpl Martin Henley** finally got his siting sorted out, and wins a 'Hero of the Troop' award for perseverence and keeping his sense of humour—just.

Several of the Troop families came out to visit the sites on Battle of Britain Sunday visitors' day, organised by the RAF. We thank all the families who came and brightened up an otherwise dull and murky day.

Our special thanks are also owed to **Cpl 'Gaz' Cullingworth** and **LCpls Dave Lloyd** and **Pete Brindle** for their excellent work with the Troop during their short attachment from 1 Sqn.

SITE SIGNAL OFFICER'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

PTARMIGAN means never having to say 'I'm sorry.'

NEWS FROM E TROOP

EGGS IN SPACE

After a rigorous four and a half year selection period **LCpl Carlos Sinclair** finally achieved the honour of becoming the E Troop Cosmonaut. During Exercise *Hazel Flute* **Carlos** flew a sortie in support of the German Exercise called *Trutzige Sachsen*. **Sqn Ldr Cheeseman** of 3(F) Sqn RAF took our brave fool up in a two seater 'T-Bird' for a trip to the northern coast. After flying to Hamburg and back in 40 minutes the space man was heard to comment; **'I could do with one of these things for the weekends.'**

LCpl Sinclair will be sadly missed by the Troop; not so much for his military prowess (which was never in doubt), but because half the Troop will lose the Spanish holidays at his mothers' villa. **Senora Sinclair** E Troop will miss you. News released recently that there will be a summer leave ban anyway to cover the arrival of PTARMIGAN in the Squadron has done nothing to improve the morale among those who mourn the passing of the Sangria.

LCpl Carlos Sinclair, E Troop Cosmonaut

HELLO—GOODBYE

We welcome **LCpl Ian Hearn, Sig Frank Whitelegge, 'Geordie' McKenzie** (the Troop boxer, of whom we are very proud) and **'Alf' Atkinson-B**. Answers on a postcard to the Troop Staff Sergeant by 1 January 1986 if you think you know the significance of the 'B'. Seriously we congratulate **Sig** and **Mrs Atkinson-Blenkinsop** on the successful arrival of their new baby daughter. A good-bye to **Carlos**, our only departure.

J TROOP

Looking back through recent copies of the *Wire* it seems to have been some time since J Troop last featured.

In August the Troop said farewell to **Capt Phil Filby** and **Capt Fuego** who left to get educated at Blandford. Also congratulations to **Capt Fuego** on his recent marriage. His replacement is **2Lt Matt 'Where the hell is Dachau' Fensom** who has arrived straight from his Troop Commanders Course. Help!

We also welcome **Sig Paddy Whelan, Pinkie Tighe** and **Chippy Wood** fresh from the delights of Harrogate.

August was dominated by the Troop's annual migration to Bavaria for two weeks of waterskiing, windsurfing, canoeing, abseiling and hillwalking. A trip to the concentration camp at Dachau was arranged and the new OC had a little difficulty understanding the German road maps.

The weather in the main was superb. **Sgt 'Zippy' Parry** managed to get sunburnt ankles and **LCpl Phil Horne** spent most of his time in bed—he claims it was sunstroke. Much of our time was spent at the waterskiing lake, the views there being splendid! (I will elaborate no further). **SSgt Eddie Marsh** surprised us all by managing to stay up on his waterskis on his second attempt—not only that, he then proceeded to go three times around the lake. He says he's going to learn to hang glide next Wednesday afternoon.

SSgt (SQMS) Danny Mariott led an expedition up to the summit of the highest mountain in Germany—the Zugspitze. It was a very impressive trip and although it took us seven hours it was well worth it for the spectacular views—and the beer at the top.

All too soon the barbecues, beer drinking and sunbathing came to an end—particularly traumatic for **Sig Bert Reynolds** who had spent most of his time promoting Anglo-German relations.

Sig 'John Boy' MacLeod—he claims he's a beginner

An apprehensive LCpl Al Churchward prepares to descend 130ft off a motorway bridge

EXERCISE *GINGER CAT*

After a relaxing August, the Troop was soon back on Exercise in September. Due to bad weather, not so much flying took place as we had hoped. **Sig 'Sleeping Bag' Little** lived up to his name once again and **LCpl Guy Broadhurst** surprised everyone by managing to produce a Sauna out in the field. The OC's map reading is said to be improving although his driver/operator, **LCpl Martin Heap**, has now perfected the two wheel turns. He was also greeted with a cry from the OC, 'You'll have to find your way back to HQ **Cpl Heap** . . . I'm flying back'.

FOXTROT TROOP

First of all we have to say goodbye to three of our longest serving members. They are **Cpl Dave Murphy** who is off to 30 Sig Regt, **LCpl Neil** and **Karen James**, they are going to Eagle Troop at 1 Armd Div, and last but not least to **Sig Keith Jones** who thinks better things await him in civvy street. We have only one new addition to the troop and that is **Sig Scouse Renshaw** and, more about him later.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

EXERCISE *HAZEL FLUTE* 85

'F' Troop packed their kit and prepared to move. We were all called in on the Sunday night ready for an early start on Monday 9 September.

At 0400 hrs Monday morning the RAF crashed us out, everyone was woken up and we all trotted off to our field locations. The first week went well, with no major hiccups. We had the normal stand to's and **Capt (Mad Timmy) Tucker** was running around with his pistol out and getting on to the techs, **LCpl (Stag On) Steve Holloway** and **Sig (I know how to dig a trench now) Scouse Renshaw**, to participate with the rest of the site. **Cpl Keith (I'll do anything for a quiet life) Belcher**, was content to play mother, and put the brews on and make toasties for all who wished it, **LCpl (Recce Officer) Terry (15 Drums) Hague** and **Sig Brummy Chapman-Yates**, our resident linemen of Site Four, say they want their names mentioned in the *Wire* as it has never happened before!

On the second week, Site Four had their only move of the exercise, we ended up on route 33 autobahn, near Sennelager, which was closed to the public for that phase of the exercise. This sparked off a series of small demonstrations from the local population. As the RAF Regiment quietly controlled the demonstrations, the remainder of the site got on with their daily routine. The Harriers were using the autobahn as a runway, which was quite spectacular, much to the amazement of the local population, who turned out to watch the unusual sight. I am sure the pilots were trying to see how close they could get to the bridge without hitting it. The exercise ended on 20 September and we all went back to Scarborough Barracks happy to be home again.

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22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

The Regiment. In front RSM WO1 Phil Daisey and Lt Richard Giles

THE FREEDOM MARCH

On Monday 7 October, 22 Sig Regt, with the Corps Band and 7 Fernmelde Bn, marched through the streets of Lippstadt.

It was in October 1973 that 22 Sig Regt and 7 Fernmelde Bn were awarded the unique honour of jointly receiving the freedom of their resident town, Lippstadt. This parade was particularly memorable for the Lippstadters as it is the town's 800th Anniversary.

It was jointly commanded by **Maj Mike Martin** and **Maj Trostman**, 2IC's of the British and German Regiments respectively.

The Freedom Scroll is paraded every two years. This year this tiring honour was carried out by **Lt Phil Brown**, a recent new arrival; he was ably escorted by **SSgts Gerry Hegarty** and **John MacKay**. The salute was taken by the Burgermeister **Herr Clocke** accompanied by the two COs **Lt Col Peter Pritchard** and **Oberst Lt Scherz**.

The Freedom celebrations continued in a local Schutzenhalle with an All Ranks Cocktail party. Here again the cooperation of the two Regiments ensured a successful outcome. The Germans provided the refreshments while the British provided the food.

In the evening the WOs and Sergeants entertained their counterparts in their Mess while the Officers held a reception in the Rathaus for local German dignitaries and German officers.

The celebrations ended with a band concert in the town theatre given by the Corps Band. As we have come to expect from our Band, the concert was superb and very entertaining.

The salute on the arrival of the Burgermeister

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

In early August a reshuffle of officers resulted in **Capt Jeremy Ellis** taking over as Adjt from **Capt Nick Corbin**, who is off to Canada for two years with his family. The Regiment wishes every happiness to all ranks that have left the Regiment recently and welcome all of its new arrivals.

EXERCISE *MEDAS QUADRANT*

Report by WO2 (YofS) Graham Chaplin

While most of the Regiment were involved in the Regimental battlecamp, ten members were underwater off the coast of Spain. Ex *Medas Quadrant* was a sub-aqua adventure training exercise organised by **WO2 (FofS) Graham Chaplin**, which took place from 14-29 September around the Medas Islands off the east coast of Spain.

The Team consisted of 10 members of the Regiment; **WO1 Russ Davey, WO2 Graham Chaplin, Sgt Peter Hunter, Cpl Jeff Moore, LCpls John Killorran, Chris Durrodale, Sig Steve Munday, Nigel Townsend, Pete Bradshaw** and **Ed Hudson**, and four from other units; **Maj Brian Atkins** 42 AEC, **WO2 Mal Strickland** (19 Fd Regt), **Cpl Mick Redknap** (35 Engr Regt) and **Pte Ron Hay** (1 Dental Gp).

The expedition set off on its 1,500Km journey, using two civilianised landrovers on Saturday 14 September. There was a great sigh of relief as we got underway, for there had been a few of the usual last minute hitches. These were all thankfully overcome with hasty phone calls to friends and fellow divers around the Corps.

The journey was uneventful except for the lunatic drivers of Lyon, and we arrived at our base camp, the Castell Montgri campsite in Estartit, on Sunday afternoon. The local Spaniards were quick to complain that we British had brought in the bad weather on Sunday night. Unfortunately, the weather postponed our first dive until Monday afternoon. The morning was spent rechecking equipment and sorting out our administration.

In order to get the team to the protected waters of the seven Medas Islands we hired the L'Illa from the Calypso Diving Centre. The Manager, **Mr Peter Lane**, with his local knowledge proved invaluable as he showed us many of the best diving sites.

Thanks to the legal protection of the water around the Islands there are many fish and species of marine life that are not seen in the more popular dives of the Mediterranean. Huge underwater grottos and caves are also a feature of the island. These are filled with an abundance of groupers, rays, conger and moray eels, dogfish, octopus and crayfish. On one unforgettable dive **Peter Lane** fed two 30 pound groupers from a tin of compo pilchards!

During our stay the expedition received invaluable help from the United States Coastguard, Loran Station, Estartit. To show our appreciation we made a protocol visit and gave a barbecue. It was during this visit that we were challenged to a Skeet Shooting contest by **CWO Bob Russo**. Naturally the home side won. We were also given the opportunity of firing a Magnum .44 revolver, the Coastguards personal weapon.

After a total of some 200 man dives the team set off for Germany on Saturday 28 September. The returning cabriolet landrovers with, canvases rolled back causing a lot of head turning among the French motorists. We all arrived safely back in Lippstadt on Sunday morning.

Ex *Medas Quadrant* was voted a great success by divers and organisers alike. The Medas Islands offer relatively close warm water diving to all BAOR based sub-aqua clubs and we strongly recommend them to diving officers planning expeditions in 1986.

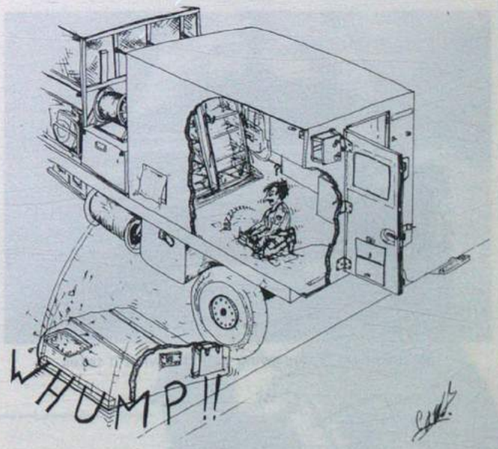
Left to Right: Cpl Mick Redknap, Sig Ed Hudson, Sig Steve Munday

WO2 (FofS) Graham Chaplin gives the 'OK'

DEEP IN THE HEART OF M TROOP, THE BEAT GOES ON . . .

Report by SSgt R. Cartwright BEM

The process of producing new for old RR (wheeled) vehicles from units throughout 1 (BR) Corps continues on schedule with the team now well seasoned to the vagaries of the task. August saw most of the team on leave, due mainly to their efforts in being well ahead with the work and some adroit schedule changes by the boss, **WO1 (FofS) Russ Davey**. The leave gave the lads a chance to regrow skin on their fingers and learn to talk without shouting and some, notably **Cpl 'Mockers' Mockford**, even became civilized enough to get married to **Sheila**, congratulations to you both. **Cpl Dwyer** and **LCpl Rogers** have joined the team and settled into the normally chaotic work very rapidly even though their permanent grins may be translated either as satisfaction or complete bemusement. The RSIT lads manage sometimes to keep their hair out of their eyes long enough to be able to give the vehicles a quick inspection prior to despatch although the furrows in the walkway caused by their knuckles is becoming a safety hazard. **LCpl 'Mac' McLuskey** (21 Sig Regt) did not understand why his Porsche was not required for the Drill Competition but after a short re-education was moved enough to make it vanish. Another vanishing act was performed by **Sgt Steve Jones** who managed a whistlestop tour of our three UK based civilian competitors . . . 'to see if they were up to our standards', he says. We would like to reiterate our appreciation of all those who are giving us support and whose assistance is much valued.



Royal Signals Installation Team Lippstadt 1985
by Cpl 'Mockers' Mockford

EXERCISE *SILVER SHIELD*

Ex *Silver Shield* was a Brigade Battlecamp held at sunny Vogelsang in mid September. Generally the regiments within the Brigade were left to do their own thing. The CO, **Lt Col P. R. Pritchard**, took this to heart!

The seven representative platoons from the Regiment were a little surprised on the day of arrival when they were split up and herded into MKs. There followed 20 hours of POW camp, interrogation, escape and evasion. The war stories are too many to mention here but I believe several escapees have contacted Penguin paperbacks and asked them to publish their own versions.

There followed a very intensive 11 days of military training some of the more exciting stands were Molotov cocktail throwing, crawling forward while being shot at with live rounds, section house clearing and boat races. Most of the evenings were also busy with night orienteering, night exercises and night demonstrations.

During the camp we had visits from **Brig R. Cook** and **Brig Almonds** who came especially to see subalterns during their training. He also managed to see some of our stranger sports during the sports day (three legged football).

The camp culminated with a two day march/patrol through enemy held country. The enemy provided by 2 Bn Mercian Regt. Then just in case anyone had any energy left the penultimate day had a five mile timed march and shoot competition in fighting order. The fastest time was by a 4 Sqn team.

The battlecamp was a great success due largely to the planning and organisation by the Training Wing headed by **WO1 Tony Cartwright** (I promised I'd get his name mentioned).

4 Sqn team. Winners of the March and Shoot Competition

An unknown hero proving he's got what it takes

Winner of the 'Mr Poser' competition for Battle Camp, SSgt Reynolds Commcen Echo

Someone looking thoroughly pleased that the March section of the March and Shoot Competition is over

On Friday 30 August the Regiment were invited to participate in the 7 Fernmelde Bn's Sports Day. We have had an official partnership with the local 7 Fernmelde Bn since August 1972 and we often meet each other on the sports field.

The day proved to be a very successful one for the Regiment, we won the Tug-of-War and came second in the 4 × 400m relay.

Maj Trostmann (2IC of the German 7 Fernmelde Bn) presents Cpl Thornton with the Tug-of-War winners trophy and certificate

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28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG) BFPO 35

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

On 12 September the highlight of the Regimental training calendar was the Milskills competition held in Francisca Barracks. Each Troop had to produce two teams of eight men which included a team captain, however, the team itself was picked from the nominal roll four days before the competition. Hence each member of the Regiment had to be fully capable of taking part. Of the two teams from each troop, one represented the first team and followed a specific route through various stands, whilst the second team carried out a number of alternative tests. The winning troop would be the one with the highest total score for both first and second teams combined. This proved to be an extra challenge when one of the troop first teams dropped to overall fourth place due to a poor second team performance.

All teams began with an inspection. The Adjutant—**Capt David McDowall** inspected all first teams, and the RSM—**WO1 (RSM) Pete Bawden** the second teams. It soon became clear which teams had carried out sensible preparation, and as predicted, the teams achieving good scores on the inspection went on to do well in the competition.

All first teams then carried out a march and shoot competition over a five mile course. The shoot was carried out in NBC protective wear. The fastest time achieved was 57 minutes by Oscar Troop. The second teams carried out a long march with burden. Whilst for some, this was a gruelling test against time, others found the burden was their own map reading. The fastest time over the eight mile course with burden was one hour forty three minutes by O Troop second team.

Throughout the camp, stands were organised by members of the Regiment; these stands tested the teams on first aid, internal security, NBC, weapon handling, and defence of a comms site.

Brig R. W. Ward presents the Inter Troop Milskills Trophy to Lt Jim Richardson. Lt Col Cliff Walters looks on

Winners of the Regimental Military Skills Competition
—Oscar Troop—
Back Row L—R: Sgt (Ally) MacKenzie, Cpls (Wilf) Greener, (Geordie) Merrie, Sig (ET) Tait, (Rockey) O'Rourke, LCpls (Jacko) Jackson, (Mario) Roberts, Sig (Null) Harrison
Front Row L—R: Sig (Rambo) Roddie, LCpl (Who me?) Mahon, Sig (Octoe) O'Toole, Lt (Jim) Richardson, Sig (Sturm) Sturmey, Cpl (Dinger) Bell, Sig (Taff) Mustoe, (Ten Phenning) Glendinning

The Regiment was pleased to welcome ACOS G3 HQ NORTHAG **Brig R. W. Ward MBE** to view the contest and to present the prizes. The weather was dry, for once, and everyone involved enjoyed the highly competitive atmosphere. The final result was not clear until the last team finished. By that stage, everyone who took part was tired but, satisfied that each had achieved a tremendous standard. The winning troop was Oscar Troop whose two teams were led by **Lt Jim Richardson** and **Sgt Allie Mackenzie** respectively.

After he had presented the trophy to **Lt Richardson, Brig Ward** presented the runners up medals for the 'Chain of Command' Race held at the Verden Marathon on 7 September in which athletes from the Regiment took part. The medals went to **WO1 (YofS) Jim Hindle, SSgt (YofS) 'Prawn' Jarvis** and **Sig 'Ghandi' Garlick**.

EXERCISE *RIVERBACKSTOP* 85

On Wednesday 17 July over 20 members of 1 Sqn, deployed south to the Swiss border with the aim of canoeing the length of the Rhine up to Rotterdam in a non stop relay. We aimed to canoe the 820Km using three independent teams each consisting of two crews of canoeists, a Radio Op, Two Drivers and a Team Leader.

After setting up on the Wednesday, Thursday saw us practising our canoeing skills including capsize drills. The main exercise brief was given at 1500 hrs by **2Lt Dave Kenyon** and the first two teams departed for their locations. The base camp at Waldsee some 20Km south of Ludwigshafen then went into overdrive to feed the teams as they came in.

The canoeing started at 0600 hrs on the Friday with **Cpl Geordie Hugill** and **Sig 'Hoover' O'Kelly** and they had a hard task on the shallow part of the river. It had already been decided to shorten the stages on this part of the river due to the conditions and so the second crew, **LCpl 'Cooky' Cooke** and **Sig Tony May** took over at 0825 hrs. At 1015 hrs team two took over and **LCpl 'Higgy' Hickinbottom** and **LCpl 'Ears' Prowse** were wind assisted by the latters physical attributes!

After this hard working team had finished in came the heavy weights—**Sig Ian Hurt** and **'Slim' McTague**—weighing 27 stones between them—barges watch out!

By 1540 hrs team three took over—we were one hour forty minutes behind our schedule but after nine weirs and two large portages we were quite happy. Then in went **Sig 'Hammy' Hamilton** and **Jock McCormack** and due to the improving conditions clocked a really fast time. Finally, it was time for our last pair **Capt Andy Harrison** and **LCpl 'Nose' Tuck**. After this the teams started again and with the river flowing deep and fast quick time was made.

The loss of one of our FFR Landrovers, loaned from 656 Sig Tp made the job for the back up teams very difficult but our REME lads, **LCpl 'Robbo' Robinson** and **Cfn Eddie Wing** had it back on the road right at the very end.

After this the canoeing went well but the next incident was when **Cpl Hugill** and **Sig O'Kelly** were prevented entering the river because they had to cross a picket line. It cost them 30 minutes in extra portage but they paddled on to handover at Waldsee. We felt a great sense of relief and were very pleased to make it to this point and felt that we really were on the way, handovers were working well and we were almost back on time.

The next stages through Koblenz, Mannheim, Dusseldorf and Krefeld went very well including the move of base camp up to Krefeld. Things were doing fine until the weather decided to put in the boot.

Together with canoeing against the gales, for the last 40Kms stage the Rhine is tidal and it was coming in. At one stage the team passed some anchored boats three times. It was tempting to finish but the crews rallied and with additional change overs we finally reached the end. The total time was three days fifteen hours and forty five minutes, nine hours and twelve minutes faster than last year, all twelve canoeists were very tired, blistered and aching but they also felt an enormous sense of achievement—good and hard was one comment and they all want to do it again.

Sig 'Hammy' Hamilton and Jock McCormack paddling hard for home

SOCCER
INTER-DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Regiment first team squad supplemented by **Sgt Billy Watts** 16 Sig Regt and **LCpl 'Robbo' Robinson** 21 Sig Regt recently represented RCZ in the Inter-Divisional Competition.

The Competition took place in Dortmund over the weekend 13-15 September. RCZ started the tournament on Friday afternoon by beating 4 Division 2—1. On Saturday morning we took on Berlin Garrison and won 3—1. Saturday afternoon we played 1 Div and despite dominating the game ended up drawing 1—1. 1 Division had been turning in some good results in their other games, scoring quite a few goals. Our final game on Sunday afternoon against 3 Div turned out to be the game which decided the competition. We needed goals, but unfortunately the opposition really raised their game. They had several class players from 1st Bn the Gordon Highlanders and this helped to produce an excellent match. RCZ won 3—2, but that was not enough because 1 Div had scored five against Berlin Garrison.

So finally the competition was decided on goal difference, with 1 Div winning, and RCZ runners up. Over the weekend, RCZ as a team played tremendous football, but a few deserve special mention: **Cpl Brian Wilkins, Cpl Dave Tuck, Sig Garry Maloney, LCpl 'Robbo' Robinson** and **Cpl Billy Grierson** all excelled themselves during the tournament.

The RCZ Inter Div Football Squad 1985
Back Row L—R: LCpl 'Postie' Bolton, Sig 'Mackum' McHale, Cpls Billy Watts, Brian Wilkins, Paul Lincoln, Sgt Phil Welham, Cpl Dave Tuck, LCpl Joe Corcoran, SSgt Brian Parkhill, Lt Harry Lund
Front Row L—R: Cpls Billy Grierson, Mark Shergold, LCpl 'Robbo' Robinson, Cpl 'Dinger' Bell, Sig Garry Maloney, Cpl Andy Norris, LCpl Jock McQuade, Sgt Ally MacKenzie

STOP PRESS:

The Regiment has won the preliminary and first rounds of the BAOR Inter Unit trophy en route to the Army Cup.

Winners of the Hockey Plate in the Rheindahlen Competition
Back Row L—R: Cpl 'Belly' Watson, LCpl 'Robbo' Robinson, Sig Mark Sturmey, Capt Simon Green, Sig 'Mac' MacKinnon, Cpl 'Grinney' Grinnel

OFFICERS' MESS v SERGEANTS' MESS CRICKET MATCH

Play began at 1400 hrs on 30 August in the annual Officers v Sergeants' Mess Cricket game. For the officers the beginning of play meant the end of a goodbye lunch for **Majs Frank Rogers** and **Jim Ross** and there was definitely swing in the air but not in the bowling.

The match was so organised that each player bowled two overs, a total of 20 overs per side. The Sergeants' Mess won the toss and elected to bat, and accumulated a total of 147 runs for seven wickets in their allotted overs. (It must be mentioned here that the boundary had been shortened by at least 20m). There were three main scorers for the side; the RSM with 75, **WO1 (FofS) Johnson** with 23 and Extras with 22. The most astounding feature of the day's play was a hat-trick by **Maj Frank Rogers** who took three wickets for one run in one over.

The large total, over seven runs an over, was a very daunting prospect for the Officers' Mess team and the first wicket fell with the score on only nine. Then however the two subalterns of the mess **Lt Jim Richardson** and **2Lt Dave Kenyon** really got together and scored 58 and 35 respectively. The score steadily piled on until the Officers' Mess required two runs from the last two balls. The CO, **Lt Col Cliff Walters** took aim and blasted a six, one of two in a score of nineteen. This blow took the Officers' Mess safely home and all the players settled down for a little light refreshment. Man of the match was **Maj Rogers** for his hat-trick and bottles of champagne were given to the two highest scores **WO1 (RSM) Pete Bawden** and **Lt Jim Richardson**.

The three wise men. Maj 'Hat-trick' Rogers, Lt Jim Richardson, WO1 (RSM) Pete Bawden

1 SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP

In the early hours of 12 August a handful of 1 Sqn personnel gathered to form the advance party for the Squadron summer camp. Ex *Harz Delight*; even **Capt Crook** managed to get up in time to leave at the unearthly hour of 0500 hrs! The morning went smoothly; they arrived safely at the campsite on the edge of the Prinzenteich lake, collected the adventure training kit from the AMTC Silberhutte and then waited in the warm sunshine for the main party to arrive with the rest of the tentage and stores. They waited, and then waited a little longer, and were starting to get a bit concerned when the reassuring sound of army trucks was heard rumbling down the track to the camp site.

However, the convoy was rather depleted, and in the fading light concern grew a bit more when it was discovered that these vehicles had been held up due to a minor accident (in Francisca Barracks of all places!) and the rest of the convoy should have arrived at least two hours ahead of them! After a quick call to camp to find out if they had broken down, the 'search party', consisting of **SSgt (YofS) Pete 'Titchy' Jarvis** and **Capt Therese 'they can't be far away' Crook** set out to see if they'd got stuck in the awkward road system of Osterode. Sure enough, and quite by chance, the three remaining vehicles were found just a little bit lost on the ring road and escorted to the camp site. By then it was too dark to do much more than put up the sleeping tents and crack open a couple of ten packs!

The following day was much more successful. After erecting the rest of the campsite, training in top roping and abseiling, canoeing and hill

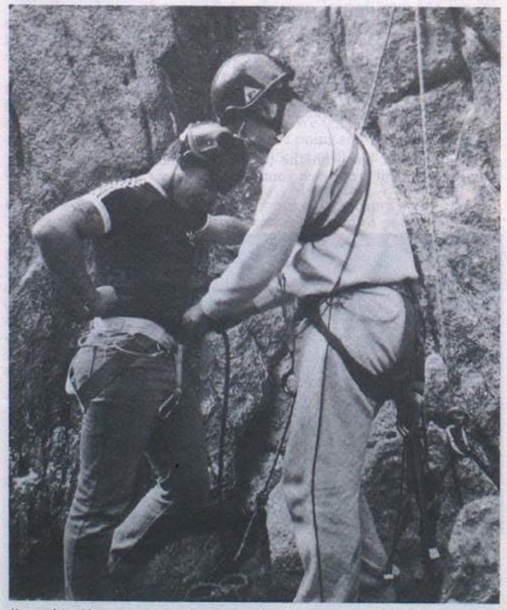
walking began. On the third day a rather unfortunate incident occurred. **Cpl 'Nobby' Clarke**, after bravely volunteering to be the first to go down the abseil, managed to stumble and break his leg. The rest of the morning was spent trying to get him off the rock face and to hospital. Fortunately **LCpl 'Scouse' Shield** had everything under control and was assisted by one of the Silberhutte instructors (the 'incredible hulk') who gave **Cpl Clarke** a piggy back over the bridge and back to the mini bus. **Sig 'Crazy Eddie'** (amongst other names) **O'Kelly** did a great job keeping **Cpl Clarke**'s spirits up by just being himself and taking a full photographic record of the proceedings from the rock face to the operating table including some of the better looking nurses!

The rest of the week went comparatively smoothly with regular visits to **Cpl Clarke** to steal his grapes and write 'naughty' things on the bottom of his plaster cast. During the week, time was found for an Inner German Border visit, a few runs down the dry tobbogan run in St Andreasburg to terrorise the local children, and a couple of hours on the ice skating rink in Braunlage to practise their Torvill and Dean routines. **Sig O'Kelly** kept smiling all week (even when it was raining!), **LCpl Dave Smart** certainly seemed to enjoy himself, if he wasn't telling jokes or singing he could be found burbling outside his tent in the darkness. The day before the first course went back to Krefeld, a bit of 'fun and games' took place, mainly on the water, in the form of a competition. Everyone got extremely wet and muddy including the organisers, **Capt Crook** and Yeoman **Jarvis** who were ceremoniously thrown in afterwards.

On the 19 August the first course departed and the second course came out for their week of 'fun and games'. First to arrive were **Cpl 'Gaz' Burton** and **Sig 'A-B' Allan Burns** by motor bike. They had had an uneventful journey until **Cpl Burton** tried to get off his bike and somehow managed to fall over and get trapped under it! The rest of the party arrived without any problems but unfortunately brought the bad weather with them. What had been a hot and sunny day turned to heavy rain which continued all evening and most of the night. The following morning the camp site look a bit washed out, but training continued without any hitches.

The evenings were generally fairly quiet. **Sig 'JD' Spiller** and **'Johno' Johnson** tried hard to persuade the others to go down town, but unfortunately most of them were skint! **Cpl Burton** had brought his fishing kit with him and spent most of the evenings trying to catch something (he never did manage to catch some smoked kippers for the OC's breakfast!). The local pub provided a certain amount of entertainment, with **Hannah** the Landlady recounting her tales of good times spent living in London, and providing us with the occasional round of drinks. Whatever she put in the drinks seemed to make the route back from the pub, which was difficult enough to follow in the darkness, even more difficult and it was virtually impossible to avoid the puddles. **Cpl Burton, LCpl 'Cookie' Cooke** and **Sig Allan Burns** definitely had this problem one evening, and could be heard giggling from various parts of the wood. Fortunately they found the camp site before stumbling into the lake! Then there was the incident of the 'three Musketeers' and the burning bush, or was it just a little camp-fire by the lake? Attempts were made to get the Yeoman to join in the fun, but he really wasn't interested. All too soon it was time to return to 'reality' and leave the soggy *Harz* till the next year. Thanks to all the instructors; **Cpl Hugill, LCpl Shield** and **Sig Ian Hurt**, to the cook, **LCpl Elliott**, and the REME lads, **LCpl Edwards** and **Cfn Sneddon**, and all the others who gave up their time to help in making the summer camp a success.

LCpl 'Cookie' Cooke, Sig 'Roland Rat' Relton and 'Johno' Johnson (*front*) and Cpl Colin Larrad stop for a fag break at the top of the hill



'I can't quite remember how to tie this one, does it look right to you?', LCpl 'Scouse' Shield inspires confidence in a rather dubious LCpl 'Cookie' Cooke

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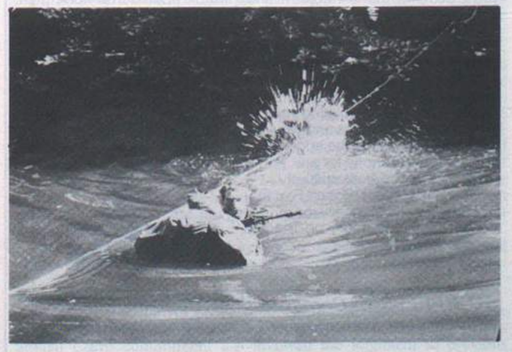
29 Sig Regt (Berlin) BFPO 45

Well, the Regiment has been rather busy over the past six weeks. A Brigade CPX, battle camp, Sector callout and Wilmersdorf Friendship Weekend have all combined to keep us on our toes in the British Sector. As if all of this were not enough, we also had the biannual tripartite signal exercise *Rondo* to contend with.

The CPX went very well with all resources being taxed and tested in providing a Hicon as well as our normal communications commitments. **Capt Dryburgh** managed to escape under the guise of PQS II education and is now known as Brave Sir Robin of Monty Python fame. (The one who ran away-away).

Our next major event was battle camp which took place between 19 and 23 August. **WO2 (SSM) Thomas** had been planning the camp for some six months and it certainly showed when we returned looking the worse for wear and smelling less than sweetly. Activities included heavy ferry crossings, assault beach landings, heliborne infiltration and FIBUA in the Berlin Civil Police training village. Two characters who deserve special mention are **Sgt Bill Johnson** and **Sgt Mark Philo** who were promoted for the week to platoon commander and who did an excellent job. They do however seem to have stopped complaining about life being cushy for the 'Ruperts'.

'1 Sqn HQ hits the Beach'—Capt Dryburgh, Cpl Clarke, Maj Lovatt, Cpl Smith, Lt Wood, WO2 (SSM) Thomas . . .

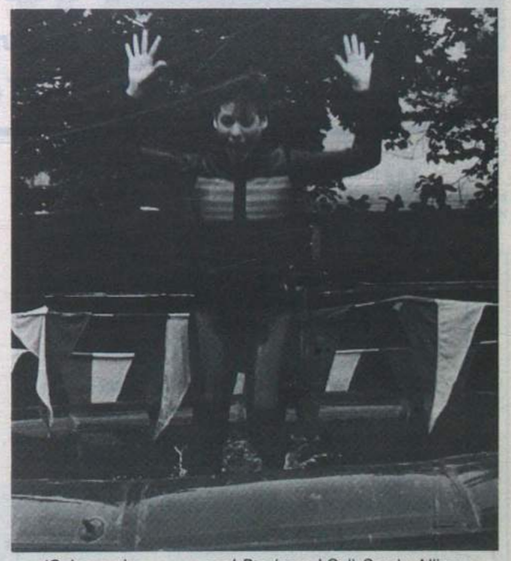


. . . Cpl Pilcher decided to swim

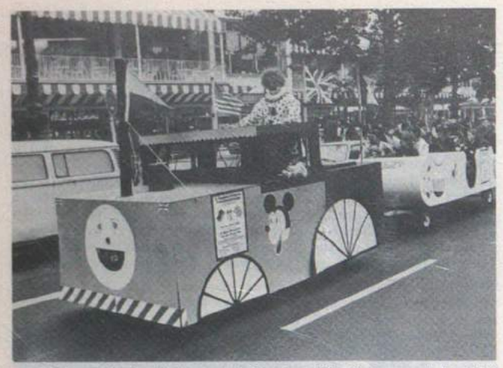
WILMERSDORF FRIENDSHIP WEEKEND

The Regiment got together this year with 1st Bn The Royal Highland Fusiliers to join with the local Berlin population for a Friendship Weekend. The events opened on 14 September with a cavalcade led by the band of 1 RHF along Kürfustendam. We were then into the swing of things. **Sig Charlie Etienne** was doing his best to sell silk ties and genuine cashmere scarves. Meanwhile at the old curiosity shop **Lt Gabi Bushell** and **SSgt Steve McKechnie** were being helped by **LCpl Pete Williams** on the Tea Caddy Marracas. But it wasn't all merchandising, Radio Troop took on the task of running the Noddy Train which went up and down the Kürfustendam with a number of clowns in support, **Sig John Quinn** and **Paul Beattie** to name but two. The most popular stall of the show must have been **Sgt Bill Johnson**'s bathing beauties from the Commcen who were all press ganged into falling off the ducking stool. **Ptes Sandy Allison, Denise Lusty** and **Liz Mason** and **LCpl Penny Lansbury** gave us lots of laughs.

At the opening ceremony, the CO got an unexpected citation . . . The Berlin Endurance Medal



'Going, going . . . gone' Pte (now LCpl) Sandy Allison



. . . Two of the Regimental Clowns (Sig Quinn and Beattie) follow on, having at last found their vocation in life

The weekend was a great success with an estimated 80,000 people appearing over the two days. Well done to all those who took part.

EXERCISE *RONDO XXIX*

Twice a year a tripartite signal exercise is held between the French, British and American signallers in Berlin. Twelve three man teams take part, each of mixed nationality. The activities include basic signalling skills such as radio operation, line laying and use of the various codes and procedures in each of the three sectors. In addition there are command tasks, assault courses, both urban and conventional, and weapons familiarisation. One of the most interesting command tasks on the British sponsored *Rondo* in September was a driving test. Each team of three had to manoeuvre a landrover around a marked course, pick up a trailer and reverse it into a garage. The catch was that the driver was blindfolded and directed by use of a teleport 9 radio held by his co-driver with the instructions coming from the third team member outside the vehicle via another teleport. Some of the results were very interesting and **Cpl Tough**'s team were last seen heading for Kladow in a very crooked direction. The competition overall was hard fought with **Sig Lloyd**'s and **Whitehead**'s team staying neck and neck until the last event. There was also an urban assault course using cellars, roofs and mouseholes and even a 50m stretch of sewer. **Sig Lloyd**'s team eventually emerged smelly overall and victorious. All work and no play etc. There was of course ample opportunity to socialise in the evenings, always a popular activity. We look forward to *Rondo XXX* which is to be sponsored by our American allies.

The Winning Team—Sig Lloyd with his two Allied Counterparts display their trophies. In fact this is the one photograph in this selection which Lloyd didn't take

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30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

PROJECT WALLACE—COMMEMORATIVE EXPEDITION TO NORTH SULAWESI, INDONESIA

Report by LCpl Rahman

Project Wallace is a Joint Services Expedition to the rain forest of North Sulawesi in Indonesia. The expedition is running for one year from January 1985 to January 1986, and consists of three separate phases, each of four months. The service team consisted of 20 personnel from surveyors to paras.

I and **Sig 'Chalky' White**, from HF Tp 2 Sqn, arrived in Indonesia for the start of Phase 2. After a very tiring journey, we finally reached Jakarta, the capital of Java. The first thing that struck us about Indonesia was the stifling heat and very high humidity of 96%; it was very hard not to sweat.

After spending two very hot and sticky days in Jakarta we were ready to catch our next flight to Sulawesi. This was an eye opening experience; flying in an old propellor driven plane for five hours. We were really worried when we looked out of the window and saw the propellors being bump started by the airport crew! After a very bumpy journey we arrived at Menado airport in Sulawesi.

We were met at the airport by a very bashed up white safari Land Rover for the last part of our journey to the base camp, where we arrived in pouring rain. We were told that this was quite normal for the Dumaga Bone National Park. The camp itself was very basic, consisting of one large building and a few tents for accommodation.

After having a very short time to settle in, we spent our first week in the forest, resupplying the sub-camps. Altogether there were six of these out in the forest; the furthest away being two days' walk.

We found this very exhausting due to the lack of acclimatisation and the loads we were carrying. It was not uncommon for some members of the service team to carry up to 80lbs.

The rain forests of Sulawesi are cold and wet; very different weather from the base camp. After walking in the forest all day we were completely soaked through. The first thing to do upon arriving at a sub-camp was to change into some dry clothing, and to de-leech! The leeches in the rain forest got everywhere, so a very thorough check was in order! Next on the list was a warm meal.

Most of the time spent at the sub-camps was taken up with general maintenance. We also did numerous tasks from cutting grass to building bridges. While we were doing this, the scientists would do their collecting. Most used a 'light trap' system. This consisted of a white sheet which was strung up between two trees with a mercury based light bulb placed in front. Some very unusual moths and inserts came into these traps; generally the scientists were very pleased with the results.

The time out in the forest was spent with different types of scientists, from rat catchers to experts on dung beetles. Scientists from all over the world will be taking part in Project Wallace over the next few months, along with a new service team, consisting mainly of Gurkhas.

In return for helping them, they often presented us with bottles of beer. This beer 'bir Bintang' was acceptable if you liked drinking turpentine! But it was very pleasant to have a nice cold beer.

Communications were very basic on the expedition. The PRC 320 manpacks were ideal for the type of ranges we had to work. Every sub-camp had a radio and hand generator. We normally arranged the calling schedules as the scientists were going to the camps.

The other task we had to do within the base camp was the electrics. This was a nonstop job, as the rats always seemed to chew through exactly the right wires in order to knock the lights out! But, when we decided to lock a python in the roof this seemed to solve the problem. **Sig 'Chalky' White** became a very good rat killer. Our tents were normally infested with them and a lot of sleep was lost through the constant gnawing in suitcases and bags. However when they started running up and down your back that was when you'd had enough! **LCpl Dave 'Marconi' Oliver** from 244 Sig Sqn always had his machete at hand even whilst he was asleep. This often worried me as I was on the bunk above him and imagined my toes being mistaken for a rat as I climbed out of bed.

After four months we were very glad to get back home, but will always look back on Indonesia as an experience we will never forget.

THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT

In July, the Regiment provided an equipment stand as part of the Royal Signals display at the Royal Tournament, Earl's Court. This annual Corps commitment has involved the Regiment in previous years: this year, 1 Sqn provided a TSC 502 Satellite Terminal and manpower which constituted about half of the Signals stand itself.

On 8 July, the Regiment's contingent set off for London: **Lt Patrick Windsor Brown, Sgt S. P. Sutton, Cpls Keith Barker** and **Graham Fleming**, and **LCpls Joe Flood, Mark Riggall** and **Steve Rood**, all with their thoughts focussed on the bright lights of the metropolis.

Two days later the Tournament began. Flanked by an Army Air Corps helicopter on the one side and a large armoured car on the other, we had to compete for attention, but the siting of the satellite dish antenna and the display of a 12ft by 10ft version of the 'San Carlos Water' painting did something to attract the public's attention. Furthermore, use of the (ubiquitous) teleprinters to produce pictures of Andy Capp, Yogi Bear, Winston Churchill et al drew children like moths to light. The pictures proved so popular that charity collection boxes were introduced, thus netting a considerable amount of money for the Douglas Bader Foundation and for Help the Aged. A rewarding 'plus'.

All went smoothly and crises were limited to the imminent shortage of 'Royal Signals—Combat Communicators for the British Army' stickers and the reluctance of the line modem to comply with the knob-twiddling instructions of two errant eight year old boys.

All of us managed to see the show itself at least once! This year it was the turn of the Army to set the theme, and the opportunity was used to celebrate 1985 as the 300th anniversary of 12 regiments formed after the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685. Several memorable events from the display spring readily to mind: **LCpl Rood**'s answer to the query of whether punch tape was for blind people—'No, it's for blind duplex' sent the questioner, (a little girl) away, shaking her head in understandable confusion . . . and **LCpl Flood**'s embarrassment on learning why one little girl didn't want a print-out picture of Bugs Bunny:

LCpl Flood: 'Don't you like bunnies, then?'
Little Girl: '. . . Mine died yesterday . . . choked sob . . .'
LCpl Flood: 'Aaah . . .'
See you there next year!

Cpl Keith Barker (*centre*) explains why the TSC 502 has difficulty receiving Radio Three, whilst it can listen-in to Reuters. LCpl Riggall tries to control his laughter whilst LCpl Rood (*left*) indicates the finer points (if there are any) of the T1000 teleprinter, employed in the 'Andy-Capp-leaning-against-lampost' mode

In the foreground, two members of 244 Sig Sqn explain to a confused public why they are equipped with kit they can't talk about, for reasons of either security or ignorance

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EXERCISE *ROLLING DEEP*

By Lt Stuart Sharman

On the seventh of September, you might well remember
T'was a Saturday just barely alive,
When we left Blandford Camp to make way for the damp
In the year of eight five.

Rolling Deep was the name of this exercise game,
Off we all went with a will;
But the journey was slow coz' the truck wouldn't go
Unless it was down a big hill.

Far away to the hills, the Marines and the 'Pils'
It's to Plymouth where first we must fly:
To meet with the boat in which we must float
Up the West Coast of Ireland to Skye.

In Plymouth the beers went with the cheers
Of the Marines who were going away,
And the spirits not bad, some jars 30 had
And practised the alcohol sway.

Sig Lamont's going home to Skye all alone
Cpl Evans is pining for Wales;
But the food it's free as we return to the sea
And *Sir Percival* rolls as she sails.

So we landed at 'Sleat', the Sound is so neat!
Could we have asked for much more?
Sheltered from view, and the wind as she blew
And the waves just lap on the shore.

And its raining again, the tent's like a Fen
But the SATCOM's working OK;
And morale it was high off the east coast of Skye
As we twiddled with knobs night and day.

On leaving the site we were in for a fright
The Bedford was stuck in the mire!
Well the fence had to go, and by laying it low
We escaped with a squeal of a tyre.

On the road to the beach which was just within reach
Of the wheels of the 4 tonner truck,
To scrape by the ditch into which we could pitch
Required a deal of good luck.

But the Marines, if you please, with consummate ease
Drove Rovers into the drop
And while they surveyed 30 Signals displayed
The techniques that made them the top!

So back on the ship for another sea trip
Right up the coast to Cape Wrath,
We find that its boring amongst all the snoring,
Apart from the trips to the trough.

And into a dune by Durness we're marooned—
Not a Marine to ruin our span;
Pleasant beaches to roam, not far from our home,
But cam cream ruins the tan.

Now be my guest as to what happens next
Yes it's back to the faithful old tub,
And there we will sit and watch for a bit
A video and eat lots of grub.

Plymouth arrives once again on the skies,
And a crane unloads with a crunch;
But the hours slip by as the man in the sky
Disappears for his two hours of lunch.

Now into the next phase which lasts five days
On Dartmoor, is fought the last stand;
And of course now its hot, NBC rules the lot
But, 'Eyeee lad' the SATCOM's been grand!

Here's some of the Det that I'd like to bet
Are fed up with ships and the rain,
But fought with a grin and never gave in
And probably 'ld go back once again.

Cpl Harding looks glum; he slipped on his bum
And his wallet has gone for a walk,
Cpl Astell cooks well, the compo was swell,
And his letters are covered in SWALK!

Cpl Nash he looks tired, as if he was wired
To the SATCOM, hes learning so fast
That messages fly and TEAR through the sky
I wonder how long it will last.

Mr Wilkes you see has been on TV
Cpl Roberts has nothing to gain
With miles of line and technical twine
The telephone he's started to train.

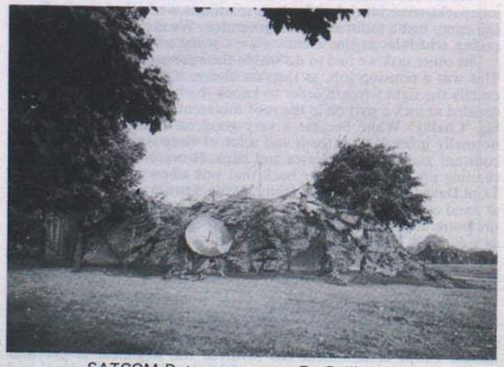
Cpl Esson's in love, she's an angel above
In the sand he writ out her name
When the photo she sees will **Karen** be pleased
Or will that be the end of his game.

To the tech with the brain—I've forgotten his name
He mends and works off and on,
I thought it was Fred but dog-gone it he's dead:
Perhaps we should try our **Bass-on**.

And last but not least in this personnel feast
Is **Simpson** who might be asleep.
And oh yes the OC whose gone for his tea
The waistline he struggles to keep.

And tacked on the end is your burbling friend
Who wrote this attempt at a rhyme
All right it's not prose but that's how it goes
And to call it poetry's a crime.

Rad 5 Marines Det at Seaton Barracks Plymouth



SATCOM Det as set up on Ex *Rolling Deep*

EXERCISE *LATE START*

Ex *Late Start* took place amongst the beautiful hilly countryside of South Wales. However, the Sennybridge Training Area turned out to be slightly wetter than anticipated. As the vehicles drove out of Blandford Camp heading for South Wales, the first spots of rain were detected. The sun did not show its face again for the next five days.

The exercise had two aims, firstly to practice communications in the field and secondly to make extensive use of the range facilities. Communications were practised in the early morning and evening, leaving the daytime free to make maximum use of the ranges.

A considerable number of rounds were sent down the ranges before a fault in the target scoring mechanism was discovered. The fault was attributed to the 'damp conditions'. It is difficult to say whether or not this discovery raised the morale of those poor unfortunates who had repeatedly adopted the prone position in six inches of water and had consistently scored zero.

The assault course competition on Wednesday afternoon turned out to be the highspot of the exercise. The organiser **Lt Rob Salvoni** managed to incorporate more mud, water and obstacles in a 500m stretch of Welsh countryside than was thought physically possible. **SSM Andy McBain**, with his great knowledge and experience of assault courses decided to sacrifice his chance of competing in order to do his David Bailey impressions. **Sig 'Man Mountain' Woolston** left his fellow team members far behind until he met his match with the 12ft wall! **Cpl Mick Stanyer** enjoyed doing Rambo impressions in the mud (so much so that he actually volunteered for a second run!) The Line Troop were the eventual winners but only after a last minute effort by the Officers/Seniors Team was stemmed by a two minute time penalty for cheating. (Untrue!—Officers Team Capt).

Naturally enough, as the convoy left Sennybridge for the return journey to Blandford Camp, the sky was blue and the sun shone.

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RHQ

The once traditional post-camp siesta is now clearly a lost cause and the last three months have seen the Troops and Squadrons scattered far and wide in a wider than ever range of activities. The period culminated in Ex *Fresh Venture*, a full Regimental Communications exercise with our various elements deployed over a wide area of the South Downs; the exercise was also the unit ARU and we were delighted that **Brig Ian Shapter**, Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) was able to endorse most generously our communicating and military skills.

Within our ranks the airborne influence seems to be gaining ground; early September saw **Capt George Devine** (PSAO 83 Sqn) hurl himself out of an aircraft high over Clapham Common, fortunately not through any indiscretion on the Squadron accounts but as part of his continuing membership of the Blue Helmets Display Team. Not to be outdone, back at Hammersmith a combat-kitted UFO was later positively identified as none other than CO **Lt Col David Strong** taking part in a sponsored 'death slide' in aid of the Charing Cross Hospital Medical Research Appeal; we are pleased to report that he not only survived the horrifying hurtle through the air but raised a handsome sum in the process. Rumours that the Regiment is now to form its own 'death slide' display team under the title of 'The Brown Trousers' are of course totally untrue.

CADRE COURSE

Crowborough Camp, Sussex was once again the very pleasant venue for this year's nine day test of leadership and military skills for 15 actual or aspiring JNCO's and in a packed programme it was difficult to know who had worked harder, the students or the instructors led by **WO1 (RSM) Jeff Shergold**. Certainly the pass-off parade would have done credit to the Guards Depot itself with **Sig Kevin Day** (83 Sqn) as Best Student and **Pte Cecilia D'Arcy** (41 Sqn) as Best WRAC Student. And even **Sgt Dave (Right-gottit in one) Vaughan**, PSI 41 Sqn, admitted he had enjoyed the week away from the pressures of running a TA Centre.

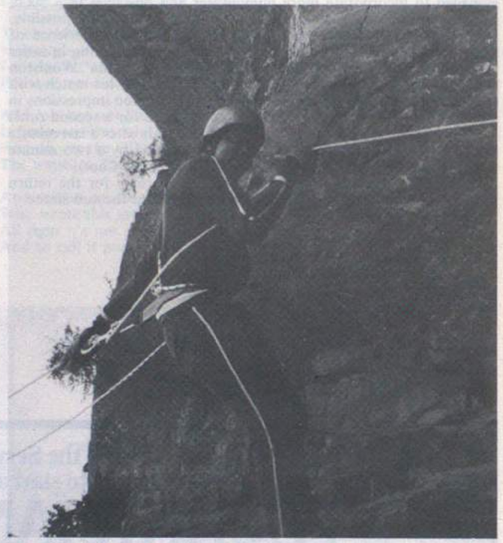
The students, Pte Dorinda Rowe (HQ Sqn) demonstrates the Sgt Dave Vaughan method of stepping off

CO congratulates Best Student Sig Kevin Day (83 Sqn) whilst WO1 (RSM) Jeff Shergold prays his account will balance at the next audit board

EXERCISE *CELTIC CHALLENGE*

Early September saw almost 30 members of the Regiment led by **Capts Ian** and **Linda Webber** travel north to assemble at the Guards House Folda Perthshire for a week of adventurous training. The party which included 11 WRAC carried out a wide range of activities in weather which ranged from very wet to quite wonderful.

Highlights of the week included **Sgt Derek Cattrall** abseiling face-down, no one being more surprised than himself-was it deliberate or was he pushed? Swimming and capsize drills were performed in what was surely the coldest loch in Scotland with body heat being regenerated later in a lively stomp at the local ceilidh (I think this probably means dance-Ed). A continuing mystery is how one sailboat managed to get back to the jetty in absolute calm whilst the more experienced sailors captained by **LCpl John Hancock** had to be rescued by the powerboat. Back at base **WO2 (AQMS) George Collins**, ably assisted by **SSgt Alan Parry** kept the admin under control, whilst **Sig 'Ratty' Lynch** was good enough to act as the butt of all humour throughout the latest trip north of the border.



'Do I open my eyes yet, Sir?' says Sgt Derek Cattrall

LANYARD TROPHY SURVIVORS

Back (Left to Right): Sig 'Shrimp' Murray, Cpl 'Dumbo' Farmer, Sig 'Fatty' Molloy, 'Trooper' Crofts, LCpl 'Squigmas' Rouillon
Front (Left to Right): Capt Devine, Sgt 'Inch High' Oliver, Sig 'Lenny Henry' Sutherland, 'Rumbo' Burton, SSgt 'Taff' Flaherty
(Absent on duty Sig Cameron Rennie)

HQ SQUADRON

With a recent reshuffle in the Unit Pay Office our column concentrates on the Regimental Pay Team which is now as follows;

Paymaster	**Maj Joe Owen**	
2IC	**SSgt Frank Spiers**	
Pay Sgt	**WSgt Jo Heathcote**	REME Pay
	Cpl Dave Walker	83 Sqn Pay
	WLCpl Betsy Kolsky	HQ Sqn Pay
	WPte Carol Mead	41 Sqn Pay
	WPte Pauline Keating	47 Sqn Pay

Congratulations are due to **Cpl Walker** and **LCpl Kolsky** on their recent promotions after gruelling fortnight courses at Worthy Down and **Ptes Mead** and **Keating** are looking forward to their B3 courses there next February. A new departure for the team is its regular appearance on range weekends with a pay table to answer queries and keep in close touch with 'the Customers'; a new computer program is promised by **WO2 (FOS) Lew Lawton** and will further improve the range recording service provided by the team, willingly supplemented on occasions by **WSgt Sheila Billing** of MT Tp.

Finally, congratulations on her recent promotion to **WSgt Elaine Hassall ACC**, to **WLCpl Sue Dewe** on her promotion and very best wishes on her marriage to **Ian Stratta**, and lastly to CO's driver, **Cpl 'Klondyke' Bashford** who has been selected for promotion to Sergeant on his forthcoming move to AFCENT early next year. Well done all.

41 SQUADRON

Since our last contribution we have congratulated **Cpl Mike Watkins** and **LCpl Mark Hornibrook** on their promotions, and have welcomed into our ranks **Pte Janice Willan** and **Sig Mark Cook**. With the Regimental recruiting caravan deployed actively in the Coulsdon area and with another recruiting mailshot about to take place, we look forward to many more new faces in the Squadron. Ready to receive them at the TAC is **Sgt Frank Vaughan** newly transferred from the RHQ training team in succession to **Sgt Roy Sutherland** who is posted to J Tp.

New Zealand Camp on Salisbury Plain was the venue for a sunny and successful range weekend in July with a variety of weapons on hand; sad to relate the sole photographic machine available to record the events was in collision with a 48 seater coach and anyone interested in acquiring a camera measuring 2ft sq by about ½in deep should apply to the disconsolate owner, Squadron 2IC **Capt Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki** for details.

August included a Troop Commander's weekend and the HF warriors of J Tp decided on a nautical flavour at Portsmouth. Under **2Lt Tony Rose** and **Sgt John Hickey** the visit included a submarine visit and an air sea rescue demonstration whilst back at base camp chief cook **Sgt Keith Byatt** was in command of the steak and barbecue department. **LCpl Mark Hornibrook** and **Sig Jeff Horsham** not only survived the evening's activities but managed to win most convincingly the subsequent HF exercise on the return journey to Hammersmith.

September saw the three Troops deployed over a wide area of south east England for the ARU comms ex and the honour fell to Kilo Tp to provide the set-piece deployment demonstration for the inspecting officer, **Brig I. R. D. Shapter**. Diplomatically delaying until Comd 11 Sig Bde was in place, **Lt John Ruske**'s team moved swiftly into action with newly qualified **LCpl Dick Tuck** and **Sig Trevor Austin** proving they could still remember how to tune a C70, whilst in the Msg Centre. **LCpl 'Clutch' Leighfield** and **Pte Sharon Rogers** soon had the tg circuits humming. Giving tech support was **LCpl Barry Woolgar**, clearly in his element whilst **Sgt Les Jackson**, newly posted from HF radio cautiously admitted that the change of scene was 'an interesting experience'.

47 SQUADRON

Recent movements and posting have altered the management face and our senior appointments are now as follows;

OC Sqn	**Maj Bill Morris**
2IC	**Capt Mike Lucas**
OC F Tp	**Lt Steve Potter**
OC G Tp	**Lt Penny Rose WRAC**
OC L Tp	**2Lt Kendall Withers WRAC**
OC P Tp	**Lt Prakash Mehta**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Barry Skingle**

Additionally we have welcomed from the Army Apprentices' College **SSgt (NRPS) Doug Martindale**. We congratulate **Capt Anne Hancox** on her recent commissioning and appointment as Traffic Officer. On the building front our long awaited stores cages are now complete; it's truly remarkable what came to light in the reshuffle—does any unit need 3,000 pairs of secondhand mule shoes?

During August and September post-camp euphoria set in with a vengeance and for those who survived Scarborough 1985 the absence of early morning marathons was a sincere relief. Our Squadron weekend in August was spent on the South Downs where OC **Maj Bill Morris** said 'the scenery is beautiful' and we certainly had time to reflect on this as we trudged along our 12 mile forced march. Sunday followed with an escape and evasion exercise where all the Rambo instincts of **Cpl Steve Cooke, LCpl Steve Prance** and their team were put to good use in hot pursuit of the unfortunate victims led by **Sig Gunner Metcalfe, Pte Sandy Giles** and **Sig Gary Cheshire**.

September saw Switch Hotel deployed somewhere in darkest Hampshire and with numbers reduced by holidays and other commitments, flexibility was the order of the day; our TOT **Capt Paul Fredericks** increased his knowledge of radio relay by leaps and bounds, the linemen under **LCpl Sandy Giles** hauled their cables through the mud, whilst back in the admin area **SQMS SSgt Bill Ralph, Cpl Reg Banks** and **Cpl 'Spud' Taylor** produced a mouth-watering fresh meat stew to the delight of all who savoured it.

83 SQUADRON

Principal news for the period is that our TA Centre at Southfields is now rapidly approaching its completion after a virtual complete rebuild. The parade square is looking less like a builders yard with every week that passes and in July the entire Squadron set to in moving a veritable mountain of stores from the old garages into the renovated areas. SQMS **SSgt Bill Hatton** and his team then had the unenviable task of sorting it all out, but the end of their labours is now close at hand and it will not be long before the Squadron can vacate its temporary home at Lytton Grove and return to what will probably be the finest Royal Signals TAC in the land.

For his first Squadron weekend OC **Maj Jim Mill** decided on a watermanship theme in the scenic Arundel area of Sussex. Under the guidance of PSI **SSgt Taff Flaherty** we proved our expertise in getting dry kit across wet rivers in flotation packs, although then trying to get ourselves across the water was a different story as **Sig Dave Brown** and **Bernard Walsh** discovered as they tried to drown (or was it to rescue?) each other. All this was followed by a session of mud wrestling—not exactly a recognised military skill, but the tide had withdrawn a little too hastily.

The following weekend saw 11 members of the Squadron travel north for a week of adventure training at the 11 Sig Regt centre in the Lake District, and where even more water was discovered as it rained most of the time. **LCpl Bev Holley** somehow managed to wedge her canoe between two rocks on the white water course, and on the hillwalking event **Sig (SAS) John Crofts** and **Sig Garry Molloy** took matters to extremes by completing the 28 mile walk with full bergens. Finally commiseration for **Pte Karen Amey** for whom the English summer weather proved too much and who succumbed to third degree influenza.

Back at TAC Cobham, B Troop has said a sad farewell to PSI **Sgt 'Chappie' Tunks** and his wife **Allison** on posting to BAOR and, pending a permanent replacement, **Sgt Garry Ritchie** (M Tp) has put down his soldering iron and stepped into the breach.

Finally, sincere congratulations to **Sgt Simon Fernley-Jones** (B Tp) and **Cpl Andy** (Para) **Raynsford** (A Tp) on their recent promotions.

Satisfied soldier (and this issue's photographer) Sig 'Lenny Henry' Sutherland (83 Sqn)

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) Glasgow

EXERCISE *BRAVE DEFENDER*

The week 6-13 September saw the Regiment deploy on Ex *Brave Defender*. It was an excellent opportunity to test our ability to perform well in our operational role providing communications ranging all over Scotland. Not to mention the stress from fear of the unknown 'enemy'!

'A' Echelon based at Redford Barracks in Edinburgh had little to worry about with the 'enemy' living under the same roof, while **WO1 (RSM) Brian Wilson** keeping a wary eye on 'B' Echelon at everyone's favourite training camp, Barry Buddon, could hardly contain himself when approached by his local 'enemy' with a request for accommodation for the evening and 'please sir, could we use your mess?'

The opportunity exists to travel with the Regiment when exercises come around and this was no different. The lucky chap, **Sig McMillan**, won the first prize of a one way ticket to the Isle of Tiree to give technical support to an Infantry Platoon there. Unfortunately his return journey was slightly more difficult and he ended up five days later thumbing a lift from a passing Chinook!

Mould Troop, under the command of **Lt David Harvey**, were having about as much luck. After careering around the countryside one detachment finally came to rest in Fife where **Cpl Gordon Griffiths** discovered his task was to erect a mast in the middle of a nettle bush! This task wasn't helped by the time chosen—midnight. Nor by **Pte Anne Duffy**, his partner in crime, chuckling on the sidelines. At 0200 hrs his OC found him with the memory of it all still fresh in his mind, but everyone had difficulty in sympathising!

WO1 (RSM) Brian Wilson looks slightly puzzled at this latest sighting of aliens

Visit of the Field Army Commander to Ex *Brave Defender*
Left to Right: Col Sim (Col TA), Brig Alstead (Comd 51 Bde), Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst, RSM Keating, Maj Doug Bartlett, OC 51 (Highland) Sig Sqn (V)

ANNUAL CAMP

As a follow-up to Ex *Brave Defender*, the Regiment found itself in the throes of annual camp, held this year at Barry Buddon. After the intensive use of trade skills, it was now time to focus on the military training side of life.

All members of the Regiment were put through a one day NBC exercise. After moving into location, they were subjected to various bombardments and a couple of 'unplanned' incidents (we won't mention the bogged in four Tonners!) all tackled in full NBC kit.

After that the pace slowed down slightly to give us time to recover for first aid training and the assault course competition.

51 Sig Sqn (V) WRAC all 'tied up'!

FOCUS ON 52 (LOWLAND) SIG SQN
ACTIVITIES

The Squadron must be one of the busiest TA units anywhere and this summer had a wide range of commitments from two man dets into the wilds of Kintyre and Galloway to the usual 'all singing, all dancing' Regimental exercises. **Capt Ann Sweeney** and **Lt David Harvey** even managed a joint trip to the Inner Hebrides for three unchaperoned days but claim seasickness put a stop to any unmilitary activity! The PSAO, **Capt 'Nic' Nicholas** copes cheerfully, fighting for order amidst the chaos.

RETIREMENTS

2Lt 'Young Cameron' Donald, clearly unable to stand the pace, has transferred to 36 Sig Regt (V) in Cambridge. Watch your hearts girls!

Ex-Pte Marion Jack WRAC, who left to join the Regular WRAF has come top of her recruits course.

One way or another, those who leave 52 Sqn go far!

CO and the newly commissioned Lt Brian Peel (ex RSM) having a discussion on the correct dress for the Officers' Mess bar at 2 o'clock in the morning

ADVENTURE TRAINING

As a climax to the summer programme the annual adventure training weekend (was it only 48 hours?) took place around and in Loch Goil. 'I counted them all out, and I counted them all back in again', said a relieved 2IC, **Capt Ruth Maltman**.

SSgt (RQMS) Tom Padden ran the base camp, while other SNCOs designed and manned the stands, **SSgt Ron Taylor, Sgts Keith Anderson, Eddie Butler, Billy McMaster, Grahame Smith** and **Cpl Terry McVey** all received the Squadron's thanks for their efforts in the traditional way: they ended up in the river.

Support from RNVR and HQ Sqn was most appreciated, and the Squadron stood down for a month's much needed breathing space.

'Thanks for the loan of your aftershave, Fiona'. Sgts Smith and Smith site the Sergeants' Mess

Adventure Training
Back Row: Cpl Robert Grahame, Pte Anne Dick, LCpl Dougie McDonald, Cpl Fred Caldwell, Cpl Sheila O'Brien, Sig Brian Wilkie
Front Row: LCpl Margaret McManus, Pte Fay MacCallum, Pte Mhari Keir

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FARAWAY PLACES?

UNUSUAL JOBS?

LET'S HAVE THAT STORY!

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

Since our last report in the September issue the Regiment has been extremely busy in a wide variety of activities ranging from a Regimental Reception to a 95 mile trek across the Scottish Highlands, so much for a peaceful life in the TA!

REGIMENTAL RECEPTION

This took place on 14 September, at 59 Sig Sqn TA Centre which is based at Edge Lane in Liverpool. It should have been a 'Spring' Reception; but due to a heavy training programme finding a suitable date became a problem that took six months to resolve.

However thanks to **Capt Ron Meyer**, our industrious PSAO at 59 Sqn and his team of Permanent Staff, **SSgts Eddie Doubtfire, Alan Proudlove** and **Sgt Gerry Horan**, the TA Centre was transformed from a spartan drill hall into an attractive setting for the function with a striking centrepiece constructed from drums and bugles kindly loaned to us from 3 Sig Sqn ACF based at Huyton, surrounded by a floral display.

The cooks led by **WO2 Ron Gawthorne** came up with a superb display of hot canapes and other savoury niceties which everyone enjoyed and in spite of a last minute problem of the caretaker's bath overflowing and threatening to flood the ladies' 'loo', the preparations went well!

Amongst the guests welcomed by the Hon Col, **Col Michael Stanley** and the CO Lt **Col Roger Willsher** were the Lord Lieutenant of Liverpool, **Wg Cdr K. M. Stoddart**, AE and the Bde Comd, **Brig I. R. D. Shapter**.

Also present were the past Squadron Commanders of 59 Sig Sqn going back to 1973, **Majs Roger John, Doug Murray, Tony Groves** and **Chris Byrom**.

The evening went very smoothly, aided by the consumption of copious quantities of 'Bucks Fizz' and concluded with a separate buffet and party for all the staff in the Sergeants' Club once the official guests had left. During the party the Squadron Commander **Maj Gordon Harrison** proposed a most deserved vote of thanks to all the staff for their efforts in making the function such a success.

Lt Col Roger Willsher meets the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Wg Cdr K. M. Stoddart and Mrs Stoddart at the Regimental Reception

Capt Ron Meyer (wearing glasses in the centre) surrounded by members of the 59 Sqn Team during the Regimental Reception

42 SIG SQN
EXERCISE *HIGHLAND TREK*

Capt Bill Matthews had an idea. He thought it would be fun to take a small group of the Squadron for a country walk. What they did not know was that by the time the idea came to fruition it would mean a 95 mile journey across some of the toughest and yet most beautiful terrain of the Scottish highlands. The start was to be at Milnagavie on the outskirts of Glasgow, the finish at Fort William at the northern end of Loch Linnhe.

On the weekend of 3/4 August, we were enjoying our annual adventure training camp at Capel Curig in North Wales. Sunday morning saw the departure of **Capt Matthews**, 13 volunteer walkers, of whom three were WRAC, and two admin staff. The team left in a tropical downpour which ceased on several brief occasions during the following week.

Much later that day, the group arrived at Balloch camp site, which is situated at the southern end of Loch Lomond. Kit was sorted, three teams were formed and an inspection of the nearest local hostelry was carried out, so ending a long, busy day for the whole group.

Day one of the walk saw the teams starting out, heavily laden, from the start point at Milnagavie, their destination being Millarochy Bay camp site, a distance of 19.5 miles. This proved to be the flattest and easiest part of the walk.

On day two, the teams were already boasting a number of blistered feet, and they left for what they thought would be a 16.5 mile walk to Ardlin camp site. However, en route, they discovered that part of the walk, plus a footbridge, had been washed away in a recent rain storm. This resulted in a trip across Loch Lomond by ferry to Ardlin and another five miles walking being added to the day's itinerary. On reaching the camp site the tents were erected in heavy rain. After this task had been completed the rain stopped and the midges came in for the kill. Much to the delight of the group, it was at this point that they discovered a use for Compo AB biscuits, the ducks and swans of Loch Lomond found them delicious, we hope that they are still afloat.

Day three consisted of a 15 mile walk from Ardlin to Tyndrum camp site and this is where some members of the group began to feel the effects of backpacking a heavy load over rough terrain in bad weather.

Day four saw the teams leave on a 14 mile trek to the Kings House Inn which is situated south of Glencoe. That night they enjoyed their first hot shower in four days in the luxury of the Glencoe adventure training hut. Whilst the male members of the team stayed in the hut, the girls had full access to the facilities of the centrally heated annexe, namely a garage with a gas ring!

On day five the teams rejoined the route where they had left it on the previous day, their destination was Kinlochleven a distance of 15 miles. About three miles into the walk the teams reached the infamous Devils Staircase at the head of Glencoe. What was supposed to be the most difficult section of the walk was completed by all the walkers in a remarkably fast time. When the admin team went to pick them up and return them to the Glencoe hut, the group were already enjoying a well deserved drink in one of the village inns. The teams set out in heavy rain once again on day six but this was to be for the last time, as the destination was Fort William, journey's end, at a distance of 15 miles. This proved to be the most arduous day for all the walkers, but, despite blistered feet, twisted ankles and other injuries, spirits were high because the challenge was about to be overcome.

After a very difficult day the group arrived at Fort William to enjoy hot baths, a three course meal and drinks in the bar of the Milton Motor Inn.

A welcome break at the end of 95 miles hike for members of 42 Sqn

Thanks must go to **Capt Matthews** for organising such a challenging but enjoyable week, mention also must be made of the hard work carried out behind the scenes by the admin team of **WO2 (SSM) Bert Stiles** and **SSgt (SQMS) Tony Byrne**.

Finally, congratulations to the walkers: **SSgt John Slamon, Sgt Ann Gwynn, Cpl Lynne Slamon, LCpl John Ward, LCpl Doreen Stringer LCpl Ian Walton, Sig Gareth Morgan, Howard Slock, Mike Kenny, Carl Phythian, John Hall, Nick Goss** and **Tony Poka**.

DET COMDS COURSE

The weekend 27-29 September was the second weekend of one of our Det Comds courses which is run by the RSM, **WO1 Gary Mason** and Volunteer officers and SNCOs who act as DS and carry out the majority of the lectures.

This particular course is being run at Saighton Camp, Chester and will take up three full weekends of hard training.

The first weekend took the shape of lectures on tactics followed by a written test and a considerable amount of practical fieldcraft.

On the Sunday after yet more fieldcraft, an hour of drill followed by an inspection parade carried out by **Capt Catrina Millar WRAC**. The course were congratulated by the inspecting officer and the RSM on their '100% improvement' since weekend one, but expected even more effort on weekend three. 'Is promotion really worth all this effort?'

As can be seen **LCpls Thompson** and **'Killer' Brown WRAC** are not too keen on the makeup techniques being shown to them by **Sig Mick Robinson** and a bit concerned about how they will get it off! Yet another secret to be learned on the course. Keep at it girls, the contents, less the colour, are made by an international cosmetics firm.

LCpls Thompson and Brown WRAC being 'mucked about' by Sig Robinson on the Det Comds Course

The RSM, WO1 Gary Mason does an inspection of the Det Comd Course

RECRUIT SELECTION WEEKEND

The bi-monthly Recruit Selection Weekend took place at Saighton Camp, Chester between 27-29 September.

Twenty-five potential recruits attended the course which is run by the Recruiting Staff from Squadrons based at Manchester, Chester, Edge Lane, Liverpool and Huyton.

Training commences after assembly on the Friday night when pre-medical and kit sizing is carried out and recruits are allocated accommodation. Final documentation is checked and a briefing on the weekend's programme is given.

Saturday morning commences early with a run at 0700 hrs followed by drill, weapon training and films on different aspects of TA training. At 1130 a three mile run is carried out under BFT standards followed by lunch.

The afternoon is taken up with drill, assault course and gymnasium activities and for those fortunate enough to pass all the tests and assessments, final medical and attestation takes place during Saturday evening and early Sunday morning.

On Sunday all successful recruits return to Liverpool for kit and equipment issues, are fed and transported to their various TA Centres.

Of the 25 potential recruits, 11 passed and are now well on their way to becoming trained volunteer soldiers. They are:-

HQ Sqn — **Sig T. Maxwell**
42 Sqn — **Sig K. Malseed**
— **Sig G. L. Vickers**
— **Sig A. J. Longsden**
59 Sqn — **Sig R. Price**
— **Sig J. W. Howorth**
— **Sig L. T. Casey**
— **Pte C. McNabb WRAC**
80 Sqn — **Sig P. C. Holland**
— **Sig G. Barlow**
— **Sig L. A. Jenkins**

We welcome them all to the Regiment and hope they enjoy serving with us.

Potential recruits being put through their paces on the Recruit Selection Weekend

EXERCISE *BRAVE DEFENDER*

Although not fully deployed as a unit on *Brave Defender*, we did take part in a small way by providing volunteer soldiers and PSIs to take part in umpire and enemy tasks!

Two such volunteers were **Capt Brian Kennedy** (42 Sqn Manchester) and **Sgt Alan Piper** (PSI from 80 Sqn in Chester). Both formed an umpire team who ensured that 'fair play' between the friendly forces of 1st Bn The Kings Regiment and the Home Service Force and the enemy agents and saboteurs from the 3rd Bn The Queens Regiment, was observed.

The well rehearsed incidents and attempts to gather intelligence were equally matched by good defensive measures at our key point in Birkenhead docks. The inevitable small 'battles' that could be heard at ungodly hours provided great interest for the Dockmaster and his staff who marvelled at the apparent chaos; the soldiers in the hangar above the office were often rewarded with a brew and bacon sandwiches.

The local crime rate dropped, too. It was a common occurrence for the foot patrols to capture teenagers who were not involved in the exercise, but who were dodging into the shadows in the late evening and early morning near the local scrap yard and other businesses. They were all politely escorted from the area.

Full marks too, for the enemy agent who needed a good cover story. He went to the bother of getting himself a job on the dockside for a few days!

Overall, the exercise was a great success for the government and a huge success with the locals at Birkenhead due in part to the officers and soldiers at all levels of command doing an excellent PR job.

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

It's RHQ's turn. No easy task at the best of times, as what is there *Wire*-worthy about Part 1/2 Orders, documents, pay and so on? But coming after the holiday season, when everybody has had at least some leave, it is even harder. But we do have some new faces around so here are a few introductions.

Our Training Major for the past three years, **Maj Sid Falla**, has just left for a post at the School of Signals. 'El Sid' will be missed and maybe he'll miss us, but will be happy to live in his own house at last. He has handed over to **Maj Alan Griffiths** who is now in the throes of a crash course on the TA, Radio Relay, 'Geordie' and other essential local knowledge. We welcome him and hope that he enjoys his tour with us.

We have at last acquired a Padre and are delighted to welcome **The Rev William Noblett**, who is vicar of Brambles Farm, literally just across the road.

The PSI of the LAD since 1982, **AQMS Hugh Richardson REME** has just left us for the post of AQMS in the AMF(L) Workshop. The size of his parish has thus expanded dramatically to include Norway, Sardinia and all points North, South, East and West (or so he hopes). We welcome his successor **SSgt Don Hall**.

Other arrivals include **2Lt Susan Aynsley** who has transferred to 50 Sqn from Northumbrian Universities OTC, and **WO2 M. W. Nelson** who is spending his last six months in the Army with us. Unfortunately he has retired from active sport as we had been hoping that he would strengthen our football team.

NEW SVWO

The SVWO (Senior Volunteer Warrant Officer) for the past two years, **WO1 Tony Gallagher**, has handed over the post, and the accompanying pace-stick, to the newly-promoted **WO1 Dave Sparks**. **WO1 Gallagher** will remain with the Regiment as OC F Tp in Gateshead.

CIVILIAN STAFF

No TA regiment can function without a loyal and dedicated civilian staff, and 34 is particularly lucky in this respect. It is time that their contribution was publicised (so they say!). It would be invidious to single out any of the 23 clerical officers, drivers, storemen, technicians, typists and vehicle mechanics so we will just say thank you—please keep up the good work.

THE REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL TEAM

Our photograph shows the 1985/86 team before the first match of the season. Last year the team did particularly well getting to the semi-finals of the NE District Territorial Army Cup. This year they seem to have started well with a convincing win over D Coy 4 PARA (V) two weeks ago. One of the Regimental players, **LCpl Paul Sharpe** of 90 (NR) Sig Sqn plays for the Territorial Army Team.

Back Row: Sgt Rowe (HQ), LCpls Silk (HQ), Pountain (90), Sig Duncan (90), LCpl Sharpe (90), Pte Lyons (HQ), Sgt Mallows (Reg), Sgt Riley (90)
Front Row: LCpl Wicks (90), Sig Greenwood (90), Parry (90), SSgt Davison (90), Sig Richardson (90), Edwards (90)

A TP, 49 (WR) SIG SQN (V)

The troop photographed in front of their new TA Centre
Front row left to right: Sgt Jim McCormack, WO2 Graham Jennings, Maj Philip Walker, Lt Col Graham Mitchell, Lt Alan Grindrod, WO1 (RSM) Roy Coffill, WO2 Yvonne Swinney WRAC, SSgt Malcolm Wilson, Sgt Wally Kitchen

NEW BARRACKS AT HULL
A TP 49 SQN

For many years A Tp has been the tenant of an elderly hut in an elderly barracks in Hull. But now it is the proud landlord of a brand new TA Centre, with tenants of its own from the Queen's Own Yeomanry, the Royal Military Police and the ACF. The new centre, Halifax Barracks, was formally opened and dedicated on 14 September by **Lord Halifax** whose father's name it commemorates.

Members of A Tp under the command of **SSgt Malcolm Wilson** formed the quarter guard for the occasion, backed by Fox armoured cars of QOY and by RMP landrovers. The 34 Regt band took a prominent part in the ceremony, which was organised by Yorkshire and Humberside TAVRA. Our RSM, **WO1 Roy Coffill** was responsible for the ceremony and much of the behind-the-scenes activities was arranged by the PSI **WO2 Yvonne Swinney**. After the formal opening the 150 guests, including the Mayor of Hull and prominent local civil and military personalities, toured the new barracks and were entertained to a buffet lunch.

The Hull Det had actually taken possession of its new home some weeks previously, and is now happily installed. The Troop Commander, **Lt Alan Grindrod** is confident that having such good accommodation will give a boost to recruiting and is looking forward to having the books full in the near future.

Opening of Halifax Barracks, Hull
The Regimental Quarter Guard, commanded by SSgt Malcolm Wilson, was drawn from A Tp, 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V)

DO YOU COLLECT REGIMENTAL PLAQUES?

Many readers will know that 34 (N) Sig Regt (V) has its very own band. The Band is also the TA Corps Band. At last the Band has a plaque which will be on sale shortly. If you are a collector and wish to purchase one please forward a cheque for £10, made payable to the Band Fund 34 Sig Regt (V), to the Band President, 34 (N) Sig Regt (V) Band, Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

FAREWELL TO LT COL MIKE LOUDEN

On 7 September **Lt Col Mike Louden** and **Mary** were dined out of the Regiment. It was an occasion which we hope they will remember and recall with pleasure in the future.

Our PMC **Maj Richard Showell** decided that after two and a half years of Burns Nights and New Year Parties we ought to change the theme. Why not an Olde English Night?

Having decided on the theme, the menu included good English fayre with venison as a main course. The entertainment was provided by a duo, singing some olde English songs and some not so old! As the photo shows **Lt Col Mike Louden** found it all very soothing. Our own homemade entertainment was provided by **Capt Clive 'Robin Hood' Mason** and **Capt Vic 'Jester' Zimmer**. The evening ended with **Mike** and **Mary** being conveyed home in a traditional white Rolls Royce.

Also that evening we said farewell to **Maj Malcolm Luing** and his wife **Liz**. They leave us to take up residence in Inverness. **Lt Col Mike Louden** gave **Malcolm** some lessons in Gaelic and rumour has it that he also lent **Malcolm** his kilt—after all there is not much call for a kilt in Birmingham—or Reading!

WELCOME

We would like to welcome our new CO **Lt Col Don Overton** and family. We hope they enjoy their time with the Regiment.

The 'soothing effect' of 'Ye Ministrel Singers' on Lt Col Mike Louden

Thank you Mary for all your support to the Regiment

Maj Malcolm Luing receives his farewell gift from 2IC Maj Richard Showell

Capts 'Robin Hood' Mason and 'Court Jester' Zimmer awaiting their entrance cue

Presentation of LS and GC to YofS Chris Whitehead by Lt Col Mike Louden

48 SQN
ANNUAL RAFT RACE

On Saturday 31 August volunteers from 48 Sqn set off on the annual raft race in aid of the Children's Hospice, Birmingham. The rafters included such stalwarts as **Sgts John Mizen, Dave Arnot, Cpl Barry Stocks, Sig Mick Bellerby, LCpl Graham Goff** on raft number one and **SSM Allen Evans** (WMPT), **Sgt Dave Cotton, SSgt Bob Hazelgrove, Sgt Roger Evans** and **Cpl Carol Eden** on raft two. The race was from Wasperton to Stratford-upon-Avon a distance of eight miles. These brave contestants made over £500 for a very deserving charity. Well done!

95 SQN

HAPPY FAMILIES

A most unusual situation has been created at 95 Sqn in Shrewsbury, where on 1 September **Maj John James** took over command of the Squadron, **Maj Bob Heath** having departed to the more intellectual atmosphere of Birmingham UOTC. The unusual situation has been caused by the Officer organisation within the Squadron. The Squadron 2IC is **Lt Jean Payne** who is married to **2Lt Andy Payne**, 2IC Radio Relay Tp. OC Radio Relay Tp **Lt Paul Fathers** is married to **2Lt Jo Fathers**, 2IC Complex Tp and finally **Maj John James** is married to **Lt Helen James** OC Complex Tp . . . a prize of two week's holiday in Wolverhampton for anyone who can work it all out! We now issue a challenge . . . can any other Volunteer Squadron equal an establishment of six officers posts filled by three married couples? We think it is unique—unless of course you know better.

'Three married couples in one Squadron' a record unless you know better

36 Sig Regt (V) Wanstead

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON
EXERCISE *HI-LO EXPERIENCE*

And what experiences! Getting wet and tired is an occupational hazard in the TA, but it's not usually caused by lying face down in water, pulling oneself through narrow winding passages hundreds of feet below the surface of the ground.

For many of the party from HQ Sqn and the LAD, climbing rock faces, crawling through caves and abseiling were among many 'firsts' experienced that weekend in the Peak District.

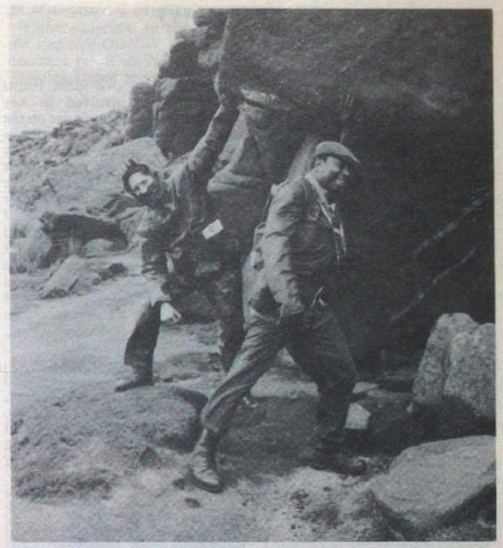
The initial move into location on Friday 13th was, as usual, late at night . . . but our usual sites do not have hot showers and lights . . . or civilian campers.

After a few hours 'kip' the party went to find breakfast at a nearby cafe. The quality and size of the meal would have rivalled the best efforts of the ACC. The party then divided into sections to be guided up and down rock faces and through caves by very tolerant and amused civilian instructors. Many were so exhausted by the day's activities that they left the local before closing time (another first?). On Sunday morning the rain ensured that it was not only the cavers who got soaked, but morale was not dampened.

The weekend, organised by OC LAD, **Capt Dave (Rambo) Burton** was a great success. It is to be hoped that the lure of climbing and caving does not lure anyone away from the TA at week-ends!

Preparing for the 1½ mile crawl through the dark wet cave. Cfn Mingay, Pte Lorraine Bailey, LCpl Bell, Cfn Styles

A bracing walk by Ladybower Reservoir
Cfn Styles (I think), Cfn Mingay, Pte Lorraine Bailey, Cfn Robinson, LCpl Bell



Cfn Styles and WO2 (RQMS) Lloyd Drakes helping to keep the rocks of the Peak District in place

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38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

ANNUAL CAMP 1985

Annual Camp saw the Regiment deployed on two main fronts during the first week; most personnel were involved in key communicating roles on Ex *Brave Defender* with the remainder on the special, and no less important, 2 Sig Bde Ex *Rainbow*. The *Brave Defender* element was especially significant perhaps because so many were deployed in small packets, often commanded by quite junior ranks, working hand in hand with the special staff. The latter were very complimentary of the efforts of our junior commanders and their teams; although most of our people would have liked their staff masters to have loaded our systems a little more. However the second week of Annual Camp provided all the action necessary to make it memorable. 46 Sqn concentrated itself in the Weymouth area with a programme of backpacking over the Dorset hills; watermanship and bridge-building with the Sappers in Weymouth, with various forms of sailing at Poole, Gosport and Lympstone. 64 Sqn anchored itself in the Penhale area of Cornwall with a programme of sailing, abseiling, canoeing and extensive military training on Dartmoor and Millpool. 87 and HQ Sqns were very much at home in Burniston Barracks, Scarborough working together on a military skills competition called Northern Crusade followed by a very intensive sports event. 93 Sqn, whose members feel quite uneasy far from those dark satanic mills, helped to fill up those vacant spaces in the 1985 weather afflicted seaside town of Rhyl—sailing, canoeing, hill trekking over Snowdonia and orienteering provided the main thrust of their programme of activities.

Camera conscious SSgt Anne Legge acts as Stroke in one of the 46 Sqn's watermanship activities

46 DERBYSHIRE SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

We were very happy to be joined at Annual Camp by our newest element—our Home Service Force platoon—for the first part of Ex *Brave Defender*. We also welcomed the participation of an attachment of Sappers from our own neighbour unit sharing the Kingsway TA Centre. The exercise went well at all 15 locations manned by 46 Sqn personnel. The second week was spent undergoing military training at Chickerell Camp near Weymouth. SPSI **Tony Davies** took charge of dinghy sailing at Lympstone with the accommodation arranged for all our personnel in a local guest-house. **Capt Steve Bloom** (PSAO of 222 Fd Amb, Leicester and lately Major (QM) of the Corps) and **SSgt (NRPS) Alan Landsborough** led the dinghy sailing at Poole, with safety boat support from **Lt Helen Roy** and **Lt Mike Evans**, rumour has it that the former safety boat bosun only did it for the sun tan! The first three days were rough and a B3 coastal rescue service had to be constituted and put into action. **SSgt Alan Landsborough** had to be thrown in on the last day as he had survived the week without getting even his feet wet. OC Sqn—**Maj Terry Lea** waited for the wind to drop before venturing out but soon had 'three sheets in the wind'! Several visitors tried their hand—the 2IC **Lt Col Toby Seymour**, to his surprise and delight, found himself manning the safety boat and the Adjt **Capt Denise Ashton** found no takers, for the £10 reward to 'overturn the Adjutant', when she ventured forth. The keel boat instructors were provided from the regular Corps and **Capt Ian Brown** led the first Squadron party with **Lt Sally Reading** leading the second. Crossing to the Isle of Wight was somewhat rough but no one was actually sea-sick. The backpackers travelled from Exmouth to Weymouth stopping overnight at camping sites—they all described themselves as mountain goats because of the terrain they were asked to traverse. Back at Weymouth the Squadron had a programme of watermanship and bridge-building under the eagle-eyed instruction of **SSgt Jones** of the local Kingsway TA centre RE unit. A day on the range completed the very extensive and satisfying programme of activities which, undoubtedly, will make Camp 85 stand out in our military memories.

64 (SHEFFIELD) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Ex *Brave Defender* seemed to have been a long time coming! The planning was quite intense but the results were worthwhile for the Squadron acquitted itself very well judging by the comments of the customers out in our TAORs. The largest concentration of Squadron personnel was at HMP (lately RAF) Lindholme where all boarders were repulsed on more than one occasion. Camp's second week was a very suitable reward for all our efforts on Ex *Brave Defender* and Ex *Rainbow*—a week of fresh air and military training centered on Penhale and Dartmoor. Our canoeists and sailors were very grateful for the efforts of **Lt Andy Moffat** and his wife **Joan**—who were loaned to us courtesy of the Sea Cadets. **Cpl Andy Garlick** and **Pte Tina Edley** are commended for their achievement in earning their

Personnel of 46 Sqn rest on their laurels after completion of their bridge building project at the RE Training Centre at Weymouth

canoeing instructor qualification. The abseiling teams were very grateful to **WO2 John Moody** for his help and instruction. The main military training aspect of the second week was perhaps the most notable. Infanteering, with patrolling, ambushes, rangework, fieldcraft, map-reading, was the theme. **Maj Bob Barnes** (ex Light Infantry) was the leading light. Not every camp will produce the chance to ambush most of the officers and SNCOs! **Pte Debbie Powell-Pepper's** (PPP) ambush party might have been a success if everyone had not concentrated just on the SSM (wonder why?) and let everybody else go without a scratch. The delights of a night patrol on Dartmoor were sampled with varying results. Helicopters were significant features of most scenarios for the week but, alas, the weather intervened. However—all was saved by clear skies on the last day and Wessex aircraft, courtesy of RN, provided full support including North Cornwall recces and a ferry service to and from our Squadron parties engaged on Millpool Ranges.

64 Sqn pauses between the helicopter watch alerts at Penhale. Sig Steve Straw, Cpl Phil Horton, Sig Brian Glaves, Pte Sarah Hill, SSgt Harry Lomas, WO2 (SSM) Derek Marsden, Pte Debbie Powell-Pepper, Maj Frank Kirkham, Sig Mark Cox, Sgt Gail Knights, Pte Paula Scholey, Sig Derrick Capes and Sgt Mel Smith

Maj Frank Kirkham—OC 64 Sqn presents the Lindholme Trophy to Sig John Marsden in recognition of his sterling efforts in the Defence of Lindholme

87 (NOTTINGHAM) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

After all the traumas of being in an area involved in Ex *Brave Defender* without actually being a player, the Squadron found the second week of camp just as exciting. Each troop provided a team, with those from HQ Sqn, for a competition called Northern Crusade. This consisted of practical NBC, First Aid, command task stands, map reading and fell walking elements.

Each team spent two days in the Langdale Forest area just outside Scarborough. Seven teams took part—with mixtures of all male; all female and male/female—with the eventual winners turning out to be the all female team led by **Cpl Christine Bull**.

87 SQUADRON CONGRATULATORY

Congratulations to **Sig Gary Orme** and **Pte Julie Lunt** who were married on 5 October. Praise is also due to **Pte Carmen Glover** on her excellent result at the end of her training fortnight at the WRAC Training Depot at Guildford.

Cpl Christine Bull (*second on right*) with her winning all-female team at the NBC stand in the 87 Sqn Military Skills Competition

REGIMENTAL STOP PRESS—CAMBRIAN MARCHES

The Cambrian March Patrol Competition (CMPC) has been held annually for the last 25 years in Wales. The competition, sponsored by the Director of Army Training, tests foot patrols of nine men in moving long distances across very difficult country with tests of military skills along the route. It tests fitness and endurance, practice in carrying personal weapons and full pack for long periods, map reading and navigation in darkness and hill fog, foot care and living in the field in all weather conditions. Our regimental team, of **2Lt Simon Blagden** (64 Sqn); **Cpl Neil Wilkinson** (64); **Sig John Marsden** (64); **Sig Trevor Grant** (64); **Sig Paul Stewart** (87); **SSgt Barry Pinches** (HQ); **LCpl 'Pitprop' Baldwin** (HQ); **Cfn Frank Reid** (LAD-HQ) and **LCpl Peter Dougela** (93), competed in the weekend event 4 to 6 October— and achieved an outstanding result by taking on the might of the infantry and beating them at their own game by coming a very close second to 10 Para (V). Only six out of fifteen teams managed to complete the course and helicopters were still looking for some missing teams whilst the prize giving was in progress! This second placing in the event is the highest ever achieved in the entire 25 years of the competition by a non-infantry team—our team therefore richly deserved the award of the Cup for the Best Non-Infantry Team. The team was supported by the driving team of **LCpl Derek Wright** (64) and **Sig Peter Lovick** (93) who also achieved second overall best results in the driving tests. Well done!

Four WRAC officers at their dining out night in the Sheffield Officers' Mess (2Lt Anne Deakin (now Wenlock), Maj Stuart Cottage (PMC), Capt Ruth Lea, Capt Cathie Holland, Lt Col Nick Henwood (CO) and Capt Hazel Solomon)

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

ANNUAL CAMP
Report by LCpl Sullivan REME

The Regiment recently returned from its Annual Camp which this year was at Leek Training Camp. Elements of the Regiment were detached to BAOR, Cyprus and Gibraltar. During camp we held our third Detachment Commanders Course which turned out to be 14 days of physical and mental bombardment in the shape of drill, weapon training, NBC, Military Law, Method of Instruction etc, etc. What happened to the easy time, forecast by **WO2 (SSM) Tich Reynolds** and his terrible twin, **WO2 (SSM) Brian Higgs**?

Two days in the field on exercise were tough but by the end everybody was in good spirits and thoughts of the end of course party started to fill the students minds. The party was at a secret location, five miles from camp, and was a great success. Friendships forged throughout the course came to the fore and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Next morning back to the serious stuff; Pass Off parade. Everyone was nervous, but all remembered their correct words of command, and the parade went off without a hitch. Even the RSM was happy!

Afterwards came the anti-climax of returning home to civilian life and pondering on all that we had achieved. It's funny how, at the time, it seems very hard, but when you look back you realise how much you enjoyed it.

GUARD OF HONOUR—
WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF SKINNERS

On Thursday 6 June, the Regiment provided a Guard of Honour for the Worshipful Company of Skinners, Corpus Christi service, at St Mary Aldermary Church, City of London. The Worshipful Company of Skinners, whose charter was granted by Edward III in 1327, adopted the Regiment in 1954 and each year since 1959 a Guard has been provided outside the church on the feast of Corpus Christi, when the Company elect their new Master and Wardens.

This year's Guard, commanded by **Maj Ian Fisher** and with **WO1 (RSM) Derek Biggs**, were invited to lunch at Skinners Hall, a magnificent setting at Dowgate Hill, before departing to perform their duty. Everything went well, so the soldiers had obviously not over indulged the lunchtime port. Apart from an unscheduled tour of London by the driver of the bus, **Sgt Derek Ellen**, ably assisted by **Cpls Vic Eldridge** and **Tony Wells** the day went according to plan. We all look forward to Corpus Christi 1986.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Members and guests of the Sergeants' Mess, gathered on Saturday 7 September to dine out the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Mike Upson** and his wife **Alison**. After an excellent meal prepared by volunteer members of the ACC, the occasion was marked by the traditional exchange of gifts. A slight hitch occurred when **WO1 (RSM) 'Robin Hood' Biggs** discovered that the presentation carriage clock had been borrowed by the cooks to time the soufflé. Fortunately, the Colonel clearly thought there was nothing odd about being given an empty cardboard box as a farewell gift, and delivered a moving speech, expressing his warm appreciation of this token of the legendary generosity of the Sergeants' Mess: he would have expected nothing less from such an august body!

He then reciprocated by asking the RSM to accept, on behalf of the Mess, two silver headed Pace Sticks and explained in detail how he felt these should be used to best effect. He referred specifically to two SSMs whom he thought would undoubtedly benefit from the use of these gifts. The Mess responded with spontaneous but gentle applause so as not to disturb a somnambulent **SSgt 'Porky' Wheeler** who could be heard dreamily imploring 'When are they passing the cigars?'.

The ladies were thoughtfully provided with individual gifts of perfume by **Mrs Alison Upson**, produced specifically for the occasion and appropriately entitled 'Sergeants Mess'.

Lt Col and **Mrs Upson** will be sadly missed. **Alison** has always shown a genuine interest in all members of the Regiment and their families. We wish them both all the very best for the future.

WO1 (RSM) D. Biggs presenting the CO, Lt Col M. V. Upson with his farewell gift from the Sergeants' Mess
L to R: WO2 (RQMS) Hart, WO2 Wilmot WRAC and Mrs Upson

EXERCISE *FISHER BANK*

On the fateful night of Friday 13 September, the tranquillity of Thetford Forest was disturbed by 39 Sig Regt out for their annual test of ingenuity and knowledge of things vaguely military: Ex *Fisher Bank*, writes **Pte Heather Stickley**. Most arrived by coach but a few intrepid men dropped in from a passing plane.

With the first gleam of a grey and rainy day, they split into teams of about six to hunt for trouble, armed with a map and all that was required to sustain them in the field.

Every group followed a different course to reach the various stands intended to test skills not normally used during signal training. An hour's walk separated each.

During the day, together with testing of general leadership, groups were examined on their ability to erect a 12ft by 12ft shelter, do a line crossing and compete in a ferociously difficult general knowledge quiz on such obscure subjects as football and cricket with trick questions like; 'Who is the CO of the Regiment?'.

As it was rather a wet day, nobody can have felt the difference when they got soaked on the most amusing stop: attempting to cross a lake on a home made raft with all their kit. Several major design faults were detected in some contraptions. One bent neatly in the middle when boarded and was carefully pre-sunk by filling the buoyancy aids with water before setting out, so that it travelled mostly beneath the surface of the lake.

An unusual form of refreshment was thoughtfully provided at the NBC stand courtesy of **Sgt Pete Jones** and **Cpl Johnny Walker** when, after carefully checking them for chemical contamination, fresh carrots were borne away and consumed. However, despite this concern for their welfare, as the day wore on several soldiers succumbed to injury either from falls or blisters until every stand had its own tea wallah . . . Could this have been planned?

Other stands included the confidence course, MT, and a command task cleverly set next to an assault course. This was to depress already exhausted soldiers. In addition, teams had to defend themselves from a suicidal attack by a demented **Lt Malcolm Bryan** screaming 'Rambo', who promptly fell flat on his face demonstrating the effectiveness of a trip wire. He was peppered with machine gun fire and blasted with thunderflashes.

At the end of the day each team bedded down at the event they were to attempt the next morning, and erected bashas, one team creating a five man (person) mansion of cunning design. A bar at each site ensured a merry gathering before all gave in to fatigue.

Sunday morning opened at 0530 hrs with a welcome brew and clear skies. As tired legs supported teams through the first stands the prospect of further footslogging was not appealing. An unknown saint took a hand and sent another unit onto a live firing range whose danger area '39' were using. Endex was called and teams re-assembled to swap stories and opinions.

A crate of beer was handed over to the best team, which was led by **LCpl Ron Clarke** HQ Sqn. It was followed into joint second place by an all WRAC team, and to prove that they are nearly as good as the girls, an all male team.

PERMANENT STAFF

Since our last report there has been a drastic change in the Permanent Staff. We say farewell to **Maj David Jessett, WO2 June Skelton WRAC, SSgt Pete Findell, Sgt Ray Dudding, Sgt Mick Gaylard** and **Sgt Eddie Connelly**. We welcome **Maj Malcolm Emslie, WO2 Joan Wilmot WRAC, SSgt (YofS) Geoff Oates, Sgt Derek Whyle, Cpl Mark Cooper** and **Cpl Dave Gay** and hope they enjoy their tour with us.

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

85 SQUADRON NOTES
THE MANAGEMENT

1985 has brought some changes amongst our hierarchy. The present management team is:

OC	**Maj Squance**
2IC	**Capt Fleming**
OC D Tp	**2Lt Fallows**
OC E Tp	**2Lt Blemings**
OC F Tp	**Capt Woods**
SSM	**SSM Donaldson**

We would like to wish everyone Good Luck in their new positions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our congratulations go out to: **2Lt J. Fallows** and **Miss D. Todd** and **Sig M. Kitchen** and **Pte M. McIlveen** on their recent marriages. May we wish them health, wealth and happiness in their new lives together.

It is with pleasure we announce the engagement of: **Pte H. Taylor WRAC** to **Mr A. Blatherwick**.

Congratulations also go out to **Pte Taylor** on completing the Lineman's Course, to become the first female liney in N Ireland.

Congratulations also to **Cpl Duly** on being joint first in the Detachment Commanders Course at Annual Camp, Scarborough.

BADMINTON

85 Sqn cleans up in the NI Army Badminton Competition. The team were **Sgt B. Hume, Sig J. Hume** and **Clasper**. The terrific trio are becoming nonchalant at their continuing success. May their names go down in '40th's' history books.

COSTA SCARBOROUGH

Annual Camp held no surprises for 85 as it came tops in most activities. Training fell into many different areas, with 85 Sqn participating with vigour and enthusiasm.

Flute band posing after Scarborough performance

First aid team—open your eyes Doc!

YOMPERS WAY

Yompers Way was a 15 mile route march carried out in the Yorkshire Dales. Each team was organised as a recce patrol and carried out the march with full CEFO and weapons. The idea behind the march was to develop physical fitness and stamina, map reading skills and team spirit.

The exercise was spread over several days, with a number of teams taking part each day. The teams left the starting point at Borxa Forest at 1000 hrs, hoping to finish within four hours. The weather was fine and sunny, affording a beautiful view of the Yorkshire countryside. However it had the disadvantage of creating much toil and sweat as the teams climbed the steep hills along the route.

The route was well chosen, involving both minor roads and forest tracks, passing through a number of beauty spots and view points. The lunch location was cunningly sited at the top of a steep climb, just the incentive the teams needed to run up the mountain track!

The winning team was: **Capt Fleming, SSgt Girvan, Cpl Evans, Pte Anderson** who almost flew home inside three hours. Well Done! But no-one dare mention the Moorcock Inn or Pigeon Pie, and it has been said one poor Officer Cadet was so enthusiastic she got no dinner!

Yompers Way—A number of keen participants discussing tactics

Commander 12 Sig Bde, Brig Wheawell, chats to some of the participants *at the top of the hill*

EXERCISE *INITIATIVE TEST*

This gruelling exercise was overseen by **Capt P. Riley, 2Lts J. Blemings** and **J. Fallows**. The up-market assault course was designed to test the physical fitness and teamwork.

The winning team raced over the course and was led by **Sig Mo Kitchen**, another first for 85.

Although I did hear a certain **Cpl Reeves** enjoyed it so much he completed it three times, with his Grand Finale of beheading **'Q' Cameron**.

EXERCISE *BATTLE ALLEY*

As I prepare to move out, one man against the world, I blackened my face and camouflaged my shape ready to receive my brief. My mission was to link up communications, having to travel through enemy territory. Off I went, under enemy fire . . . dash, down crawl, observe and kill the enemy. I continued up the hill when a chemical agent was exploded into the air . . . respirator on.

On I went, firing at the enemy, who seemed to be behind every bush. I got through, my heart pounding. The mission was complete, the link up was made.

Points were given to competitors for general alertness, physical stamina and reactions under fire. First in the male section with outstanding score of 52 was **LCpl (Bacardi Sam) Fisher**. First in the women's section was **Pte Maxine Kitchen** with a score of 48 points, and who put many of the men to shame.

Tea in the middle of a war. Pte Yvonne Anderson, LCpl Joanne Couples and Sgt Karen Murray, gaze longingly at the tea urn

FOOTBALL—DAVY CLARKE MEMORIAL CUP

The football competition at Annual Camp drew crowds bigger than Wembley and provided lots of action-packed viewing. The winning team had no hard slog into the final, but I think it could be said a dangerous one from, perhaps, **Davy (bite your legs) Brown**, our RSM.

The team consisted of **LCpl Pip McNally, Cpls Nobby Clarke, Kojak Evans**, supermen **Sig Mark Paveley, Sig Mo Kitchen** and **Pte Wendy Cush**.

The victory score was 4—0 over 66 Sqn.

FOOTNOTE

Capt Jimmy Woods announces that having shown aptitude and liking for Orderly Officer at Camp, he would like to apply for the position full time. Perhaps one should not tempt fate, as the inevitable may come his way.

All in all, Annual Camp at Scarborough 1985 was a complete success for 85 Sqn. Well done everyone, but let's try and let 66 Sqn bring something back next year from camp . . . perhaps The Wooden Spoon.

EXERCISE *FOXY LADY* 16-18 AUGUST AT KILLYLEAGH TAC

Having assembled at Clonaver Park 1900 hrs 160885, the WRAC contingents sleekly pulled out of camp and headed for the shores of Strangford Lough—in search of Summer. With all the lassies safely gathered in we adjourned to the bar for a nightcap—when suddenly to our great surprise and horror, the door creaked slowly open and from the murky depths a ghoulish figure appeared in the doorway. The girls screamed in fits of terror—what could it be? Panicketh not girls—it was only **Staff (Ronnie) Gilliland** on duty, checking the JRC for fights and glassbreaking. Is nowhere safe? Are we forever to be pursued by . . . men? Despite this, we managed to enjoy the evening. As is usual with 40th, the evening degenerated into a singsong—star performer **Capt Jenny Wilson** with a (how shall I put this?) 'unique' rendering of 'I wanna be loved by you'—as she was singing to an all-female audience, we were a little concerned, especially as her eyes repeatedly roved over the assembled company, however, we discovered that she was only trying to find something static to focus on, to avoid falling over.

Next day—morning—up bright-eyed and bushy-tailed at 0700 hrs for a run along the shore followed by drill taken by **SSgt Ellen Williamson**.

CO and Adjutant getting all the goodies again

MIDDAY

Summer is here—we are now in our fourth hour of summer sunshine since June—trust the WRAC to entice the sun out of hiding. In the afternoon **'Staff' Karen Mercer** took NBC training and **Capt Carol Twinem** took first aid.

TEATIME

The sun is still shining. **Col Rodney Clare** and **Capt Tom Pengelley** (Adjt) arrived to survey the scene; we treated them to a splendid barbecue and a showing of the Regiment's recent exploits in the Isle of Man.

SUNDAY MORNING

Awoke to the sound of rain; we finished the weekend with a Map Reading lecture from **Capt Dave Baxter**, and so back to base; a most successful and enjoyable weekend for the girls of 40th.

WIVES' CLUB

The past 12 months have been very busy, with a variety of events, outings and demonstrations.

Various fund raising events have helped us to sponsor some of the regimental marathon runners, give christmas presents to 14 children in a Belfast Home, and entertain 38 senior citizens from the Clonaver area to a coffee morning. This was very much appreciated and we are hoping to repeat it around Christmas time.

Our events have included cookery, make-up, flower arranging demonstrations, a film evening, a tupperware party (ever popular) a quiz night, a cheese and wine party and a barbecue and disco, attended by 190 members of the Club and Regiment. Last Christmas we held a Christmas Dinner, with 40 ladies present.

As most of the permanent staff are now accompanied by their wives and families, and quite a few of the TA wives and ladies come to the club, we look forward to even more fun and entertainment next year.

Wives pause for a break in the chatter with their honoured guest Mrs Roz Wheawell, *second from left, front row*

71 (Yeo) Sig Regt (V) Bromley

68 (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

265 (Kent & County of London Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V)

The Regiment is now starting on the trade training season, after a busy summer of exercises and military training, which culminated in Annual Camp from 7-21 September. During the first week, we participated in Ex *Brave Defender*; the second week consisted of individual Squadron camps, with 68 and 94 Sqns enjoying the facilities of Salisbury Plain and 70 and 265 Sqns being based at Folkestone.

In addition to exercising and preparing for camp, our shooting team were busy qualifying for TASAM, at Bisley:

2Lt Brian Sowerby, a member of the Regimental Shooting Team, writes:- 'This year, once again, 71 Sig Regt qualified for the Territorial Army Small Arms Meeting by coming in the top five teams in the London District Rifle Association meeting. Our aim was to win the Mercury Cup at TASAM which we have won for seven out of the last ten years. This cup is won by the TA Signal Regiment which scores most points towards the Dragon Trophy. This year we scored equally with 38 Sig Regt and the whole event turned on who had the higher gun score in the section match (China Cup). We narrowly lost by three points despite having one of our Squadron Commanders as number one on the gun. Despite this minor setback we have had a good year and have great hopes for the next season.

King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers

SISTER AGNES'S

Beaumont House,
Beaumont Street, London W.1.

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

This famous hospital, assisted by a staff of Harley Street Consultants, provides the best possible treatment at the lowest possible cost for officers, serving or retired (including those who held temporary or reserve commissions), their wives, widows and dependant children of not less than 4 years of age.

It has one three-bedded ward and 69 single rooms (5 with bathrooms en suite). It has its own Pharmacy, X-Ray, Physiotherapy and Pathology Departments. Medical check-ups can be arranged at a moderate charge.

Serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance in a ward bed. Others and their dependants (unless insured for more) are charged £49 a day for a private room. Civilian patients are charged £112 a day. Consultants fees are a matter for personal arrangement between the patient and the consultant. Where necessary help can be provided from a generously administered Benevolant Fund.

Subject to age, BUPA gives friends of the Hospital a 15% reduction on their BUPACARE subscriptions, and PPP and WESTERN PROVIDENT a 25% on their FAMILY MASTERPLAN AND SUPERCOVER policies respectively, if payment is made by direct debit.

The hospital is currently treating 2,200 in-patients and 1400 out-patients a year. It is not part of the N.H.S. and is dependant on voluntary donations for its work for the Services.

If you would like to receive more information or become a subscriber please write to the Appeals Secretary, (RSIGS), 6 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR or phone 01-828 4454. Applications for admission should be made to the Matron on 01-486 4411.

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Martin Stretch**
2IC	**Capt Mike Rough**
Adjt	**Maj Simon Firbank**
Tfc Offr	**Capt John Meehan**
QM	**Maj Harry Meekings**
OC A	**Capt Jim Clark**
OC B	**2Lt Derek Wood**
OC C	**Capt Tony Morphet**
RSM	**WO1 Mick Bailes**
FofS	**WO1 Mike Johnson**
YofS 1	**WO1 Dave Turner**
YofS 2	**SSgt Brian Hayward**
Ch Clk	**SSgt Graham Manning**

Since our last report the Squadron has taken its block leave, supported Ex *Brave Defender* and taken part in the Comds Cup Competition and the Lanyard Trophy. We are presently preparing for Ex *Beat Blow* and Ex *Broad Band* which are 1 Bde Exercises to be held in Schleswig Holstein.

Immediately after our leave the entire Squadron paraded for the inter troop cross country. What timing, three weeks of wine, women and sun does nothing for your fitness. **SSgt Bob Bardswell** of the muscles department organised a particularly unpleasant course and **LCpl 'Higgy' Higgins** did very well to complete the course so quickly and come first. Next on the list of inter troop sports was the Rugby seven-a-side competition. Hot favourites Charlie Tp had their noses put out of place early on in the competition by underdogs Bravo Tp but did well to win the rest of their games and come second. Winners of the competition were SHQ—well done.

The Comd 1 Sig Gp organised his Comds Cup Competition for 17 September. Two weeks before that 25 volunteered to take part. **Sgt Steve Meachin** hot from 'P' company was invited to take charge of fitness training. Twenty five young hopefuls set out on the road to fitness and only eight arrived at the other end. A week of being beasted up and down Clarendon Hill, Sidbury Hill and Chalk Pit Hill took its toll.

The competition started well for the Squadron when we came second in the swimming competition. But that was followed by a disastrous last place in the shooting and fourth place on the General Mil knowledge didn't help. But a second on the first aid stand, a second on the assault course, a first on the NBC stand and a first on line laying put us back in contention. It was all down to the speed march which was the climax of the competition. Unfortunately we didn't do quite well enough, only managing a fourth place. Overall we came second narrowly beaten by 19 Bde. Well done the team, which consisted of **2Lt Wood, SSgt Tubman, Cpls Balsdon, Bailey, Elliston, LCpl Gissane, Sig Brebner, Jackson, Johnstone, LCpl Sala, Sig Hodgson, Cox, Freeman.**

215 Sig Sqn Team. Runners up Comd Cup Competition. Winners NBC, and Linelaying

Capt (Tfc) John Meehan left the Squadron this month after three years valiant service; he's now off to run computers at Blandford. Here to replace him is **Capt (Tfc) Ray Papworth.** Also new is **2Lt Justin Hodges** who is 'justin' time to be landed with duties.

2Lt Derek Wood and Sig Bambi Brebner nearing the end of the endurance march

LCpl Mark Sala and Sig Harry Freeman attend one of the wounded on the first aid stand

LANYARD TROPHY

Once the event for those who had speed and knowledge, and enjoyed showing off in front of a supporting crowd was over, (Comds Cup Competition) the event for those with no sense took over. A group of 'volunteers' under the watchful eyes of **SSgt Dave Thomas** and **SSgt 'Tubby of the track' Tubman** were briefed and told they had to carry 30lbs of equipment, SLR rifle plus any food and for 40 miles. All this for a reward of a certificate which displayed your name—smudged and spelt wrongly.

Having all bought Tidworth garrision out of Mars bars, glucose tablets and drinks, foot powder and bandages, we departed for Weymouth on a sunny September afternoon—it couldn't possibly stay like this. The evening provided a small Nissen hut, a view of Chesil beach, a large queue for a meal, a briefing on the route and an early night; if you could bear the snoring.

The morning started with a journey around the Dorset countryside in a mud filled 4 tonner including an unscheduled detour to see Lulworth Cove, as the rest of the convoy had mysteriously disappeared down a B road, to the start. Finally, at the start the ritual of weighing in found entrants discarding or adding large pieces of Dorset flint from and into their bergens. The start itself was a hurried affair with the faster entrants doing almost a sprint start. **Sig 'Bambi' Brebner** was already off to a good start with **Sig Jacko Jackson** and **Sgt Chris Rose** maintaining a fast pace—did they realise there was 40 miles to go?

At the first check point, the five mile point, the field had stretched. The differences between the first and last entrant was in the region of two hours. From that check point on the event was a relentless climb and descent in the mist, following shadows and stopping frequently to pick blackberries.

At 18 miles it was encouraging to see the OC and RSM looking fresh and rested after their lie-in, offering encouragement and the threat of extras if we dropped out. From then on they appeared frequently on the march (having hidden the land rover). At the half-way point at Hardy's monument it was almost possible to have a Squadron 'O' Group. From then on the temperature of the day rose rapidly as did the pain and the anxiety for the finish. At this stage navigation was important to make sure nobody did any distance they didn't have to. Accordingly, **Sig Jacko Jackson** did a two mile detour in a wood and **Capt Jim Clark** climbed a hill he didn't have to, followed by four unimpressed maroon berets.

At about this time news was filtering back that **Sig Bambi Brebner** was almost finished which in a way was a boost to know that the finish was in sight—sort of. It was also encouraging to see those who had passed 'P' company sitting on the side of the track claiming their feet were sore and were going no further.

For all those who completed the time in over 12 hours, the last stretch was in the dark. The Squadron endurance prize must go to **Cpl Chris Jacobs**, who was the only competitor to have a sprint finish. Results as follows:-

Sig Bambi Brebner	9 hrs 44 mins
SSgt Dave Thomas	11 hrs 52 mins
Cpl Chris Jacobs	13 hrs 05 mins
Capt Jim Clark	13 hrs 10 mins
SSgt Keith Tubman	13 hrs 20 mins
Sgt Steve Meachin	13 hrs 20 mins
LCpl Parky Edminson	13 hrs 21 mins
Sig Jacko Jackson	15 hrs
Sig Willy Williams	15 hrs 50 mins
Sig Stevie Heathershaw	15 hrs 50 mins
Sgt Chris Rose	16 hrs
Cpl Pete Latham	20 hrs 05 mins
Cpl Nick Carter	20 hrs 05 mins
Cpl Paul Hill	20 hrs 05 mins
Sig Joe Whitehouse	20 hrs 05 min
Sig Taff Ryder	20 hrs 05 mins

Keep your unit notes **SHORT!**

3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn RM Plymouth

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

It appears that an article for *The Wire* has not been written by this unit since we returned from the Falklands. Perhaps my predecessors considered that only a catastrophic event such as a war was worthy of note. I hope the following paragraphs will remind the Corps of who we are and what we have been doing recently.

The establishment for Royal Signals Commandos attached to the Brigade HQ at Stonehouse Barracks, Plymouth is one FofS, four TE Techs, five RTG/DTG. A further two Royal Signals personnel in Commando Forces are based with the Commando Logistic Regiment also in Plymouth. Our role is to provide technical support for the Brigade.

COMMANDO COURSE

All ranks within the Brigade, irrespective of arm or service, must successfully complete an All Arms Commando Course at Lympstone, near Exeter. The duration of the course is nine weeks and its content encompasses all aspects of Infantry skills plus specialist Commando skills such as clandestine cliff and beach assaults. The physical content of the course is quite high but no more so than that undertaken by either 'P' Company or 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn Probation.

FURTHER TRAINING

Training does not end with successful completion of the Commando Course as the Brigade undergoes annual training in Mountain and Arctic Warfare (instruction kindly provided by the Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre—stars of the BBC2 serial 'Behind the Lines'). This training is put into practice in the extremes of the North Norway winter.

RECREATION

Life in the Brigade is not all hauling oneself up a cliff face with a dagger between clenched teeth as the Norway deployment provides plenty of opportunities for recreational skiing. Plymouth itself is ideally situated for all water sports and is a good base for those rock climbers with a bent for sea cliff climbing. The full scope of the more traditional regimental sports is also open to attached personnel.

NORWAY 85

After a nerve shattering start, when we were nearly wiped out in a coach crash on the way to Lillehammer, we settled down to the routine for the coming weeks. The deployment phase to Lillehammer was followed by the Arctic Warfare training course for the 'new boys' and continuation training for the 'old hands'. This is an extremely important phase where all ranks are taught, or refreshed, on everything from building brushwood bivvies and snowholes, to using skis.

Coming ashore

Cpl Gary Legge
Defence phase

The HQ then established itself for the remaining weeks, prior to the *Cold Winter* exercise, in the Nermo Hotel. During this period the operators were employed preparing equipment for distribution and the technicians repairing equipment and installing intercom systems. The afternoons, however, were spent skiing and participating in further training and a 24 hour ski marathon was organised. Our team, comprising **Sgts Shane Larkin** and **Mark Philo** and **Cpls Gary Legge** and **Billy Jones** completed 300Kms. Shortly after this event the detachment's ranks entered the Royal Marines 20Km ski-biathlon where several members gained awards.

Following several small communications exercises the Brigade made an amphibious landing at the start of the final phase. This was a great success and a fitting climax to our three months deployment to Norway.

Sgt Shane Larkin demonstrates skiing ability on the 20Km biathlon

EVENT 85

Several members of the detachment took part in 'Event 85' which is an annual three day competition with five events:

Gym Tests
Pistol shoot Royal Marine style ie after a 500m run with 30lbs.
River crossing—in truth a crossing of the Royal William Yard harbour entrance but just as 'hairy'.
Navigational 'Yomp'—Paras read tab for yomp.
Four Tonner Pull—or was it a three tonner? It was heavy anyway.

The hastily formed team took a very creditable third place only four points behind the winners. It is hoped that a more prepared team will do better next year.

FofS Beverley weighs in at the end of the yomp

Walker, Mne Claire and Sgt Larkin—Obstacle

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Welcome to **SSgt (FofS) Bev Beverley** and his wife **Wendy** and to **Sgt Gus Tait**.

Farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Pete Gill** who leaves the Corps after 22 years. A fond farewell to **Sgt Mark Philo** who has left for Berlin, and **Cpl Gary Legge** and **Sally** who move to Catterick. Best wishes to **Gary** and **Sally** who are expecting to hear the patter of tiny Commando boots very soon. Congratulations to **Cpl Billy Jones** and **Sheila** on the birth of their son, **Andrew**.

INTERESTED?

If any of this has interested you and you are either a TE Tech or DTg/RTg, class 1/2 and you would like to volunteer for service with Commando Forces then apply to R Signals MRO via normal channels.

Further enquiries can also be made to: **SSgt (FofS) S. Beverley**, Comms Troop, 3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn RM, RMB Stonehouse, Plymouth PL1 3QS. Telephone Royal William Yard ext 6986.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

After a low profile in the last two issues of *The Wire* the Panther is back with a vengeance. We hope that having read this 'bumper' article you will have a better idea of who we are, what we have been doing and what we are about to do.

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Raper**
2IC	**Capt Jim McGrath**
QM	**Capt (QM) Charles Homewood**
AO	**Lt Jill Trainor WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Lt Chris Wakerley**
OC P Tp	**Lt Andy James**
OC N Tp	**Lt James Morley-Kirk**
OC N Tp (des)	**Lt Richard Butlin**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet**
MTWO	**WO1 Angus Paterson RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Mick Everett**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley**
AGMS	**WO2 (AQMS) Geoff Cotter REME**
ORSQMS	**SSgt Mick Hague**

MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS

Old cupid must have had a surplus of arrows to spare. We have quite a few marriages to announce; I hope you all excuse the informality—but here goes

Phillip and **Denise Carrington-Moule** on 25 May 1985
Mark and **Helen Archer** on 25 May 1985
Ian and **Karen Heward** on 29 June 1985
Mark and **Mandy Rouse** on 6 July 1985
Ian and **Lorraine Lines** on 18 August 1985
Chris and **Mandy Joyce** on 17 August 1985
Kevin and **Julie Gallagher** on 10 August 1985
John and **Linda Moore** on 10 August 1985
David and **Karen Cunliffe** on 28 October 1985

Welcome to the Squadron and the Corps ladies, I hope your futures are bright. Congratulations to both **John** and **Susan Brown** on the birth of their daughter **Debbie**, I hope your nights are quiet ones!

ADVENTURE TRAINING

The Squadron held a military and arduous training camp in the Grampians (Scotland to the peasants!) from 14 to 16 May 1985. **Lt Chris Wakerley** had been tasked with the scenario, and a good one it was. From Fell Walking (some thought it was more of a run!) to canoeing and rock climbing to raft building, it had it all. Arduous it certainly was, but enjoyable too! Who's for next year? Where have they all gone?

LCpl Stan Riley assisting Sig 'Duncs' Duncan down the rock face—overheard 'I wish you weren't a Tech Riley!'

BRIGADE INFANTRY SECTION CHALLENGE CUP

A rigorous and challenging competition and keenly competed for within this Infantry Brigade. Consisting of a 24 mile march (Speed), a series of military stands an assault course and shooting on the Middlewick ranges, it is not a competition for the weak of heart. The Squadron had two teams competing but unfortunately the team led by **Lt James Morley-Kirk** lost some members in the early stages. The team led by **Lt Chris Wakerley** set a cracking pace from the outset—completing the 24 mile walk (Run!) 17 minutes ahead of their nearest rivals. Coming into the final event 'The assault course' all was quite close. Nails were being bitten when a re-run was ordered (only the assault course you fool!), **Lt Wakerley**'s team girded their loins and gave their all in one last effort—they destroyed the opposition and lifted the cup! A few rumblings were heard from the Infantry but not for long—they also appreciated it took a good team to win.

Brigade Infantry Section Cup
Lt Chris Wakerley facing camera (of course!) to his left LCpl Mark Rouse, to his right Sig Moods Moody, A. N. Other, Sig Ian Ormerod

EXERCISE *IRON CHARGE*

The main party travelled from Harwich to the Hook of Holland 23 May and drove through the night to reach the staging accommodation at Munster. Early Friday morning the Squadron moved into its exercise location. The exercise proved to be an active one and any teething problems were quickly ironed out.

EXERCISE *HURST PARK*

A return visit to Germany was not long in coming. At the end of June the Squadron was back on the ferry, this time bound for Hamburg.

After staging at Rheinsehlen Camp the troops deployed to their first locations and plugged into 1 Armd Div's new PTARMIGAN communications system.

It was not long before the Brigade logistic HQ realised the press-button wonders of the new system. **Cpl Simon Rose** became **Maj Wilson Brewers** 'HIP' man—(Human Interface with PTARMIGAN!).

Echelon was located in a derelict timber-mill, spotted by **Capt Jim McGrath** on a helicopter recce. Such local interest was aroused that, within a day of their arrival the Squadron was in the local papers.

Echelon were in fact the first and the last unit to use the location.

As **Capt (QM) Charles Homewood** was moving out of the building the bulldozers were moving in to knock them down! Nothing to do with him he says.

Ex *Hurst Park* was **WO1 (RSM) Pat Gallagher**'s final exercise and he was 'dined out' in the field with a champagne breakfast, a 'fast ball' caught squarely by **Lt Andy James** only hours before the event! What are subalterns for?

EXERCISE *PANTHERS PRIDE*
SQUADRON OPEN DAY AND SUMMER DANCE

The open day was organised on the Theme of '19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the field'. It provided an opportunity for the families to see what life is like for the Squadron on exercise, and to sample some purely military activities. A creche was organised for the young children so that mothers were free to attend.

Maj Tony Raper, OC Sqn, welcomed a group of over 50 ladies and briefed them on what the day had in store. Clothed in Army coveralls the party moved out to Cherry Tree Camp and Friday Wood, where elements of the unit had been deployed. All the varied aspects were on show—from the Radio vehicles to the Field Kitchen.

Throughout the morning the ladies showed great enthusiasm and were not afraid to show their husbands and boy-friends 'how it should be done'.

The party had lunch at Cherry Tree Camp before returning to Goojerat Barracks where the military stands were located.

While **Sgt Pete Corcoran** (KINGS) demonstrated the horrors of the NBC suit, **Cpl Bob Cook** put the ladies into a casualty simulation incident to see how they coped **(Karen Heward**, being a trained nurse, was not allowed to help!).

At first sight of the casualties, **(LCpls 'Stan' Stanley, Ian Lines, Sig Steve Kay,** and **Eddie Yates)** the ladies were slightly apprehensive—can you blame them? They soon got involved though. Whether life or limb were saved is another question, but the injured seemed to appreciate the rest and reassurance.

The weather deteriorated during the afternoon but the girls were not afraid to go around the assault course—obviously encouraged by the preceding demonstration by APTI's **LCpls Paddy Leitch** and **Peter O'Brien.**

The Squadron Commander rounded off the afternoon with a final chat over tea and biscuits, achieving instant and undying popularity with the ladies as no-one left without a box of choc-ies! All said how much they had enjoyed the day and looked forward to the next one.

Swinging 'Sally McGrath' watched with trepidation by 'Caroline Homewood'

VISIT BY WHITE HELMETS

The Squadron **'Extravaganza Summer Dance'** had been planned to take place on the evening of 19 July. **Capt Jim McGrath** had arranged for the White Helmets display team to perform. They gave two displays, one at 1800 hrs for all members of the Colchester Garrison and their families, and the public. The later display was just for those at the Summer Dance. Several articles appeared in the local press. Both displays were a great success and our thanks to **Capt Roddy Nicholson** and his team. The Summer Dance itself was organised by **Lt Chris Wakerley**—assisted by a large subsidy from the PRI. It was a resounding success, topped off with a first class live group and a champagne breakfast.

FORMER SOLDIERS MEET AGAIN AFTER 40 YEARS

Capt Jim McGrath organised a meeting of former war time despatch Riders—see page 674

HI'S AND BYE'S

Sadly we say farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Pat Gallagher** who leaves us for his new appointment in EDIST. Being just across the road he pops in now and again to tell us how hard he is working! Does he mean he didn't work hard when he was here? Anyway good luck RSM to you and your wife **Jean.**

Welcome, welcome! **Lt Andy James** and wife **Ann, Lt Jill Trainor, Lt James Morley-Kirk, 2Lt Richard Butlin,** and of course our new RSM—**WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet** and wife **Jean.** Welcome also to **SSgt (ORSQMS) Mick Hague** our new Chief Clerk. Don't worry too much you will laugh at it all in years to come!

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

THE CHANGES

Two major changes have occurred in the Squadron since our last notes. **Capt Paul Holden**, one time OC, Bravo Troop and then Ops Officer of the Alternate War Communications Squadron, leaves us for the School; all those who smoke beware, he had the same packet of 20 Silk Cut when he left that he had when he arrived. As 'Guru' of the computers, **'Capt H'** will be missed for his expertise and also as a character. In bidding him farewell we wish him and his family all success in the future.

Departing at the same time was **WO1 (RSM) John Woolley**. As was mentioned at his Dining Out from the Mess, the RSM has had a very productive tour, just ask his wife! He will be sadly missed, not in small part for all the work and dedication in retaining and improving the Sergeants' Mess, on some occasions against daunting opposition. Once again we wish him and his family every success as they leave us for Harrogate.

We welcome **Capt Malcolm Coupar** his wife **Nicky** and **WO1 (RSM) Rod Gladwin** and his wife **Shirley** and hope they enjoy their tour in Maastricht.

TAPIJN ENGLISH VILLAGE FETE

With the British Community of Tapijn having appeased the Gods of rain and thunder, this years Tapijn Fete was held in reasonable weather on Saturday 31 August.

A five-a-side soccer competition, ably organised by **Sgts John Rose** and **Colin Alexander**, got underway at midday, having attracted teams from throughout the AFCENT community.

Various stalls and other attractions helped to create a relaxed atmosphere, as well as generating the collection of monies for donation to charities. Children's sports, under the direction of the local cub pack kept them amused whilst parents seemed more than happy to pay for the privilege of dumping some of Tapijn's more popular personalities into a tank of rather cold water, on the ducking stool.

Once again, **Sgt Derek Pocock** amazed visitors to the Fete with his novel stall, a cross-bow for shooting an apple off the head of (fortunately) a wooden dummy.

The proceedings culminated with the soccer final played between Newport County (a thinly disguised AFCENT Knight's team) versus 227 Sig Sqn Admin Troop. It was an entertaining match, but Newport County proved too strong for the local Tapijn team, won a well deserved victory and received, for this year at any rate, the Tapijn Fete Trophy.

Our thanks to all the sponsors and supporters of the event, including Olau Ferries, North Sea Ferries and Virgin Atlantic Airways who kindly donated free travel to UK for winners of the Grand Draw.

NIJMEGEN MARCHES

The Squadron once again combined with other unit members from Tapijn Kaserne to send an international team to take part in the annual Nijmegen marches. The team led by **SSgt John Keohane** once again achieved a 100% success.

The British Team Members were:

SSgt J. Keohane BEM	4th year
Sgt N. Anderson	2nd year
Sgt J. Copland	3rd year
Sgt J. Rose	1st year
Cpl S. Taylor	1st year

The International team from the Alternate War Communications Squadron

(Photo by Tony Folstrom)

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

During the summer months the Squadron has had the opportunity to do a spot of Adventure Training and catch up on fitness training and military skills.

EXERCISE *HARD SEAT*

Ex *Hard Seat* was an Adventure training exercise in South Wales from 29 July-7 August. The aim was to teach the relatively easy sport of canoeing, under the expert guidance of **SSgt Dave Beattie** and **Cpl Tim Abbott**. **Cpl 'Gaz' Dootson** gave expert, albeit uncalled for, demos of capsize drills while **Cpl 'Doc' Doherty** and **LCpl Kev Joy** spent more time going around in circles than actually touring.

By the weekend we had moved down to a 'Civvy' camp site at Symonds Yat, a five star camp with swimming pool and discos' etc. (We should have known better). This was an ideal base within easy reach of the rapids on the river Wye, which certainly took its toll on everyone (except wizard **Beattie**). **Sig 'Jes' Dylon** thought his time had come but luckily was only badly winded. The exercise turned out to be a tremendous success with everyone hoping for a return trip next year.

Congratulations to **Sgt 'Geordie' Patterson** and **Cpl Paddy Lynch** who kept everyone well fed and supplied with transport, although the nearest that **'Geordie'** got to the water was from the bank end of an 8ft fishing rod!

Cpl Gaz Dootson decides two canoes are safer than one

EXERCISE *ALPINE RETURN*

Ex *Alpine Return* from 27 July-9 August was an adventure training exercise in Southern Switzerland. Led by **Lt Frazer Grant**, 10 rather pale individuals set off from Bulford on 27 July. The aim was to travel from Brie to Montreaux via the most arduous route possible. Along the journey eight of the men unfortunately developed food poisoning but overcame their difficulties to reach their destination—Montreaux. Then they went their separate ways for a well earned summer leave, some to Spain, Italy, Corfu, Germany and other parts of Switzerland.

The food of all good mountaineers. Cpl John Osbourne tucks into a bowl of baked beans

Cpl Mac McInally conquers one of the Swiss Alps

BATTLE CAMP

After three weeks of rain filled block leave the Squadron deployed from 3-13 September to Tregantle Fort just outside Plymouth, which is surrounded by undulating hills. On arrival, a bright spark, namely **WO2 (SSM) Glen McArdle** decided a CFT was the order of the day. The next four days were spent completing all mandatory training at a furious pace. A competitive spirit was generated by splitting the Squadron into eight sections, who over the next 10 days tried to outshoot, outrun, outclimb, outfight, outcanoe, outgas and outmarch each other.

Sig Barrie Gill (a newcomer), surprised everyone, including veterans of the shooting team by winning the Innocent Cup, (a trophy presented for the highest scoring marksman). Well done!

The eight sections shepherded by the DS deployed to Dartmoor for a two day exercise where sections visited various stands over a 20Km area each day, and tests on all aspects of military training were conducted.

The last stage of the exercise was a bergen run, where the DS set the bogey time which, surprisingly, few sections managed to better.

The grand finale was an endurance assault course held at HMS *Raleigh*, which was run as a troop competition. The old and bold, led by OC, **Maj Jonathan Cook** set the bogey time. Main Troop were the eventual winners, with Support Troop a close second.

Congratulations go to **Cpl John Osbourne** and all his section as the overall winners of the battle camp competition.

The 2IC Capt Steven Leach, unsure of the depth, leads WO2 (YofS) Charlie Rodgers from behind

COMMANDERS CUP

The Commanders Cup held on 17 September is an annual event organised by HQ 1 Sig Gp, which consists of a mixture of military and trade skills, with the cup itself being presented by the Comd, **Col C. A. Brown**. This year saw the Squadron team led by **Lt Frazer Grant** trying to recapture the cup lost to 5 AB Bde last year. The Squadron team performed well, earning creditable results in all events, however, we were pipped at the post by 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn who beat us in the final event, the 'endurance march', by 15 seconds to clinch first place. The Squadron team finished joint second. An achievement to be proud of, congratulations to all who participated.

LANYARD TROPHY

The Lanyard Trophy is an annual event sponsored by 5 AB Bde and Sig Sqn. The aim is to test the endurance of the competitors in moving a long distance across difficulty country, in the shortest possible time, carrying in excess of 30kgs. Units enter as many 10 men teams as they wish and the first six to finish from each team count in the competition. The competition held on 19/20 September, over a course 40 miles long through undulating terrain along the Dorset coast.

We entered three teams which came in third, eighth and twelfth. Best individuals were **Lt Frazer Grant** (9 hrs 40 mins), **Lt Nigel Godbolt** (9 hrs 47 mins) and **Sig Chris Evans** (9 hrs 54 mins), achievements to be proud of. Congratulations to all who participated.

ORIENTEERING

The orienteering competition took place on 25 September. The course was run over an area of six miles in Malborough woods, (mainly gorse), which was designed by **WO2 (FofS) Chris Fielding**. Team winners were Mike/Admin Troop. Overall individual winner was the OC, **Maj Jonathan Cook** (which just goes to prove he's not always kept in the dark). Congratulations to **Chris** for an excellent orienteering competition.

NATO CHALLENGE CUP

The Squadron has now deployed to Turkey, and hope to retain the NATO Challenge Cup, which we have held since 1981. The competition consists of a 10Km speed march, assault course, followed by a team shoot.

FAREWELLS

The Squadron wishes fond farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Glen McArdle** and his wife **Lyn**. Congratulation on his promotion to WO1, and his posting as RSM to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

We also bid farewell to **Sgt Dave Fuller** and **Sgt Ken Simister** on their postings to 8 Sig Regt, also to **Sgt John Gibson** on his return to 30 Sig Regt. Best of luck for the future.

WELCOMES

To **WO2 (SSM) John Hyde** and his wife **Julie**, and all the other lucky people who have just arrived.

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

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

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

VISIT OF THE SOinC

The SOinC, **Maj Gen R. Benbow**, visited elements of the Squadron on three separate occasions during his tour of Cyprus in August. In all respects they were a great success and personnel made the most of the opportunity to display their skills and enter into lively discussion with the SOinC.

EPISKOPI TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

The SOinC, in company with the CBFC, **Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley KCVO MBE** opened the new exchange on 16 August 1985—modern technology has finally arrived in Cyprus! The new computerised Plessey IDX equipment replaces a system that has been around for the last 30 years or so. With a helping hand from **Sgt Alex Armstrong** and **Sgt Bob Boxall** and our attached CPD team, the curtain was drawn, buttons pressed and the system activated. Instant success heralded the new era.

The SOinC and CBFC with OC, Maj Martyn Reid and Sgt Bob Boxall examine the results at the opening of the Epi Telephone Exchange

The SOinC 'Sky High' at Mtn Tp with Capt Carol Lee and Cpl Steve Johnston

The SOinC with Cpl Tony McClean and Sig Neil Cain—'Up the Pole' on Biggin Hill

EPISKOPI TROOP/TM TROOP

Following the opening of the new exchange the SOinC visited the remaining Troops on the ground. Some things never change, consequently the lads of Epi Tp were to be found 'Up-the-Pole'—**Sgt Mac McCluskey, Cpl Tony McClean** and **Sig Neil Cain** entertained the SOinC to a lively 15 minutes on the Biggin Hill Cable project. In between times the older hands in TM Tp, **SSgt Roy Habergham** and **Sgt Phil Hill**, explained the vagaries of our earlier exchange, a grand affair of brass knobs and chattering relays, and the Cyprus Radio Relay System—also to be replaced in the next few years we hope!

AIRFIELD TROOP

After the delights of Epi the SOinC travelled to RAF Akrotiri to meet Airfield Tp. **2Lt Bob Parry-Jones, WO2 (FofS) Roy Wilson, SSgt Ian Gillett** and **Sgt Rocky Hudson** were the high powered team that led the demonstration by **LCpl Lee Kerridge** and **Sig Willy Morgan**, this time in 'an ole in the ground'. Amazing how many cable pits a Royal Signals VIP inspects in his time! In compensation it was then off to the 'Cable Pit' Tp Club for a superb buffet lunch. **Mrs Caroline Parry-Jones, Trudy Wilson, Angie Gillett** and many others too numerous to name provided a tremendous repast. Please accept our sincere thanks.

MOUNTAIN TROOP

The SOinC visited our cloud warriors the following day. **Capt Carol Lee, SSgt Pete Matthews** ably assisted by **Sgt Kev Walker, Cpl Steve Johnston** and many others guided the SOinC around the Troop admiring the views, the scenery and occasionally the equipment!

CYPRUS TROPOSPHERIC FORWARD SCATTER STATION

Our second big occasion was the official opening of The Cyprus Tropospheric Forward Scatter Station. A new addition to the Cyprus Radio Relay System this equipment, once destined for the Falklands, now provides an effective, alternative 'Southabout' route around the Island. The opening, coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Sovereign Base Areas and the arrival of the SOinC, led to a major celebration. **Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley** opened the batting with the first call across the system. For an added

Maj Gen Sir Desmond Langley CBFC opens the new Tropo Link—captions please!

(Photo by Cpl Palmer JSPR Cyprus)

touch the phone was to be found in a conveniently located call-box! Assisted by **LCpls Dave Mullington, Taff Price** and **SSgt Roy Habergham, Sgts Fred Thompson** and **Martin Drake**, contact was successfully made between Akrotiri and Dhekelia. The call was relayed over loudspeakers and its routeing indicated on an illuminated mapboard for all to see and hear.

After this momentous occasion all returned to the Corps Cocktail party. Both HQ Tp and Airfield Tp had with much effort and labour transformed a patch of local desert into an oasis of refreshments and light entertainment—complete with fountain and goldfish. All in all a most successful and enjoyable occasion. **Capt (QM) Mike Jennings** and his workers are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts—cheers!

Note: The QM refused to submit the photograph of the team as it shows his bald patch!

LS & GC

The occasion of the SOinC's visit also gave opportunity to present **Sgt Bob Nelson** with his LS & GC for 15 years undetected crime. Well done **Mrs Lilly Nelson**, and children, **Tom, Rob, Ian** and **Nichola** for keeping Dad on the ball!

Sgt Bob Nelson receives his LS & GC from the SOinC

(Photo by Cpl Palmer JSPR Cyprus)

CONGRATULATIONS

To **SSgt Hump Thompson, Cpls Mike Spink** and **Ian Thorne** on their promotions.

To **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** and his wife **Deborah** on the birth of their son, **Gareth**.

To **LCpl Don Rodham** and his wife **Linda** on the birth of their daughter, **Emma**.

To **Sig Chris Alger** and his wife **Lorraine** on the birth of their daughter, **Niki**.

266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic) BFPO 666

The Management Team

CURRENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

OC	**Maj Tony Sugdon**
2IC	**Capt Lynn Relph/**
	Capt Adrian Ridley-Jones
QM	**Capt (QM) Ron Collins**
Admin Offr	**WO1 Gordon Scott**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Fred Connor**
OC Line Tp	**Lt Tony Johnson/**
	Lt Nigel Gill
SSM	**WO2 Gordon Townsley/**
	WO2 Jim Reeves
FofS	**WO2 Frank Rumble**
YofS	**WO2 Steve Whytock**
C Clk	**SSgt Ray Williams/**
	SSgt Pete Butcher

ADIEU!

Farewell to **Capt Lynn Relph** who goes off to Staff College on well deserved promotion to Major, to **WO2 Gordon Townsley** who takes up an SSM appointment in AA College Harrogate shortly and to **Lt Tony Johnson** who returns to Training Group.

THE MOVE TO MOUNT PLEASANT AIRFIELD (MPA)

Plans are now well advanced for the move to MPA, foundations have replaced wooden marker pegs, the future signallers' accommodation blocks are almost complete—and currently being occupied by the many civilian contractors; our new stores/office complex/workshops are 'roofed shells', there are two gymnasia and the making of a very large terraced sports field. Meanwhile, back in Port Stanley, **Capt Ron Collins**, the QM and his staff—notably **SSgt (SQMS) Butch Cassidy** and **SSgt (Tech Stmn) Dave Forsyth** are busy backloading D11/D13/R234/ Commcen airportable cabins, T100s, old box body office trucks and . . . C50 spares!

BFFI HALF MARATHON

The Stanley Half Marathon took place on Sunday 25 August 1985. There were 250 runners with 40 members of the Squadron taking part. The race was won by **Sig Stu Gemmell** who, having arrived just two days previously from 21 Sig Regt was still suffering Jet Lag! Second and third places were taken by **Cpl Steve James** and **Sgt Del Pashley** respectively. Our Quartermaster **Capt Ron Collins** took third place in the over 40's category.

Experience and Pain
L to R: Sgt Ian Johnson, Cpl Andy Martin (who raised £95.00 for BLESMA)

Pain and Experience
L to R: WO2 (YofS) Steve Whytock (266—a coincidence?) and Capt Ron Collins (253) on the homeward straight in the Falklands Half Marathon

SQUADRON SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY

The Squadron's sporting teams have done particularly well over the last two months. Our Cross Country Team has won the Minor Units Championship with some splendid running by **Sig Stu Gemmell, Cpl Steve James, Cpl Bill Dallas, LCpl Paul Wicks, LCpl J. Davies** and **Cpl Chris Hurford.**

INTER TROOP

Our Inter Troop Challenge Trophy, currently held by TM Troop looks as though it will be soon 'owned by the Linies' again!

RUGBY

Lt Fred Connor has recently taken over the management of the Squadron Rugby Team.

FAREWELL TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Sir Rex and **Lady Hunt** left the Falkland Islands on Sunday 13 October 1985. The OC, Warrant Officers and Senior NCOs were present at a reception held in their honour on Coastel 3. As RFA *Sir Geraint* slipped her moorings in Stanley Harbour, the Squadron signalled its farewell message to HE The Governor:

'The Officer Commanding and all ranks 266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic) on behalf of all members of the Royal Corps of Signals send their greetings and warmest wishes to you both as you leave'.

We were delighted to receive **Sir Rex**'s reply:

'Many thanks for your greetings and good wishes on our departure. Please give all ranks our warm regards and best of luck for the rest of their tour in the Falkland Islands'.

Farewell to Sir Rex
L to R: Sgt Hartshorne, Sgt Parsons (CPA), FofS Rumble, OC, (YofS) Whytock, Sir Rex Hunt, WO2 (SSM) Reeves, WO1 Scott (yes, he really is the smallest!), Sgts O'Connor, Knights, Smith and SSgt Scott

Communicating Brothers
SAC Richard Stephens welcoming his brother LCpl Mark Stephens into 266 Sig Sqn

THE MERCURY SUPER SHOP

The Squadron Shop now has the following items for sale:

— Grey Sweat Shirts (Triservice colour flag/Penguins with logo Joint Commcen Falklands) Cost £8.50

— Squadron Tie (Dark blue background with Jimmy and Rams head alternate) Cost £3.75

Former members of the Squadron requiring either item are asked to send cheques made payable to 'Central Bank Falkland Islands' and addressed to Administration Officer, 266 Sig Sqn, BFPO 666. The cost includes P & P. Please ensure your number, rank, name and address are written legibly on the back of the cheque.

FORMER PENSIONERS

We report with regret, the recent deaths of the following former Members of the Corps who were in receipt of a pension:

22212670	WO2 R. W. J. Barber
2586528	WO2 J. Drummond
22539014	Sgt R. Conway
22548093	Cpl W. E. Baker
22212173	Sgt J. Joyce
22776188	WO1 T. B. Cooper
22537537	Cpl M. T. Brennan
2321344	Sig A. Beckett
4801212	SSgt T. Holden
2318988	SSgt D. S. Giles
2311391	Sgt W. H. B. Geere

FORMER SOLDIERS MEET AGAIN AFTER 40 YEARS

Report by 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

Forty years ago **Sgt George Chilvers** and his fellow dispatch riders of the Royal Corps of Signals were part of the Army communications system that helped win the war.

Recently, **Mr Chilvers** and four of his old friends held their first reunion since 1945, in Clacton.

The meeting was organised by **Mr Chilvers** and **Capt Jim McGrath** our Second in Command. **Capt Jim McGrath** sent a signal message to Clacton by dispatch rider, for each of the men congratulating them on their service during the 1939-45 War and wishing the reunion party well.

The message was carried by **Sgt Tim Wynn,** who gave up a day's leave for the occasion. He also carried a bottle of champagne from **Capt Jim McGrath**.

After a few nostalgic rides on **Sgt Wynn's** motor-cycle, the old comrades sent him back to Colchester with a message saying, 'We have discussed how we won the war. Our thanks to you for holding the peace.'

The five former dispatch riders, who served together in the Middle East, Italy, France, Belgium and Germany, gathered at the home of **Mr Chilvers'** sister, **Mrs Evelyn Bowers,** in West Avenue.

Mr Chilvers now lives in Bristol, and his colleagues come from around the country. **Mr Andre Amstutz** lives at Coddenham, Suffolk, **Mr Pete Bullard** is from Dorking, Surrey, **Mr Jim Ross** from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and **Mr Ray Mason** from Leicester. Although they had kept in touch, the five had not all met since the war. 'We were a very tight-knit group', said **Mr Chilvers**. 'It was the type of friendship you don't get in civvy street.'

After receiving their message from today's army, the old soldiers got on with their celebration meal, including a special cake, at a table bedecked with the Corps colours.

George Chilvers, Jim Ross, Andre Amstutz, Sgt Tim Wynn, Ray Mason and Pete Bullard at their reunion

Photograph courtesy of Tony Ellis

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by Capt Jane Knight

The events of the past months have included a visit to HM Tower of London through the good auspices of Yeoman Warder **Alan Copestake** and we thank him and his wife **Joan,** who catered so well for us. It was remarked that every visit brings added information and interest.

Johnny Johnson represented the Branch as our only Korean veteran at a parade at Chelsea Barracks. Our Branch Standard was carried by **Brian Mansell**.

In August some members paraded at the invitation of the Burma Star Association in Uxbridge, to commemorate the ending of hostilities. The parade, which included a contingent of The Gurkha Rifles, was inspected by the Mayor, who addressed the assembly, and a reception followed in the Civic Centre.

At our Fourth Annual Dinner at the Osterley Hotel, Isleworth, in October, we were very happy to welcome as our honoured guest, the Chairman, Royal Signals Association, **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB,** and **Mrs Anderson**. We appreciate that they were not deterred by a long return drive to deepest Dorset. We were also very pleased to have the company of **Lt Col** and **Mrs D. Strong** as our guests, particularly as **Lt Col Strong** is soon to relinquish command of 31 (GL) Sig Regt. The disco for the dancing following the dinner was ably provided by **Sgt Brian Murkin** of 2 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt.

Our member **Dennis Mulholland,** who regularly visits our former Branch Chairman, **Mr Alfred Smith** at St Margaret's Home for the Elderly, 84 West Heath Road, London N3, reports that **'Smithy'** would appreciate visits or correspondence from any Association Members who may remember him.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT BRANCH

A milestone was reached in the history of the branch on Saturday 21 September when the Golden Jubilee dinner was held in the TA Centre, Harewood Barracks, Leeds, by kind permission of **Maj P. R. Walker** Royal Signals (V) commanding 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V). The President, **Col Riche Bigland TD,** presided as he has done for the past 18 years. **Maj Jim Malcolm TD** (Vice Chairman) as Toastmaster, kept the situation under control (he had obviously done it before).

This unique occasion afforded the branch the oportunity of achievirfg one of the aims of the Association by gathering together serving and retired Signalmen, TA, members and Indian Signals Association, and ATS/WRAC. It was a truly representative family gathering; 'Family' being the keyword to the toast to the guests by our Chairman, **Maj Bob Edwards**. It was also the chance to say 'thank you' to a number of serving members who do so much each year to keep the Association spirit alive.

Association Headquarters were represented by **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB,** our Chairman, **Lt Col Ron Murray OBE,** General Secretary until his recent retirement, and his Assistant **Mr David Greenbrook**. Training Group Royal Signals, who do so much year in and year out to make the re-union such a successful event, was represented by **Brig F. R. Maynard** Commander of the Group.

The branch copy of the Royal Signals Roll of Honour of the second world war is held in the church of St Alban at the Army Apprentices' College, resulting from negotiations between the then Commandant, now retired **Brig Norman Butler CB** and our Chairman, at that time a member of the College Staff. Each year branch members and their ladies attend a re-dedication service at the College, where **Maj Bob** continues to visit each term to talk to the Apprentices about the Association and the Day's Pay Scheme. We very much value the continued contact with the College and were pleased to have the Commandant, **Col S. R. Carr-Smith** with us for the evening.

Since its inception the branch has enjoyed the hospitality of 49 (WR) Sig Regt TA at Gibraltar Barracks. With the re-organisation of the TA in 1967, the problem of a new home for the branch arose. The OC of the new 49 (WR) Sig Sqn (V) **Maj Jim Malcolm TD,** now Vice Chairman, came to the rescue and the branch was saved. Successive Squadron Commanders have continued to look after our interests, and for many years we have shared in their Remembrance Day service held in the TA Centre. We were able to enjoy the company of **Lt Col G. C. Mitchell TD,** Commanding 34 Sig Regt (V) and Squadron Commander **Maj P. R. Walker**. Representing the ATS/WRAC was **Col V. K. Stead OBE TD DL JP**.

We were delighted that **Col Michael Stewart OBE TD DL JP** Hon Col 34 Sig Regt (V) and **Col Bill Illingworth** (Past OC Squadron and CO 34 Sig Regt (V)) travelled from Middlesborough to join us. **Maj Harry Feber** and **Mr Peter Sharp** came from Harrogate and **Maj George Bolam** and **John Laing** from York. The Chairman was unable to resist the temptation to remind the gathering that he and **George Bolam** had first met on the North West Frontier about 1933 (Where is the NWF did somebody ask?). All our guests and members were accompanied by their ladies, thus adding to the charm and gaiety of the occasion. The beautifully laid out tables for a total of 134 displaying the candelabrum and silver of the Regiment were testimony to the magnificent work done by Secretary **Trevor Smith** and his willing committee. The seal was set by some excellent renderings by the band of 34 (N) Sig Regt (V) playing by kind permission of the Commanding Officer.

As the Chairman remarked **Trevor** and his team surpassed themselves. They may put on other shows as good as this one, but it is doubtful if they better it. A great evening, worthy of the occasion.

Committee members and their Guest of Honour Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson

Readers will be upset to hear that **Maj Bob Edwards** died on 22 October. (Editor)

CRICKET

Report by 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

BAOR INTER CORPS CRICKET CHAMPIONS

For the second year running the Corps won the Annual 'Famous Grouse' Inter Corps Championships held in Rheindahlen. Indeed the Corps swept the board by winning all its matches. In the preliminary rounds the side won against the RCT, RAOC and the REME. Against the RCT the Corps batted first and scored 142 for seven off 30 overs, **Lt Tony Rock** was top scorer with 47. The bowlers then restricted the RCT to 118 runs with **Sgt Nigel Scott** taking four for 29 and **Lt John Egan** four for 26. Against the RAOC the Corps did even better, winning by 41 runs, **Cpl Paul Gardner** scoring 66 and **Sgt Nigel Scott** 34 not out and taking three for 12. It should be noted that **Gen Alan Yeoman** kept wicket for the Corps during this game and next year is going to turn his age round and play for BAOR under 25s. The third game against the REME followed a similar pattern with the Corps winning by six wickets with four overs to spare.

In the semi finals the Corps met the runners up of the other group, the Royal Engineers, and although they restricted the Corps to 147 runs off 35 overs they collapsed to 55 all out. **Lt John Egan** took four for 19 while **Sig Andy Lidstone, Sgt Nigel Scott** and **Cpl Tony Hoare** took two apiece.

So to the final 40 overs each side, against the RCT, who as runners up in the group had beaten the Gunners to get to the final. The RCT won the toss and batted, they scored at just under four an over to reach 156 for seven. **Sgt Nigel Scott** being the pick of the bowlers with three for 29 off eight overs; **Cpl Tony Hoare** should also be mentioned for his two for 18 off eight overs. The Corps then batted and after a slowish start won comfortably. The opening pair made 86 off 21 overs before **Maj Chris Wright** was out for 45 runs, **Cpl Paul Gardner** came in to hit a lively 44 and he and **Lt Tony Rock** 59, both not out, ensured an easy victory by nine wickets with five overs to spare.

Congratulations to all the players for an excellent championships, thank you to the units for releasing players, and finally, a special thank you to the players who did not make the final eleven, but ensured we had an exceptionally strong squad, **Lt Steve Vickery, Cpl Ivor Moore, Cpl Bob Breheney, Sig John Stafford** and not forgetting **Gen Alan Yeoman**.

BATTING AVERAGES

	I	NO	RUNS	AV
Lt Rock	3	1	116	58
Cpl Gardner	5	1	163	41
Sgt Scott	3	1	51	25
SSgt Parrish	3	—	73	24
Maj Wright	5	—	101	20

BOWLING AVERAGES

	OVERS	RUNS	WKTS	AV	RUNS/ OVERS
Sgt Scott	24	67	11	6	2.8
Lt Egan	19	73	6	12	3.8
Cpl Hoare	21	56	4	14	2.6
Sig Ligstone	21	60	4	15	2.8
Cpl Thompson	19	77	2	38	4.0

Front Row: Cpl Gardner, Sgt Scott, Maj Gen A. Yeoman, Maj Wright, SSgt Parrish

Standing: Cpl Richardson, Cpl Breheney, Lt Rock, Lt Egan, Sig Lidstone, Cpl Thompson, Sig Bailey, Cpl Hoare

CORPS CRICKET—1985

Report by Lt Col S. A. Coltman—Capt Corps Cricket

1985 was a season of contrasts. We had high hopes of a successful year as it was felt that we had a good nucleus of experienced cricketers and a reasonable pool of young players to try out. In the event we started well and it was only when some of the older experienced players were not available, through injury or work commitments, did the results fall away and the inexperience in the batting show. Three games were lost during this part of the season. Incidentally no match was lost through the weather.

Special mention should be made of **Sgt Ian Gilbert** (10 Sig Regt) and **Maj Tom Richardson** (MOD), who both batted consistently, when available. What was highly satisfactory, was the performance of the bowlers, especially in the absence of **WO2 Dave Taylor** (AAC Harrogate) through injury. Our bowling was mastered only once during the season, this by RMCS Shrivenham, who had a very strong batting side. Special mention should be made of **Sgt Stephen O'Dare** (30 Sig Regt) who deservedly received his Corps Colours. He bowled well and showed considerable improvement during the season. **Sgt Nigel Scott** (4 Div HQ & Sig Regt), our Combined Services spinner, topped the bowling averages although only playing in three games. Generally our fielding was good; at times superb with **Cpl Don Bascombe** (School of Signals), who played regularly for the Army, shining especially. Team morale was always high.

The averages highlight our batting frailties and as can be shown by the fact that 28 players represented the Corps. We were forced to use more inexperienced players than we would have wished. Having said that, it did allow us to search out new talent and the following could have a good future: **LCpl Alan Barnet** (1 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), **Cpl Tiny Phillips** (30 Sig Regt), **Sig Paul Goodhand** (30 Sig Regt) and **LCpl Tony Hartley** (30 Sig Regt).

Our thanks go to **Maj Mike Fisher** (School of Signals), the Secretary, for all his hard work during the season.

Sgt Stephen O'Dare (30 Sig Regt) was awarded his Corps Colours.

Maj Tom Richardson (MOD) and **Sgt Ian Gilbert** (10 Sig Regt) were reawarded their Corps Colours.

MATCH RESULTS

R Signals	178—8 declared
Sgt N. Scott (4 Div HQ and Sig Regt)	73
RMAS	125—8
	Match Drawn
R Signals	175—8 declared
Sgt I. Gilbert (10 Sig Regt)	59
REME	121—6
	Match Drawn
R Marines	80
and	149
R Signals	198—8 declared
Sgt I. Gilbert	64
	32—2
	R Signals won by 8 wickets
RAF Signals	130—9 declared
R Signals	134—3
Lt Col S. Coltman (MOD)	94no
	R Signals won by 7 wickets
RAC	107
R Signals	63
	RAC won by 44 runs
RAOC	143
Sgt S. O'Dare (30 Sig Regt)	5—40
R Signals	96
	RAOC won by 47 runs
R Signals	165
RE	150—9
	Match Drawn
RMCS Shrivenham	211—8 declared
R Signals	111
	RMCS won by 100 runs
R Signals	133
Maj T. Richardson (MOD)	65no
and	165—9 declared
Maj T. Richardson	52
RAPC	116
	132—9
	Match Drawn

Played—10 Won—3 Drawn—4 Lost—3

AVERAGES

BATTING

Name	Matches	Innings	Not Out	Runs	HS	Average
Maj T. Richardson	5	6	3	165	65no	55.00
Sgt I. Gilbert	4	5	0	215	64	43.00
Lt Col S. Coltman	7	7	1	118	94no	19.67
LCpl A. Barnet	7	9	1	150	38	18.75
Sig P. Goodhand	5	6	1	84	22	16.80
SSgt P. Knight	4	5	0	81	41	16.20
Also batted with distinction						
Sgt N. Scott	73, 21, 12					

BOWLING

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Sgt N. Scott	73	22	167	13	12.85
Sgt S. O'Dare	128	37	312	22	14.18
Lt Col S. Coltman	64.4	17	172	12	14.33
Maj T. Richardson	111	34	275	19	14.47
Cpl D. Bascombe	64.1	15	174	12	14.50

CATCHING

Sig P. Goodhand	7c
Sgt S. O'Dare	7c
LCpl A. Barnet	5c

The following represented the Corps:

Col S. Carr-Smith	AAC Harrogate
Lt Col S. Coltman	MOD
Maj T. Richardson	MOD
Maj G. Maddren	School of Signals
Maj W. Price	HQ Trg Gp
Capt R. Clague	30 Sig Regt
Lt P. Glibberly	9 Sig Regt
WO1 B. Balding	RMAS
WO2 D. Taylor	AAC Harrogate
SSgt B. Grossmith	5 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt P. Knight	30 Sig Regt
SSgt Gunn	School of Signals
Sgt I. Gilbert	10 Sig Regt
Sgt S. O'Dare	30 Sig Regt
Sgt Dawson	School of Signals
Sgt Shuttleworth	School of Signals
Sgt N. Scott	4 Div HQ and Sig Regt
Cpl T. Gigg	11 Sig Regt
Cpl T. Phillips	30 Sig Regt
Cpl D. Bascombe	School of Signals
Cpl A. Howard	8 Sig Regt
Cpl H. Glean	10 Sig Regt
LCpl A. Hartley	30 Sig Regt
LCpl A. Barnet	1 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
LCpl Taylor	School of Signals
LCpl Naylor	8 Sig Regt
Sig P. Goodhand	30 Sig Regt
Sig C. Casswell	5 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

SHOOTING

ANNUAL SKILL-AT-ARMS MEETING

Report by Capt I. R. C. Blown — Sec R Signals Rifle Association

The Royal Signals Skill-at-Arms Meeting is an annual event held at Bulford and Perham-Down ranges in June of each year in the week preceding RASAM (Regular Army SAM), Bisley. It is run in conjunction with the Royal Artillery Skill-at-Arms Meeting but is a separate competition within the joint meeting. This year it was held over the week 22-28 June and attracted seven Major Unit teams and eight Minor Unit teams from the UK, Northern Ireland, BAOR, Cyprus and Hong Kong, not all of whom had qualified for RASAM.

Traditionally it is run in a friendly relaxed manner from the administrative point of view with the competitive edge becoming apparent as the week unfolds and championship points are won or lost.

The competition is based on the SLR, SMG, LMG and Team matches encountered at Bisley with only minor modification made to suit the local ranges.

The meeting commenced on Sunday 22 June with the traditional Team Captains' meeting and range rehearsals which allows competitors a final rehearsal and range staff the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the intricacies of the various shoots.

Miraculously as lunch time and kick off approached the rain stopped, the weather cleared and all teams reported-in to the stats tent.

Monday dawned dull and grey but spirits were extremely high as the first matches got under way, more or less, on time. It was soon very apparent that the championships, both Major and Minor, were not going to be one-horse races. QG Signals, 4 ADSR and 2 IDSR were very closely placed in the Major unit provisional results for Match 2, the Roupell Cup, while 233 Sig Sqn and 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn were battling it out for the Minor Unit points. Monday also saw the first of three senior officer visitors when **Brig T. H. Wheawell** President of Corps Shooting arrived to witness the opening stages.

Stats under the watchful eye of **WO2 (SMIG) Law RA** beavered away on the Apple II computers to have the up to date results available by the evening of each day. The two young DTg's from 30 Sig Regt (the terminal operators) soon learned what a 14 hour shift really meant.

As the week wore on it became apparent that the Queen's Gurkha Signals were indeed going to dominate the prize lists although 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt had given them an early fright by winning Match 2, the Roupell Cup. The Minor Unit championship was much more open with 233 Sig Sqn, 201 Sig Sqn and 8 Inf Bde very closely matched. As usual the competitive spirit had not taken the edge off the friendly camaraderie and young and old could be seen exchanging war stories or practical advice in the sunshine. Our unique father and son act of **Cpl Geoff Copley** and his son **Sig David Copley** of 16 Sig Regt provided the basis for many an argument as to whether experience or the young pretender would come out on top. As it was honours were about equal and it is with regret that we must say goodbye to **Cpl Geoff (Dead-eyed Dick) Copley** and wish him good luck in civilian life after 22 years service. **Cpl Copley** has been around the top of Corps shooting for a long time now, right from its heyday at NISAM in the early 70's he has been a good supporter of the Corps Methuen Cup Team.

Our other Senior Officer visitors included **Brig J. H. Almonds** a keen shot in his own right who produced a winning team with 22 Sig Regt when he was CO. **Col C. A. Brown**, Comd 1 Sig Gp in whose parish the event was staged, paid us a couple of visits, taking a close interest in all the teams, not just his own units. Our thanks go to them for showing the support necessary to keep shooting alive.

As the final day loomed, stats were pulling their hair out in their attempts to produce the Championship positions and final prize list, 30 Sig Regt struggled against the elements to keep the tentage tied down in the gales and **Lt Martin** pondered over whether two bottles of wine were sufficient for 30 at the SAM lunch. Our grateful thanks to 30 Sig Regt for their cheerful helpfulness in manning the ranges, running the canteen and producing 200 magnificent hot meals daily.

The team Snap and Section match sorted out the final positions in both championships leaving the last day for stage two individual matches and the Falling Plate competition. Queen's Gurkha Signals won the Major Unit Championship and on the way collected the trophies for the Whitehead, Association, SMG Team Match, Para Cup, LMG, Team Snap and Section matches. 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn captured the Worrin Cup as Minor Unit Champions winning the Whitaker for which they kindly donated a new trophy. 233 Sig Sqn narrowly missed the championship but collected an armful of trophies including the Whitehead, Association and the Team Snap. 201 Sig Sqn, the other close contender, won the SMG Team match, the LMG and Section matches. 4 ADSR won the Falling Plate competition on the final afternoon and then held corps honour high by winning the shoot off against the Gunners for the traditional case of beer. **Cpl Navindervikram** was the Champion-at-Arms and **Sig Nirmal Gurung** the top Young Soldier.

The President of Corps Shooting **Brig T. H. Wheawell** presented the Team Trophies and individual medals at the end of a successful week's shooting. He wished good fortune to the teams going forward to RASAM at Bisley and thanked those who had not qualified, for their support.

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn winners of the Minor Unit Championship Trophy. SSgt Rutter is presented with the trophy

The Brigadier presents one of their many cups to the Queen's Gurkha Signals team

Capt Lilbahadur Gurung receives the Association Cup from Brig Wheawell

BRANCHES OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

ABERDEEN: (SA/AB/1)
W. J. C. Tulloch Esq
32 Thistle Street
ABERDEEN

ALDERSHOT: (SA/AB/2)
SSgt G. Pickard MSM
No 1 Area QM
Buller Barracks
ALDERSHOT Hampshire
1st Wednesday of each month at WOs & Sgts Mess, 5 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, Arnhem Barracks, Aldershot.

BATH: (SA/AB/3)
E. F. Smith Esq
6 Hillview Road
Charlecombe Lane
Bath
No regular venue. Details of meetings from Hon Secretary.

BEDFORD: (SA/AB/57)
T. E. Holyoake Esq
54 Knights Ave
CLAPHAM
Beds MK41 6DG
Last Tuesday of each month at New Drill Hall, Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford.

BIRMINGHAM: (SA/AB/4)
Mrs S. Fisher
23 Highwood Ave
SOLIHULL
W Midlands B92 8QY

BOURNEMOUTH: (SA/AB/5)
A. A. Hawke Esq
30 Coombe Gardens
Ensbury Park
BOURNEMOUTH BH10 5AG
3rd Monday of each month at The Gunners Club, 177 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.

BRADFORD: (SA/AB/55)
Mrs N. Houldsworth
40 Kingsdale Crescent
BRADFORD BD2 4DA
1st Tuesday of each month at the RAOB Club, Hallfield Road, Bradford.

BRIGHTON: (SA/AB/6)
Mrs S. Cogger
22 Boden Road
BRIGHTON
E Sussex BN2 4DP
1st Friday of each month at Drill Hall, Dyke Road, Brighton.

BRISTOL: (SA/AB/7)
B. E. Clarke Esq
24 Pendennis Road
Staple Hill
BRISTOL Avon BS16 5JB
Last Thursday of each month at WOs & Sgts Mess, 37 Signal Regiment, TA Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol.

CAMBRIDGE
D. Watson Esq
3 Romney Court
Eaton Ford
HUNTINGDON
Cambs

CARDIFF: (SA/AB/8)
W. C. Davies Esq
2 Hafod Street
Grangetown
CARDIFF CF1 7RA
2nd Wednesday of every month at Echo Troop, 244 Sig Sqn, Mandy Bks, Cardiff.

CATTERICK: (SA/AB/9)
C. E. Moore Esq
29 Constantine Avenue
Colburn
CATTERICK GARRISON
N Yorks DL9 4RD
3rd Friday of each month at WOs & Sgts Messes 8th & 11th Signal Regiments, alternately.

CHESTER: (SA/AB/11)
P. Haigh Esq
'Plemont'
29 Kingsway
Newton CHESTER CH2 2LB
3rd Monday in every month at 80 Sig Sqn, Glwylan, Abbotts Park, Chester.

CHESTERFIELD: (SA/AB/12)
J. Bradshaw Esq
22 Enfield Road
Highbury
CHESTERFIELD S41 7HN
1st Monday of each month at the Square & Compass Inn, West Bars, Chesterfield.

CINQUEPORTS: (SA/AB/13)
P. Poulter Esq
2 Thorolds Road
CHATHAM
Kent

COTSWOLD: (SA/AB/52)
W. Hobbins Esq
9 Mead Close
Bishops Cleave
CHELTENHAM
Glos
2nd Tuesday of each month at The Victory Club, Nelson House, Trafalgar St, Cheltenham.

COVENTRY
G. K. Limebeer Esq
12 Fontmell Close
Clifford Park
Walsgrave-on-Sowe
COVENTRY CV2 2JY

DARLINGTON: (SA/AB/15)
C. Cooke, Esq
95 Stooperdale Avenue
DARLINGTON
Co Durham DL3 0UF
Last Thursday in each month at Bradford Armoury, TA Centre Neasham Rd, Darlington.

DERBY: (SA/AB/16)
Mrs Joy Elliott
144 Dale Road
Spondon
Nr Derby DE2 7DH
3rd Tuesday of each month at The Drill Hall, Kingsway, Derby.

DORSET: (SA/AB/17)
H. E. Wells Esq
3 Frampton Road
Pimperne
DORSET DT11 8UU
3rd Tuesday of each month at Blandford Garrison Sergeants Mess, Blandford Camp, Dorset.

DUNDEE: (SA/AB/56)
D. Reid Esq
64 Beauly Avenue DUNDEE
Last Thursday of each month at WOs & Sgts Mess, TA Centre, Strathmore Ave, Dundee.

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G. Mason Esq
37/38 St Johns Street
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Essex
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Hampden Park
Eastbourne
1st Monday of each month at the TA Centre, Seaside, Eastbourne.

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A. C. W. Laine Esq
'Jabulani' Richmond
St Saviours
Guernsey CI

HARROGATE: (SA/AB/19)
P. C. Wood Esq
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HARROGATE
North Yorkshire
3rd Friday of each month at Muckles Vaults, West Park also watch Local Press.

HARTLEPOOL: (SA/AB/20)
J. J. Mitchell Esq
35 Granville Avenue
HARTLEPOOL
Cleveland TS26 8ND
1st Wednesday of each month (except August) at The Rec Sports Club, Tower St, Hartlepool.

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Lea House Shepley
HUDDERSFIELD W Yorks

HULL: (SA/AB/22)
Major J. H. Dirs MBE
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HULL
N Humberside HU6 7TA
3rd Thursday of each month at The RAF Association Club, 93 Beverley Rd, Hull.

JERSEY: (SA/AB/23)
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Southdale Mont Es Croix
La Moye
St Brelade Jersey CI
1st Tuesday of Feb, May, Aug & Nov United Services Club, 79 Halkett Pl, St Helier, Jersey.

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LEEDS
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LINCOLN: (SA/AB/25)
F. R. J. Robinson Esq
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LIVERPOOL: (SA/AB/26)
J. J. Carruthers Esq
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Wallasey L44 4BL
1st Thursday of each month at the TA Centre, 59 Signal Sqn (V), 142 Edge Lane, Liverpool.

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C. Wood Esq
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LONDON (EAST): (SA/AB/29)
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4th Tuesday each month at 36 Club Signals House, Selsdon Road, Wanstead E11 at 8 pm.

LONDON (NORTH): (SA/AB/30)
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Shernbroke Road
Waltham Abbey Essex
2nd Thursday of each month at TA Centre, St Albans Rd, High Barnet.

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Wymeswold LOUGHBOROUGH
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J. J. Dixon Esq
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NEWARK
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NEWCASTLE upon TYNE: (SA/AB/34)
F. Luck Esq JP
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Throckley
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE15 9AG
2nd Thursday of each month at The FEPOW Club, Charlotte Sq, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

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40 Sig Regt (V)
BFPO 806
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TAVISTOCK PL19 9DH
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POOLE: (SA/AB/60)
J. J. F. Logan Esq
Parkstone Grammar School
Sopers Lane
POOLE Dorset BH17 7EP
1st Thursday of each month at the Royal British Legion Club, Broadstone, Poole.

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READING: (SA/AB/40)
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1st Saturday of each month at The 'Jimmy' Club, Burniston Barracks, Scarborough.

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SOUTHPORT
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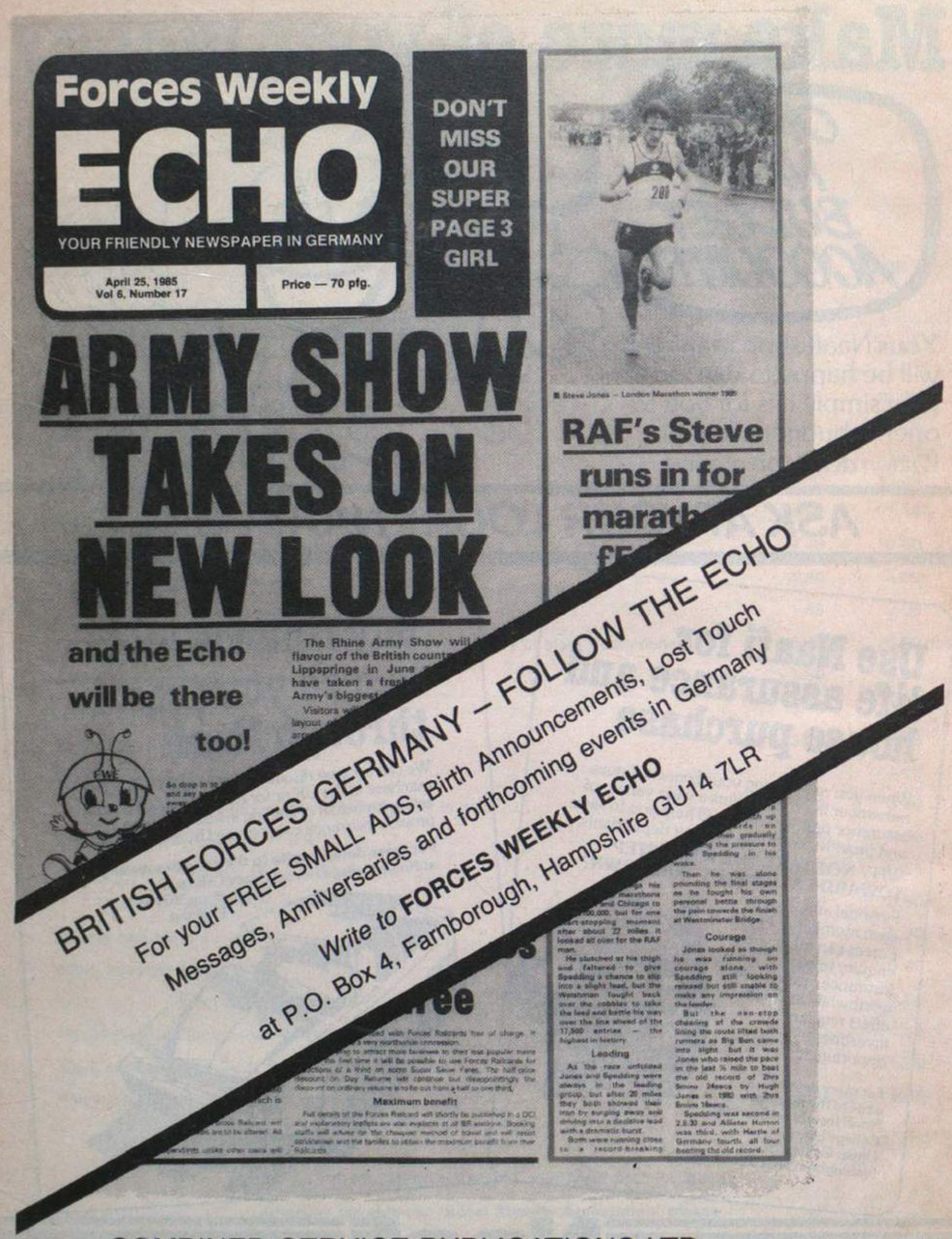

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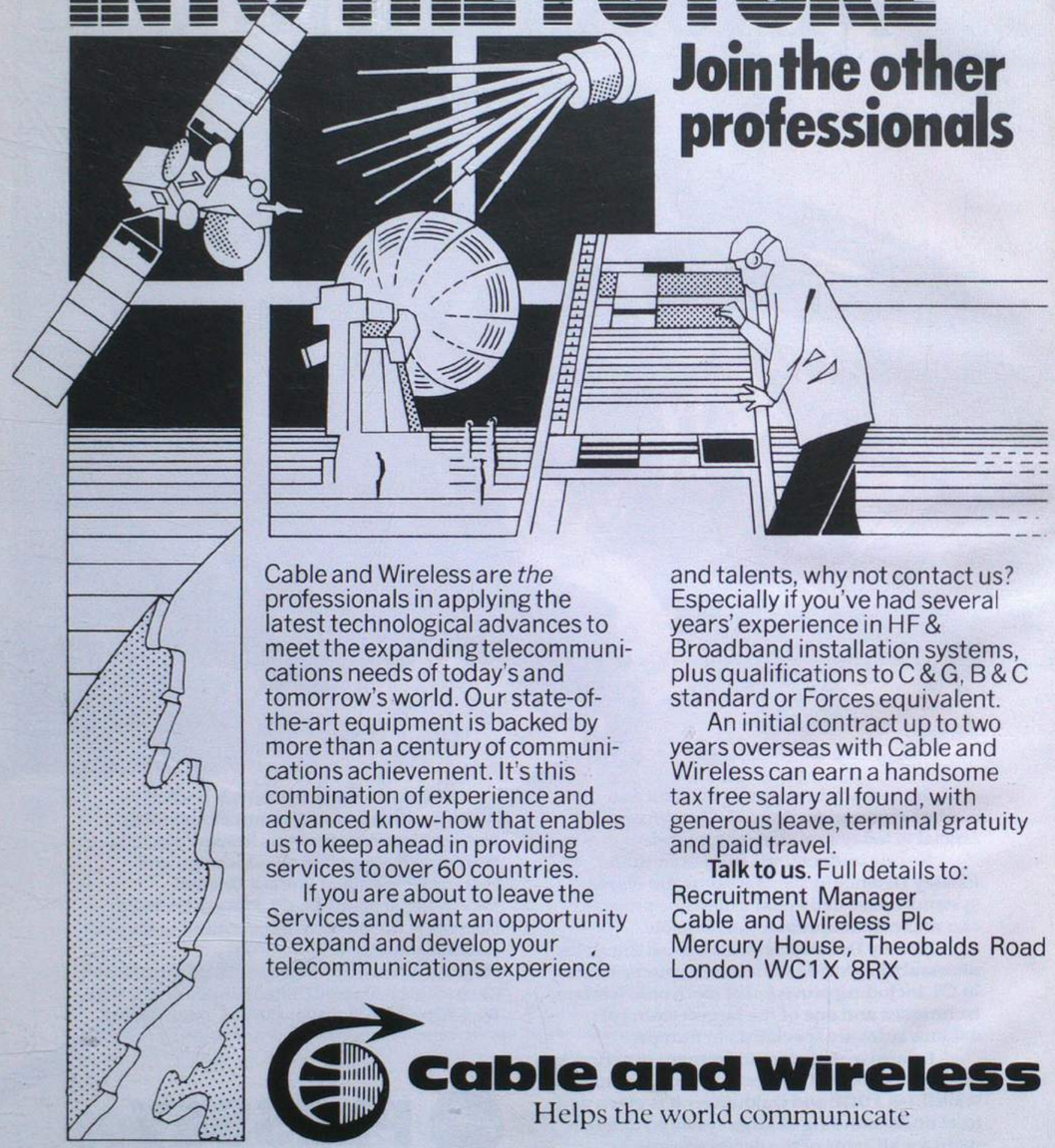

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