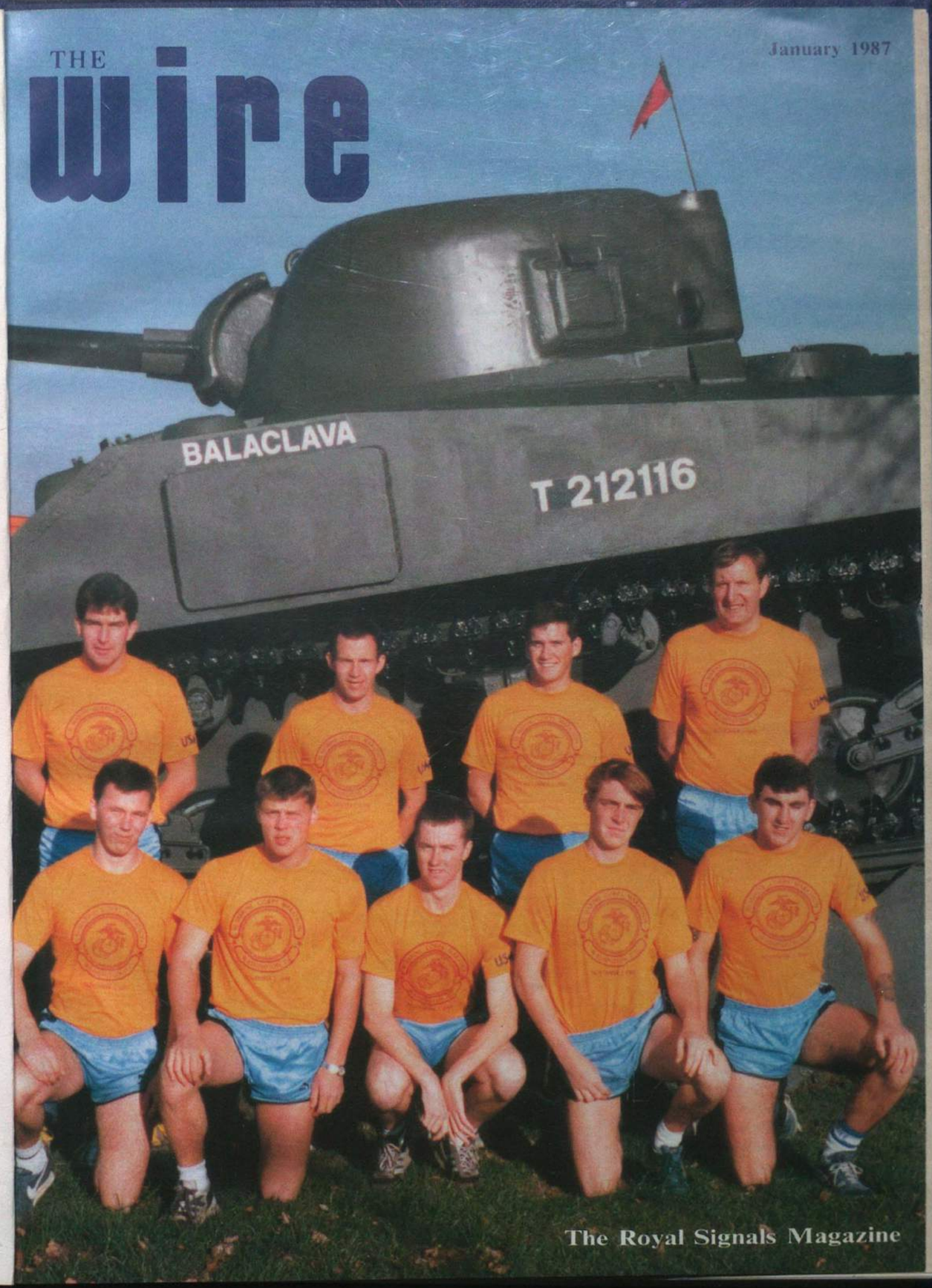
THE wire

January 1987



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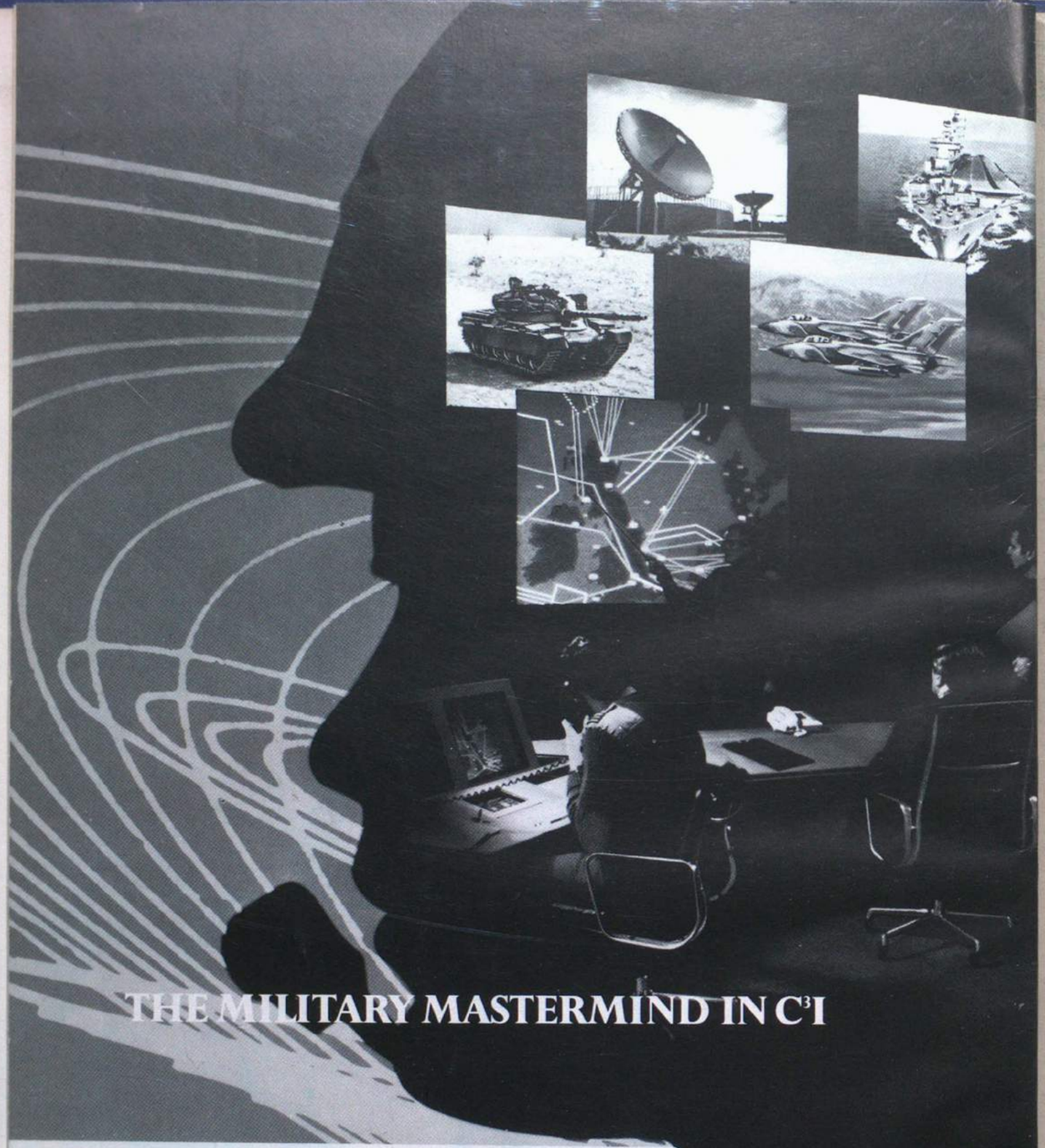

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

THE COLONEL IN CHIEF'S VISIT TO REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

On 28 November 1986, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips GCVO**, accompanied by **The Countess of Lichfield**, Lady-in-Waiting and **Lieutenant Colonel P. E. W. Gibbs**, Private Secretary, visited Regimental Headquarters for the first time in its new location in Regency Street.

Her Royal Highness attended the Corps Committee Meeting where the Corps finances were discussed and then toured offices in RHQ to meet the staff. Her Royal Highness then presented the Princess Mary Medal to the former Master of Signals, **Major General P. E. M. Bradley CB, CBE, DSO** in the presence of **Mrs Bradley** and the Corps Committee. After lunch Her Royal Highness left for another engagement in Central London.

It was a happy occasion for the Corps Committee, members of RHQ staff, detachments from 2 Squadron, 10 Signal Regiment who assisted with reception arrangements, 31 Signal Regiment (V) who cooked and served the lunch, and the Rochester Row police commanded by **Sergeant Nicholas Bate**, son of the late **Major General A. C. Bate OBE**.

David Greenbrook's grandson presents a bouquet

Sgt N. Bate, Metropolitan Police with the Master of Signals and Col J. A. D. Francis

The Colonel-in-Chief with members of 31 Signal Regiment (V)

RHQ lunch party

HRH presents the Princess Mary Medal to Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB, CBE, DSO

Member of 2 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt with the Colonel-in-Chief

The Corps Committee with Maj Gen and Mrs Bradley after lunch

The Colonel-in-Chief leaving RHQ

– From our "In" Tray –

3 ARMOURED DIVISION HQ AND SIGNAL REGIMENT'S SAILING SUCCESSES

1986 has proved to be the most successful sailing season ever in the history of the Corps, and in particular for 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Royal Signals won both Inter-Corps events, the Triangular Regatta (VS RA and RE) in UK and the Quadrangular Regatta (VS RA, RE and REME) in BAOR. This is only the second time that either trophy has been won by Royal Signals and the first time that 'the double' has been achieved. In addition, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt has won both the Army (UK) and BAOR Inter-Unit team championships for the second year running and has remained unbeaten for two seasons. The Regiment has also enjoyed success in other team and individual events including representation at Army level. The full list is shown below:

Team Events

Army Inter-Unit	winners
BAOR Inter-Unit	winners
3 Armd Div Inter-Unit	winners (B team)
	runners-up (A team)
Royal Signals (UK)	winners
Royal Signals (BAOR)	winners
Royal Signals League (BAOR)	winners

Individual Events

Royal Signals (UK)	1st **WO1 Ellis**
	2nd **Capt Lewis-Taylor**
	3rd **LCpl Downie**
Royal Signals (BAOR)	1st **WO1 Ellis**
	2nd **Capt Lewis-Taylor**
	3rd **LCpl Downie**
Army Dinghy Championships	Best U21 **LCpl Downie**
Army Keelboat Championships	3rd Overall **LCpl Downie**
Inter Service Gold Cup	2nd Overall **WO1 Ellis**

Army Representation

The following have represented the Corps at Army level:
Capt Lewis-Taylor
WO1 Ellis
LCpl Richardson

The Team

2 DIV HQ AND SIG REGT WIN ARMY CROSS-COUNTRY RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Army Cross-Country Relay Championships took place at the Rushmoor Arena in Aldershot on Saturday 15 November. The Regiment entered three teams in a bid to push our main rivals, 1 PWO into second place and to develop some strength in depth.

The course was over three miles of the wettest countryside that only Aldershot can provide!, with each team composed of four runners. At the end of a very hard fought race the Regiment's teams finished first, third and twenty third thus winning the Championships. The winning team of **Cpl Steve Lawrence, Sig Chris Ling, Cpl Jeremy Thomas** and **Sig Mark Vile** deserve a special mention for their tremendous efforts in winning the overall competition, however the other team members all pulled together to make it a truly 'team' effort.

We are now looking forward to performing as well in the Army Cross-Country Championships in February where we are hoping to avenge our defeat of last year.

Following the Championships **Cpl Steve Lawrence, LCpl Pete Freeman** and **Cpl Jeremy Thomas** were all selected to run for the Army against the British Universities at Reading. **Cpl Thomas** has also recently been selected to represent Wales against the RAF, a tremendous achievement and a result of his superb dedication and hard work.

Troop Commanders

Young Officers leave the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for a short attachment at Regimental duty before coming to the School of Signals for their Troop Commanders Course. The latest course to arrive is Number 8 pictured below

Back Row (L to R): 2Lts M. J. Barnes, A. J. Botterill, A. D. E. Cameron, T. J. Carmichael, D. C. Chattaway, A. J. Clewlow, Lt I. Hooper, G. I. Jones, 2Lt I. G. Jones, Lt I. G. Lawrence

Front Row (L to R): Lt J. H. McKee, 2Lts N. J. Makepeace, G. Neal, C. S. K. Paterson, D. J. Robson, S. J. P. Spiers, A. R. Urwin, Lts P. J. Watt, M. K. Woodham

ROYAL SIGNALS AWARD

On the occasion of the Master of Signals dinner held at Blandford on 6 November 1986 the Royal Signals Rose Bowl was presented to **Lt K. Munnock WRAC** (8 Sig Regt) for 1986. The Rose Bowl is awarded annually to the most outstanding WRAC subaltern serving with Royal Signals.

Our photograph shows Lt Munnock receiving the bowl from the Master of Signals, Maj Gen J. W. Badcock

MARATHON MEN

After a year of planning, preparation and training, the day finally arrived for a team of nine soldiers from 2 Sqn, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to leave for Washington to compete in the US Marine Corps Marathon.

The Squadron has a history of long distance running over the last two and a half years, entering teams in the Verden and Berlin marathons and an international 25km race again in Berlin. The hard core of runners decided it was time to venture further afield. A chance meeting in the Regimental PRI with an employee of the British Embassy in Washington set the wheels in motion.

The team travelled to Washington by a Pan Am Jumbo, an adventure in itself for some of the team and the excitement of being in the capital city of the USA was heightened when the White House was visible from the team's down town hotel which was to be the base for seven days of discovering Washington DC.

LCpl Rick Cummins and Sig Dusty Miller sample the various delights of a Pan Am Jumbo

The marathon itself was a very tough event and a few of the team were disappointed with their times. **Cpl 'Ned' Kelly** a veteran of six previous marathons said it was the hardest course he had run. The major problem on race day was the weather with temperatures touching 80°F and humidity of 100%. It was apparent after five miles that fast times were out of the question and it was going to be a matter of just finishing. The race is the third longest marathon in the USA with 11,000 runners and it lived up to its name of the Marathon of the Monuments as the course passed by the White House, Capitol

Building, Smithsonian Institute, Lincoln Jefferson and Washington Memorials plus many more of Washington's sights. Lots of runners suffered due to the heat and humidity with a large number of competitors having to walk the last few miles. The winner was only able to record a time of 2 hrs 24 mins, slow for a marathon and a cloud was cast over the event with the death on the course of a US Marine.

Apart from the run, the team visited many places of interest. **Sig 'Dusty' Miller** decided he could make the White House his home after being given a guided tour through the President's house. The team were in Washington at election time, so a visit to the Capitol Building seemed a must and was enlivened by our being allowed to enter both the Houses of Senate and Congress. The visit to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum was one of the highlights of the tour where original exhibits depicting the history of flight were on view. **Sig 'Tom' Gibbons** decided after seeing the space vehicles that he was in the wrong job. It was also good to see 'Jimmy' on view in the museum. The team were in Georgetown on the eve of Trick or Treat (Halloween) when 100,000 people took to the streets. The Americans loved dressing up and the boys took this opportunity to don fancy dress for the night. Eating out in Washington was another experience, **Sig 'Paul' Culleton** was heard to comment that the Fish Shops in Manchester don't serve swordfish and **Sig 'Robbo' Robinson** wondered what they fed the cows on.

The team would like to say a special thanks to *Save and Prosper* and *Townsend Thoresen* for their help in financing the venture. Through the generosity of *Save and Prosper* the team is able to donate £500 to the Save the Children Fund.

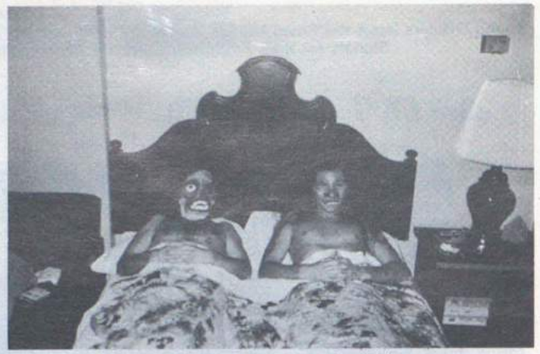
For the record the following times were achieved in the marathon:

Cpl Ned Kelly	2 hrs 50 min—overall 208 out of 11,000
Sig Robo Robinson	3 hrs 26 min
WO2 Andy Hickling	3 hrs 27 min
Sig Paul Culleton	3 hrs 29 min
LCpl Rick Cummins	3 hrs 37 min
Cpl Titch Anderson	3 hrs 58 min
Cpl Don Donnelly	3 hrs 59 min
Sig Tom Gibbons	4 hrs 08 min
Sig Dusty Miller	4 hrs 43 min (at least I finished)

As the team said an experience never to be forgotten.
Next year Miami!

Team relaxing in their hotel

Cpl 'Ned' Kelly helps out the Washington Police



Two members of the team after halloween

Yes we did run

On behalf of the team LCpl Rick Cummins accepts a cheque for £1,000 from Mr Len Pilling of Save and Prosper

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 1986

Report by LCpl Sullivan, Sig Alan Jeffries and Chris Freeman 39 Sig Regt (V)

The Lord Mayor's Show 1986 took place on Saturday 8 November. A squad from the Regiment were to form part of the Guard of Honour along with detachments from 4 RGJ and London University OTC.

Sig Alan Jeffries, Chris Freeman and myself awoke at 0700 hrs and made our way to Worship St TAC where the guard was to assemble. One look at the dull grey skies and the rain pouring down made us wonder if it had been such a good idea volunteering in the first place, but by 0900 hrs the weather had brightened up.

At 1100 hrs we assembled for a final practice in the drill hall along with 4 RGJ and LUOTC, then 1130 hrs we formed up outside ready to march to Guildhall for final dress rehearsal. The guard was to march with fixed bayonets and it is a well known fact that bayonets are quite dangerous, but one young lad seemed to be having difficulties with the fixing of his, so with a good pull, off it came, straight into his chin. A few anxious moments before the blood flow was stemmed. Then it was off to the Guildhall. Then lunch, courtesy of the WRVS, saw us ready to assemble and march to the Mansion House for the parade. At this point it seemed we were the centre of attention as crowds had gathered to watch, and when we marched off they actually followed.

We arrived at the Mansion House and lined up in our final position to await the arrival of the parade.

We were to present arms twice, once to the ceremonial guns of the HAC and once to the RHA. Our final duty was to give a general salute to the Lord Mayor on his arrival. The actual time we were on parade was perhaps one hour, but with all the crowd cheering and having to stand perfectly still it seemed like twice as long, but we did have an excellent view of the procession.

Afterwards the Lord Mayor inspected the Guard of Honour and we then marched back to the TAC. As we moved off the crowds clapped and cheered and it made all of us feel very proud and although we were feeling the cold, the wind was chilly, we still managed to put a 'swagger' into the marching.

Back at TAC everybody could relax again and joke about who nearly dropped his rifle on the final present arms or as the procession passed **Sgt Strachan,** the flag that almost got caught on his bayonet.

But at the end of the day we could all look back and agree it had been a terrific occasion which we thoroughly enoyed and we will be looking forward to being on parade again next year and part of the history and tradition of the City of London.

Being inspected by the Lord Mayor of London

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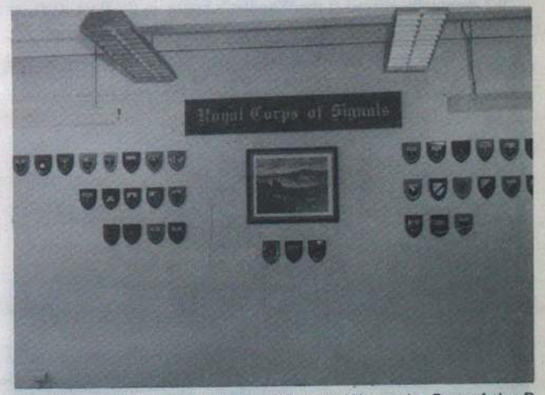
WITH THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY

Capt I. Foxley at present serving with the Royal Australian Corps of Signals Watsonia has sent us these photographs taken at the School of Signals on the occasion of the presentation of the Royal Signals Corps Room to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals in October 1986.

Capt Foxley has been asked to convey the appreciation of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals to all units who contributed to the display which helps to maintain the spirit of fraternal co-operation between our two Corps.

Presentation of Service Kukri to RA Signals
Capt Ian Foxley, UK Exchange Officer, presents the Kukri to Lt Col Jim Madden, CO of the Australian School of Signals, on behalf of Queen's Gurkha Signals



The Corps Wall at the School of Signals Watsonia. Part of the R Signals display at the Australian School of Signals

10 SIG REGT WRAC IN KENYA

EXERCISE *RHINO EXPRESS* 1986
Report by Cpl J. McBroom WRAC

Way back in February a notice appeared on orders stating that our 2IC **Capt E. E. Cunningham WRAC** would be leading an adventure training expedition to Kenya and that 12 volunteers were required. There was a mad rush of applications and a few months later our merry band was confirmed—**Sgt Pam Murrison, Cpls Kryshna Lawton, Helen Cliffe** and myself, **LCpls Gloria Robb, Euni Bolder, Claire Holmes, 'Sam' Sampson** and **Ptes Celia Duffield, Jo Colton** and **'Marmalade' Atkin**, all members of 3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) based in Aldershot.

We had by now heard about the plight of the Black African Rhino (their numbers having fallen from 20,000 in the early 70's to around 200 today in Tsavo National Park alone) and we set about ways to raise money for the Save the Tsavo Rhino Appeal. We held a 24 hour aerobics session, our OC **Maj M. S. Wilson-Brown** went on a sponsored slim and managed to shed 24 pounds, an excellent disco was held, half marathons run, four girls did their first parachute jump and we received kind donations. We managed to raise £1,300 and this money was sent to Tsavo National Park in Kenya to help finance a special solar-powered electric fencing which will form part of a rhino sanctuary to protect the rhinos from being killed by poachers.

Our aim was to complete a 300 mile foot safari through Kenya's largest and most notorious national park—Tsavo. Tsavo covers an area of 11,000 square miles (larger than Israel) and is renowned for its lack of water, presence of tsetse fly and barren wilderness. However it has always been a paradise for both large and small game and it was guaranteed that we would see plenty of game. We were to follow its three main rivers; the Tsavo River which starts in the foothills of Kilimanjaro and flows east, the Athi River which flows from north to south through central Kenya and joins the Tsavo River to form the River Galana, which flows eastwards into the Indian Ocean. We knew that our expedition coincided with the end of the dry season and the rivers would be low, but only our 2IC had any idea of what lay ahead for us when we landed at Nairobi airport.

We stayed overnight at the British Army Training and Liaison Staff HQ in Nairobi (BATLSK), where we also collected our vehicles and stores. We had our first taste of the hustle and bustle, poverty and totally different lifestyle that we are accustomed to back home and our overnight accommodation at BATLSK came as a bit of a shock—a long wooden shack with just camp beds and mosquito nets! Litle did we know that we would look back on this night as sheer luxury. We set off eagerly the next morning to begin our 200 mile journey south to Kamboyo, the Park HQ of Tsavo West. We had been invited to stay, during our acclimatisation period with **Bill Woodley**, a senior game warden and founder of Tsavo, and we were all looking forward to meeting him and his wife. Our four tonner broke down just three miles from camp and we were to learn the meaning of Kenyan time and patience.

We eventually arrived at the **Woodley**'s house, in the Park itself, as the sun was setting behind the Chyulu Mountains. We could see Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance—it was like a scene from 'Out of Africa'. Their back garden stretches across the vast park to the horizon and just yards from their verandah were three water-holes, where a herd of elephants drank contentedly. That first night was very memorable—we were serenaded by the many strange and hypnotic sounds of the bush; lion, elephant, hyena, and cricket noises filled the air. I was either too excited, nervous or overwhelmed to get much sleep that night.

Eleanor (that's her on the left) demanding attention from Pte Colton—LCpl Bolder looks on but prepares to beat a hasty retreat

During our acclimitisation period we went on several game drives through the park and visited the rhino sanctuary, Mzima Springs and the various lodges situated within Tsavo West. Our first glimpses of game consisted of elephant, impala, giraffe, zebra, hartebeasts, baboons and a variety of colourful birds. We also visited Eleanor, a 26 year old elephant that the **Woodley**'s had raised from birth. Even though I knew she was harmless my legs shook a bit when all four tons of her made straight for the bananas I was carrying for her. **LCpl Euni Bolder** tried to make a 'trunk call' (groan) whilst **Sgt Pam Murrison** smiled but kept well away!

We left Kamboya and set up our main tented camp alongside the Athi River. From here we progressed on to short day walks as we became more used to both the intense heat and the bush. The main walk began some 40 miles north of this camp and we abandoned the relative luxury of our tented camp for just the bare essentials—a fire, a camp bed and a mosquito net. From now on we were to sleep out in the open under the stars. There used to be a mad scramble to gain an inner camp-bed position alongside the landrovers to which we tied our nets. **Cpl Kryshna Lawton** was always too slow and invariably got the end bed with only a jerrican on which to tie her net! No one slept peacefully those first few nights—thoughts of snakes, spiders and lions were just far too vivid. Our walking days began early, well before the sun had any intention of getting up and we would breakfast, break camp and be on our way by first light (around 0545 hrs).

The first phase of our walk was rough going. The bush was very thick and consequently very dangerous and slow to negotiate. We walked in single file, protected by heavily armed rangers, one always leading and one always tailing. We knew when to remain still and silent and when to quicken our pace depending on the signs of the leading ranger. As the days progressed we could recognise game trails, sounds and spot well camouflaged animals in the thickest bush, but these early days were spent trying to combat the intense heat (temperatures soared above 100°F by 10 am) and the huge thorns. At the end of each day we were cut to shreds, exhausted and one or two of us were wondering what on earth we'd let ourselves in for! However a good soak of the feet in the river and a good meal always did wonders for morale.

Within seven days of averaging between 8-12 miles per day we had become real bush babies. We could move quite easily through the bush, and we could set up our fly camps within minutes, wherever the location—in the bush, alongside the river or even on desolate airstrips. We would walk until midday, as the sun would be just too strong after that, and would spend our afternoons bathing and washing ourselves and our clothes in the muddy, crocodile infested rivers. All three rivers were quite low so it was relatively safe to wash in the river, although we always had an armed escort guarding us by crocodile spotting. Luckily we never had any close encounters! Every second or third day we would drive to the nearest lodge (often 50 plus miles away) where they very kindly let us use their facilities—showers, toilets (luxury indeed) and their swimming pool! We were always so dirty from the red dust of the park that we had strict instructions to wash first before we were allowed to use the pool or go into the bar! All the lodges had fantastic panoramic views across the Park with large water-holes where all types of game congregated. We often saw elephants, buffalo, warthogs, impala, zebras and baboons all quite happily drinking alongside one another. Quite amazing. My favourite lodge was Kilaguni Lodge where they always made us most welcome. They even challenged us to a local football match and before we left Kenya we accepted the challenge and played an exhausting game in the scorching sun. They let us beat them and I'm sure they wanted to sign up **Pte 'Pele' Atkin**!

The further south we walked down the Athi River the more open the bush became and as we joined the Galana River and started to head westwards up the Galana and Tsavo River, the more plentiful the game became. Ironically, the only game we didn't see on the entire trip was the rhino although we came within hours of seeing one. Our rangers had spotted very fresh rhino tracks (just two hours old) and we were then shown a rhino scrape and an imprint in the sand where a rhino had spent the night. We had to make a large detour to avoid a confrontation as the rhino would probably have charged and the rangers would be forced to shoot it to save one of our lives—not a wise move as we were here to save the rhino! Another close call with nature was when a pride of lions passed by just 25m ahead. Luckily they weren't that interested in us (must have eaten!) otherwise it could have been an interesting situation! We had to be very careful walking along the rivers, especially the Tsavo River, because there was always an abundance of game, some more dangerous than others. Hippos, we discovered, are very dangerous and leave the river at night to graze on the riverside vegetation. They usually return to the water by first light but not all the time, as we discovered when this huge hippo dawdled past us just ahead of our path. Fortunately we managed to retreat without being spotted, as this animal too, would have gone for us.

'Time to Relax'
L to R: Cpl McBroom (author), LCpl Robb (concealed), LCpl Bolder, Ptes Duffield, Pte Atkin, LCpl Sampson and LCpl Holmes (Kneeling)

We had caused quite a sensation amongst the local peple and word had fast spread across Kenya about the 12 girls walking through the bush. The local Africans couldn't quite believe their eyes the day we appeared from nowhere to cross the famous Nairobi-Mombasa railway line at Tsavo junction, a notorious man-eating lion spot. It was even more incredible that we should disappear back into the undergrowth, after just a brief water stop!

We were accompanied at all times by four Kenyan wildlife rangers; **Mohammed, Kosi, Eptyo** and **Elui**. Although they could speak no English, nor we Swahili, we had established quite a rapport with them, built on mutual respect. We would sit for hours around the fire whilst **Bill Woodley** told us tales about his men. His rangers were susceptible to all types of dangers in the bush and they had had their fair share of problems. **Elui**, for example, had been mauled by a badly wounded lepoard, horned by a rhino, beaten up by two buffalos, attacked by a crocodile, constricted by a python *and* bitten by a spitting cobra. It was hard to believe how this little, old toothless Kamba had survived!

We had walked 220 miles in just 20 days but the climax of the expedition was to climb both Rhodesia Hill, on the Tsavo River (3,600ft) and then Ngulia Mountain (6,500ft). Although we didn't relish the thought of climbing either mountain, we were looking forward to the views from the top. They were hard work, especially Ngulia, which we had climbed in an amazing two hours, but it was worth every ounce of effort for the magnificent view from the summit. We could see the route we had taken across the wild, desert wilderness—quite breathtaking, and we felt a tremendous amount of pride and personal satisfaction. It was a great feeling.

Now that the walking was completed we could relax and enjoy more of the delights of the Kenyan countryside and the coast on the Indian Ocean. En route to Malindi we had been invited to the annual rodeo on Galana Ranch, a 1.6 million acre ranch and the largest in Kenya. We entered two teams for the rodeo competition and the 2IC, **Cpl Helen Cliffe, LCpl Gloria Robb** and **Pte Celia Duffield** all volunteered their services. The rest of us could afford to watch and enjoy the show from a safe distance! Our team did extremely well considering they'd never come so close to cattle before and **Capt Cunningham** proved herself to be a fine cow-hand, single handedly rounding up her team steer. She surprised both us and herself! With the rodeo over we completed our journey to the coast and well, what can I say. Glorious sunshine, palm trees, golden beaches and the Indian Ocean lapping at our feet. We packed a lot into our few days R & R including snorkelling from the coral reef to see the masses of tropical fish, a visit to the snake and crocodile farm, bartering and haggling for souvenirs from the markets and much, much more. It was worth every mile we had walked.

Well, everyone had had their off days, but we all came back singing the praises of such a beautiful country and its wildlife. We had experienced the chance of a life-time but sadly we had left behind some good friends we had made along the way. It had cost us just £200 each as we were very fortunate to receive some very generous grants. Our WRAC HQ Fund donated £600 towards the expedition for which we were all very grateful. None of us will ever forget our experiences out in Kenya and I personally cannot wait for the opportunity to return to such a fabulous country.

Finally . . . I must mention somthing about Duchess, the seven day old baby elephant that we found abandoned in the bush. Her mother had been killed by poachers for ivory. She looked so frail and pitiful when she arrived at the **Woodley**'s home to be cared for and no-one held out much hope for her survival. She was named Duchess after our barracks in Aldershot and within a week she looked so much better—a little fatter, a little taller and now sporting a few hairs on her tail. She weighed in at a mere 15 stone and she was everyone's friend. She has been unofficially adopted by us and we hear that she is progressing very well. We have just sent nearly £100 to help with her food bills—it would be nice to visit her in the years to come, like Eleanor, wild and free.

The Kilaguni Lodge football team manager arranges Pte Atkin's transfer fee (she's the nervous one)

POSTED TO ZIMBABWE

From: WO2 J. D. Mackie, British Military Advisory and Training Team, BFPO 632.

'Zimbabwe? Zimbabwe? we don't have anyone there, do we?'.

Following in the footsteps of **Gibbons, Douglas, McGarry** and so on, I was selected to provide technical assistance in the setting up of a new Tactical Trainer, the difference being, that mine was to be in Zimbabwe.

When I arrived in January 1986, to join a team consisting of **Lt Col M. H. Dru-Drury MBE, LI** and **SSgt John Derbyshire BEM, RAOC**, the Zimbabwe National Army Tactical Trainer (ZNATT) was still at ground level.

Outside ZNATT

'A perfect chance to get the handicap down, it won't be ready for another seven months' I thought.

Thoughts like mine seldom, if ever, become reality.

The following months were spent running around Harare arranging supplies of building materials, buying them, arranging delivery etc. We did stop short of putting one brick on top of another, just.

Then we had to organise fixtures, fittings, models and 1001 other things, not remotely connected with being a TE Tech, all to prevent the project coming to a halt.

Around the middle of the year I was able to get involved in the installation of the comms fit, having arranged for some trunking to put it in. It should be mentioned here that the Corps had been involved in the selection of a system when **Maj Roy Lidstone** came from the School of Signals to advise on the types being offered. A man worth his weight in gold, I am told.

The system chosen and installed is unique in Africa, if not the world, in its application of audio TDM principles for our simulated combat net radio. It provides some 22 channels each capable of taking over 20 radio sets. It can be used by infantry officers, which is a plus in itself.

It was very satisfying, therefore, to have the privilege of seeing ZNATT and named Mugabe Hall officially opened on 17 October 1986 by **Mr. R. G. Mugabe,** Prime Minister of Zimbabwe.

Apart from work, life on loan service is very different from that in a Regiment; **Peter Smith** would not like it.

There are no clubs, messes and so on, so life is very much what you make it for your two year tour. This would not be everyone's cup of tea. There are no married quarters so we have to put up with these old colonial places with tennis courts and swimming pools and a couple of domestics to run the place, I know it's hard!

My post will fall vacant in January 1988 so if you are interested and want to know more about this post, do please write to me and I will do my best to answer your questions.

I must end by telling you that I am not the sole Corps representative here, **Lt Col Steven Siddall** is an instructor at the Zimbabwe Staff College.

Meeting Mr Robert Mugabe, introduced by Maj E. Matatu

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TRAVELS IN TURKEY

EXERCISE *EASTERN APPROACHES*
2 INF DIV HQ & SIG REGT EXPEDITION TO TURKEY
Report by Maj J. W. Rollins

In late September of this year a party of 14 from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in York flew from Gatwick to Instanbul to embark upon Ex *Eastern Approaches*, a two week climbing expedition to the Ala-Dag range of the Tauras Mountains. The mountains stretch across the southern fringe of Anatolia, the Turkish mainland and were to prove the venue of a colourful, amusing, often frightening but unforgettable experience.

The area had been chosen because it was surprisingly inexpensive to reach and subsist in and because the Ala-Dag offered a variety of mountaineering challenges seldom seen elsewhere. These ranged from technically simple but long and tiring routes for the relative novice to massive exposed rock faces only accessible through long and arduous snow-bound ascents. The climbing region, let alone Turkey as a whole, was to be an experience quite unrivalled for most of the soldiers. As **Cpl Michael Solomons** said 'Gallipoli—he's the bloke who had all those Roman orgies.' **'Soli'** is now considering an Open University degree in early Ottoman history!

The expedition's first excitement came well before anyone set foot on a mountain. In their enthusiasm to deposit their charges our Instanbul taxi drivers proved that their reflexes at speed were every bit as quick as those of **Nigel Mansell.**

Having arrived at a small hotel in the backstreets of the city it soon became apparent that some of the party were going to have difficulties in coming to terms with the local cuisine. Indeed **Sig John Broughton** spent the next two weeks scouring the horizon in vain for a MacDonald's hamburger bar.

Who says that the most difficult map reading is in the Brecon Beacons? Certainly not **Cpl 'Doc' Ash** and **Benny Bywater** who spent the early hours of a Monday morning walking around in ever-decreasing circles through mediaeval-like streets running the ever-present risk of being doused in the less pleasant type of refuse. Eventually finding their hotel they did not totally agree with the author's sentiments that 'this City is fully of atmosphere, character and . . .', 'dog's' interjected **Cpl Bywater.**

TO THE HILLS

Stamina was again tested on a 12 hour bus journey to Nigde, the provincial capital of the region in which we were to climb. It was here that we met our two young and enthusiastic guides, **Murat** and **Gem.** It was here, too, in this sleepy old-fashioned town littered with wooden pavilions like something out of a Dr Zhivago film set, that we loaded our gear on to what just held its own as a bus. Indeed, this final stage of the outward journey took us across rolling countryside parched by the sun, reminiscent of the Russian Steppes.

Our first view of the Ala-Dag mountains was one bathed in sunshine without a patch of snow in sight. However the situation was to change dramatically as 24 hours later winter struck, a month early and with a vengeance. Overnight we were faced with a beautiful but daunting Christmas-card sight of Himalayan-looking rock faces. The weather was to fluctuate over the next few days. We were to wake up in turn to dense mist and clouds, snow-storms and glaring sunshine. The success of any summit attempt was to depend on the weather.

Base camp was set up around a small mountain but close to the village of Demirkazik which takes its name from the 4,000m high mountain, a Matterhorn look-alike, which dominates the area. Our good-humoured relationship with these poor villagers from whom we brought our food will remain one of our most pleasant memories.

THE CLIMBING BEGINS

Climbing began with a day's foray up a dramatic gorge to a small but testing rock wall taking us below the west face of Demirkazik. While this exercise in acclimatisation adjusted us to stamina requirements, preparing for the coming weather was another matter. We awoke the next day to dense mist and heavy snow which persisted for 48 hours. Rubber-soled climbing boots were exchanged for ice axes and crampons for a further day's training.

During these first days we also selected those summits—the highest—and technically demanding, previously unclimbed rock routes we wished to attempt. As no accurate maps of the area existed considerable time and effort had to be given over to finding suitable approach routes.

Two constructive recces were led by **SSgt Martin Altham.** He first found a good site for a base camp which would be used by a different party on a summit attempt on Engin Tepe the following day. The second recce sought an approach route to Demirkazik and although unsuccessful, fully tested the recce party's strength and courage. Mutterings about not having been born a mountain goat from **Sig**

'Jacko' Jackson fell upon the deaf ears of two of his companions. **Cpl Benny Bywater** awaited a rescue by abseil after injuring his knee. **Sgt Kevin Wilson**'s acute sense of humour almost failed him as he was asked to pose for the camera when delicately balancing himself and rucksack on a narrow, exposed ledge and belaying? himself with icy fingers. Nonetheless, despite appalling weather and its own problems, the party set up an advance camp to which another group led by **Maj Rollins** could return after its summit bid.

Engin Tepe, 12,400ft, is the second highest peak in the range. Again, without accurate maps, the route had to be surmised. After contouring steep scree slopes for the first hour, an uphill climb took us to an ever steeper (70°) snow filled re-entrant which appeared to run for 3,000ft up to a pass below the summit. However, after an hour the obvious path seemed to peter out. A steeper ascent up the left side of the valley, negotiating both snow and rock was then chosen. An hour later an exposed snow traverse took us back to the re-entrant at a higher point. Although pleased with the progress of the climb, spirits fell as the weather which had been threatening all day, finally closed in. In almost blizzard conditions, the party turned back just below the pass. Believing the traverse to be too difficult in the low visibility another route down the re-entrant was sought. Coming to a 30ft drop broken half way by a small ledge, the party leader abseiled down to await the others. While waiting, a short look around discovered a sheer 200ft drop further down. This led to an uncomfortable, icy climb back onto firmer ground and, after all, a re-negotiation of the dreaded traverse. It was just as night fell that everyone—wet, cold but undaunted—sighted the welcome advance camp.

The expedition members, guides and local personalities

While wounds were licked and amateur surgeons showed little bias whether attending to patients or the evening meal our rock 'athletes' prepared for what were to be successful first ascents on some very technical routes close to the base camp. Under the guidance of the experienced **'Doc Ash', LCpl Steve Hamer** and **Sig Brian Parry** 'solved' routes which to the rest of us appeared to go up perpendicular rock which only marble could rival for smoothness. These achievements were capped, on the final evening in the mountains, by **Brian Parry**'s night climb of one of these routes.

ASCENT OF THE 'EIGER'—TURKISH STYLE

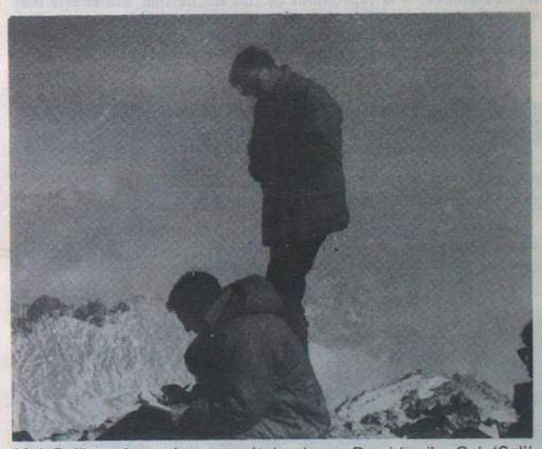
Meanwhile, taking advantage of much improved weather a party of eight, including two guides set off for the assault on the south east face of the Demirkazik. Loading the bulk of the gear required for the three day excursion onto donkeys we set off on a warm, pleasant march along the most scenic route we had experienced to date.

The advance camp for the assault was set by a small lake in a natural, dramatic amphitheatre which at least rivalled the 'sanctuary' at the Annapurna base camp. From here we could contemplate the imposing face we hoped to tackle on the next day.

Leaving **Cpl Benny Bywater** to look after base camp, we set off at 0600 hrs contouring across the snow for an hour and a half. A slightly difficult rock climb led to the most tiring and chastening snow-filled gully we had yet faced. As **SSgt Martin Altham**'s ankle had swollen to twice its normal size the ever loyal and stoic **SSgt Benny Grossmith,** despite his own disappointment accompanied the injured man back to the advance camp.

The remainder, **Maj Johnny Rollins, Cpl 'Soli' Solomons** and **Sig John Broughton** with the two guides arrived at the base of the final 600m rock climb an hour and a half later. Reservations on viewing this series of sheer Wagnerian-looking slabs almost all perpendicular were kept at bay, if not dispelled by our guide's confidence. Once committed there was no turning back. Vague anxieties in the backs of our minds about how we would descend were suppressed by the need to concentrate on the rock in hand and the need to ignore the 2,000ft drops on either side of the route of ascent. Fear of losing face and sheer exhilaration extended everyone beyond previous mountaineering limitations. Some hours later a tired, shaken trio from the Regiment, standing by non-plussed guides, were the first Britons to sign the summit book for six years. Meanwhile, the disappointment of those left at the advance camp was a little allayed by the sight of the mists on the summit parting, like a tale from the 1924 Everest expedition, to see the climbers, tiny dots whom they had unselfishly helped to get there, standing on the summit.

Despite the hilarity of the trip home, including two nights in Instanbul and the 'sacking' of the Grand Bazaar by **LCpl Robson** and **Cpl Benny Bywater**—at least of multi-coloured leather vests and every Tommy Cooper style fez to be had—these last few days in the mountains hold the most vivid memories. The local hospitality, the local cuisine (history was almost but not quite made when we thought that **John Broughton** would indulge in **Cpl Pete Harris**'s taste for sheep's brains) and the extraordinary scenery helped make this the most memorable adventure training expedition many had ever been on. The Ala Dag seems tailored for an inexpensive yet exotic and demanding unit expedition.



Maj Rollins signs the summit book on Demirkazik, Cpl 'Soli' Solomon looks on

EDITOR'S NOTE

Maj Rollins led an expedition to Jordan in March 1984 and his interesting account of Ex *Eighth Pillar* was published on page 677 November 1984 issue of *The Wire.*

CLIMBING IN NEPAL

EXERCISE *CHULU WEST*
Report by Lt A. P. Bristow, 11 Sig Regt

On 21 September 1986 eight members of the Corps met at Heathrow prior to departing on an expedition that will hopefully set a precedent in the future of Corps mountaineering. The aim of the expedition was to attain the summit of *Chulu West* (21,750ft) and to establish a cadre of Corps mountaineers with Himalayan experience.

The expedition was unique in that all participants were serving members of the Corps selected from units throughout the world.

TEAM MEMBERS

Capt Iain Brownlee	8 Sig Regt	Expedition Leader
Maj Jim Stabler	MOD SANGCOM Team	Expedition 2IC/ Photographer
Cpl Stan Mullery	8 Sig Regt (now 9 Sig Regt)	Climbing Leader
Lt Andy Bristow	11 Sig Regt	Expedition Medic
Lt Pete Holliday	AA Coll Harrogate (now QG Signals)	
SSgt (FofS) Stu Beverly	3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn	
Cpl Jon Gil	AA Coll Harrogate	Asst Medic
Cpl Mick North	11 Sig Regt	Expedition QM

The following photos, hopefully, catch the spirit of the expedition and tell the story more succinctly than words.

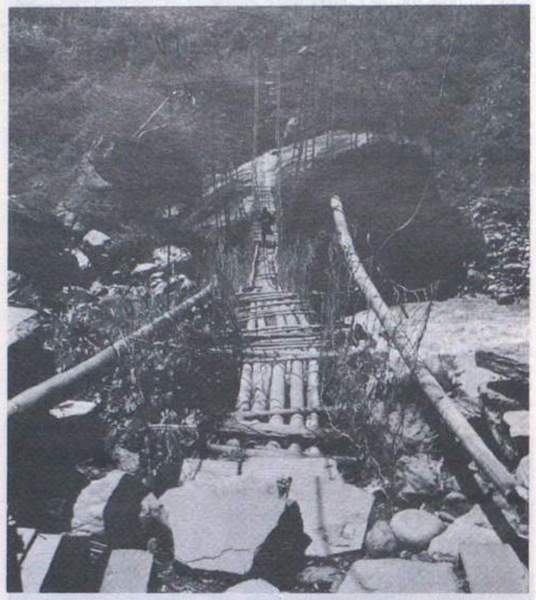
SUMMARY

The peak of *Chulu West* was not achieved because of the prevalence of new snow and the resultant extreme avalanche danger, however, the team all achieved an altitude of 18,000ft in attempting three separate approaches to the summit. There is no doubt that the second aim of the expedition was achieved and there now exists a group of serving members of the Corps who have caught the Himalayan 'bug' and are eager to return.

Without doubt the Corps has a wealth of mountaineering talent as yet unexploited; it is expeditions of this nature that will enable the mountaineering potential of the Corps to be achieved.

The expedition was privately funded and generously sponsored from Corps sources. The expedition President was **Col B. J. Austin** CO 8 Sig Regt.

. . . with the imposing face of Chulu overlooking
Names L to R: Lts Pete Holliday, Andy Bristow, Cpls Mick North, Stan Mullery, Capt Iain Brownlee, Maj Jim Stabler, SSgt (FofS) Stu Beverly, Cpl Jon Gil



. . . precarious bridge crossings . . .

. . . huge waterfalls . . .

Base Camp was established at 15,300ft

. . . and after 10 days walk, imposing views of the Himilayas

The Team established high camps at altitudes of up to 18,000ft

. . .

. . . prior to descending for a final team photo at Pokhara
Names L to R: Sarkey Sherpa (Chief Porter), Cpls Mick North, Jon Gil, Lts Pete Holliday, Andy Bristow, Cpl Stan Mullery, Maj Jim Stabler, SSgt (FofS) Stu Beverly, The Cook
Front: Our hardworking team of porters
Missing from photo Capt Iain Brownlee (Medevac to Kathmandu)

MEXICAN JOURNEY

EXERCISE *MEXICO DIAMOND*

The idea for an adventure training expedition to Mexico was first born in December 1985 but it was not until September 1986 that 11 men of 14 Sig Regt were able to convert this dream into reality.

The main aim of the expedition was to climb the three highest volcanoes in Mexico: Popocatapetl (17,087ft), Iztaccihuatl (17,342ft) and Orizaba (18,700ft). In addition, the intention was to let Army personnel come into contact with a totally different people and culture.

The expedition was led by **Capt Nick Keen** and consisted of a party of 10 other ranks, including four SNCOs. Climbing experience amongst the members of the group varied but under the guidance of **Sgt Nick Ranier** (JSMEL) and **Sgt Steve Maddison** (UEL), this did not prove to be a problem.

The plan was to travel to Belize using service flights and the CNFP system and thence to Mexico City by coach. Once there VW minibuses would be hired to carry men and equipment to each of the volcanoes. It was hoped that the return journey could also be made via Belize.

Preparation for the expedition consisted of basic fitness improvement, learning climbing techniques, full medical and dental examinations and the collection and preparation of the necessary equipment. Most of the equipment required came from the RAOC depot at Dulmen; this included tents, special clothing, ice axes and ropes.

The following is taken from the expedition diary and describes how the group got on in Mexico:

'The departure date of 9 September arrived finally and to the amazement of all concerned, particularly the organisers, everything fell into place and it is actually possible to assemble men and equipment in the same place at the same time. Unfortunately the RAF was unable to provide seats on service flights to Belize, so it was necessary for the group to pay its own way and fly by civilian means. This was done at a cheaper rate courtesy of the American Forces Travel Service but even so represented a considerable outlay from personal and expedition funds.

The prospect of a month away from work and the chance to visit a totally different culture meant that morale was very high. Even a 12 hour flight to Dallas, Texas failed to dampen this enthusiasm. After a day spent "rubbernecking" and eating authentic hamburgers in Dallas, it was time to head "south of the border, down Mexico way". A Greyhound bus proved to be the cheapest and most reliable means of travel and two days later the group arrived in Mexico City. This year the country celebrates 150 years of independence so the capital was decked out in all its finery.

A day was spent collecting the minibuses and enough food to last for a week. Food at this juncture is becoming of paramount importance. Having spent the time so far eating supposedly safe foods, the group now faced the prospect of buying and cooking its own food. En route to Mexico City some of the more adventurous members of the group risked their stomach linings to sample a very dodgy-looking casserole in a bus stop cafe. It is probably sheer coincidence but the following morning **Sgt Dave Stapleton** was feeling very unwell. Despite best efforts to buy only prepacked, precooked food, the dreaded "Montezzuma's Revenge" ravaged the whole expedition and remained with us throughout the trip.

The group set out initially towards the pyramids at San Juan Teotihuacan north east of Mexico City. The temples of the Sun and Moon on this site were once the focal point for a large religious community and during a day trip it is possible only to visit the major areas of interest. Even at this early stage of the game it is apparent that American tourists are tolerated only for their money. To avoid any of this feeling coming our way the group makes every effort to let everyone know that we are English and to this end **Cpl Phil Ashworth** decided that it pays to advertise and carried the Union Jack with him all over the site. Everyone particularly enjoyed the local pastime of this region which appeared to be haggling over the price of the souvenirs. We pleaded poverty constantly and attempted to explain to the uninterested locals that English soldiers are really paid very poorly.

During the stay at the pyramids the group was "kidnapped" and taken to a local disco by some very enterprising taxi drivers. Group Cassanova **Sgt Paul Meadows** met his match in the form of a buxom female sergeant from the Mexican Army and for once he knew what it was like to be pursued. The "disco" was a three piece combo which could just about manage Mantovani's Greatest Hits. Even better news was that the bar did not sell beer. It was only with great reluctance that we bade farewell to Mexico's answer to Club 54. This was the first occasion that we came into close contact with local Mexicans and without exception they were very friendly towards us.

It was time to get down to the main purpose of the expedition and we moved out to the Ixtz-Popo National Park where the first two volcanoes are situated some 10-15km apart.

Even walking from the car park to Tlamacas lodge, which lay at the foot of Popocatepetl, made everyone breathless. The expedition was now at 12,000ft and everyone realised that a period of acclimatisation was badly needed before the magnificent snow-capped peak in front of us could be attempted; an extra pair of lungs wouldn't go amiss either! After three days' training, walking out from our tented camp and up the lower slopes of the volcano, the first group of six conquered the peak in a six hour climb. Needless to say a small celebration was in order. At the same time we celebrated the 21st birthday of **Sig Danny Thrasher**—we managed to get a card and a cake although anyone who has eaten mango and avocado flavoured birthday cake will be glad that birthdays come but once a year.

After the first successful climb, the conquering of both "Popo" and "Ixty" went ahead rapidly. Almost everyone on the expedition was able to chalk up both peaks as successes. Unfortunately the expedition leader was not so lucky and **Capt Nick Keen** fell victim to a "special paella" and was bedridden for a day. Altitude sickness, despite the acclimatisation training, affected everyone to some degree, however it did not deter any of the climbers from reaching at least the crater of each volcano.

Buoyed now by a sense of achievement the team set off for the last, highest and most technically difficult volcano, Orizaba. We stayed at a well known lodge used by climbers to tackle the peak and prepared for the ascent. **Senor Reyes** who owns the lodge also has the only four-wheel drive "chevvy", which is the best way of reaching the start point so vehicle and driver were duly hired. The journey to the start of the climb was a two hour nightmare, crawling in low ratio over fissures and driving at 45 degrees promised to be an even more effective laxative than "Monty's Revenge". Unfortunately the weather decided to intervene at this point and an anticyclone resulted in snowstorms and lightning which drove the climbers from the slopes.

A strategic withdrawal to the port of Veracruz seemed to be the order of the day and once there, spirits quickly revived.

Everyone agreed that Veracruz was the closest the group had come to seeing part of the real Mexico. The atmosphere in the local square at night is superb and we spent the evening being entertained by a seemingly endless succession of guitar players, tijhuana bands and xylophonists. On the other side of the coin we saw the stark poverty of the city as young children aged between five and ten are sent among us by their parents to sell chewing gum and cheap souvenirs or just to beg. Closing time was at 3 am and, as we left, the children were still there. At a fishfood restaurant we tried the world famous "Red Snapper" delicacy. Food in general in the tourist restaurants is very good and fairly cheap.

On the last day of September we split up, one group went back to Mexico City to return the minibuses and a second group of heroes (**Cpls Mick Brown, Frank Dalton, Ken Barker, Phil Ashworth** and **Sig Danny Thrasher**) returned to "Kick ass" on Orizaba. **Sgt Nick Ranier** and his group conquered the peak in a gruelling nine hour climb and in doing so fulfilled the aim of our expedition.

Having received news that seats were available on an RAF flight from Belize to UK, the expedition made its way (still in two halves) across eastern Mexico to the tourist restort of Cancun.

Here we spent three glorious days basking on sun-kissed Caribbean beaches and admiring the latest crop of American "beach bunnies". After the climbing, and as a result of reflected glare from the snow a number of the group were the proud owners of sunburnt, peeling and distinctly patchy looking faces, then it was time for the rest of the body to catch up.

During this short stay **LCpl Jock Thompson** was led astray by **Capt Nick Keen** and **SSgt Steve Maddison**. As a result of a sales promotion all three almost ended up buying a flat in a five star hotel, a snip at 5,000 US dollars! Fortunately the free cokes ran out and so did our heroes. Meanwhile **Cpl Phil Ashworth** found a restaurant advertising "all you can eat for eight dollars". Not being a person of great stature, the rest of the team could only watch in amazement and conclude that he must have hollow legs as they watched the third plate of barbecued ribs disappear.

Finally it was time to go home, just as well for most of us as funds were at a low ebb. Despite some last minute hitches we were all able eventually to get back to the UK courtesy of the RAF, and in the process were able to add Washington DC to our list of place names to be casually let slip when recounting "war stories".

Once in UK the group split up, the "pads" paid for flights to Germany and the singlies booked tickets on a slow ferry with good opening hours. Everyone was back in the unit by 13 November, some 34 days after setting out on the adventure.'

The first ascent of Popocatepetl, Cpl Jock Thompson leading

Seated on the crater of Iztaccihuatl are *(nearest)* Cpl Frank Dalton, Cpl Ken Barker, Cpl Phil Ashworth and Sgt Nick Ranier *(standing)*

ADVERTISING

Notices and advertisements, other than those related to a business interest, will be published free of charge to serving members of the Corps, and to those retired members who subscribe to *The Wire*. All matters for publication must reach the Editor by the 12th of the month preceding publication. All other advertisements should be forwarded to our advertising managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

— Movements —

Officers

DECEMBER 1986

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt M. W. A. Besant	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Brig A. H. Boyle	School of Signals
Lt J. F. Calvert	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt B. A. Coram	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt R. F. M. Cousins	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj J. L. Davies	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj (QM) K. C. A. Davies-Stewart	QG Sigs
Maj (Tfc) D. R. Heyes	SANGCOM
Maj R. T. Hoole	CGS ASD 1
Capt T. G. Inshaw	School of Signals
Capt C. B. Keegan	30 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) R. B. Kelbie	266 Sig Sqn (SA)
Maj M. A. Little	RSRE (PE)(AE)
Capt D. J. Luckett	OC JSSU
Capt C. J. Manning	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
Maj D. F. McConnell	259 Sig Sqn
Maj G. Meakin	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Maj P. B. Neale	ACDS OR (LAND)
Capt R. G. Nicholson	HS 8 Sig Regt
Maj P. J. Oldfield	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. A. Osment	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt T. W. Pender-Johns	28 Sig Regt
Lt Col P. J. Pritchard	RMCS
Maj H. A. Ross	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. W. Russ	MOD
Maj R. J. Sanders	HQ BF Cyprus
Maj C. I. Spencer	School of Signals
Capt P. M. Telford	7 Sig Regt
Maj C. R. Treeby	39 Sig Regt (V)

WOs and SNCOs

DECEMBER 1986

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 G. C. Air	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO1 A. Hickling	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
WO2 J. G. Scullion	Army Apprentices' College
WO2 (YofS) W. Tosh	Comms and Sy (UK)
WO2 A. S. Brooks	8 Sig Regt
WO2 J. Hoyland	249 Sig Sqn
WO2 C. G. Parsonage	16 Sig Regt
AWO2 R. A. Rack	32 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 P. L. Stephenson	13 Sig Regt
SSgt S. G. Bibby	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt G. T. Bennett	8 Sig Regt
SSgt M. Taylor	16 Sig Regt
SSgt M. H. Uttley	21 Sig Regt
SSgt N. A. Whittingham	9 Sig Regt
SSgt F. Lunness	55 Sig Sqn(V)
ASSgt P. B. Rosslee	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. A. Monk	11 Sig Regt
Sgt R. Snape	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Suttie	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
Sgt G. K. Owen	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. E. Wareham	Army School of Mechanical Transport
Sgt D. H. Gilbert	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt P. M. Madeloso	21 Sig Regt
Sgt C. Allen	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Lynch	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt G. A. Thomson	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
Sgt S. Larkin	633 Sig Tp
Sgt I. M. Stewart	School of Signals
Sgt C. L. Brown	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Tungate	11 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Tomkins	2 ATAF (641 Sig Tp)
Sgt D. H. Smith	21 Sig Regt
Sgt K. Mills	UK Support Unit
Sgt P. Warhurst	PIU
Sgt M. G. F. Dighton	262 Sig Sqn
ASgt P. Barrett	633 Sig Tp
ASgt K. E. Orme	588 RLD
ASgt R. Stoddart	591 RLD
ASgt P. D. Spilling	40 FD Regt
ASgt M. Goor	233 Sig Sqn
ASgt S. D. Goodyear	27 FD Regt
ASgt T. C. O'Neill	HQ 1 (BR Corps)
ASgt M. J. McKenna	14 Sig Regt

JANUARY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 L. R. Harvey	16 Sig Regt
WO1 B. Greenwood	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
WO1 M. E. Ford	Comms and Sy (UK)
AWO1 S. R. Kent	Comms and Sy (UK)
AWO1 M. E. Pawlak	School of Signals
AWO1 L. O. Rowland-Jones	34 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 T. W. Jack	Royal Brunei Armd Forces
WO2 G. E. Blythe	259 Sig Sqn
WO2 D. M. Kent	13 Sig Regt
WO2 M. Scott	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) W. Wingate	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 P. J. Underwood	21 Sig Regt
AWO2 C. A. Clark-Darby	38 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 K. J. Harris	UK Support Unit
AWO2 B. J. Dalton	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
AWO2 N. A. Whittingham	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 S. P. Cadywould	16 Sig Regt
SSgt W. Henderson	23 (SAS) Regt (V)
SSgt W. R. J. Bacon	633 Sig Tp
SSgt P. M. Curley	29 Sig Regt
SSgt H. Watkins	21 Sig Regt
SSgt P. F. Havlin	DSS Army Sigs 31B
SSgt K. J. Harris	UK Support Unit
SSgt R. F. Williams	UK Support Unit
SSgt S. Mullen	259 Sig Sqn
ASSgt D. Ward	259 Sig Sqn
ASSgt R. G. Munro	HQ UKLF
ASSgt W. H. Dyson	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt G. R. Greaves	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt L. R. Searle	6 CTT (London)
Sgt M. J. Scull	11 Sig Regt
Sgt P. R. Crawley	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt S. Brennan	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. J. O'Brien	School of Signals
Sgt S. L. Murphy	21 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Hossell	BR Contingent UNFICYP
Sgt D. P. Wood	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt H. Barlow	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. F. Flintham	28 Sig Regt
Sgt S. G. Smedley	10 Sig Regt
Sgt A. S. Burnett	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Noon	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt F. J. Clarkson	9 Sig Regt
Sgt A. B. Morton	13 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Worley	13 Sig Regt
Sgt S. J. Gillham	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. Wallace	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. Cowburn	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
Sgt S. J. Young	21 Sig Regt
Sgt I. Drinkall	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt I. G. Barnes	642 Sig Tp
Sgt M. E. Jones	School of Signals
Sgt J. R. Roberts	608 Sig Tp
Sgt C. A. W. Hunter	Int and Sy (NI)
Sgt K. R. Hartridge	School of Signals
Sgt C. N. Braid	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. C. Reynolds	29 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Gane	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Rodgers	Comms and Sy (UK)
Sgt J. W. Stevenson	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Dale	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
Sgt D. J. Watts	16 Sig Regt
Sgt C. F. Sear	13 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Thompson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Dunne	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt D. R. Randle	9 Sig Regt
ASgt P. Dickinson	38 Sig Regt (V)
ASgt S. F. Brunt	12 AD Regt
ASgt I. A. Rollitt	63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V)
ASgt S. J. Bertram	16 AD Regt
ASgt R. J. Extance	574 RLD
ASgt S. Parnell	13 Sig Regt
ASgt T. R. Murrell	School of Signals
ASgt V. G. Braint	School of Signals
ASgt N. W. Richards	16 Sig Regt
ASgt F. J. Carter	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
ASgt G. A. Rumble	9 Sig Regt
ASgt R. Clarke	8 Sig Regt
ASgt A. R. Campbell	16 Sig Regt
ASgt D. B. Wills	640 Sig Tp
ASgt R. D. J. Carroll	8 Sig Regt

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Welfare

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

The 79 year old widow of an ex-Far East prisoner-of-war was able to carry out repairs to her house with the aid of grants from the Corps, and the Far East Prisoners of War Central Welfare Fund.

Ex-corporal confined to a wheelchair that he had purchased for himself out of savings was unable to afford the repairs necessary to the control box. The Corps paid for the repairs.

An ex-driver unemployed since 1979 due to bad health was desperately in need of clothing. A grant to purchase a new topcoat and shoes was made.

The widow of an ex-signalman now aged 73, crippled with severe arthritis and able to walk only with the aid of sticks, was given a grant to purchase a chair with a high seat.

The father of two young men who had just finished their education, died unexpectedly, their mother having also died during the last year. The father had served for 22 years and only recently left the service. The Corps made a grant to assist with the funeral expenses.

October 1986

Number of cases assisted financially:	59
Amount spent:	£8,647.73

November 1986

Number of cases assisted financially:	34
Amount spent:	£7,292.20

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received in November 1986.

Royal School of Artillery	£ 50.00
Cpl M. Fitzpatrick	£ 50.00
Cpl G. Lee	£ 50.00
33 Corps Signals (SEAC) Association, in memory of Maj J. McD. Glass MBE	£ 20.00
J. Gatehouse Esq	£ 20.00
F. E. Foulds Esq	£ 16.00
Mrs J. Power	£ 10.00
H. A. Simons Esq	£ 5.80
G. D. Webster Esq	£ 5.80
G. A. Jenkins Esq	£ 4.00
Miscellaneous	£ 3.95
	£235.55

The following donations were gratefully received during the month of December 1986:

Officers Club, 42 Sig Regt	£150.00
Cpl J. R. Innes	£ 50.00
R. F. Fairburn Esq	£ 50.00
F. C. Wilson Esq	£ 30.00
W. H. Critten Esq (in memory of Maj J. J. Gerrard BEM, DSM)	£ 25.00
T. J. Skinner Esq (in memory of Maj J. J. Gerrard BEM, DSM)	£ 25.00
Mrs B. Loch (in memory of Mrs Daphne Adams)	£ 20.00
R. N. Hutchings Esq	£ 20.00
WO1 L. F. Brown	£ 15.00
Mrs I. Harvey	£ 10.00
Maj G. G. Stretch	£ 10.00
W. E. Howley Esq (in memory of Maj J. J. Gerrard BEM, DSM)	£ 10.00
G. W. Cook Esq (in memory of Maj J. J. Gerrard BEM, DSM)	£ 5.80
Mrs F. E. Stagg	£ 5.00
W. J. D. Leonard	£ 5.00
Anon—in memoriam P. J. B.	£ 5.00
	£435.80

FINANCIAL PLANNING

ITS PURPOSE is to make the best use of Income, Capital and other Assets, to prepare the way for the individual to achieve financial aims. These may include:

FINANCIAL PROTECTION	—against the effects of possessions lost or damaged
FINANCIAL SECURITY	—for present or future dependants
HOUSE PURCHASE	—immediately or in the future
EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

WE ADVISE on the use of savings from income, the investment of capital, the use of other assets where applicable, insurance against ill health and the insurance of possessions. We help clients to lay the foundations of sound plans, to develop existing plans and keep them up to date, and then to make the best use of resources when the time comes to meet commitments.

GOOD INFORMATION is the basis of sound planning. The more clients take us into their confidence the better we can assist them. Please let us have full details of existing resources, your ability to save, and any expectations. Please also tell us all you can about commitments with which you expect to have to cope. We, of course, treat all such information as confidential.

AN EARLY START helps, and we will be pleased to assist you however modest your resources may be now. If you have existing arrangements which may need developing, the sooner you refer them to us, the more help we are likely to be able to give you.

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 38 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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NOTICES

DEATHS

Akester—ex Sgt Akester—served 1942-56—died 7 August 1986.

Beer—ex Sgt W. A. Beer—served 1940—died 1 October 1986.

Brockman—ex Cpl Brockman—died 14 September 1986.

Burridge—Brig D. W. R. Burridge—served 1925-58—died January 1987

Catlin—J. E. Catlin—served 1920—died 1 September 1986.

Clark—ex Sgt G. F. Clark—served 1946-48—died 9 November 1986.

Clarke—ex Maj C. W. Clarke—died 22 July 1986.

Corpse—ex SSgt R. Corpse—served 1952-81—died 15 September 1986.

Day—ex WO2 Day—served 1925—died 6 October 1986.

Darby—ex SSgt C. H. Darby—served 1928-60—died 22 September 1986.

Dodds—ex WO2 E. R. Dodds—served 1950-74—died 18 November 1986.

Friend—ex Sgt T. Friend—served 1938-58—died 2 January 1987

Holdway—ex Maj K. G. Holdway TD—served 1938-57—died 2 December 1986.

Isaacs—Col Isaacs MBE TD—died 15 January 1987

Lewis—ex Sgt R. D. Lewis—died 27 September 1986

Lower—ex Sig A. E. Lower—served 1922-29 and 1941-45—died 28 December 1986

Mitchell—F. A. Mitchell—served 1971—died 30 August 1986.

Marler—ex Cpl W. R. C. Marler—served 1911—died 12 October 1986.

Northcott—ex SSgt D. G. Northcott—served 1952—died 5 July 1986.

Noble—ex SSgt R. Noble—served 1950—died 20 October 1986.

Pettifer—Maj The Revd L. S. Pettifer—1938-65—died 8 January 1987.

Pedder—ex Sgt H. E. Pedder—served 1950-68—died 28 September 1986.

Pickering—ex WO2 E. H. Pickering—served 1919-46—died 1 October 1986.

Pyke—ex WO2 L. T. Pyke—served 1923-58—died 9 August 1986.

Raymond—ex WO2 C. T. Raymond—served 28 June 1986—died 28 September 1986.

Smallwood—Lt W. G. Smallwood MBE—died 3 August 1986.

Smith—ex SSgt A. Smith—served 1952—died 13 July 1986.

Spence—ex LCpl J. A. Spence—served 1964-69—died 16 November 1986.

Turrell—ex WO2 F. C. Turrell—served 1924—died 27 July 1986.

Vickers—ex Sgt G. A. Vickers—served 1941-58—died 15 June 1986.

Watters—ex WO2 W. M. Watters—served 1934—died 21 September 1986.

Webster—ex WO1 G. D. Webster—served 1938—died 13 October 1986.

Wilson—ex WO2 F. G. Wilson—served 1947—died 3 July 1986.

Woodstock—E. F. W. Woodstock—served 1918—died 2 August 1986.

OBITUARIES

Dore—Maj R. G. Dore. It is with much regret that we learned of the death of **Major Dore** on 12 November 1986, peacefully after a long illness. His service spanned nearly 30 years and his service took him to Ceylon, Singapore and Hong Kong and Germany. In 1941 he was with the 8th Army in North Africa, attached to the 10th Hussars, took part in the Battle of Alamein and was awarded a Mentioned in Despatches. We extend sympathy to his widow.

Green—Sig Gary Green, 2 Sqn, 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

It is with sadness that we report the untimely death of **Sig Gary Green** on 1 November 1986. **Gary** was detached to 266 Sig Sqn and was serving on South Georgia when he fell to his death in a tragic accident whilst on duty.

Gary joined the Royal Corps of Signals in November 1983 and trained at 8 Sig Regt as a Radio Telegraphist. He was posted to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in January 1985 where he served in Alpha Tp, 2 Sqn.

His military funeral took place on 21 November and was attended by members of 2 Sqn and The King's Regiment with which he had been serving in South Georgia. Friends from 30 Sig Regt that had served with him in the South Atlantic also attended.

He was a popular member of his Troop in Herford and of his home community in Bolton. Our sympathy goes out to his family and friends; he will be sadly missed by us all.

Heaton—Lt Col Alfred (Mick) Heaton ERD. Mick Heaton, while working for the GPO before World War Two, enlisted into the Supplementary Reserve as a Signalman. He was mobilised along with the rest of the reserve forces and served most of the War in Air Formation Signals, seeing service in North Africa and Italy amongst other places. He was a Captain at the end of the war.

He continued his civilian career with the GPO and his reserve army career with the Army Emergency Reserve, being a founder member of 50 (Air Formation) Sig Regt (AER) in 1950. In 1963 after the Regiment had been re-designated 81 (Air Formation) Sig Regt (AER), he became Commanding Officer until in 1967 the re-organisation of the reserve forces caused the unit to be reduced to a Squadron.

Had it not been for the strenuous efforts of **Mick Heaton** it is quite likely that the unit would have been disbanded completely but, thanks to his tenacity and determination, the powers that be were convinced of the wisdom of keeping together a unit of highly skilled Post Office (later British Telecom) engineers as a Sponsored Unit of the Territorial and Army Voluntary Reserve.

In 1973 when a post of Honorary Colonel was granted to 81 Sqn **Mick** was the natural choice and served in that capacity until 1981. During that period he was a source of inspiration and guidance to all the officers and men of the unit.

When he retired from the Post Office **Mick** had become Chairman of the Board of the North-West Region.

Although in his later years he was severely plagued by arthritis, to the extent of having a hip-joint replaced, he was a very enthusiastic walker and would ramble for miles across the countryside.

He was just as enthusiastic about the Methodist Church in his adopted town of Wilmslow and in his latter years was the organiser and driving force behind the building there of a new Methodist chapel, which is now nearing completion. He combined his interest in the Church with his activities as a musician and a chorister, in which fields, as in all things, he participated with vigour.

An honest and straightforward Yorkshireman, he was always ready to express an opinion and always had exactly the right words for every situation. His comments were often amusing and original, never unkind, and always sensible.

Mick leaves a widow **Pat**, a son **Chris**, a daughter **Jan** and two grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by his family, his friends and all those who were privileged to serve with him.

Kelly—Capt John Angus (Gus) Kelly. We are very sad to record the sudden death of **Gus Kelly** on 16 November 1986 aged only 55 years. **Gus** joined the Corps 'Boys' Company at Catterick on 6 September 1945 and retired in 1972. A colourful popular Traffic Officer who worked and played hard. A product of his native Hamilton's excellent swimming scheme **Gus** was a very powerful swimmer. Rugby, boxing and yachting were his other sporting loves. In addition to active service in Korea with 29 Brigade, **Gus** served in Hong Kong, France, Egypt, Cyprus, Germany and

Singapore. Our sincere condolences are offered to his family. His funeral at Weston-Super-Mare was well attended by past and present members of the Corps.

Llewellyn—Col Sir (Robert) Godfrey Kt CB CBE MC TD DL JP. Col Sir Godfrey Llewellyn was educated at the Royal Naval Colleges Osborne and Dartmouth and joined the Royal Navy as a midshipman in 1906. He resigned from the Royal Navy in 1913. He joined the army and served in the first world war when he commanded the Brigade Signal Troop 6th Mounted Brigade. After the war he served with 4th Calvary Div Signal Squadron where he was twice mentioned in despatches and awarded the Military Cross. From 1920 until 1929 he commanded 53rd Divisional Signals (TA) and from 1929 until retirement in 1937 was Deputy Chief Signal Officer, Western Command. He served with the Home Guard during the second world war. From 1941 until 1949 he was Honorary Colonel 38th Divisional Signals. After a most distinguished service career **Col Sir Godfrey** held many important appointments in Wales, including the Chairmanship Glamorgan TA and AFA from 1953 until 1958.

Martin—Maj David Martin, whose sad and untimely death was reported in the September 'Wire', was a fine example of the pre-war 'ex-rat'. He enlisted in 1937, leaving his native Pembroke for Catterick and 'F' Company, where he became known affectionately as 'Taffy'. He soon made his mark as a natural athlete and excelled at both rugby and soccer, and was selected to represent the Corps in both sports during the post-war years. Whichever game he played, he did so with determination, and always with scrupulous fairness.

His war service took him through the Western Desert and the Italian campaigns to Austria, where he was selected for No 4 Foreman of Signals Course at the School of Signals, Catterick. It was there, in 1949, that he met and married his wife, **Judy**.

David was commissioned from the School of Artillery in 1956 and posted to 7 Armd Div Sig Regt. He subsequently served in Singapore. Northern Ireland and 8 Sig Regt, before his last overseas tour in Cyprus. His final posting was to MOD, where he served in Sigs 36(c) SWS until his retirement from active service in 1977. However, he continued in post as an RO, and his great sadness was that his terminal illness denied him his ambition of serving the Corps for half a century.

David will be greatly missed by his many friends in the Corps, and to his wife **Judy** and her two daughters, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Thomas—WO2 (RQMS) A. J. Thomas. It is with regret that we report the suddden death of **Tony Thomas** on 29 November 1986. He joined the Corps in 1964 and saw service in BAOR, N Ireland and Singapore.

At the time of his death **Tony** was serving on continuance service as the RQMS of 244 Sig Sqn, a position he had held since December 1984. He was a highly motivated soldier who was held in high regard by all members of the Squadron and the RAF personnel with whom we work.

His death is a sad loss and our deepest sympathy goes to his widow, **Marion** and children **Yvette** and **Paul**.

CORPS DATES

HM THE QUEEN'S PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Anne** may attend **HM The Queen**'s Garden Party on Thursday 23 July 1987.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend on this date, are asked to notify **Col Francis** at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD, in order that they may be included in the Corps organised party, and presented to **The Princess Anne**.

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB

Dates for 1987:

Corps Dinner,
London Press Centre — Tuesday 12 May 1987

(Note that this has been changed this year, the dinner is usually held on a Wednesday).

CORPS LUNCHEON

Headquarters Mess,
Blandford Camp — Saturday 20 June 1987

ROYAL SIGNALS INSTITUTION—BLANDFORD LECTURE 18 MARCH 1987

The Spring Lecture of the Royal Signals Institution will be given by **Michael Goddard BSc CEng MIEE**, Director Engineering, Department of Trade and Industry Radio Regulatory Division at 1800 hrs on Wednesday 18 March 1987. The title of the lecture is 'Civil Mobile Radio—Today and Tomorrow'.

Mr Goddard will review the recent developments in mobile radio—paging, trunked systems, cellular radio etc—and then go on to speculate how these services will look in the 1990s. he will cover satellite-based mobile systems and possibly aeronautical and maritime systems as well.

Those wishing to attend (both serving and retired) are asked to apply for tickets to the Chief of Staff, HQ School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH. Supper after the lecture will be available on request to the Mess Manager **Maj P. W. H. Lafferty**, HQ Mess Royal Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH (Tel: 0258 52581 Ext 2480).

BAND ENGAGEMENTS 1987

MARCH		
27	Pass off Parade	AAC Harrogate
APRIL		
17-20	Bandstand	Bournemouth
22-27	Tour	Guernsey

WHITE HELMETS 1987

APRIL		
11-12	Superprix	Brands Hatch
MAY		
3-4	Truckfest	Peterborough
9	Kohima Open Day	York
16	Show	Southend
25	Lion's Day	Hove
27-28	County Show	Stafford
31	Reunion	Blandford Camp

A complete list of Band etc engagements will appear in the March issue of *The Wire*.

FOR SALE

PUBLIC DUTIES VIDEO

The above mentioned is available for sale from 30 Sig Regt at £3.50 per tape plus 80p P&P.

All cheques should be made payable to 'PRI 30 Signal Regiment' and sent to the following address:

PRI
30 Signal Regiment
Blandford Camp
Blandford Forum
Dorset DT11 8RP

OFFICERS' UNIFORMS

The Uniform Shop at the Signal Wing, RMA Sandhurst, is the ideal place for you to buy and sell Officers' second hand uniforms.

LETTERS

From: Maj C. Arthur

Dear Sir,

Re-formation of 225 Signal Squadron

225 Sig Sqn will reform at Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn, N. Ireland in mid 1988. **Maj Laurie Storey** has provided a considerable amount of the unit's history since it was 12 Wireless Sqn at Graz, Austria in the early 50s. I would appreciate any correspondence from past members of the unit which would enable me to produce a comprehensive history of the Squadron. Any pictures (which will be returned) would be an added bonus.

Yours faithfully
C. Arthur

HQ NI,
SO2 G2 (Special Projects),
BFPO 825

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Changes in the Military telephone system took place on 12 January 1987. As a result RHQ is now obtained via the London District Exchange. The civil telephone number of RHQ is now 01 930 4466 and extension numbers are shown below.

Ext 8240	Regimental Secretary
Ext 8241	Assistant Regimental Secretary
Ext 8242	RHQ Office
Ext 8244	Welfare
Ext 8245	Association
Ext 8246	Editor/Assistant Editor *The Wire*
Ext 8247/8248	Accounts, including all matters relative to *Wire* subscriptions and distribution, change of address etc:

Extensions are on London District Mil or STD 01 930 4466.

PERSONAL

We reproduce below a notice which appeared in a recent 'Soldier' magazine in the hope that some readers may be able to help.

'The daughter of **Robert Joseph Hoddinett**, R Signals, wishes to contact men who served with him during the Second World War. He came from Morden, Surrey, joined the Army in 1939, went to Burma and returned to UK to Thirsk in 1944 and then to London before demob in 1945. He died about ten years ago. Please contact Mr B. J. Harris, Secretary of the Regimental Association. The Staffordshire Regiment, 1 St Ann's Court, Eastbourne Road, Pevensey Bay, East Sussex BN24 6HN.

The White Helmets

Royal Signals Demonstration Team would be most grateful if retiring or retired members of the Corps in possession of No 1 dress would kindly donate their uniform to the White Helmets Team.

Please send uniforms to:
Officer Commanding The White Helmets
Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Vimy Barracks
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire DL9 3PS
Tel: Catterick Military 0748 832521 ext 2566.

SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A RETIRED OFFICER GRADE 2 — AT ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE

In April 1987 a vacancy will arise at R Signals MRO for a Retired Officer Grade 2 who fills the post of Staff Officer to the Officer in Charge and is responsible for coordinating action on matters affecting more than one division of the office. He is responsible for, and in charge of, the HQ of the MRO and is the focal point for enquiries which are not directed to a specific individual. The current salary scale for RO2 on appointment is £9,430 rising by five increments to £11,941.

Applications for this post are invited from serving Officers contemplating retirement and from officers who have already retired. The former should apply in accordance with AGAI, Vol 2, Chap 40; the latter are invited to apply direct to:

Ministry of Defence (CM(A)2(RO))
Lacon House
Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8RY

If it is necessary for a successful applicant to move his own home to take up this appointment limited assistance may be available to reimburse legal and estate agents fees, removal expenses, stamp duty and associated VAT incurred during the removal, up to a limit of £3,000. The successful applicant should, however, seek advice from MOD (CM(A)2(RO)) before entering into any financial commitment.

If the successful applicant received a special capital payment on redundancy he may be required to repay part of it.

Anyone interested may wish to discuss the work with **Col David Miller**; Glasgow (041) 228-2362 or **Lt Col Norman Gallyer**; Glasgow (041) 228-2350 prior to approaching CM(A)2(RO).

INSTRUCTIONAL OFFICERS AT THE TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL 8 SIG REGT, CATTERICK GARRISON

Vacancies occur from time to time for Civilian Instructional Officers Grade 3 (Electronics) and Civilian Instructional Officers Grade 3 (Telegraphist).

These are Civil Service appointments.

Applicants must have completed their service engagements and be capable of teaching Technicians or Telegraphists to Royal Signals Class 1 standards.

Full details are available from:

CSI
HQ TTS
8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire
DL9 3PS
Telephone 0748-832521 Ext 2595 *or* Catterick Military Ext 2595.

VACANCY FOR A NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) SERGEANT (MOULD CONTROLLER)

A vacancy for a Non Regular Permanent Staff Non Commissioned Officer in the rank of Sergeant (MOULD Controller) based at Preston will occur on 18 August 1987.

The terms and conditions are set out in TA Regualtions 1978, Chapter 6, para 4.

The post carries the rank of Sergeant with a daily rate of pay of £26.93 rising to £27.23.

The applicants should have served in the Regular Army as a Senior NCO. The appointment will involve the following:

Working at Communications Branch HQ NWDIST, Preston.
Day to day management of the Regional MOULD Network.
Training and advising users on MOULD matters.
Interfacing with maintenance contractors.
Communications related duties such as assistance to SO Communications NWDIST in the preparation of CEIs and ACEC cases.

A detailed job specification is available on request.

Applications, including a Curriculum Vitae and details of two referees should be forwarded to:

SO2 Communications
HQ North West District
Fulwood Barracks
Preston
Lancs PR2 4AA

Closing date for applications is 1 April 1987. Short listed applicants will be expected to appear before a selection board prior to appointment.

REUNIONS

ROYAL ENGINEERS

The Royal Engineers celebrate the bicentenary of their becoming Royal in 1987.

At present an assembly in the Albert Hall is planned for 14 February 1987 and a service of rededication is planned to take place in St Paul's Cathedral on 18 March 1987.

Further details can be obtained from:

RHQ Royal Engineers
Brompton Barracks
Chatham
Kent

ARMY CUP WINNING TEAM OF 1977 v CURRENT 28 SIG REGT TEAM

Lt Col Walters, CO of 28 (BR) Sig Regt has kindly granted permission for a re-union game to take place.

The date is Saturday 29 August 1987, kick-off circa 1700-1800 hrs with drinks and disco to follow in the Sergeants' Mess, by kind permission of **WO1 (RSM) Ponton**.

The intention is to endeavour to get the 12 players that won the Army Cup on to the pitch although we will obviously welcome any other ex-players from that era, and the more the merrier.

It should be a very enjoyable weekend; anyone requiring further details please contact:-

Mr Tony Horan
c/o Andrew Peat Financial Consultants
Roermonder Str 52,
4050 Monchengladbach 1
West Germany

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB AGM AND ANNUAL DINNER

The 35th AGM and Annual Dinner will take place at the Victory Services Club 63/79, Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday 28 March 1987. This occasion will be 'Stag'. Details of the reunion may be obtained from the Chairman, **Maj K. N. Smartt**, 'Imber', Millway Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3EU, Tel No—(0264)—52297. Past members of the Division wishing to join please contact the Treasurer **Maj D. J. Roberts**, 'Westmead', Park Avenue, Chorleywood, Herts WD3 5DU, Tel No—(09278)—3144.

62A—HARROGATE, WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Will any members of intake 62A interested in a 25th Reunion to be held at Harrogate in December 1989 please contact **Chris Talliss** at the address below.

Even if you are not interested in a reunion I would be happy to hear from you.

C. R. Talliss
422, 6205-178 Street
Edmonton
Alberta T5T2R5
Canada

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

The Royal Signals Association, Aldershot Branch Annual Dinner will be held at The Alexandra Dining Rooms, Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hampshire on Saturday, 9 May 1987.

Reservations for seats should be made to:- **SSgt G. Pickard**, No 1 Area QM, Buller Barracks, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BX.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

The University of London Officers Training Corps is presently forming a Regimental Association. The main objective of the Association is to re-unite all members, both past and present of ULOTC, primarily through social events. Should readers who are ex-members of ULOTC or have served with ULOTC be interested in becoming members or have any further enquiries please send a large stamped addressed envelope to:

The Secretary,
ULOTC Regimental Association,
Yeomanry House,
Handel Street,
London W1N 1NP

7 ARMOURED DIVISION OFFICERS CLUB

Maj Gen Pip Roberts presided over another successful annual dinner on 29 October 1986 in the Naval and Military Club, at which senior members present included **Field Marshal Lord Carver, Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs** and **Maj Gens Geoffrey Armitage, Robert Broke, John Cowley** and **Michael Forrester. Maj Gen Charles Guthrie**, GOC 2 Inf Div was the after-dinner speaker and **Lord Carver** proposed the toast of the President whose 80th birthday was on 5 November and who was the principal guest of 22 Armd Bde in BAOR at their inaugural Alam Halfa dinner the following week—this to commemorate the victory of 31 August-1 September 1942, when the Brigade, under his command, was dubbed 'ELH'—'Egypt's Last Hope'.

The Club's 1987 dinner will be held on Wednesday 28 October 1987. Eligible to join are any officers who served in 7 Armd Div both during World War Two and post-war.

Applications or recommendations for membership should be addressed to the Hon Secretary, **Maj C. F. Milner MC**, at Mill Lane, Radford, Inkberrow, Worcester WR7 4LP.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S DINNER 16 MAY 1987

The OWA President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck on Saturday 16 May 1987. Anyone wishing to attend should contact:

Capt A. Field
Welbeck College
Worksop
Notts S80 3LN
Tel 0909 476326 or evenings 0909 485351 by 2 May 1987.

Dress will be Mess Kit for serving officers and Dinner Jackets for retired officers.

The cost will be approximately £10 per head for OWA members and £12 per head for non OWA members. A cash bar will be available after the meal.

Limited accommodation is available on request.

CAN YOU HELP

From: Mr D. French—Hon Sec Coventry Branch

In 1961 the Regimental Choir, Junior Leaders Regiment made a recording in the unit cinema at Denbury Camp. **Mr D. French** would be very pleased if any reader who has the record would be kind enough to let him borrow it to make a recording. Please contact him at 20 Whoberley Avenue, Coventry CV5 8EP.

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REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

With the onset of winter we have decided to postpone the 'Run out of Road' award until early in the New Year but we already have several hot favourites in mind.

Congratulations to **Sig Taff Jones** on his recent marriage to **Anne**, we wish them all the very best in the future.

We bid welcome to **LCpl Max Bloyce** and wife **Lianne** and also **Cpl Carl McNulty**. We hope they enjoy their stay in the Province.

Sad farewells to **Sgt Colin Brown** and wife **Anne**, many thanks for all your hard work and we hope you enjoy life at 21 Sig Regt.

A final farewell to **LCpl Geordie Gray** off to test the water in Civvy Street (and reporting back to **Sgt Cliff Swailes**). We wish you all the best in the future and hope you may return to quaff an ale sometime!

QMs DEPARTMENT
Report by LCpl R. Gray

The QM's Dept has been busy with the Ord Ancillary Inspection which took place on 11 November.

The department said farewell to **Cpl Charlie Salisbury** and **SSgt Pete Surman**, and welcomed **Cpl Chris Hoggard** and his wife **Mandy**. Also welcomed was the new SQMS, **SSgt Ken Cuthbert** and we wish them all good luck for the future.

On the sporting and activities front we are still quite well represented with **LCpl Rob Gray** running in the cross country team, **Cpl Chris Hoggard** in the hockey team and **RQMS Mike Braddon** and **Sgt Tom Mitchell** representing the department in the recent darts marathon. **LCpl Glynn Maggs** is serving the Squadron in another way, namely running the Squadron bar, the Waterside Inn!

That's all for now. See you in the Spring!

COMMS TROOP
Report by Capt S. P. Hunt

Welcome to **Lt 'Alec' Paterson** and **SSgt 'Benny' Bennett** who signify the dawning of a new era in the Troop. **Sgt Lenny Twells** will continue the juggling act with personnel and collecting the lemon jobs until they have their feet firmly under the desk.

Our last *Wire* entry was a little serious. The recent furious PIRA arguments in the South have enabled us to lighten our mood in the absence of any major terrorist activity. Ex *Freewheel*, the annual battle camp, gave Troop members the opportunity to conduct feverish searches for uniform and practise some more traditional roles. The varied menu of ranges, (in which **cpl 'Dave' Jowitt** had to be stopped from shooting down the range flags), NBC, lantern stalks, patrol bases, survival lectures and safe and skilled driving competitions kept most amused. During one of the river crossings **LCpl 'Bougie' Bougourd** surprised everyone by attempting to drown himself. **Cpl 'Douggie' Shields** was so convinced he dived in to save him. In another, **LCpl (now Cpl) 'Phil' Hopwell** made concerted efforts to sink his pack; but failed. The command task also achieved its aim of causing some scratching of heads. Suggested solutions ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous.

The camp was followed immediately by the annual shindig of the 8 Inf Bde Massed Bands Concert. This involved **SSgt Dennis Rutter, Cpl 'Taff' Shaw, LCpl Billy Dodd, Sig 'Rooster' Staff** and **'Scouse' Hole** and team, hanging some 40 stage lights from the rafters of the gym. Meanwhile **Sgt 'Lenny' Twells** and **Cpl 'Mac' McClements** festooned the entire barracks in lights. The minor setback, of blowing the fuses in the power sub station, during rehearsal, was overcome.

The night itself went off without mishap, and was considered to be entirely successful.

This event was followed by the Racal Sponsor Day in which teams from Racal, and Comms Branch HQNI competed against a Squadron team in pistol shooting, timed cycle trials, sailing, canoeing and clay pigeon shooting. The Troop made up a considerable proportion of the Squadron team and also manned many events. I am glad to report the Squadron team won convincingly. It was alleged that **LCpl 'Jeff' Richards** kept on putting birds up in the clay shoot until the RSM actually hit one. The RSM has since quashed that rumour!

The Troop has now become so 'laid back' that many took part in the 24 hour darts marathon arranged over the anniversary of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Any potential Irish trouble makers were simply referred to Belfast, which, they were told would be much more exciting!

We say a sad farewell to **SSgt Dennis Rutter, Wendy** and family, on their way to 200 Sig Sqn. Also to **Cpls 'Mick' Hunt** and **Chris Middleton, LCpls Cameron, Davis** and **Rowlands, Sig Lock, Johnson** and **Parkinson** and **Ptes Kirkwood** and **Llewellyn**.

We welcome in addition to the new management, **Cpls Oakley** and **Daniell, LCpls Dodd, Kelly** and **Sparling, Sig Graham, Goodhand, Marsden, Rickett, Lloyd** and **Hollingsworth** and **Pte Blake**. We hope you enjoy your tour with The Troop.

MT TROOP
Report by Cpl G. Dodsworth

We would like to say farewell to **Cpl** and **Mrs Norwood** (RCT) who are posted to Germany, **LCpl** and **Mrs Hurst** posted to sunny Catterick, **Dvr Conelly** posted to Bulford, (lucky person), and **Cfn Zulkernain** to civilian life.

Welcome to **Cpl Woods RCT** and **Cfn Wilson**—hope you enjoy your tour in NI.

Congratulations to **Sig Wood** who has just been promoted to Lance Corporal and to **Sgt Penman REME** and **Capt B. Young** for winning the Foyle View Darts Championships.

MIKE TROOP
Report by WO2 (FofS) Thompson

Busy times are upon us again as the winter sets in and Battalions changing Ops Rooms to go with the new carpets!

Our main event has been the presentation of the Annual FIXIT awards, a shortened version of which appears below:

Longest sponsored docket—**Sgt Martin Leighfield** 32 hours at Omagh.

Newton's Proof of Gravity Award—**LCpl Geordie Gray** fell 25ft off a mast at Gortin (minor bruising!)

Most distant docket—**Cpl Jim McCready**—mast light u/s at Los Angeles airport.

Swan of the year—**Cpl Ian Toft** three weeks sailing back from Gibraltar.

The Guess Who Competition
It is rumoured that the little one with the darts stuck in his hand has now grown up and joined the Squadron

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39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OPERATIONS

Events in the Province have seen many members of the Squadron deployed either on repair and re-wiring tasks after mortar attacks, or as pre-positioned heli-tele, power or maintenance crews to effect the rapid repair of any breakdowns. In addition to all of these external pressures there was the usual spate of 'growing pains', common to any battalion arriving in Northern Ireland. During this hectic phase we had two new roulement battalions arrive; 1 Scots Guards replaced 2 R Anglian in South Armagh and 3 R Anglian arrived to replace 45 Cdo RM in Belfast just five days before the rallies connected with the anniversary of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

With the winter beginning to produce even more difficulties the Squadron is bracing itself for another busy period ahead.

Wessex and Puma over Bessbrook Mill, South Armagh

SHQ TROOP

Another busy two months have passed with little change in SHQ personalities. There has, however, been a major change to the nerve centre of the Squadron in the form of a successful refurbishment of the Orderly Room. The fit, which was meticulously designed by **LCpl 'Nobby' Clarke**, has been the 'pet' of **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes** for some months, so much so that no one is allowed to walk on the new carpet unless they succumb to Japanese tradition and take off their boots first. Our thanks are extended to all those in the Squadron who made it possible, and not least to **SSgt (ORSQMS) John McEwen** who kindly agreed to take yet more leave during the critical phase of the temporary amalgamation of Squadron Operations/Orderly Room. A final mention to the TOT, **Capt Jan Jasiok**, who happily agreed to let us use, on occasions, his desk instead of the floor.

GOODBYE TO THE RSM

Prior to his commissioning and subsequent posting to sunnier climes (254 Sig Sqn, Cyprus), the various elements of the Squadron have been saying goodbye to **WO1 (RSM) Charlie Manning**. The first occasion was the Corporals Club Regimental Dinner, held in the main kitchen. After an excellent meal, the PMC, **Cpl Cal Hewitt**, presented the RSM with an NI figurine (with Jimmy cap badge), **WO1 Manning** reciprocated by presenting a silver bell for use at future functions. (Ex **RQMS Steve Jones** please note that the gavel is still in use). The evening ended with the RSM leading the assembled company in song.

After recovering from this, the Squadron officers were invited to the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess, this time for a Ladies Dinner Night. The event was presided over by **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes**, who presented **Mrs Anne Manning** with a piece of crystal. In his capacity of RQMS he has also issued the RSM the equipment vital to new commissioned officers in Cyprus. This included a UN beret, brassard and the all important 'Madonna' lookalike sun glasses, which he has promised to wear prior to departing from the Province.

(Thanks go to **YofS Weller**, 254 Sig Sqn, for providing the stage props.)

We warmly welcome **WO1 (RSM) Mal Boor** and his wife **Lyn** to the Squadron and wish them a happy and successful tour.

QM's DEPARTMENT

The quiet period promised by **Capt (QM) Bob Vale** has still failed to materialise (much to the satisfaction of **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes** who never believed in it in the first place).

The latest ordeal was the Annual Ordnance Inspection and the backloading of the last of the commercial radio equipment.

LCpl Simon Sloman is presently on his B2-B1 Upgrading course at Catterick. He has promised faithfully to come top of his course. We live in anticipation.

Sig Andy Purdy has recently tied the knot and we wish both **Andy** and **Kim** all the best in their married life and their posting to 7 Sig Regt in April 1987.

COMMS TROOP
RADIO SECTION

During the past two months the section has kept fairly busy with comms trials in the Brigade area. The longest trial was in the Newry area of South Armagh. 1 PWO was experiencing difficulties, so a team was despatched to find a solution. The team consisted of **2Lt Jeremy Tod, LCpl 'I like helicopters' Ferris, Sig 'Prof' Skeels, George 'Honey Monster' Green** and **Kev 'Linus' Attwood**. Their time was spent behaving like 'real' soldiers, covering the ground on foot and in the air on Eagle Patrol (much to **2Lt Tod's** delight) and **LCpl Steve Ferris'** horror).

During the middle of October, the workers at Ballylumford Power Station created havoc in the Province by going on strike, and required us to deploy standby generators to a number of talkthrough sites. This was no mean feat; some 4,000 litres of fuel was hand filled into generators by the end of November. Consequently there is now no problem with the upper body strength of Power Section; namely; **Cpl Bob McClurg, LCpl Jim Rice** and **Sig 'Taff' Donne**, assisted by **Sig 'Spike' Harding** and **Chris Davis** (who compiled these notes).

STOP PRESS

An assassination attempt by **Sig 'Wide Awake' Skeels**, founder member of the Saturday Morning Club, has failed. Using the trap door in the North Sangar, he attempted to end the reign of the Troop OC, **Capt Simon Renfrey**. The 'hit' merely resulted in mild concussion and two weeks light duties. **Capt Renfrey's** comment was 'Ouch' although **Sig Skeels** may soon appear in his own show at Colchester.

Brigade Commander's Rover Group:
Left to Right: LCpl 'Molly' Molyneaux, Pte 'Gaz' Chamberlain, Cpl Tony 'Ten Bellies' Mellet, LCpl 'Spam' Nugent, Cpl Jimmy Stevenson
Kneeling: Pte 'Katz' Beckett, LCpl Mick Brown

COMMCEN

Since our last contribution, AMS has now become operational, and although it has had some teething problems, it has proved to be a great improvement on the old system. The more efficient system has allowed the supervisor, **Cpl 'Tops' Locker** to finally take off his flak jacket.

As ever, the personnel change, and so we say hello to the new members of the Troop: **LCpl 'Scouse' Cahill, Sig 'Dickie' Bird, 'Jez' Brown** and **'Neaderthal' Green**.

EX *DAY OUT*

One cold wet misty morning in October, the gallant members of the Squadron went boldly where no man has gone before. A day was meant to be spent gently walking in the Antrim Hills near Ballymena. However, our illustrious Troop OC **Capt Simon 'Cam-Cream, Para, SAS, Marine, Cdo, well-hard' Renfrey** (or Sherpa Tensing to his friends) had other ideas. Not content with making us yomp across the

rain sodden bogs of Antrim, he had his heart set on a long distance swim across Lough Neagh. Unfortunately (fortunately) there was only enough time for the walk. To cut a long story short, it is sufficient to say that the happy members of Comms Tp managed to maintain a smile and a kindly thought for the OC Tp who organised the event.

TM TROOP
RADIO TECHS

Cougarnet is in and rolling and trying to do us all out of a job. However, we are being kept busy by the on-going saga of Op Cleanup, the seemingly, never ending search for all the 'old kit' that we have installed throughout the years. We have also taken on a lot of the installation jobs in all the new ops rooms that are being built.

We have to say farewell to **Cpl Dave Aspray** who after a year of very hard work is off to greener pastures.

We also wish **Cpl Chris Cadman** and **Cpl Paul 'I'm a dad' Gardner** the best of luck in their T1 Entrance exam.

Sgt John Howell-Walmsley and LCpl Danny Boon fit Heli-tele sphnere to Lynx

Sgt John Howell-Walmsley and Cpl Dave Evans prepare the mobile crane needed to replace our Long Range Heli-tele antenna

Down she comes!

TE TECHS

This month has been a very busy one for the lads of the TE Workshops. We have seen the beginning of the Brinton installations following the paperwork and planning stages. We have been busy of late, but not busy enough to stop **Sgt Simon Tatman** from having a long weekend in 'Blighty' at the Army White Water Canoe Championships at which he received his certificate of lunacy by going over the Richmond Falls (we have always had our doubts about him).

The section is shortly to lose **Cpl 'The Old Man' Trev Roe** to civvy street after four years of hard work. He will be sorely missed. We would all like to wish both him, his wife **Jane** and of course **Ratsall**, all the best for the future.

Cpls 'Vinny' Connolly, 'Frags' Covey and **LCpl 'Zippy' Dawson** having just returned from their two week course for Brinton—know all about it now (honest).

Congratulations to **Cpl 'Frags' Covey** on his promotion and also to **Sgt 'Bucks' Buckingham** on his engagement.

WIVES CLUB REPORT

The Wives Club has been as active as ever organising various visits, parties, demonstrations, parties, meetings, parties, dinners, parties, and of course parties! Throughout the year they have been collecting for the Children in Need Fund in the vain hope of getting a slot on the Terry Wogan Show—alas it was not to be. The Ladies did however manage to present their donation of £165.00 at a fund raising rally in the company of such notables as Status Quo, Miss Ireland, Tony Christie (who?) and Mary Peters. Well done ladies!

Mrs Cathy Jones presents the 'Children in Need' cheque to Ulster Radio's Joan McIlroy. Mrs Jan Smith looks on

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

TECH TROOP
XMG—THE PLACE TO BE
Report by Sgt Bob Nicol

'Comms Tp are looking for Radio Relay Techs to stand in for their operators, while they have their Christmas Party. How would you like to go to Crossmaglen this weekend?' Hmm, a chance to see life at the 'sharp-end'. Before I could answer, back he came with 'Your flight's already been booked, you leave here at 0700 hrs on Friday'.

Crossmaglen SF base, or XMG to use the colloquial, is situated in South Armagh, approximately three miles from the border. It is a combined Army/RUC base and is currently manned by a company from 1st Battalion the Scots Guards.

Entry to and exit from the base is by helicopter or by foot patrol only, and it was by Wessex that I arrived in the base. Friday and Saturday were very quiet, spent exploring the base and taking 'happy snaps'. The highlight of the weekend was to be the St Andrew's Day meal on Sunday night, consisting of haggis (freshly caught in the hills of Glen Campbell) and 'neeps'.

After dinner the SSM asked, 'Why don't you come out on patrol with us tomorrow?' 'I really would love to, but I fly out tomorrow morning,' came my quick reply. 'That's OK I'm sure we can fit you in on one of the patrols after breakfast'. Checkmate.

The next morning, full of misgivings I met my team commander. After a quick brief I was kitted out with body armour, SLR and Scots Guards beret.

The foot patrol was through Crossmaglen village and includes setting up snap VCP's at either end and checking possible mortar base—plate locations. So, remembering NIRTT course training, I set off.

After the first five minutes I settled down. The Guardsmen obviously knew their job very well and were taking an active interest in my well-being so, we soon had a good rapport within the team.

An hour later we were back at the base, patrol tasks completed uneventfully. A quick debrief back in the patrol room, exchange of thanks, and it was back to the accommodation to pack for my return to Lisburn, feeling more enlightened by my experience.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

We bid farewell to **Sgt (now Mr) Keith Robinson** off to restore cars in Germany, **Sgt Dave Smith,** taking up his appointment at 28 Sig Regt on promotion to Staff Sergeant. **Sgt Pete Bertram** and his wife **Sue** posted to Latina for an Ace High course and **Cpl Steve Potter** who has left for his T1 at Catterick. We wish them good luck in the future.

A warm welcome to **Cpl Steve Ferguson,** fresh off his T1, **Cpl Merv Ovenden** and **Cpl 'Fran' Francis** both new to Radio Section, and **LCpls Phil Leach, Alan Ironside** and **Rick Edlin.**

COMMS TROOP

November was a busy time for all the Troop as well as being an enjoyable one; most of the month was spent up a mountain getting ready for the numerous visits. With lots of time to kill, **Cpl Clive 'The Nose' Reynolds** and Tp Comd, **Lt Andy Allman**—just married to **Tracey**—played Trivial Pursuit. With so many visits is there any truth in the rumour that the AAO, **Lt Denise Bould,** is being privatised—we understand that the Savoy do a mean little lunch!

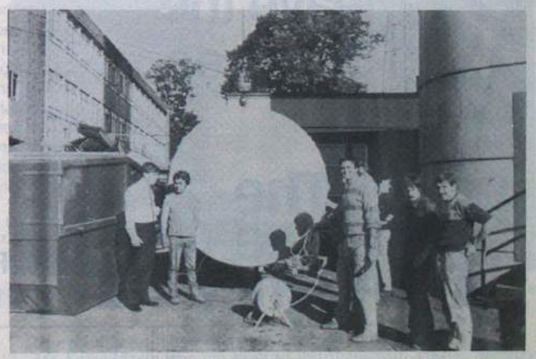
Next on the agenda was a football match, against Tech Tp—better luck next time Techs. Score 5—3. Comms Tp scorers: too numerous to mention.

On the social front the Troop had an early Christmas party. As it was the last one it was a lavish affair. It was a great success, many thanks to **Cpl Mark** and **Sandra Anderson** who spent hours organising and preparing it.

Finally we welcome all the new arrivals in to the Troop—**Cpl John McBride, LCpl Tommo Thompson** and **Sig Gas Crabtree.** We also extend a welcome to our new wives, OC's wife **Tracey, LCpl Tony Martin**'s wife **Gail,** and **Sig Flounder Anderson**'s wife **Kathy**—we hope you enjoy your tour here.

Mr Nicholas Scott MP spends half a day with the Squadron—he was met by the OC and WO2 (SSM) Pete Doherty

The new COS HQNI Col CMS Kaye being briefed on the new AMS by Cpl Carlos Sinclair. The OC and Capt (Tfc) Alan Dunbar look on



Tech Tp Riggers ready to hoist the new microwave dish to the top of the Squadron Tower

MT

As busy as ever, we still managed to get 75% of the MT off to 'Costa-lot' Sheffield for **LCpl Jock Simpson**'s wedding. Sadly we say farewell to **2Lt Adrian Clewlow**—veteran of Snowdonia, West Belfast (put your Commando sweatshirt away Sir!) and the South of France (where did he spend his R+R?)—all the best on your Tp Comd's course. Also, farewell to **Cpl Taff Kessel** and congratulations on your promotion to Sergeant; **LCpl Jock Simpson** and **LCpls Robbo Robinson** and **Dave Harkness** who leave the Army.

We say hello to **Cpl 'HTD' Roberts, Sig Steve Terry** and most importantly our new MT Sergeant, **Sgt Gilbert**.

WHISKY TROOP

The past few months have been very busy ones. With our new system just around the corner working hours have been extended (does anyone get home before 2200 hrs?) Four of our techs are trying to achieve a record for the number of SF bases visited in two months and the Troop OC and YofS have been issued with new, improved pagers to make sure they can't escape!

Comings and goings have continued, we bid a sad farewell to the following:

SSgt Ian and **Rita Haldane**, not returning to Cyprus but returning to LOA courtesy of 28 Sig Regt. **Rita** will be especially missed due to the excellent buffets she produced for special occasions.

SSgt (FofS) Bill Hughes after a four month tour returned briefly to 55 Sig Sqn(V) just in time to be posted—are they trying to tell him something?

Sgt 'Taff' Carr moving all the way across the compound to Commcen Tp—is he trying to tell us something?

The list of our four month attachments, **Cpls 'Fez' Newell, 'Kenny' Everett** and **Phil Walsh**. Many thanks to you all for the hard work you put in.

Cpl Ricky Allmark, Troop sports star and still found time for work! Best of luck at 3 ADSR.

Finally **LCpl Mandy Tucker** transferred to Victor Tp on promotion; don't worry **Mandy** at least you are in the second best Troop!

NEW ARRIVALS ARE:

SSgt Mike Corsar, officially in charge of the tech workshop but also an expert in other things. **Ptes Alison Hughes** and **Theresa McMahon**, both direct from training and still trying to work out where we hide the Trend teleprinters and why the shift supervisor seems to be talking in a foreign language!

The smallest arrivals of all have been the following:

A son to **Sgt** and **Mrs Byrne**.

A son **Daniel** to **Sgt** and **Mrs Skerritt**.

A daughter **Christina** to **Cpl** and **Mrs Garner**.

At least the Troop has produced very welcome news.

VICTOR TROOP

SSgt (YofS) Andy McIver has been working very hard recently; he has applied his mind to the problem of editing and revising the Troop's technical SOP's. The results are impressive; he has produced a document, which covers every eventuality in only two sentences, which I reproduce here for the benefit of students of military efficiency.

SOP 1: In the event of any problem, carry out the actions listed at Annex A.

Annex A: Go for a run.

LCpl Tony McGhee deserves a special mention this time around. An expert on remedial PT. He has passed his Tickle BFT, so the Squadron achieved a 100% pass in the Tickle Test.

Farewell and all the best to **Sgt John (The Turk) Gaskell** who goes to Tech Tp for a rest cure, to **LCpl Karen Leslie** who is leaving the WRAC and to **Sig Dick Stather** who is posted to Rheindahlen.

Welcome to **LCpl Mandy Tucker** from Whisky Tp, **Pte Fern (is she a plant?) White** from training and **Sig 'Beef' Berger** and **Terry Stewart** from Commcen Tp.

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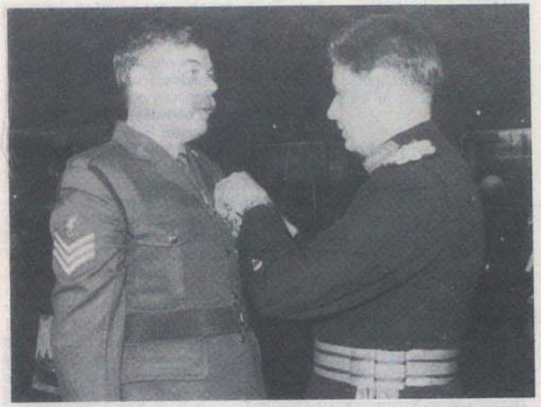
PRESENTATIONS

During a visit from the Signal Officer-in-Chief on 8 October 1986 the following presentations of awards, published in the May and July 1986 issues of *The Wire* respectively, were made.

BEM to **Sgt R. C. Bracegirdle**; Mention in Despatches to **Capt D. E. Rowlinson.**



Sgt Bracegirdle receiving his BEM from the SOinC

Capt D. E. Rowlinson with his family after receiving his award of a Mention in Despatches from the SOinC

A Commendation Certificate was presented to **WO1 (FofS) N. Blavins.**

Sgt Bracegirdle proudly displaying the BEM (Civil Division) awarded to his grandfather

WO1 (FofS) N. Blavines with his wife and the SOinC after the presentation

Congratulations from everyone at the School.

Mr Amos Marsh who has been an instructor with Traffic/Security Group at the School of Signals retired on 24 October 1986 after 17

years service; two of which had been as a serving Chief Radio Supervisor, Royal Navy.

In appreciation of his dedicated service within the School, the Comd, **Brig J. H. Almonds** presented **Mr Marsh** with an illuminated scroll.

Mr Marsh has been deeply involved with the instruction of Yeoman of Signals courses, some 349 students have passed through his hands during his time, and it was in recognition of his contribution that the Traffic Officers and Yeoman of Signals at the School contributed to a presentation of a solid silver statuette of 'Mercury'.

Mr Amos Marsh receives his scroll from Brig J. H. Almonds

Don't be disappointed!

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Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

WINTER TERM

Another busy year for the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate has drawn to its close with the College able to look back on a highly successful sporting season with many appearances at Army Finals. It has been a year of excitement and change ranging from proudly exercising our right to the Freedom of the Borough of Harrogate to the reorganisation of the Squadrons, to change Bradley Squadron into a Junior Leader Squadron, a change that has met with the approval of all our Junior Leaders.

We have seen many changes of permanent staff, the most significant being our farewell to **Col Stephen Carr-Smith** and **Nicole** (the cricket and hockey teams will not seem the same) and the welcome we have extended to **Col Conrad Garton** and **Kathy**. It has been a somewhat traumatic welcome, as the new Commandant had barely settled in when the dreaded I of E team arrived to have a look at the establishment. There is a general hope that **Col Conrad** will still have a College to command once the team leaves!

However the College marches into the New Year with heads held high and a determination to stay at the forefront of Corps activities.

RAWSON SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Norman Ladds**
2IC	**Capt Jim Coffey**
SSM	**WO2 Gordon Townsley**
OC Rct Tp	**Lt Nevill Thompson**
Rct Tp Sgts	**Sgt Clive Sear, Sgt Stevie Stephenson, Sgt Martin Archer**
Alpha Tp Sgt	**Sgt Pete Griffin**
Bravo Tp Sgts	**Sgt Pete Charles, Sgt Fred Tedby**
SQMS	**Cpl Ian Burt**
AT SSM	**SSM Jock Cunningham**
Sqn Clerk	**Miss Simone Lovell**

COMINGS AND GOINGS

It is some time since we were last in print and there have been many comings and goings. In early September the Squadron bade farewell to **Capt Bernie Neillings** and we wish him and **Nan** well in 11 Sig Regt. **Lt Paul Pople** has been sent away to Belize for six months as a watchkeeper, to give Harrogate some relief. **Sgt Clive Sear** and **Chris** are also leaving us, for Germany. Watch out the MT! **Sgt Pete Griffin** almost left us but decided to stay for another year.

Newcomers include **Capt Jim Coffey** who has taken over the 2IC's chair and is about to get everybody boxing. **Sgt Archer**, who has arrived from 19 Bde to work with basic recruits, has done his Map Reading Instructors Course and will show us all the way. **Lt Nevill Thompson**, who has taken over Recruit Tp, is enjoying his job when he isn't away playing hockey. **Sgt Pete Charles**, who has tasted Bravo Tp and decided he's off to Scott Sqn as soon as possible.

CHAMPION SQUADRON

Inter Squadron competition is as keen as ever and with only the Junior and Senior drill competition to go, the Squadron is in second place. Both Squads are working hard to bring the trophy back to the Eagle's nest.

ISLE OF MAN

Ex *Golden Eagle II* saw the Squadron back on the Isle of Man at Jurby Camp in May and a fun packed break from Harrogate was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The activities included canoeing, wind surfing, mining, cycling, pony trekking, angling and socialising. The Senior term were to circumnavigate the Island on foot. However, AT initiative saved wear and tear on BCH at the same time as providing a detailed analysis of the Island's transport system.

BLACKPOOL

The Squadron outing to Blackpool was held on the day after the Squadron Smoker. Someone suggested the reason most of the lads were very quiet in the morning has something to do with this masterpiece of planning. However, as the day wore on and the effects wore off, fun was had by all. Most made fun at the fair but one had fun elsewhere and was late coming back to the bus. There's always one! It made a pleasant break from the rigours of College routine.

SPORT

SOCCER

Despite the disappointment of being beaten by Penney Sqn in the first round of the Army Cup, the Squadron team were able to gain some cheer from an exciting game that was a lot closer than the 4—2 scoreline suggested. All the team worked extremely hard and it was only the greater experience of the Penney team that won the day.

ORIENTEERING

September saw our team sweep to a magnificent win over the firm favourites Scott Sqn to take the Inter Sqn Trophy.

SQUASH

The Squadon has beaten all opposition in an impressive style to win the Inter Squadron Competition. The sweaty members of the team were **AT Cpl Mark Roberts, AT LCpls Robin Atherton, Paul Demain, Ian Piears** and **Jason Rossiter**.

INDOOR ATHLETICS

The Squadron ran, jumped and threw itself to a convincing victory in this new venture. Special mention must go to **AT LCpl Chris Jones** who won the pole vault with his first three jumps (ever)!

GAMES NIGHT

At the termly games night between the Permanent Staff and the AT NCOs there was a good deal of gamesmanship and definitely no cheating by either side in the contest to win the coveted prize. As usual the PS won but that must be due to good honest experience. After the serious games and the buffet more light hearted bar games were played. Here it must be said the PS were more than a match for the NCOs. Some of the PS must have strong jaw and neck muscles to inflict such heavy blows in 'Spoons'! **AT SSM Jock Cunningham** presented the winners trophy to the OC on behalf of the NCOs and commented on the particular honesty of the PS in their efforts!

RECRUIT TROOP

At the beginning of September, 85 bemused young recruits arrived in the Squadron. At the end of the first term we have unfortunately lost a few for various reasons but still have a large number of keen young men starting out on the first stage of their careers. We wish them all well. It is satisfying to see how quickly they develop and the Squadron can draw on some highly talented sportsmen. Recruit **John Wood** is a most accomplished cyclist and recently won the Yorkshire 'Last of the Summer Wine' race over 86 miles for the second year running.

Rct J. M. Wood—86C. Winner 1986 Yorkshire 'Last of the Summer Wine' Cycle Race

AT Andrew Barnet is an Army Junior Footballer and **AT Cpl Mark Roberts** is a Combined Services under-21 Hockey player. Congratulations to these young gladiators and may their achievements inspire the less gifted of us to do our best.

SCOTT SQUADRON

There has been a major change in the Squadron management over the past few months. We have said farewell to **Maj Graham Thomas** and **Jo** who have gone to AFCENT. **Lt Mike Shaw** and **Bryony** have departed for sunny Blandford and the School of Signals. **Lt Mike Hancock** has left the Army to become a Mister in every sense of the word. **WO2 Ray Hunter** and **Jackie** have gone to London and 31 Sig Regt (V). **Sgt Pete Lawlor** and **Linda** have packed the Pacestick and moved to BAOR and 1 Div Sig Regt, Training Wing. **Cpl Neil Fletcher** and **Ray** have also gone to BAOR to join 3 Div Sig Regt. Back in the world of mechanical transport and last but not least **Cpl Roy Clark** and **Sylvia** have left us to go to 28 Sig Regt. We wish them all the best for the future and look forward to meeting them again elsewhere in the Corps.

We welcome **Maj Bill Price** and **Linda** who are back at the College for a second tour. **Lt Alastair Rodgers RAEC** has joined us from Education Wing to take over as OC Recruit Tp. **WO2 Tony (Sir) Spray** and **Hazel** have joined us from the School of Signals. Finally **Sgt Lenny King** and **Sandra** have come to us from Bradley Sqn as a result of the recent College reorganisation.

We welcome them all and hope they have an enjoyable and rewarding tour with Scott Sqn.

CHARITY DARTS MARATHON

On 12 July Scott Sqn organised a Charity Darts Marathon in aid of the Cheshire Home at Spofforth.

Cpl Tony Vivian organised the event and put a lot of hard work into obtaining raffle prizes, publicising the event and layout of refreshments, camp beds and all the organisational minutiae that made the event so successful. It is a great pity that he was in hospital and unable to be present on the day.

LCpl George Fisk stepped in at the last minute and took over the running of the event. Without his efforts we would certainly have had to postpone the Marathon until **Cpl Vivian** returned. **Capt Geoff Lumley**, the 2IC, threw the first three darts to set the ball rolling and we won't say what his score was. The team of **Paul Sorbie, John Prior, Chris Bentley, Billy Bingham, Gary Chapman, Simon Thomasson, Nigel Green** and **Bob Hollamby** set off at a fast pace and by the end of the 26 hours had scored over half a million. The highest individual score of 99,720 was made by ***AT Bingham***.

All the players were surprised at how hard it was to keep going and some had to try throwing left handed to ease aching muscles.

The 2IC threw the last dozen darts and fair to say he didn't score too badly this time. After collecting all the sponsorship money almost £300 was raised. Thanks are due to the scorers **Cpl Dave Perry RAPC, LCpl George Fisk, Sig Dave Simmonds, LCpl (Nurse) John Williams RAMC** and **LCpl Lenny Lyon** without whose help the event would not have taken place. Thanks are also due to the Jimmy Club who generously allowed the event to take place on their premises and put up with us.

The Squadron also assisted at the Spofforth Hall Fete with the provision of sidestalls and six ATs with radios as Security patrol.

A cheque for £300 was presented at the Fete to Spofforth Hall from the Sponsored run held earlier in the year. A further £300 was donated from the proceeds of the Darts Marathon.

BRADLEY SQUADRON

LIGHTNING TROOP

Troop OC	**Situation Vacant**
Troop Sgt	**Sgt Roy (Aarrgh!) Partington**

Lightning Troop Mark I has since departed to Catterick for its trade training have passed off the Square in December 1986. With it also went **Lt Andy Goff** who managed to earn some remission and get himself posted early to 640 Sig Tp.

The advent of the composite Junior Leader Squadron in the College meant that the Troop was only together for four months. However, it went to prove what a firm step forward the decision was with the JLs reaping great benefits from the change. Despite such a short life, it was a hectic time for all concerned as illustrated by just a handful of letters written by the previous inmates of the third floor.

WHEELCHAIR MARATHON

Report by JL McLaren

Six teams from the College took part in this fun/charity event with my team consisting of **LCpl Ian ('I love dressing up in drag') Herriott, 'Beer, Beer' McMahon** and myself.

The race involved us completing a two mile course in relays pushing a wheelchair and driver. Initially we managed laptimes of 11 minutes or so but by mid-afternoon even **'Rocket' Herriott** was tiring. Well, we didn't win but it turned out to be an enjoyable day for all concerned and we are in training already for the next one!

ARMY CANOE/SURF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Report by JL Bobby Pace

The College team (comprising some 13 members of the Troop) entered the event at Saunton, North Devon on 10-11 October. The first day was the Juniors Competitions with entries from the Juniors of the RAC, RE and ACC. Despite paddling against difficult surf only four of the team managed to get into the semi finals before being eliminated. The result was the same for the PS team under **'Uncle Archie' Miles** who didn't fare much better. It was not a very successful Championship. However, as the OC says, 'those that never try, never fail'.

EXERCISE *VANGUARD*

Report by JL LCpl Dorking

Ex *Vanguard* was an exercise that incorporated nearly everything we had done as Junior Leaders in the past two terms: orienteering, night navigation, assault course, log runs and command tasks. We did all these things on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday under the supervision of **Lt 'SAS' Goff, Sgt C. H. N. Partington, Sgt Turnbull, Mr (Uncle Archie) Miles** and **Padre Wilkes**. On Wednesday afternoon we tried our hands at something new—Bridge Building. Things didn't go too badly for section one but section three got a bit wet. After the Bridge Building we had a tug-of-war across the river between the four sections but the PS declared a tug against us.

Thursday morning we set off for Sutton Bank for the start of the 'Death Rose Walk' which was the final part of our exercise. Thursday afternoon we walked approximately 12 miles to Lower Locker Farm where we camped for the night. That night we built a big fire and all sat round telling jokes and generally having a good laugh.

On Friday morning we set out on the last 24 miles of the walk. That day we had **Mr (Uncle Archie) Miles** walking with our section. The hills came alive with the sound of music as the section completed their walking in fine style, sliding down Roseberry Topping at the end of a testing exercise.

QUADRANT TROOP

Tp OC	**Lt Andy Trimble**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Dave Curgenven**

THE BEGINNING

September 1986 saw the creation of four new Troops in a restyled Bradley Sqn. OC of the 'B' intake chose as his Troop emblem the Quadrant as prior to this arrival at the College he had spent almost three years with 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. On 31 August the newcomers arrived from the other three Squadrons and quickly settled in.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

One fresh September morning the Troop deployed to Halton Training Camp adjacent to the River Lune for five days of canoeing and trekking.

Following lunch all who were to participate in canoeing were required to undertake a cold water swim test. **Sgt Dave Curgenven**, anxious to impress, struck out valiantly for the canoe, ducked underneath then returned. **Lt Andy Trimble** had not intended taking a dip as he was to lead groups hill walking. **Lt Trimble** was admiring the view when he 'fell' into the river fully clothed. He appeared to find the experience refreshing!

The Lune in September is not the warmest river in England yet **JL 'Chicken' Walker** anxious to impress us all with his calm nature waited patiently for a 'T Bow' recovery following a capsize. **'Chicken'** was not to know that his friends were engrossed in a game of canoe polo. After several minutes **JL Walker** was recovered and was heard to mutter through his blue tinged lips, 'Took your time didn't you'.

COMPETITIONS

Immediately on return from External Leadership the Troop competed in the Junior Drill Competition. Alas, without just reward. The Drill Competition was followed by the Junior Assault Course Competition. The fastest team in the Competition was that of 'C' Team led by **JL Olford**.

PASS OFF PARADE

Highlight of the first term's training was the Pass Off Parade on Friday 24 October 1986. Luckily the Harrogate weather was mercifully considerate during the parade which was reviewed by the Commandant, **Col Garton**.

The recruits were especially well supported by large numbers of parents and friends who had travelled up to share the day.

JL Stiff was particularly proud as his mother had travelled back to the United Kingdom from Nigeria especially for the event.

The prize for the best recruit was to **JL Lithgow** from Plymouth.

EXERCISE *YOUNG WARRIOR*

Refreshed by half term leave Quadrant Tp deployed on exercise yet again. This time to dig defensive positions on Catterick training area. The weather was not kind and the lads had a hard 72 hours.

PROMOTIONS

At a short ceremony on 22 November the OC Sqn **Maj Rumford** presented Junior Leaders' Lance Corporal Brassards to the six Troop NCOs. Best wishes and congratulations to **LCpls Olford, Girling, Vaughan, Chipperfield, Coates** and **Lithgow**.

EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

Off to Halton Camp yet again with **Lt Trimble** anxious to wreak vengeance on those who caused his impromptu dip in September. The Troop spent one module (two and a half days) rock climbing and abseiling and one module trekking.

Sgt Curgenven sporting the latest fashion in waterproofs strode out with his party into a Force 10 gale. Unfortunately the jacket proved to be totally inadequate and he ended up as wet as the rest of us. The horrific conditions made the trek difficult for all, **JL Chauntry** excelled by hang gliding off one feature suspended only by his issued waterproofs.

A BUSY NEXT TERM

Christmas would appear to be the only light relief in a busy forthcoming term. Activities next term include a seven day downhill trip to Austria and some will attend a five day cross country course in Silbehutte in Germany. In addition to those two will be a busy mixture of military training and External Leadership exercises.

WHITESPEAR AND RAPIER TROOPS

Whitespear and Rapier Tps formed the first Junior Leader Recruit Troops in Bradley Sqn in September 1986, with the following Troop Staff:

RAPIER TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt J. W. Cooper**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt I. P. Taylor**

WHITESPEAR TROOP

Tp Comd	**Lt I. J. Bradshaw**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt P. A. Horton**

The combined Troops achieved a notable victory when they won the Inter Squadron Recruit Drill Competition.

COLLEGE SPORT

ATHLETICS—1986 SEASON

During the 1986 athletics season both the College and Permanent Staff teams did exceptionally well and put the College firmly back on the map as a force to be reckoned with.

The College Team consistently performed well and are the current holders of the Junior Army Zone B Championships, the Blue Riband Athletics Trophy and were runners-up to the Royal Armoured Corps in the Junior Army Team Championships in July.

The team's most memorable performance however, was during the Triangular Games held this year at Arborfield against the Royal Engineers and REME. The atmosphere in the stadium was electric right up to the final 4 × 400m relay. The points were such that Harrogate had to win the relay in order to draw on points with the Princess Marina College and win the match on the greatest number of first places overall in the individual disciplines. The race was neck and neck in the final leg of the relay with **AT Sgt Fould** running the race of his life and taking the tape with less than half a metre on the REME challenger.

Army Minor Unit Team Championships 16 July 1986: 'Lt Andy Goff *(centre)* in the process of finding out that the 200m event is about 180m too long!'

The Junior side also fielded a number of athletes for the Combined Services against Wales and Hampshire:

AT Cpl Tim Tomkinson	Also 1986 Jnr Army 110 Hurdles Champion
AT Sgt Kev Downer	400 Hurdles
AT Cpl Lothian	Pole Vault
AT Bartliffe	Also 1986 Jnr Army Pole Vault Champion

Earlier on in the season a combined team of Juniors and Permanent Staff competed in the Royal Signals (UK) Championships at Andover and acheived a very creditable second place behind 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt (well, what do you expect?).

The Permanent Staff also proved themselves worthy of a place at the athletcis meeting in Edinburgh, (alas OIC Athletics missed the last post so the entry was late!). They are currently the North East District Minor Unit Champions and the Zone B Minor Units Champions. The team also managed to qualify for the Army Minor Unit Championships in Aldershot achieving a creditable sixth place against strong opposition from UK and BAOR.

ORIENTEERING

The College Orienteering Squad has got off to a good start for the 1986/87 season. One hundred and twenty eight Apprentices and Junior Leaders took part in the Inter Squadron event held at Brimham Rocks on a lovely sunny day on Saturday 27 September. It resulted in an unexpected win for Rawson Sqn against the strong favourites Scott Sqn who got first place in three out of the four different courses. Excellent times were recorded by **AT Simon Thomasson, AT Cpl Stephen Sharp** and **AT Scott Carpenter**, all of Scott Sqn, and **AT Jamie Bryan** of Penney Sqn.

A Squad of 21 Apprentices/Juniors Leaders and six Permanent Staff participated in the Royal Signals (UK) Championships held over the weekend 11/12 October 1986 at Swynnerton Old Park and Bishops Wood. **AT Cpl Sharp, AT Cpl Paul Mayer** and **AT Thomasson** won the Royal Signals Junior Team Orienteering prize. Seventeen year old **AT Cpl Sharp**'s time of 33 mins 29 secs for the B Course on Day One was one of the fastest times for the day. His time of 40 mins 14 secs for the B Course on the Day Two Relay event was the second fastest time overall. He has since been selected to run for the Royal Signals team and ran well as a guest runner at the Infantry Orienteering Championships on 5 November and as a member of the Royal Signals A team in the Inter Corps Championship at Bagshot on 16 November 1986. Other members of this team included **AT LCpl Forshaw, AT Thomasson, AT Campbell, AT LCpl Mayer** and **Jnr Ldr Fairweather**. The Permanent Staff A team consisting of **Maj Rollo Rumford, SSgt Mick (Action Man) Lumgair** and **Sgt Jim Pattison** won the Royal Signals Minor Units prize. With active participation in the thriving North East District League, it is hoped to provide a sound foundation for the Army Junior Championships in March 1987.

CRICKET

The 1986 Cricket season proved to be one of the most successful seasons the College has ever had with both the Apprentices/Junior Leaders and the Permanent Staff side reaching the Army Finals.

The Apprentices' Cup run started at Ouston with a comfortable victory over the Junior Inf Bn, batting first, the College swiftly knocked up 184 runs (**Brian Lamb** 27, **Chris Cole** 61). Impressive bowling by **David Coleman** 3 for 12, **Shaun Fardy** 4 for 12, and **Steve Clark** 2 for 19, saw JIB all out for just 43 runs.

The quarter final saw one of those unique occasions in a cricketers life when young **Chris Cole** mesmerised the opposition with his offspin bowling taking seven wickets for six runs in 34 overs, which included four wickets in four balls—all clean bowled! Needless to say the College hit the winning run with only two wickets down.

The semi final against JLR RE Dover brought another overwhelming victory. Dover struggled to 40 all out in 25 overs (**David Coleman** 2 for 5, **Shaun Fardy** 1 for 6, **Brian Lamb** 5 for 12, **Chris Cole** 2 for 10. The College knocked up 41 runs with the loss of only one wicket (**Lance Malin** 18 runs).

The final at Aldershot was against Arborfield who had beaten us only 12 days previously in the Triangular Games—the Army Final however was a different story. Batting first, the College side scored 195 (**Brian Lamb** 54, **David Coleman** 37, **Stuart Cowie** 19, and **Steve Clark** 22)—this is thought to be the highest score ever in the Army Junior Final. Accurate bowling combined with aggressive fielding kept Arborfield down to 105 ensuring a College victory (**Chris Cole** 4 for 52, **Steve Clark** 2 for 15).

Brian Lamb under the astute coaching of **Maj (Retd) Don Robinson** proved to be an excellent Captain setting an example to all in the field and was deservedly awarded a College Cap for his outstanding contribution to College Cricket. Young **Colin West** was awarded the golden egg for his awful jokes on the journey back from Aldershot. The lad never stops!

The Permanent Staff side couldn't quite emulate the achievements of the Apprentices, finishing as runners-up to Depot Regt RE in the Army Minor Unit Final; but to get this far was an achievement in itself.

The final encapsulated the terrific ethos and camaraderie which pervaded through the team. **Cpl Gary Duffy** had won a three week holiday in Corfu and came back after just two weeks just to represent the College in the final! **Gary** proved to be a superb fielder throughout the season but I think he'll best be remembered for the 'lucrative' fines book he ran which provided us with a good nosh up at the end of the season.

The College met Depot Regt RE in the final at Aldershot and were put into bat first. RE bowling was very tight and their fielding first class, and only **Col Carr-Smith** 41, **Sgt Tonker Andrews** 27, and **RQMS Dave Taylor** 17, really made an impression to give a total of 133.

We lost **Taff Thomas** as an opening bowler as his hand took a painful knock whilst batting and the Colonel twisted his back going for the 'quick one' (you're not getting any younger Colonel!), so our attack was seriously depleted.

But **Cpl Dave Clarke, RQMS Dave Taylor, Sgt Geoff Watts** and even **Cpl Alf Garnett** who actually took a wicket bravely pegged away at the RE batsmen. Despite a valiant effort it was only a matter of time before RE knocked up the winning run. Without doubt they were deserving winners.

Sgt Taff Thomas's wife insisted that he travelled to Aldershot to represent the College. He returned home in the early hours of the morning to find he'd become a proud father. Now anyone who knows **Taff** will be able to imagine what was the first thing that he did when he received this happy news.

What a great season though, it was for the College, with a terrific commitment from both the lads and the PS and although the OIC Cricket is not in the Corps it made him feel proud to have been part of such a great set up and as the Colonel said—we all made an old man very happy!

HARROGATE LOURDES FUND

THE RUNNERS

SSgts Rog Stanton, Dave Hollis, Sgts Pete Kingston, Pete McElwee, Ray Spencer, Steve Beattie, Jim Pattison, Cpl Alf Garnett.

The Harrogate Lourdes Fund is an independent inter-denominational Christian charity, the sole aim of which is to assist

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needy people to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes. All monies/gifts donated to the charity go directly to the task of supporting the pilgrims, no administration costs or expenses are paid; all officers of the charity giving their services free of charge. The cost of sending a pilgrim is, on average, £300 and the Fund try to send at least 10 pilgrims a year.

Recently the wife of **Sgt Kingston** of the Army Apprentices College benefited from the work of the Lourdes Fund. After undergoing major neuro-surgery, the Fund sponsored her pilgrimage to the Shrine where she gained both spiritual and physchological comfort.

To show their gratitude **Sgt Kingston** and five instructors of the Military Training Troop at the Army Apprentices College did a sponsored relay run from 11 Sig Regt to the Army Apprentices College, a distance of 40 miles, on Sunday 26 October 1986.

The weather on the day was ideal for long distance running. We estimated it would take about six hours but found later we had underestimated our own ability as it took only 4 hrs 35 mins.

Setting off at 0900 hrs were **Sgts Pete McElwee** and **Jim Pattison** intending to run about six miles. They were joined after six miles by **SSgt Dave Hollis**. Both **Jim Pattison** and **Dave Hollis** ran half marathons. **Pete McElwee** went on to run a total of 31 miles. **Sgts Ray Spencer, Steve Beattie** and **Cpl Alf Garnett** did varying stints of three to eight miles. Our back up team of **WO2 Rick Levett, Sig Bob Smith, Sgt John Coles** and **LCpl Wez Rutter** must be mentioned, as without their support the run could not have taken place. Lastly, the two oldest runners, **Sgt Pete Kingston** and **SSgt Rog Stanton**, both over 40 (as the other runners kept reminding them) did their share. As the youngsters kept complaining the pace was too fast **Rog Stanton** slowed down after 12 miles and went on to complete around 22.

Any donations to the fund should be forwarded to **WO2 Levett** c/o General Training Wing at the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate HG3 2SE.

The Runners
Left to Right: LCpl Wez Rutter, Sgts Ray Spencer, Pete McElwee, Pete Kingston, Steve Beattie, Jim Pattison, SSgt Rog Stanton, Sgt Bob Smith, Cpl Alf Garnett, Sgt John Coles, SSgt Dave Hollis

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Branch addresses 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.

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

247 GURKHA SIG SQN SUMMER CAMP
Report by Maj (Tfc) R. D. Price

This year's Summer Camp was held at Lo Wu Training Camp in the New Territories from 4-22 September 1986. It differed slightly from last year's camp in that an exercise was included which involved a 28km march over two days, sleeping overnight under canvas and catering from 24 hour ration packs.

Capt (QGO) Pirthibahadur, SSM Rupbahadur, SSgt Bailey the SQMS and a small admin team departed on 4 September to take-over the accommodation facilities at Lo Wu Camp.

Due to the working cycle in the Squadron it was decided to plan the camp over two weeks, each week being identical and to work a two way shift system in the Joint COMMCEN over the period to enable maximum participation from the soldiers.

The two parties departed from HMS *Tamar* on Saturday 6 and Sunday 14 September respectively and settled into the accommodation at Lo Wu.

During the first week Typhoon Wayne (some will remember) was on its third and final pass of Hong Kong; it caused some contingency RTU plans to be prepared; but luckily it kept well south of us. The weather throughout the period was in fact very kind, one or two cases of over indulgence in the sun did remind some new members of the Squadron that one can get sun burned even under a beach umbrella at this time of the year.

The first two days involved the mandatory annual military training using films and videos etc. A little light relief was introduced in the form of a general knowledge quiz run by the TOT **Capt Taff Hope.** Such questions as; for how long was Lady Jane Grey Queen of England? had the Gurkhas and Chinese guessing but spelling the Gurkha Major's name certainly had the Brits guessing too.

The first day started with NBC theory and practical training in the Gas Chamber organised by **SSgt Dilbahadur.** This was a 'tearful' success and reassured the soldiers that the service respirator does afford protection.

Pte Green and LCpl Hoye recover from the effects of the CS Gas Chamber experience; Sgt Gosnell follows them out!

The next day started bright and early with, what better than a BFT. (**Cpl Dickinson** has no more excuses now).

This was followed by map reading, the Geneva Convention and First Aid Instruction. It was rumoured that if **Sgt (Doc) Marsh** doesn't pass his FofS entrance examination he's thinking of taking up medicine.

The main feature of day three was designed to test the practical map reading skills with an orienteering competition. Again the weather was on our side, not too hot and humid. Believe it or not no one got lost.

Days four and five were scheduled for water based adventure training pursuits and this was carried out at Gordon Hard Boat Club using assault boats, canoes, dinghies and windsurfers. This phase was actually voted the best one of all.

Days six and seven were planned as the real test of the camp with a 48 hour walking exercise, sleeping under self erected 'bashas' and using the 24 hour ration packs. Due to the humid weather conditions much planning and preparation went into this phase. The exercise started at Lead Mine Pass in the Tai Mo Shan country park with a steep climb of approximately 5kms to the top of Tai Mo Shan.

The exercise continued the next day with a further 14km plod which included breaks at First Aid and Map Reading stands and finished at Sek Kong Village where the party was, thankfully, transported back to Lo Wu Camp.

In the evening after a refreshing shower and a change into clean clothing a cook-your-own barbecue was held to round off the week's events. Prizes were presented during the evening to the winning sections of each group.

Endex—time to celebrate!

Maj Price presents a birthday surprise to SSgt Bathe (still only 21!)

SHAPE
BFPO 26

BACK IN THE NEWS

After a period of anonymity, the sort that MI5 must long for, we at SHAPE have suddenly found ourselves in the limelight. In the space of less than a week, we have played host to the SOinC and **Mrs Alexander, Col D. C. Whitehead** from PB11 and **Col D. M. O. Miller,** OIC Manning and Record Office. All of us were grateful for the updates we received on officer and soldier manning, and other Corps matters. Too often, because we are an allied headquarters, we tend to be absorbed into the international scene, and our Corps identity is reduced.

SOINC VISIT

However, with the visit of the SOinC we found an excellent opportunity to band together. **Maj Gen Alexander** found us all in good spirits and was able to assess our contribution here, even though we are few in number.

The **General** and **Mrs Alexander** were hosted by the SHAPE Royal Signals Association at an excellent dinner and buffet party. There they were able to meet members of the Corps and their wives in an informal setting. The following morning, **General Alexander,** accompanied by **Brig Noel Moss,** was given an introductory briefing on SHAPE CIS matters by **Lt Col Tony Hunt.** This was followed by a tour of the various communications facilities at SHAPE, where he met members of the Corps at work and was able to see the important work being done to upgrade our PABX, as well as the facilities being provided by Project 85.

Lt Col Tony Hill introduces members of RSGS. SOinC catches up on the news with Cpl Sally Alexander. Waiting from *L to R:* Cpls Ned Kelly, Aussie Butler and Nick Godbold

To end his visit, the SOinC and **Mrs Alexander** were hosted in the Officers' Club by all the Corps officers and their wives. We were delighted that so many officers from NATO HQ and NACISA were able to join us. They included **Brig Bob Cook, Lt Cols Jim Storr** and **Bill Bowen** as well as **Brig Peter Dally,** who, on retirement, moved to the office of the Director General of NACISA. After a good lunch, the SOinC and **Mrs Alexander** drove off to face gale force winds in the Channel!

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

The Royal Signals Association (SHAPE), backed by a dynamic committee, besides providing an excellent forum for entertaining VIPs has given us a number of excellent evenings, where good fun has been the order of the day. We held a first class games evening organised by **SSgt Archie Arbuckle**, which proved that we needed more practice. Indeed, one game of 301, where the best of three games would decide the winner, had to be settled by a toss of the coin, when after 20 minutes of play neither team had managed to finish the first game! **WO2 (FofS) Mac McDonald** went on to fare better in the skittles, where the application of advanced maths taught on the Foreman's Course paid off!

Recently the Association arranged an excellent Christmas Dinner with 52 members present. Again the Committee did a marvellous job. **Mac McDonald** manfully took time off as our resident quiz master to collect the subscriptions. He was seen wandering around the corridors of power cajolling officers into parting with their hard earned francs. **SSgt Archie Arbuckle**, who had done so much to make the evening a success, found out that the date of his birthday was known, and he was presented with a cake while the band played 'Happy Birthday'.

Foreman Mac: 'The square of the hypotenuse . . .'

Ministry of Defence
Sangcom Team
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

SANGCOM DARB ZUBAYDAH EXPEDITION (SAUDI ARABIA) 1986
Report by WO2 (YofS) G. H. Ralph
The expedition dates were 9-14 November 1986.

EXPEDITION MEMBERS

Landrover 1	**Maj Jim Stabler**	Leader/Navigator
	Bill Davison	Video/Mechanic
Landrover 2	**Brig Jack Westlake**	Medic
	WO2 (ORQMS) John Boyd	Linguist
Landrover 3	**Lt Col Dick Smith**	Diarist
	Martin Robertson	Photographer
Landrover 4	**Col Mike Spence**	Photographer
	Maj (Tfc) Colin Eastland	Comms/Mechanic
Landrover 6	Author	Navigator/Comms/ Mechanic
	Bill Lawrence	Supplies

DAWN

0545 hrs Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, daybreak and I don't feel much like the intrepid explorer this morning. The 'One Tens' are loaded and we are ready to go—oh no!—one of the chaps has broken a finger nail, let's all go home to bed! Ah, but our gallant leader **Maj Jim 'Yeti' Stabler**, of recent Katmandu fame, paid a Nepalese tailor all of £1.35 to make him a commemorative 'T' Shirt, so we've got to go through with it! At last the sun is rising and the five Landrovers are purring north out of Riyadh, that's it, we are on our way at last, after many months of planning and preparation. The 'uncharitable' would claim that more organisation has gone into this than the Apollo 11 moonshot!—the 'uncharitable' being **Maj Colin Eastland** who swears he drove to UK recently with wife and four kids, traversing half a dozen countries, with no more than a full tank and a packet of wet wipes!

IN THE BEGINNING

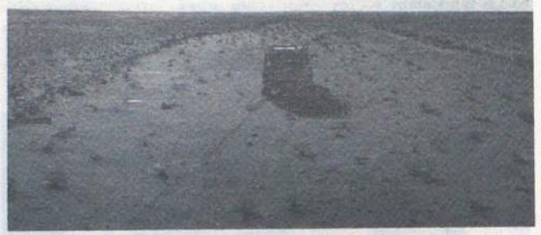
It all started some time ago, when **Maj Jim Stabler** saw a TV programme about the Darb Zubaydah, a Muslim pilgrims' trail leading from Iraq to the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina. He made up his mind there and then to explore it for himself and after putting the idea to the rest of the team here in Riyadh he obtained 10 volunteers (seven military and three civil servants). Working loosely to information gleaned from the thesis of a Saudi scholar, he decided on a route, did all the planning, delegated jobs to the party and then wisely disappeared on a Himalayan expedition for the final seven weeks prior to the departure day! Needless to say, during his absence circumstances arose that demanded a complete rethink on the route; nonetheless after copious quantities of midnight oil had been burned we were finally organised and ready to go.

FOLLOW ME!

The road journey to the start point was 700km long and boring but thankfully uneventful (anybody who has driven in the Middle East will know what I mean). There followed a short off road journey to the first camp, interrupted only by our first puncture (the first of many as it turned out). It had been decided that each day a different vehicle and crew would lead and navigate, a task that was made easier by the use of a Loran navigational system. This decision worked well enough, and it also gave us an opportunity to study the different navigational 'styles' which were not always common between navigator and driver! For instance **Brig 'Watling Street' Westlake** seemed to prefer straight lines, regardless of sand dunes or wadis, whereas his partner and 'Nav' for the day **WO2 J. T. Boyd** preferred to tack in maritime style. Does the sun really rise in the South **John**? As for myself, I would like it on record that I was not lost in those dunes, just the sun was in my eyes and I was momentarily disoriented! Nonetheless, everybody took their turn and nobody got hopelessly lost (with a little shepherding by the leader).

THE ROUTE AND POINTS OF INTEREST

The 'Darb' (Arabic—trail) itself was in use by pilgrims from the formative years of Islam (Seventh Century Gregorian) up until the beginning of this century. In its heyday hundreds of thousands of the faithful travelled the route from what is now Iraq to the Holy Cities. Many thousands of the pilgrims fell prey to bandits and raiders whose sole income was from pillaging the travellers.



View along a section of the Darb Zubaydah showing the cleared (1,000 years ago) track

Naturally these people required water, sustenance and resting places during their 1,000km journey, much of which was across some of the worst desert in the world. This gave rise to a trail which, in places, rivals those of the Romans'—dead straight, 20m wide with stone verges. Precious little of this remains now but we did find some good examples as you can see in the photographs. Some of the more difficult stretches were actually paved and we believe we found some evidence of this. The trail was also marked at night by beacons on high points, and once again we found some good examples of these.

By far the pilgrim's greatest need was water, both for himself and for his animals. Luckily there is a water table some 60ft below the desert, so one way of obtaining water was to sink wells to this depth (though nobody has reasonably explained to me how they knew the water was there in the first place!). Once it had been obtained in this way from wells, it had to be channelled to huge storage tanks or cisterns (called birkats). Another way of collecting water was to locate these birkats and channels in such a way that they would trap the water from flash floods during the 'wet' season and store it for use. The size of some of those constructions has to be seen to be believed, the quality of construction was also extremely impressive, especially when you consider that these structures were completed with the aid of slave labour more than a thousand years ago and were still in use up to very recently (indeed some of the wells are still used today).

To protect these assets, forts (as well as various other buildings) were built at the major sites. Unfortunately the buildings did not last as well as the more vital structures but we did find some well defined sites.

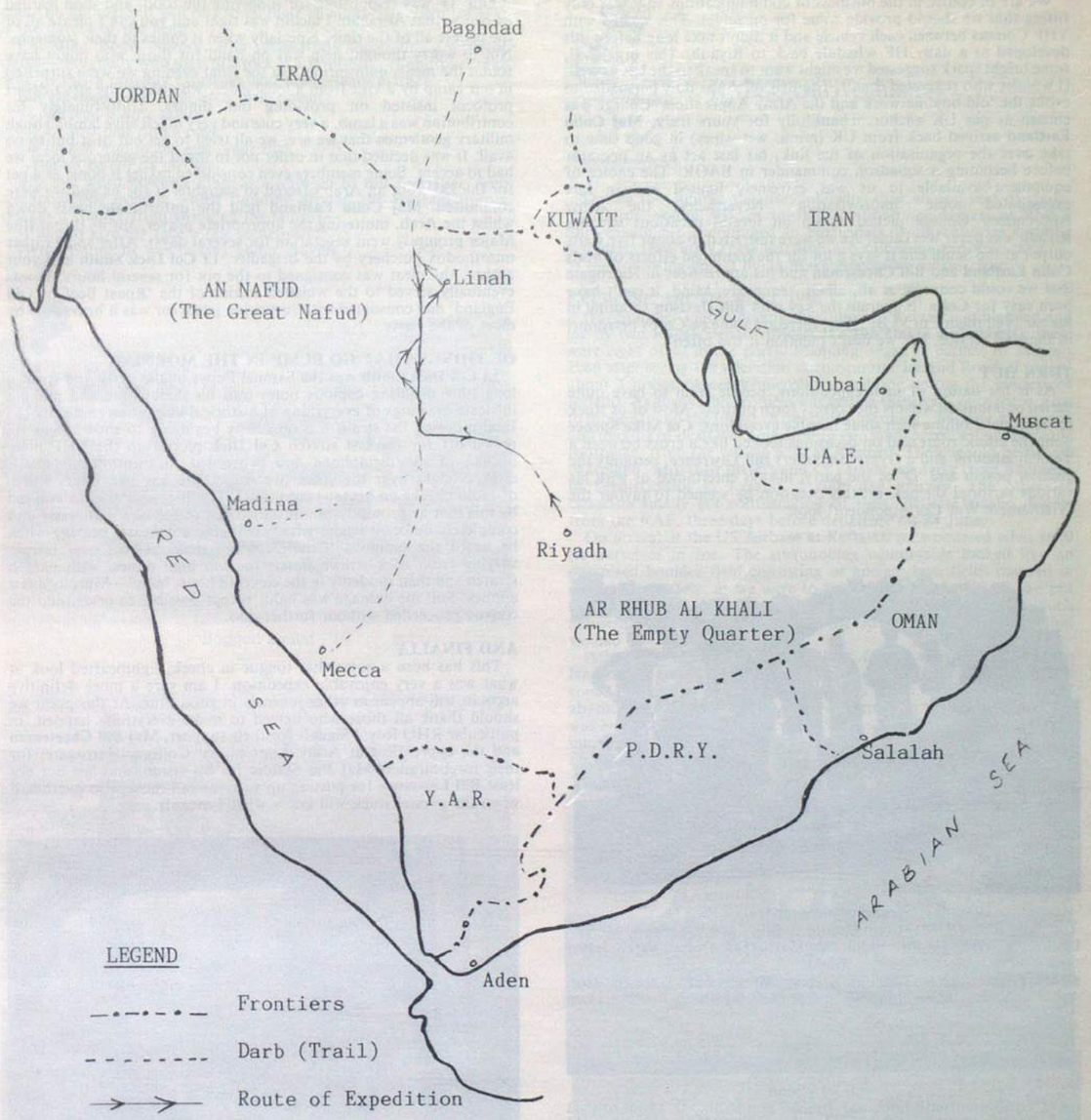
The advent of the Mercedes water bowser, of which every Bedouin family appears to own at least one, has sounded the death knell for many of these splendid wells, indeed large numbers are now spoiled with rubbish—how quickly man forgets! We spent a great deal of time exploring these sites which was one of the main reasons for this expedition, and I'm sure we all took back lasting memories.

Birkat Al Araish

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ETC

Just about every inch of progress was recorded for posterity on Video '8' by **Bill Davidson**, unfortunately after a while one forgets the

DARB ZUBAYDAH EXPEDITION SAUDI ARABIA 1986



camera is there, resulting in some memorable out-takes (all completely unprintable of course). **Martin Robertson** was the David Bailey of the party, recording everything on slide for the inevitable presentations later. These intrepid cameramen risked all in the name of their craft, from being lowered down deep wells to standing in front of speeding Landrovers. The most memorable sight though was undoubtedly poor old **Bill**, tied to the roof rack at 30 mph just to get a better shot of Solihull's finest! Talking of Solihull's most famous product, they all went extremely well, except of course for that driven by yours truly which apart from devouring six tyres, started to sound decidedly sick after two days' hard driving, major surgery by the mechanics that evening, whilst the rest snored, soon put it to rights and it gave no more trouble.

LIFE ON THE TRAIL

The route from Riyadh to Al Ajfar (the start) was some 700kms of major highway, so it was covered as fast as possible in the first day stopping only to change drivers though 'One Tens' are not quite so hard on the kidneys as the older models! We spent some five nights in all in the desert at convenient points along the route. The set up we used was rudimentary but adequate, with a tarpaulin stretched between two vehicles for the admin area. Most of us opted to sleep in the open, despite the cold. Cold? Even the seasoned desert travellers amongst us were surprised by the cold nights in the Great Nafud. Most nights the temperature dropped to around −3°C with a marked amount of condensation. The days in fact did not warm through until midday, due mostly to the prevailing northerly wind and the temperature dropped rapidly after sunset (1730 hrs).

COMMUNICATIONS

We are of course in the business of communications so it was only fitting that we should provide some for ourselves. This started with VHF Comms between each vehicle and it didn't take long before this developed to a daily HF schedule back to Riyadh. This organised, some bright spark suggested we might want to speak to the UK as well. (I wonder who suggested that?). The Brigadier was duly persuaded to evoke the 'old boy' network and the Army Apprentices' College was chosen as our UK anchor. Thankfully for yours truly, **Maj Colin Eastland** arrived back from UK (minus wet-wipes) in good time to take over the organisation of the link, his last act as an operator before becoming a squadron commander in BAOR. The choice of equipment available to us was extremely limited and in fact necessitated some 'improvisation'. Nevertheless the Army Apprentices' College picked us up on several occasions whereas Riyadh was never workable! As we were restricted to about five watts output at the Saudi end it says a lot for the combined efforts of **Majs Colin Eastland** and **Bill Cheeseman** and his apprentices in Harrogate that we could converse at all, albeit, tenuously. Mind, it can't have been easy for **Colin** to operate the key with **Bill Davison** shouting in his ear 'Tell them I'm 55 B!'. Yes, there are some ex-Corps personnel in the civil service, but we don't mention it too often.

TURN OUT

As is the nature of such expeditions, people seem to have quite varied opinions on what is the correct form of dress. Most of us stuck to 'sensible' clothing with some notable exceptions. **Col Mike Spence** went the ethnic route and on occasions looked like a cross between a Yemeni labourer and a Gypsy peg seller! **Bill Lawrence**, certainly the greatest poseur and 'Q' of the party, always entertained us with his various sartorial themes, on this occasion he seemed to favour the 'Vietnamese War Correspondent' look.

Expedition members:
Top Row (L to R): Maj Colin Eastland, Brig Jack Westlake, Mr Bill Lawrence, WO2 George Ralph, Mr Martin Robertson, WO2 John Boyd
Bottom Row (L to R): Maj Jim Stabler, Mr Jill '55B' Davison, Col Mike Spence, Lt Col Dick Smith

Bogged in again!

MINT SAUCE ANYONE?

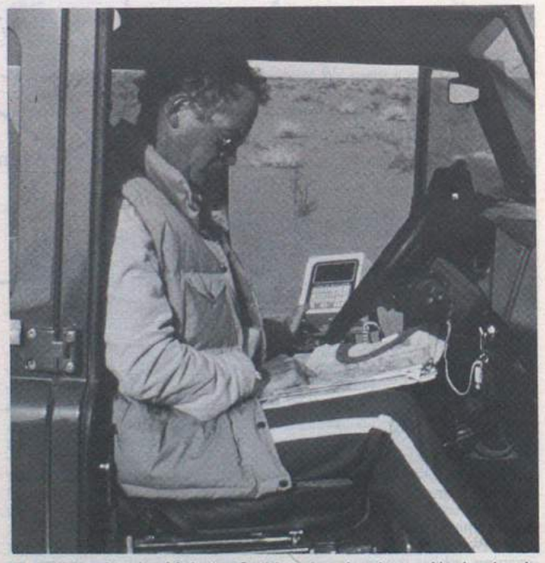
Our 'Q' was responsible for supplying the food, and soon learned of course that Abraham Lincoln was right and you can't please all of the people all of the time, especially when it comes to their stomachs. Not to worry though, help was on hand for those who might have found the meals uninspiring. On the final evening we were surprised in our camp by a visit from a local elder, who observing strict desert protocol insisted on providing our dinner. Unfortunately his contribution was a lamb, a very cute and very much alive lamb! Tough military gentlemen that we are, we all tried to get out of it but to no avail. It was decided that in order not to insult the generous local we had to accept. Some members even considered taking it home as a pet for the kids, but an Arab offered to slaughter it for us and we were committed. **Maj Colin Eastland** held the unfortunate beast down whilst the Arab, muttering the appropriate prayer, slit its throat (the Major promptly went vegetarian for several days). After some rather unorthodox butchery by the Brigadier, **Lt Col Dick Smith** and your author, the meat was consigned to the pot for several hours. It was eventually served to the whistled strains of the 'Roast Beef of Old England' and consumed with surprising gusto (or was it bravado?) by most of the party.

OF THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE MORNING

Lt Col Dick Smith was the Samuel Pepys of the party and spent a long time dictating copious notes into his dictaphone and making intricate drawings of everything of historical interest en route. By the final morning the strain was obviously beginning to show, so as we pulled off for the last stretch **Col Dick** picked up the VHF mike instead of the dictaphone and proceeded to transmit his innermost thought over the ether (we suspect he has two hours worth of radio checks on his tape recorder!). The Brigadier was so amused by this that he promptly ran into the back of the now stationary and completely innocent leader who was taking a compass bearing when he heard the ominous 'Crump'. More than 600kms over terrain varying from rock strewn desert to 30m high dunes, with nary a scratch and then suddenly in the eleventh hour, bang!—Murphy's law applies. Still the damage was light, except possibly to pride, and the convoy proceeded without further ado.

AND FINALLY

This has been a somewhat tongue in cheek, lighthearted look at what was a very enjoyable expedition. I am sure a more definitive account will appear in other journals in good time. At this point we should thank all those who helped to make everything happen, in particular RHQ Royal Signals for their support, **Maj Bill Cheeseman** and the apprentices at Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate, for their forebearance, **Maj Jim Stabler** for his vision, and last but not least **Bill Lawrence** for putting up with me (all those who overheard when the pressel stuck will know what I mean!).



Expedition Leader Maj Jim Stabler showing Loran Navigation in Landrover

Last, but not least, I leave you with some memorable quotes, I make no apologies if you had to be there to appreciate them for that is the nature of the beast.

Col Mike 'Bodie' Spence, after successfully negotiating a series of dunes—'Anybody who used diff lock is a Pooftah!'. (Landrover take note, is this a possibly expensive and unnecessary extra?)

Bill Davison who made up a little poem:

Colin had a little lamb
With soft and fleecy coat,
It looked him in the eye, went Baa,
And so he cut its throat!

The last word however must as always go to **Bill Lawrence**, who remarked one evening whilst standing around the Bengazi Burner (makes a change from swinging the lamps)—

'I like to give my face a rest sometimes!'.

(We presume he was talking about shaving?)

Bogged again!

A typical well. Bir Zarud

RMCS Shrivenham

During the summer vacation following their second year of study, the Corps' young officers reading for in-service degrees at RMCS Shrivenham are encouraged to participate in adventurous training activities. Invariably these activities are ambitious and wide-ranging, as the following report by **Lt Mark Alexander** makes clear.

EXERCISE *ARCTIC ROLL* 1986

Our Summer 1986 canoeing expedition to Iceland was planned and led by two Royal Signals officers (**Lt Jon Dakin** and myself); there were eight of us in the party. Planning began in earnest in January 1986 after seeing the television documentary 'Iceland Break-through' about a major canoeing/microlite expedition across the glaciers of Iceland. As always the problem was getting there and, once there, how to move around the island. After much 'phoning', begging of favours and making of deals we came up with two landrovers, with homemade roofracks, from the vehicle pool at Ashford. These would be moved to Iceland, with their drivers and six canoes, via ferry from Aberdeen to Seydisfjordor in Iceland, a four day journey. The other six canoeists finally got confirmation of their 'definite maybe' flights from the RAF, three days before departure on 24 June.

On arrival at the US Airbase at Keflavik we wondered what we'd let ourselves in for. The surrounding countryside looked like an organised boulder field consisting of ancient lava fields covered in moss. Fortunately, as we were to find out later, the USAF had put their base in the worst part of Iceland. The base HQ found much amusement in the fact that we were the 'Royal British Army' and that we had come to canoe!

After a three day wait in a Navy Lodge we met up with the landrovers, and the real expedition began. The drivers and landrovers coped brilliantly with the road conditions which were nothing short of abysmal; with less than 100 miles of tarmac in the whole country it was an experience neither drivers nor passengers will forget. Bumping into a glacier that has slid across the road is not something you find on the Soltau training area!

Ready to Roll
Left to Right: O Cdt Angus Ballard, Lts John Sherman, Bob Case, Mark Munday, Mark Alexander, Martin Baxter, John Dakin, Joe Astbury

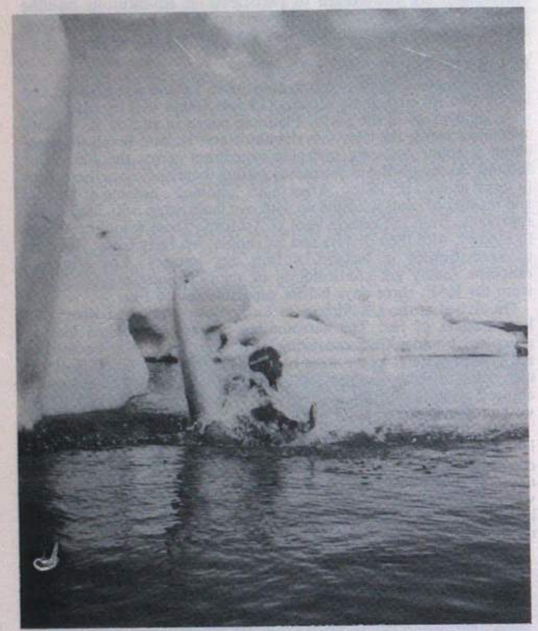
As expected, the standard of whitewater available was fantastic, with 500ft gorges containing Grade V water, some of which to the best of our knowledge had never been canoed. As the standard of canoeing within the team ranged from instructor to proficient we progressed slowly from glacial Grade III water whilst the uninitiated found their feet.

The first major river paddled was the River Huita just below Europe's largest waterfall, Gullfoss. To get to the river involved a 200ft abseil with canoes. From then on the only way out of the gorge was down 7km of Grade III-IV water. Some of the 'stoppers' we bypassed would have swallowed a raft but fortunately for the group, we suffered only a lot of near misses.

Because we were in a country that is rarely visited by the average tourist, much time was spent in looking at the natural features on the

island, ranging from waterfalls and geysers to volcanoes and the largest glaciers in Europe. The whole island is an adventurous training playground but strangely the locals seem keen only on skiing and horse trekking.

Midway through the expedition we decided to paddle one of the glacial lakes called Jökulson. Shielded from the wind by the huge Vatnujokal glacier, this calm −1°C lake was one of the most impressive sights we saw. Dotted with 100ft icebergs, the whole place is eerily quiet with the silence broken only by huge pieces of ice crashing into the water as the icebergs warm up. Even the two drivers didn't miss the opportunity to 'play' on this. The highlight of the day was dragging a canoe up one of the icebergs, getting in, shutting your eyes and then downhill you went at a rapid rate, 'till you meet the water. It was rather like snow and water skiing at the same time.



Get Off My Iceberg
Lt Mark Munday making a clean entry into the water

We finally arrived at the longest river in Iceland, the Pjörsa; at the point where it narrows to a quarter of its normal width, this water is a good Grave V and extremely fast. After a thorough recce the upper stretch was paddled by **Mark Munday** (REME) and me. It was here that we had the luckiest escape of the whole expedition when 'White-water Duck' **Munday** missed a break out, and only by brute force and luck narrowly missed going into a 'spin-dry cycle' in the biggest stopper we'd seen yet. The rest of the group were not exactly looking forward to paddling the rest of the river, but off we went. By the end of the day the standard of canoeing had improved so much that even the 'once proficient' paddlers were playing on the larger water formations. The day was finished off trying to cook some huge American T-bones steaks on number two burners, after the number one burner decided to spring a leak. Fun!

The final day was spent re-packing the landrovers for the journey back, and visiting the capital, Reykjavik, to buy the obligatory Iceland jumper. We even managed to collect a parking ticket. I wonder if we'll ever see it again?

The landrovers set off to finish their circumnavigation of the island and a week later, after we had hitched a lift on an American Strato-tanker back to England, we all met up back at RMCS on 24 July.

The experience of Iceland is one none of the expedition members will ever forget, not to mention the lessons learnt in getting such a venture off the ground. Each landrover covered over 5,000 miles with only two punctures between them; I reckon we were lucky. The standard of canoeing within the group vastly improved and most of the rivers in UK will seem a little dull after the rapids and gorges of Iceland. The country has a lot to offer in the way of adventurous training, and anyone taking an expedition there will not be disappointed.

Just Hanging Around!
Some tricky abseiling by Lt Joe Astbury

On the Iceberg Lake
The canoe team against a spectacular background

Keeping Going
The author, Lt Mark Alexander, hard at work

In Deep Water
One of the numerous river crossings

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

VISIT OF THE SOinC TO THE REGIMENT

On 12 November the SOinC **Maj Gen Alexander MBE** and **Mrs Alexander** paid a visit to the Regiment. **Sgt Jackson** commanded the Quarter Guard. The first part of the programme was the presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **WO2 (SSM) Ashwell, WO2 (YofS) Taylor, WO2 (SSM) Boyle, SSgt Ainge (LSL), SSgt Redman, SSgt Fraggat.**

The SOinC visited half the Regiment before attending a Buffet lunch in the WOs' and Sergeants' mess.

The afternoon was taken up with a visit to the 'Squadrons at work' the ADC (Our very own OC Line Troop) **Lt Alistair Beard** was amazed to find his Troop actually working in his absence.

In the evening the SOinC and **Mrs Alexander** attended a Ladies Supper Night with Regimental Officers and their wives.

The SOinC inspects the Quarter Guard
L to R: Cpl King, Sig Carroll, McDonald, Roebuck, LCpl Callaghan, Sig Huxley, Kelly with Sgt Jackson hidden behind the CO

LS and GC Medal Presentations
L to R: SSgt Ainge, Mrs Ainge, SSgt Redman, SSgt Froggatt, SOinC, Mrs Ashwell, SSM Ashwell, Mrs Taylor, WO2 (YofS) Taylor, SSM Boyle

Capt Norman Larke the SCO meets the SOinC supported by WO2 Balderstone the CO and Lt Trax Beard

ANGLO-GERMAN WEEKEND

The weekend's activities kicked off with a football match between the Regiment and TSV Verden. After a hard fought and exciting game, the Regiment scored a narrow victory, 3 goals to 2. At the same time, over 400 people participated in a 10km road race, won overall by **Herr Jurgen Schulz** of Verden, with **LCpl Andy Kennedy** of 1 Sqn coming a very close second. A disco and cabaret rounded off the evening's events.

The competitors in the Anglo-German 10km road race at the start

The Corps Band entertained Saturday morning shoppers with a concert of contemporary and classical music. After a short break, they then performed at the fete opening ceremony held in Caithness Barracks during the afternoon.

As well as numerous side shows provided by the Regiment and many local organisations the large crowd enjoyed demonstrations of unarmed combat techniques, folk and modern dancing and a German Police Dog Display. An 'It's a Knockout Competition' with teams from the Officers' Mess, the Sergeants' Mess, the local Fire Brigade, the Verden TSV, 1 Sqn and the Other Ranks Club was the cause of much hilarity amongst the spectators and not a few embarrassing moments for the competitors.

The 'Cannonballs' parachute display team 'dropped in' right on target to end the displays.

Mrs Ian Townsend, wife of **Brig Townsend RA**, Comd Verden Garrison, then drew the winning tickets in the Grand Raffle, the first prize of a Nissan Micra car going to **Mrs Elke McNaughton**, wife of **Cpl McNaughton** of 3 Sqn.

The afternoon's events ended as they had begun, with the Band playing both the German and the British National anthems.

On Sunday local townspeople and members of the Regiment joined together in a Church Service conducted by the **Rev J. J. Holliman**, senior chaplain to the Regiment and **Pastor Teeve** of Domgemeinde Verden, ending the town's Anglo German Weekend 19-21 September 1986.

Herr Jurgen Schulz, the winner of the 10km road race, celebrates his victory

Cpl Prince of 2 Sqn instructs a four legged mattress on how to tackle a tyre obstacle

EXPEDITION TO MOUNT PTARMIGAN
Report by SSgt T. S. Haynes BEM

Mount Ptarmigan is 3,059m above sea level (10,036ft) and is situated in the Canadian Rockies in a slate range behind the Lake Louise Ski area. Following the introduction of PTARMIGAN to the 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt it was decided that an expedition to climb the peak would be a suitable way to mark the occasion. Unfortunately we were informed that BATUS was already saturated with expeditions and another one could not be allowed. However there is nothing to stop an individual on leave from attempting the climb. So, with the CO's approval, in went the leave pass and the indulgence forms.

THE CLIMB

Unfortunately, due to exercise commitments, the only time I could go was April/May which is not the best time for climbing. However beggars can't be choosers so I packed all of my equipment, less skis, and set off. A friend in Canada was to provide back up for the attempt on the summit and was purchasing a pair of skis and all necessary spares. Unfortunately his wife became ill prior to my arrival and I was therefore alone. I managed to get to Suffield on BATUS transport and my friend gave me a lift to Medicine Hat. Reports on the weather were not good with 2m of snow in the area. It was even suggested that I shelve the idea and go skiing instead. However, as I had informed the Adjutant prior to departure that if anyone could climb the mountain at this time of year I could, I borrowed a car and commenced the 300 mile journey to Lake Louise. The weather North of Calgary was not promising at +2° and raining—meaning fresh snow higher up. I looked out of place amongst the skiers and Japanese tourists with my bright red rucksack, festooned with ice axe and crampons.

At the park rangers hut I met a warden who was an old friend and as I explained my intentions he looked at me bemused and asked if I'd fallen on my head recently! He informed me that the bottom had fallen out of the ski trails and advised that snow shoes would be better. I left him my route and itinerary and set off on Saturday morning from the car park at 0510 hrs with the cloudbase at 4,000ft and visibility 200 yards. I hoped to be back by early Monday morning allowing three days for an ascent which in summer normally takes eight hours. I planned a one day walk to my base cabin at Ptarmigan Lake, one day to the summit and one day to walk out.

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.

Even though the tracks had collapsed they were well marked with ski tape. Going was difficult and from the end of the tree-line it became worse. With a downhill stretch left to the cabin I reckoned on an hour. Three hours later, soaked to the skin I came to the lake and took a bearing for the cabin. Entry to the cabin was a feat in itself with the snow falling as fast as it could be cleared. Once inside with the stove going things looked better and I decided to go for the summit in the morning. After an apprehensive night the ascent commenced at 0600 hrs with visibility at 500m. After an hour, with the hut still in sight, skis were abandoned and snow shoes fitted. In these conditions the North face was out so the easier East ridge was chosen. The East ridge is very corried but with firmer snow at altitude and the wind beginning to clear it was possible. I had chewing gum and dark glasses and decided it was on (see Blues Brothers Video!). After hours of plodding I was at 9,200ft according to my altimeter and it started snowing again. At just under 10,000ft the snow had become a blizzard and I decided to 'hole it'.

After 20 minutes of frenzied work a reasonable snow hole was dug and I climbed into my sleeping bag. The weather did not improve and it soon became apparent that this was home for the night. I had good equipment and food and fuel for three more days; if a helicopter search had to be mounted later I had plenty of flares. However fear of an avalanche and of not waking again did not make sleep easy. After waking in the morning it was a relief to hear that the wind had died down. The cloud was still down and a decision had to be made whether to go on or opt out. Having coming so far it seemed a waste not to have one last attempt: the kit was packed and I set off for the peak. The summit was reached 40 mins later and was only noticeable by a rise in the altimeter to 10,050ft. The flags were unfurled and I attempted to take pictures of myself and the flags.

The descent was uneventful and was made so rapidly that I didn't stay in the base hut but went straight to the car park. The park ranger had an interesting expression on his face as I quickly booked in and drove off. Unfortunately the photographs of the peak did not come out.

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Bernard Barton-Ancliffe**
2IC	**Capt Mike Maxwell Royal Canadian Signals**
SSM	**WO2 Bob O'Hara**
FofS	**WO2 Ron Kirkwood**
YofS	**WO2 Dave Taylor**
SQMS	**SSgt Don Bruce**
MT SNCO	**Sgt Nick Churcher**

SQUADRON COMMAND TROOP

The exercise season for the year is over but it has not been without the odd incident. During Exercise *Third Stretch* **Capt Mike Maxwell** was informed that his wife, **Gail** had been rushed to BMH Hanover for the birth of their child.

Problem: How to travel 200 plus kms and arrive on time.

Answer: Ask Comd Comms BAOR, **Brig Cowan**, if you can have a lift in his Gazelle.

Brig Cowan was only too happy to oblige and not only did **Capt Maxwell** 'skive' off the exercise early (good family planning . . .) but arrived in time for the birth of his son.

On Exercise *Eternal Triangle* **Sig Colin Ramsden** reduced the number of German trees by six. He thought that since the OCs Rover had wings it should be able to fly . . . The OC was heard to say 'My flask was in that Rover'. There is no truth in the rumour that **FofS Ron Kirkwood** did his resettlement course in plumbing on this exercise. There is, however, truth in the rumour that the YofS, **Dave Taylor**, is forbidden to lead convoys anymore as MOD can no longer afford the petrol.

The SSM has not had an incident free season either, but his problems were in the barracks and not in the field. He made himself very popular with the Squadron wives's club by going to Hanover with all their coffee 'swindle' in the boot of his car. He has been forced into early retirement on the football field and is now the Regimental team's manager.

A 'First' has also been achieved in that the Squadron is the first front line Squadron to take their Squadron clerk into the field. **Sig Ron Dunn** still has not recovered from the experience.

HAWK TROOP

Over the past months we have said goodbye to **Cpl Geoff Guy** who has left to go on his TI and also **Cpl 'Lofty' Byrne** who has gone to HQ Squadron and a life of luxury. **Sig Mark Plackett** has left us for civvie street after doing his resettlement course in the Pig Farm. The Troop would like to congratulate **Cpl 'Shaky' Makin** who recently become a 'Pad' and we all hope that his wife, **Amanda**, will enjoy life with us in Verden.

STOP PRESS

It is with regret that we announce that **Sig Gaz Avery** has, again, been admitted to BMH Rinteln—Chin up lad and we hope to have you back with us soon.

SQUADRON HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We would like to welcome **Maj Bernard Barton-Ancliffe** his wife **Liz** and new Troop Commanders of Eagle and Hawk Tps, **Lts Martin Ramshaw** and **Frank Roberts**. We hope that they will enjoy life in the Regiment and especially within the Squadron.

We say farewell to **Capt Ian Condie** who has gone to be a REMF with 4 Sig Group and Lt **Mike Griffiths** who has left us for 30 Sig Regt. We would like to wish them both well in their new appointments.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Capt Mike Maxwell** and his wife **Gail** on the birth of their son, **Bryce. Sgt Graham Reith** and his wife **Moira** on the birth of their son **Gavin** and **LCpl Stuart Pett** and his wife **Elaine** on the birth of their daughter **Sian**.

The Squadron also congratulates **Lt Calvin Owen** on his promotion to Captain.

2 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Gus Boag**
2IC	**Capt Ian Cameron-Mowat**
SSM	**WO2 Jeff Ashwell**
OC P Tp	**Lt Rick Mahter**
OC R Tp	**Lt Steve Herstell**
SQMS	**SSgt Om Chhetri**
FofS	**SSgt Noddy Baugh**
YofS	**SSgt Frank McCubbin**

THE SHAW TROPHY—ANNUAL CONKER COMPETITION

The culmination of the sporting year was on 16 October 1986. Preparations for Ex *Eternal Triangle* ground to a halt as the competitors made ready for the great event. Outside interest was considerable, but strings were pulled to give the Divisional Commander **Maj Gen A. R. G. Mullens OBE** and the CO **Lt Col S. M. A. Lee** the opportunity to compete. As is known, it is absolutely vital to their future careers to do well in this competition. The MC **Lt Steve Herstell** suitably dressed in evening attire opened the proceedings with due ceremony and the competition was under way. For an hour competitors stood toe to toe fighting it out. Finally however two finalists emerged. **Lt Rick Mather** and **LCpl Andy Roberts** met in the grand final. Despite heroic efforts by his opponent **LCpl Roberts** proved to be a bit of a hard nut and became our new champion. The Squadron Commander **Maj Gus Boag** congratulated both finalists on a hard fought final and presented the champions with a wreath and the trophy to the winner.

The champion—LCpl Andy Roberts receives his trophy

EXERCISE *KELLY DIAMOND*

Moosbach in Bavaria was Papa Tp's base for their recent adventure training exercise. Transported in speed and style from Verden in a Chinook from 16 Sqn RAF Gutersloh the Troop enjoyed a week of canoeing, rock climbing and other outdoor pursuits.

A visit to Munich was enjoyed by all, the highlight being the OC's 'find the autobahn tours'—Thank you sir!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

As usual there are far too many arrivals and departures to mention each one by name. To all arrivals we say welcome and have a

successful and enjoyable tour. To those who have left or are about to depart thank you for your efforts and good luck for the future. There are, however, one or two key personalities we must mention. **Capt Bob Cousins** the Squadron 2IC and Div Recce Officer has finally left the Regiment after a short tour of 51 months. **Capt Cousins** who is posted to 1 Inf Bde at Tidworth is replaced by **Capt Ian Cameron-Mowat** who came from Belize. **Sgt Paul Wareham** departs to Leconfield and is replaced by **Sgt Pete Rixon**. **SSgt 'Twendy' Redman** is off on promotion to NI and is replaced by **SSgt John McAveety** who completes the Caledonian takeover of 2 Sqn.

SGT M. WRAY BEM

Warmest congratulations are offered to **Sgt Mick Wray** on his award of the British Empire Medal. **Sgt Wray** and his wife **Yvonne** attended the investiture ceremony at Bonn where he was presented with his medal by the British Ambassador.

3 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj D. Elson**
2IC	**Capt M. Wise**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) B. Britton**
OC Oscar Troop	**Lt S. Felton**
OC Line Troop	**2Lt A Beard**
OC November Troop	**SSgt K. Froggett**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) I. Hugill**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) R. Tate**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) P. McFarlane**
MT Sgt	**Sgt I. Adams RCT**

ANGLO GERMAN WEEKEND

The annual Anglo German weekend was held during September. The Squadrons participation was limited due to outside commitments although we ran a rifle range and gave first aid demonstrations during the Saturday afternoon. Congratulations to **Cpl** and **Mrs McNaughton** on winning the Star prize in the draw, a Nissan Micra.

BERLIN MARATHON

A team of Technicians from TM Troop **Sgt Nick Barlow, Cpls Steve Davis** and **Rick Cave** are running in this year's Berlin marathon. The marathon is being held at the end of September. Money they raise from sponsorship is being donated towards research into a cure for Multiple Sclerosis. The Squadron wishes them the best of luck in their effort.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Sgt Jo Marsh** on promotion from Corporal and **LCpl Shorts Dewar** on promotion from Signalman.

On the family side to **David** and **Jo Elson** on the birth of a daughter, **Ben** and **Beryl Britton** a son, **Bruce** and **Romy Lee** a daughter and **Chris** and **Tania Merritt** a daughter.

EXERCISE *DANISH QUADRANT*

CREW

Phase One

Skipper	**Cpl Baz Ennals**	**14 Sig Regt**
Mate	**SSgt Mick Tucker**	**1 Armd Div Sig Regt**
Crew	**Maj Hugh Bardell**	**7 Sig Regt**
	LCpl Steve Day	**7 Sig Regt**
	LCpl Ian Glover	**7 Sig Regt**

The actual exercise was split into two halves, the first crew leaving from BKYC Kiel and sailing via several ports to Copenhagen where the second crew would take over the boat and return to Kiel via a different route, they having arrived in Copenhagen by road.

The first arrived at Kiel at midday on 14 September and took over *Petasus*, the Corps yacht a Contessa 32, stowed the kit and rations and prepared the boat ready to put to sea the following day. Unfortunately the following day the resident skipper was taken ill and therefore we could not put to sea until a replacement was found, which was not until Tuesday morning so that meant a day tied up alongside at Kiel. It was not wasted and was spent instructing the two novices in the crew about the ins and outs of sailing a boat. 0700 hrs Tuesday morning our replacement skipper arrived and we set about our pre sailing tasks preparing the boat for sea. Soon we were clear of Kiel channel heading for Denmark. At 1800 hrs we decided that it would be too late to get to Svenbourg so we altered course and headed for Faarborg where we moored for the night at 1930 hrs after a good days sail.

Wednesday 17 another early start and by 0930 hrs everybody was ready for the days sail; we slipped Faaborg and headed out for Svenborg. Once at sea **Baz** decided that a spinnaker was a good idea so up it went and we idled along for a couple of hours, sun above the yard arm and smiles on our faces. After a humdinger of a lunch, consisting of pilchards and compo cheese on toast, disaster struck. The wind died on us so on went the engine killing the silence of the day but only an hour or so later up came the wind again so off went the

Crew L to R: Cpl Baz Ennals, LCpl Steve Day, Maj Hugh Bardell, LCpl Tony Knibbs, Sgt Dave McClean, SSgt Mick Tucker, LCpl Ian Glover, Sgt Bill Martin, SSgt Sammy Stevenson

iron genny and up went the No 1 genny. However it was not to be for the wind died again soon after and we had to resort to the engine again and we trundled off towards Rystop to dodge the ferries. After successfully dodging the eight or so ferries in and out of Rystop we headed towards our final destination Kertmunde and at 2145 hrs we moored alongside and sat down to our evening meal.

Thursday 18 we set sail from Kertmunde early, for a long 24 hours sail, necessary if we were to be in Copenhagen in time for the crew change. **SSgt Mick Tucker** and **LCpl Steve Day** took the first watch and as we moved out on to the open seas with the wind force 4 we made 7 knots, fair flying along after the slow progress of the previous days.

Once again the wind died and the engine had to be used for a couple of hours during the early evening but the wind picked up again to force 3 much to **Ian Glover's** dismay because during his watch he got a wave that definitely had his name on it, in fact it was written all over it. Humouir deficiency was the order of the night for the dog watch when the temperature plummeted but the skipper **Baz Ennals** came to the rescue with some much needed tea and toast. At 1500 hrs five weary sailors put into Helsinger and we finally found a berth and set about getting some shut eye before breakfast. After an excellent breakfast served up by our resident cordon bleu chef **Mick Tucker** we set sail for our final destination Copenhagen and fair sped along. Arriving after three hours we moored in Langaline harbour, showed and went to pay our respects to the city.

The relief crew arrived in Copenhagen at 0900 hrs after a long drive up from Herford and found the mooring. Saturday dawned and after a hearty breakfast of fresh rations courtesy of the SQMS we all went ashore to do some sightseeing and souvenir buying.

Sunday 21 was crew change-over day and after breakfast the old crew left for Herford and the new crew finally took control, the roll call now reads:

CREW

Phase Two

Skipper	**Cpl Baz Ennals**	**14 Sig Regt**
Mate	**SSgt Mick Tucker**	**1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt**
Crew	**SSgt (SQMS) Sammy Stevenson**	**7 Sig Regt**
	Sgt Dave McClean	**RA Signals**
	Sgt Bill Martin	**7 Sig Regt**
	LCpl Tony Knibbs	**7 Sig Regt**

' The day was spent under the instruction of the skipper showing the novices around the boat and teaching them something about sailing. Our departure from Copenhagen was to be delayed because two of the sails were torn and not due back from the sailmakers until late Monday so we did not slip Langaline until early Tuesday morning heading for Ballum on the island of Sams. After a fairly quiet day the wind picked up towards the evening much to the disgust of **Tony Knibbs**. It was during the evening that **Baz** has to spend a long time explaining to **Sammy Stevenson** that 'let's go about' does not mean bang your head against the mast and try and swop bunks and those blue bits under the bunks do have a use, something which is now appreciated by an enlightened **Sammy**. After following the bright lights all night and having had several close encounters with large ferries we ended up in Ballum in time for breakfast.

Having had a few hours rest several members of the crew decided to explore the busy metropolis of Ballum but it was discovered that if you walked slowly around the town twice it took only 10 minutes.

The day was therefore spent playing Trivial Pursuit and, being diplomatic, the skipper was finally allowed to win although it did cost him dearly as we left him to plan the route for the following day.

Thursday 25 we departed Ballum heading for Middlefart and due to problems starting the engine we slipped our moorings and in true text book style sailed out of the harbour. Once again inexperience resulted in the ensign being wrapped around the flagpole but perseverence paid off and the journey to Middlefart passed without too many difficulties.

Having spent a very pleasant night alongside, we prepared to set sail for Sonderborg, this time, however, we could not sail out and had to start the engine somehow. This was attempted by using a third battery and extra wiring but things did not go quite to plan. The wiring shorted out and burst into flames filling the boat with smoke and a disaster was averted only by the quick thinking of the skipper who grabbed a fire extinguisher and doused the flames covering the inside of the boat in white powder in the process. Several hours were then spent cleaning up the mess before attempting to start the engine again, this time successfully, and we finally left Middlefart heading via the Little Belt for Sonderborg. An interesting day's sail which included several close encounters with the bottom as the route involved passing through numerous straits but we made it. All we had to do now was to wait for the bridge to be raised at Sonderborg and find somewhere to park for the night.

Saturday 27. After our last run ashore all too soon we prepared to set sail for Kiel but as things turned out we were not going to sail very far because although we had lots of wind it was from the very direction in which we wanted to go, so it was on with the engine to head for home. A short detour to Kappeln to top up with fuel changed our luck because the wind shifted and we were able to hoist the sails and cut the engine. All too soon we could see Freddys light and it was not long before we were tied up alongside at Kiel.

Sunday was spent scrubbing down and handing the boat back before we all departed to our different units having enjoyed the time spent at sea and learnt a lot, having logged 447 miles and made seven different ports of call.

201 Sig Sqn (22 Armd Bde) BFPO 30

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj D. J. Wills**
2IC	**Capt S. J. Turnbull**
OCA	**2Lt M. G. Billingham**
OCB	**Lt H. M. Flint**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Boyle**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Sykes**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Dott**
SQMS	**SSgt Riley**

The 'fighting fit 201st' has continued military, physical and adventurous training since our last report. Thrown in for good measure too was Ex *Eternal Triangle* (or is it Torment?).

On a more interesting note there have been two adventurous training expeditions—Exercises *Tivoli Diamond* and *Volcano Diamond*. The former was a two week sailing expedition to Copenhagen, led by **SSgt Pete Smith** and **Sgt 'Gus' Murray**. **LCpl Alfie Kirkham, Sig Neil Morrison** and **Dvr 'Mad-Dog' Channing** nearly didn't make the RV with Petasus. **Dvr 'Mad-Dog' Channing** decided to show off his driving skills on three wheels, letting the fourth go on ahead to Copenhagen. However, all was saved and everyone enjoyed the sailing, especially going around the harbour in circles.

Ex *Volcano Diamond* is going on in Monserrat, West Indies even now. The arduous training includes a visit to recording studios on the island, trying the local brew and abseiling into a dormant volcano. The Island adventure was arranged by **Sgts Steve Jones** and **Rueben Lynch**. Applications for next year's jaunt are already being handed in.

Ex *Lonely Moose* was the Squadron Battle Camp, held in the Soltau Training Area. One week's training was done under **SSgts Clive Tepielow** and **Pete Stemmer** before the exercise began. It was rounded off by a section competition, won by **Cpl Dusty Miker's** section.

The second week began with a move to the area by helicopter. The platoons were to take on Herr Withelm Rilemanns 'terrorists'—funny how they all looked alike. Lots of lessons were learned, especially that everyone has to wade the river like it or not, all bridges look alike when you are attacking them and the enemy was indestructible!

Ex *Eternal Triangle* occupied nearly all of October, or so it seemed. This tested men and equipment to the full as we swept from East to West and back again. The Yeoman became airborne on day one and stayed up until endex, while the Foreman chased Wavell STE's from one headquarters to the next. A testing exercise indeed.

Finally, the Squadron says goodbye and good luck to **Sgt John Bennett** and **Ann, Sgt Steve Pallent** and **Susan, Cpl John Levins** and **Karen, Lt Stephen Croft** and **Sig Taff Cummings**. Hope you all enjoy life even without us.

Ex *Lonely Moose* 'I'm sure we hold our swords like this' the OC Sqn tells LCpl Taff Parry during a lull in the battle. Cfn Dicky Bird *(centre)* seems more interested in the pfennig he has spotted in the grass

207 Sig Sqn (7 Armd Bde)
BFPO 37

WHO'S WHO

OC	**Maj J. M. Shaw MBE**
2IC	**Capt A. J. Rock**
OC A	**2LT N. Coldrey**
OC B	**Lt J. P. King**
SSM	**WO2 J. S. Bailes**
YofS	**WO2 M. Drake**
SQMS	**SSgt S. Taylor**
FofS	**SSgt C. Sheppard**

SHQ—SUPPORT TROOP

Thank God for October, so we can go on exercise and have a rest! August/September being a maximum leave/training period also saw Pre Tels—Weapons-Vehicles, Ranges, Plug Ups, Pollution Inspections, visits by the PM **The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP** and the CO, **Lt Col S. M. A. Lee.** Here is a humorous pictorial of the fighting seventh training for 'war'.

Alpha Tp display determination

VOLLEYBALL

'A' Troop showed how it's done by winning the Inter-Troop Challenge. Narrowly winning the final against SHQ.

Liz Shaw congratulates the winners
Well done 'Ollie . . . Bob Churchward awaits his turn

WINDSURFING

We've actually had time to do some this year and achieved good results too:- With **Pte 'Smiler' Baker, Sgt Stan Jones, LCpl Dave Beach, Cpl 'Eckey' Exton, LCpl 'Nobby' Hall, Cpl 'Rubber' Plant** and **Dave Simpson** all achieving the Royal Yachting Association National Award—well done.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Football team now goes through the third round of the Army Minor Units Cup after a decisive 4—2 win over 62 Sqn RCT in Berlin.

MISSING LINK COMPETITION

The Squadron periodically hold a 'Link' award. The link is in fact a bulled up track link which is awarded, after a vote, to the member who has created the most humorous event during an exercise.

Before October, SHQ with the Yeoman, WO2 Mick Drake held the award with a censored nomination which had a lot to do with a time and motion study on **LCpl 'Pigpen' O'Neill**. Alpha Tp then managed to capture the award during Exercise *Third Stretch*, with a combined effort from Troop SSgt and OC by attempting to organise a trip to the Oktober Fest, after it had finished. However the glory was only short lived and Exercise *ET* saw **Lt Peter King** making a superhuman effort to capture the elusive link for Bravo Tp. He devoted his thoughts to considering the possibility of holding PTARMIGAN without the use of a SAS/MC. He stayed cool despite a bout of arson in the Troop and several attempts by his driver to kill him. However, in the end his dedicated Troop stayed with him, even escorting him to a briefing. All this and he still had time for a game of space invaders!

HELLOS

The Squadron would like to welcome the following new arrivals: **SSgt (FofS) Chris Sheppard, SSgt Bob Wright, Sgts Joe Marsh, Sgt Stan Jones ACC, Cpl Exton, LCpls Whitehead, Mair, Sig Sommerville, Davies, McGrail, Frayling, Cfn Henwood REME** and **Pte Barley RPC.**

SSM—Windsurfing again! BFG Championships

212 Sig Sqn (12 Armd Bde)
BFPO 36

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Jon Henderson**
2IC	**Capt Sandy Gallie**
OC P	**2Lt Ian Hunter**
OC O	**Lt Richard Giles**
SSM	**WO2 Bob Brown**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Hackett**
YofS	**WO2 Dave Wright**
FofS	**SSgt Pete Grist**

COMSTAR AWARD

Report by WO2 Dave Wright

Following a very successful week as the *first* Brigade to use the recently opened Brigade and Battle Group Tactical Trainer BAOR, the Squadron recovered to Osnabruck to celebrate yet another first, the award of a Bronze COMSTAR to Osnabruck Commcen. The Comstar, (the Commendation for Signals Transmitted Accurately and Rapidly) is awarded by the Controller of the Defence Communications Network (CDCN) to the most professional Commcen within the Global DCN organisation. It came to pass on Friday 12 September that the Comd 12 Armd Bde, **Brig J. J. G. Mackenzie OBE** presented the first BAOR COMSTAR award for 1986 to **WCpl Mary Ramshaw**, NCO IC Commcen Osnabruck. The assembled throng of Squadron personnel and invited guests from the Osnabruck Garrison, spurred by the occasion, or maybe the free beer, enthusiastically demonstrated their appreciation of yet another first for 12 Brigade.

NATO SCHUTZENTAG

Report by SSgt (SQMS) Hackett

The NATO shooting competition takes place on the final day of the Osnabruck Stadt Schutzenfest and this year a total of 23 teams entered the competition coming from the NATO forces stationed in and around the Osnabruck area. These included teams from the British, American and Dutch armies and also the Bundeswehr and Luftwaffe.

The 'shoot' is divided into three disciplines, these being: Air rifle—10m, .22 Three position (prone, kneeling, standing—supported)—50m, Standing unsupported—50m.

The Squadron was represented by **Sgt (now SSgt) Ian Knight, SSgt (SQMS) Graham Hackett, LCpls Gus Hart, Andy Moore RAOC**, and **Sig 'Socket' Miles.**

Due to exercise commitments the team was restricted in the number of training sessions, however with some expert advice and tips from coach and mentor **Sgt Ian Knight**, the team achieved some very creditable results against some strong opposition, especially from the Bundeswehr. The results were: fourth place—AirRifle, fourth place—.22 Standing unsupported, first place—.22 Three position, second place overall.

The day's competition was completed by members of all the teams shooting 'The Eagle' to determine who would be crowned NATO Schutzenkonig 1986/87, the honour this year going to the Bundeswehr.

This weekend also brought to an end a very busy (but very enjoyable) year of 'socialising' for two members of the Squadron **SSM (now RSM) Glen Harwood**—the outgoing NATO Schutzenkonig 85/86, and **SSgt (SQMS) Graham Hackett**—the outgoing Damen Adjutant.

TELS WKSPS

Report by SSgt (FofS) Pete Grist

The summer sporting season as organised by the Wksps got off to an unusual start with a session involving such goodies as sack and egg and spoon races (courtesy of **Cpl Saunders.**) This was followed later on with all in water polo with **Sgt 'Waterwings' Holden** and culminated in 'The Great Raft Race' with **FofS 'Professor Heinz' Grist**. This event (possibly because it featured a free barbecue) enjoyed the greatest popularity with wives and families, to the extent that they even entered a team led by **Mrs Jan 'Jolly Hockeysticks' Wright**, and were only a little put off to find that the raft they were given, only needed assembling at the lake side.

As manpower limited the Wksps to running the event, the field was open and a fine win was recorded by SHQ in a record time of 15 minutes despite the minor inconvenience of a hurricane that would not respond when ordered to go away. The photograph shows the victorious SHQ team led by the newly arrived **SSM 'I'm not getting**

The wives' raft

The victorious SHQ team

wet' Brown, being hotly pursued by the MT/LAD team who were, eventually, runners (or paddlers) up.

'Goodbyes' will be drunk later this month to **Cpl Jeff** (the chod) and **Joy Spavins** and their family and to **Cpl Andy 'I'm getting married in the morning' Saunders** before they depart to sunny Catterick for T1 and Det Comd courses. Their replacements (if ever nominated) and newly arrived **Sig Ali 'hole in one' Strachan** have a lot of catching up to do!

GOLF

On Friday 12 September, the Osnabruck Garrison Golf Society held its annual championships at the Jeggen Golf Club, in nearby Belm. During the competition, **SSgt Dave Matthews** scored a net 69 which won him the Jackpot Shield as the medal winner and also a two stroke cut in his handicap—Congratulations from the Squadron!

SAILING

OSNABRUCK GARRISON INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM SAILING REGATTA

Report by LCpl Tony Ager

The Regatta took place at the Dumersee Sailing Club and for the first time in many years the Squadron entered three boats. These were helmed by **Lt Richard Giles** (Team Captain), **LCpls Tony Ager** and **Gus Hart**. The crews were **LCpl Steve 'Spock' Kirk, Sig Grant 'Ginge' Duncan** and **Steven 'Spaceman' Byron**. As the first race got underway quite a few boats found it hard to steer in a straight line as a German Sailing Club was racing across our course! A good days sailing was had by all and the results proved quite encouraging for an inexperienced team.

The teams assembled the following day for yet another battle on the open seas, the competition was strong and as the day wore on our team got better and better, but we didn't quite win! In the last race, **Lt 'where's my wind-surfer' Giles** and **LCpl 'wanta coffee Sir!' Kirk** were unfortunate enough to have snapped a tiller which proved to be a bad omen for the rest of the team!

MORE SAILING

BUNDESWEHR RUBBER DINGHY REGATTA CHAMPIONS

Report by Lt Richard Giles

One cold wet August Saturday morning, 11 intrepid members of the Squadron climbed into two Landrovers and drove in search of the Hollager Schleuse, where the Bundeswehr Reserve were holding their annual rubber assault boat race. The Squadron entered two teams, Oscar Tp team consisted of **Lt Richard Giles, LCpl 'Spock' Kirk, Sig**

'Ashey' Ashcroft, Craig Dowdle, 'Don't hit me' Dean, Fletcher, Nick Kershaw; the Misfits Team from HQ and Papa Tp consisted of Sig **'Ginge' Duncan, Cpl Phil King, Sig 'Dougee' Dougan** and **(OB) O'Brien**.

The competition consisted of two timed races against two other teams, with a 250m paddle up to a buoy, round it and back to the start line. The Oscar Tp team came second in their first race, but weren't ready to give up. The Misfits came third in their first race and gained a comfortable first in their second race, so all was left up to Oscar Tp now. After a team talk and a tactical change to their seating positions Oscar Tp entered their final race and with a magnificent performance they won the race convincingly and moved into first overall position. The competitors then moved to the local Rasthaus for the prize giving before returning to the Squadron to celebrate. The results were Oscar Tp—winners and Misfits—fourth place.

AND YET MORE SAILING
R SIGNALS (GERMANY) MINOR UNITS DINGHY SAILING CHAMPIONS
Report by Lt Richard Giles

The Royal Signals Yacht Club (Germany) Dinghy Regatta was held at the Mohnesee YC during the beginning of September. The Squadron with its recently trained sailing team was poised to do battle for the Minor Unit Trophy, the Rhino Cup. The team consisted of **Lt Richard Giles** (what again! surprise surprise) and **LCpl 'Spock' Kirk** in one boat and **LCpl Dave Hart** and **Sig 'Spaceman Byrom** in the other. The competition was a closely fought battle between 212 Sig Sqn (12 Armd Bde) and 206 Sig Sqn (6 Airmob Bde). In the final race 206 were ahead on points, but 212 managed to take first and second position as they crossed the finishing line in the last race. This took them into first overall position and gained them the title of Minor Unit Sailing Champions.

LCpls Hart and **Tony Ager** also entered the individual championships finishing 15th and 17th respectively. **LCpl Ager** was heard to say after the race that had his boat not capsized and sunk in the last race, he could have won! He claims he was in fourth place at the time, whether that was fourth from the front or fourth from the last is uncertain! An enjoyable three days with yet more silver won by the water sports contingent for the Squadron.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

WO2 (now WO1) (SSM) Glen Harwood was dined out of the Squadron with a 'This is Your Life' skit arranged by the YofS together with a strippogram. We've yet to hear which was the more entertaining—one tested the memory and the other the willpower! The Squadron would like to take this opportunity of wishing **Glen** and **Jenny** all the best for their new posting with 4 ADSR and thank them for all their hard work and support within the Squadron, not to mention being NATO Schutzenking and the Brewery trips!—All the best.

Sgt (now SSgt) Ian Knight, our Training SNCO also left us around the same time to join 13 Sig Regt, on promotion, and he will be missed by the Editor for his many amusing and cutting articles under the pseudonym 'The Pen'. In addition we would like to thank him for encouraging the shooting within the Squadron, especially the Wives' team, and we wish both **Ian** and **Gill** all the best for the future. **Sgt (now SSgt) Driver** has also left us on promotion to 3 ADSR, we wish him good fortune with his new guardroom. We say farewell to **John** and **Shirley Somerville**, again on promotion, to 7 Sig Regt, and to the following: **Cpl Brooks, Sgt Hearn, LCpl McDermott, Sig Nattrass, Sgt Petty, Pte Baguley, Sgt Sutherland** and **Cpl Williams**. The Squadron wish them all and their families best wishes in their new units and in civilian life.

We welcome the new SSM, **WO2 Brown** and his wife **Carol, together with Sgts Leigh, Spence, Suddaby, LCpls Ferrer, Hunt** (congratulations on the birth of your son), **Sig Fletcher, Murdy, O'Brien, Preece, Pte Sparrow, Sgt Docherty, Cfn Griffiths, LCpl Barclay, Sig Strachan, Thompson** and **Dougan** to the Squadron and hope that they all enjoy their tour here in Osnabruck. We also welcome back **Sgt Holden** who, in reality, never left us!

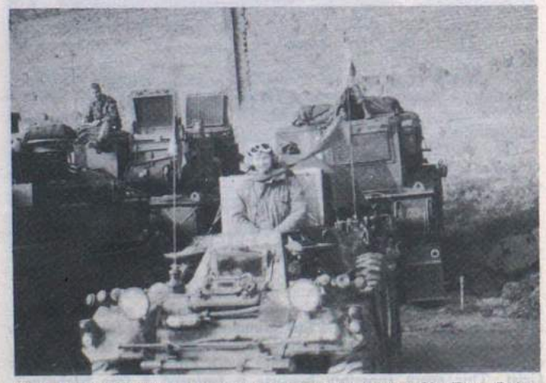
AND FINALLY

A SECOND IN COMMAND'S LAMENT
(THE WEEK THAT WAS)
Report by Capt Sandy Gallie

It never happens to you except all at once—Murphy's law! It all happened as a result of one 'O' Group when the FofS with a pseudo Etonian accent, just for the occasion, said 'I say chaps won't it be biffo if swot **Gallie** got jolly well jiffed with that old clutter-bucket of a ferret what!'. 'Oh ya ya' said the all aspiring hooray Henries in unison. So it came to pass on Ex *Highland Malt 3*, whilst driving this dinosaur of technology from the industrial revolution, that in the middle of the night the 'tardis' (recce officers always suffer from time warps, sixth generation reincarnation and having arguments with nasty slimy monsters, as this beast was affectionately known), decided to booster eject its rear wheel whilst at galatic mark two speed on the Autobahn. Suffice it to say that driver **Sig Tom Baker** (hence the tardis) said 'oh crickee, Sir, landing gear on the starboard side has just taken a direct hit, I'm making an emergency landing now!' As we lurched over to the hard shoulder his commander tried frantically to extract himself from the radio cables at the bottom of the vehicle.

Next morning at sparrow **Sig Tom Baker** announced that the contents of the tardis (namely all our personal kit) had joined the hedgehog sandwich brigade; Sir proceeded to sulk. When was the last time you spent an exercise with no kit? Undeterred, I proceeded and thwarted an assassination attempt by the OC's driver in the middle of the night, whilst doing Egyptian PT. Fortunately these time Lords have seven lives, this one by now had a very nervous twitch. Endex was decided; back in the police box and set the remote flight controls for home on to the Autobahn—yup you guessed it, another dinosaur problem—the rear turbo booster(tyre) was on fire this time!

Re-entering the earth's atmosphere and materialising outside my quarter, there, waiting for me, was a red cap, no, not an overdue mess bill, the quarter had been burgled—oh that was the week that was; it's enough to make you want to drink Barbican Beer!



Capt Sandy Gallie commanding his tardis whilst Sig Tom Baker works inside with his sonic screwdriver

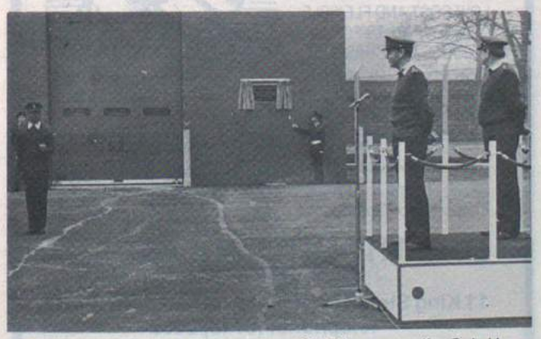
2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

VISIT OF COMD COMMS 1 (BR) CORPS

On 17 October 1986, Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig S. Cowan OBE**, visited the Regiment at Imphal Barracks, York. Following a very entertaining guest night in the Officers' Mess the previous evening, the Brigadier toured the various departments meeting many old friends and bringing back fond memories of his time in command. The Brigadier then addressed the Regiment on the 'way forward with PTARMIGAN' before opening our new PTARMIGAN garages. The garages which were built in record time, are now fully operational and are being well used.

The visit concluded with a light buffet lunch in the Sergeants' Mess.

'Do you remember that awful exercise in Feb 82 when the radio relay wagon got bogged in?' Comd Comms relives old times with WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison!



'The PTARMIGAN garages are officially opened'. Cpl Harry Gallagher pulls the cord as the RSM, WO1 (RSM) Tod O'Brien prays that the curtain will open. (He'd been practising it since 6 o'clock that morning). The CO glances across, confident that all will be well

The CO, Lt Col Hugh Elford, introduces Capt Robin Clapp to Comd Comms. SSgt John Armstrong awaits his turn—turnout 'excellent', as always!

49 INF/BDE SIG TP
LANYARD TROPHY 86
Team
Sgt Paul Edwards
LCpl Vince Key
LCpl Bob Mackie
LCpl Gaz Steele
LCpl Bri Wellard
Sig Carl Bailey
Sig Stu Watson

At 0645 hrs on 11 October 1986 Okehampton Camp, on the edge of Dartmoor training area it was 49 Bde's time to 'weigh' in. After a lot of jokes and laughter, off went a thunder-flash, signalling the start of the competition. Laughter turned to mumbling as we started to climb the first of what turned out to be one of many steep hills. **LCpl Vince Key** was already in a little pain, as his knee began to swell, due to a slight knock he received. On went the team, through the cold mist and over the bumpy ground, but that did not dampen the high spirits. Until **Sgt Paul 'The Bergen with legs' Edwards** decided to save a little time by going straight up and over the hill. So, **'Pathfinder' Cpl Bob Mackie**, eager to lead, proceeded to walk straight into a bog up to his knees. At Checkpoint 15, **Sig Carl Bailey** thinking morale was beginning to drop, decided to do something about it. He tripped over every 100 yds or so, this brought a few strained smiles, but he soon got tired of that.

Checkpoint 20, **LCpl Bri Wellard** was still eating, **LCpl Gaz Steel** sat wondering what he was doing on Dartmoor on a Saturday. Everybody was getting tired and bregens were hurting, but somehow **Sig Stu Watson** went on smiling. Four checkpoints and as many hours later we arrived back in Okehampton Camp, relieved but all very pleased that we went around and finished as a team in 10th position, carrying on average of 40lb each over approximately 40 miles of tough terrain. Well done, Lads!

EXERCISE *SOUTHERN COMFORT*
Report by 2Lt Birleson

Ex *Southern Comfort* was a Fox Tp adventure training exercise at Penhale Camp, Newquay.

The activities included parascending, windsurfing, horse riding, canoeing, hill walking, map reading (including a river crossing, compliments of **Cpl Garbett**'s navigational technique) and an initiative exercise. The Troop worked hard at the various activities revealing many hidden talents.

The horse riding proved to be an entertaining activity for Fox Tp (otherwise known as Sorehide Tp). **Cpl Rollinson, LCpl Vickers** and **Sig Henry** mastered the premature dismount technique, commonly known as the 'fall'.

Cpl Evans and team won the initiative exercise which involved following directional clues and finding the answers to cryptic questions, thus revealing the names of pubs where further clues were located.

The parascending proved exciting and those who attended the introductory course are keen to follow up the sport next summer (PRI beware).

The hero of the exercise was **SSgt 'Gums' Povey ACC** 'windsurfer extraordinaire' who actually rescued the Life Guard.

5 UDR were sharing the facilities of the camp with us, so we challenged them to a game of football. **SSgt 'Daddy' Jevons** played his usual 'Nobby Stiles' game and **Cpl 'Spare' Robson** missed the barn door from two paces on every occasion possible. The result in the end was Bobby's Bandits two, 5 UDR two. **Cpl 'Ches' Cheslett** has been offered a trial with Doncaster Rovers since that game.

The exercise was rounded off with a farewell 'Fox' beach party and barbecue which resulted in **SSgt Dennis Jevons** being buried up to his neck in sand.

Penhale Camp is an ideal location for an adventure training exericse. A good time was had by all and everyone now realises why John Wayne has an unusual walk.

49 INF BDE SIG TP, HADRIANS WALL—SPONSORED RUN

On Wednesday 12 November, 24 members of the Troop took part in a sponsored run in aid of Cancer Research along the length of Hadrians Wall, a total distance of 110km.

The run was done in relays in pairs for a distance of 10km each from Bowness on Solway to Denton in Newcastle.

SSgt Larry Little and **Cpl Keith Milnes** were selected as the lucky pair to start the first leg at 0600 hrs. This turned out to be the hardest of the 11 legs as told by **SSgt Little**—'It was dark, very hilly, had a blind bend on a bridge with a hill, the road was liable to tidal flooding, had two cattle grids and a dead sheep to negotiate.'

When it came to **WO2 (SSM) Steve Harrison** and **SSgt Dave Cloake**'s leg, **SSM Harrison** requested a safety rope before attempting the 'steepest hill anyone had ever seen'. Apparently there was only one hill on this leg and it lasted for 10km?

Some good times were recorded and the fastest 10km leg was done in 40 min 12 secs by **Cpl Sean Wratten** and **LCpl Dougie Tait**.

Thanks go to **LCpl Rob Harvey** for organising the run which will raise £1,000 for Cancer Research.

49 Inf Bde Sig Tp's Team for the Hadrians Wall Sponsored Run
Sig Randall, Sgt Parker, Sig Watson, LCpls Mackie, Elliott, Sig Beattie, Cpl Wratten, Sig Cowens, LCpl Richardson, Cpl Milnes, SSgt Little, WO2 (SSM) Harrison

BOXING NOTES

This year's Inter-Squadron Novices' Boxing competition Prelims and Finals took place on Friday 3 and Wednesday 8 October respectively.

The preliminary bout was a Light Middleweight bout between **LCpl Sloan** of 1 Sqn and **Sig Milne** of 2 Sqn. It was a hard fought contest which went the distance of three rounds. **Sloan** was the eventual winner but **Milne** had put up such a gutsy performance that he was in the running for the best loser award.

The finals started with two walkovers for **Cpl Thomas** of 2 Sqn at Bantamweight and **Sig Bailey** of 1 Sqn at Featherweight.

The Light Welterweight division was contested between **Sig Maddocks** of 1 Sqn and **Sig Hancock** of 2 Sqn. **Maddocks** proved to be too strong for **Hancock** and the referee stopped the contest in the first round. The next bout was a Light Middleweight bout between **LCpl Sloan** of 1 Sqn and **LCpl Lindo** of HQ Sqn. It appears that **Sloan** has a habit of producing best losers and this, the best bout of the evening, was an exceptional bout. Both boxers displayed courage and skill in a contest which contained all the attributes of a top class bout, jabbing, good defence, toe to toe punching, non-stop action from start to finish. Towards the end of the bout **Lindo** started to run out of steam a litle and **Sloan** was the winner.

The Middleweights had a hard act to follow but **Sig Collin** of 1 Sqn and **Pte Collins** of HQ Sqn both fought well with **Pte Collins** being the eventual winner. The Light Heavy bout was a walkover to **LCpl Key** of 1 Sqn.

The last bout of the evening was a Welterweight bout between **Sig Warburton** of 1 Sqn and **LCpl Neilson** of 2 Sqn. It was one of those bouts which gives judges nightmares. Very close from start to finish with both boxers giving their all. **Neilson** took the verdict on a majority decision. Squadron team points were as follows:

1st with 17 points	1 Sqn
2nd with 8½ points	2 Sqn
3rd with 4½ points	HQ Sqn

Best Loser award was presented to **LCpl Lindo** of HQ Sqn.

The Regiment can now look forward to boxing in the NEDIST Championships against either 38 Engr Regt or 27 Fd Regt RA in the New Year.

The winning team:
Left to Right: Sig Bailey, Sig Hutchings (trainer), LCpl Sloan, Sig Maddocks, Sig Collin, LCpl Key

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210 Sig Sqn (24 Inf Bde) Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paddy Crowley**
2IC	**Capt David Burden**
AO	**Lt Huw Wareham**
OC O Tp	**2Lt Andy Duncan**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Andy Fletcher**
OC PQS2	**Lt Garry Mason**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Pawlak**
YofS	**WO2 Mick Taylor**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Campbell**
CC	**SSgt John O'Donnell**

YOU SAY HELLO . . .

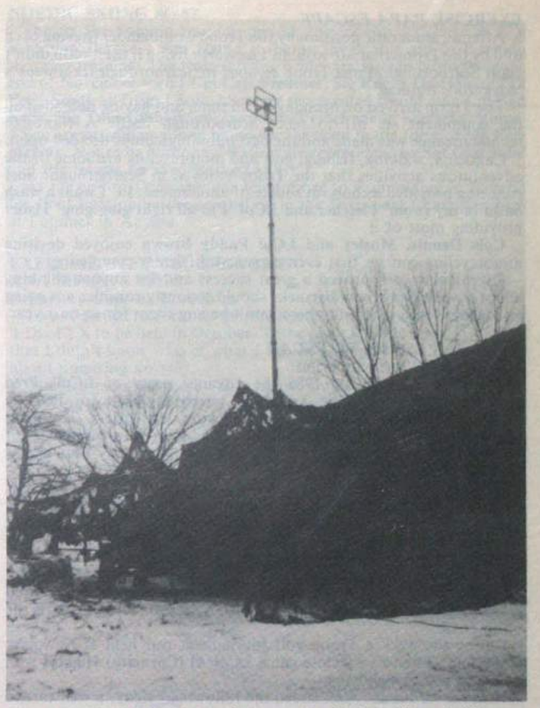
This month we say farewell to **Maj Ray Briant**, who has left us for the delights of York. **Ray** will be sorely missed by everyone in the Squadron, and his expertise in all things military has been a great help during the past year. Less well known are his 'talents' for painting and decorating and PRI profiteering, areas in which he truly left his mark on the Squadron and the Barracks (PS. Anybody want DPM gloves? . . .). On Friday 7 November 1986 the Squadron Officers and SNCO's dined out the Brigade Recce Officer, the Training Wing Sergeant, the Unit Fire Officer, and the Unit Canoe Leader, all these appointments being held by **Sgt Mick Rees**! He has left us to spend his last six months in his native Wales. Watch out E Tp 244 Sig Sqn, he will be after all your jobs'. We wish **Sgt Mick Rees** and his wife **Thelma** a happy time with E Troop and a pleasant transition to civilian life.

Everybody in the Squadron has been left feeling significantly more ancient by the arrival of the latest fresh faced Signalmen. We extend a warm welcome to **Sig Bob Armstrong, Tony Hartley, Brian Hyde, Glenn King** and **George Walton**. The rumour that **Lt Garry Mason** totally failed to recognise his Troop on his return from Germany is of course perfectly true.

AUTUMN SEASON

Once everybody got back from leave we were left with a potentially peaceful period as we waited for 110 series Landrovers and PTARMIGAN. Too good to last of course. The OC's answer was to send two Troops away on 'Autumn Camps', OSCAR going to Penhale and Papa to Scarborough. Unfortunately **Sgt Mick Rees** also had a solution to the problem, which was to send lots of people off on courses. The result was **SSM Mick Pawlak** left wondering why nobody turned up for PT.

The Brigade has been practising its airportable role again. Catterick is now littered with 110 landrover wing mirrors



An atmospheric shot to remind everybody that winter is 'icumen in', at least in Catterick

INTER TROOP ORIENTEERING

The Inter Troop Orienteering Competition took place on Friday 26 September 1986. The course was approximately six miles long and across Langdale Moor behind 8 Sig Regt.

The DS were up bright and early to set up the tents and the inevitable finish funnel. The start and finish tent went up in record time although the finish tent ended up inside out. We must thank the Q Staff for providing a 12 × 12 frame with an 18 × 12 canopy.

The first runner went away at 0828 precisely, all watches being synchronised against the G & D Rolex belonging to **Sgt Taff Davies** our LAD Rep.

The runners were sent off on one of two courses, odd or even, at two minute intervals.

The bogey time was set at 90 minutes but we expected runners back within the hour.

The man of the day was **LCpl Ian Church** of O Tp with a time of 53 mins 7 secs. In second place was **Cpl Colin Griffiths** of HQ Tp with a time of 1 hr 1 min 4 secs closely followed in third place by **Capt David Burden** HQ Tp with a time of 1 hr 1 min 26 secs.

We almost sent a search party for **Sig 'Fitz' Fitzgerald** P Tp who eventually put in an appearance after 1 hr 58 mins. We won't mention **Sig Breeds** (O Tp) time but all that was left when he returned was a piece of white mine tape on the floor and a table with **Sgt Lance Gardiner** in attendance.

The overall Troop placings were as follows. In third place with an average position 26.3 was Oscar Tp, second with 25.8 was Papa Tp. But in first place with 16.8 was HQ Tp. This result was mainly due to HQ Tp having six runners in the top 10 places.

SUPER TROOP COMPETITION

The Inter Troop Orienteering event proved a fitting climax to the 1986 Super Troop competition. The three Troops had been dead level before the orienteering, and so placings in that competition would decide the winner; therefore HQ Tp were the clear winners and claimed the Super Troop Trohpy for 1986. Final scores were HQ Tp 27 points, Oscar Tp 25 points and Papa Tp 26 points. The competition has been the source of much enthusiasm, fun and effort during the course of the year, with almost all members of the Squadron representing their Troop at some point. We now look forward to even more successful competition in 1987.

EXERCISE *PAPA ESCAPE*

After an autocratic decision by the Troop Commander (having been told by the Troop that life wouldn't be worth living if the Troop didn't go to Scarborough) Papa Troop escaped to Scarborough for a week's 'adventure training'.

The Troop arrived on Monday lunch time; and having unloaded all the equipment set off to recce Scarborough itself. A thorough reconnaissance was made and the best pubs/nightclubs decided upon.

Canoeing, walking, fishing, golf and motorcycling are some of the adventurous activities that the Troop enjoyed in Scarborough. Surf canoeing provided a constant source of amusement, **Lt 'I want a wash basin in my room' Fletcher** and **LCpl 'I'm all right glug glug' Fisher** providing most of it.

Cpls Dennis, Mosley and **LCpl Paddy Brown** enjoyed devising motorcycling courses that even they had difficulty completing.

Overall the week proved a great success and for anyone thinking about a week away from barracks should seriously consider not going to Scarborough; otherwise there won't be any room for us next year.

EXERCISE *ESCAPING OSCAR*

An harassed lineman writes:

On Friday 3 October 1986 the advance party of **LCpls Fred Kirkpatrick** and **Ian (The Toucan) Church** departed for Penhale Camp in Cornwall, arriving just in time for last orders. The main party arrived on the Sunday and were greed with a warming meal of braised steak and tatties. After the meal **Lt Gary Roy (not of the Rovers) Mason** delivered his brief for the camp.

A game of football was arranged by the OC against the UDR Company also staying at Penhale. However nobody else knew anything about it so the team were dragged out of the local watering hole, and won a memorable match 4—1. By a strange coincidence both teams had the same strip.

The next day a few of the boys tried windsurfing without wetsuits. Needless to say they found the water a bit chilly, so they retired gracefully to the Troop HQ (The Treguth Arms) to revive the parts the water froze.

During the week a Troop golf tournament was held at Newquay Golf Club. After a very close game **LCpl Al (Cornetto) Higgins** won by about a dozen shots.

Alas the 'arduous' week ended the following Friday, a well earned and deserved break.

EXERCISE *BATON ROUGE*

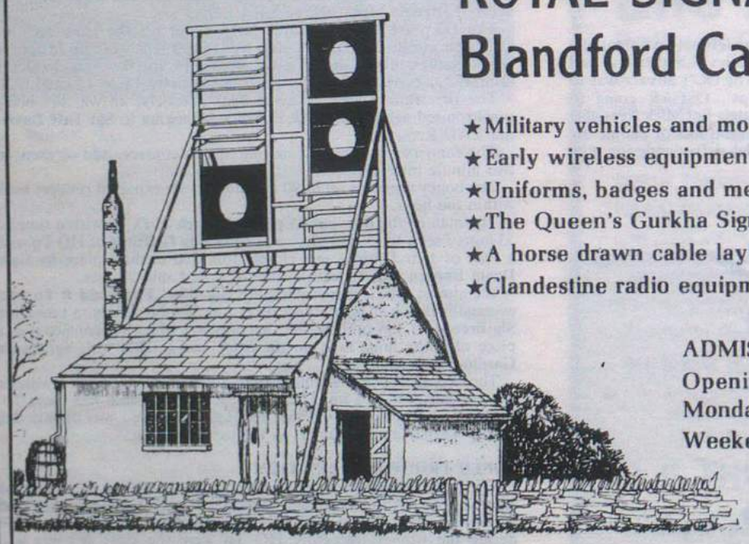
One dark and dreary morning 20 young and intrepid rioteers left 210 Sig Sqn for a long, dangerous journey to Okehampton Training Camp. These men were hand picked by **Capt (I wear cords) Burden** and led by **Sgt Steve Beverley** to be the civilian population element on Ex *Baton Rouge*, which involved playing the part of harassed civilians against the security forces, which happened to be young (Ruperts) officers.

We arrived on Tuesday night and by Wednesday were right in the thick of things, apart from **LCpl 'Jaws' Smith** who preferred to give it a miss and stay in bed. **LCpl Chops Church, Cpl 'Big Ears' Chapman** and **Sig 'Not so thin' Kenny** were our main hit squad on our first day. By the second day **Cpl Al Holyoak** and **Cpl 'not so fat' Griffiths** took over and showed great enthusiasm in their role, probably due to the fact that they rarely leave Tech Workshops.

Friday was the penultimate riot, and on that day **Sig (Son of Hercules) Whitehouse** and **Sig Geordie Fuller** realised their true ambition in life. They threw so many tyres and potatoes at the officers that by the end they looked like Garth.

In the afternoon we packed our bags and headed for Catterick, and returned to being mild mannered squaddies.

September saw some intensive range work for the Squadron. The lads chow-down between shoots. (OK, so it's Cornwall . . . .)



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3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
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VISIT BY SOinC

On Monday 17 November, the Regiment welcomed the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** on a visit to the unit.

After being met by the CO and RSM, the SOinC was invited to inspect the Barrack Guard. As part of the ceremony, the SOinC presented LS and GC medals to **SSgt Gaffney, Sgts Lambird, Pilcher** and **Webb** and **Cpl Gilmartin**. There followed refreshments with the LS and GC recipients and their wives during which time the SOinC signed the visitor's book.

The CO, 2IC and SO2 Comms then adjourned to the CO's office for a brief discussion on the communications aspects of the Regiment. The rest of the afternoon was taken up with visiting 2 and 3 Sqns and elements of 206 (6 AM Bde) Sig Sqn who had moved up from Salamanca Barracks to use the miniature range.

2 Sqn were embarking on a session of Battle PT and 3 Sqn were undergoing military training which included some very realistic casualty simulation in first aid, during which **Sig Carpenter's** acting dispelled doubts that he might not be a real casualty.

Lt Peter Smith and **2Lt Colin Hinsley** presented the Nordic and Downhill ski teams respectively and **Cpl Granger** introduced the Regimental Boxing team.

The SOinC finished the visit by joining the Regimental officers, Warrant Officers and their wives for tea.

Sgt Dennis Rawson plays 'Jeeves' whilst the Adjutant, Capt John Hall delivers the citations to *(L to R)* SSgt Mick Gaffney, Sgts Ray Webb, Kipper Pilcher, Mick Lambird and Cpl Brian Gilmartin. LCpl Steve Williams hold the Regimental Guidon and LCpl John Driver hides his trumpet

The CO escorts the SOinC out of RHQ. The Adjutant wonders if the RSM has touched a nerve

NORDIC SKIING 86/87

During the autumn training period, the indoor .22 range at San Sebastian Barracks was found to be an invaluable aid to biathlon shooting training. The team left for winter training in Norway at the end of November with **LCpl Carl Bremner, Sig Rocky Hudson** and **Lt Peter Smith** all from 1 Sqn. 2 Sqn are represented by old man **Cpl Ned Kelly, Sig Tom Gibbins** and **'you won't catch me in barracks' Purce**. 3 Sqn are providing young blood for the team in the form of **Sig Pete McNay**. Not to be outdone, HQ Sqn are represented by **Sgt Carpanini** and **Pte 'meals on skis' Burke (ACC)**.

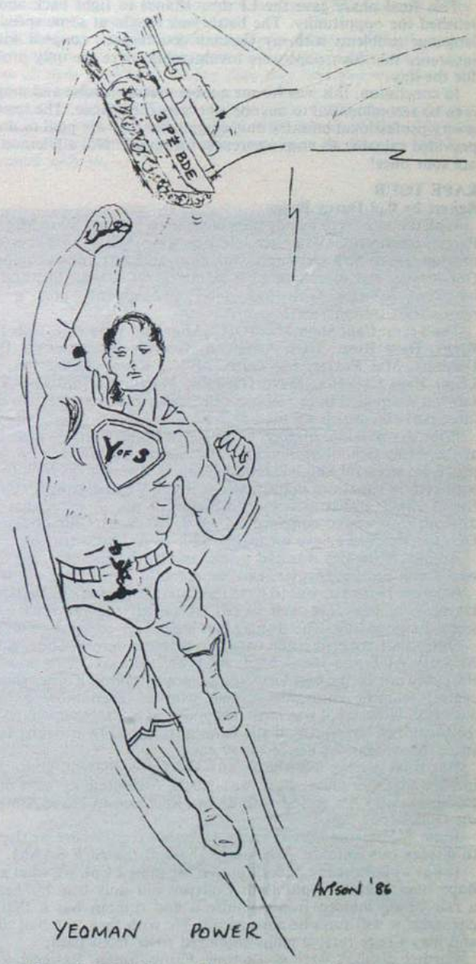
At the end of December the team move to Ruhpolding in Bavaria for final training before competing in the Divisional Championships at Fulpmes in Austria.

EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE*
AN UMPIRE'S VIEW
Report by Capt B. P. Avison

I was detailed to form an umpire team for Ex *Eternal Triangle*, the 1 Div FTX to be held in October. To be quite honest, notwithstanding that I didn't know who or what I was to umpire, I didn't have a clue about umpiring anyway.

The bad news came only days before I was to depart; B Coy, 2 LI. Worrying thoughts of extremely fast marching, digging holes and dim memories of PQS 1 tactics only heightened my anxieties.

My crew for the exercise, **Cpl Ray Waipouri, RNZ Signals** (over on *Long Look*) and **LCpl Steve Bretherton** were equally dismayed when



I told them to pack plenty of digging implements, bashas and hexamine stoves.

We arrived on the exercise early, to complete an 'Umpire Exercise', designed to tell us what to do. It didn't help much, and it wasn't until later when I met up with the Coy Comd, that our fears were dispelled, and we realised that we were to be allowed to keep our beloved transport!

Having attended an excellent BG orders, we joined up with B Coy, who were dug in as part of the 2 LI defensive plan. The 2 LI were, at this stage, occupying the right forward position of the 6 Bde area.

The next few days became the most informative and useful tactics training, at both Coy and BG level, and would have been extremely useful just prior to a PQS 1 exam! I was allowed to 'wander' round the position and was given detailed briefings by the Coy and Troop Comds on the siting, and reasons for such siting, of trenches, GPMG (SF), MAW, Mors, MFCs and Milan posts, as well as the overall plan.

Following two days of preparing the position, elements of 2 LI were flown to just behind the FEBA to a Counter Penetration (Cpen) position. They spent six hours preparing defensive positions, before being withdrawn to their original location without making contact. They were thwarted again later in the week, when the main Orange thrust totally bypassed their main defensive position, and headed through 1 Gordons area. For the final phase 6 Bde became Orange forces, and were moved to a second Cpen position, ready to counter 3 Panzer Bde's counter offensive. At last, the BG was to see some action.

This final phase gave the LI their chance to fight back and they relished the opportunity. The battle was fought at some speed, and language problems with my German counterpart, coupled with his insistence that his troops were invulnerable, were the only problems for the day.

In conclusion, this was for me a most useful exercise and umpiring is to be recommended to anyone who gets the chance. The team saw a very professional infantry unit doing what they are paid to do, and provided valuable all-arms awareness for myself. Not all 'lemon jobs' are sour ones!

KAPE TOUR
Report by Cpl Davey Beggs

With the tour recce having been completed by **Capt Steve May** (OIC Party), preparations and team selection were the final pre-tour stages of what was to be a very successful, enjoyable and tiring programme. Our display was to consist of a manpack radio stall, line and field telephone systems with unit level switchboard, plus a radio rebroadcast station vehicle.

The Team: **Capt Steve May (OIC), SSgt Rod Whateley, Cpls Davey Beggs, Dave Rose, Titch Anderson, Geordie Bruce, LCpls Dobbo Dobbins, Mal Pavier, Sig Dusty Miller, Kenny Kennerson, (now LCpl) Paul Culleton, Steve Gosnold, Martin Kerfoot** and **Yorkie Lawton** assembled in St George's Barracks, Bicester, the first of the three barracks which we used as a base.

Prior to our initial display, a one-day training course was arranged at the Army School of Recruiting at Sutton Coldfield. This was to prove a successful and educational day as it taught us how to cope with certain situations and questions which we might otherwise have found either embarrassing or difficult to do. A somewhat more difficult task was to convince a **Capt J. W. S. McGhie** of the Scots DG that we didn't have a caravan with us to Urdth (earth).

An interesting day was had by all, and by the end of it, the feeling was 'Look out SE District, here we come!'

Banbury Horsefair was to have the honour of being our first display location, having been well recced by myself the previous week it seemed a good site. The display was well received by the public.

Other sites covered while based at Bicester were Banbury School, Banbury ACF and the School, ACF and Market Place at Didcot. Probably one of the best visits took place at Milton Keynes shopping centre. A most enjoyable display with an even more enjoyable audience. However, I was most disappointed to find that whilst on my tea-break the remainder of the team were asked by a young lady to share the delights of her birthday cake.

Our final display was the Scouts and Cubs Show in Oxford. Co-incidentally this mass show was partly organised by ex **Cpl Bert Pridgeon**, who has served with 28 Sig Regt and in Hong Kong with the Gurkha Sig Sqn.

From Bicester we moved on to Aldershot from where we deployed to display our wares at Ash Vale Ranges at the ACF SAAM.

It was while based at Aldershot that **Sig (now LCpl, see what a good Kape tour does for you) Paul Culleton** did duly lose his heart to a fair young maiden from Guildford and rumour has it that their engagement will soon be announced. We wish them the best of luck and may **Claire** receive many more red roses from **Paul**.

Further displays were at Bordon, Farnborough, Basingstoke and Aldershot ACF.

The third and final base was at Thorney Island and from there we set up displays at Seaford, Bognor Regis, Arundel, Shoreham, Portsmouth, Gosport and Southampton.

Sig Martin Kerfoot posing with the girls

Sig Yorkie Lawton proves how hard he worked (to get in as many photos as possible) as he demonstrates the Unit Level Switchboard ably assisted by Cpl Geordie Bruce . . .

. . . then displays his versatility by stagging on at the radio stand . . .

It was at Bognor Regis where the press finally caught up with **Sig Dusty Miller** who had been skilfully avoiding a press conference throughout the tour. **Dusty** a shy, modest type, reluctantly gave the interview as he was a local boy from Lancing and it was later revealed in the local press that he was solely responsible for providing comms to front-line Troops!

The final display, over a period of two days, was at the Guildhall in Southampton. This was a careers convention for school leavers and was swarmed over each day by the public. A very good ending to a very good tour.

LT COL R. F. BALY—CO 1984-86
ONE CO—THREE RSMs!

During his time in command **Lt Col R. F. Baly** was served by three different RSMs; and at one stage all three were serving in the Regiment at the same time although not in the same rank, **WO1 (RSM) Licence** (current RSM), **Capt (QM) Marshall** (first RSM), and **WO1 (RSM) Gray-Cowan** (now **Capt Gray-Cowan**).

REGIMENTAL INTER-SQUADRON FOOTBALL

This photo does not show the winners of this year's inter-Squadron football competition. Whilst everyone else went to lunch, 2 Sqn seized the chance, (and the cup!) and had a photo call.

Inter Squadron Football
Back Row (L to R): Maj David Lynam, SSgt (YofS) Sam McElreavey, SSgt Trevor Jenkins, Cpl John Lynch, LCpl Stef Newton, Sgt Derek Payne, LCpl Brian Chinn
Front Row (L to R): Cpl Larry Parkes, Sig Baz Bowman, Cpl Mick Newhall, LCpls Rich Clatworthy and Tim Jones
Apologies, of course, to 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, who were the eventual winners

1 SQN SITE GUARD

1 Sqn's turn had arrived for Site Guard again. The first 60 'volunteers' were selected, assembled into six sections and then told to put their more usual PTARMIGAN employment behind them for the following two weeks.

On Monday, the first day of the training week, it was down to the assault course followed by the 30m range. The range was slightly different in that dummies, thunderflashes and individual targets were positioned to simulate a CQB range. This enabled the Section Commanders **Cpls Geordie Bruce, Mac McIntyre, Ian Elborn, Boz Keilty, Michael Jackson** and **Jennifer Hart** to practise skills such as fire orders, section control and target identification.

The second day of training commenced with the initial kit inspection followed by section battle drills. That afternoon **Cpl Joe Fetini** wrapped up **Sig Chris Symonds** for the First Aid lecture, luckily **Sig Peter Raku** had untied him in time for the NBC phase.

The NBC period consisted of a stretcher race in noddy kit, then straight into the CS Tent in which **Cpl Jack Parnell** made his farewell gesture to the Squadron by getting everyone to do exercises in the CS Tent, beware those who are going on their RSDCC.

Weapon training was the order of the day on Wednesday with range practice in the afternoon; luckily, enough rounds were taken to the range for **Sig Mac MacDonald** to pass!

Final preparation for the guard was the aim on Thursday, voice procedure, duties and kit inspection being to the fore.

The easy day was on Friday when we departed for a successful seven day's guard.

1 SQN
GARRISON SAFE AND SKILLED DRIVING COMPETITION
Report by Sgt Spike Wales (QTO)

The Soest Garrison Safe and Skilled Driving Competition was held in Salamanca Barracks on 11 October, and was entered by no less than 23 teams.

Representing 1 Sqn were: **Sgt Bill Laurie—Team Manager, Cpl Slip Skivington, LCpls Fletch Fletcher, Eddie Leek, Sig Paul Traves** and **Jimmy Grieves.**

The competition with five separate driving courses including a civilian car section, HGV, Landrover and Trailer and 432 events. Second time round drivers had to go NBC black, which caused a few respirators to steam up! There was also a special stage where drivers had to take charge of the situation at a traffic accident and assist the injured. 1 Sqn surpassed all expectations and came second overall to 617 Tank Transporter Sqn RCT—no mean feat!

Individual results were as follows:

Motor Cycle	**Cpl Skivington**	1st
Civilian Car	**LCpl Fletcher**	2nd
432	**LCpl Leek**	4th
HGV	**Sig Traves**	4th
Young Driver	**Sig Grieves**	5th

2 SQN
A SAD FAREWELL

The month of November saw the end of an era when we said farewell to our SSM, **WO2 'Andy' Hickling.**

During his time with the Squadron **'Andy'** was known to enjoy a good run and to the delight of everyone he always insisted that we accompany him. However, this was to change and on his final run he was a little apprehensive when it was the Squadron who insisted that *he* should accompany them!

At a pre-arranged spot on the route the SSM's fears were proved correct when he was suitably brought to heel, handcuffed and then tarred and feathered with a concoction devised by **SSgt 'Trev' Jenkins** (now we know what happens to all that curried chicken). Once tarred he was then taken to the Mohnesee where he was dumped in the lake and then left to make his own way back to camp, 'The best run we've ever had' was the cry from the lads.

The SSM leaves us on a well deserved promotion to 7 Sig Regt and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking **'Andy'** and his wife **Jane** for all their hard work during their stay here and wish them all the very best in their future posting.

'Ring out the old and Ring in the new'. We would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new SSM **WO2 Frank McCormick** and his wife **Linda** to the Squadron and wish them all the very best for their future with us.

2 Sqn say farewell to WO2 (SSM) 'Andy' Hickling

3 SQN

Friday 10 October dawned bright and clear with the promise of a good day, though there were some who wondered if any day when the Squadron was having a March and Shoot could possibly be described as a good day. For others the thought of being inspected by **WO1 (RSM) Rick Licence** was a more daunting prospect then the 11½ mile March and Shoot. The course was carefully chosen by the SSM (which may have had some bearing on the results). The SSM continued to show his peculiar fetish for running up hills. The course was 7½ miles mostly down hill to the range. This was followed by a shoot of 10 rounds then on with respirators, change magazines and another 10 rounds, before leaving the range for what the SSM called the best bit—four miles almost all of which was uphill. The CO **Lt Col Truluck** presented the prizes as follows:

1st	**WO2 (SSM) Derek Coker**
2nd	**SSgt (YofS) Chris Pugh**
3rd	**LCpl Shaun Barry**

Team Trophy The Duncan Cup Papa Troop

TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE TROOP

1986 has proved a very busy year for Tech Tp with the introduction of PTARMIGAN to the Regiment and in May this year the Radio 2 Line Workshops moved from St Sebastian Barracks to join the PTARMIGAN 2 Line Workshops at Salamanca Barracks thus forming for the first time in 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt a Technical Maintenance Troop.

The merger was co-ordinated by **Capt (TOT) Lynn** and **WO1 (FofS) Eames** (now Capt (TOT)), and has to date been very successful.

During a lull in the exercise season (27 Jul-2 Aug) the Troop managed to get away for a week's adventure training to SHAPE under the administration of **SSgt Cory** and **Sgt Tillman** taking with them their new boss **WO1 (FofS) 'sailor boy' Ellis**.

The days started at 0600 hrs with PT taken by the SHAPE PTI's they were a bit unfit to start with but at the end of the week they were able to keep up with the Troop. After a quick shower the Troop was split into four sections to begin the Inter Section competitions which consisted of Volleyball, Football, Command Tasks, A Map Reading exercise and Water Polo.

On Thursday the Troop played the American team at Softball and got well and truly thrashed. However, good humour was the name of the game and **Cpl 'killer' Killeen** got comment of the day award with 'we were playing this before you lot were discovered'.

The week was very successful undoubtedly due to the support extended to us by **RSM Davis** and UKSU. The winning section consisting of: **Sgt 'Wilf' Wilkinson, Cpl 'Bod' Furnell, LCpl 'punchy' Kendall, LCpl 'lungs' Urwin** and **LCpl 'Gladiator' Prince**.

The Troop sadly says farewell to: **Sgt 'lugs' Isbell, Sgt 'maradonna' Clark, Cpl 'killer' Killeen** and **Cpl 'rambo' Gerard**.

DINGHY SAILING

The annual Quadrangular Regatta involving R Signals, RE, REME and RA was held at the Dummersee Yacht Club last week. The light to moderate winds of the first day provided excellent team racing conditions and some close racing was enjoyed. The Sappers had a healthy lead though, at the half-way stage with three wins to their credit, and R Signals quite well placed with two wins. The REME and RA teams were not as strong as in recent years and trailed throughout.

The second day was plagued by light winds demanding even greater concentration and technique. The match between RE and R Signals proved to be the decider and brought out the best in both teams. Places changed with every wind shift and mistakes were severely punished. The race hung in the balance until the last leg when **LCpl Downie** and **WO1 Ellis** secured first and second positions for R Signals, hotly pursued by **Maj Haskell** of RE. **Capt Lewis-Taylor** had an intriguing scrap with **Cpl Hamson** and **Capt Pyatt** of the Engineers, but managed to pull through into fourth place.

The Royal Signals thus won the Regatta for only the second time in its history, together with the Triangular Shield and Hadrians Cup (R Signals v REME). The victory was made sweeter by the fact that the Corps also won the equivalent Triangular Regatta in UK this year, again only for the second time.

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HANDOVER OF SQUADRON COMMANDERS

On Wednesday 22 October 1986 **Maj Gordon Hughes** handed over command of the Squadron to the incoming OC, **Maj David Proctor**. The Squadron wishes **Maj Hughes**, his wife **Liz** and their sons, **Sam** and **Sean** all the very best as they move to Bielefeld, where he takes up the appointment of SO2 G3 (O&D) in HQ 1 (BR) Corps.

At the same time, we all welcome **Maj Proctor, Krystyna** and their young son **Edward**.

Maj Gordon Hughes *(left)* hands over command to Maj David Proctor

EXERCISES

EXERCISE *EXTERNAL TRIANGLE*

Initially the Squadron had only a minor commitment to this exercise. However, Tac was deployed to 5 Hy Regt RA, detachments were sent to 206 (AM) Air Cell deployed with the BALO, and 15 men for Simcas!

EXERCISE *ARCTIC BULL*

In a hectic rush following the recent FTX the 2IC, **Capt Neil Couch**, headed north to BOBC, Norway taking with him **LCpl Ian Stringer, Sig 'Geordie' Robinson, Mac MacKenna, 'Robo' Robertson** and **Frank Battison**. After a 24 hour journey we finally reached BOBC and a short time later were heading still further north to Finse via Oslo. A short stop in Oslo allowed the group to discover how difficult it is to find a 'watering hole' in the Norwegian capital.

After another six hours travelling west in a sleeper train, we were eventually disgorged at 0400 hrs onto a Norwegian railway station. The temperature was −10°C and all was in darkness until, suddenly, the place was illuminated by the arc lights of a film crew making an 'epic' about a railway station in the depths of Siberia. The group wandered off, leaving us to the comfort of the station waiting room, to begin Ex *Arctic Bull* (otherwise known as BOBC Norway's 'Special Expedition XT10').

The BOBC Special Expeditions provide units with a 'Package Expedition' including travel arrangements, clothing, equipment, rations and maps. It allows a unit to mount a minor expedition for six men (one must be UEL qualified) with the minimum of effort or administrative burden. The aim of Ex *Arctic Bull* was to walk the 160km from Finse on the northern edge of the Hardanger Vidda to Horden on the southern edge. The Hardanger Vidda is a vast desolate plateau sitting about 1,100m above sea level with peaks rising to 1,800m. It is one of the few remaining isolated areas of Western Europe and is also amongst the largest of the national parks.

This rugged area is excellent adventure training country; a challenge from start to finish. The mountains were covered in snow and ice: rivers swollen and fast flowing (mostly without bridges) and the scenery spectacular.

The expedition demanded a high standard of individual and team effort as well as fitness and determination. Morale was kept high by the incessant ramblings of **Sig 'Geordie' Robinson** whose peculiar brand of Geordie humour was appreciated by all, including the very attractive Norwegian girl we met whilst walking in the hills.

The first sign that all was not well with **Sig Robinson** was when he stopped talking. A long and restless night spent on the hill trying to

'The boys' Sig 'Geordie' Robinson, Frank Battison, Robbo Robertson, Mac Mackenna and LCpl Ian Stringer

Sig MacKenna and Geordie Robinson drop a miniature Frank Battison into the snow

treat a very sick **Sig Robinson** ended with an emergency helicopter casevac the next morning (at a cost of Nkr 8,000!). When he awoke in hospital he found his nurse was none other than the girl we had met the day before—it's a small world!—or did he arrange it all?

The remainder of the group carried on with the expedition after being taken some way down the route by transport from BOBC to regain the time lost owing to the casevac. Five days later we reached Horden and the end of the expedition. Transport delivered us to Kristiansand where, after a whistle-stop visit to BOBC to de-kit and collect a completely recovered **Sig Robinson**, we caught a ferry to begin the 24 hour journey back to Paderborn.

Everyone agreed that this 'package holiday' was a challenge and gave a great feeling of satisfaction and achievement. A lot was learnt about mountain and expedition work (particularly Norwegian casevac drills!) and all are very keen to do another trip next year although some suggested we might try it in the summer next time.

SQUADRON JBI INTER-TROOP TROPHY 1986

The trophy was retained by Rhine Tp, but only after several hard fought battles.

In football, Ardennes Troop's star-studded team was unable to match the talents of Rhine Troop's **Cpl Greg 'We're playing with the wrong shaped ball' Doughty, Sig Tom 'the cat' Wilkinson** and **Sig 'This is too much like hard work' Beavers**. Special mention also to SHQ's **Cpl Brian 'I'm not really over 40' Naylor** for his goal scoring talents.

Rhine were firm favourites in the Tug-O-War, but in the end the ugliest team, Ardennes, led by **Cpl 'Gnasher' Preece** and **Sig (now LCpl) 'Stumpy' Wilson** were far quicker on the drop and whitewashed both Rhine and SHQ.

In the six-a-side hockey, some good play saw Ardennes beating SHQ in a closely contested final.

Rugby was Rhines, though **Cfn Jones** of SHQ was man of the competition.

Finally in the Basketball Rhine and Ardennes tied for top place with SHQ running in third. **SSgt Graham** was the kingpin of the Rhine Tp team, lasted well, and scored a point.

202 Sig Sqn's victorious Inter-Sqn Hockey team

EXERCISE *BULLSHINE III*

In November we ran our annual military training programme. The first week saw us undertaking all of the mandatory tests and produced many amusing moments. **Cpl Steve Barrington** baffled all with his NBC marking sheet; **Cpl Kev Jarvis** beasted all round the CFT and BFT circuits, and **Capt Neil Couch** played his part as a range officer.

Week two concentrated more on military skills, highlighted by two very enthusiastic ambushes laid by Rhine and Ardennes Troops, which were successful, even if the enemy refused to die!

The culmination of the fortnight was a 30km patrol race, where sections were confronted by 10 obstacles en route. **Cpl Doz Day's** section managed to do a 'slight detour' of 20km due to a minor map-reading error—turning left instead of right. ('It was **LCpl Stringer/Sig Wilkinson's** fault Sir!'). Yet they still managed to win the map-reading stand and the overall competition which must all go to show that you should never give up!

A wall too far—section 7 on the assault course

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

THE PRINCESS ANNE SHOVEL

As dawn was breaking on a chilly Tuesday morning members of A1 Tp found themselves preparing for the first bout of the Princess Anne Shovel Competition—the March and Shoot. Together with A2 from 3 Sqn they set out along the four and a half mile long course just as normal folk were rising from their slumber. Enthusiasm initially brought on a rather speedy pace, which quickly evaporated once it was discovered that both teams were taking a scenic route and had actually left the competition route some way behind. After much trudging around and eventually finding a very co-operative RMP patrol both teams hobbled into the finish. A3 Tp led by the distinguished figure of **2Lt 'Swanner' Munday**, who by some minor miracle was actually with his Troop at the time of the competition, fared much better, recording the fastest march and one of the highest shoots to win that phase of the competition.

Next day brought a miracle of sports in which nearly all the Squadron personnel were involved. A3 were unfortunate in being knocked out in all sports at a fairly early stage. A1 fared much better reaching the semi-finals in all the sports except the hockey. However, they managed to reach only the finals of the football and the tug-of-war. **Cpl Robert Whyke, Sig Anthony McGiveron** and **YofS Mike Brady** all put in particularly sterling performances, but with a Scottish schoolboy player in the team's midst they had a head start over the opposition anyway. After several fine games the team eventually beat Line Troop on penalties in the final. The tug-of-war team were not as fortunate and having surprised most people, especially themselves, in reaching the final they were easily out pulled by Cheetah Tp. Special thanks to **Cpl Chris Mountain** for his anchormanship. At the end of the second day A1 had now become the leaders in the competition, with A3 a close second.

The final day was a mixture of command tasks and potted sports with a trailer race as the finishing climax. Unfortunately neither A1 nor A3 displayed particular prowess at the initiative tasks. The potted sports proved to be slightly more productive with both teams trying hard, however Bravo Tp had by now taken a commanding lead in the competition. The trailer race though completed admirably by both teams failed to regain either of the two teams that covered poll position. However A1 came an excellent second and both teams had a highly enjoyable week.

1 SQUADRON

October and November 1986 saw 1 Sqn take an active part in Ex *Third Stretch* and *Eternal Triangle*. Both were enjoyed by all who took part and they served as a welcome chance to gain more practical experience with PTARMIGAN. Cheetah Troops' thanks must go to **'John the civi'** from Plessey who after one week with the switch crew of **Sgt Steve Cocksedge** and **Cpl Bob Carroll** was never quite sure whether to laugh or cry.

We have ways of making him talk

The Princess Anne Spade competition took place from 10 to 14 November 1986 and was a real chance for the Squadron gladiators to show off their skills in competitions ranging from the march and shoot to hockey. Although a 1 Sqn Troop did not walk away with the spade at the end of the week, Cheetah Troop's Tug-of-War team led by **SSM Pete Halstead** won without losing a pull. The highlights of the week were **2Lt 'Pathfinder' Hix** and his 'well we can't be too far away' March and Shoot team, **Capt 'The Kiwi' Richardson** 'it's the playing not the winning that counts' (thank goodness) and **Capt 'baby face' McComb**'s dynamic supporters.

On a different 'sporting' front, the 1 Sqn Games Night was a great success, being decided by a winning Squadron HQ boat race team of the OC **Maj Phil Grey**, **2IC Capt Kiwi Richardson**, **SQMS Fred Cottington** and **Sig 'I can type honest' Brooks**.

The final 1 Sqn triumph was in the Inter Sqn Rugby competition when after a number of hard fought matches the team met 211 Sig Sqn in the final. After ten minutes of intense pressure **2Lt 'Tonka' Burgin** kicked a decisive penalty which saw 1 Sqn the victors.

'I wish they'd give me a bigger brush!'

What do you mean, I've got a large backside?

2 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Ian Fielder**
SSM	**WO2 Brian Howe**
OC A1	**2Lt Paul Graham**
OC A3	**2Lt Andy Munday**
Tp SSgt A1	**SSgt Kev Nicholls**
Tp Sgt A1	**Sgt Billy Parker**
Tp Sgt A1	**Sgt Brummie Stewart**
Tp Sgt A3	**Sgt John Brooks**
YofS	**SSgt Mick Brady**
SSgt Tech	**SSgt Ian Duncan**
SQMS	**SSgt Ian Selkirk**
MT SNCO	**Sgt Charlie Richardson**

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

2 Sqn welcomes to its fold this month, **2Lt Paul Graham, Cpls Mark Egan, Adiran Bain, Jeremy Kidby, Mark Richmond, LCpl David Brudenell, Sig Steven Parker, John Swanston** and **LCpl Steve Griffiths**.

We say a sad farewell to **Cpls Stewart Morrin, 'Ditch' Dalton** and **Cpl Jim Cuthbert**, who goes to TM Tp, **LCpl 'Scouse' Flaherty** to Cyprus and **Sig Tony Rainforth** to 7 Sig Regt. Best wishes and good fortune go with them.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Cpl Cook** and his wife **Beate** on the birth of their baby daughter **Michelle**.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **LCpls Jock Henderson** and **Rab McLaughlin** on their recent promotions.

EXERCISE *MOSEL QUADRANT*

The Squadron has just returned from a hectic 10 days adventurous training at Cochem. The time was spent indulging in a variety of sports including canoeing, trekking, cycling, orienteering and swimming by day and the obligatory tour of the local night spots occupied the hours of darkness. After an exhaustive 18 months in Herford everyone found it was a delightful experience to be able to relax and a good time was had by everyone.

3 SQUADRON

A2 TROOP

The Princess Anne's Spade Competition was a mixed blessing for the Troop this year. Despite the last minute preparations after Ex *Eternal Triangle* the Troop achieved a very high standard. Although we had no Regimental-standard players for any of the sports played, we still managed to reach all the quarter finals and two of the semi finals. It was much the same for the other parts of the competition but even though the Troop never won anything we were always with the leaders which is reflected by our overall position of fourth.

Welcome to the new arrivals who were needed to bolster the rapidly dwindling Troop manpower. So welcome to **Sig 'Wil' Wilby, 'Gas' Currie, 'Rocky' Owens**, and **Neil Wellings** who join us straight from training. Also congratulations to **LCpl 'Smudge' Smith** and his wife **Ines** on their arrival of a daughter, **Laura**.

B TROOP

The military skill and prowess of the Troop was thoroughly exercised during the gruelling four days of the Princess Anne's Spade Competition. On the first day the Troop took part in all five sports, three games in each which left everyone shattered for day two. By the end of the military skills competition on the second day the Troop was only three points behind the leaders. The sporting finals were held on the third day where the Troop achieved runner up places in the Basketball and Rugby, semi final places in the Volleyball and football. By now everyone had either run, jumped or shot for the Troop. On the fourth day **Sgt 'I scored a try' Porter RCT** led the Troop to a clear victory in the Potted Sports Competition (something close to Super Stars). At the same time **LCpl 'Designer Label' Smith** led a six man team on Command Tasks where, despite his confused manner of thinking, he managed the runners up position. The highlight of the day was the Trailer Race which the Troop won by a magnificent 17 seconds. This successful fourth day gave the Troop the edge needed to be the overall winners of the Princess Anne's Spade.

The OC Tp **Lt Gary Hearn** denies that he whimped out by being injured on the first day and he certainly gave good support on the road to victory. A lot of the credit must go to **LCpls 'Andy' Porter** and **'Gilly' Gill** with the band of followers.

Welcome to **Lt Graham Complin** on his appointment as OC Troop, but a sad farewell to **Lt Gary Hearn** and his wife **Faye** with many thanks for all you have done for the Troop. Also **LCpl 'Big Bad John' Pierpoint** has finally managed to gain German Citizenship and make it to Civilian Strasse. He still works nearby so we hope to see him in the future.

L TROOP

It has been a quiet time for the Troop with only the Princess Anne's Spade Competition stirring the enthusiasm for which we are renowned. The highlight of the competition for the Troop was the quest for the Rugby seven's competition. After narrowly losing the cup in extra time last year to A2 Tp it was decided we must regain it this year. All resources were gathered together under the leadership of **Cpl 'Scotty' Fitzsimmons** and **LCpl 'Stu' Sells**. They led the most determined and dedicated bunch of Rugby players that could be mustered. We wish to thank B Tp for a good and interesting final but there could only be one winner and now the trophy is back in the Line Troop office.

Farewell to **Cpl Grant 'the nose' Peacock** on posting to Line Group TTS in 8 Sig Regt and congratulations on his promotion to Sergeant. Congratulations also to **LCpl Dean 'Swiftly' White** on his promotion to Corporal.

200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN

The Squadron has had a very active summer, which has enabled all its members to get away on one activity or another. The summer started with the Squadron Summer Camp and featured a number of sailing exercises. The final activities were two Troop Adventurous Training Camps based around Cochem in the Mosel.

EXERCISE *MOON QUADRANT*, EXERCISE *ABLE QUADRANT*

These exercises took place between 21 September and 27 September 1986.

Dreadful weather announced the start of the Alpha Troop Camp. It was unnecessary to get out of bed for an early morning swim and the majority of kit drying occurred before canoeing even started. Things changed however, and the arrival of glorious sunshine coincided with that of Bravo Tp. For the next week both Troops basked in the sun and spent an enjoyable and exciting few days exploring the delights of Cochem. **2Lt Matt Hanson**, OC A Tp, taught canoeing on the Mosel, whilst **Lt Graham Norton** and **SSgt John Bird** led climbing and walking parties in the local area. The highlights of the week were an inter Troop 'biathlon' relay event involving canoeing and running. This was won by the team led by **LCpl Mo Howarth**. The previous day however, the two Troops were fortunate enough to be able to do a bridge abseil into the river. **Sig Cookie Cooke** deserves a mention for being able to get a unique view of a Mosel river boat by getting himself stuck 120ft above the water surface. **Pte Geordie Blackett** will long remember his first abseil as this was it and **Sig Watts** successfully completed the drop and swim ashore despite insisting he was a non swimmer.

Overall a very enjoyable time was had by both Troops and it is hoped to run a similar exercise next year. Thanks should go to Admin Staff, **Cpls Tug Wilson** and **John Murray** and the cooks **Cpl Bob Leybourne** and **LCpl Splasher Wilson.**

'Salty Sea-dogs'
Lt Graham Norton, Cpl Steve Payne and Sig Scotty Mauchlen during one of the three sailing exercises the Squadron had this summer

SQUADRON MILITARY TRAINING WEEK

The 1986 Inter Troop competition was held from 29 September to 3 October 1986 as part of this short military training period. The competition involved NBC and First Aid, March and Shoot and Command Task events. The overall winners were SHQ Tp led by **LCpl**

Steve Price with a notable performance by **LCpl Oscar Martins** and his team who were the winning section. **LCpl Dave Sangster** achieved a magnificent time of seven hours for the orienteering competition over a course described by the OC **Maj Jim Evans** as simple, straightforward and designed to take a couple of hours.

EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE*

20 Armd Bde were tasked to provide umpires for the 1 Armd Div CPX held around Paderborn during 15-31 October 1986 and as such the Squadron was heavily involved in providing comms for the umpires. The Squadron was divided into two main groups, the majority being at the Alternative Control Centre (ACC) with a few staying at the Umpire Control Centre (UCC). As it turned out the ACC remained alternative for the whole exercise which meant that the majority of the Squadron spent most of the time trying to keep dry. At UCC the YofS, **WO2 Tony Crilly** spent most of his time trying to persuade **Lt Graham Norton** that 'Officers aren't Yeoman' and ably assisted by **Sgt Steward** from 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, did his best to keep OC B Tp away from the radio.

SPORT

The Squadron had five competitors in this year's Berlin Marathon. The team of **Cpls Dave Gill, Ron Blackburn, LCpls Andy Ewing** and **Steve Foulkes** and **Sig Chas Challiner** and **John Butler** had all trained hard and were confident. **Cpl Dave Gill** running his first marathon achieved a remarkable 2 hrs 53 mins and all the team successfully completed the marathon.

The Intrepid Marathon Team
pose before Berlin's most famous building

The Squadron Hockey team started the season well under the guidance of **Cpl Joe Marsden** and has already won its first League match of the season.

The Skiing team is now training hard and the SSM **WO2 Mick Orrell** has warned them not to come back if they don't pick up at least one piece of silver—with encouragement like that, who can fail?

DEPARTURES, ARRIVALS, PROMOTIONS AND NEW ARRIVALS

The Squadron has said goodbye to **SSgt (now WO2) Geoff Armstrong, Cpls Gary Robinson, Steve Payne** and **LCpl Splash Evans**. We wish them all well in their future careers be they in or out of the Army.

New arrivals in the Squadron include **Sgt Bob McIntyre** to the MT and **Sig Paul Green, Ian Hutchinson, Sean Morgan** and **Billy Duggan** and we hope that they enjoy their tour at 200.

Congratulations go to **LCpl Mick Hurn, Cpl Leigh Northeast** and **Cpl Jim Alger** on their recent promotions and to **LCpl Steve Price** on the occasion of his marriage to **Lee Ann**.

The really new arrivals are led by **Janine Alger** the new daughter of **Jim** and **Ruth, Peter John** the son of **John** and **Tina Wilson** and last but not least **Victoria Louise** the daughter of **Andy** and **Sue Kilgour**.

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

Lt Col Finney congratulates Cpl Ramsdale on his A grading

Sig Taylor is congratulated on his A grading by Lt Col Stoddart

Lt Col Waumsley (then Major) congratulates LCpl Bishnubahadur and . . . . . .

EXERCISE *PENNINE YOMP*
CHEQUE PRESENTATION

After several months of collecting money pledged to the Pennine Yomp team, £750 was raised for Charity. The team raised the money by running the Pennine Way earlier in the year. **Lt Col Finney** kindly agreed to present the cheque to representatives of PHAB. PHAB is a charity which works on behalf of Physically Handicapped and Able Bodied children. They aim to set up a day care centre in Catterick to cater for children from this area.

Well done the team who were: **Capt Field, WO2 Pete Whitehouse, SSgt Mick Knights, Sgt Taff Jones, Cpl Cliff Booth** and **LCpl Geordie Eastic**. A special well done to **Cpl Cliff Booth** who raised £350 himself.

Lt Col Finney presents the cheque to Mrs Illman and Mrs Mummery while SSgt Mick Knights and WO2 Pete Whitehouse look on

. . . . . LCpl Parsuram Rai on their A gradings

GOLF
THE ARMY CHALLENGE CUP

The final stages of the Army Challenge Cup were held at Catterick Garrison Golf Club on 25 and 26 of September 1986, after which, 8 Sig Regt became the North East District champions. The team members were: **LCpl Simon Boyd, SSgt Max Paterson, Sgts Dave Price, Dave Cox.**

From Left to Right: Col Austin, Sgt Dave Cox, Dave Price, LCpl Simon Boyd, SSgt Max Paterson and Mr Harry O'Mahoney with this year's trophies

QUARTER-FINALS Vs SEE

The SEE team was particularly strong, each member playing off single handicap, and none stronger than **LCpl Boyd**'s opponent, who won by four holes. **SSgt Paterson**'s opponent played par golf, but **Max** won by one hole. Both **Dave**'s played very well, each winning by nine holes.

SEMI-FINAL Vs RAC TRAINING REGIMENT

The afternoon match was between two teams both of whom knew the course well. The Regiment played particularly well, **SSgt Paterson** winning by eight holes and each of the others winning by three holes, an overall win of 17 holes.

THE FINAL Vs 94 LOCATING REGIMENT

The final turned out to be the hardest game. **LCpl Boyd** played against their best player, found the going difficult and was soon three down. He fought back well and finally won by two holes. **SSgt Paterson** played his usual captain's game, steady as a rock, and finally won by five holes. **Sgt Price** also had a steady game but his opponent didn't let him get too far ahead and going down the 17th fairway was only one up. The 17th was halved, the 18th won, and he finally came in two up. **Sgt Cox**, playing against the opposing team's captain, played very well, managing to hold the score to only two down on the 14th. Unfortunately the challenge proved to be too stgrong and he eventually lost by five holes. The winning margin was 8 Sig Regt nine holes, 94 Locating Regt five.

The team particularly wish to thank **Mr Harry Cheek** for his support and encouragement. His appearance at the Mess Hole bearing refreshments was a most welcome sight.

As forecast, WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

DAILY MAIL MEN'S FOURSOME'S

The Daily Mail Men's Foursome's competition attracted 160,000 entries Nationwide. The first round was held at club level. The winners at Catterick Garrison Golf Club were **SSgt Max Paterson** and **Sgt Dave Cox**. This initial round, was followed by seven knockout rounds on a regional basis. The result of which was a victory and the Yorkshire title to **Paterson** and **Cox**.

The National Final was held at the Newcastle Golf Club on 18 and 19 October, (just as our Indian Summer changed to wintry gales). **Cox** and **Paterson** successfully negotiated the quarter-final and were all square on the 18th tee in the semi-final. Unfortunately the approach shot to the green was one inch too long, ending out of bounds on the path. They lost one down and eventually had to settle for third place overall.

SSgt Paterson and **Sgt Cox** are to be congratulated on this splendid effort.

RAF CATTERICK WHEELCHAIR MARATHON

A sponsored wheelchair marathon was held at RAF Catterick on 7 September 1986 in aid of BSAD (British Sports Association for the Disabled). The TTS entered six teams in the event. The teams were:

Team 1
SSgt Mick Knights
Sgt Phil Abbot
Cpl Paul Sexby

Team 2
WSgt Bernie Quick (Nee **McNamara**)
WSgt Shirley Wright
WCpl Linda Dennis
WCpl Julie (Binge) Barnard

Team 3
Capt Ian Forbes
WO2 Roger Stevenson
Cpl Rudi Petschi

Team 4
Sgt Clive Smith
Cpl Andy Kevins
Cpl Garry Boyle

Team 5
SSgt Mick Parsons
Sgt Tony Jewell
Sgt Garry Thomas

Team 6
Sgt Tony Neal
Sgt Ken Mace
Cpl Steve Joyce

At the end of a successful day, team one won the event in a time of 2 hrs 22 mins and 59 secs. **Cpl Paul Sexby** recorded the fastest circuit of the 2.2 mile course in 10 mins and 18 secs.

Team 1 with the Wilkinson Sword awarded to the winning team

Team 3 were awarded the prize for the team 'entering into the true spirit'. The six TTS teams raised a total of £282.97; well done to them all

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) Wilton

RHQ

On Sunday 9 November the members of the Regiment at Wilton turned out in full to attend the Remembrance ceremony at the Wilton Parish Church. The War Memorial stands in the church grounds where the CO, **Lt Col M. A. Thorne**, laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment.

The Commanding Officer laying the wreath at the Wilton War memorial

EXERCISE *EVERGREEN* 86

Once again the Regiment managed to fit in an annual camp down in sunny Gosport. So for three weeks in September there were coach-loads of personnel from Chelsea, Wilton and Aldershot, making their way to and from Browndown camp. Each Squadron had a week allocated in which they had to provide the hierarchy 'beefed up' by a selection of nefarious characters from various outposts of the unit. Our resident mystery author now takes up the story . . .

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome once again to another lecture in the series 'The Military and Nature'. Tonight we are delighted to welcome Lady Vi Bedlam in the guise of **WO2 (SSM) Mo Carmichael**, who has managed to give up some of her other duties as SSM HQ Sqn to spend a week organising relief for the Troops in the field. We begin this lecture in the wooded area to the north, and if I can draw your attention to the slide . . . you will see how **Pte Taff Lewis**, that's her holding a piece of Pteridium Aquilinium (bracken to the likes of you and me), which she intends converting into a new form of camouflaged head-dress so that she can pay her respects to **Lt Col (Retd) Peter Leonard** (SO2 Comms SW Dist) and **Lt Col Janet Lawson** (Comd WRAC SW Dist).

Venturing further into the Browndownian forest we were lucky to find some of the indigenous population. These small but tough natives are always hard to find as they have already mastered the art of camouflage and living off the land. However we spotted the smoke of their camp fire and were invited to join them for a meal of wild Pullus Gallinaceus or as we know it today . . . free range chicken.

With heavy stomachs and light hearts we left the forest and it wasn't long before we found ourselves back on the Browndownian plain. Once again we were lucky, and indeed privileged, to see how the capital's inhabitants made use of Pinus Magna by smoothing down the logs prior to their use on the capital's buildings.

As you can see it didn't take them long to build a new camp.

Before we took our leave of this strange and beautiful land we were invited to attend the NAAFI canteen, an edifice of Browndownian culture, to partake in a farewell Barbecue and Dance. As we climbed on board the coaches for home we knew that nothing could erase the memory of Browndown camp.

Pte Liz Griffiths and Pte Sue Stanford prepare their chicken supreme

L to R: Ptes Cath Green, Tracey Sugden, Nicky Rennie, LCpls 'Sam' Sampson. In the distance is Sgt Sue 'Strine' Horne R Aust Signals

1 SQUADRON—LETTER FROM WILTON

The Squadron hierarchy has remained stable and the numerous new faces are now well established and letting their presence be known—especially the Foreman, **SSgt Clifford Plumb**!

U Tp have completed their adventure training in Spain and the Squadron can now concentrate a little more on sport, particularly hockey, where the **2IC, Capt Mike Gilyeat**, wields the big stick, and rugby, in the guise of the Erskine Bears, suitably propped up by the Foreman. Our prime task continues to be the introduction of Fastnet which is keeping our attention on work and off the forthcoming festive season.

EXERCISE *LIONS MANE*

With the planned expedition to Sardinia cancelled for reasons beyond our control a new venue and activity had to be organised at fairly short notice. The outcome was an arduous trekking expedition in Spain. Twelve WRAC/R Signals soldiers were to take part with **Capt Denise Ashton** in charge and **WO2 Larry Bird** our erstwhile Yeoman as 2IC.

The advance party consisting of the Yeoman, **Cpl Dave 'The Chef' Eachus ACC, Sig Mick Kilburn** and **Taff Jones** departed by road on 2 October 1986 with a three and a half day journey over land and sea ahead of them. Eventually they arrived at the base camp, the banks of Embalse De Gacia De Sola, with preparations here underway, the

Yeoman and **Sig Jones** set off on the next leg of the journey, 450 miles to Gibraltar to meet up with the main party who were travelling by air.

With RVs and the necessary travel completed it was time to get down to the nitty gritty. For the next phase the programme followed a similar pattern.

0630 hrs — Reveille, most were not impressed
0745 hrs — Trekking began, except for the Yeoman and **Cpl Eachus**
1430 hrs — Return to base camp (demanding food and water)
1530 to 1830 hrs — R & R for most while **Capt Ashton**, the Yeoman and 2IC went trekking, **Sgt Angie Warnes** recce'd the following day's task.

The evenings were spent enjoying the culture and hospitality of the area with occasional visits to the local, one and a half miles away.

Throughout the expedition there were numerous incidents and the following, it is felt, deserve mention.

Sig Nigel Sutton had us all, and himself, in stitches when he head butted a rock. For his pains he was presented with a 1,000 peseta bill.

Cpl Kim Neilson donated her walking boots and camera to a local charity at Gibraltar.

Sgt Angie Warnes has taken out a monthly subscription to 'Do-it-yourself Car Maintenance' and joined the St John's Ambulance Brigade.

Despite numerous trying incidents, designed to prevent us leaving Spain, the transport eventually limped into Gibraltar, for the return trip to Wilton. With the main party underway, the rear party were faced with a five day return trip. All in all everyone enjoyed the exercise and look back with a sense of achievement. Even the more difficult and frustrating aspects of the exercise are remembered with enthusiasm.

On Top of the World
L to R: Sig Nigel Sutton, Mick Kilburn, Taff Jones, Ptes Linsey Ridley, Caroline Jeffrey, LCpl Avril Laver, Ptes Polly Poyton, Kim Omeara Sgt Goldie Horn RA Signals, Ptes Nikki Clarke, Di Stanton, Sgt Warnes, Cpl Kim Neilson

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Back home in Wilton we had not been idle and three members of the WRAC participated in a Sponsored Mass Gaol Break from Ringwood Police Station in aid of the BBC's Children In Need Appeal.

ESARCO? should have been called ESCARGOT the speed it went! Our three escapees *From L to R*: Ptes Diane Smith, Debbie George and LCpl Janine Holt

LCpl Janine Holt, Pte Debbie George and **Pte Diane 'Papillion' Smith** became the 'Wormwood Scrubbers' for 12 hours.

As gaols go Ringwood police station proved to be one of the easier ones to break out of; we simply ran out of the cell the moment the policeman turned his back. Having disposed of the difficult part we ran, SAS-style, into the street and found our way to the Avon Country Club where in the car park we hijacked an Esarco all-terrain vehicle which, fortunately had a driver and mechanic in tow.

On the open road we three 'desperadoes' began extorting money from any innocent victims who happened to pass by.

We managed to make good time and were ahead of schedule, when just before Birmingham we picked up some bad fuel and ran into engine problems. Having overcome this we eventually arrived in Perth, (Australia I hear you ask?—No Scotland), and were apprehended by the local police at 2115 hrs just as our deadline ran out.

At our last count we had raised over £500 and we would like to thank all those who contributed anything from money to moral support.

PS. We can't wait for the next adventure. Who knows, next time, maybe we could kidnap Terry Wogan—and do the whole country a favour!

Finally as a Stop Press . . .

THE U TROOP UNLUCKIEST PERSON AWARD 1986

This award must surely go to **LCpl Paul 'Lucky' Moscadini** in the brief five weeks of being here the following has happened to him:

Posted here from Cyprus; house broken into; car stolen and smashed up; punctured lung (playing football); cracked rib (playing football); torn hamstring (playing football); locked up in a pub that sold only Badger Beer . . . (YUK)!

HAVE A NICE DAY

. . . and finally a report by **Sgt David Piggott** on his trip 'Down Under' August and Australia here I come. An overnight stop at South Cerney, a 27 hour flight in a VC10 (who needs leg space) and even a diversion due to floods did not dampen my enthusiasm. Due to this late change it took three days from landing to arrive at my destination, 6 Sig Regt, Royal Australian Signals.

The Regiment was based at Simpson barracks, some 40 minutes from the centre of Melbourne. 2 Sig Regt, the School of Signals and various Signal Squadrons share the same barracks and the large Sergeants' Mess, where I was to sample my first taste of Australian culture. That evening was a Corps Representative Night, each department was required to arrive in some applicable form of dress. I turned up in borrowed pyjamas to be confronted by the 2 Sig Regt's mascot . . . a half-sized lion. I could tell it would be a night to remember! . . . and I wasn't wrong.

6 Sig Regt are responsible for the Army's fixed communications in the state of Victoria and during my stay I was able to visit and work in numerous Commcen and transmitter/receiver sites. The opportunity to see and use their equipment and procedures as well as experiencing their approach to man-management proved very interesting.

Throughout the visit 6 Sig Regt went to some pains to get me on to other units. A great deal of time was spent in the Eastern side of Australia including visits to Adelaide, Canberra, Brisbane and Sydney. I even participated in an adventure training exercise at Cairns. This was run by 139 Sig Sqn from Brisbane, 'simply the best' they called themselves.

It was four days after leaving Brisbane that we arrived at Cairns. It was this journey and a signpost en route 'Stop at the Beach Motel, next on the right, 234kms' which convinced me of the size of Australia. As well as water sports including diving and fishing we visited local areas of interest. These included the Great Barrier Reef, the rain forest of Daintree and the breathtaking Atherton table lands.

As quickly as my 10 day stay in Cairns was over so too was my visit to Australia. It was an experience I really enjoyed for which I thank both them, and the British Army. (One satisfied soldier!)

2 SQUADRON—LETTER FROM LONDON
RADIO TROOP ROUNDUP

At last . . . November has ended and members of Radio Tp can be heard to heave a sigh of relief as the ceremonial season draws to a close for this year.

The October to November period saw The Troop participating in many different events such as the Lanyard Trophy, where we surprised ourselves and other teams by leading for part of the competition and finishing fourth overall. Willing 'volunteer' **Sig 'Runch' Runchman** put up a very creditable performance.

EXERCISE *BROWN TROUT*

The Monday after the Lanyard Trophy saw several weary members of the Troop departing on Ex *Brown Trout* where we deployed our

The Lanyard Trophy Team
L to R: Sgts Gibson and Sheehan, Sig Woodfine, Capt Johnson, LCpl Brown

'Trusty' D11/R234 detachments and some of the old hands. **Cpl Ian Rushmer, LCpl Dave Cutler** and **LCpl Paul Wooding** proved once again that D11s can still hack it. **Sig 'Niedmyer' Nairn** was shocked to learn that when making tea hot water is required. Needless to say, he has now had plenty of practice!

VISIT BY THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

On 5 November the SoinC visited the unit. **Maj Gen Alexander** presented **Cpl Ian Rushmer** with his Long Service and Good Conduct medal, and then lunched with members of the Squadron in the Bruno Club.

After the lunch the SOinC was briefed on the unit's ceremonial function before leaving for a visit to Big Ben. From the top of the clock tower he was able to participate in the Cenotaph Parade rehearsal with members of the unit.

Cpl Ian Rushmer receiving his LS and GC from the SOinC

Maj Gen Alexander chatting with two of our guests from the Royal Hospital

LCpl Jason Ballard and Sig Dougie Brown escorting the SOinC's car

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

With the exercise clean up out of the way the pace quickened to prepare for the ceremonial parades of early November. **Sig Acky Atkinson** worked wonders in the Steam Pressing shop once again. The new members of the Troop, **Sig Webster, Smeeth** and **Simpson** had to brush up their voice procedure and learn the 'ins and outs' of operating M252s and PF5s and how to wave flags in a 'drill-like manner' for gun salutes.

FAREWELLS

Troop OC, **Capt 'Rodger Ramjet' Johnson** has departed on his TEM course and **Sig Leer Cunningham** for civvie street; a warm welcome is extended to the new Troop OC, **Lt Alastair Beard**.

3 SQUADRON—LETTER FROM ALDERSHOT

This Squadron is basically WRAC and Civilian manned. The male element in Aldershot, is two Officers and 13 other ranks, but even so we did manage to enter a team in the South East District six-a-side Football competition. It wasn't easy when you have to resort to bringing on an ancient traffic officer, namely **Capt Nick Naylor**, who is more used to carrying a hockey stick (for support we hear!).

The 2IC, **Capt Eilean Cunninghan** and 11 WRAC went to Africa on Ex *Rhino Express*, which is reported elsewhere in this issue.

The SSM **WO2 Sheila Poklekowski** arranged a Bring and Buy Sale in support of the WRAC Museum Appeal fund. This venture which raised £430 along with other smaller fund-raising ventures realising a Grand Total of £500 was handed over to **Col F. E. Hutley WRAC** the Comd WRAC UKLF.

The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres own two residential care homes for ex-servicemen (or women), ex-merchant seamen and their widows. New Belvedere House in Stepney, East London, can take 29 residents, Hollenden House in Bexhill-on-Sea in East Sussex can take 50. Residents, who must normally be of pensionable age, have their own rooms in comfortable buildings and may bring some of their own furniture if they wish. They are not nursing homes and residents on admission must be capable of looking after themselves though help (for example with bathing) can be given. Those interested should apply to:

The Administrator,
Ex-Service Fellowship Centres,
8 Lower Grosvenor Place,
London SW1W 0EP

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON
5 TROOP

Tp OC	**Lt Kit Lewis**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Jim MacLean**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Steve Rideout**
	Cpl John Rea
	Cpl Mick Shirley
	Cpl Ian Swan

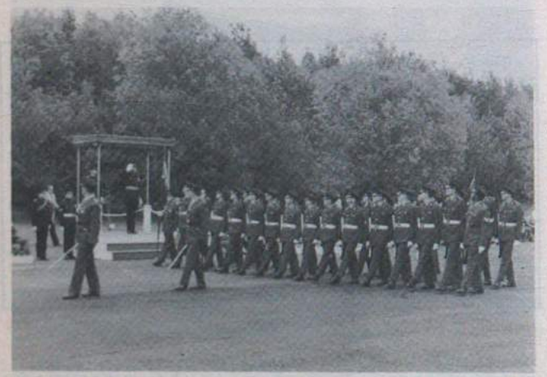
On Sunday 10 August the new members of Adult Recruit Training Course, No 5 Troop, assembled at Darlington Railway Station. They were met by **Cpls Taff Rideout** and **John Rea** who ushered the recruits on to transport and, in due course, to their home for the next nine weeks in Helles Barracks, Catterick Garrison. It was a long and busy afternoon in which joining administration and kit allocation were completed. That night the Troop Corporals tucked their new charges into their beds and on their final rounds took orders for tea on the following morning.

On Monday morning the course began in earnest. A great deal of training had to be fitted into the nine weeks and this necessitated some early morning starts. For most of the recruits it was a real culture shock although they responded well and soon began to pick up the basics of many subjects including fieldcraft, map reading and NBC. As time passed 29 civilian recruits began to look and behave like soldiers. The Troop became a lively body with individual characteristics and personalities. **Sig Porter** tried hard, but unsuccessfully, to convince anyone who would listen that Bolton Wanderers had once been in the first division. **Sig MacLean** announced in very strong terms that he was not related to the Troop Sergeant and **Sig Millar** developed a vocal complaint which caused him to talk non-stop 24 hours a day—he even talked when he was asleep!

The final exercise was a test for all the recruits. There were lighter moments; one occurred when a civilian couple attempted to use the Troop's defence location as a rendezvous point. We quickly made our presence known.

The course culminated in a Pass Off Parade on 10 October, which was inspected by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**. **Sig Eastwood** set a new record by inviting 28 guests plus a coach driver to the parade. The prize for Best Shot was won by **Sig Barber** and the overall Best Recruit prize for maximum effort went to **Sig Fielder**. The Best Section trophy went to **Cpl Ian Swan**, 2 Section.

A final mention must be made about three of the Troop cadre. The OC, **Lt Kit Lewis**, has now gone off on a four month tour to the Falklands. **Sgt Jim MacLean** has transferred across to 2 Sqn to become ASSI Drill and **Cpl John Rea** has returned to the White Helmets. We wish them all the best in their new tours.



5 Tp march past in slow time. The Reviewing Officer is the SOinC Maj Gen P. D. Alexander

1 TROOP
TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO1 Ken Clark**
Tp Sgt	**Sgts Jeff Williams/Kev Fitzpatrick**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Steve Talbot**
	Cpl Terry Crane
	Cpl Rab Horne
	Cpl Terry Dullaghan

Nine weeks is a relatively short period of time in anyone's life but to the recruits of 1 Troop who formed on 7 September 1986 and passed off on 7 November 1986, it must have seemed more like nine months. The weeks, action packed and interspersed with classroom activities are demanding by anyone's standards, and form the basis of their future careers before they go to learn a trade.

The bleak Yorkshire moors and the unenviable Catterick weather combine to form the perfect setting for exercises and outdoor pursuits such as map reading, orienteering, cross country running, log races and last, but not least, Tan Hill the scenic route. **Cpl 'Pathfinder' Rideout** was not with us this time to lead his men eight miles in the wrong direction and so the task fell to **Cpl 'I know the history of the great Yorkshire walks' Talbot**, to get them to the pub on time and celebrate his 21st birthday for the 12th year in succession.

A sad note during the course was to bid farewell to **Sgt 'I am bigger than my pace stick' Williams**. We wish him, his charming wife **Jean** and their two sons every success in the future as he takes up his new post as Staff Sergeant SQMS with 204 Sig Sqn. They will be sorely missed by the Squadron as will **Cpls Steve Talbot** and **Terry Crane** (to 3 Sqn and Leadership Troop respectively). On a brighter note we welcomed **Sgt Kevin Fitzpatrick** to 1 Troop to guide the course through its final three weeks and eventual pass off parade.

With a great sigh of relief, the moment everyone had been waiting for arrived, and the sun (yes the sun) rose in the sky to herald pass off day. The pomp and pageantry of such occasions was watched by the proud parents as the reviewing officer **Col John Collins OBE**, the man responsible for Army recruit enlistment, took the dais as the Corps Band led the parade on to the square.

Prizes were awarded to **Sig Phillip Day** 'Best Shot', **Sig David Richardson** 'Best Recruit' and to **Cpl Rab Horne** 'Champion Section' after running out winners of the fiercely contested section competitions.

The cadre now look forward to a well earned break as we wish the 24 new entrants into the Corps long and successful careers.

The Reviewing Officer, Col J. R. Collins, inspects 1 Tp
L to R: OC 1 Sqn, WO1 Clark, CO, Col Collins, Sig Brannan, Richardson, Trafford

CORPS GUEST NIGHT
HEADQUARTERS SERGEANTS' MESS

Friday 7 November 1986 was a busy day for Helles Barracks and in particular the Sergeants' Mess. It was turned upside down and inside out for the first ever Corps Guest Night. Over 100 members made their way from BAOR, AFCENT, SHAPE and from every region of the UK and Northern Ireland.

Accommodation was at a premium with some WOs/SNCOs paying another trip down memory lane to live in the Sandhurst Block. Only the Senior WOs were able to have a bunk and the very senior a bunk with a sink.

The guests were drawn from the heads of the Corps family. They all arrived safely despite the 'Master's' Dinner having been held the previous night at Blandford. They included, the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**; the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**; the Commander Communications BAOR, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**; the Representative Colonel Commandant Royal Signals 1986, **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE**; the Commander Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison, **Brig R. F. Maynard MBE** and the Regimental Colonel Royal Signals, **Col M. L. W. Jennings**.

The guests were met by the President **WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir** and PMC **WO2 (SSM) Mick O'Hare.** They then went on to meet the Senior WOs of the Corps who were acting as hosts.

Music for the evening was provided by the Corps Band conducted by **WO1 (BM) Ian Green.** The Band had also played at the Regimental Pass Off Parade in 11 Sig Regt that morning.

A superb meal was served by the Mess staff who worked like beavers to ensure that the event would be the success that it was.

The Mess President **WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir** welcomed all the guests. He then recounted the list of forthcoming improvements to the Mess and spoke of the generous grant for a new piece of silver from the Corps. The piece commissioned will be modelled on the 'Keep' of Richmond Castle. It will be 14in high, approximately 4in square, mounted on a 5in plinth.

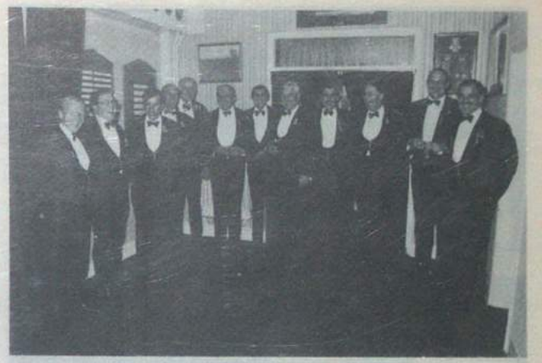
There was much discussion between the Master of Signals and the SOinC as to whom should speak for the guests. The problem was finally resolved by the flip of a coin and the Master of Signals replied in his usual humorous way.

The occasion could not be allowed to pass without a photo call being made. This proved an extremely exacting task. Trying to get four Major Generals, a Brigadier and seven WOs to stand still long enough to take a photograph was well nigh impossible but was, finally, achieved.

The remainder of the night and early morning was spent in renewing old friendships and the making of new ones.

'Two old friends meet up again'. The Master meets the Corps longest serving soldier WO1 (GSM) Tony Pfeiffer

The SOinC is welcomed to the Mess by WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir and his host for the evening WO1 (RSM) Dave Brown



'The 10 Second Stand To'. They finally did all stand still simultaneously
L to R: WO2 (SSM) Mick O'Hare, Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle, Brig R. F. Maynard, WO1 (RSM) John Farrell, 'The Master of Signals', WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir, WO1 (RSM) Barry Williams, The SOinC, WO1 (RSM) Ian Cairns, WO1 (GSM) Tony Pfeiffer

REGIMENTAL BOXING COMPETITION

The Regimental boxing competition lasted three days from start to finish. It was organised by **SI 'Spike' Milligan APTC** and was concluded on Friday 28 November. The guest of honour was **Mr John Conteh**, ex World Light/Heavy Weight Champion, whose nephew **JLCpl Conteh** was fighting during the evening.

A total of 72 juniors boxed in the competition. There were some good fights in both the preliminaries and the finals for which the competitors should be well pleased. The finalists boxing three times in all.

The results are as follows:

KOHIMA TROOP

Overall competition winners. They won three fights on the night as well as a good many in the preliminary rounds.

IRON TROOP

Three wins on the night. **JSig 'Lovely Boy' Teale** in the light heavy weight division, **JLCpl Robert Conteh** in the bantam weight division and **JSig 'Battling Byron' McAlpine** in the welter weight division.

BATTLEAXE TROOP

Two wins on the night. **JSig 'Rocky' Moore** in the light welter weight division and **JSig 'Bonecrusher' Callfield**, a flyweight was Best Boxer.

BEAUFIGHTER TROOP

Battlecamp training unfortunately restricted their training period but they did manage one fight win on the night.

Many thanks go to **Cpl David King** for his excellent training and also to the 34 Sig Regt (V) Band for providing very good musical entertainment during the evening.

JLCpl Robert Conteh and Uncle John

Sgt 'Yes Harry' Fisher attends to JSig 'Bonecrusher' Callfield

JSig 'Lovely Boy' Teale, Iron Tp, lays a good right on to JSig Raymond McLeod, Kohima Tp

3 SQUADRON
EXERCISE *SORE FEET*

Ex *Sore Feet* was an orienteering trek along the Penine Way between Garside and Hawes. Iron Troop was split in half and each group was to undertake the exercise for a week during the two week adventure training period 10-24 November. The other week was to be spent at the Regiment's adventure training centre at Dent.

Cpl 'The Gringo' Cartledge was the exercise controller and he was ably assisted by **Cpls Barney Avery** and **Jack McDonald**. The junior soldiers tackled the exercise with bags of enthusiasm, it was after all an enjoyable break from military training and there were great improvements in map reading and cooking skills. One thing they hadn't bargained for however was **Cpl Cartledge**'s special indent from the QM's department. In the second week of the exercise a more than ample supply of rain was sent post haste from the stores and the merry deliverer didn't even stop long enough to get a signature.

Iron Tp 'at the summit' with Cpl Steve Talbot taking a well earned rest

LEADERSHIP WING

Have you ever tried your hand at 'toad sexing'? You haven't? Well how would you fancy a go at flower arranging, boxing or dwarf hurling? If any of these appeal, then the Army runs just the course for you—the Royal Signals Leadership Course.

The course, run at Catterick, is mainly for potential officers, yeomen and foremen.

You may already have gathered that some aspects of the course are not quite what they seem initially. The training programme produced daily gives an indication of what might occur. It might be said that the directing staff have difficulty in reading their own programme, or that they lack integrity. We would say that they just blatantly lie. Nature rambles, for instance, are done at the double!

The course programme is designed to develop leadership qualities and self confidence. Students are required to give lectures on such diverse subjects as AIDS and dwarf hurling and they must be able to think quickly and logically whilst under pressure. But how logically could you think when confronted by an exploding cassette player or an unconscious foreign professor stuck up a tree?

Other topics taught on the course include river crossings, Troop tactics and 'admin in the field'. This last subject makes 'P' Company seem quite easy at times.

So, if this taste of the course intrigues you get in touch with Leadership Wing, 11 Sig Regt and arrange for a five week luxury holiday in sunny North Yorkshire.

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

The Regiment has had a busy couple of months packed with exercises and visits. The 'silly' season is definitely upon us!

Unfortunately yet again we must say our goodbyes. **Capt Max Little** the Tech Adjt leaves us for RSRE at Malvern and he is replaced by **Capt Keith Goodfellow** from the School of Signals. Lucky **Lt 'Dreugh' Llewellyn** departs 14th to the sunny climate of 9 Sig Regt in Cyprus, and **Lt Gary Hearn** moves in from 4 Div to take over. We say goodbye and good luck to **Lt John Carroll** and welcome **Lt Mark Whyte** from Ashford. To all we wish them well and please keep in touch.

The Regimental Exercise *Foxhead II* was launched on 20 October, as we left Celle we were closely followed by rain which continued to 'tail' us solidly for two days. Mud wrestling certainly became a new sport for one particular Radio Det in RCP Troop, especially for **Sig 'Jack' Frost**!

As Ex *Foxhead* progressed into Ex *Eternal Triangle*, a Divisional exercise, things began to liven up, more of that later!

VISITS

Visits have been frequent over the last two months. The COs from two German Battalions—120 Fernmeldebataillon (FmBtn), the local Sig Regt and 320 FmBtn, who are our counterparts, hopefully, enjoyed the Regimental hospitality.

Mr John Stanley MP, Minister for the Armed Forces paid us a flying visit on 21 November. The Regiment put on their best show, and one member of 3 Sqn even went so far as breaking a leg!

SPORT

Sports fixtures have been in abundance recently and the Inter-Troop competitions have been bravely fought! It's amazing who gets dropped out to play when the Troops name is at stake! The results of the competitions were:

Hockey	won by Y Troop
Soccer	won by TM Troop
Rugby	won by TM Troop
Cross Country	won by N Troop
Orienteering	won by W Troop

A special mention must go to the 'Odds and Sods' (RHQ and other small departments of HQ Sqn) team who actually managed to gain points much to the Regiment's surprise and who finished fourth overall in the whole competition. Well done to all who took part, especially TM Tp who won the inter-Troop Trophy yet again!

Congratulations go to the 2IC, **Maj Derek McLuckie** for coming runner-up in the 1 Div Individual Veterans Squash Championships.

WHISKY TROOP
EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE*

After a rather slick Regimental move to Active Edge locations, The Troop had a long deployment drive into the deep South. For the first few days of Exercise *Foxhead II* we rehearsed operational procedures and night moves. The CO, **Lt Col Shaw** and Comd Comms, **Brig Cowan** flew in and were given a tour of our position by the Troop OC, **Capt Jonathan Perks**. **Cpl Austick**, in his inimitable way, produced some excellent food which kept everyone in good humour. The Troop's morale was raised by the visit of Asst Adjt, **2LT Vicky Bright**.

At the start of hostilities, we found ourselves sharing a defensive location with the Glasgow fans from the KOSB, roaring about in their Saxon vehicles. **Sig Neil Francis** and the OC had a close engagement with an enemy recce vehicle—confirming our worst fears about the location of the orange forces. This was the first of many tight escapes! During some rapid moves we sustained a number of injuries: **SSgt Wacky Webster** was casevaced with a locked knee, as was **LCpl Storey** when he removed the end of his finger and, after patching up a badly infected eye, **Sgt John McEwan** did a very good Treasure Island Impersonation.

Cpl Nick Turner's detachment got overrun (literally) by a Leopard II tank and a section of Infantry. Also the bad weather added to the vehicle casualties—**Cpl Ian Foster, SSgt Manny Calland** and **LCpl Rich Angove** all went 'ditch diving'. However despite all these minor excitements, the Troop won through, blue forces were victorious, the orange forces were driven into the sea and we all survived to get back in time for the Squadron dinner night!

1 SQN
J TROOP

After a full exercise season, the Troop is now settling down to a diet of painting vehicles and guided tours around nearby Scheuen (courtesy of **SSM 'Tommo' Tomlinson**). Here are some of the highlights of the last few months.

The first outing was on Ex *Taurus Charge* in support of 33 Bde. This featured a spectacular defensive engagement in which both control detachments held out against repeated helicopter attacks for more than 14 hours.

After that episode there was a brief spell on Ex *Hazel Flute* (a Harrier Force deployment) before moving on to Ex *Crossed Swords*—the 1 Belgian Corps FTX. These provided a fortnight of fast-moving activity, and the Troop managed to wreak havoc with comms everywhere. The Belgians were effectively dealt with as well.

In the warm-up period of Ex *Eternal Triangle*, many procedures and techniques were trialled. **Cpl Dave Gosney's** detachment demonstrated the most notable of these; the hull-down Bromure, dug in to reduce vulnerability. After being rescued from this location, the same detachment went on to trial a new system of inertial navigation, as **Sig Bobby Ball** was talked into location.

Of the many personnel changes, we have said farewell to **Sgt Al Grant, Cpls 'Charlie' Farley, Dave George** and **'Stig' Storey, LCpls Danny Fagan, Jock Kenny, Stef Newton, 'Scouse' Traynor** and **John Yates** and **Sig Paddy Burton** and **Kev Gardiner**.

In their places **Cpl Dave Thomas** is now **Sgt Dave Thomas, Cpl Baz Ennels** is occasionally seen between sailing trips, **LCpls Jack Carty** and **Wayne Hayes** and **Sig Steve Evans** have all been posted in.

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1987

Stocks of the 1987 Corps diary are still 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 1986, 1987 and 1988, listing of European holidays 1987, an Inter City Rail Plan and the London Underground Map.

The cost of the diary is now £1.00 for orders within the United Kingdom, and 80p for overseas orders. Please use the order form when placing your orders.

To:
Royal Signals Association
56 Regency Street
LONDON SW1P 4AD

From: _____
(BLOCKS)
Address _____

_____

_____

I/We wish to order _____ Corps Diaries @ £1.00/80p* each for despatch to the above address. (Cost within the UK is £1.00 and for overseas orders 80p).

I/We enclose PO/Cheque payable to 'The Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund' for: _____

Date: _____ Signed: _____

NOTE: *Delete as appropriate.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

As in most units, Headquarter Sqn contains all the departments and individuals whose routine and often unseen work is the life-blood of the Regiment. However in contrast to our normal routine, on 23 October the full might of the Squadron was assembled on the main square for the first of the newly instituted Commanding Officer's Inspection Days. Much time was spent cleaning, painting and more cleaning in preparation. It was even reported that certain members of the Squadron had to be issued with webbing for the first time since leaving basic training in order to take part in **WO1 (RSM) Dave Simpson**'s SOP kit check. But despite all the extra work, the Regiment managed to carry on, the only problem now remaining is how the QM is going to replenish the paint stocks in time for the next CO's Day.

RHQ TROOP

Commanded by the Assistant Adjutant **Lt Jenny Ogden**, RHQ Tp includes not only the clerks and pay staff of RHQ but also those individuals who do not come under any other department. This includes the RP staff, PRI, SHQ, Gym, Training Wing and the military staff of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. We have had several new arrivals recently including **Sgt Alan Hunt** (RP Sergeant), **Sgt Bob Clark RAPC** and **Cpl Vince Smith** (Unit Admin Office), **Pte Tracey Lowery WRAC, Sig Mark Slade** and **Graham Cook** (Orderly Room), and **Pte Lisa Escreet WRAC** (Post Room).

Life in RHQ has been very hectic recently with the introduction of PAMPAS and the creation of the Unit Admin Office under the watchful eye of **WO2 (ORQMS) Marsh Thomson** and Paymaster **Capt Bruce Minty RAPC**. At the coal-face (or should that be VDU face?) many long hours of overtime have been put in by all the clerks, including those mentioned above, and also the slightly 'older' hands: ORS **Sgt Dougie Maher, Cpl Steve Gorman, LCpls Julie Schofield** and **Julie Dormer**. All we want for Christmas is . . . peace and quiet!

Amongst the recent departures from RHQ Tp we must mention **WO1 (soon to be RSM) Lennie Rowland-Jones** our erstwhile Training Officer who leaves to become RSM of 34 Sig Regt (V). He is succeeded by **Lt Alison Mann WRAC**. We wish **Lennie** and **Christine** all the best back in UK, and we will miss the sing-songs.

LAD AND CATERING TROOP

Despite their respective cap badges we feel that *The Wire* is the place to acknowledge the contribution made by those members of REME and ACC currently serving with us. We also value them as tradesmen and women, and also thank them for their contribution to our various sports teams, thanks to you all.

QM (TECH) DEPARTMENT

1986 has come and gone in a flash, or so it would seem, with non-stop activity on all fronts throughout the year.

Being one of the smaller departments of 16 Sig Regt it has not always been easy to provide manpower for courses, sports and pastimes, but we have managed, somehow.

QM (Tech)	**Maj Bob Pearce**
RQMS	**WO2 Dave Nixon**
Accountant	**SSgt Tommie Morris**

Workwise **Cpl Terry Parle** was hardly seen, if not captaining the Regimental Football Team he was away on his B1 at Catterick, driving course at Leconfield or Det Comd Course at Birgelen. **Sig Paul Firth** was also away on his B1 and a driving course while **Sig Paul Grundy, Tony Seal** and **Mark McAllister** passed their B2 on home ground.

Sport has been very much to the fore with **Maj (QM) Bob Pearce** organising the Regimental Volleyball whilst **RQMS Dave Nixon** continued for the fourth season with Regimental Football. **Cpl Terry Parle** and **Sig Kev Green** played Regimental Football while **Sig Paul Grundy, Tony Seal** and **Mark McAllister** pounded X-Country courses. **Cpl Steve Bungay** bowled his arm into a sling for the good of the Regiment at 10 pin bowling and the QM stroked his way around Bruggen Golf course in the RCZ league, the RQMS occasionally swings a club but doesn't mention the QM's hole-in-one on 2 November at Bruggen, he does that himself!

Work? Yes that goes on as well thanks to **SSgt Tommie Morris** our accountant and **Sig Paul Firth** in FAMTO. PTARMIGAN has started to hit us so 1987 should be even busier. Our motto for 1987 will remain 'We never close'.

We have missed the services of **Sgt Chick Ross** on detachment to the Falklands; come back soon **Chick**!

T TROOP

The 'T' in T Troop normally stands for Transport, but in the case of some members it can mean Trouble. That said we have had a good year. It started with the wind down from *Snow Queen* 1986, where fun was had by **Sig Custus** especially whose accident record went into double figures. Then in July the Troop invaded Holland for a week's well earned rest on our summer camp. What a week it was, and again lots of fun was had by everyone. We could not have asked for more. August saw the start of Battle Camp with everyone involved in either taking part or on the permanent staff side. In the meantime six members had entered an international Driving Competition which took place in Holland. The male team consisted of **Sig Paul Buckley, Daz Russell** and **Paul 'Camouflage' Cross** who gained sixth place overall. The women's team was **Cpl Wendy Wharton** (also Wire notes writer), and **Ptes Sue Cutmore** and **Debbie Bowley** who were not only the only women out of hundreds of entries, but were also Best Driver and Overall Winners (eat your hearts out guys!). The competition, and the success for those who took part, was a great morale booster for the Troop—well done everyone.

The end of September saw the return of **WO2 Dave (Mr Snow Queen 87) Hand** fresh from his MTO's course, which he passed to the amazement of the rest of the Troop! Lots of our old Troop members have gone now, and one is about to fly the nest into the outside world, namely **Sgt Sandy Sandison**, who is finally retiring from the business. His enthusiasm and hard work has not gone unnoticed in the running of the Troop and we would like to wish him and his family good luck and health for the future.

The year is now coming to a close and as I began with *Snow Queen*, so I end as the Troop prepares for the 1987 season by delivering all the stores to the hut in Bavaria—a time not to be forgotten!

QM (ADMIN) DEPARTMENT

Personalities within the department are:-

QM	**Maj Eric Webster**
RQMS	**WO2 Greg Robertson**
Accommodation	**SSgt Dave D'Silva**
	Cpl Kev Wilkinson
	Herr Wolfgang Faust
Clothing	**LCpl Val Pryce WRAC**
	Sig Tony Clarke
Clerks	**Mrs Lorraine Duke**
	Frau Christel Cobrand

The Department continues to give the service that the Regiment requires, despite finding time for the occasional sporting activity.

Some time back, **LCpl Val Pryce** was part of the WRAC Team to take part in the BAOR Rounders Championship in Berlin.

SSgt Dave D'Silva and **Cpl Kev Wilkinson** are stalwart members of the unit fishing team and recently were part of the team which won the RCZ Super Six fishing match.

WO2 Greg Robertson takes an active part in the management of the Table Tennis Team, the runners-up in the RCZ Inter Unit Championship. He is also very much involved with the Sergeants' Mess darts team; I hear he has a very able 'right arm'.

Sig Tony Clarke is spending much of his time on boxing training in preparation for the RCZ Finals.

The QM spends the 'odd afternoon' on the Golf Course, hoping to equal the QM (T)'s record 'hole in one'.

A number of works services are scheduled for Bradbury Barracks one of which is to move this department from Block Four to the present 606 MCTG accommodation. This will be the first time that the stores and offices are in the same building. The move is likely to be completed by the middle of 1987.

We are shortly to say farewell to **LCpl Val Pryce** who is posted to Guildford, and **Mrs Lorraine Duke**, whose husband is leaving the service.

Thank you for all your hard work and all the best in the future.

MIKE TROOP

ARRIVALS

The Troop welcomes the following new arrivals:

TOT	**Capt Joe Logan**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Al Geddes**
Plastic FofS	**SSgt Mick Taylor**
RR Bay	**Cpl Lloyd Bath**
	LCpl Philip Winter
TE Bay	**WLCpl Louise Crutchlow**
	LCpl Carl Hindson

The Troop wishes them all a Happy and eventful tour in M Tp.

DEPARTURES

The Troop wishes a fond farewell to the following: **Maj Jim Phillips, SSgt Steve Bibby, SSgt Pete Halstead** (promoted WO2 on posting to 4 Div), **Sgt Al Nairn RAOC, Cpl Aidrian Cheesman** (3 Sqn), **LCpl Andy Clarke** (2 Sqn), **Cpl David Purver** (3 Sqn), **LCpl Neil Eyton** (3 Sqn), **LCpl John Taylor** (1 Sqn).

ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to the following:

Cpl Graham Stott on becoming the RCZ Intermediate Motorcycle Champion.

Cpl Shane Wright on achieving seventh place in the Army Canoe Championships.

Cpl Tony Pinsent on the arrival of his second baby daughter.

PTARMIGAN TEAM

On 13 October 1986, eight Radio Relay Technicians, four from 21 Sig Regt and four from 16 Sig Regt got together in a garage somewhere in Germany, to form the PTARMIGAN Installation Team.

It is the team's job to convert RCZ's BRUIN Triffid Vehicles into the new 'high tech' PTARMIGAN Vehicles.

Under the watchful eye of **Sgt Stu Piddock, Cpls Jack Gartside** and **'Heineken' Black** have prepared a superb new bay, designed especially for the job.

The job has started very well, and a lot of the initial problems have been ironed out. The team is now in full production. This is due in no small part to **Cpl elder Statesman Court** and **LCpl Andy Terry**, both Radio Relay Ops.

REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL

The 1986 season ended on a high note, the Regiment gaining promotion to Division One of the North Rhine Inter-Services Football League, the last eight of the Army Cup and the final of the RCZ Cup.

The interest generated led to the forming of a second team, run by **WO2 (SSM) Terry Kidd**, playing in the Wednesday league and **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Nixon** freezing on the touchline for the fourth season with the first team. The improvement must be credited to the man the players love to hate, **SSgt (YofS) Brian Colvin**, who shouts his way through training sessions and leads by practicing what he preaches.

We are holding our own with the 'big-boys' of Division One and have progressed to the last 16 of the Army Cup beating 21 Sig Regt (AS), UKSU Shape and 12 Ad Regt RA with our next hurdle being the QRIH.

Cpl Terry Parle has taken over as team captain from **Sgt Billy Watts** who is now in his fifth season and getting older. Some old faces remain in the guise of **Cpls Steve Cotter, Colin Ward** and **Sig Kev Green**. **LCpls Ian Holmes** and **Paul Bowes** have added strength to the mid-field whilst **Sig Andrew Jackson** buzzes up front, he doesn't score many, but he buzzes!

Congratulations go to **Sgt Billy Watts** on selection for the Corps team this season playing against RAPC 4—0, ACC 17—1 and APTC 7—1 (but ne'er a goal to his credit).

Back Row: Cpl Roger Roye, Sig Jock Gunn, Cpl Tery Parle, LCpl 'Oops' McWilliam, Sig Andy Jackson, SSgt (YofS) Brian Colvin, Cpl Steve Cotter, WO2 (RQMS) Dave Nixon
Front Row: Sgt Billy Watts, LCpl Ian Holmes, Cpl Ally Murray, LCpl Scouse Keeling, Sig Kevin Green, Cpl Simon Hill, LCpl Paul Bowes

ROYAL SIGNALS BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Badminton Championship were held on 2/3 October 1986, at Herford. It was organised by **Capt Stan Hargreaves**, and the competition ran very smoothly. There was an excellent turnout this year; last year the tournament was cancelled due to poor numbers.

After some excellent play throughout the two days **Sig Batty** ended up in both the men's doubles and singles finals. In the men's doubles **Sig Batty** of 1 Sqn 16 Sig Regt and **Sig Boyce** of the Herford Commcen convincingly beat some excellent opposition, **SSgt Ochletri** and partner, to win the men's doubles. In the men's singles **Sig Batty** was playing his doubles partner **Sig Boyce**. After some gruelling rallies **Sig Batty** won the men's singles. Congratulations must go to both **Sig Batty** and **Sig Boyce** for sweeping the board in the Corps badminton championships.

16/28 SIG REGT WRAC CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Lately, there has been an increase in the interest in cross country running. This epidemic (no doubt spread by **Cpl Jones**, the unit PTI), has affected some unsuspecting people, in unusual ways. **Pte Eagleson**, has been seen running around the Army field, at a great rate, and even **Cpl Rimmer** has been spotted once or twice sprinting up and down hills! **2Lt Rose, Sgt Williams, Cpls Taylor, Waud, LCpls Cooper, Spilsbury, Mackay, Ptes Shelmedine, Walker, Self** and **Littlewood**, have all been known to venture out on wintry Wednesday afternoons in the RCZ/RAFG Cross Country league, wearing Signals strip and raring to go.

At the moment of writing, we are lying third in the league, and have recently competed in the Army three mile Relay Championships in the UK in which we came fifth out of 58 teams. We were placed second in the BAOR Championships, with **Cpl Jones**, and **LCpl Spilsbury** coming second and third respectively.

Last but by no means least, I must mention **Mrs Ursula Graham**, who works in the Regiment, wife of **Yeoman Graham** who in her class (veteran) will no doubt win the league easily, and we predict that she will still be running and winning prizes for another 30 years at least.

Congratulations, and thanks to all those involved with the cross country.

16/28 Sig Regt's WRAC Cross-Country Team

CANOEING

Having returned from the Inter-Services Slalom at Grandtully, the Army coming second to the RAF, we put our minds to the Army White Water Championships at Richmond in North Yorkshire. The team of three, **Lt Alison Mann, Cpl Shane Wright**, and **LCpl John Harris** suddenly grew to nine. In the weeks before the competition the training intensified with full time training beginning two weeks before the competition.

Our first competition was the RAF Germany Championships at Bergheim, with creditable performances by all team members. For six of the team it was their first time in a competition.

Then came the BAOR Championships on the River Erft at Neuss. By this time we had lost one paddler with a dislocated shoulder so we were left with eight. The team performed well improving on the previous weekend's result and finished third in the BAOR Downriver Racing League. The team then packed up the landrover and set off for the UK.

We arrived in Richmond only to find the River Swale was extremely low. The team trained hard for the rest of the week spending the evenings repairing boats damaged by the infamous rocks in the Swale.

On the Saturday much to everyone's delight there was a considerable rise in the river. The individual competitions were held. The results were as follows:

Mens K1		**Ladies K1**	
Cpl Wright	**9th**	**Lt Mann**	**1st**
LCpl Harris	**19th**		
Sig Haigh	**21st**	**C2**	
		CplWright/	
Mens Slalom		**LCpl Harris**	**2nd**
Cpl Collins	**24th**		
Cpl Bell	**30th**		
Sig Smith	**45th**		
Sig Campbell	**62nd**		

On Sunday unfortunately the river dropped slightly and so the dreaded rocks appeared again but the team did their best with the 'A' team coming fourth and the 'B' team 21st, due to two members of the team swimming!

The Army Championships were thoroughly enjoyed by all members of the team and three of them **Lt Mann, Cpl Wright**, and **LCpl Harris** were picked to represent the Army in the Inter-Services White Water Championships at Sanquhar in February 1987.

1 SQUADRON
FOXHOUND OR FOXBAT?

'Or perhaps it's Flogger, but on the other hand it may not be a Warsaw Pact aircraft at all, a NATO one with bogus national insignia? An F15?'

This was a discussion between **Pte Hollingworth** and **2Lt Rose** during the aircraft recognition phase of the international military skills competition (IMM 86).

The IMM now in its third year, is run by the German Territorial Northern Command and, as the name implies tests military skills. The competition has become fierce: this year 56 teams competed, nine of which were women and it was the largest yet.

We entered a WRAC team, who were a credit to both the Squadron and the Regiment. **Cpl Taylor** crept out of the Commcen and was in her element flying over the 12ft Wall. **Cpl Lightfoot** kept us entertained with her running (the conveyor belt run). **Pte Hollingworth** was an invaluable Team Member when it came to recognition of Aircraft, AFV or Uniforms. **Pte Fox** and **Pte Littlewood** (our Reserves) worked extremely hard and contributed to all training sessions.

The team won the Women's trophy and were placed 21st overall. We are indebted to RSM NORTHAG, **WO1 (RSM) Hardman**, for without his training and guidance 1 Sqn could not have competed so successfully. Who would have believed that three weeks ago the six of us could have ever discussed the Foxhound or Foxbat in such detail!

IMM Team
Standing (L to R): Pte Dianne Littlewood (Res), Cpl Dawn Taylor, WO1 (RSM) Hardman QLR, 2Lt Isobel Rose (Capt), Sgt Lusty
Kneeling: Pte Linda Fox (Res), Cpl Caroline Lightfoot, Pte Kathryn Hollingworth

2 SQUADRON
MANAGEMENT TEAM

OC 2	**Maj F. B. Campbell**
2IC/C	**Lt M. T. Nevill**
OC J	**Capt P. Heritage**
OC K	**2Lt N. Dewar**
OC R	**Lt J. Williams**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) I. Lake**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) R. J. Lewis**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) J. Allen**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) I. Atherton**

FAREWELL

To **Capt Jim (The Black Adder) Body** to 7 Sig Regt, **WO1 (YofS) Allan Bodimeade** to take up his new post in CDA, **WO2 (SSM) Steve Davies** to the PIU team in Verden, **Sgt Mac McCutheon** to York, **Pte (I'm getting married next August) Prior, Sgt Dave Metcalf** to the sunny climes of Hong Kong, **LCpl (Breakdance) Milton** off to NI, also to 16 Sig Regt's answer to Casanova **Cpl 'Smudge' J. C. Smith** off to 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl Pete (DM20 a Naafi Break) Smoothy** and **LCpl Pearce.**

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **Lt Mick Nevill** from 8 Sig Regt from **WO2 (SSM) Rick Lewis** from 7 Armd Bde, **SSgt (FofS) Atherton** straight from FofS course, **YofS Lake** from Bielefeld and **SSgt Tony Singleton** all the way from 28 Sig Regt, **SSgt Parry-Davies** from Hereford, **Cpl Goldie** from 7 Sig Regt, **LCpl Hamilton, Cpl Lyons, Sig Rothwell, Fernbank, Jones, Henderson, Sgt Pete Old**. We have had so many changeovers recently, we hope we have not missed out anyone.

3 SQUADRON
ALPHA TROOP

Big Cheese	**Capt Nigel Gill**
Little Cheese	**SSgt Mick Orange**
Duty Flapper	**YofS Paul Forryan**
Main Valve Duster	**SSgt Dave Fisher**
Duty Jiff	**Sgt Chris Higgins**
Duty Hypercon Driac	**Sgt Neil Hatton**
Pet Cadet	**OCdt Alasdair Geddes**

Firstly a welcome to Alpha Tp for **2Lt Isobel Rose, SSgt Mick Orange, Sig George Boath, Craig Fleming, Richard Wray**, and last but not least welcome back (a sucker for punishment) **LCpl Trevor Bailey**. Alpha Tp has just finished its 7 Sig impersonation of Ex, Ex, Work, Ex, Ex, Day off (only one) Ex, Ex.

The exercises were quite eventful, **Sig 'Wiff' Wiffen** discovered just how expensive buying a girl a drink in a bar is; meanwhile as most other det commanders just go on exercise, **Cpl Derek Tidswell** does a lightning tour of Europe including Ostende, Zeebrugge, Emblem and Bonn. The Yeoman has been practising vertical take-offs at the first sign of a problem (when he's not sleeping that is).

Alpha Troop's version of Gulliver, **Cpl 'Bav' Bavister** who has been to Spain, done three Summer Camps and two Wind Surfing courses is soon off on a four month holiday to NI then off to work himself to death in Kenya for three weeks (still we can't have him working can we?).

The Troop relic **SSgt Dave (where's my BEM) Fisher** is busy altering parts of the temporary (fast becoming permanent) Clansman dets, whilst the Big Cheese is busy doing nothing in between courses and liaison visits to UK and ensuring that the Pet Cadet does turn up occasionally.

Finally the future looks rosier than of late, and at long last we will soon swap our D13's and R234's (are we the last?) for the all singing, all dancing Racal stations. They are so easy to use we're trying to get rid of a job lot of RTG's (we're willing to exchange 10 RTG's for one Tech).

FOXTROT TROOP

After saying a fond farewell to our OC, **Maj Willie Brewin** we bid a hearty welcome to our new boss, **Capt Basil Larkam**. Welcome also to **Sig Ballinger**, who has finally escaped being one of the POSSE, **Sig Land, Cpl Collins, Sig McGarry** and his family, **Cpl Jansen** and **Cpl Blair** and his wife. Also welcome to two new boys all the way from Man Utd Football Club, **Sgt Billy Watts** and **YofS (Suki) Colvin** on a short posting for the winter training period. They play spot the ball, we play spot the uniform.

FAREWELLS

LCpl 'Last six months in UK' Parker, WPte Milligan, WLCpl Buckley, and **WSgt Richardson** and **Cpl Chopper Budden** who are both going to the Falklands.

Despite exercises and the routine functions we are pleased to say that we came runner up in the inter-troop volleyball competition.

GOLF TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO2 John Wooders**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Mick McDonald**
Lineman	**LCpl John William Skevington**

As part of pre-PTARMIGAN re-organisation, August saw the formation of Golf Tp, which will in time assume the role of providing a major access node based in Bradbury Barracks.

The Troop consists of Linemen, Powermen and Drivers, holding all of the Squadron's GS transport and also being responsible for maintenance of the Generators. Troop MT is now trading under the name of 'Ozcabs—BAOR'.

Manpower was drawn from Foxtrot Tp, Juliet Tp, with one token driver from Alpha Tp. **Sgt Mick McDonald** managed to keep the old F Tp Admin Office, thus evicting **Sgt Joyce Richardson** into an office next door. However, by way of revenge, **Joyce** successfully sued for custody of the stationery.

The Troop is well represented at sport, providing no less than seven members of The Regimental Tug-of-War Squad, several footballers, motor cyclists and a golfer. (No names, but he used to be an SSM).

4 SQUADRON

As usual there have been many arrivals and departures lately. Amongst the departures were **SSgt (YofS) Ian Lake, WO2 (SSM) Pat Herbert** and **Sgt Alan Gill**, all of whom we wish very well in their next posting. In their places we welcome **WO1 (YofS) Steve Watson** and **WO2 (SSM) Lawrence**, already making their presence felt.

Otherwise a fairly routine period has been punctuated by many sporting events and military training, just to keep us all on our toes.

CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS—ALDERSHOT
Report by Pte Linda Dean WRAC

On 14 November **Ptes Paula King, Trisha Hill, Anne Wilkinson, Shirley Docherty** and I set off on our long journey to Aldershot for the X Country Championships. We arrived at Gutersloh airport with one and a half hours to spare before take off.

When the time came we proceeded to board our luxury Army jet, none other than a Hercules! It was quite a shock to the system to see the crew leaping around tightening nuts and bolts as it started to shake violently on take off. Two and a half hours later we arrived in Belfast? 'Which way to Aldershot' cried **Pte Trisha Hill** but to our relief they allowed us back on the aircraft and two hours later we arrived at Lyneham. After a slight disagreement between **Pte Anne Wilkinson** and the customs control (thanks to **SSM Pat Herbert** and her cigarettes) we were allowed through, so we all jumped on the waiting transport to Aldershot.

It was 2330 hrs when we finally arrived and we were very glad to be shown to our accommodation. At 0830 hrs the next morning bright eyed and bushy tailed we were ready for our big race. As usual no one seemed to know what was happening or even where the course was. After wandering round aimlessly we stumbled across Rushmoor Arena. The weather was cold and wet but it did not dampen our spirits. We arrived too late to walk the course, so we could only look at the map. The course was three and a half miles long which was all uphill and to make things worse it was very muddy. As the starting time grew nearer our excitement grew stronger. **Ptes Shirley Docherty** and **Paula King** were our first two runners of six to do the course. At 1150 hrs they joined the rest of the competitors at the start. We went to cheer them on but were unable to see them due to the density at the start line. At 1200 hrs the gun shot rang out and they were off, with mud flying and feet stampeding they were gone, across the arena into the woods and out of sight. 'Well I'm dreading this' exclaimed **Pte Anne Wilkinson** as she went to check in with **Pte Trisha Hill** for their leg of the race, which came next.

Ptes Linda Dean and Anne Wilkinson—two of the Bielefeld Garrison team in the X Country Relays

It felt like hours before our two team mates came into the changeover pen. Once they were in the next two runners were off looking very determined but still smiling. 'Thank God that's over' said **Pte Shirley Docherty** with mud dripping from her brow.

The atmosphere became very tense as the time drew nearer for our final runners to go. **LCpl Sandy Beck** and I got ready as the runners started to flood in. 'Over here' I shouted to **Pte Trisha Hill** as she came tearing around the corner towards us, then I was off. Across the arena and into the woods, a slight incline on to the tank training area and then into the mud! This made the going very tough and I could hear myself breathing very heavily. At last, around the corner was a long downhill stretch where I could possibly make up some lost time. I knew I must be nearing the end as we went uphill again, 'must keep going' I thought, nearly home. One more corner then back towards the arena. My heart started to beat faster as the finishing line drew closer towards me, if only my legs would go a little bit faster!

The crowds cheered loudly as we ran into the finish where the rest of the teams were waiting. **LCpl Sandy Beck** was right behind me. What a relief to finish.

The two teams from Bielefeld were placed 32nd and 36th out of 59 teams. We didn't win any prizes but we did not disgrace ourselves either. We put a lot of effort into the race but it was worth it as we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

VOLKSLAUFS—THE '100-1 OUTSIDERS' CLUB

Thanks primarily to the determination of **Pte Linda Dean,** aided and abetted by the SSM, **WO2 Pat Herbert,** the number of 4 Sqn runners who have been bullied, persuaded, cajoled and tricked into entering the local Volkslauf is growing. The 100 to 1 Club now has 100 members and a few more hangers on, from 4 Sqn and HQ Regt.

The Bad Salzuflen run on 2 November was perhaps the best attended. Thirty two 4 Sqn members ran the 11km course which was pretty but quite hilly, and the 100-1 Club easily won the trophy for the largest team.

Incentive—well that is debatable—it could be the individual trophy earned for finishing a course, but, more likely, the wrath incurred for chickening out.

EXERCISE *SAVANNAH BACKSTOP* 1987—SELECTION
Report by LCpl McPherson

Only the really keen or the mentally unstable among us would even think about dragging themselves out of bed on a cold autumn, Saturday morning to do a BFT, an assault course and a command task; yet that's exactly what seven members of 4 Sqn did on 11 October. The reason was the selection for Ex *Savannah Backstop*, the 16 Sig Regt expedition to Kenya, incorporating an ascent of Mount Kenya and a safari. Well, we volunteered for it in August when it seemed like a good idea but now we weren't so sure. The seven brave souls who did turn up were **LCpls Rachel McPherson** and **Tonia Sugden, Ptes Hilary Murphy, Mandy Stenner, Ruth Taylor, Waggy Wagstaff** and **Sig Geordie Townsend**. After staggering through our BFTs (a very commendable effort by Sig Townsend), it was off to the assault course where we subjected a stuffed sack on a stretcher to some physical abuse while we were dealt with by the PTIs (**and LCpl Tonia Sugden**). Next was the command task where we were actually expected to produce a sensible way of crossing water. Needless to say we did not do so, but gave everyone a good laugh anyway—especially the expedition leader **Lt Jenny Ogden**. Physical exertion over, we waffled our way through the talks on 'why we want to go to Kenya' trying to sound sincere and enthusiastic when really all we wanted to do was to collapse into the nearest bed. Finally, the ordeal was over Surprisingly enough, four of us were actually selected—obviously someone has their own reasons for picking us. The lucky ones were **LCpls Rachel McPherson** and **Tonia Sugden, Pte Waggy Wagstaff** and **Sig 'Geordie' Townsend**; the others being selected as reserves.

So now we embark on the serious task of fund-raising (yes, yet another sponsored event in 4 Sqn). We will be washing cows, babysitting, doing odd jobs and various other events during the next six months—so please give generously.

Before finishing, I would like, on behalf of all of us, to thank **Sgt Lewis** for all his planning for the selection and **Lt Jenny Ogden** for finding the time to come to Bielefeld to see us.

CIV POP
Report by Sgt Babz Johnson

I wondered what I was letting myself in for when I agreed to 'look after' 7 WRAC on *Op Banner* for 17 days. Not that they needed looking after, protecting maybe, as there were eight women to 92 men.

Civ Pop as we were affectionately known are the residents of a mythical village. When constructing a complete village it is essential that there are a few women there—after all, who else would chat up the soldier sitting in your garden while your family smuggle arms out of the back door and into the coal bunker? Who else would be labelled 'soldier doll' for giving first aid to any army patrol that had been in an accident and, more the point, who else would slave away in a chip shop all the hours God sends, feeding the rest of the community?

It was certainly no holiday, if ever we earned our wages it was during those 17 days. When we weren't being tied up and held hostage for hours at a time or lifted by the security forces from our houses at 3 o'clock in the morning, we were expected to throw heavy bricks, shout, scream and generally abuse 'the Brits'.

All in all it was an experience not to be missed but I would say to any girls reading this 'you have been warned'.

WRAC HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS
Report by Pte Dawn Phillips WRAC

Bielefeld Garrison Hockey Team were out in force on 18 October for the WRAC Inter Unit Hockey in Rheindahlen.

The team consisted of players from 4 Sqn in Bielefeld and the outstations, and some HQ girls as well. **Cpl Dawn Bagnall** and **LCpl Louise Atherton** did some excellent work on the wings to set up goals for **Capt Clair Vye** and **Lt Debbie Davies**. **Pte Mandy Stenner** and **LCpl Sue Ayres** produced some hard tackles and **Cpl Lynn Harbage Brown** led a very strong defence. Backed up by some brilliant saves from goal keeper **Cpl Chris Beckitt**, the Bielefeld Garrison team were very proud to come third of the nine teams entered.

King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers

SISTER AGNES'S

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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.

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VISIT OF THE SOinC

The SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander** visited the Regiment in mid November during Ex *Sweet Martini III*.

First he presented the Regiment with its second Birtwistle Pennant, this one for recruiting (**Maj Gen Yeoman** had presented the Sporting Pennant to the Regiment earlier in the month). To be different the Regiment 'doubled' off the Square.

The SOinC then visited the Regiment in the field, Trunk Node 011 and **Lt Peter Stephenson** were the hosts.

Afterwards **General** and **Mrs Alexander** met the officers and their wives at lunch.

The SOinC presenting the Birtwistle Pennant for recruiting

The SOinC shares a joke with WO2 (SSM) John Davis

The SOinC chatting with Cpl 'Silver Jim' Johnson of TNO11

CHANGE-OVER OF COMMANDING OFFICERS

On Friday 28 November **Lt Col Peter Pritchard** said farewell to his Regiment. The whole week had been a very hectic time for both him and **Lt Col Gerry Barrett** the incoming CO.

The signing of the Handover/Takeover Certificates took place in the CO's office at lunch time followed at 1500 hrs by the Regiment's farewell parade. **Lt Col Pritchard** inspected the entire Regiment and bade farewell individually to some prominent Regimental members. The Colonel's final drive out of camp was in a horse and carriage, at the trot!

We all wish **Lt Col Pritchard** and **Margaret** every happiness and success in their new post at RMCS Shrivenham.

We welcome **Lt Col Gerry Barrett** and his wife **Sue** to Lippstadt and hope they enjoy their tour.

Lt'Col Pritchard inspecting the Regiment prior to his departure

Lt Col Peter Pritchard delivering his farewell address

The CO greeting the Corps Comd outside RHQ. The RSM is taking up a tactical position behind the bush

CORPS COMMANDER'S VISIT

The Regimental Training Day for October was a particularly special one as **Lt Gen Sir Brian Kenny** paid his first visit to the Regiment.

He was met by the CO **Lt Col Peter Pritchard** and **WO1 RSM Phil Daisey** at the Regimental Headquarters, and then given a briefing on the Regiment's equipment, role and training by the CO, 2IC and Training Officer.

The General was then given a guided tour of each of the Stands on the Training Day.

NBC

The NBC Stand concentrated on decontamination. **Sgt Andy Hurley** was instructing NBC suit changing drill while **SSgt Steve Frith** was teaching unit vehicle decontamination in his kinky plastic suit.

SSgt Steve Frith explains the NBC decontamination training to the Corps Comd

ESCAPE AND EVASION

Maj Patrick Dickinson gave the General an initial briefing of the Stand and of our previous E and E exercises. **WO1 John Hutcheon REME** very kindly returned to the Regiment to instruct on Survival Skills. After his lesson I'm sure the Corps Commander carries his survival kit now!

WO1 John Hutcheon asks 'What have you got in your Survival Kit then?'

SECTION BATTLE DRILLS

This Stand took the form of a section attack led, this time, by **Cpl Harry Rae**. Though this type of attack is not particularly relevant to us, it is very useful practice for Royal Signals Detachment Commanders Course.

Cpl Steve Hicks freefall parachutist and LCpl Craig Fryer scuba diver both of 4 Sqn tell the Corps Comd about their respective sports. WO1 (FofS) Rus Davey, OIC both sports, on the right

4 SQUADRON'S ACTIVITIES

4 Sqn as usual, was doing something different. **SSgt Mick Uttley** had booked a Lynx helicopter to abseil from but unfortunately we could not get an instructor so we had to abandon that idea. 4 Sqn was also hosting the Troops from 440 Sig Btn and **SSM Steve Davis** soon had them performing bayonet practice. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, whilst their OC **Lt Tanya 'Hicks' Washington** was content to watch from the side lines.

At the end of the visit the General attended a demonstration of the Regiment's Adventurous Training projects. The main activities were Sub-Aqua Diving and Freefall parachuting with **WO1 (FofS) Russ Davey** and Offshore sailing with **Lt Marcus Appleton** and **LCpl David Scullion**.

The visit ended with a brief look at Ex *Pelican* the Regiment's SCC Training exercise.

USAREUR EXCHANGE 86

As part of this year's exchange programme 4 Sqn played host to 20 American Servicemen of 440 Sig Btn based in Dalmstadt, between 6-18 October 1986.

The Americans arrived to be greeted with a rather hectic programme of military training which saw them taking part in endurance marches, night navigation, weapon training, hashing and to cap it all a CFT. Led by **Lt Tanya Washington** our guests came up to all expectations and despite several blisters and sore feet, some enjoyable and worthwhile training was achieved.

On 3 November the exchange culminated in 18 members of 4 Sqn under the leadership of **Lt A. J. Wilson** arriving in Dalmstadt for two weeks of training with 440 Sig Btn.

The Party was split up between the Battalion's four Companies and gained valuable training with members taking part in weapon training, generator and technical maintenance and a communications exercise, part of the Battalion's contribution to Ex *Able Archer 86*. Despite the efforts of **Cpl (Airborne) Collins** who fell out of a second storey window, the party returned to Lippstadt in good order, having made many new friends and with a lasting impression of how one of our NATO army works.

The Americans appear eager to meet the Corps Comd

'Lootenant' Tanya Washington (OC of the US Troops) Meets the Corps Comd. 'Hasn't he got a kinda cute hat'

REGIMENTAL PAGE TROPHY

The Regiment just managed to compete in the three day Inter Squadron Page Trophy this Winter. This year the events were Rugby, Soccer, Hockey, Squash, Tug of War, Volleyball and Assault Course.

The Contest was well fought but in the end it was the strong 3 Sqn team won. Many thanks must go to **WO2 (QMSI) Jeff Archer** and all his umpires and helpers.

Sig Manson (4 Sqn) 'going for it' on the Assault Course

The Winners—3 Sqn. Lt Paul Ford already sneaking into Ski kit

The CO shares the Winners Trophy with the 3 Sqn rep

EXERCISE *FULL STRETCH*

Gentlemen—you are to organise an Escape, Evasion and Combat Survival Exercise that is to run from Friday 17 October to Monday 21 October. Elements of 2, 3 and HQ Sqn's to a total of 250 are to be runners. 1 and 4 Sqns are to be hunter force. This was the initial brief from the CO, **Lt Col Peter Pritchard** gave to a much overworked and bemused 2IC, RSM and newly arrived Training Officer, **WO1 Henry Banks**.

Needless to say after much Recce, scrounging and burning of the midnight oil Ex *Full Streich* took shape in complete secrecy. The area selected for the exercise was in the heart of the Sauerland, probably some of the most picturesque terrain in West Germany. Although, if you're walking in Battle Dress on an empty stomach, after sleeping rough for a couple of days, your appreciation of the scenery can wane somewhat.

Finally, the morning of Startex dawned. The Regiment paraded by Squadrons for Ex *Sweet Martini II* a Regimental Comms exercise only to be told they were in fact on an Escape and Evasion exercise. The hunter force deployed to their initial blocking locations, and the runners having been searched and dekitted were transported to their initial start line. What transpired over the next three days could never have been considered during the planning stages. Here are a few takes from the runners that will give you a taste of the exercise.

SECTION TALES

THE DAM

WO2 (SSM) John Davies with his hunter force sprange a surprise on **Cpl Jimmy Saville** and his section at the Biggersee Dam, the section split, **Jimmy** jumped over a small wall about 3ft high and fell 70ft in to the water, fortunately the dam wall was not straight but slightly cambered, so he slid more than fell, with his fingernails scraping against the dam wall. He was thrown a life buoy on a long piece of rope, but as the water level was low it didn't quite reach him and so **Sig Monty Taylor** (Hunter Force) went down the rope and held out his hand so that **Jimmy** was recovered safely and brought to the top. Sopping wet, his clothes were taken off, dried by a fire and after his card was marked for being caught, he was put back into play.

THE MORGUE

Cpl Brian Clark was looking for somewhere to hide his section when he came across a building in a graveyard. He told his section to wait outside and he would enter the building to 'suss' it out. Well, upstairs he found a church but because it was too cold, he went downstairs again quickly! The lights were out so he started up the Generator, now with lights on he could see many more doors, and upon opening one of them discovered he was in a morgue! He opened all the doors and found much to his relief, that the rooms were empty. Finding a PA system he tried it out, but couldn't hear anything. When he spoke into the mike, he turned it up to full volume and still couldn't hear himself in the speakers, wherever they were. Then the door flew open and his section hurried in shouting 'stop doing that!'. Germans outside, tending their relatives graves are wondering what is going on; his Scottish accent was blasting out of the speakers . . . enough to waken the dead!

TRAIN JOURNEY

Cpl Eddie Gregory with his section spotted a Hunter Force mobile patrol in Attendorn and quickly ran for cover to the Bahnhof. There was a train standing at the platform where the driver was attending to his engine. **Eddie** approached the engine driver explained their plight and asked in halting German if his section of five could hitch a ride. 'Yes' came the reply and whilst the rest of the section got into a carriage **LCpl Kevin German** was invited to drive the engine. On the journey the driver was tooting his horn at all the Hunter forces they passed. When they had to change trains the driver took them to the next platform, told the ticket inspector all about them and they were permitted to carry on their journey, approximately 30kms by rail, free of charge.

A very successful and useful exercise, not only for its training value but heartening also for the willing help we received from local Germans. Despite the scenario of all the local population supposedly being hostile, they turned out to be amazingly helpful to the runners, much to the annoyance of Hunter Force. For example one house owner got 25 runners in his house overnight, they were given food, drink, clothes, beds and showers. Unwittingly a local did assist the hunters on one occasion; a lorry driver gave a lift to runners, then stopped and gave a lift to a hunter force patrol . . . you're nicked!

Unfortunately, space does not permit all the amusing stories to be told here. There were nil casualties from the whole Regiment bar one with blisters who could not go on, which is incredible considering some of the stories you haven't been told.

An exercise that will be talked about in the Regiment for some considerable time to come.

Lt Jon Fraser looking smug before the run

Sharing a few tales, Sgt Phil Philaman, Lts Paul Ford, Jon Fraser

Cpl Sherwood 'I'll wear anything to keep me warm'

REGIMENT INTER SQUADRON BOXING COMPETITION

On 16 October the Regiment held its annual Inter Squadron Boxing competition in Churchill Barracks Gym, Lippstadt. This is a traditional event held to provide a stepping stone for Regimental boxers and also to give novices a chance to learn under expert supervision.

Some of the Regiment's Squadrons found time for plenty of training beforehand, but others were thrown in, more or less, at the deep end!

In both the preliminaries and the finals, the standard of boxing was very high. The night of the finals was a very enjoyable evening indeed, the boxers displaying sometimes spectacular skills in the ring.

Starting from the lightest weights and going heavier, the victorious finalists were as follows: **Cpl Andy Campbell** (1 Sqn), **LCpl Tony Hussey** (4 Sqn), **LCpl Scouse Rivers** (2 Sqn), **Sig Milt McGrorey** (2 Sqn), **LCpl Nick Collins** (2 Sqn), **Sig Steve Sprague** (2 Sqn), **LCpl Bob Alexander** (HQ Sqn), **Sig Dave Gallagher** (2 Sqn) and **Sig Clubber Legg** (2 Sqn).

2 Sqn won the team trophy which was presented to **WO2 (SSM) Fred Payet** who spent much of his time training the team. He, unfortunately, now leaves the Regiment for UK.

The boxers would like to thank the Referees and officials and all the PT staff for making the event possible.

LCpl Scouse Rivers receives his winners trophy from the CO

The victorious 2 Sqn

BERLIN

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BFPO 45

These notes mark the end of three exceptionally hectic months for the Regiment, during which we have supported Berlin Infantry Brigade on recent exercises; assisted backstage at the Berlin British Military Tattoo and organised the ticket sales; participated in the tripartite signal exercise, Ex *Rondo XXXI*; joined the rest of the Brigade in the March and Shoot Competition; won the Brigade Minor Units Athletics and held our annual cocktail party, followed by the Corps Band Playing Retreat. Masochistic members of the Regiment have pounded the cobbles in the Berlin Marathon whilst others have helped with the staging of the Jim Davidson CSE Christmas Show, and yet others have sunk without trace in the Brigade Raft Race.

It would be tedious for you to have to wade through the details of all these events and even more tedious for the author but we must mention the more notable events.

BRIGADE RAFT RACE

To start with a splash! The Brigade Raft Race is held annually and all units within the Berlin area compete. Rafts must be locally designed and made and possess no assistance from engines, however covert. Throughout much of the Summer strange sounds emanated from TM Troop as raft designs were selected, tested, rejected, modified, retested, re-rejected! Eventually the gallant team took to the water for a final trial run only to discover yet more design faults—the paddles fell off.

This bad luck dogged our patient paddlers on race day. Even in their re-designed raft the team of flying technicians, **Sgt Bob Elliott, Cpl Mick Murphy** and **LCpl Andy Atkinson** pedalled so furiously that metal fatigue overtook them (as well as a few other rafts)—and yes, you've guessed it, the paddles dropped off again.

MARCH AND SHOOT

Sgt Bob Elliott also featured in the March and Shoot Competition, along with **Lt Jim Wood**. Their team completed both courses with rather more enthusiasm than success and finished second amongst the Minor Units to 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE.

There is no truth in the rumour that this was the fault of **LCpls Atkinson** and **Kirkpatrick**, both practising for the Assistant PTIs Course and stopping the team every 100 yards for press-ups, sit-ups . . .

THE TATTOO

Anyone who has ever been stationed in Berlin will remember the horror that those two words strike into the heart.

The Regiment was heavily involved in all aspects of the Tattoo, from ticket sales to lighting, from poster patrols around the streets and bus garages to public address systems in the arena.

The photograph shows the unseen heroes from the Deutschlandhalle, those who crawled around the ducting with telephone cables, swung from the rafters with the spotlights, guarded the VIP hats, adjusted the sound etc. Not shown are those who staged midnight raids on the bus garages, risked life and limb on poster patrols on all the main roads and beavered away in the ticket sales office.

The Berlin Tattoo's unseen heroes 1986

VISIT BY THE CORPS BAND

The Corps Band was also co-opted to assist in Tattoo publicity when it arrived in Berlin for its annual visit. Together with musicians from the Battalions they staged impromptu concerts around the streets to entice the local citizens to the ticket vans and booths.

Slightly less impromptu was the excellent concert that the Band gave to the residents of Wilmersdorf. This is the second event of its kind since the Regiment was granted the Freedom of the Borough and it is hoped that it will become a tradition. Rüdesheimer Platz provides a spectacular site with a natural orchestral well around the fountain (no pun intended) and residents enjoyed the fine performance. A concert during that day to the local junior school was well received, but then the photograph shows that, doesn't it?

The following evening the Band played Retreat at the end of the Regiment's Annual Reception for British and Civic guests at the Rathaus in Wilmersdorf. All who attended were left in no doubt that our Band deserves its reputation of being one of the finest in the British Army.

The Corps band's trombonists—well received by the school children? Well, it was good fun!

CIS EXHIBITION

Lowly D10 cable was certainly not visible at the Berlin British Sector Communications and Information Systems Exhibition.

The exhibition was staged in the Kuppelsaal at the beginning of October and a number of British commercial companies participated. Exhibits ranged from office automation to transportable tactical satellites—all too complicated for the author, but enjoyed by the very many interested spectators.

VIP VISITS

Coinciding with the exhibition were visits by Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman** and OIC Royal Signals Manning and Record Office, **Col D. M. O. Miller** and Deputy OIC Medical and Women's Services, Manning and Record Office, **Lt Col A. K. Brown MBE WRAC**, arrived in Berlin. **Lt Col Brown** was accompanied by Comd WRAC **Col Nan Robertson** and they visited all the Berlin units employing WRAC.

Col Nan Robertson, Comd WRAC BAOR visiting the Army Commcen Berlin, seen speaking to Pte Ellen Thompson WRAC

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

It would be impossible to end without mentioning recent sporting achievements, particularly the success in the Brigade Minor Units Athletics Championships. Regimental competitors won 10 of the 14 events and were second in the remaining four. Special mention should be made of the four double winners:

WO2 (SSM) Steve May	Triple and Long Jump
Sgt Tony Mullen	800m and 1,500m
Cpl Mick Evans	400m and 4 × 400m
LCpl Biddy Baxter	100m and 200m

No less noteworthy was the successful completion of the Berlin Marathon by several members of the Regiment. Congratulations go to all who participated although **Cpl Chris Edwards WRAC** may require a lesson in tact as she managed to pip her boss, **WO2 George McAvoy** to the finish line by three minutes. Well done!

POSTSCRIPT

As a postscript, OC 1 Sqn, **Maj Bob Axton** decided that amongst all this activity the only way he was going to see his Squadron in one place at one time was to organise a photograph. The Maifeld provided an inspiring setting and the photographer's skills produced an excellent souvenir.

1 Sqn on parade

EXERCISE *BEAR CUPBOARD*

Most exercises in Berlin are named after a large furry creature beloved of the residents. Consequently three days worth of practising the principles of Ordnance outloading was aptly named Ex *Bear Cupboard*. **Cpl Paddy Irwin** and his band set up in the Grunewald (green wood for non-German scholars) as part of the reconfigured Brigade Admin Area.

Any trophies from this exercise would certainly go to the 'Linies' **Sig Myers** and **Townsend**, who excelled themselves in round tours of the Grunewald trailing D10 cable. There is no truth in the rumour that **Myers** felt at home when he wandered into a herd of hairy four legged creatures.

VISIT BY THE RT HON JOHN STANLEY MP

As part of his visit to Berlin, the **Rt Hon John Stanley MP**, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, visited one of our new British Forces communications sites. Plessey, the prime contractor for this £6 million project was represented at the preliminary opening of the site by the project manager **Mr John Gumming**. The small ground terminal is in fact unique, a first in more ways than one. Firstly, its 7m dish meets the new CCIR satellite antenna specifications. Further, it is not just the first BAOR SATCOM but is also believed to be the first static terminal for the British Army.

After being met by the CO **Lt Col J. P. Munnery**, the site was officially opened, by the Minister. It was a momentous occasion for the Regiment.

L to R: The Rt Hon John Stanley MP; Maj Vaughan Smedley; WO1 (RSM) Paddy Crabtee; Lt Col J. P. Munnery; Maj George Carmichael; Capt Jim Dryburgh and Maj Gen P. D. Brooking

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

FOCUS ON J TROOP

An unusual assignment befell the Hammersmith-based outpost of 41 Sqn when the Troop was tasked with control communications for the Silk Cut multi-hull yacht race on 4/5 October. OC **Lt Tony Rose** and **Sgt John 'Skipper' Hickey** promptly established their seaside CP at the Brighton startpoint, leaving **LCpl Mark Hornibrook** perched on the windy roof of the Tower Hotel finish. The only casualty of the event was **LCpl 'Supersig' Stanton** who split open his head on his VRC321; fortunately the radio kept working despite the unexpected attack. And finally, not to be outdone **Cpl Carmella Chapman** and **Sig Lennie Sutherland** managed to follow the flotilla during the whole race on the press boat, their exact duties clouded in more than just a certain brand of cigarette smoke. And the comms, you ask?—no problem!

A sea-wave antenna?—Pte Pat Kershaw, Sig Andy Hockley OC J Tp Lt Tony Rose and Sgt Keith Byatt study the yacht race details

J Tp PSI Sgt Roger 'Chip' Standley

SWIFT AND SHAW

Not a corruption of the Corps motto but the names of just two of our cooks, **Pte Ian Swift** and **LCpl Sandy Shaw** who were on duty at 56 Regency Street to assist at the Corps Committee Luncheon on 28 November attended by **HRH The Princess Anne**. Ably led by **Cpl Janet Wilson-Brown** the rest of the team, **Cpl 'Bev' Holley, LCpl Cynthia Bedwell, Pte 'Toddy' Todd** and **Pte 'Fergie' Warren-Smith** had left nothing to chance and the previous weekend's full dress rehearsal clearly paid dividends.

On the day of the Luncheon, all went smoothly and in no time at all the 31 team had served 30 meals against very tight timings and afterwards had the honour of being presented to the Princess who thanked them for their efforts.

47 SQUADRON

'All change' is the order of the day in the stores at Harrow TAC with the retirement after almost 20 years' service by civilian storeman **Mr Peter Brooks**. **Peter** joined the Middlesex Yeomanry at Uxbridge in 1967 moving to Elmgrove Road a little later, remaining with the Squadron and jealously guarding and administering its stores ever since. Over the years his energy and commitment to the Unit has been absolutely first-class and we thank him for all his good work. We wish **Peter** and **Dorothy** a long and happy retirement. Our new storeman is **Keith Tucker** and we bid him a warm welcome (no pun intended) from the London Fire Brigade.

Celebration of promotion takes many forms; **FofS George Johnston** commemorated his recent acquisition of 'WO2' status by asking for the hand of **LCpl Elizabeth Jordan**. The wedding bells have now chimed and we wish our latest two-some in the Regiment every happiness.

Finally, two other well known faces now departed who will be sadly missed are **Mary Nolan**, our civilian cleaner who has kept the TAC so spick and span for the past 17 years, and **Cpl Steve 'Spud' Taylor**, a founder member of the Squadron. Our very best wishes go to both in their retirement.

On set—Pte Janet Guggenheim

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

NEWS FROM RHQ

The visit by the SOinC on 14 October started in the early afternoon with a tour of the Glasgow TAC, meeting the various members of the permanent staff, both in RHQ and HQ and 52 Sqns. During drill night, the SOinC saw the two Squadrons preparing for Ex *Brown Trout*. The visit ended with a visit to the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess and a buffet supper in the Officers' Mess when the PMC **Maj Allan Lapsley** presented the SOinC with a print of the original cable wagon picture which hangs in the Mess.

On 27 September the Regimental Officers' Mess in Glasgow dined out the CO, **Lt Col H. A. Culley**. The occasion was a memorable one, with residents of the recently built houses adjoining the TAC also showing their appreciation by being present when the CO was piped out of the Mess in the wee small hours of the morning. The CO was presented with a Tantalus by the 2IC, **Maj John Pinkerton** and he, in return, presented to the Mess a specially commissioned painting depicting various forms of Regimental Dress worn over the years.

WOS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

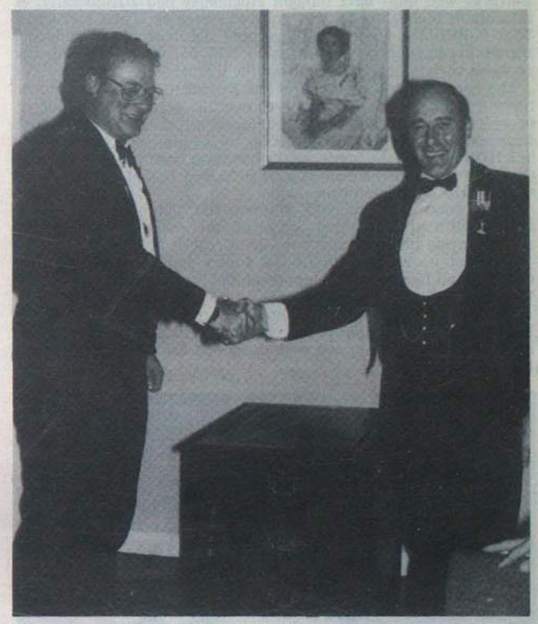
An SNCO training weekend for the Regiment was run in Cameron Barracks, Inverness over the weekend 11/12 October 1986. In addition to brushing up on military skills and being gently reminded by the RSM, **WO1 Brian Wilson** how to march again, the members of the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess took this opportunity to dine out **Lt Col Howard Culley** and **WO2 (RQMS) Alan Brooks**.

An excellent evening was had by all and considering how dispersed the Regiment is geographically it was remarkable that only seven Mess members were unable to attend. The cooks performed their wonders and produced a meal which was up to their usual high standard. Thanks are due to everyone who assisted at the dinner including the cooks, waitresses, bottle washers and general factotums all of whom ensured that the evening was a resounding success.

The staff

L to R: LCpl Carol Nolan, Ptes Liz Cammack, Karen Cormack, LCpl Karen Nichole, Cpls Fran Thomas, Biff Williamson, Sharon Dowell, Pam Smith, Pte Jean Thompson, LCpl Evyonne Hill and Pte Yvonne Newlands

RQMS Alan Brooks receiving his presentation from the RSM—WO2 (FofS) Dave Murray is suitably impressed



The CO receiving his presentation from the RSM. The handsome reproduction filing cabinet was chosen with the covert assistance and collusion of Mrs Caroline Culley

Members of the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess on the occasion of the dining out of Lt Col H. A. Culley

HEE-HAW CUP

The Hee-Haw Cup was competed for with great gusto when the meal and toasts were over; short explanation: the Hee-Haw Cup was presented to the Mess by **WO1 (MTWO) Ronnie Hamilton** to be competed for by any WO or SNCO who has incurred the wrath of the RSM during, before or after the dinner! The RSM then invites a member of the Mess to deliver in an 'after dinner speech manner' an interesting or amusing story to entertain and enthrall the other Mess members. The winner of this prestigious award on this evening was **WO2 (SSM) Mona Strachan WRAC** who told a delightful little tale about John Wayne buying ice cream in the desert. The cup was duly presented to a delighted winner by Mr Vice, **Sgt Terry McVey**.

Further entertainment was provided by **Cpl Iain Mortimer** and **Sig Ginge Dickens**, members of the Regimental Pipes and Drums. They played magnificently and **Cpl Mortimer** completely surprised the CO by announcing that he had composed a pibroch and named it 'Farewell to **Howard Culley**' in his honour. And so followed the first public performance of 'Farewell to **Howard Culley**'.

The CO was escorted from the Mess in a 'Sedan' chair, bedecked in Corps colours, of course, back to the Officers' Mess. The procession was led by the Pipers, playing a rousing selection of music, 'rousing' being the operative word for near neighbours of Cameron Barracks who must have thought Hogmanay had arrived early. A memorable highlight of a very enjoyable evening. The Chief Clerk **SSgt (ORSQMS) Dave Flynn** has been debarred from producing menus for Regimental Dinners from now on, since the RSM was served a slightly different one from the others!

The handover of Command of the Regiment, necessitated much travelling around Scotland, and even over the water to Londonderry to visit the various outposts and locations of our far-dispersed Regimental empire. Rumours of jet lag by the time the COs sat down in RHQ to discuss the 'meat' of the handover have yet to be denied. On 24 October, the permanent staff presented **Lt Col Culley** with a Quaich prior to his departure.

Final handover of 'the reins' occurred later that afternoon, and it is stressed that the broad smile of the outgoing CO in the accompanying photograph is not one of relief!

Our best wishes go with **Lt Col Culley** and also with his wife **Caroline** and family, as they approach the great adventure of life in 'Civvy Street'.

We now extend a warm welcome to our new CO, **Lt Col D. P. Hughes** and his wife **Anne** (a native of these Scottish parts—welcome home) and their family, and wish them well for their tour with the Regiment.

Lt Col H. A. Culley finally handing over command to Lt Col D. P. Hughes in the CO's office

FOCUS ON 69 (NIH) SIG SQN (V)

It was with much regret that we said goodbye to **SSgt John McAveety** who has been our PSI for the past two and a half years. During his tour he impressed everyone with his high standard of turnout and training. His enthusiasm was infectious and went a long way towards increasing the attendance figures and improving training levels. His wife **Carol** will be missed from the wives' club in the Sergeants' Mess where her vol-au-vents were always in great demand! Our best wishes go with **John** and his family to their new posting in 1 Div in Germany.

We were very pleased to learn that **Drum Maj Sammy Lyle** had been awarded a well deserved BEM which was presented to him at Hillsborough Castle on 30 October; well done, **Sam!**

On Thursday 16 October **Lt Col Culley** paid us a farewell visit and introduced our new CO **Lt Col Hughes.** We wish **Col Culley** every success in his life in 'Civilian Strasse' and look forward to exciting and interesting times with **Col Hughes.**

During the normal course of TA life one gets used to the little frustrations that occur from time to time, but October was something exceptional.

It was decided (rightly) that greater all round benefit could be achieved during Ex *Brown Trout* if 69 Sqn moved to Ballybuddon. After much behind the scenes paperwork, telephone calls and cursing and swearing from our usually placid and serene AO, the move was organised. Route cards were compiled, refuelling points annotated, and the move carefully timed to arrive before the dreaded Barry rail crossing closed. Things were going too well, so fate obviously decided to intervene in the form of the Seaman's Union ferry strikes!

However, every cloud has a silver lining and the cancelling of our move meant that the whole Squadron could enjoy the culinary delights produced by our master chef **Cpl Raymond Wylie**, part of whose civilian job is selling soap! **Cpl Wylie**, who is a health fanatic, put everyone on a high fibre diet. It was beans, beans and beans! If you didn't like that, then you could have beans!

Our congratulations go to ex **WO2 (SSM) George Wylie** on being commissioned in the rank of Captain (QM). **George**, who had been SSM for over five years, was dined out in great style from the Sergeants' Mess on the 7 November 1986. As usual in 69 Sqn it was celebrated in style. We wish **George** everything good in his officer career. (Watch out for that wee foreign spy—the AO from Scotland).

In conclusion, we are pleased to announce that 69 Sqn has solved the problem of the Irish Question—we just don't answer! (Adjutant's note—how true!)

Dining out Capt George Wylie from the Sergeants' Mess
L to R: OC Maj R. J. Moore, WO2 (SSM) Percy Hamilton, Capt George Wylie, Mrs Helen Moore

33 Sig Regt (V) Liverpool

PERMANENT STAFF MOVEMENTS

Since our last report we have said farewell to **SSgt (FofS) Mick Poland** who has left us on promotion to WO2 and moved to those enchanting islands in the South (The Falklands) for his winter holiday tour. Good luck **Mick** for the future, from all your friends in 33.

We have also said farewell to **SSgt (YofS) Duncan Manser** who is now serving with the School of Signals. We wish him and his family all the best in their new surroundings.

42 SIG SQN—MANCHESTER
SUMMER CAMP FUN WEEKEND

2/3 August 1986 was the Squadron fun weekend. High spirits, humour and sunshine was the recipe for the two days.

The weekend started with a road rally from Manchester to Burtonwood. Teams consisted of two people loaded with maps and questionnaire. When they set off, the objective was to reach Burtonwood and then return to Manchester. What they did not anticipate was the test of skills which awaited each team at Burtonwood Airfield. They were put through a series of driving tests to evaluate their skill and reflexes. After the day's event the evening was made enjoyable by a fancy dress party. Entering the JRC were bunny girls, French maids, nurses, bumble bees, punk rockers, clowns and many other weird and wonderful outfits.

Sunday was the day everyone looked forward to, it was 'Sink a Senior Day'. It was a family day on which children were encouraged to drown their dads! There were inter Troop competitions and a barbecue. Everyone had an enjoyable and, for some, a wet weekend.

Members of 42 Sqn enjoying their Summer Camp weekend
Left to Right: LCpl Hall, Sig Cole, LCpl McDermit, Sgt Slamon and SSgt Smith (Time Keeper)

FOCUS ON 59 SIG SQN—EDGE LANE LIVERPOOL
EXERCISE *LONG LAY*

59 Sqn Line Troop under the command of **Lt Neil Thomas** enjoyed a break after a gruelling 20 mile bash over Blackheath. The Troop arrived late Friday Night at Sand Gap Farm, South of Coniston. After a substantial breakfast the lads split into two squads to tackle the peak. After the 'Bash' we relaxed with a steak barbecue. On Sunday a First Aid demonstration was arranged by **LCpl Norman Crowe** after which Troop **Sgt John Hough** displayed his skills at clay pigeon shooting. The Troop then broke camp and left the sunny Lake District for a rather dull and rainy Liverpool.

SSM Bill McAlister assisted by **SQMS Steve Donoghue** put 59 Squadron through their annual BFT at Altcar recently. All members of the Squadron finished well within their time limit.

Well done lads and ladies.

EILEEN RUNS INTO REGIMENTAL RECORD BOOKS

Cpl Eileen Halliday pictured here in this year's Mersey Marathon achieved second place in the Army Bellshire Half Marathon with 1 hr 47 mins. Her outstanding record after only three years running consists of 10 half marathons, four full marathons, the Bilsdale circuit, 32 miles in six hours, the Lyke Wake a real grueller, 42 miles 7 hrs 18 mins.

She said, 'I would have done it quicker but I stopped for a couple of smokes'. All this and she has recently been invited to run for the Sefton Harriers. Well done **Eileen**, keep it up.

Cpl Eileen Halliday leading the way in the Merseyside Marathon

AWARDS AT THE 'TREBLE'

This year's Lord Lieutenant's Certificate was a real family occasion. **SSgt Henry Heatley** RA, his sister **Cpl Eileen Halliday WRAC(V)** were both honoured for long and dedicated service. Also **Henry**'s wife **Sgt Marje Heatley WRAC(V)** was presented with her Efficiency Medal. A total of 55 years service in the Territorial Army. Well done.

Brother and sister take the 'double' in Lord Lieutenant Certificate with sister-in-law getting the TA Efficiency Medal
Left to Right: Sgt Marje Heatley, Wg Cdr Stoddart, Cpl Eileen Halliday and SSgt Henry Heatley

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON—HUYTON, LIVERPOOL
LORD LIEUTENANT'S CERTIFICATE AWARD

WO2 Normal (Snaps) Jolliffe who serves both as our recruiting WO and Unit PR Photographer (hence the nick name) was deservedly rewarded for his long service efforts to both the Squadron and the Regiment when he was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate by the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, **Wing Commander K. M. Stoddard AE** at the Tate Hall, Liverpool on Thursday 13 November 1986. He is pictured here with his family, The Lord Lieutenant, the CO and OC HQ Sqn. Well done **Norman**.

WO2 Norman Jolliffe and family receiving his Lord Lieutenant Certificate from Wg Cdr Stoddart. Supporting the event is Lt Col R. F. Willsher and Maj C. Reynolds-Jones

EXERCISE *NAIAD FRONTIER*—80 SIG SQN, CHESTER
Report by Lt R. H. Bracey

Friday 10 October saw 80 Sig Sqn (V) travelling from Abbots Park TA centre, Chester, to Warcop training area for Ex *Naiad Frontier*.

This was a Squadron run NBC exercise incorporating infantry skills training. Assistance was provided by a NW District instructor, **WO1 Frank Keraus**. A comparatively low turnout for such an exercise resulted in compulsory double eggs for breakfast, courtesy of **Cpl Andy Male ACC**.

Immediately after breakfast, we were off to the gas chamber to test our NBC equipment with **Sgt Ken 'gas' Male** in charge.

Next on the agenda, basic infantry skills training; supervised by **2Lt Alastair Muir**.

Whilst this took place, not very far away a small group of 'DS' (Definitely Sadists?) including our 'big bang' expert **LCpl Granville (granny) Smith** (borrowed from 42 Sqn for the weekend) were preparing several surprises for the unsuspecting would-be infantrymen.

After lunch, in NBC state 'high', commcen vehicles deployed from the camp to the training area. An attack by a 'non-persistent chemical agent' in the harbour area left no casualties and the commcen proceeded onto site.

During the next hour or so the surprises were sprung with varying degrees of success (try a larger detonator next time) but several important lessons were learnt.

A demonstration of thunderflashes and parachute flares followed (with **Sgt Terry Webster**—REME LAD—dashing off to 'recover' a used chute; ('it's for my son sir, honest').

Back to camp for the evening meal and then, to round off the day, several cine films relating to NBC training. The film show was not without incident, however; **Sgt Male** learnt how to erect an 8ft high screen in a room with a 7ft 6in ceiling, there was no plug on the brand new projector and the bulb blew after ten minutes use.

An early start on Sunday saw vehicles being refuelled for the journey back and then further training in the field on radiac instruments. The DS were at it again though, attempting to infiltrate and attack the commcen. Our point man, **SSgt (SSI) Trevor Beeley** (but you told me to head for the tree sir) managed to lead the attack over some nice open ground (to give the defenders a chance?) Ten minutes later it was all over—or was it? Time to pack up now ready to move back. **SSgt (SQMS) Harry Harper**, having handed the accommodation over, came to collect a 'missing' key, at which point it was noticed that a tree was on fire. Yes, 80 Sqn had managed to hit a dead tree with one of the parachute flares used during the attack on the commcen and set it alight. Enter **Lt Mike Jones** complete with realistic siren noises driving the 'fire engine' (air portable landrover for linelaying). Several fire extinguishers later, the fire was out and things returned to normal. Back down the motorway to Chester and the end of a very enjoyable and eventful weekend.

RECRUIT SELECTION WEEKEND

The last Recruit Selection W/E for 1986, took place at Saighton Camp, Chester between 14-16 November 1986.

Maj (Doc) Colin Ford and **Capt Ted Butterworth** ably supported by all the recruiting staff sped off on the Friday evening to meet the 26 'hopeful' potential recruits who were arriving from Manchester, Chester and Liverpool.

The weekend, as usual, was a tough one designed to weed out any applicant who was not 100% fit and committed to TA soldiering. The end result however, was a credit to the pre-selection system as all 26 applicants passed with flying colours.

They were:

HQ Sqn
Pte A. B. Pendlington WRAC
Sig T. C. J. Lane
Sig G. Dixon
Cfn P. A. Service

59 Sig Sqn
Sig L. Worthington
Sig S. O'Reilly

42 Sig Sqn
Pte D. Walsh WRAC
Sig J. Donnelly
Sig M. J. Israel
Sig I. D. Sutcliffe
Sig A. B. Edwards

80 Sig Sqn
Pte H. Bartrop WRAC
Pte C. Pott WRAC
Pte S. Marriott WRAC
Sig S. Owens
Sig R. White
Sig J. M. Palmer
Sig V. S. Rawson
Sig M. A. Clutterbuck
Sig A. K. Forbes
Sig P. G. Jarvis
Sig M. J. Childs
Sig C. Walker
Sig P. J. Bartrop
Sig V. E. M. Dixon
Pte L. A. Jenkins ACC

We welcome them all into the Regiment and hope they enjoy TA life.

WO1 (RSM) G. Mason, gives a welcoming lecture to our potential recruits at Saighton Camp

WIVES AT THE MERSEYSIDE GARRISON SSAFA FETE

The Regiment has always taken an active interest in supporting SSAFA and this year was no exception particularly now that SSAFA provides a service to TA soldiers.

In August **Mrs Marples** the wife of **Brig Marples**, Comd 11 Sig Bde and Garrison Commander Merseyside Garrison called together Merseyside unit wives and planned a Fete to take place at her residence on 3 December.

All manner of stalls were planned and the ladies put their knitting, sewing and cooking skills to good use.

On the day the Commander's residence took on a very early Christmas appearance with tree decorations and a sherry and mince pies for invited guests.

Stalls were arranged throughout the house and it was evident from the abundant wares on sale that the ladies had made a very big effort and sacrificed much of their free time to making the fete such a success.

Our ladies made a splendid effort with colourful and imaginative hand made Christmas decorations, which sold extremely well as soon as the doors were opened. The final income from the Fete was over £900.00 and our ladies were delighted to have contributed £130.00 to that figure.

Next year we anticipate more TA wives, who have already offered their services, will lend their artistic talents to the Regimental effort. We wish them luck in 1987.

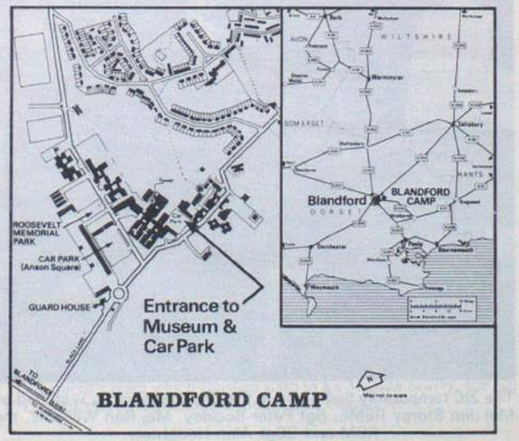
Christiane Willsher, Pauline Mason and Heather Jeffery display their efforts during the SSAFA Fête. Well done ladies, it all looks superb!

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
BLANDFORD CAMP, DORSET

The museum contains items dealing with the history of army communications dating from the Crimean War to the Falkland Islands Campaign of 1982, as well as the history of the Royal Engineer (Signal Service) and the Royal Corps of Signals.

The display contains early telegraphic and radio equipment dating from the South African War, World War I, the campaigns on the North-West Frontier of India, and World War II. There are many colourful uniforms on display as well as the only surviving example of the horse drawn cable laying wagon, also an 8th Army Armoured Command Vehicle in a desert setting. There are a number of examples of military motor cycles used by the Despatch Riders of the Corps and an airborne communications jeep.

Admission: FREE
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 0900 - 1700 hours. Saturday - by appointment.
(Telephone: 0258 52581 Extension 2248)



34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

Since its return from Camp at the beginning of October the Regiment has settled back into the routine of TA life, starting on the annual training cycle, recruiting, commemorating Remembrance Day, taking part in various competitions and of course preparing for Christmas.

This year we have had a major reshuffle of officer and SNCO responsibilities, aiming for a stable management structure for the coming year which will see the arrival of Euromux and an Annual Camp in BAOR.

Two major changes have taken place near the top. After over four years as second-in-command, serving under three COs, **Maj Peter Sutherland** has left the Regiment for the perhaps less arduous role of a watchkeeper in the RCZ. His constant enthusiasm and interest in all aspects of the Regiment's life, particularly in recruit selection and officer development, will be greatly missed. We wish him well in his new post. His successor is **Maj Mary Nicholson**. Ops Officer for the past two years who in turn has been succeeded by the newly-promoted **Maj Peter Woodhead**.

SURPRISE FOR THE RSM

The RSM is supposed to know everything that is going on in the Regiment—and nearly always does. But, with the connivance by various volunteers, notably the CO, who kept him busy at appropriate moments, and the SVWO, who offered to look after things while he was being kept away, **WO1 Roy Coffill** was completely unprepared for what happened after the Regiment had marched past the CO. The junior ranks wished to show their respect and appreciation for him on what was to be his final Regimental weekend. So, once officers and SNCOs had been fallen out, the Squadrons marched past the RSM in line, no less, under the command of JNCOs (**LCpl Gwen Tipton** (HQ), **Cpl Janette McCoy** (49), **Cpl Danny Lyons** (50) and **Cpl Pete Donaldson** (90)). They then formed up and the RSM was presented with a suitably-inscribed desk set by **Pte Carol Douglas** on behalf of all the junior ranks.

Temporarily speechless—the RSM about to thank the Junior Ranks for his presentation

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Welcome to the new Chief Clerk **SSgt Alan Houghton**, and farewell and best wishes to **SSgt Brian Cudd** who has left the service after four and a half years in the Regiment. We wish him and his family a happy retirement.

Farewell to **Sgt Jean Douglas** who is leaving the Gateshead detachment after 16 years service. The Regiment will be quieter and duller without her, but her daughter, **Pte Carole Douglas** is shaping up well as her replacement.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our Padre The **Rev William Noblett** on his recent marriage to **Margaret**.

REGIMENTAL NOTES
VISITORS

We had a brief but welcome visit from the GOC NE District **Maj Gen Guthrie** who visited the Permanent Staff.

We also welcomed our next RSM, **WO1 Len Rowland-Jones** who

came over for a week's fact-finding prior to taking up his appointment in January. We had a visit from the Royal Signals Inspection Team in October, the first time they have 'done' a TA unit. Despite their arrival being just after Camp, and despite the newness (to us at least) of many of our Triffids, the inspection was very worthwhile. We now know a lot more about how to look after our new equipment.

THE 345 CLUB

The annual meeting of the 345 Club, the association of past and present officers of 34 and its predecessor regiments, was held at Catterick on 1 November. After the club meeting at which the CO, **Lt Col Graham Mitchell**, gave a 'state of the nation' report on the Regiment, 66 past and present members dined in the Royal Signals Mess. We welcomed as guests **Maj Gen Archie Birtwistle** and **Brig Russell Maynard**.

QUIZ CHAMPIONS

A team of officers from 34 became the first winners of a quiz competition, sponsored by a local brewery, for TA units in the North of England area. The CO (who hopes that he is still the only Royal Signals officer ever to get a question on Morse Code wrong in a televised quiz programme!), the Adjutant **Capt Grace Harrison, Maj Peter Woodhead, Lt Susan Aynsley-Smyth** and **2Lt Eric Harrison** were clear winners in a field of 15 teams.

CHRISTMAS AT SCARBOROUGH

For the first weekend in December nearly 350 members of the Regiment descended on Scarborough STC for the traditional Christmas weekend. As the programme followed its well-established pattern we enjoyed the traditional weather, very cold and windy but fine until after church parade. On Saturday, while the cooks prepared the dinner, the rest of the Regiment worked up an appetite taking part in a military skills competition under the eagle eyes of the Training major, **Maj Alan Griffiths**, the RSM **WO1 Roy Coffill** and the SVWO **WO1 Dave Sparks**. Cunningly inserted in the competition was a session on documentation which not only ensured that personal documents were checked and brought up to date but also enabled the newly-installed Chief Clerk, **SSgt Alan Houghton**, to meet as many members of the Regiment as possible. More energetic phases of the competition involved the assault course and the gymnasium and at the end the winners were the team from 50 Sqn led by **2Lt Mark Cadman**.

The Christmas Dinner itself, served by the officers and SNCOs was widely held to be the best ever. Only one complaint was heard, from **WO2 Bob Holmes** of 90 Sqn, that there were no lumps in the white sauce! 90 Sqn's fancy dress was as spectacular, and in the case of **Cpl Babs Cornfield** as nearly revealing as ever. This was not allowed to influence the CO as he made what he described as the hardest decision of the year, the award of the 'Bent Bell' (presented by former SVWO **WO1 Harry Bent**) to the Squadron with the best decorated corner of the dining hall. After much thought he decided that in the most even competition for years 90 Sqn just about deserved to win back the trophy. One thing was different about the dinner—'they' have installed a washing-up machine in the cookhouse so somehow or other none of the Officer Cadets got wet! Perhaps that was just as well for they were all on guard that night.

Sgt George Poulter gives advice to Sgt Laura Nesbitt on the finer points of white sauce ladling. Sgts Gaynor Vance, Sue Burton and Margaret Dadson wait for customers

After the WOs and Sergeants had visited the Officers' Mess and everyone had been to the All Ranks Dance events took a more serious turn. It was time for the church parade. St Mark's Church was completely full and with the band well in tune and the Regiment in good voice there was some anxiety for the safety of the roof. The Vicar of St Mark's The **Rev David Purdy** has been a good friend to the Regiment and although we were sad to hear that he is leaving we were delighted to learn that his next appointment is to be in Cleveland. He conducted the service with our own Padre The **Rev William Noblett** taking part and The **Rev Peter Dodd**, Senior Chaplain NE District preached the sermon.

After the service the Regiment, led by the band, marched past the CO and back to barracks. Later, the CO presented TEMs to **Sgt Bruce Bassett** (2nd clasp), **Sgt Peter Beckly REME** (1st clasp) and **Cpl David Lyons**.

24 years in Royal Signals and never operated a radio! Sgt Bruce Bassett receives the second clasp to his TEM from the CO

The 2IC temporarily tied down at the Christmas party, watched by Maj Jim Storey REME, Sgt Peter Beckley, Maj Ron Williams, the RSM and SSgt Alan Houghton

HQ SQUADRON

OC	**Maj David Kerr TD**
SSM	**WO2 Ron Garrett**
PSI	**WO2 (QMSI) Gill Campbell WRAC**
SSgt NRPS	**SSgt George Wright**

The Squadron has coped with its usual wide variety of tasks, so many indeed that there has scarcely been time to write about them. Pride of place must go to the team of cooks who entered, for the first time, the NE District ACC Competition 'Ex *Grebe Grey*'. Our team, **LCpl Brian Irvine** (Team leader), **Ptes Garry Dryden, Ray Proctor** and **Sig Stewart Pearson** (Driver) were delighted to come in third. They rapidly discovered that there is a difference between Field Cooking and Field Cooking in competition, and came back with a mass of ideas to improve their chances next year. They were top in the shooting phase—but that does not win a prize!

The social event of the year for the Squadron took place at the end of October when our PSI for the past four years, **Sgt Mick Ryder**, was dined out. We wish him and his wife **Janet** all the best for their 'retirement' in York.

49 SQUADRON (LEEDS AND HULL)

OC	**Maj Philip Walker TD**
2IC	**Capt Angus Turner**
OC Hull Det	**Lt Jonathan Tomlinson**
PSAO	**Capt Gordon Bonner**
SSM	**WO2 Graham Jennings**
PSI (Leeds)	**SSgt Bill Smith**
PSI (Hull)	**Sgt Tim Cowan**
SSgt NRPS	**SSgt Gordon Hardaker**

Every Troop in 49 is now under new management. **Lt Jonathan Tomlinson** has taken over A Tp (AMC) in Hull from **Capt Bruce Graham** who has returned to SHQ in Leeds as Squadron Training Officer. **SSgt Pat Quinn** who was until July the PSI in Leeds, but who is now a volunteer, has taken over as SSgt of A Tp releasing **SSgt Mal Wilson** to become SQMS. **Lt Allan Grindrod**, who did not come to our Camp but chose instead to go with 40 Sig Regt, has taken over C Tp (Radio Relay) from **Capt Clare Pickles** who has in turn moved to M Tp (Commcen M) to fill the shoes of **Capt Stuart Jack** who is now with 36 Regt. **Lt Sharon Matthews** who had been taking care of M Tp since **Capt Jack's** departure now has a Troop of her own, D Tp (Radio Relay), which used to be commanded by **Lt Tomlinson**. At the same time **Capt Steve Robson** has returned from a two year absence in the decadent south and is now in charge of recruiting and recruit training.

Following their successful survival of Detachment Commanders Courses **LCpls Liz Kaminska** and **Martin Hardy** are now Corporals, while **Sharon Priest, Caroline Yates** and **Ian Howard** are getting used to their first stripes.

50 SQUADRON (DARLINGTON AND GATESHEAD)

OC	**Maj David Bodycombe**
2IC	**Capt Peter Skinner**
OC Gateshead Det	**Lt Susan Aynsley-Smyth**
PSAO	**Capt Andy Bell**
SSM	**WO2 Stan Phillips**
PSI (Darlington)	**SSgt George Burton**
PSI (Gateshead)	**SSgt Chick Cushnie**
SSgt NRPS	**SSgt Tommy Williamson**

Like the other Squadrons 50 Sqn has seen some changes. The 2IC is now **Capt Peter Skinner** who took over from **Capt Peter Woodhead** when he moved on promotion (congratulations **Peter**) to RHQ as Ops Officer. H Tp (Radio Relay) is now under command of **Lt John Lambton** who has been imported from 90 Sqn. **2Lt Mark Cadman** has taken over E Tp (AMC), which has been looked after by **SSgt Terry Buss** for the past six months or so.

The Squadron has taken part in many different things since Camp. Here are a few:

— **Lt Susan Aynsley-Smyth** spent a day judging the Royal British Legion Women's Section Standard Bearers Competition in Durham.
— The Squadron organised and ran the Remembrance Day parade in Darlington and afterwards entertained the Mayor and civic dignitaries to lunch at the Bradford Armoury.
— **Sgt Jim Ashton, LCpl Yvonne Jordison** and **Ptes Eileen Chambers, Linda Mence** and **Denise Allison** represented the TA at the Gateshead Festival of Remembrance.
— **LCpl Jackie Cooke, LCpl Dawn Widdrington, Pte Andrea Simpson** and **Pte Rachel Middleton** were members of the Regiment's team which finished sixth in Ex *Maiden Scurry*, the NE District march and shoot/military skill competition.
— Members of the Gateshead detachment took part in night exercises, acting as enemy, with 6 RRF. It is no coincidence that **Lt Susan Aynsley-Smyth** OC Gateshead Detachment is married to a Fusilier Officer!
— **LCpl Dawn Widdrington** won the WRAC section of the Melton Mowbray half marathon, which had been designated the unofficial TA half marathon for 1986. A member of 49 Sqn's Hull Detachment **Pte Jane Barr** came in second.

90 SQUADRON (MIDDLESBROUGH)

OC	**Maj Peter Forster**
PSAO	**Capt John Lemon**
SSM	**WO2 Bob Holmes**
PSI	**SSgt Dave Aldous**
SSgt NRPS	**SSgt Ray Georgeson**

90 Sqn too has had its management shake up. The first move was the export of **Lt John Lambton** to 50 Sqn. His place in Kilo Troop (Radio Relay) was taken **Lt Ian Hall** whose previous command, Juliet Troop (AMC), was passed on to **2Lt Eric Harrison**. Lima Troop (AMC) at last acquired an officer, being taken over by recently commissioned but ready for anything **2Lt Thirl Duckworth WRAC**. Since its formation in February the Troop has been commanded by **SSgt Mick Collins** who stays on as Troop Staff Sergeant.

Newcomer **Lt Richard Newcombe**, recently arrived from Northumbrian UOTC, has taken over as OIC recruit training where his military skills are proving most valuable. We, in our turn, are teaching him about communicating. **Capt Bert North** OC Oscar Troop and Capt Geoff Thirlwall, Training Officer, have not changed jobs but we couldn't leave them out. The OC also wishes to mention that he has at last succeeded in prising **LCpl Elaine Dodshon** out of Juliet's message centre and into the hyper-activity of Commcen Oscar's TRV.

Military skills? Debbie Wilson and LCpl Elaine Dodshon giving first aid to Nicky Wylie

Juliet Troop went on an expedition to Blackpool, organised by **Sgt Hugh Mulligan** and **Cpl Janet Green**, to remove any post-camp blues. Few details have emerged but it appears that the outstanding feature of the weekend was a late night/early morning social encounter with a Welsh rugby team who finally admitted that they were not equal to Juliet. (NB The OC says that this is *not* an open challenge!)

Finally the Squdaron went to the Regiment's Christmas weekend at Scarborough determined to win back the trophy, the Bent Bell, for the best decorated corner at the Christmas Dinner. Reckoning that its traditional fancy dress must weigh in its favour no expense was spared. Whether the CO was influenced by **LCpl Elaine Dodshon's** or **Cpl Babs Cornfield's** outfits or intimidated by the Ghostbuster trio of **LCpl Kev Pountain, LCpl Gary Jowers** and **LCpl Alec Durnall** we don't know—but we won anyway!

LAD

OC	**Maj Jim Storey REME**
AQMS	**SSgt Barry McGuinness REME**
PSI	**SSgt Don Hall REME**
Sgt NRPS	**Sgt Geoff Weller REME**

For the first time for some years the LAD took part in the Warcop Cup competition for all REME units in NE District. Competition was fierce, particularly from the Regular workshops, but it was a valuable learning experience and we did well for a unit of our small size.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

Since annual camp in Germany we have been kept on our toes with recruiting, training, orienteering, patrol competitions, range days and, of course, the usual routine of the Regiment.

Nevertheless, we have found time for exercises. Oh, and to practice sleight-of-hand, alias Brigade Returns.

'What's time time?'
'0200 hrs'
'0200 What?'
'0200 hrs Bravo'
'What's that in Zulu?'
'You add one—or take it off—or is it two? Er, dunno'
'Then the "How-many-widgets-broken-in-the-period-ending-midnight-the-day-before-yesterday" return is late again'!
'Don't panic, Sir, put 0200 Alpha on the message form. That'll throw em'
'Righto'

NOTES FROM 89 (WARWICKSHIRE) SIG SQN

After the exertions of the Seabroke House opening ceremony, a 'quiet period' might have seemed just the thing for 89. But no so. Camp was just as feverish for 89 as for everyone else, but even so there were plenty asking for more. **Lts Meeson** and **Meikle** successfully organised a Troop training weekend at Swynnerton. **SSM Bob Horne** devised and executed a highly professional Squadron range weekend and still had energy left to mastermind and implement a very successful 'fun' weekend of canoeing on the Wye and pony trekking in the Brecon Beacons. Meanwhile back at Rugby the PSAO **Capt Roy Smithard** continued promoting fund raising for hi-tech wheel chairs with a sponsored lorry pull, ably assisted by members of the Squadron. In November the OC, **Maj Paul Stafford TD**, entertained the Regimental Colonel (TA), **Col Alan Hawksworth ADC TD**, the President of the Derby branch of the Royal Signals Association, **Maj John Rose TD**, and officers of the Squadron and RHQ. This was something of a special reunion as **Col Hawksworth** was a former Squadron Commander. The next weekend saw the Squadron leading and organising the annual civic Remembrance parade in Rugby. Who says the TA only train every other weekend!

CO Lt Col Don Overton presenting Regimental Patrol Competition Cup to Cpl Paul Fundak of 89 Sqn

Another prize winner at the Regimental Patrol Competition
Pte Karen Neal receives a Regimental coffee holder

58 (STAFFORDSHIRE) SIG SQN

Greetings from Newcastle. Now all you avid followers of the 'soap', that is the sage of 58 Sqn's existence, may have realised that we have not made our appearance in this magazine of late. But all that's changed now, and I am here to tell you yet more tales of derring-do (no, they are not all locked up-yet!).

But where to begin? I could tell you how **2Lt Annette Holland** and her boys took the National Garden Festival by storm with a display of equipment which was much appreciated.

SSgt Whalley formulated Ex *Leg Stretch II* as a means of getting in some extra fitness training for the Patrol Competition Team. The rest of the Squadron were invited along for the Social Evening on the Saturday night. It was a weekend that was enjoyed by all, including **LCpl 'Charlie' Brown** and **Sig Pete Rosson.**

Just a fortnight later, **Capt Chris Cummings** took some of the Squadron to Ambleside for Ex *Ambleside Warrior*, a weekend of hill walking, canoeing and, for those with the equipment, sub-aqua. We were joined, for part of Saturday, at least, by the Training Major, **Maj Errol Hunt** and his driver **Sig Cahill**. While his driver maintained a low profile, **Maj Errol Hunt** tried to fall from the hillside while attempting to aid **Pte Hughes.** Later **SSgt Whalley** and his crew caused some little consternation to some canoeists when the cry 'Ramming Speed' was heard as they hove into view from behind a reed bed, a great time was had by all. Thanks to **Capt Chris Cummings** for instructing and to **Sgt Pete Myatt** and **LCpl Steve Forrester** for all their hard work in the kitchen.

Later still came the Regimental Patrol Competition, with 58 being 'pipped at the post' for the first place. We did come a very creditable second and gained a place in the District Competition.

And finally, a short paragraph of congratulation and farewell:

Congratulations to **Sig Simon Howlett, Darren Lomas** and to **Pte Debbie Tams** on gaining their HGV licences.

To **LCpl Jane Shufflebotham, Sharon Capel, Mike Bagguley** and **Martin Lemon** on their recent promotion.

Best wishes to to **2Lt Jackie Richards** on her recent engagement.

58 Sqn representation at the National Garden Festival
L to R: Sig Bob Shone, Martin Lemon, Mick Bagguley, LCpl Debbie Bedford, Sig Alan Scowcroft, 2Lt Annette Holland

SOCIAL EVENTS

WOS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS SUMMER BALL

A very successful Ball was held on 15 July in the Cross Heath TA Centre in Newcastle-under-Lyme, **WO2 (SSM) 'Sailor' Eccleston** and his Committee transformed his Drill Hall into a very picturesque and inviting venue, complete with fish pond (and fish) and highly decorative floral wheelbarrow. Entertainment was provided by the Pipes and Drums of 51st Highland Association as well as the customary Disco.

SSgt Mick Kearney and the cooks laid out a bountiful buffet table. **Mrs Susanne Hedge**, saved the day when it was discovered that the cook who was to cook the turkeys was ill.

Let it not be said that our wives do not take an interest in their husbands military 'hobby'. **Mrs Enid Eccleston** and **Mrs Nancy Corrie** (wife of Staff Sergeant (FofS)) produced some stunning floral decorations which enhanced the situation.

WOS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS DINNER

At a Regimental Dinner Night on 9 August the Mess dined out two stalwart members, **SSgt Allan Morris REME** of the LAD and **Sgt Ron Jones**, 95 Sig Sqn. Both men have given extremely valuable service and will be sadly missed. **Mrs Morris** and her two daughters were also present and also **Ron Jones**'s fiancée **Miss Audrey Price.** We wish them a happy 'retirement' and wonder what will happen on Tuesday nights and every other weekend (I understand bowls is a gentle and rewarding time filler).

OFFICERS' MESS LADIES DINNER NIGHT

On Saturday 5 December the Officers of the Regiment and their wives took full advantage of the opportunity to dine in the splendid surroundings of the City of Birmingham Council House. The guests of honour were the SOinC **Maj Gen P. Alexander MBE** and **Mrs Alexander** and the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, **Councillor and Mrs A. D. Martineau.**

The CO, **Lt Col Don Overton** delivered a speech and the Lord Mayor replied on behalf of the Guests. It was good to see so many members and ex members of the Regiment and their wives present. Judging from the numbers of applications to attend it is obviously regarded as a happy social event. Once again the Corps Band addd to our enjoyment.

FAREWELLS

The Regiment, sadly, has said farewell to:

Capt Vic Zimmer and his wife **Denise** who have left for the Sunnier climes of Australia—good on yer mate.

Lt Janette Bell on the occasion of her marriage and who is departing with her husband to Saudi Arabia.

Capt Jane Bowers (nee **Whittaker**). She has gone to live in Shropshire.

2Lt Steve Mills on his departure to the 'Big Smoke'.

Sgt John Jarwood, on completion of service, and who is now going to run a taxi service in Sutton Coldfield.

WELCOME TO

Capt Andy Boyle and his wife **Rachel. Andy** joins us from the Falkland Islands on his appointment as Quartermaster.

Lt Liz Moreton, an ex regular, who joins HQ Sqn as Regimental Messing Officer.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **OCdts Chris Edwards, Julian Webb, Steve Pell, Jackie Richards** and **Cherry Wilkins** on gaining their Commissions.

Congratulations also on the following promotions: **WO2 'Sailor' Ecclestone** to WO1 employed with RRTT, **SSgt Sammy Bondin** to SSM 95 Sqn, **SSgt Bill Lambert** to SSM 58 Sqn, **Sgt Bill McNiesh** to Staff Sergeant HQ Sqn, **Cpl Ron Moseley** to Sergeant 48 Sqn, **Cpl Dave Bentley** to Sergeant, Officers' Mess Steward, and **Cpl Clive Winstanley** to Sergeant 95 Sqn.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

As usual all Squadrons took part in their respective Services of Remembrance in Sutton Coldfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Shrewsbury and Rugby. A contingent from 48 Sqn, RHQ and HQ Sqn paraded at the main parade in Birmingham City Centre.

At Sutton Coldfield after the parade the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, **Councillor** and **Mrs A. D. Martineau** and **The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP** and **Mrs Fowler** were entertained in the Officers' Mess. We were delighted that **Maj Gen Robert Ward**, GOC Western District, and **Mrs Ward** were also able to join us.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

FAREWELL TO OUR CO

The Officers of the Regiment held their Dinner and Ball at the historic Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield in October to bid farewell to **Lt Col Nick Henwood** after two and a half years in command. To commemorate the occasion, and to express appreciation for all that he has done for the Regiment, the Officers presented him with a handsome salver, engraved with the signatures of the 62 members of the Mess. The presentation was made by our new Honorary Colonel, **Col Alan Hawksworth**, who attended with his wife, **Barbara**. During his tour of duty **Col Henwood** was splendidly supported by his wife, **Liz.** She devoted much time to regimental family affairs—she has been greatly admired by everyone in the Regiment. The unit was extremely well served by both of them and we wish them well in whatever follows.

The occasion also marked the farewell, after exactly 34 years of TA service, of **Maj Stuart Cottage** who has finally hung up his military boots (still 'ammo'—most people thought!) with his famed football pair. On behalf of the mess **Stuart** was presented with a rose-bowl, engraved with the details of his splendid service which included the award of the MBE for services to TA sport.

We were very pleased to welcome the new CO, **Lt Col Steve Coltman** and his wife **Judith**, in November. We hope they will enjoy their tour with the Regiment—and hope that it will be fruitful and rewarding. We would also like to record the departure from command of 87 Sqn of **Maj Ron Toft** who has handed over his portfolio to **Maj Mike Wright** in exchange for an appointment with RHQ but attached to 46 Sqn.

The departing CO, Lt Col Nick Henwood, receives a regimental plaque from the newest member of the Regiment, Pte Lynn O'Brien

At the Regimental Dinner and Ball at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield Pictured *Left to Right*: Lt Col Steve Coltman (new CO), Mrs Barbara Hawksworth, Col Alan Hawksworth (Hon Col), Mrs Liz Henwood, Mrs Judith Coltman, Lt Col Nick Henwood (departing CO), Lt Col Toby Seymour (2IC and PMC) and Mrs Margaret Seymour

WELL DONE THAT MAN!

Congratulations from all his old comrades to **Sig Leonard Bibby**, late of 93 Sig Sqn in Blackburn, on his winning the accolade for the best turned out soldier at Buckingham Palace during the Corps' Public Duties earlier this year.

The SOinC, Maj Gen Paul Alexander, paid his first visit to the Regiment on 2 December, accompanied by the CO Lt Col Steve Coltman and Adjt Capt Dave Hornsby

FOCUS ON SOME SUPPORT PERSONNEL OF HQ SQN

The Regiment has always concentrated on carrying out its social activities with emphasis on professionalism and a great deal of style. Events, such as that of the Cutlers' Hall and other Regimental and Squadron peak occasions, owe a great deal to a largely unsung band of heroes within HQ Sqn, whose dedication to duty, very high standards and sheer enjoyment of the job has made each and every event very successful. First the mess staff, ably led by that master of aplomb and sense of occasion—**WO2 (RQ) Joe Hodgson**, the mess manager—who has been the mentor and guide for the splendid team consisting of **Cpl Fran Dagnall, LCpl Beverley Connolly** (ex regular army), **LCpls Gill Pick, Andy Medley, Sig Graham Blyth, Mark Robinson, Pte Sharon Roebuck**, and last but not least, the diminutive **Pte Barbara Palmer**. That 'up front' team is matched by the retiring and bashful backroom crew in the kitchen led by our master chef—**WO2 Paddy (Wanna try Bombay Duck again Sir?) Connors**. The stalwarts include **Sgts Roger Huckerby, Ken Pick, LCpl Gillian Cundy, Pte Melany Widdows** and **Lee Crofts**.

The Officers' Mess staff, at the pipe-opening 'Chota Peg' oriental evening at Annual Camp

Left to Right: WO2 (RQ) Joe Hodgson—Mess Manager Sahib, Sig Mark Robinson, Pte Barbara Palmer, Sig Graham Blyth, LCpl Andy (Din Din—where 'ave you bin) Medley and Cpl Fran (Memsahib) Dagnall

THE LATE COL J. R. S. GRIMWOOD-TAYLOR TD, DL, MA, LLB

We were greatly saddened to learn of the death, on 16 October 1986, of **Col Richard Grimwood-Taylor** who was the first Honorary Colonel of the Regiment on its formation in April 1967 and which he served until September 1981. Those 14 years were marked by **Richard**'s absolute dedication to the regimental family which earned him the respect and affection of all members. His interest in all our affairs, and his sympathetic and wise counsel was always listened to with great respect. Our thoughts are with **Anne**, his widow, and all his family.

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

3 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Maude**
2IC	**Capt Adams**
PSO	**Capt Garratt**
Tp OCs	**Lt Posnett**
	2Lt Almond
	2Lt Gregory
SSM	**WO2 Reynolds**
NRPS	**SSgt Hart**
PSIs	**Sgt Cowling**
	Sgt Sherman

SELECTING RECRUITS FOR THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

We do our Recruit Selection over a weekend. The aim is to determine the suitability of applicants from various sources to join the Regiment. This is done by inviting potential recruits to spend a weekend at one of the Regiment's TA Centres and undergo a series of tests on numeracy, literacy, aptitude, physical fitness, agility and leadership potential. The candidate's ability to mix with others, enter into group activities and communicate ideas is kept under observation. At the same time the candidate has the opportunity to have a look at the Territorial Army from the inside; terms of service are outlined and the commitment explained. Candidates are invited into the TA Centre All Ranks Club where they can meet and talk with members of the Directing Staff in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

This particular weekend was based at our TA Centre in Tunbridge Wells and recruits from our London and Banbury Squadrons were also present. On arrival at Tunbridge Wells, candidates are shown their sleeping accommodation (more often than not this is a space on the floor of a garage, indoor range or lecture room on which to lay a sleeping bag) and issued with any kit they may require.

Masterminding the selection tests and recruiting procedures is our Regimental Recruiting Officer **Maj Roger Hedgecoe**, who also happens to be in charge of Regimental parachute training. The weekend is designed to keep candidates in the dark as to their next move and continuously on the go. Reveille at 0600 hrs is immediately followed by a PT session with **Cpl Tony Wells**. Following breakfast they are introduced to drill by 3 Sqn **SM 'Titch' Reynolds**, an ex regular with a powerful parade voice which demand the attention not only of our aspiring volunteer soldiers but of our neighbours as well. They then take a variety of tests under the supervision of **Capt Pam Hedgecoe WRAC(V)**, wife of **Maj Hedgecoe** and herself an ex regular.

Before lunch do more PT. First comes a run and the BFT step test. The afternoon consists of an assault course and command tasks which gives them a chance to show their leadership potential, initiative and ability for teamwork.

Every step of the way is monitored by **Maj Hedgecoe** and his parachute trained team. On return to the TA Centre they are shown a film and given a lecture. At this stage they have no idea when the procedure will end but at 2000 hrs they are 'fallen out' and allowed to change and go into the TA Centre Club Room to relax before turning in on their floorspace.

Sunday continues in much the same way and by 1200 hrs the candidates are interviewed and told whether or not they have been accepted. For most this is regarded as a 'fun' weekend but not without a good deal of effort from the candidates, whose enthusiasm and determination are an inspiration to all involved in the organisation.

Maj Hedgecoe 'Enjoying' The Step Test

News from Squadrons

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Martin Stretch**
2IC	**Capt Jim Clark**
Adjt	**Maj Simon Firbank LI**
Tfc Offr	**Capt Ray Papworth**
QM	**Maj Harry Meekings**
TCO	**Capt Gerry Morgan RCT**
OC A Tp	**Capt Tony Morphet**
OC B Tp	**Lt Paul Bailey**
OC C Tp	**Capt Alan Madsen**
RSM	**WO1 Gordon Air**
FofS	**WO1 John Phillips**
YofS 1	**WO2 Chris Newby**
YofS 2	**SSgt Brian Hayward**
Ch Clk	**SSgt Graham Manning**

Since our last report the Squadron has taken its block leave, been on exercise in Northern Germany and Denmark, fought its way around Dartmoor on battle camp and competed in the Commander's Cup and Lanyard Trophy.

We had said farewell to **Capt Mike Rough, Lts Derek Wood, Lt John Watt, WO1 Mick Bailes, WO2 Dave Turner** and **Sgt Frank Dawson**; our good wishes for the future go with them all.

LINE SECTION EXERCISE *BOLD GUARD*

Although the Line Section deployed, three, two man detachments to the Squadron's HQ, the remainder of the section having moved once were static for nearly the whole of the exercise; this however didn't stop the recently promoted **LCpl Ted Hodgson** from clocking up nearly 3,000kms in **Sig 'Tet' Crossley**'s new landrover.

Despite taking out more new D10 than ever before for the whole Brigade, the Linies laid only about eight miles, compared with 70 at the same time two years ago. The section was kept very busy helping to find many of the 120 pick up points that a lot of units couldn't locate.

LCpl Steve Franklin and **Sig Nick Kent** were very proud that they managed to cover their interior mirror with elastic bands, which could only be obtained with a purchase from the local 'Snelly', approximately 80 at the last count.

The section's exercise finished on a high as did the Brigade's when **Sgt Geoff Woodcock, LCpl Ted Hodgson, Sig Tet Crossley** and **Pat Saunders** laid an 800m D10 from a pick up point on the FEBA back to the Brigadier's OP. It was a clandestine affair. **Sgt Woodcock** even managed to avoid the dung heap—the enemy's secret weapon?—but those carrying the D10 fell for it, literally, and finished up well in it, right up their knees!

SQUADRON BATTLE CAMP

No sooner had the mud of Schleswig Holstein and Zealand been washed from the vehicles than it seemed that the 2IC, RSM and YofS were seeking fresh supplies in UK. The met office had been involved in the early planning of Battle Camp and confirmed Dartmoor as the wettest, dampest and least sunny place in UK during October. The forecast certainly proved accurate.

The main body, of the 150 men on Camp, arrived late Sunday with Hotelier Extraordinaire **SSgt John Parish** making everyone comfortable. Training started in earnest on Monday at Bagga Tor C and B range with Charlie Tp under the close scrutiny of **Capt 'Black Adder' Papworth** recovering the likes of **Sig 'Piggy' Pigott** from peat bogs and ducking into them when the Troops practiced their pirouettes with loaded SMGs.

The high point of the week was the visit of the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**. He arrived on Thursday during the Turner Trophy (the Squadron's Annual Military Skills Competition) and managed to visit most of the stands, some of which were quite 'hairy'. **Sig 'Ozzi' Plant** made the most of things by combining **Lt John Watt** and **Sgt Chris Rose**'s 'High Wire River Crossing' with some Free Fall practice. Hopefully he will be out of RNH Plymouth soon! But the real excitement came at **Lt Paul Bailey** and **Sgt Geoff Woodcock**'s death slide. Who dares!

Cpl Dave Allen's section went on to win what proved to be a very tough competition by a narrow margin from **Cpl Steve Johnson**, who had earlier received a 100% score at **SSgt (Wot's my job?) Taylor**'s 'Para Drop Recovery' stand, which inevitably involved the section getting soaked, in this case trying to retrieve a supply drop, which ended up in a river. In fact, after a couple of stands the more astute amongst the section commanders realised that, if anything was going to happen, it was going to be on, or across, a river.

The competition was controlled throughout by **YofS (Dave) Turner** (evil ideas man) and **RSM (that was my first idea) Bailes**. The SOinC, **Maj Gen Alexander**, finally presented the winners trophy, after the OC had walked him around Okehampton Camp on a sight-seeing tour, while the 'stray' sections were recovered from the moor.

The SOinC's decision to stay overnight gave the Squadron the opportunity to hold a Dinner Night which was attended by all Officers, WOs and SNCOs of the Squadron. **Sgt Mick Watson** sacrificed his place at the table to mastermind a really excellent meal. Everyone soon found their second wind, after a tiring day, to make the most of a memorable evening. **QMSI (Wiggerly Stick) Bryson** is already under pressure to make next year's just as good.

The SOinC, Maj Gen Alexander meets the eventual winners of the Turner Trophy whilst the OC, RSM and SSgt Dave Thomas watch in the background

The SOinC, Maj Gen Alexander, talking with Capt Alan Hadsen at the Ambush stand on the Turner Trophy

Cpls Frank Fletcher and Stephen Winterburn discussing the finer points of Anti-Ambush Drills with Maj Gen Alexander

EXERCISE *LONG LOOK*
CPL KEN GRIFFITHS ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS

Cpl Ken Griffiths who arrived in the Squadron during summer block leave, and consequently was able to tour much of the South of England staying with various Tech Troop members, and visit the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and Festival.

In September he deployed with the Squadron on Ex *Bold Guard* to Northern Germany and then, via a window shopping spree in Hamburg, to Denmark for Ex *Smaragd*.

October saw **Cpl Ken 'G'day' Griffiths** as a section 2IC on Dartmoor for the units annual battle camp after which he needed a long weekend in London on R & R.

A visit to 2 Inf Div in November enabled him to see PTARMIGAN at close quarters and contrast it with Brigade BRUIN equipment.

He left us on 17 November to head home via America. Of the four month Ex *Long Look* visit **Cpl Griffiths** said:

'Ex *Long Look*, for those lucky enough to get selected, is a rare opportunity to see one of the most professional armies in the world in action. I have enjoyed my time here and would thoroughly recommend it to anyone who gets the opportunity.'

Cpl Ken Griffiths Royal Australian Signals meets Maj Gen B. M. Lane GOC SW District on Ex *Bold Guard* in Germany

LANYARD TROPHY

Having just completed Ex *Bold Guard* there were not many volunteers for another weekend away from home on 11/12 October, particularly on Dartmoor! However, a gallant few attempted the event, led from the front by the OC, **Maj Martin Stretch**, and 2IC, **Capt Jim Clark**. Only three members from the original team managed to complete the event, completing it in the following times: **Maj Stretch** 18 hrs 02 mins, **Capt Clark** 18 hrs 04 mins, **Sgt Boyle** 22 hrs 41 mins.

The OC trying desperately not to look exhausted at check point

The 2IC trying also desperately to look like Capt 'I'm Oh' Fantastic as the sun goes down

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

THE SQUADRON LINE UP

OC	**Maj Gordon Shipley**
2IC	**Capt Nick Bateson**
AO	**Capt Dick Hamilton**
QM	**Capt John Kirkman**
Comms	**Capt John Lugg**
OC A	**Capt Peter Gillespie**
OC B	**2Lt Julian Brammer**
RSM	**WO1 John Aspinall**
FofS	**WO1 Dave Jackson**
RQMS	**WO2 Bernie Thomas**
YofS	**SSgt Steve Roden**
CC	**Sgt Steve Hutchins**

NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINE

After the Squadron's success in the Commander's Cup we deployed to Dartmoor to compete in the Lanyard Trophy. Noting carefully the comments of one young subaltern from last year, about 'a competition for those without brains' and smudged certificates, this year's Lanyard Trophy required the use of a map and compass, and all certificates were typed. Several competitors who hit checkpoints after lengthy detours were heard remarking that 'it is sometimes better to remain silent . . .!'

Despite a heavy, organisational, commitment the Squadron entered two teams which finished first and third. The first seven members of the A team finishing abreast in equal first place in a time of 11 hrs 42 mins. Congratulations to both teams and to 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn, who entered a scratch team at very short notice and succeeded in coming second. **Maj Gordon Shipley** appeared to add another few inches to his 5ft 7in height.

The Monday following the Lanyard Trophy, the Squadron moved lock, stock and barrel into Westdown Camp on Salisbury Plain, to take part in the annual Brigade Concentration; a three week deployment, with the Squadron brushing up their military skills, firing and throwing an assortment of weapons, practising Brigade SOP's and culminating in a six day FTX based around Keevil Airfield.

Hardly had we returned, than it was off again at the gallop, with boards of officers, Staff College demonstrations, parachuting, preparation of vehicles and equipment for the Oman—where? and of course those eagerly awaited fitness runs with **Capt 'Nasty Nick' Bateson**. Hectic life may be, both workwise and socially, but judging from the number of requests for extensions, not an unpleasant one.

LOOKING FORWARD

Preparations are well underway for the Christmas Festivities and the Brigade Sports Week—an interesting combination! Alfa Troop are sorting out their skis and crampons in readiness for 10 days' adventure training in Glencoe immediately after block leave and 10 members of the Squadron are placing bulk orders for sun tan oil, to see them through six weeks of Kenyan sun.

The boxers are busy training hard for the Army Minor Units Boxing Final against old rivals 9 Para Sqn RE and the RSM, **WO1 'Chopper' Aspinall** has been honing the Squadron recruiting team to a peak of fitness in order that they can survive the rigours of a two week tour of BAOR in February.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to the new QM, **Capt John Kirkman**; his SQMS **SSgt Shaw**; the new catering officer **WO2 Holbrook**; **Sgt Richards** and **Sgt Extance**. Farewells to **Maj Dannells, WO2 Boyd, SSgt Hendley, Sgts Monk** and **Extance** (no, it's not a mistake). We wish them and their families Good Luck, safe journeys and a happy stay.

THE LANYARD TROPHY—DARTMOOR 1986

To all members of the Corps outside 1 Sig Gp, the Lanyard Trophy Competition might need some explanation. In short it is a test of endurance over 40 miles, carrying 30lbs and an SLR, open to all Squadrons and Regiments within 1 Sig Gp. Trophies are awarded to both team and individual winners. Normally this is a simple process of a cross country scoring system and individual completing the course at his own pace. This year however, when **WO1 (RSM) Aspinall** and **Sgt Whittick** were allowed free rein over Dartmoor, the event took on a whole new meaning.

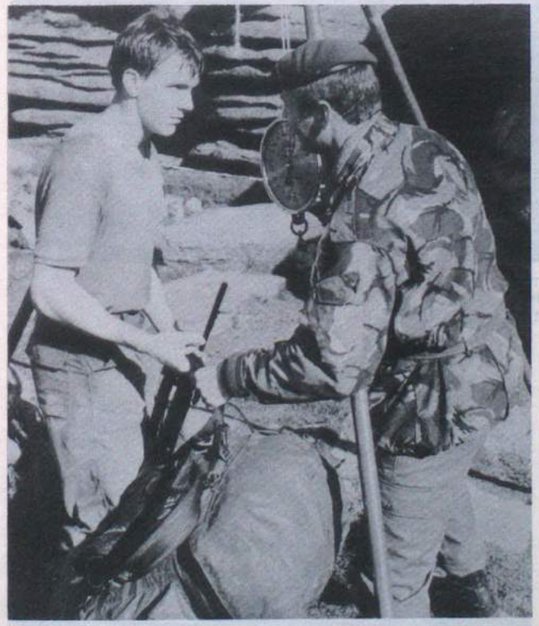
The course consisted of a 'join the dots' map of the North Moor, taking in every high spot and Tor within striking distance of Okehampton Camp. Training area safety restrictions limited the minimum size of groups allowed to move on the moor, and it was not until the safety of the road and the last five miles (or so) that individuals were permitted to sprint away from their teams.

Teams consisted of 10 men with the first six to count. The competition was started at 0700 hrs on a misty, cold morning by Comd Comms UKLF, **Brig I. R. D. Shapter**. By 0900 hrs the mists had cleared and the weather then remained stable for the remainder of the competition. Teams stayed in close contact with each other, but as the day grew on, 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn and the 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn teams started to move ahead. As dusk set the first team arrived in and as the dawn chorus started the last man crossed the finish line.

Mention must be made of the support organisation from 5 AB Bde, which ran the administration, manned the checkpoints and operated a safety net. Well done.

The results were collated throughout the night by **WO1 (FofS) Jackson** and his computer and the prize giving was held after breakfast. Prizes being presented by the Comd 1 Sig Gp **Col C. A. Brown**. The Commander congratulated all competitors and invited everyone to try to stop 5 AB Bde winning the trophy next yera. This year's winners look forward to your keenest competition in 1987 on the North York Moors.

Checkpoint 23 Cpl Allen takes time out to pose



Sgt Roger Taylor looks humble as the RSM ticks him off for not having clean boots

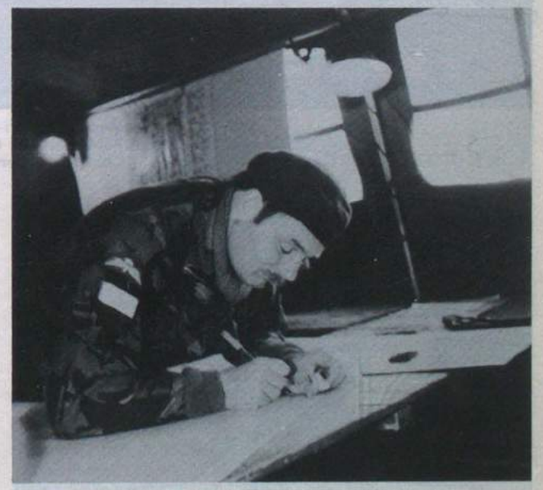
INDIVIDUAL PLACINGS—The Top Ten

LCpl Back)			
Cpl Allen)			
Sgt Colin Withey)			
Sgt Roger Taylor)	equal first place	5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	11 hrs 42 mins
2Lt Andy Hill)			
Capt Peter Gillespie)			
Capt Nick Bateson)			
Sgt Hutton	8th place	264 (SAS) Sig Sqn	11 hrs 53 mins
Cpl Chillcot	9th place	5 AB Bde HQ & Sig Sqn	11 hrs 54 mins
Cpl Craig)			
Sgt Wookey)	equal 10th place	264 (SAS) Sig Sqn	11 hrs 56 mins
Sgt O'Brian)			
Cpl Cowan)		individual entry	

TEAM PLACINGS

1st 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn A Team
2nd 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn
3rd 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn B Team
4th 244 Sig Sqn (AS)
5th 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
6th 30 Sig Regt A Team
7th 10 Sig Regt
8th 30 Sig Regt B Team
9th 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
10th 49 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
11th 210 Sig Sqn

LCpl Nigel Back receives individual winners trophy on behalf of the 'A' Team



FofS Dave Jackson starts to cook the books

The Magnificent Seven across the Line
Left to Right: Sgts Roger Taylor, Colin Withey, Cpl John Allan, LCpl Nigel Back, Capt Pete Gillespie, 2Lt Andy Hill and Capt Nick Bateson

The Winning Team—Lanyard Trophy 1986
Back Row: Sgt Roger Taylor, Capt Pete Gillespie, Cpl John Allan, Sgt Colin Withey, Cpl 'Smudge' Smith
Front Row: Capt Nick Bateson, Cpl Frank Kurghausen, 2Lt Andy Hill, Cpl 'Chillie' Chilcott and LCpl Nigel Back

Covert Entry by 264 Sig Sqn

FofS Ducky Webb (30 Sig Regt) Happy to make check point

NEWS FROM THE TROOPS

ALPHA TROOP IN OMAN

No matter how many times we begged and pleaded with the Commander not to send us, Alpha Troop were doomed to go to the Oman, with what at times seemed the rest of the British Armed Forces. Reluctantly we packed our swimming trunks, Bermuda shirts and sunglasses—oh and the occasional radio set and set off in search of the sun.

First stop—Masirah, a mere 9 or 14 hours away, depending on whether you were on good terms with the 2IC **Capt 'Legs' Bateson** and got first (VC10) or second (C130) class. Fantasy Island without the booze—Butlin's Army Style! Bit by bit (literally) the Troop and its equipment arrived. Acclimatisation involved runs to the beach, swopping cam nets for ones that matched the colour of the terrain and a small shake out to ensure that 'those embarrassing little moments' stayed within the Troop. Tubes of sun tan oil emptied in direct proportion to their owners positions of responsibility, popularity with the RSM and their ability to master that old technique—body swerving.

LCpl 'Jake' Rosser offered the Troop the use of his personal analyst after it became apparent that the whole Troop wanted to parachute into the Oman. Unfortunately only a few got that privilege! After a one and a half hour low level flight a 20 minute stand up/kneel down with equipment and an extremely hard landing (who said hot thermals gave soft landings?) the few were looking up the meaning of 'privileged' in their pocket dictionaries. En flight the OC, **Maj Shipley** was treated to a stirring performance of how to look dead and lose weight in under an hour by **LCpl 'Smudge' Smith**.

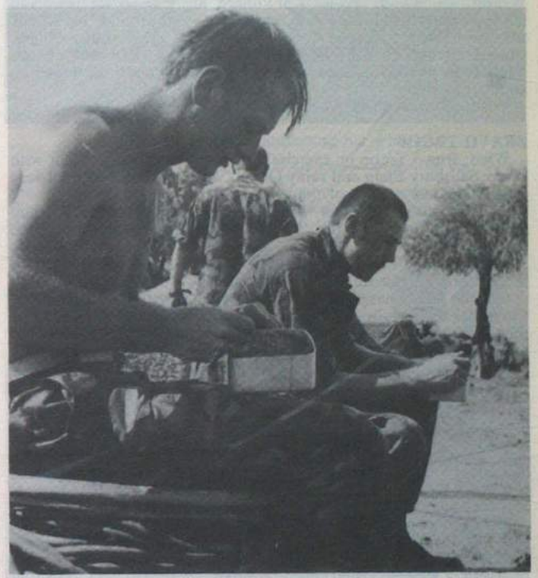
Setting up Para Tac HQ, the Brigade Recce Officer **Capt (who needs combs) Gillespie** confirmed his belief that reconnaissance is always wasted, after finding a tactical location only to be told by the staff that they'd found a prettier place, which wasn't so far away from the next location. Well they did have to walk.

Shortly afterwards the airlift began, bringing **Sgt (why do I always look so smart?) Stringer** and the warriors of Oscar Group in bit by bit. Eventually Billy Smart's Circus was erected, using configuration 275 and for novelty value—underground! Much to the disgust of **Cpl (I just let it all wash over me) Smith**. A few hours later it did, as we all experienced the first rain in Oman for seven months and the Headquarters disappeared in a quagmire. **Sgt 'Strings' Stringer** quickly established a close working relationship with the Omani signallers.

Special mention must be made of **LCpl Dougie Craig** and his manpack Rebro crew who jumped in with the Pathfinder Platoon 24 hours ahead of the main assault force and set up on a knife edged 'Jebel' (mountain) which dominated the terrain. Originally they were supposed to stay there for 48 hours. They ended up staying there for the whole exercise after a trailer rebro was Heli-lifted on to their location. At least they had a good view!

Cpl Chillcott manages to make the Comd 5 AB Bde smile just before they jump. How? solutions on a postcard to the Squadron. Prizes two free attempts at Squadron selection

OC Sqn, RSM, Sgt (Bailey) Whittick wait to be served coffee and dates for NAAFI break. Major Ali Bin Hamdan Bin Hamed is the host



LCpl Hindley and Sig Baker decide to have a picnic before laying any cable

From L to R: Sgt Rick Extance, Cpl Horan, Sgt Nidge Barnett, YofS Steve Roden, LCpl Delaney and Maj Shipley relieved that the Comms went well during the main battle

The remainder of Papa Group arrived and deployed under **Sgt Nidge Barnett**, north of the airhead, to be met by OC A and **LCpl (this'll make a good photo) Smith**, immaculately turned out as usual. The normal unit identification codes (think about it) were shown and

the reduced step up HQ was established in probably the best location we're ever likely to get. Predictably it wasn't used, but it was good for Troop training.

Cpl 'John' O'Driscoll trialled the new British tropical suit and announced that it did wonders for his spots!

The highlight of the exercise was the Brigade attack, involving 2 Para, 40 Cdo and the Oman Coastal Regiment (OCR), and which was watched by the Sultan of Oman and filmed by numerous TV cameras.

LCpl Smith and OC A acted as LO's to the CO of OCR for the attack and much amusement was had by members of the Troop, watching them carry radios and full kit trying to keep up with the CO—obviously an Olympic sprinter in his time, keen to impress the Sultan and carrying nothing but a pistol—and those dozen men never did materialise!

The Brigade departed by C130 Hercules at night—it's at times like those that you don't begrudge the RAF their air conditioned accommodation and on-tap mini buses. So it was back to Masirah and the same old boring routine—down to the beach, pick up the duty frees . . .

Hellos to **Sgt 'Rick' Extance** (and goodbye—hope your quarter in Cyprus is a big one), **LCpl 'Taff' Rowland**—welcome back, **LCpl Weaver, Sig 'Woody' Wood, Cpl Pollard, Sig 'Chains' Ramsden** and **Sig (get yourself some new brakes) Long**. Goodbyes and Good Luck to **LCpl Steve Navesey** and family and **Sig Mark Mogre**. Congratulations to **Cpls Bod Horan** and **John O'Driscoll, LCpls 'Jolly John' Walker, Scouse Delaney, Nidge Back** and **Jake Rosser** on your promotions.

What was that about no promotions in 5 Airborne Bde?

BRAVO TROOP

What, Bravo Troop on exercise? We must be slipping. What with sunny Salisbury Plain and rainy Oman, we've managed to keep very busy in the last quarter of the year.

Congratulations to **LCpl 'Dai' Smith** (I decided not to call him **Smudge** this time) and **Sig 'Ma' Baker** for being converted from Penguins to Crows.

A mention must also go to **'Eric Bloodaxe' Udell** who has taken up headbutting Sherpa vans and it's a real mess—the van that is!

Gremlin Grady has returned from hospital after trying to get out of Christmas rear details—naturally he failed to understand the mind of **SSgt 'Shush you know who' Humble**. Finally **LCpl Hindley** not only managed to help arrange the Troop Christmas Party, but promptly won the two star prizes—what a surprise! What was that Staff—need someone for guard duty?

MIKE TROOP

Over the past few months there have been many changes within the Troop. We say goodbye to **Cpls Craig 'whamboy' Kearney, Mick 'Cabbage Head' Flemming** and **Dave 'Airborne all the way' Murray**, who has gone to sample the pleasures of Belize. We say hello to **Cpls Jim Holt (not another commando)** and **Jim Hamill**.

The MRT or the 'Techs Fairy Grotto' as the RSM refers to it, has followed the Squadron from Salisbury Plain to Oman. There **Sgt Roger Taylor** 'jumped in' with the LPBG, after winding up the rest of the Para trained technicians by telling them that he was to receive his Omani wings for the jump; **Cpl George 'Look Lads' Crozier** was not impressed. Back at the MRT **Sgt George Webb** was running a valeting service on the radios to remove the sand that they had collected. **LCpl Willie Nicol** had a massive sense of humour failure (again) when the FofS removed him for air attack sentry: he was sent 30 yards away from the MRT to spot enemy helicopters—what those extra 30 yards difference made we'll never know!

On returning to the UK **Cpl George 'Quick one lads' Crozier** was given the task of respraying the tech repair trailer from desert colours to good old green and black. We're not sure what happened but it's now a very psychedelic mix of gloss black and green.

The Troop would like to congratulate **Sgt George Webb** and **Cpl Hamish Calder** on their promotions and **Sgt** and **Mrs Roger Taylor** on the birth of their son, **Craig**.

FASHION NOTE

After much leg pulling, the Foreman finally decided to retire his old 'pork pie' beret for another newer and better 'pork pie'.

OFFICERS' UNIFORMS

The Uniform Shop at the Signal Wing, RMA Sandhurst, is the ideal place for you to buy and sell Officers' second hand uniforms, this includes; hats, British warms, Sam Browne's, spurs and Mess wellingtons. For further information please contact the RSMI, Camberley Mil Ext 431 or Camberley Civil (0276) 63344 Ext 431.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Raper**
2IC	**Capt Jim McGrath**
QM	**Capt (QM) Charles Homewood**
AO	**Capt Jill Trainor WRAC**
OC N Tp	**Capt Andy James**
OC O Tp	**Capt Fred Connor**
OC P Tp	**Lt John Vlasto**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet**
MTWO	**WO1 Graham Jesty RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dougie Brisco**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley**
AQMS	**WO2 (AQMS) Geoff Cotter REME**
ORSQMS	**SSgt Sandy Campbell**

INTRODUCTION

Looking back over the last two months, October broadly speaking was taken up with exercises and November was spent in barracks. The period started with Ex *Panther's Sprint* which was a run-up exercise on Stanta for Ex *Eternal Triangle* in Germany. Since Ex *Eternal Triangle* the Squadron has been kept busy with barrack life routine.

EXERCISES

Ex *Panther's Spirit* took place on 6-8 October and the Squadron was kept busy, introducing new members to the way things are done here, and also ensuring that the old hands are not forgotten. After all, that is what exercises are all about! On Wednesday 8 October the newly appointed OC **Maj John Davies** came to see just what he can expect to take over in January. The Squadron then returned to Colchester ready for . . .

Exercise *Eternal Triangle* 17 October-4 November. This was a 1 Armd Div Field Training Exercise in Germany. The Squadron's first location was in Schutzenhalle. This was very spacious, and consequently rather expensive to keep warm. In addition to this the Brigade Officers were being housed in upmarket barns, so the exercise got off to a rather expensive start. Due to heavy rain throughout the first week and the damage it caused, it was expensive for the Division as well. As a result an early halt to Phase One of the exercise was called by which time Orange forces had made considerable progress into Blue territory. Blue was now poised to thrust back, forcing Orange to retreat. At this demoralising point the Squadron, as part of 19 Inf Bde, changed sides from Blue to Orange forces. This just goes to show what a very versatile Brigade we are. The second phase was similar to the first, apart from the difficulty of finding anywhere to house the operations complex within one location. Having been defeated twice the Squadron retreated to Colchester via Hohne.

On the communications side there were two points of particular interest on Ex *Eternal Triangle*. The first was that the Brigade orbat included 3 Panzer Bde and B Sqn 43 Netherlands Tank Bde, and the Squadron managed to provide communications for both of these. The second was the use of Single Channel Radio Access (SCRA's), allowing units direct access to the PTARMIGAN system. This proved very successful, but the importance of non-Corps operators being fully trained was highlighted.

The usual problems arose, but we should be prepared to profit from them. For example, an old favourite, the KOSB asked for a radio check to be relayed. Then there were certain items of kit that went missing—ask **Sgt Ian Wylie** about the OC's webbing, although best not to ask **Sgt Colin Jackson** what he lost.

IN BARRACKS

The first task on returning from Germany was, inevitably, post-exercise administration. In particular landrovers had to be prepared for exchange to the new 110 series, which had been on the cards for some while, though to date this exchange has not materialised, but any day now . . .

On Tuesday 11 November the Squadron provided a Royal Corps of Signals stand as part of an equipment display put on for a Headmasters' Technical Careers Convention. The equipment display proved to be the highlight of the Headmasters' day (lots of tanks and helicopters and guns and things) and the Squadron made the best of this opportunity to do some valuable recruiting work for the Corps. By now there should be thousands of school children around the country being pointed in the direction of a career in the Corps.

Sig Duncs Duncan working on a Series 90 ¾ t FFR prior to handover

LCpl Dave Cunliffe brandishing his whopper

Photographs by Cpl John Secton and LCpl Dave Cunliffe

12-26 November was a period of trade training. This culminated in 1 Sig Gp Trade Tests which ensure high standards are maintained within the Squadron. For those aspiring to reach the top 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn gave an impressive display of what can be achieved on Friday 21 November. For once life in Colchester looked really easy!

On Tuesday 18 November a Board of Officers assembled to carry out an examination of all Squadron stores and equipment, in preparation for the arrival of our new Sqn OC, **Maj John Davies**, in January. This had to be fitted in to a fairly full programme and thus ensured that no-one had any spare time on their hands. The final report is awaited.

Over 29-30 November the Squadron hosted an ACF/CCF Adult Signal Instructors' Weekend. The aim was to update Voice Procedure, teach the Clansman PRC 349 and PRC 320, discuss ACF/CCF training problems and introduce PTARMIGAN. It got off to a memorable start when **Sgt Steve Rook** found himself locked out of his office, with the keys to the Instructors' accommodation and all sorts of other bits and pieces vital to the smooth running of the weekend—yes, inside, of course. He was obliged to break into his own office through the window! After that the weekend passed off smoothly and was a great success.

That concludes a summary of what the Squadron has been up to since our last contribution, with the exception of sport.

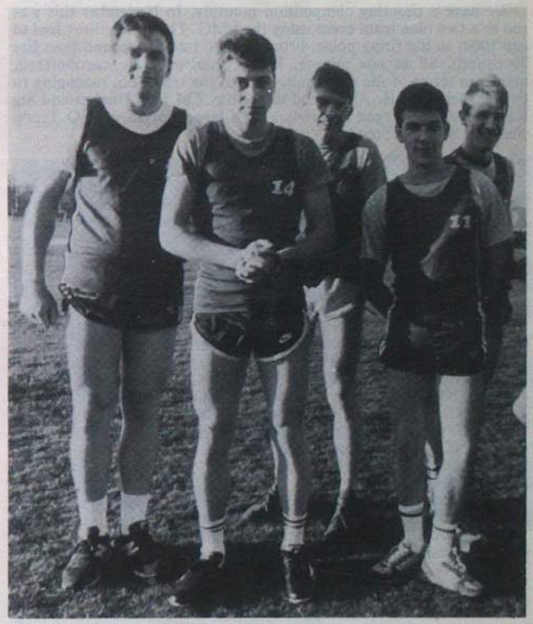
SPORT

ANGLING

The Squadron has a very active angling club. Two members were selected to fish for Eastern District in the UKLF team championship on Wednesday 26 November, **SSgt Brian Mountain** and **LCpl Dave Cunliffe**. The venue was the Oxford Canal at Waldercote which soon proved to be in poor condition. Nonetheless **LCpl Dave Cunliffe** had 11lb 11ozs by the end of the day, enough to secure him a very creditable sixth place in a field of 90. The team came fifth out of nine, quite an improvement over last year's ninth out of ten.

CROSS COUNTRY

There have been four race dates in the last two months. The first of these was an Eastern District league match on 8 October which the Squadron missed due to being on Ex *Panther's Sprint*. The second was another league match on 12 November; this the Squadron took part in and won quite comfortably. The third was the Army Cross Country Relay Championship at Rushmoor on 15 November missed again. Finally, on 26 November the Squadron hosted a league match. This was a great success, in large part due to **Cpl Chris Drew**'s efforts, as captain of the cross country team, and **WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley** who ran the event for OC cross country. **Cpl Chris Drew** led the cross country team to its third victory in three league matches, though it must be admitted that the competition was not too stiff—no other Minor Unit entered a team! The team is now well out in front in the Eastern District Minor Units League and looks set for a successful season.



Part of the Cross Country Team, from *L to R*: Capt Mike Gouldstone, Sig Chod Bronniman, Cpl Chris Drew, Sig Mark Plested, Andy McNicholls. LCpl Sticky Strickland and Sig Dave O'Shea (not shown) also run regularly

FOOTBALL

The Squadron has played two games so far. The first of these was on Friday 27 November against 45 Fd Regt RA in the York and Lancs Cup. We won this 5—1, **LCpl Scouse O'Brien** scoring three and **SSgt Bob Berry** two. The second game was a league match against 42 Ord Coy RAOC on Wednesday 12 November which we also won, this time 3—0. The scorers were **LCpls Scouse Oldfield, Scouse O'Brien** and **Cpl Geordie Teasdale**. The team has thus maintained its run of success from last season, though it now faces a tough task in the semi-finals of the York and Lancs Cup against Depot Queen's Division.

HOCKEY

The Squadron has played only one match, the first round of the Army Cup against 19 Fd Amb RAMC. It was a very competitive game with 19 Fd Amb emerging 2—1 winners. Other matches have not been played due to exercise commitments. However, we continue to support the Garrison Hockey XI, with the following regularly playing **Majs Tony Raper, David Kirkwood, Capt Jim McGrath, SSgt Tom Wright, LCpls Craig Morgan** and **Andy Cummings**.

RUGBY

The season opened with a thrashing at the hands of 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders now in the South Atlantic. Our 54—4 defeat at least showed us that our game needed attention!! **Lt Tony Urwin** 'scored' the consolation penalty try, but it was the performance of **Sig Charlie Carrington-Moule** and **Sig Oggy Ogden** that deserve mention. 45 Fd Regt RA also proved too strong for us. Despite holding the Gunners at bay for some 20 minutes they emerged easy winners at 45—4. The game was scrappy but hard fought with the consolation score coming from **LCpl Scouse O'Brien**. The Inter Troop Seven's Competition was planned to find some hidden talent. All involved had a thoroughly good time with the favourite P/N Troop team running out winners over an unfavoured SHQ Troop. New talent, however, was a little thin. Having concentrated on fitness it was hoped that the performance against 42 Ord Coy would be much improved. What a surprise it was to discover, just after half time, that the team was in the lead 25—3, playing open rugby. The one find from the Seven's Competition, **Cpl Nancy Drew**, was tackling well and using his blistering speed to good effect. The final score of 45—3 was a little flattering but puts the team in great heart for our games before Christmas.

SHOOTING

We have a shooting competition monthly. In November this was run as a two man team event using the LMG. The competitors had to run 100m to the firing point, bring the gun into action and then fire 20 rounds, all in one minute. Many problems were encountered, mainly in terms of the time limit, a lot of the teams not managing to fire all their rounds. At the end of the day **Cpl Taff Hughes** and **Sig Karl Tweddle** emerged as winners by a large margin, and O Troop were the winning Troop.

FAMILIES

The Squadron wishes to congratulate **LCpl Allan Aimer** on his marriage to **Gail**, and also **Sig Paul Chesters** on his marriage to **Marie**.

We also congratulate **WO2 Bernie Docherty** and his wife **Alison** on the birth of their baby boy **Jamie**.

INS AND OUTS

The Squadron warmly welcomes **Capt Geoffrey Vesey-Holt, WO2 Douglas Brisco, WO2 Tom Ferry, Sgts Terry Oaks, Mike Reynolds, Bryon Sinclair, Steve Rook, Cpls Ian Flooks, Terry Mackerill, George Sheppard, Denise Bamborough, John Ward, LCpls Allan Aimer, James Bailey, Willie 'Psycho' Leggatt, Peter Morgan, Tony Waddington, Dvr Garry Bourne, Sig Phil Greenwood, Ptes Maxine Jackson, Susan Jauncey** and **Cfn Gary Wilson**. Sadly we say farewell and good luck to: **2Lt Tony Urwin, WO2 Bill Metcalfe, Sgts Pauline Eccles, Dave Southworth, Sid Graves, Mike Smith** and **Ptes Dave Bailey** and **'Hamster' Roriston**.

CONCLUSION

The past two months has seen a full but enjoyable military calendar of events. The 110 Landrover exchange has now finally taken place. The Squadron looks forward to a full and, one hopes, enjoyable Christmas calendar of social events.

55 Sig Sqn (V)
Liverpool

SUPPORT TROOP

'*Wire* what?' '*Wire* notes, 1 October' (Thinks) 'Lucky me I'm on leave and wires are a technicians prerogative'. (Worth a try!) So, what have we been up to since last time.

We continue to carry out our supportive role administering, training, paying, cooking, 'Q'ing, teching and recruiting.

With the active role of our two sister Troops defining itself more and more as time goes on our technical training cell, under the watchful eye of **Capt (TOT) Mike Everett** and the incumbent Yeoman, has been kept extremely busy running basic and upgrading operator courses. The trade board results reflect their success. It would seem fitting at this point to wish our recently posted Yeoman **SSgt Chris Harden** all the very best in Germany and to welcome our new man **SSgt Gary Grove** and his wife **Nicola** to the fold. May you both have a pleasant and successful tour with us.

Our Pay Team of **Sgt Alan Orr** and **Cpl Lorna Berwick** still manage to smile and pay us, despite PSAO **Capt Eric Filter**. They can never please all the people all of the time but a 99.9% result is not bad. **Sgt Alan Orr** is to be congratulated on attaining an A grade on his SFA course.

Our ever faithful ACC team of **Sgt Fred Sunderland, Cpl 'Dinger' Bell** and **LCpl Ray Birkenhead**, continue to surprise the cynics with a high standard of cuisine and a professional approach to their task of keeping us hoping by feeding us well.

The 'Q' department never has a problem they tell me ('a' being the operative word!). Under the driving force of **SSgt Andy Wilson, SSgt Joe Connolly** (or 'Nerps' to his closest friends), **LCpl Denis Halewood** and 'where's the nearest Ladbrokes?' **Mr (Ex Sgt) Tommy Moreton** continue to maintain one high standard in matters material. This despite the efforts of everyone else to prolong the deadlines.

We are sad to lose **Andy Wilson** and wish him every success on his appointment to SSM in Berlin. **SSgt Joe Connolly** holds the reins until the arrival of **SSgt Lunness** in December.

Our technical team under **SSgt (FofS) Bill Hughes** maintains its usual low profile (snore again lads) but in spite of this our kit has never been so well looked after. Their one delight has been the arrival of the wheel-less ERV—their account follows:

55 SIG SQN ERV

It took years and years and cost millions of lives but the ERV has eventually arrived in the Squadron! Unfortunately, we don't have any wheels for is.

Some think the FofS had hidden the wheels to abort any attempt at back loading. Well done to **SSgt Jim Webb** and **Sgt Keith Sherrard** on their recent attainment of Class 1. **Jim** has also become a father. Congratulations on the birth of your son.

Our recruiting continues apace and the lucky lads are well catered for by our Recruit Training Team of **WO2 (SPSI) 'How many initials' Bob Cook, SSgt Harry Ravenscroft** and **Sgt Steve Wright**. Their success can be measured by the standards achieved on the Recruit Courses at Catterick where we have attained several Best Recruit and Best Shot awards.

As the two Radio Troops were destined for Brigade concentrations this year the rest of us were faced with a Troop camp. 'A holding at last' someone said 'Butlins' send someone else—nearly right, in fact 'Butlers' or to be precise Jurby Camp on the Isle of Man. A sleepy hollow in the north of the island of which the Commandant is our Honorary Colonel, **Brig N. A. Butler CBE**. Who said the fun had gone out of the TA? After a millpond crossing the first week was spent mastering a basic signalling skills course supplemented by military skills. We were well supported in our Troop instructors by two members of the North West District Specialist Training Team **WO1 Kearns** and **Sgt Alan Harman** (ex Squadron). The week went extremely well and we were pleased to receive a two day visit from Comd 1 Sig Bde **Col Colin Brown** who seemed well pleased with everything he saw, so much so that our Squadron Commander **Maj Andy Locke** got aboard the first available ship to come and see for himself. The first week was pronounced a total success which must please the organisers.

The second week was spent in the mountains, yes, they have them even on the Isle of Man. This we spent in a cloud, literally, which well tested the navigation and survival techniques taught during the first week. The only problem occurred when the mist cleared and the sun shone for one day and four of our members were shocked to discover they did not need a compass; so much so that they decided that the southern end of the island was more scenic than the north and who wants to climb Snaefell anyway? Kindness forbids printing their names but send an SAE . . .

A successful and satisfying trek culminated in a last night Troop party at the Jurby Hotel at which we were pleased to welcome our Honorary Colonel and his wife.

Our thanks must go to the Brigadier and his small but determined permanent staff and to 112 Field Hospital (TA) for the excellent support given to our mother crew during the fortnight.

GOLF

The Squadron Golf Team have been at it again and are 'glad to be back' **SSgt (FofS) Bill Hughes** won the Lisburn Garrison Championship prior to returning to the fold and **Sgt Merv Wright** beat **Sgt Gary Prince** into third place and won the Preston Garrison Meeting on 8 October 1986. (Does a seven under par mean a reduction in my 24 handicap? was the question asked by one golfer!).

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT)
BFPO 18

ARU VISIT
NATIONAL TROOP

Once more, the dreaded ARU visit was upon us, accompanied by the usual burst of activity associated with such events. The Orderly Room, for once, lived up to its designation and horizontal surfaces could actually been seen, having shed copious quantities of accumulated clutter. **Sgt Barry Jackson**, the chief clerk, even found his 'slot in masticating apparatus', and more importantly unearthed **Cpl Joe Cotterill** in a distant corner, complete with Pampas terminal and crash helmet.

The MT section prepared hard for the ARU in their normal way by all being out, on detail that morning! Well done **Cpl Dave Tuck**, man and vehicular management at its best!

SSgt Dave Forsyth's SQMS department rose to the occasion by importing a couple of spare operators from the Alternate War Communications Squadron to pose on one leg in the Clothing Store with **Cpl Don Cunningham** assisting in re-shoeing them.

With all areas of the administrative empire suitably readied for action, **Brig W. J. Hiles**, Commander (BR) Comms Zone arrived, and with great haste, was ushered into the OC's office for coffee with **Maj Ray Etheridge** and the Admin Officer, **Capt George Clark**.

After a lightning tour of the National real estate—one corridor—the Brigadier was introduced to **WO1 (RSM) Rod Gladwin** for a conducted tour of the latest communications systems, now being implemented in support of HQ AFCENT, namely the '85 Buy' and to meet the numerous soldiers of the Squadron internationally employed.

MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

Brig Hiles presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to three members of the Squadron during his visit. The recipients employments reflect the diverse nature of the unit, with **Sgt Pete Mallard**, a TE tech being employed by 641 Signal Troop within the NORTHAG/2ATAF Joint Operations Centre, Maastricht; **Cpl Pete Bensley**, a D Tg, being a Shift Supervisor in the AFCENT Local Control Organisation, Maastricht and **Cpl Simon Cargill**, a Combat Driver, busy in the AFCENT International MT at the main Headquarters, Brunssum. Just getting all three together in one place at the same time was a major administrative achievement.

After the presentation, the Brigadier joined the recipients and their families for a curry lunch and the usual celebratory refreshments.

THE RETREAT CEREMONY

Without a doubt, the major social event for the Royal Signals soldiers in AFCENT so far this year was the Retreat ceremony and Royal Signals Reception held in the Tapijn Kaserne, Maastricht.

Despite the preceding week's 'wintry conditions', the weather was perfect for the evening ceremony. Tapijn Kaserne lends itself to such occasions producing an ideal back drop for the Corps Band as resplendent as usual.

Many guests from the international community here were invited to attend and all were appreciative of the fine display by the Corps Band, showing once again that when it comes to pageantry, pomp and splendour, you need to go a long way to find a match for the British Army.

After taking the salute, **Brig Gen Carron**, Belgian Army, Assistant Chief of Staff, Communications Information Systems, HQ AFCENT, kindly accepted our invitation to join other senior guests at a reception hosted by Royal Signals Officers, and the members of the Sergeants' Mess.

All in all, it was a superb occasion greatly enjoyed by everyone. Even the impromptu fly past by three Canadian geese was timed to perfection!

Brig Hiles chatting informally with the medal recipients, Sgt Pete Mallard, Cpl Pete Bensley and Cpl Simon Cargill

Brig Hiles with the medal recipients and their wives

241 Sig Sqn
Donnington

On 26 November 1986 Central Ordnance Depot Signal Troop was transferred from 241 Sig Sqn to COD Donnington. **Brig J. A. P. Russell ADC**, the Commander, 2 Sig Bde visited to hand over the Troop formally to **Brig D. S. Parker**, the Commandant Donnington Garrison. **Lt Col (Tfc) John Beasley** came from MOD (Sigs 36) which tasks the Troop with worldwide crypto issues, to ensure fair play.

The Troop Commander **WO1 (YofS) Steve MacDonald** produced a 'CEI' for the visit involving his team of **SSgt Eddie Gallacher, Sgt 'Stevie' Stephens, Cpl 'Speedy' Speed**, (less **Cpl Bob Lamont** away on a course), **LCpl Dougie Smart**, not forgetting the civilian Storemen (who really make the decisions!) **Terry Shore, Brian Bayneham, Matt Donnery** and last but not least **Henry (Drop it on my foot) Curran** all providing various displays of the Troop's role. True to form, with the impending visit of any VIP party, the proverbial 'black cloud' arrived at Donnington and hovered over the Troop with the Yeoman's plan of action being the main target. It was not the earth mover trying to dig a hole in the Troop entrance that sent the Yeoman grey nor the Irishman who fractured the watermain nor the member of the Troop who gave the Brigadier an empty fountain pen to sign in with. The coup de grace was administered by the unexpected arrival of several tons of equipment requiring all the Troop manpower (less the Boss of course). Hence the Troop Photograph without a Troop!

Having finally briefed the hierarchy somewhat more realistically than planned, the Troop generously hosted the VIP party before sending them on their way.

There is no truth in the rumour that the Signal Troop have discovered a cure for Aids! However, a recent caller's suggestion to 'give it a Part Number and enter it on the computer then no one will get it' is being studied . . .

Brig J. A. P. Russell ADC (*on right*) hands over COD Signal Troop to Brig D. S. Parker, Commander Donnington Garrison

From Left to Right: Maj Stubbs, Lt Col Keating, Brig Russell, WO1 (YofS) MacDonald, Brig Parker, Col Goad, Lt Col Beasley

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

CAMBRIAN PATROL COMPETITION

Within 48 hours of recovering our vehicles from exercise in Italy we were back on the road again to what was to become our second home for the next three weeks, Sennybridge. On this occasion it was to provide the control communications for the annual Cambrian Patrol Competition. Althouth the directing staff were unused to such 'deluxe service' they soon took full advantage of it, and **YofS Terry Crosby** managed to keep his head above water. On the whole everything went smoothly. **LCpl Ron Powell**, who was assigned to the lake crossing could not resist testing the Engineers 'rigid raiders' at every available opportunity and was therefore not always present on the radio net. The quiet life of the rebroadcast detachment was shattered by a flying 6R4 rally metro lapping the masts (broadband antenna's do not work well at 90 mph+). At the end of the two five-day phases the 'mobiles' were very tired but it had been an experience to watch the teams in action and there were a lot of mutterings about entering our own team next year.

EXERCISE *CLOSE COMPANION*

After deployment from Bulford and trial by Air Mounting Centre the Squadron settled into a two day comms exercise based around Sennybridge—again! The weather was filthy and **SSM Gordon Shelley's** maxim that 'if it ain't raining it ain't training' didn't improve matters. The Troops each ran their own comms exercise and the RRB's covered the southwest with a chained VHF net. **Cpl Stoddy Stoddart** i/c RRB's for the period learned the consequence of over enthusiasmism as two vehicles sank to their axles in a fine bit of Welsh peat—but why were they there? Fortunately the weather cleared sufficiently to allow the NBC and helicopter drills to go ahead unhindered.

LANYARD TROPHY

To want to walk over Dartmoor on a weekend you have to be slightly out of the ordinary. To race 40 miles over Dartmoor carrying a 30lb bergen and weapon you should be committed. However 16 men from the Squadron along with 100 others evaded the padded cell and took part in the Lanyard Trophy on 11 October. The well planned route took in the majority of the vantage points (Tors), interspaced with a few valleys (containing marshes and rivers). The 'A' team battled along with encouragement from **Cpl Nick (even Craig could do this) Middleton** and **LCpl Guy (nearly an officer) Ashton**. The 'B' team made good progress by ignoring the map reading and following compass readings. At the finish our teams came marching in together in joint 33rd place and achieved 5th place in the team placings.

UNIT LEADERSHIP CADRE

In keeping with Squadron tradition, **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Shelley**, sensing the onset of winter, called together 24 men strong and true to exercise both body and mind in pursuit of the coveted title 'Best Student Unit Leadership Cadre 1986'. The course was a combination of physical exertion and mental somersaults with many a hidden pitfall awaiting the unwary student. On the Tuesday night the cadre course thought they had finished for the day after presenting their five minute lecturettes, however, 14 terrorist—style members of 1 Para Signal Platoon burst in on them. There began interrogation followed by an escape and evasion exercise. Most of the course arrived at the home base on time except **LCpl Bayliss** and **Sig Stu Wilson** who realised when they were in the Swindon area that they had drifted 'slightly' too far north! **Capt Ron (the QM) Collins** and **Andy Higgs** oversaw the syndicates command tasks, observing both successes and vain but valiant attempts, with tact and diplomacy. The finals of the course included an inspection by Comd No 1 Sig Group, **Col C. A. Brown**, with a display of drill under the hawklike gaze of **SSgt Dave Beattie**. The cadre course found the week demanding but beneficial. The 'Best Student' was **LCpl 'Shep's' Sheppard** and the 'most improved' prize was won by **Sig 'Taff' Webber**.

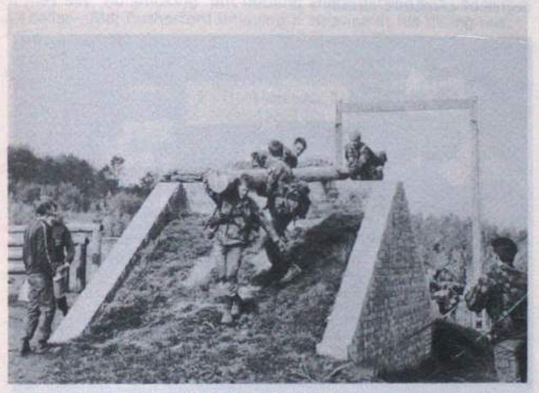
COMMANDERS CUP

After three weeks of altitude training in Italy, the Squadron's bronzed Commander's Cup team was ready for this testing competition. The day included most aspects of military training; swimming, assault courses, speed marches, first aid, NBC, line laying and shooting.

Commander 1 Sig Gp, **Col C. A. Brown**, inspired the teams with a stirring speech before they went to the swimming pool. A fine team effort saw the Squadron just pipped for first place by half a point. The next two events, NBC and shooting, gave us a few problems with **Sig Greg 'no thanks I don't drink' Harwood** wondering why his spare cannister had a different thread from the one he had just removed! After that it was on to the range, still in NBC kit, with eyes streaming and respirator lenses covered with Fullers earth. The next stand was hideous; the RAMC with props from the local abbatoir! All the casualties were treated and evacuated despite **Sig Barclay** dropping his SMG on to an unfortunate individual who, up to that point, had been merely a 'pretend' casualty. However 249 persevered and won. We attacked the assault course with aplomb, winning by a margin of two minutes, but that is not to say that we didn't have a nasty moment when our prime aid in getting over a 12ft wall—a 14ft plank—was modified by **Cpl Earl 'I'm beautiful' Wigglesworth** into two not quite so useful aids. The final event was the six mile speed march. This quickly became a battle between us and 5 AB Bde Signals. Despite all efforts they beat us by two seconds and therefore we were second overall at the finish.

The oh—so-near-victors were:

Lt Nigel Godbolt, Sgt Pete Gower, Cpls Earl Wigglesworth, Nick and Craig Middleton, Jim Brebner, LCpls Guy Ashton, 'Shep' Sheppard, Gary Hall, Sig Greg Harwood, Rob Read and **John Barclay.**



The Commanders Cup team in full flight over an obstacle

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS
NEW TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

Ext 8240	Regimental Secretary
Ext 8241	Assistant Regimental Secretary
Ext 8242	RHQ Office
Ext 8244	Welfare
Ext 8245	Association
Ext 8246	Editor/Assistant Editor *The Wire*
Ext 8247/8248	Accounts, including all matters relative to *Wire* subscriptions and distribution, change of address etc:

Extensions are on London District Mil or STD 01 930 4466.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

RADIO RELAY TROOP

The main task of the Section is the maintenance of the GEC Microwave System at the Squadron's five sites in the Eastern half of Cyprus. We also have the joyous task of looking after various other equipments ranging from the latest in Tropo stations to C41's! (Remember them?) It was rumoured that the British Museum was interested in buying them.

Now the hellos and goodbyes. Hello to **Cpl John Paterson** and wife **Tina** from 22 Sig Regt. Hello to **SSgt Roy Snape** and his wife **Shirley**. **Roy** takes over RR Section from **Dick Whittingham** who leaves us for 9 Sig Regt on promotion to WO2. Congratulations also to **Dave Thomas** on promotion to Sergeant. (He must be good at something!) **Dave** now takes over as NCO IC Fridge and relinquishes his old job of NCO IC Bumper to **Cpl Steve Morris**.

Sgt Ged Donelan and **Sgt Mick Buchan** are both thrilled at the prospect of their posting to the Shetland Islands. Both have been seen buying large amounts of sun tan lotion for use when they hit the 'beach' at Lerwick.

Finally congratulations to **Sgts Martin Davies** and **Pete Lowe** who have been given two of the main roles in Dhekelia's Pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Apparently their height (or lack of it) was an advantage. A quick mention also for **Sgt 'Knocker' Hardy**, as he is the only member of the Section not yet mentioned. **'Knocker'** is responsible for winning all the sports prizes for the Section, by himself. Finally, I must mention **Sgt Pete Fitzmaurice**, who sometimes works here. he is the Section's Tarmac Technician.

FOOTBALL

This season's five-a-side inter Troop football competition was played on a hot October day more suited to cricket than football. With seven teams entered it made for a highly competitive day.

Comms Troop, last season's winners with **Cpl Chris Jarvis** were confident of winning again, but it soon became clear that the Radio Relay Techs had a very strong team, even if **Sig Al Ritchie** managed to chip in goals over **Sgt Tich Davies**, who stands only 4ft!

The girls from the Commcen gave as good as they got; the draw result with the not so talented Tele Mechs, was well deserved.

In the final, Comms Troop played the day's only undefeated team, Radio Relay. After 12 minutes of battling there was no score, but Radio Relay came out winners after a penalty shoot-out.

A tired looking OC (SHQ came fourth) presented the trophy to the winning captain, **Sgt Pete Lowe** and medals to the winners and runners up.

An enjoyable day was had by all teams and a barbecue keeping up the enthusiasm of both players and spectators.

After the fun day the more serious football comes in the form of the ESBA Minor Units League.

This season, despite the small Squad available, we are holding our own in the League and are at present placed a very creditable second.

Congratulations must go to our two talented players, **Sgt John Thompson** and **Sgt Stan Matthews** for being selected for the Cyprus Army Squad.

Ex *Sole Train II*, this year's Battle Camp, was a mixed bag of resounding successes and complete disasters (more of the former than the latter, fortunately).

With our base camp at Evdhimou the usual range work was completed, and two exercises thrown in for good measure. The first was the night navigation exercise, with a set of instructions and a compass given to each section. The Admin Officer forsook her pips and joined the rest of them in the hunt for the elusive sheep pen which never materialised. After about one and a half hours bandu-bashing, (with tactical movement gone for a bail of chalk and cries of 'anyone seen a sheep pen' between the three sections) we decided we would recce the general area of the next object (another sheep pen?). As the bearing took us straight out to sea it gradually dawned on us that the DS had boobed ever so slightly, and the three sections returned, baying for blood. Far be it for me to name names, but **Sgt 'Lovechild' Fitzmaurice** hastily rewrote the exercise for the second week.

The second exercise was a game of military hide and seek, of which I cannot say too much at this stage, but it was an educating experience, and hard work for those not lying under bushes asleep.

We then moved camp to Akamas, the very Western tip of Cyprus. It is barren and deserted, perfect for field and night firing. We had a variety of 'shoots' on the beach, including the 'balloon shoot', courtesy of Dhekelia MRS.

This involved duty hero **Cpl Chris Jarvis** braving narrow hairpin bends high up in the cliff edge to put out the red flags. A two and a half hour drive in all, he showed true courage when Lt Sutcliffe drove the route, with no more reaction than white knuckles and a grim silence!

The second week was more of the same thing, minus Akamas which was cancelled at short notice. A very enjoyable camp with a few incidents that stood out—**SSgt Les Allen** doubled up in agony having spilt an urn of fresh tea over himself; the lights of HMS *Intrepid* as she appeared out of the night, and lying, grey and silent on the sea as dawn broke; the Fusilier subaltern who, exasperated at our destroying his carefully planned platoon assault looking for the sheep pen, told us where we could find one (the wrong one). And so, with much thigh-slapping and the things that chaps like to do together, Ex *Sole Train II* wended its way back to Dhekelia, and home.

CHARITY PARACHUTE JUMP
Report by Lt T. Sutcliffe WRAC

Friday 14 November dawned clear and cloudless, a fact I cursed as I lay in bed, awake and chewing my nails. 'I must be mad', I was thinking, 'I swear, if I live to see tomorrow, I'll never do anything so dangerous ever again. Why the hell didn't I go and have a cold bath, or just go back to my Wilbur Smith adventure when the idea occurred to me?!' With an air of heavy-laden resignation I got up slowly and prepared myself for the day.

You might be wondering what the Dangerous Mission was that I had volunteered for. It was simply to do a perfectly safe (well, everything's relative, isn't it?) Tandem jump to raise money for the **Cpl Tracey Watson** Appeal. **Tracey Watson** was a WRAC Provo Corporal who tragically was paralyzed in a car accident whilst on patrol in Limassol, so it was most certainly a very worthy cause.

The technicalities of the jump are quite interesting. The Tandem rig is a very large canopy from which two people descend. They are attached to each other by two Karabiners at chest/back level and two at the hips. As the plane wends its way up to 12,000ft, the passenger, ie me, hooks on to the front of the Tandem Master (in this case **Mike Massouri**), so both face the same way. The straps are then tightened so the passenger sits on the lap of the Tandem Master. Both then shuffle towards the door and out you go. I have to admit that by now I had lost my capacity for terror and was looking forward to the descent, and having someone to do all the hard work was also quite comforting. **Mike** had both the Main and Reserve canopies on his back and he pulled the handle to deploy at the appropriate time. He adopted the spread-eagled position familiar to anyone who has freefallen. We came out of the door and did a couple of slow graceful somersaults ('I'm sure **Mike** knows what he's doing'), I thought, and then suddenly stabilised as **Mike** deployed the drogue. This is a small device which slows one's descent from 200 mph to about 140 mph. I had a quick glimpse of the horizon and then saw all of it as we started to rotate (by the way, this isn't supposed to happen—I must have been slightly off-centre). The sensation was something like the one you get when you stick your head cut of a car window, but with the knowledge that nothing is going to stop you until that canopy is open—it does add a slight edge to the proceedings! Once the canopy was open **Mike** slackened off the straps so I was a little lower and we came in to land. Friends who had come to watch were non-plussed when the cry went up 'Catchers' and people ran to meet us. It was not with arms outstretched however, but simply to fold in the canopy before it re-inflated. Just before we reached the ground we pulled hard on the back toggles, 'flared' the canopy and landed on our feet (well, OK, we then fell forward on to our knees, but then one can't be perfect *all* the time). I have done a few freefall jumps, but this was a vast improvement on anything I had ever done before. The passenger needs no previous experience whatsoever and anyone, whatever their shape and size, can do it (within reason of course). I would enthusiastically recommend it to anyone; the view was absolutely beautiful, and the descent was one of the most exciting things I have ever done. 'Maybe I'll do the Accelerated Freefall Course . . .' I mused that night as I climbed into bed.

266 Sig Sqn (South Atlantic) BFPO 666

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Pat Maloney**
QM	**Capt Bob Sheldon**
OC Airfield Tp	**Lt Richard Butlin**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Tim Pender-Johns**
SSM	**WO2 Taff Williams**
YofS	**WO2 Harry Brant**
FofS	**WO2 Mick Poland**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Graham Pollard**

SHQ

The change over of the SHQ management team has now been completed with the arrival of **Maj Pat Maloney** who took over Command from **Maj Ruairidh Rutherford** on 11 October 1986. **SSM (Matcho Man) Williams** having dined out **Maj Rutherford**, with a few surprises, even managed by kneeling to the east repeatedly, to arrange good weather for the formal handing over of the Squadron. We all wish **Maj Rutherford** a good tour with 254 Sig Sqn.

Maj (QM) Andy Boyle on his departure was required to nominate a replacement FIGOB, (what on earth can that be?). At his dining out he stated that he had no hesitation in passing on the title to the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Graham Pollard**, who he said 'had surpassed his own degree of excellence already'.

Maj Maloney signing for the Squadron from a rather happy looking Maj Rutherford

Capt (now Maj) Andy Boyle handing over the one important piece of the Squadron to Capt Bob Sheldon

It may say 'no smoking' but nothing about getting hot under the collar—Maj Rutherford enjoying a surprise at his dining out

VISIT OF MAJ GEN P. D. ALEXANDER MBE
Report by SSgt (ORSQMS) Graham Pollard

The SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, visited 266 Sig Sqn (SA) during the period 28-31 October 1986. He arrived at RAF Mount Pleasant on 28 October, and was met by COS HQ BFFI, **Brig G. Coxon CBE**. He then flew by helicopter to the HQ BFFI and spent the afternoon visiting the Headquarters Staff.

His visit proper to the Squadron commenced that evening at a Smoker held on Coastel 3 at which many 'personalities' performed their party pieces.

On 29 October he was met outside HQ BFFI by **Maj Pat Maloney** and **WO2 (SSM) Taff Williams** to visit the Squadron Lines, and after a briefing by the OC and **WO2 (YofS) Harry Brant** visited the departments based with HQ BFFI in New Hostel, Stanley. He then moved to Lookout Camp where he was met by **Capt (QM) Bob Sheldon**, and toured the QM, MT and Line Troop areas.

Met by Maj Pat Maloney and WO2 (SSM) Taff Williams outside HQ BFFI

The visit at the QM's hangar in which, due to our 'Summer' weather, the Squadron were on parade to witness the presentation by the General of the LS & GC medal to **Sgt Buzby McCue** (on attachment from 632 Sig Tp). Then, the youngest man on parade, **Sig Chris Palmer** presented the SOinC with a Squadron tie.

After drinks in the Lookout Camp Sergeants' Mess, and lunch in the Lookout Camp Officers' Mess, **General Alexander** travelled to RAF Mount Pleasant by helicopter. He visited the Squadron's Airfield Troop and Technicians, and opened the newly completed JOC Commcen and Syscon.

Sig Steve Turner showing how to control the Force Comd Net

'Well it's like this sir' says WO2 (FofS) Mick Poland. CRS Chas Kimber (RN) looks on

Playing PACMAN, editing Eastenders or controlling the system—only Sgt Bodger Shaw knows

He then went back to Stanley by helicopter and stayed overnight at Britannia House with the Commander British Forces, **Rear Admiral Layman DSO, LVO, RN.**

On 30 October the SOinC visited the following places by helicopter:

Mt Moody, Mt Philomel, Little Chartres, Mt Adam, Mt Byron, Saunders Island, Hill Cove, Campito and San Carlos where he met members of the Squadron's detachments and Settlement Manager. Whilst at San Carlos the SOinC visited Blue Beach Cemetery to lay wreaths on the graves of **Maj Mike Forge** and **SSgt Jo Baker**.

He then returned to RAF Mount Pleasant for the night, attending a Joint Services Communications Supper Party that evening.

On Friday 31 October the SOinC travelled to HQ BFFI where he attended briefings and had final discussions with the COS before visiting the town of Stanley to meet **HE The Governor of the Falklands**, at Government House. At the conclusion of the tour the SOinC returned to RAF Mount Pleasant by road for take-off. After saying a final farewell to the Officers and Seniors of the Squadron he caught the big silver 'Gozome' bird back to the United Kingdom.

JOC being commissioned by SOinC. OC and Maj Sweetman (CPD) look on

SOinC laying a wreath on SSgt Jo Baker's grave at Blue Beach Cemetery

Squadron Members who attended the Remembrance Service Blue Beach
L to R: WO2 (SSM) Taff Williams who served with 5 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in the conflict, SSgt Guy Richards (ex member of 216), Lcpl Taff Bowen (present member of 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn') and SSgt Tony Hancock (ex member of 264 Sig Sqn)

AIRFIELD TROOP MOUNT PLEASANT

PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Lt (Sir Billy) Richard Butlin**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick (Moishe) Denny**
Line Sgt	**Sgt Steve Gerrish**
FofS	**WO2 Steve Manders**
FITS Team SSgt	**SSgt Arfur Hedgley**
SNCO IC Systems	**Sgt Ossie Osborne**

The last few months have been very hectic for Airfield Troop due to the preparation for the birth of the Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands (JCUFI). There has been a large influx of Technicians from Stanley to swell the ranks and they now outnumber the Telemechs. Both trades enjoy a good working relationship with the usual amount of friendly rivalry. The Telemechs after what seemed like an eternity meggering all the cables have now begun to approach things like a normal Airfield and have assumed more responsibilities from the civvy contractors.

The Techs continuously fight the FITS system with mixed results ending up with the FITS team blaming systems and vice versa, and the Foreman blaming both and then repairing the damage with a works order.

The Troop has enjoyed several social events organised by **LCpl (Woody) Wood**, who is always praised when the 'greens' and the 'reds' are in full swing. During these events various personnel get the opportunity to display their natural talents. **Sig (Jimmy) Watson** managed to prove that even his physique could beat one of the Techs at can walking. **Cpl (Stu) Ridgeway** can still be seen on a dark night looking for the Chinese Take Away. With the four month turn around there is a continuous change over of personnel so naming FNGs and FOGs would take a lot of space. So we wish everyone a good tour and a return to UK after serving with 'finger on the pulse' Airfield Troop, RAF Mount Pleasant.

RADIO TROOP

Spring was a busy time for Radio Troop with much rebuilding during the fine weather. The somewhat battered jungle of the antenna farm and feeders were completely revamped and now at least looks like a constitution of PV 12s. The RRBs have also come under scrutiny with **Cpl (I'm not really a yokel) Portlock** and his team carrying out major engineering work and showing their expertise at dry stone walling.

The Troop has been getting out and about a good deal carrying out comms tests around the Islands. MINJOs (men in need of jolly outings) combined with support to other Arms have also been much in evidence. In particular **Sig Billy (BV) Hume** did well providing comms for Stanley Petroleum Depot's yomp from San Carlos to Stanley.

MINJOs

Finally we wish **SSgt Collin (Wobble-well) Whawell** farewell and good luck with his swimming training.

COMMCEN TROOP

Report by **Cpl Nobbs**

PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO2 (YofS) Brant**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Richards**
DSO (Air Shift)	**SSgt Currie RAF**
DSO (Brown Shift)	**Sgt Kelly**
DSO (Sea Shift)	**RS Sheere RN**
Secure Area	**Sgt McCue**

OUR ROLE

As most of the DTGs in the Corps will have found out by now we operate a Tri Service Commcen working via a satellite to Lindholme in the UK. This provides our contact with the outside world and is backed up by a TSB HF Rear Link and a TSB TSB Maritime Rear Link. These together with various Pony Circuits are carried by FITS (Falkand Island Trunk System) to our users throughout the Island.

At present we operate from Port (acabin) Stanley although we are soon to move to the new Mount Pleasant complex where we will become part of JCUFI (Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands).

The Troop is broken down into Shifts or Watches depending upon your Service.

AIR SHIFT

Led by **Sgt Bill (Limp Wrist) Currie RAF**. He says he trapped a nerve by sleeping on his arm but some have their doubts. A Shift is like Windsor Safari Park, four Crabs, five Pongos and four Fish heads. Two of the Pongos **WCpl (Iso) Stevens** and **WLCpl (Bambi) Allison** seem to get most of the invites to parties, much to the disgust of **LCpl (whisky thins your blood) Hamilton**.

BROWN SHIFT

DSO is **Sgt Bren Kelly** who according to **Cpl (Name Check) Nobbs**, is living proof Leadership Troop, 11 Sig Regt can teach monkeys to lead men. **Cpl George (Caveman) Burns** is still trying to figure out why Lindholme's computer kept rejecting his CASREP about a Polish Sailor whose name was **Scykhvzczkh**. He sent it several times and is still wondering why it didn't get through. Can Kilo Troop, 16 Sig Regt enlighten him before **SACW Kimber WRAF** eats him alive after **Sig (Teabox-Vicar) Packenham-Bishop** has skinned him.

SEA WATCH

Commanded by **RS Jan (Sir Francis Drake) Sheere** late of HMS *Brilliant*. He is currently trying to get his Watch ship-shape. This is my Watch and a fine set of Jolly Jacks and Jackesses we are. **WCpl Pat Millar, LCpl (Ginge) Devitt** and **WPte (Bits) Sellers** should soon finish sea-trials and become the latest shipping hazard.

SECURE AREA

Ably run by **Sgt Mick (can't handle money, stores, lists or admin) McCue**. His willing helpers supplied to each shift are **Cpls Millard, Chinnery** and **WCpl Millar**.

FNG's (FALKLANDS NEW GUYS)

We all look forward to your arrival. It means one of us is going home. It won't be long before you learn to speak in previously unheard of abbreviations. May you enjoy the comradeship and friendliness I have found during my tour.

Farewells to **WO2 (YofS) Bill Wingate** and **SSgt (Moxy) Hales**.
Welcome to **WO2 (YofS) Harry Brant** and **SSgt Guy Richards**.

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

— News from Troops —

640 Sig Tp (EW)
Blandford

EXERCISE *BOLD GUARD 86*
A TECHNICIANS VIEW

Report by Sgt Nick Mitchell

BG 86 was a case of Solder On rather than Soldiering On for the Intrepid Three Musketeers:

Porthos	**Sgt Steve Carr**
Athos	**Sgt Steve (Happy) Hayward**
Aramis	**Sgt Nick (Geordie) Mitchell REME**

After a typical well planned start at 0100 hrs we finally boarded the SS *Dana Anglia* by way of Colchester and Harwich. The journey was pleasant, the early bar closing causing minor concern in the odd quarter. Once in sunny Germany we were located in the inevitable wood miles from anywhere, here we were reinforced by 14 Sig Regt personnel and carried out cross training prior to the FTX.

When the exercise had started the Three Musketeers were kept very busy repairing the odd coax (thank you operators) chasing faults and fighting to get out of bed to do the occasional guard duty (what a life!). Although a relatively quiet exercise it was definitely worthwhile and brought to light the occasional problem in the way we operate. Still that's the purpose of the exercise is it not?

The move back was about as exciting as the move out but with the added pleasure of customs and the over zealous Transport and Movement staff. Those famous rush to wait boys finally let us go on the final leg of the journey home.

EXERCISE *NUTCRACKER*

Report by Capt 'Rifleman' Terrington

Sgt Danny (Yomper) Glover RM drew himself up to his full height of 5ft 1in and bellowed 'Move in half an hour' through the tied tent flap! It was 0100 hrs and I was warm and dry; outside it was cold and wet! I knew even at this early stage that going out as a rifleman in a section was going to be an experience (or even a mistake). The exercise had commenced many weeks ago with an intense training period (paper work prevented my attendance) and early that first morning we had moved down to Dartmoor to establish Tp HQ. The Section commander had disappeared on a recce and I was expecting a nice warm night; oh how wrong I was!

The night march across the moor with full kit led by **Cpl 'Sting' Ray** brought many happy memories of training flooding back to me, I'd almost forgotten just how heavy all that kit was and I seemed to have more than my fair share of the GPMG ammunition. '90lbs of kit makes river crossing a difficult task' said a wise man once. He was right, by the time we reached our patrol base I was more than a little wet but certainly wide awake. The next 48 hours flashed by in a blurr of Recce and Ambush patrols, guard duty and desperate efforts to stay dry. Dartmoor seems to be one of the few places where water runs up hill and the bogs lie both at the top and bottom of them. Two full sections had been operating independently but, on the Thursday, after yet another full kit moors march, they joined up. By this stage almost everyone had had some form of command appointment with the exception of me. At long last I was given my job back as we progressed on to platoon level tactics and a six mile 'advance to contact'. Why is it the enemy are always on the very top of the highest, steepest Tors and the position in depth? Two attacks, a few surprised civilians, some outstanding tactics and a lot of defeated enemy later, exercise Control pleased us all with a road move which needless to say was ambushed! The real surprise came with a move to 42 Cdo RM's barracks, a hot shower and a dry night. A very pleasant way to end our exercise. It confirmed everyone's belief that Royal Signals was a much better bet than Royal Marines. But our thanks to them anyway for making the exercise such a success.

Special recognition goes to:

Sgt (Yomper) Glover RM	Most Pyrotechnic used in one exercise
Sgt Steve 'I've got clean boots' Hayward	Dirtiest boots
Cpl Chris Moye	Location of deepest wettest bog
Sig Rick Taylor	Most command appointments
LCpl Hash Slinger ACC	Worst compo meal of the exercise
Sig Mick Ryan	Most sleep
Sig Paddy Doran	Longest time carrying GPMG
Cpl 'JP' Felix	Best Comouflage
Sgt Sam Street	Biggest Swollen Ankle

PS Can I be DS next time?—they seem to have all the fun!

STOP PRESS

During Ex *Bold Guard 86* the first Inter Troop football match, between 640 Sig Tp and H Tp took place. In a closely-fought contest H Tp were the winners by four goals to three. The match itself and the après-match events were both well-organised and much enjoyed and we extend warm thanks to our hosts for an enjoyable few hours break during the exercise period. It is to be hoped that the 'return fixture' will be as enjoyable and will also not be too far-off in planning.

Grateful thanks are extended to the OC H Tp—**Capt Wayne Coupland** and to the organiser **WO2 (FofS) Brian Gardner.**

The photograph features members of 640 Tp and H Tp after the match

Back Row (L to R): WOs2 Green, Gardner, LCpl Phoenix, Cpl Quinn, Pte Steele, LCpl Coop, Cpl Davidson, LCpls Baker, Haines, Pte Boyle, LCpl Sharp, Cpl Butterworth, LCpl Gadson, Sgts Gray, Randle (Leah)

Front Row (L to R): LCpl (now Mr) Clayton, Sig Nicholson, LCpls Benham, Laird, Sig Doran, Sgt Street, Sig Miles, Sorley, Cpl Moye, LCpl (now Mr) Hewitt, Cpl Ray, LCpl Blades REME

NATO FSS (Shetland)

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Tom Guest**
Admin Support Officer	**WO1 Bob Baggaley**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) Lee Brown**
NCO IC FSS Saxa Vord	**SSgt Ivor Williams**
CO	**Mrs Connie Walters**

THE SHETLAND ISLANDS

Most people, on being posted to the Shetland Islands, have two questions, 'Where is it?' and 'What is it like there?'

The Shetland Islands are a group of more than 100 islands, stretching more than 85 miles from north to south and varying between 20 miles and 60 yards from west to east. They are 180 miles north of the Scottish mainland, 160 miles west of Norway, and are the most northerly part of Great Britain. Climatically it is warmer than one would expect although we do get more rain than other parts of the UK, mostly falling in the winter months, but there is little snow and ice. The summer months give us daylight for about 23 hours a day but in winter it is light for only about six hours a day. Scenically it is beautiful, with breathtaking sea and landscapes.

The Shetland Islanders are a peaceful people, proud of their Scandinavian heritage, and they accept the Army into their islands with warmth and friendliness.

The Team

Front Row: Sgts Jimmy Millar, Ralph Maddison, WO1 Bob Baggaley, Capt Tom Guest, WO1 (FofS) Lee Brown, Sgts Steve Rowe, Graeme Hossell

Centre Row: Sgts Barry Geddis, Bob Bagshaw, Bob Freeman, Mick Scull, Ian Tepielow

Back Row: Cpls Andy Turner, Tony Bracken, Jim Baird, Mac McDonald

WHAT DO THEY DO THERE?

With the exception of one Gordon HIghlander, CSgt PSI, with the TAVR platoon, we are the only Regular Army unit in the Shetland Islands. The 36 all ranks are in four different locations in the islands.

HQ NATO FSS (SHETLAND)

The command and administrative HQ is at Maybury in the extreme south of the islands. It is the location for the clerical, pay, catering, MT and REME support services for the three communication stations of the ACE High network. The majority of the unit is stationed at Maybury as it is also the location of the married quarters and single accommodation for the technicians employed at FSS Mossy Hill.

FORWARD SCATTER STATION (FSS) MOSSY HILL

The Mossy Hill station is about five miles north of Maybury on an exposed ridge. It enjoys breathtaking views on clear days but cloud covers the hill top for a lot of the time. The station provides communications to Norway and to FSS Collafirth Hill.

FSS COLLAFIRTH HILL

This is located in the north of the main island. It is manned by five RR Technicians, two drivers and one cook. It is an isolated station, known to the Troops as 'Moon Base Alpha' which is not inappropriate due to the rock strewn hilltop on which the station is located. The married quarters are about seven miles from the station, on the edge of a very pretty inlet of the Atlantic Ocean. FSS Collafirth Hill is a relay station between FSS Mossy Hill and FSS Saxa Vord.

FSS SAXA VORD

In the extreme north of the Shetland Islands, the station overlooks the Muckle Flugga Lighthouse and the Out Stack rock which are the most northerly points of the UK. The communication station is at RAF Saxa Vord and provided communications from the RAF Ops Room to RAF Stations in mainland UK.

Sport is a problem as we cannot make up a team for the usual team games due to our small numbers being widely dispersed throughout the islands. Also the weather conditions prevent most of the outdoor games. Indoor cricket is popular and several soldiers play for the local civilian teams in a game which is even more complex than outdoor cricket with the rules of the game modified to suit local conditions. We do spend a lot of time running and our major achievement recently was to come second in a 65 mile relay race, being beaten narrowly by the Lerwick Athletic Club.

WEDDING BELLS

On 16 August we had our social event of the year when **Cpl Tony Bracken** married **Miss Alison Mantle** in the Dunrossness Parish Church. The Shetland style wedding reception and the party that followed took place in the Maybury Club. We all wish **Tony** and **Alison** many happy years of married life in the future. The photograph shows some of the military guests with the bride and groom.

Left to Right: Sig George Monie, Sgts Steve Rowe, Ian Tepielow, the new Mrs Alison Bracken, Cpl Tony Bracken, Capt Tom Guest, WO1 Bob Baggaley, WO1 (FofS) Lee Brown, Sgt Bob Bagshaw

PWSST (Fwd) BFPO 32

For those readers who have not met the team, a word of introduction. We are a small unit who live in Churchill Barracks, Lippstadt alongside 22 Sig Regt upon whom we rely for administration. We are a mixture of military and civilian (real, genuine, 22 carat civilians from the Plessey Company) and our job is to provide system level support for both the systems in our title.

CURRENT PERSONALITIES ARE:

OC	**Maj A. H. Symmons**
2IC	**Capt S. K. Reed, WRAC/R Sigs**
	WO1 (ASM) A. R. Cook REME
	WO2 (FofS) B. L. Randerson
	WO2 (YofS) W. S. Brown
	WO2 (AQMS) C. L. Nash REME
	SSgt (FofS) T. P. Waites
	SSgt W. D. McLean
	Sgt G. M. Edwards
	Sgt A. Wilson
	Cpl M. M. Steele
	LCpl G. H. Horabin
	Mr David Bailey (Clerk)

AND THE PLESSEY ENGINEERS:

BAOR Support Manager	**Mr Frank Jory**
	Adrian Henshaw
	Ron Tatchell
	Brian Pearce
	Iain Robinson
	Andy Davey
	Dave Sanders
	Steve Thomas
	Pete Reading
	Phil Tait
	Jackie Richardson (Typist)
	Dave Austen (Trainee)

This is a totally unique Wire article, in that it will contain absolutely no 'in' jokes without explanation. So here we go!

SOME IMPRESSIONS:

SUMMER SALES

What a way to spend the best two weeks of the summer. **Sgt Alan Wilson** took the Golden Blanket award by a handsome margin and **SSgt Bill McLean's** Rover did 1,817 miles. **Capt Suzy (Call me Anneka Rice) Reed** spent a whole day chatting up an AAC pilot at 3,500ft!!

Hazel Flute/Crossed Swords/Taurus Charge/Sweet Martini. **ASM Alan Cook's** first exercise. He still can't work out how two mobiles can be on four exercises at once.

Third Stretch/Highland Malt 3. Very civilised, especially for the visiting Plessey and MOD staff. The OC did his back in and had to be carried gently from his tent to the CP every day. Comment from the Yeoman: 'So what's new?'. Mind you, **YofS Wayne Brown** and **LCpl Scouse Horabin** discovered the last ditch way of avoiding an exercise: run the Berlin Marathon! They must have been desperate. (Times were **YofS Brown** 3 hrs 10 mins, **LCpl Horabin** a diplomatic 3 hrs 45 mins).

Eternal Triangle. (Where the author is typing these notes, feeling very warlike as we have just discovered that we are in the middle of a German clay pigeon range). Wet and windy. **Capt Reed** is coming up fast on the rails in the Golden Blanket Stakes. The OC has just awarded himself the Lohengrin medal for the Swan Knight of the year.

The Team

Back Row: Sgts Max Steele, Ted Edwards, Alan Wilson, LCpl Scouse Horabin, Stuart Mylchreest, SSgt (FofS) Terry Waites

Middle Row: WO2 (FofS) Lee Randerson, WO2 (YofS) Wayne Brown, Maj Andrew Symmons, WO1 (ASM) Alan Cook, WO2 (AQMS) Colin Nash

Front Row: Taking a rest, Capt Suzie Reed

DEPARTURES

We say farewell to **WO2 (FofS) Bob Bradford** who has not totally escaped: he has only got as far as PWSST(Main) in Blandford: see you on *Flying Falcon*, **Bob.**

Also goodbye and thanks to **Stuart Mylchreest**, our YTS Clerk.

The other recent departure was **Cpl Nev Hyde** who made it only as far as 22 Sig Regt.

ARRIVALS INCLUDE:

WO1 (ASM) Alan Cook REME and his wife **Carol** and family. He has thought of the most original way to escape so far: get yourself selected for a commission!

SSgt (FofS) Terry Waites and **Catherine**; he spends so much time on the rugby field that he doesn't need to escape.

Cpl Max Steele, wife **Catherine** and family. He actually likes it here!

David Bailey (no, not THAT David Bailey) the new YTS Clerk.

We are about to say farewell to **Adrian (Adge) Henshaw** who couldn't hack it so he is going back to Christchurch before the next *Flying Falcon* and to **WO2 AQMS Colin Nash REME.** He won the best dug garden in the block prize this summer. (It was really an escape tunnel).

Congratulations to **SSgt Billy McLean** on the award of the LS and GC medal.

We seem to spend most of our time on exercise. Every time there is a gap of a few weeks in the forecast somebody invents another exercise just to stop us coming over bored. We fully expect to have completed Ex *Nineteenth Stretch* by this time next year (PWSST (Main) to note).

SSgt Billy Mclean and his wife Jen after the presentation of his LSGC

PWSST (Main)
Blandford Camp

TEAM PERSONALITIES

SO1(W)	**Lt Col John Doody**
OC PWSST Main	**Maj Helier Exon**
SO3 Systems	**Capt Kate Martin**
SO3 WAVELL	**Capt Sue Marriott**
SO3 Traffic	**Capt Ron Chisholm**
HPTO Systems	**Mr John Davis**
FofS Systems	**SSgt Gordon Marchant**
SSgt TE Tech	**SSgt Jerry D'Alquen**
FofS Equipment	**SSgt Dave Rodgers**
FofS WAVELL	**SSgt Dave Smith**
PTO IR Cell	**Mr Joe Hawkes**
Clerical Officer	**Miss Teresa Beaumont**
Clerical Assistant	**Mrs Maggie Jones**
Typist	**Mrs Maureen Bresloff**

PWSST was formed from a small nucleus within Planning Wing and consisted of two Teams—PWSST (Main) and PWSST (Fwd). It moved into six Portakabins within Blandford Camp in 1984. PWSST Forward later moved to BAOR to support the fielded systems, and is now located in Lippstadt.

Co-located with PWSST are elements of 9 Maintenance Advisory Group, to provide advice on matters relating to the repair, maintenance and reliability of the PTARMIGAN and WAVELL equipments deployed.

PWSST Main and 9 MAG

SSgt (FofS) Gordon Marchant *(right)* and SSgt Jerry D'Alquen
Note: It is true that the Foremen cannot spell

WAVELL Section
Happy in our work!

PWSST SUMMER CAMP

Unfortunately the constant pressure of work prevented the team taking part in a Summer Camp, however, we did manage a day's sailing and windsurfing in sunny Poole. Thanks to the hospitality of the RSYC two dinghies and a windsurfer provided much enjoyment for the team and families alike. **Capt Ron Chisholm** and **Mr John Davis** demonstrated capsize drills with ease.

PTARMIGAN BUILDING

Anticipation is in the air, by the time you read this, PWSST will be housed in their new PTARMIGAN building.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **WO1 (FofS) John Connolly** on the award of the Royal Signals Institution Silver medal which was published in the May issue of *The Wire*.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Earlier this year the team said farewell to **Maj Andrew Symmons**, who has swapped jobs with **Maj Helier Exon** at PWSST Forward. It was decided that, as he had grown very fond of his cabin, he should drive it away and thus on his departure day his trusty Volvo was found well tethered to Cabin 1!

We say farewell to **Capt Paul Holden** and **WO2 (FofS) Al Huey** and wish them both well in their future in civilian employment. Also farewell to **Andy Dawson**, one of the many clerical assistants we have employed, and hope his future with Chase Manhattan is fruitful.

We welcome to the team **Capt Kate Martin** from 30 Sig Regt who is rapidly learning all about PTARMIGAN and also **Maggie Jones** who is our new clerical assistant. We hope their time with the team is a happy and rewarding experience. (The male members of the team are worried about a female take over).

Maj Andrew Symmons with a clear desk for the first time in three years! Trying to get level seven once before he goes

Association News

MIDDLESEX YEOMANRY ASSOCIATION

The 59th annual dinner of the Middlesex Yeomanry Association was held at The Duke of York's Headquarters on Friday 17 October 1986 when the President, **Col Sir John Prideaux OBE, TD, DL, MC**, and more than 100 members and guests to this reunion. Amongst the distinguished guests were **Col John Francis** Regimental Secretary, Royal Signals, **Maj Paul Whittle TD**, 2IC 31 Sig Regt (V), and **Maj Booth Maxwell TD**, Hon Secretary Inns of Court and City Yeomanry (Rough Riders) Association; also representatives from The Household Cavalry Regiment, Princess Louise's Kensington's Regimental Association, and the Royal Signals Association.

In proposing the toast to 'The Regiment' **Sir Roy Redgrave** gave an amusing historical account of The Middlesex Yeomanry from the end of the 18th century when they were gentlemen and yeoman farmers whose primary interest was the hunting field, through the 19th century when, as a cavalry regiment, they performed Royal Escort duties for William IV and Queen Victoria, and on to the the present century and their long record of service with the Royal Corps of Signals.

Although the veterans from the war-time 1st and 2nd Middlesex Yeomanry Regiments were fewer in number this year, we were well supported by the post-war Middlesex Yeomanry Regiments, by the Middlesex Yeomanry Association Band, and by 47 (Middx Yeo) Sig Sqn (V), now an integral part of 31 Sig Regt (V).

The annual dinner is the one occasion when all generations of the Middlesex Yeomanry can get together, and after the record attendance this year, we shall look forward to even greater numbers in 1987 which will be the Diamond Jubilee of these reunion dinners.

Annual dinner Duke of York's HQ 1986
Top table from *right to left:* Col J. Francis, Chairman Mr S. Underwood, Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave and Col Sir J. Prideaux

Middlesex Yeomanry memorials
The Crypt, St Paul's Cathedral

The Lafone Day Memorial Service was held, as usual, on the Sunday following the annual dinner and on Sunday 19 October The Guild Church of St Martin-within-Ludgate was filled with a contingent from 47 (Middx Yeo) Sig Sqn (V), and families and friends of the Association.

The service was conducted by the **Rev Gordon Watkins**, and music was provided by The Middlesex Yeomanry Association Band (by kind permission of **Lt Col S. J. Williams MBE, TD**) under its Director of Music, **Mr F. B. Brisley MBE**. Following the service the Squadron and members of the Association, headed by the Association Band, marched to St Paul's Cathedral where wreaths were laid at the Middlesex Yeomanry Memorials in the crypt by the Officer Commanding 47 (Middx Yeo) Sig Sqn (V), and the Vice-Chairman of the Association **Mr W. H. Palmer**.

An address was given by **Capt D. H. Manders TD**, recalling the heroism of **Maj A. M. Lafone VC**, in 1917, and in remembrance of all who had served with the Middlesex Yeomanry and had died in the service of their country.

We were proud to have amongst the congregation **Mr R. G. Allen**, now 91 years of age, and at one time trumpeter to the late **Maj Lafone VC**.

The sound of 'Last Post' and 'Rouse' had died away and outside on this autumn afternoon, the band struck up a lively tune and the Squadron marched off to carry on the traditions of this ancient Regiment.

Mr R. G. Allen, aged 91 years. Trumpeter to Maj A. M. Lafone VC

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by Capt Jane Knight

In the Autumn we held a very successful dinner at the Osterley Hotel, to which we were happy to welcome as our guests Yeoman Gaoler **Alan Copestake** and his wife **Joan**. **Alan** is shortly to retire from service at HM Tower of London and our President, **Maj Daw BEM**, had pleasure in presenting him with a bronze 'Jimmy' on behalf of the Branch in appreciation of our many visits to the Tower. We wish **Alan** and **Jean** every happiness in the future.

The dinner was followed by dancing to a disco provided by **Sgt Brian Murkin**, fellow member of our Corps, to whom our thanks are due for his continued co-operation. Also most welcome at our dinner were members of the Aldershot Branch. We are hopeful that others who have served in the Corps and live in the London area will attend future occasions, as *The Wire* very kindly publicise the event for us in advance.

At one of our gatherings in Town some months ago we had members of the Bedford Branch join us. (How's that for liaison?). We enjoy many social gatherings and with such a thriving Association as that of our Corps we feel that, even allowing for distance, there are many occasions on which members of other branches might join us. We would welcome this.

3 DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

PILGRIMAGE TO VENRAY

Report by E. E. Bayley, Hon Sec 3 Div Sigs Reunion Club

In response to the invitation by the Nederlandse Bond van Oudstrijders het Veteranen Legioen Nederland, Venray Branch 56 widows, relatives and Regimental members of the Servicemen buried in the British War Cemetery at Venray, arrived on 6 November 1986 to a very warm reception arranged by the Veteran Legion Venray Branch. **Mrs Iris Strange** Hon President/Secretary British War Widows and Associates co-ordinated the whole pilgrimage.

On arrival at Venray a welcome had been arranged in the canteen of the Metal-industry 'Inalfa' by the Chairman of the Venray Branch of the Legion. Each one was given a numbered envelope which contained the programme of events and also the name of your host and you took your place at the table bearing the number of your envelope. Here your hosts joined you and together enjoyed the snacks and refreshments served, after which they took you home. Nearly every family in Venray offered accommodation to their liberators' widows, families and comrades-in-arms. I found myself the guest of **Mr** and **Mrs Janssen** a pig farmer at Ysselsteyn approx 8kms from Venray. I was indeed lucky as this was very near to where I was stationed in 1944 (Oploo and Heide) during the fierce battles of Overloon and Venray. With the help of my hosts I was able to visit both Heide and Oploo and renew relationships formed in 1944. A letter that I had written to the **Maas** family in 1946 was produced; it had been treasured by the little girl in 1944 and produced at her 25th wedding anniversary on 7 November 1986 and also the rest of the children, who numbered 10, and now adults in their early 60s or late 50s. **Mrs Maas Jansen**, now aged 87, gripped my hand in an emotional meeting. At Oploo I was able to identify the very spot and also the chicken house in which I lived. The original house has gone and the farmer, **Harry Christiaans** a very kind and helpful man had died in 1976. However, I was able to track down his nephew and sister who recently celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary and looked a lot younger than her 88 years, in the town of Gemert where she now lives with her husband.

After a reception at the Venray Town Hall and a speech by **Mayor H. Defesche**, we were shown films on the rebuilding of Venray and the help given to the town by Haarlem and Nijmegen. We visited the British War Graves Cemetery Venray, in the Hoenderstraat in the afternoon and widows and relatives honoured their dead. The Remembrance Service in the cemetery was most impressive indeed and commenced with an address of welcome by **Henny Meijer** Treasurer/spokesman of the VLN, choral music by the Royal Wind Band 'Euterpe', choral singing by the Ladies Choir 'Venrode' and a short sermon by **Chaplain J.'t Hoen**, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired). After the 'In Memoriam' by **Master Defesche** Mayor of Venray the last post was sounded and two minutes silence maintained, followed by the laying of wreaths during which the children laid flowers on the graves of all the dead. Prayers by the chaplain preceded a dirge on the pipes by a piper of the Seaforth Highlanders, the Rouse sounded, the ceremony ended with the singing of the British and Dutch National Anthems. I was selected to distribute a bar of chocolate to all the children as someone had remembered that I used to do this 42 years ago when the NAAFI pack was opened. I didn't find out who it was who remembered this act. After the service we returned to the canteen of 'Inalfa' for coffee and lunch which were donated by the three Venray restaurants. It was home with your hosts and the opportunity to say 'Thank You' by taking them out for dinner if you so wished.

On Monday the coach was boarded and we were taken to the RMS in the town of Weert and welcomed by **Col Bearden** the Commandant and the RSM **Mr Schoonen**. It's a training school for NCOs and they spend a year here before moving to units. Here we were offered coffee and lunch by the Ministry of Defence and after which to Asten to visit the Dutch National Carillon Museum and the Natural Museum 'De Peel'. Tea and Limburgian pie ended the tour and we were back in Venray (Inalfa) by tea time where our hosts were waiting for us.

11 November dawned and we said a very sad and tearful farewell. Members of the Legion who had brought us by car and coach to Vlissigen stood and waved as the ferry pulled out, as we did from the poop deck of the ship until we were out of sight. The sea was a bit rough, but the ship very steady being equipped with stabilisers and with the wind behind us we reached Sheerness 25 minutes early.

Originally it was arranged as a pilgrimage for 12 needy widows, but as everyone offered to have a guest this number grew and relatives, old comrades from Sheffield, Oxford, Manchester, London, Newcastle and various parts of the country gathered in Venray. Some made their own way there and had no difficulty in being hosted out. Nothing was too much trouble to the members of the Venray Branch of the Nederlands Legion and my thanks to **Mrs Iris Strange** for the part she played for the war widows.

My thanks to *The Wire* for advertising **Mr van Hoek**'s letter in the May Issue and also to the Fellowship of Servicemen Sheffield for putting an article in 'The Uniform'. It is hoped that this is a start which the Dutch, funds permitting, are delighted to put on as the host families are very anxious to see everyone come again. Their homes are yours too! Wonderful people.

— Sport —

BADMINTON

SEVENTH ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Report by Capt (QM) S. Hargreaves—Secretary Corps Badminton BAOR

On 2/3 October 1986 the Seventh Royal Signals Annual (after a gap of two years) Badminton Tournament took place in Herford kindly hosted by 7 Sig Regt and 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Twenty nine players from all over BAOR turned up to fight for the trophies on show and an excellent two days badminton was played. It could be said that the main contributors to the tournament were **SSgts Om Chhetri** and **Syd Hayward** of 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

They played in and made the finals of all three doubles competitions but were only able to make the runners up rostrum in each. Nevertheless, a fine performance by both of them.

The prizes were presented by **Mrs Mavis Hargreaves** who has been around on the Corps badminton scene for more years than she cares to remember! The final results were as follows:

WINNER(S)	RUNNER(S) UP
UNIT DOUBLES	
Capt Peter McLoughlin/WO2 Bill Hutton 22 Sig Regt	**SSgt Om Chhetri/SSgt Syd Hayward** 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
OPEN DOUBLES	
Sig Adrian Batty 16 Sig Regt/ **Sig Max Boyce** 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt	**SSgt Om Chhetri/SSgt Syd Hayward** 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
VETERANS DOUBLES	
Capt Stan Hargreaves 21 Sig Regt/**Mr Dick Ellis** RSRE	**SSgt Om Chhetri/SSgt Syd Hayward** 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

SINGLES

Sig Adrian Batty 16 Sig Regt — **Sig Max Boyce** 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

SINGLES PLATE

Sgt Graham Kendall 28 Sig Regt — **Cpl Tony Cryans** 28 Sig Regt

FOOTBALL

INTER CORPS QUADRANGULAR TOURNAMENT
BORDON 17-21 NOVEMBER 1986
Report by Lt Col G. S. Massey, Army FA PRO

RESULTS

RE	2	R Signals	1
RA	1	REME	1
RA	1	R Signals	3
REME	3	RE	0
RA	1	RE	1
R Signals	2	REME	0

TABLE

Teams	P	W	D	L	Goals For	Goals Against	Points
R Signals	3	2	—	1	6	3	4
REME	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
RE	3	1	1	1	3	5	3
RA	3	—	2	1	3	5	2

Despite losing their opening match to the Sappers, the Signalmen won the Corps Quadrangular Tournament by winning their remaining two games. It was fitting that the last game of the week's festival of football was to be the deciding one. Goals by **Cpl Andy Edwards**—a 25 yard scorcher—and Army Skipper **Cpl Sandy Brown**, from the penalty spot, were enough to take the coveted trophy back to Catterick following a lean spell for R Signals.

ROYAL SIGNALS SOCCER IN BAOR

Report by Lt Col C. J. Walters—Chairman BAOR Soccer

The Corps soccer team in BAOR has reached a standard that has not been seen for many years. In the Inter-Corps competition, for which 10 teams have entered, the Corps has won through to the final rounds.

Initially, the 10 teams are divided into two leagues. The results in our group are detailed blow.

RA v R Signals 0—0
R Signals v RAPC 4—0
R Signals v APTC 7—0
ACC v R Signals 1—18 (eighteen)

These results have put the Corps at the top of our group as outright winners. The following have represented the Corps in these matches: **Capt Ian Dudding**—Secretary—22 Sig Regt, **Capt Bob Lockwood**—1 (BR) Corps rep—4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, **WO2 (SSM) Brian Parkhill**—Coach—28 Sig Regt, **LCpl Martin Bunkle, Cpls Andy Norris, Rob Whyke, Scouse Wayman, Paul Lincoln, LCpl Maccum McHale, Sig Scouse Rankin, Cpl Chris McQuade, Sgt Billy Watts, Sig Gary Maloney, Cpls Billy Grierson, Brian Wilkins, LCpl Scouse Wharton, Sig Rab McLoughlin, Cpl Simon Booth, LCpls Andy Fife** and **Billy McKeegan**.

The game against the Gunners was a fast and skilful game which was full of excitement. The Corps went close to scoring on several occasions and **LCpl Martin Bunkle** did well to save the only RA chance of doing so.

The RAPC was closer than the score would suggest but with the secure defence of **Cpls Paul Lincoln** and **Scouse Wayman** the mid-field was able to move freely and give the forwards enough chances to slot home four goals.

For the remaining two matches seven of the players had returned from UK having won the Quadrangular competition. Surprisingly perhaps, we were fitter than the APTC and on the next day the game against the ACC turned out to be very one sided. In this game **LCpl Billy McKeegan** scored seven goals and in so doing scored his fifth hat-trick of the season. We were able to play wingers **Sig Rab McLoughlin** and **Cpl Simon Booth** in every match and they provided many good chances for the strikers. Throughout all of this the only goal against us was a bad back pass!

This now puts the Corps into a knock-out with the other top two teams in both leagues. The semi-final match will be played in the New Year but as yet our opponents are not known.

Any player new to BAOR who considers himself to be a potential Corps player should contact one of the representative members listed above.

Back Row: Cpl Billy Grierson, WO2 Brian Parkhill, Sig Scouse Rankin, Cpl Simon Booth, LCpl Andy Fife, Cpls Scouse Wayman, Rob Whyke, Brian Wilkins, LCpl Martin Bunkle, Sig Dusty Miller (Trainers Assistant), Lt Col Cliff Walters
Front Row: Cpl Scouse Wharton, LCpl Billy McKeegan, Cpls Andy Norris, Chris McQuade, Sig Rab McLoughlin, Sgt Billy Watts, LCpl Maccum McHale

CORPS COLOURS AWARDS—SUMMER 1986

We warmly congratulate the following who were awarded their Corps Colours during the Summer Season of 1986.

ATHLETICS
Sig C. I. Ling—2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt

CRICKET
Cpl D. R. Bascombe—School of Signals

SHOOTING
Capt T. G. Peck—School of Signals
Sig Yamkumar Gurung—Queen's Gurkha Signals

HONORARY COLOURS

SPORTS MOTOR CYCLING
Sgt W. F. Townson—8 Sig Regt

SPORTS PARACHUTING
Sig A. Butterworth—5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

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 attainment of an outstanding professional achievement in the Corps. An exemplary standard on the following courses will also qualify.

a. The Royal Signals Officers Telecommunication 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 Deputy 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 an appropriate occasion decided by the Senior Royal Signals Officer in the theatre/command 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. DSOinC/Chairman of Signals Association* .....
5. Institute Recommendation .....
   .....
6. Selection Committee Decision .....
   .....

*Delete where inapplicable

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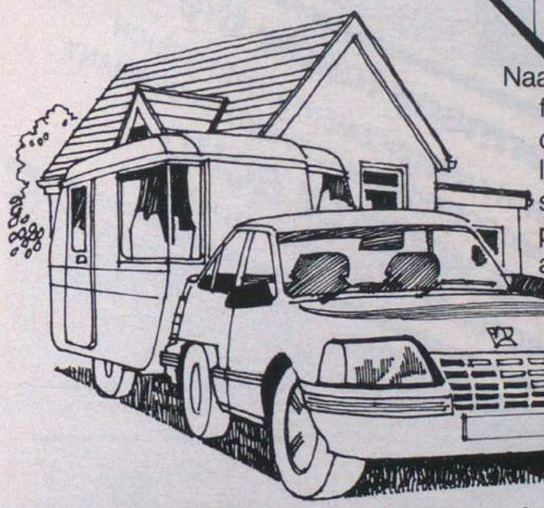

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● SAC Rob Wilson with other committee members presenting Jim Davidson with a station plaque.

● Jim Davidson and Wg Cdr Matson together with both cheques.

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Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	6.50	7.40
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Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	4.60	5.00
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Blazer badge	5.10	5.85
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, metal disc with enamelled Corps badge, leather tag	1.25	1.40
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medium (7½" × 5½")	0.80	0.85
small (3" × 2⅜")	0.75	0.80
Identity card holder	0.25	0.30
Blazer buttons—large	1.20	1.40
small	1.15	1.30
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The display contains early telegraphic and radio equipment dating from the South African War, World War I, the campaigns on the North-West Frontier of India, and World War II. There are many colourful uniforms on display as well as the only surviving example of the horse drawn cable laying wagon. An 8th Army Armoured Command Vehicle is on display, and there are a number of examples of military motor cycles used by the Despatch Riders of the Corps. An airborne communications jeep is also on show.

Admission: FREE.
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 0830 - 1700 hours.
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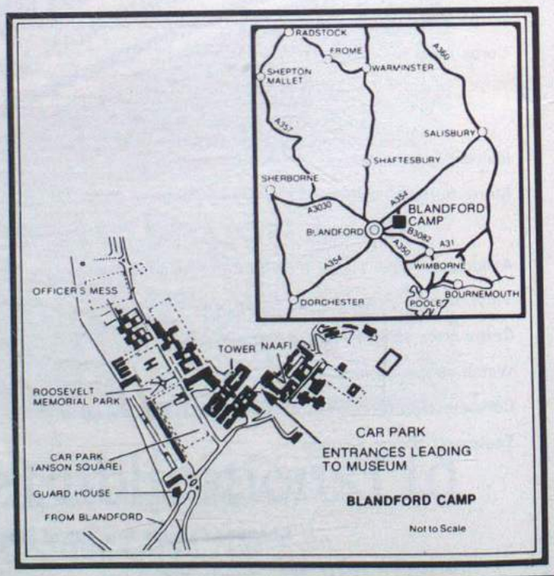
BLANDFORD CAMP, DORSET



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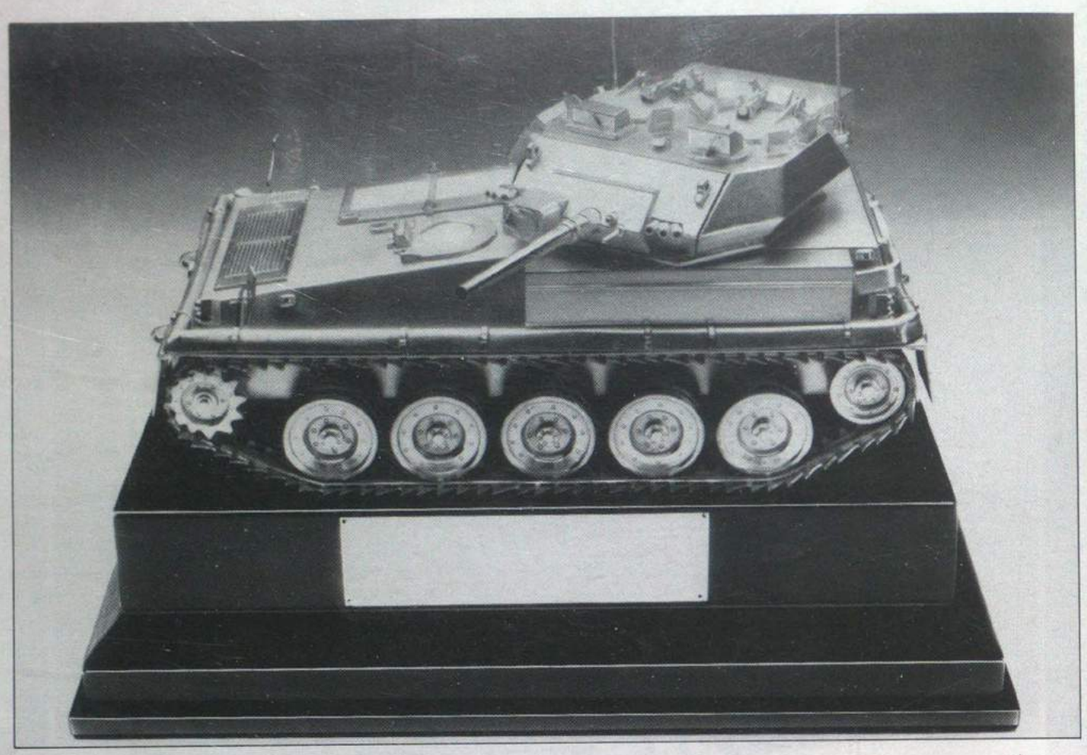
THE **wire**

March 1987

The Royal Signals Magazine



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SUPPLEMENT No. 1—PAGE TWO

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March 1987 Vol. 41 No: 2

The Wire

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Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

EDITOR'S NOTES

THE DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL TO ALL THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE KOREAN WAR 1950-1953

A service of dedication of the Korean War memorial was held in St Paul's Cathedral, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, on Wednesday 11 March.

The Corps was represented by The Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, President of the Royal Signals Association, **Maj Gen J. M. Sawers CB MBE, Brig E. C. R. Blaker OBE, Brig M. R. Topple, Lt Col B. A. Beattie. Brig P. R. Davies,** The Colonel of the King's Regiment was also present.

PUBLIC DUTIES TAIL NOTE

To mark the Corps involvement in Public Duties during 1986 a silver memo cover and pen was presented to the Household Division. It will be placed by the duty telephone in the Officers' Mess, St James's Palace Guard Room.

The photographs show the cover and pen and **Maj Gen C. J. Airy CBE,** Major General Commanding The Household Division receiving the gift from **Lt Col W. K. Butler**, Commanding Officer 30 Signal Regiment.

OUR COVER PICTURE

The cover picture shows LCpl Carl Davies of 22 Sig Regt. LCpl Davies has been training with the National Biathlon Team and has been selected to represent Great Britain in the World Championships at Lake Placid in February. At the recent British National Nordic Championships he came fourth in the 20km biathlon and third in the 10km biathlon sprint. He will continue to train with the national squad in preparation for the Winter Olympics next season

– From our "In" Tray –

OPERATION ANGORA

633 SIG TP ASSIST IN SAN SALVADOR DISASTER RELIEF OPERATION

Shortly before midday on Friday 10 October 1986, San Salvador the capital city of El Salvador, suffered an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale. British Forces Belize offered assistance, and on Sunday 12 October an advance party prepared to deploy by RAF Puma helicopter.

Sgt Bill Stack, and an operator from the RAF were among the advance party, and established a Rear Link to Airport Camp on 12 October. The situation on the ground was obviously confused. Aid in the form of medical supplies, tentage and heavy lifting tackle had been flown into the international airport, the detachment was located at the charges d'affaires residence on the edge of the city and communications rapidly established to Airport Camp, relaying urgent requests for medical supplies and assistance.

The OC, **Lt Phil Davies**, and **WO2 (FofS) Colin Turner** flew to the scene the following day with a Detachment of tele mechs and linemen led by **Cpl Matt Helm**. The OC was attached to the residence to act as watchkeeper whilst the Foreman began an assessment of the damage caused to the city telephone exchanges. This task was made even more difficult by the initial lack of co-ordination demonstrated by the rescue workers; resulting in damage reports often being underestimated. Transport would fail to arrive to take our Detachment to the site and, more often than not, repair to the complicated computer-backed exchanges would not be possible with the limited facilities available.

FofS Colin Turner at the city's international telephone exchange

The tele mech team were able however to provide essential telephones in the Feria, a trade centre used as the civilian relief organisation headquarters.

The Rear Link Detachment at the residence was reinforced by **Sgt Reynolds** and **LCpl John Henry**, and continued to provide the only reliable communications from the area. The facility was well used by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who amazed their French and American counterparts by the speed of their communications chain to the outside world (thanks to Royal Signals!).

Just after this photograph was taken, a tremor measuring 3.5 on the Richter scale was recorded. **Cpl Matt Helm** and **LCpl Scouse Bradley** were seen rapidly leaving the building, closely followed by the Foreman (the equipment righted itself and amazingly, continued to work perfectly). Less fortunate were those trapped in the Ruben Dario building which collapsed when the earthquake struck five days earlier, killing 120 people.

On the afternoon of 22 October the last remaining personnel from the Troop in El Salvador returned by C130. They were met by a welcoming committee led by the Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff Air-Chief-Marshal **Sir Patrick Hine KCB**.

Those deployed to El Salvador had left not knowing what to expect and returned with the knowledge that they had done an excellent job and with an awareness of the horrors an earthquake brings. None of them will ever forget the operation.

The Ruben Dario

CORPS REPRESENTATION IN ARMY FOOTBALL

On 9 February, at Aldershot, **LCpl Steve Welsh** of 8 Sig Regt, made his debut in the Army side for their South West Counties Championship match versus Dorset Football Association. He played well, scoring the third of the Army's three goals in a 3—1 win.

He reappeared in an Army shirt, two days later, against London University. The Army won 3—0 on this occasion.

Cpl 'Sandy' Brown, School of Signals, the Army team captain, and **Cpl 'Andy' Edwards**, 3 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt, were both in the side for these two games. **Edwards** scored the first goal against London University.

THE BLANDFORD TOWER RUN

Calling all Royal Signals personnel, families, associates, servicemen, servicewomen, civilians, cadets, scouts, brownies, youth clubs, Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all. The Blandford Tower Run for 1987 is to be held on Sunday 31 May at Blandford Camp. The event is run on the lines of a half marathon so serious runners and fun runners alike are most welcome. The course will take you along footpaths and bridleways, through bluebell woods, past the longest longbarrow in Europe and will not close until the last person is finished (or 5 pm). Entry closes on 15 May. On the day you will park in Blandford Camp and be taken by coach to the start. Tracksuits etc will be returned to the finish. Race Start is at 1115 hrs. An illustrated guide of the event is shown on the outside back cover.

For further details and entry form please contact **Maj K. K. W. Parsons Royal Signals**, Blandford Tower Run 87, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH (Tel 0258-52581, Ext 2347 or Blandford Mil 2347 or 2212) as early as possible.

GAS EXPLOSION IN WINGATE TOWERS—HUYTON, LIVERPOOL

Report from 33 Sig Regt (V)

At approximately 0200 hrs on Friday 23 January 1987, a gas explosion ripped through the eighth floor of Wingate Towers Block 1. (Situated behind Alamein TAC—one of three 10 storey council blocks). The blast was heard by members of the Squadron who were staying the night in the TAC due to the foggy conditions which had prevented them from driving home. First on the scene was **WO2 (SSM) John Morrison**, **WO2 Marie Watkinson WRAC and LCpl David Flemming** who then began to assist the police and the fire brigade in evacuating a total of 65 families to Alamein TAC. **WO2 (RQMS) Alan Huggins** immediately set up a reception programme and placed all evacuees in the Sergeants Mess. The QM, **Maj Len Jeffery**, began to organise tea, biscuits, sweets etc and liaised with the Knowsley Social Services and Housing Departments who by now had turned up. An emergency operations room was set up in the Recruiting Office and the Regiment was formally asked by the Social Services for assistance. Beds and blankets were set up in the Junior Ranks Club and we were tasked with providing a hot breakfast and a midday meal. All evacuees were taken across to the block, floor by floor, to collect their valuables, means of identification etc whilst the Building Inspector and Health and Safety Executive inspected the building. At about 0800 hrs everyone was informed that they would not be moving back into the block until the weekend and by then the broken glass/debris would have been cleared away. The housing department then instituted a system of moving families to friends/relatives houses or to hotels in the Merseyside area. From 0320 hrs the press began ringing in to find out what was going on and the QM took on what was to become a 'high profile situation'. Interviews on Radio Stations and BBC Television, with photographers turning up by the dozen left him on his toes to say the least. Needless to say we coped with everything thrown at us and received nothing but effusive thanks from all. The last family left us at 1300 hrs—then we began to tidy up. A special mention of thanks to the following who were deeply involved from the word go:

Maj (QM) Len Jeffery, WO2 (SSM) John Morrison, WO2 Marie Watkinson, WO2 (RQMS) Alan Huggins, SSgt (FofS) Bob Hamilton, Sgt Dave Piggott, LCpl David Fleming, LCpl Paul Grimes, Mr Joe Harvey and Mrs Marion Harvey—Caretakers.

That their efforts were appreciated is shown by the following letter from **Mr H. Blackburn** of Huyton—one of the residents—to the CO.

Sir,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of myself and other tenants to show our gratitude and thanks to you and all fellow officers and all other ranks.

The care and consideration which was shown to everyone helped to ease the tension and fright which many felt, especially the elderly. We also thank you for opening your telephones to us and passing on information to our relatives.

Having served in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1939 until 1946 my pride in the Regiment increased even more with the help and comfort given to all on this occasion.

My thanks to All
Mr H. Blackburn
365 Independent Coy
ex 4th Wireless War Office Signals

James McClone (*left*) and son Ian

Residents relaxing in the Sergeants' Mess

Mrs Denise Forshaw holding five month old daughter Fallon while Sgt Maj Marie Watkinson looks on

CAREER EMPLOYMENT REVIEW

PROGRESS REPORT

If you are one of 7,838 people who completed a Career Employment Review Questionnaire last summer you may be wondering what happened to it.

The Questionnaires together weighed about 7 cwts and during September 1986 they all went to Devizes to an organisation known as Bureau West where the information was extracted and put on to computer tapes. This task was completed by mid November when the tapes were sent to Worthy Down and, after a few false starts, the computer runs began. Printouts started to arrive in TACT on 5 December and they continued to arrive at frequent but irregular intervals until mid January when the last one was delivered.

Whilst the computer runs were in progress the questionnaires were returned to TACT to enable us to begin the long but very interesting process of interpreting the 'Free Expression' question at the end of the Questionnaire. Many of the comments made were both forceful and descriptive—particularly those referring to the 'Higher Archie' (copyright **Williams** who actually signed his name!). The terms used to describe personalities conjured up some amazing caricatures, how these unfortunates manage to wear any form of headgear is truly amazing. However, the pointed messages conveyed by your comments (which, for those self confessed Doubting Thomas' have been read), will be consolidated and presented to the 'Higher Archie'. You will, of course, appreciate that some of the more universally applicable dissatisfactions (accommodation, employment for wives and dependants, LOA, schooling, leave entitlement and costs) are constantly under review by the Army as a whole, but some comments which relate specifically to attitudes within Royal Signals will be investigated. For the curious we have extracted some of the more printable answers (expletives deleted) to the question 'What other things affect your satisfaction with your career?' They have been summarised under appropriate headings:

MANAGEMENT

'The Corps is being run by people who think it's still 1950'.

'. . .far too many COs think you are only fit if you can run marathons . . .'

'. . . has made my life hell and forced me to be a combat driver when I wanted to be a Lineman'.

'there should be more promotion for non sportsmen who are better operators'.

'You should be left to do the job you are trained for and no sprog officers who know very little about it but think the sun shines out of their . . .'.

'Young officers should be sent to training units and not to trained (field) units to cause hell and . . . all day'.

'The Army is not democratic'.

The photograph shows Maj Mike Wright RAEC, our CODAP expert, discussing one of the printouts with the officers of TACT. *From left to right:* Maj Bob Mansfield, Maj (Tfc) John Ankers, Maj (TOT) Frank Smith and Lt Col Keith Ryding

EMPLOYMENT

'Being a Cpl Tech Class II and doing the same job as a Sig Class III DTg'.

'2½ years training to do fatigues every day'. (An ex Apprentice).

'Not being able to do my job because some . . . staff officer has got his . . . fingers on my kit'—(and passing his own silly messages?! Ed).

'. . . Get me out of this . . . switch!! (a TE technician).

LEISURE

"Not being allowed in the WRAC accommodation'.

There were other comments which indicated that a few soldiers are either dejected and unhappy or perhaps going through a rough patch. This is to be expected because as we all know, you can't please all the people all the time. The fact that these comments have not been quoted doesn't mean that they have been ignored, merely that they were neither representative nor amusing. Most comments could be described as normal soldierly moans but there is an underlying feeling that all is not well in some areas and these will be looked at quite closely.

Apart from reading your comments and deciding what should be done about them we have also been interpreting results of the Computer Analysis of your questionnaires.

This particular printout is called Overlap and Group. It indicates the jobs being done by the soldiers of the Corps and the types of tradesmen who are doing those jobs. There are many other print outs which are being studied in order to produce a recommended long term Corps Career Employment Structure for consideration by the SOinC.

Please be assured that all your answers are being taken into account. Whatever the outcome of the Career Employment Review there will be very few people in the Corps who can claim that they were not consulted.

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

During the second half of 1986 the Corps Museum received a number of important donations which included the presentation on long loan of the honours and awards of **Maj Gen C. M. F. White CB, CBE, DSO. Mrs Elizabeth White** visited the Museum, with her daughter, and handed over the decorations, medals and documents to **Lt Col David Collyer** who accepted them on behalf of the Chairman of the Museum Committee.

Brig John Almonds, as the Chairman of the Committee, accepted for the Corps a silver salver that had been presented to the late **Lt Col Eustace Levett OBE** by the officers of the 46 North Midland Corps Sigs TA in 1937. The salver is inscribed with the signatures of the officers who were serving with the regiment at that time. The salver was donated to the Corps Museum by his daughter, **Miss Heather Levett** but as she was unable to travel to the Museum the salver was presented by **Lt Col** and **Mrs M. E. E. Truscott. Monty Truscott** had served with **Col Levett** in Hong Kong prior to the fall of that colony during the Second World War. The presentation was followed by lunch in the Headquarters Mess.

In December 1986 the honours and awards awarded to the late **Maj Gen Sir Godwin Michelmore KBC, CB, DSO, MC, TD, JP, DL** were donated on long loan to the Museum by his son **Col J. F. G. Michelmore TD, DL**. This group is of particular interest as **Sir Godwin Michelmore** was the only Royal Signals TA officer to command a Division. In 1944-1945, he commanded the 45 Division.

The Corps has also been extremely fortunate in having many of the sporting trophies, badges, notebooks and medals of the well known Corps superstar and International athlete **Staff Sgt Joe Cotterell. Mrs C. Cotterell** has very kindly donated the items to the Museum and at present there is a complete show case devoted to the late **Joe Cotterell.**

The Royal Signals Museum Committee now have the responsibility for the commissioning and purchase of new paintings and silver centre

The presentation of Maj Gen C. M. F. White's honours and medals
Mrs Elizabeth White (widow of Gen White) and Lt Col D. F. M. (David) Collyer

Left to Right: Maj (Retd) A. Harfield, Brig John Almonds, Mrs Truscott, Lt Col M. E. E. (Monty) Truscott, Maj (Retd) Roger Pickard

pieces. It was at the Master of Signals Dinner Night on 6 November 1986 that the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** accepted from the silversmith **Anthony Holt** the newly commissioned centre piece which depicts a Bruin AFV 439 with aerial array.

Brig John Almonds has now handed over the Chairmanship of the Museum Committee to the new Commander of the School of Signals, **Brig A. H. Boyle.**

The changes planned in the Museum displays are well under way with the Cablewagon now situated as the centre piece in the main concourse. The former 'Cablewagon Room' is being converted into a Second World War display room which conveniently places the ACV in the adjoining room. Plans are also going ahead for the construction of a First World War communication dug-out.

At the close of 1986 we had to say farewell to one member of the Museum Project team—**Mrs Gaynor Braund** who has left us to accompany her husband to 28 Sig Regt.

We regret to have to announce the sudden death of **Mr Arthur Cabell** who died at his home in Blandford on 14 January 1987. He was cremated at Poole Crematorium on 21 January 1987. **Arthur** had been with the Museum as one of the project workers for over a year. He was in fact the Curators' 'right hand man' and his ability to deal with a whole variety of tasks made him invaluable. His quiet manner made him a well liked member of the Museum team and he will be greatly missed by all the staff.

Acceptance of the BRUIN AFV439
Maj Gen P. D. Alexander and Mr Anthony Holt, the silversmith

1957-1987
Taken at the Quartermaster's Dinner in Catterick on 1 February, the SOinC with five QMs who had served with him in Hong Kong in 1957

From left to right: Lt Col B. Cleaver, Maj (Retd) K. Hadfield, Maj Gen P. D. Alexander, Maj P. A. Noble, Lt Col (Retd) P. McNaughton, Maj F. D. Rogers
What difference has 30 years made?

TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY MARATHON—NOVEMBER 1986

From Sig (now LCpl) 'Chippy' Wood—21 Sig Regt

Whilst reading a running magazine I noticed an advertisement for the New York marathon, it read, 'Why not make running the New York marathon as simple as cutting out the coupon.' I sat and thought about it. 'Could I afford it?' 'Yes, let's go for it!' The total price was around £600 which did not include spending money or food. So the end cost for the trip was approximately £1000. Now the only thing left was to build up my stamina, because the furthest I had ever run was a half marathon and I had felt bad enough after that. I also had to start saving—cutting back on beer and pizzas.

Just before I went to New York the Troop took part in Exercise *Eternal Triangle* . I was sent back to Camp to start my leave and 'holiday' in America. My 'Crewman' **Cpl Ramshaw** did not seem at all bothered by the fact I was coming back to a nice warm barrack room. So I left him to enjoy the rain and cold by himself.

I travelled to Yorkshire for a couple of days leave, then on 28 October drove down to Heathrow; setting off at 0530 hrs and arriving at JFK airport at around 1330 hrs after a seven hour flight. It was obviously going to take a few days to get rid of jet lag. This was not so easy because every morning I woke up at 0200 hrs.

The five days prior to the marathon I spent sightseeing with the rest of the runners on the tour. This consisted of visiting the Statue of Liberty and Empire State Building as well as many other famous places. Every morning we all went on a gentle jog around Central Park and it was interesting to see so many other people exercising.

The day before the marathon I took part in the International breakfast run. This was from the United Nations building to a restaurant in the Central Park about 4 miles. It was for all runners from foreign countries. A total of 8,000 people ran and 102 countries were represented. Naturally the first to finish were mainly British so they got the first breakfasts. All the participants were fed which was in itself a great achievement. Marathon eve was reserved for the pasta party where 3,000lbs of pasta and 500 gallons of meat sauce were consumed.

Marathon Sunday arrived, the day I had been looking forward to for nearly a year. A total of 21,958 people gathered on Staten Island to attempt the 26.2 miles. My race number was 13,274, so I was in the middle of the field. The atmosphere was electric, when the gun sounded, with so much noise and excitment all around. It soon became apparent that my aim of a sub three hour marathon was not to be as I walked for the first mile and 29 minutes later I was passing the three mile marker. It was like being on a J Troop run, even **Cpl Chris Hobday** could have hacked it.

The crowds were fantastic and at four miles I could start to run a better pace. After my disastrous start I now just wanted to enjoy myself and take it all in. We ran through all five boroughs of New York passing through many different ethnic and cultural areas.

The sight at 16 miles was fantastic as we left Brooklyn and ran over Queensboro' Bridge into Manhattan. Singles bars and thick crowds greeted us along First Avenue. I could see the next four miles straight ahead. At 20 miles, where most people hit the wall, I had good incentive to keep running because this was just not the place I fancied walking or stopping. We had just entered the Bronx. The next couple of miles passed at a seemingly greatly increased pace. Instead of spectators lining the route, Policemen cheered us on!

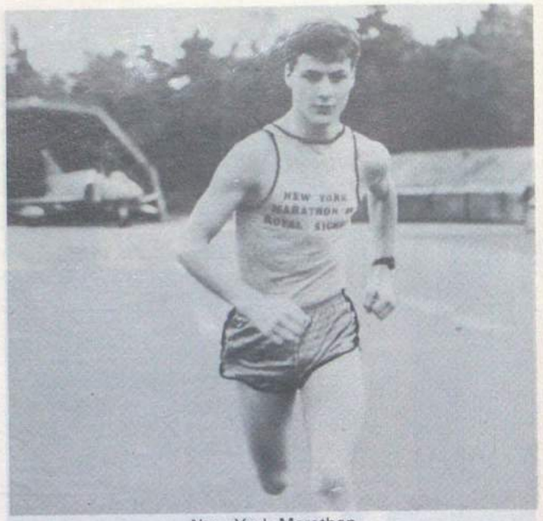
After leaving the Bronx at 22 miles it was a case of hanging on for the next four miles. Indeed the toughest part was still to come, the hilly last few miles in Central Park to the finish. My legs felt heavy and I could feel myself slowing but thousands of people cheering 'you're looking good' made me run on.

We left the Park for half a mile before re-entering it for the last mile. A wall of noise hit me when in bold white paint on the road was the number 26. To me who had just gone through those many miles of streets, avenues and bridges it meant only one thing, 385 yards to relief! The path to the finish was uphill but the wildly cheering New Yorkers carried me along. All the pain seemed to have passed and now it was the final extra push before the finish (just to look good).

At last after three hours and four minutes I could stop and walk. Then just as quickly as the pain went it came back. All life and energy had seemingly been used up and my legs began to stiffen. I had not broken any world records but had enjoyed every moment of it.

'What an experience' I thought as I shuffled down the chutes draped in a foil blanket and proudly wearing my medal. The medal means a great deal to all the competitors whether prize winners or not. My final position was 2298 and only nine people in my age group finished before me. I was satisfied; I had done what I set out to do a year ago—finish!

The thrill, excitment, experience and sheer magnitude of this marathon will stay with me for many years to come. After a good hot bath it was time to really start celebrating and listening to the countless marathon stories and memories. Alas though, as with all good things they must end eventually. Two days later I was on the plane back toHeathrow and then back to good old 'sunny' Osnabruck.



New York Marathon
LCpl 'Chippy' Wood training in BAOR before his trip to the USA

LATINA

By W/LCpl Jayne Little—28 Sig Regt

With no travelling expenses spared by MOD **LCpl Billy Reilly** and I set off from the Regiment for a 22 hour train journey to Latina 70km south of Rome. We arrived on 4 November somewhat dishevelled from our journey but happy and surprised to catch our first Italian taxi—with no seatbelts. Clinging to the dashboard we had a speedy 10 minute journey from the station to camp where we were to begin our seven week course.

After the technicalities of admin and unpacking we decided to try the delights of the dreaded mess hall which was renowned for serving such delicacies as Octopus and multi-coloured pasta. In total agreement that our first visit was to be our last, we returned to our accommodation and retired to ease the pains that the train journey had caused.

The next day was a casual one taking photographs page checking and meeting other students, German, Belgian, Danish, which **LCpl Reilly** and I were soon to find out were the perfect combination for a cracking course which I must admit presented many entertaining moments which have become milestones in my memory. On first sight the kit reminded me of a toaster that could do 18 slices at a go but as the weeks progressed and circuits became clearer the pieces finally fell into their right places—it was not a toaster that could do 18 slices after all!

We had ample opportunity to visit places and decide where we would come back to spend a holiday. All in all I thoroughly enjoyed the course despite the fact that it did prove a little expensive; less said about that the better. I look forward to returning in the near future to spend a few more merry weeks there, any chance TOT sir?

WLCpl Jayne Little and LCpl Billy Reilly inspect the vatican HT

EXERCISE OR REST AND RECUPERATION?

Report by 21 Sig Regt

Due to a lack of Regimental commitments and a stalwart Staff Sergeant who said he could manage without me for four weeks (only just, I hasten to add) I was permitted to seize the opportunity of a free flight to Canada in October of last year. It was a trooping flight for Ex *Medicine Man 7*, departing on 17 October and returning a month later. There was no requirement for me to be on the exercise and so I planned to see as much of Canada and the United States as I could—within certain financial limits.

After a 10 hour flight I arrived in Calgary and as the other 109 passengers were bussed off to BATUS, I intercepted my baggage, changed into civvies in the airport lavatory and caught a bus into town. I was in need of a bed for the night and so I presented myself at the gates of the Canadian Forces Base looking for sympathy. Everyone was being hospitable and I was made to feel most welcome in the mess of The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). After a two night stay in Calgary I caught a Greyhound bus and headed west towards Banff National Park.

Youth hostel accommodation was the cheapest around, only eight dollars a night. I met up with a couple of Canadians who were both on their first visit to the west, and so for two days we saw the sights and visited the local bars together. I had decided not to stay in one place for too long, so although **Paul** and **Dennis** decided to stay for longer in Banff, I booked a seat on the trans-continental train from Banff to Vancouver. It was an 18 hour journey which took me through the Rockies and some very impressive scenery. Although slow, travelling by train is the most comfortable way to get around if you want to appreciate the Canadian countryside. It was an overnight journey and as all the other passengers descended on the dining car, I tucked into my peanut butter sandwiches.

A few hours in Vancouver city centre was all I allowed myself before catching a bus and ferry to Victoria, on Vancouver Island. I stayed with relatives there for three days and spent my time touring the capital of British Colombia and the surrounding countryside. I have some relatives who live in San Francisco and so that was to be my next port of call. I caught a ferry and then a bus to the Seattle-Tacoma airport and from there flew down to SF. Arriving at 10 pm I found that my cousin was out and so I opted for cheap accommodation at the YMCA—what a mistake! The room cost 20 dollars and for that I got a shoe box 6ft by 10 with a bed, wardrobe and a filthy sink. The following day I got in touch with **Sarah**, my cousin, and spent the following two days at her house.

During my short stay I visited China Town, Fisherman's Wharf, Alcatraz, the Wine Country to the north, rode the cable car and took numerous photos of the Golden Gate Bridge. Although warm, San Francisco was almost continually cloudy and so, in search of sun, I decided to fly to San Diego. I certainly found the sun, 80°F, and also the beaches packed. Once again I found myself without accommodation as some friends of a friend I was going to look up were not in. I ruled out the YMCA and so presented myself at the gates of the United States Marine Recruit Depot San Diego. I couldn't have made a wiser move as before I knew it I had been given the VIP suite—lounge, bathroom, bedroom, bar, fridge, telephone etc. I stayed for two nights and was looked after superbly by the US Marines who gave me a tour of the base and provided me with a seat in the General's box so I could view the pass off parade. After five days sunning myself in San Diego I felt it was time I saw something of the East coast.

I flew People's Express from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey—a six hour flight across America. I then caught a connecting flight to Raleigh in North Carolina, stayed the night in the airport and then caught a bus to Jacksonville. I was met there by a friend of the USMC, **Lt Pete Ridall**, whom I had met last February on the Royal Signals Whiteshod Course in Norway. I spent three days at work with **Pete** who had a very interesting job in Special Operations Training Group, II Marine Amphibious Force. The only part I wasn't so keen on was the fact that I had to get up at 0430 hrs so we would have enough time to travel to work, do an hour's PT and then start the working day at 0630 hrs. However, when the weekend came it was a different story. We decided to travel up to Washington DC. The days were spent seeing the sights such as the White House, the Memorials and Arlington Cemetery and during the nights we spent our time in Irish pubs. These were splendid places which served numerous pints of Guinness to a very thirsty Brit!

By the beginning of the fourth week I had to think about my return to Calgary. I flew back via Chicago and Spokane having a short stop over in both places. It was somewhat nippy back in Calgary, – 19°C, a little different from the temperatures I had experienced during the previous three weeks. The PPCLI were very hospitable and put me up for a further two nights prior to my travelling to BATUS. After a night and two days there I caught a trooping flight back to RAF Gutersloh.

On arrival back in BAOR I went straight on exercise—I could hardly grumble though after the previous four weeks. It was my first trip to the States and I don't suppose I will get the opportunity again to see so much in such a short space of time. I believe that the fun hasn't gone out of the Army and the opportunities are there to be seized.

Enjoying a beer on top of Sulphur Mountain, Banff National Park
Lt Matt Fensom on the *Right*

There were always the constant reminders of work!

The Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco

EXERCISE *VILLAGE VENTURE*

Now that the evenings have drawn in, and the weather cold, thoughts return to sunnier climes and far away countries. The sandbags are pulled up, lanterns set swinging and the photos brought out for yet another unfortunate soul.

Ex *Village Venture* took place in the mountains and tropical rainforests (jungle) of deepest darkest Peru SA in the summer of 1986.

The team was: **Lt T. W. D. Issac** RE—Churchill College, Cambridge University; **Lt D. B. Hudson** R. Signals—Gonville and Caius, Cambridge University; **Lt M. C. Wilson** REME—Peterhouse, Cambridge University; **Lt J. Moberley** Royal Green Jackets—ex Durham University.

Planning started well in advance with a visit to the Royal Geographic Society's 'Expedition Planner's Seminar' in October 1985. Peru was chosen because it appeared to be the most stable country in South America; the only continent that any member of the team had not yet visited.

The aim of our expedition was to practise survival and leadership in both the mountains of the Andes and in the Jungle of the Amazon Basin, whilst also studying engineering resources. The three Cantabrigians all reading Engineering.

As we had predicted, some of the greatest difficulties arose in the 'civilised' parts of Peru, especially Lima, the capital. Fortunately we had made contact with the British Military Attaché, **Capt Hogg RN**, and were met upon our arrival at Lima airport by his staff.

Internal travel in Peru and the Peruvian bureaucratic machine caused endless delays and frustration. These difficulties were overcome by patience, the linguistic ability of our Spanish speaker, the assistance of the British Embassy and many good paperback books.

The impression of Lima, the capital city, was of a 'grey' city, almost permanently overcast. Those in the team with blonde hair were regarded as something of a novelty. Armed policy and military guards were very much in evidence, all were immaculately dressed, a l'Herge (TinTin).

To Arequipa by bus was an experience not to be brushed aside. Arequipa, a town unspoilt by tourists, is 1,000 miles from Lima with a superb climate and very friendly people. However we pressed on and boarded yet another bus to take us to the small town of Chivay, at twelve thousand feet on the river Colca: which later runs through the Colca canyon, of 'Grand Canyon' proportions. Here it was enough to be a 'Gringo', no matter what the colour of hair, to be a novelty.

We made camp two miles upstream of Chivay, near some Hot Springs (running hot water!), and divided into pairs. Each day one pair went on a hill walk while the other stayed at camp and took various readings to ascertain an estimate of the photovoltaic and drying power available from the sun. The rest days were much needed as the altitude was found to be a problem.

Then after an all too brief sojourn, eight days, in this wild countryside; frollicking with llamas and alpacas, sweating in 35°C at midday, freezing in −10°C at night, scoffing many prickly pears and cursing very prickly, incombustible cactii. Another 48 hrs on the bus back to Lima and then on to the Jungle for phase two. Local advice from the South American Explorers Club, based in Lima, caused us to change our target area for this phase from Pucallpa to the river between the towns of Yurimaguas and Iquitos.

We arrived at Yurimaguas, eventually, after an unplanned stop at Tarapoto, due to Aeroperu's cancellations and a 'so sorry no the instruments no work—Ifix manana' flight in light plan, much older than all the team, over a 'small' mountain range (the Andes!).

From Yurimaguas a cargo boat took us down the river Huallaga (which later forms the Amazon) to a point where we were able to construct a balsa raft, with but a little assistance from the indigenous population. A week of rafting took us to the small town of Lagunas.

Whilst on the raft we were able to take more readings to measure the photovoltaic and drying power of the sun in this low altitude (1,500ft), and high humidity. We were also able to study the river trade and typical farming techniques and dwellings on the river banks. The vegetation on the river bank strip was all secondary growth, having been cut down for cultivation at some time. The dense ground cover of this secondary growth made exploration further into the interior of the Jungle extremely tricky.

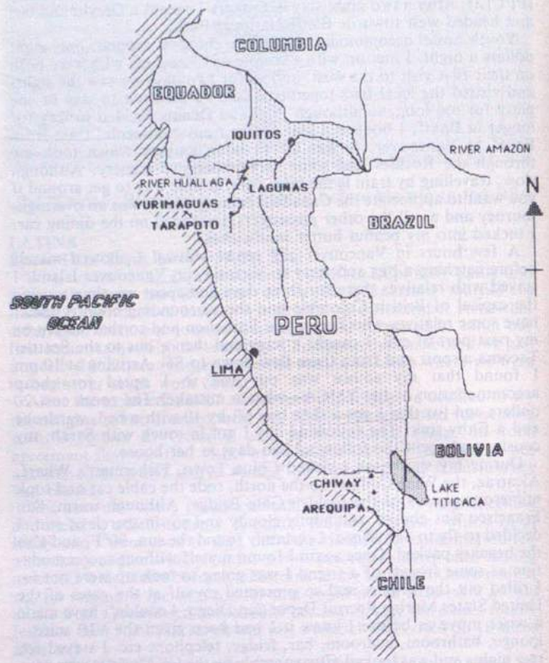
While we waited for the passenger boat, that was always coming 'manana', we entertained the populace by trying the local delicacies; steamed tortoise, cold rice wrapped in palm leaves, barbecued piranha, very, very hot pickles and the local cerveza (beer). The trip to Iquitos was completed in a passenger boat complete with cattle, fresh food (tortoise) and plenty of stops for bananas.

From Iquitos we flew back to Lima (there are no roads out) to begin the 'R&R' phase. For this we spent three days exploring the delights of the Inca ruins at Cuzco and Machu Picchu. We were not alone for this phase; many American and Japanese tourists were also visiting!

Perhaps the most valuable parts of the expedition were the first hand experiences gained. Firstly of a more 'laid back' approach to time and urgency—not many Peruvians appeared to suffer from high blood pressure! Maybe there is a real lesson there for all. Secondly the problems of a debt ridden country were encountered; shops with nothing in them (eg: no stamps in the only post office in Lima, no chicken in a chicken restaurant, no fish in a fish restaurant, no flowers in a florist, no planes at Lima International airport etc), a thriving black market, imminent threat of sudden changes of government, never to be finished houses and decaying roads.

The lasting impressions of Paddington's homeland were of an immensely beautiful country with vast contrasts of terrain, peoples, climate and culture. For a country that has suffered so much over the last half of this millennium its present state is remarkably good.

The aim was achieved, and our swimming trunks were dried successfully at both 12,000ft in the Andes, and on a balsa raft at 1,500ft.



Peru and surrounding countries

Lt D. B. Hudson in passenger boat — note homemade hammock

Eating a local speciality—tortoise

Building the raft with local help

Lt D. B. Hudson and raft

Floating down the river

2 INF DIV HQ AND SIG REGT IN ARMY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

On Wednesday 4 February the Regimental Cross Country team competed in the Army Championships at the Tweesledown Race Course near Aldershot. After our success in the Army Relay Finals, hopes were running high that we might complete the 'double' and overcome our main rivals 1 PWO in the process. However, it was not to be, and after a very tough and fast six mile course, the Regiment finished second to a strong 1 PWO team. This was a first class achievement despite one or two injuries and also because of the ineligibility of one runner who was held within the Regiment having recently been posted in from BAOR. Some of the more notable performances came from **Cpl Jeremy Thomas** (fourth), **Sig Mark Vile** (seventh) and **Cpl Steve Lawrence** who was 12th in the major units competition. Others who are worthy of a mention are **Sig Davie Holmes** who having trained extremely hard all season finished a very creditable 24th and **Sig Mark Speight** who was the third junior to finish. (The team captain, **Capt Steve Johns** (the slim version!) also completed the course but wasn't in the first 20!)

This was a fitting climax to a successful season for the team. Having won the Army Relay Championships, the team is also well ahead in the local North East District League. As a result of the Army Championships, **Cpl Thomas** and **Sig Speight** were selected to represent the Army in the Inter Services Competition at Portsmouth. The Regiment has now firmly established itself on the Corps main Cross Country list. It is hoped that the experience gained during this season, combined with some new talent from elsewhere in the Corps, will enable the Regiment to finish one place higher next season.

The water/mud jump added further excitement to the Regimental cross country. It also proved to be the ultimate test of 'Persil' washing (or not washing) whiter than white

The Assistant Adjutant Lt Ruth Littlejohns presents LCpl (Chinkie) Sloan with first prize in the Regimental cross country

22 SIG REGT SKIING SUCCESSES

The two Regimental Ski Teams returned in February bringing with them a sackful of silver. In particular the Regiment won the combined trophy in the Third Division Championships and the Alpine trophy in the Army Championships. Individual achievements included **Cpl Andy Brown** becoming the Army Alpine Champion, **Cpl Andy Brown** and **Capt 'Cedric' Ford** have both been selected to represent the Army in the Inter Services meeting.

The 'smellies', as the Nordic team is known, left Lippstadt for Norway on 23 November 1986. The CO, **Lt Col P. J. Pritchard**, was there to see them off on the first phase of the training. Under the new management of **Capt Phil 'Sniffer' Brown** and the old team coach **Cpl 'Scotty' Scott**, the team based itself in Nordseter near Lillehammer to conduct the bulk of the distance training. The team was joined by the Nordic team from 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and four juniors from AAC Harrogate. The aim of the latter group appeared to be to break as many pairs of skis as possible before returning home. Despite considerable effort they did not quite manage double figures. Although the weather was far from ideal, there was plenty of snow and so everyone had the opportunity to develop their skills and stamina.

The teams left Norway for a four day break just before Christmas prior to the second phase of training in Ruhpolding in Bavaria. The majority of afternoons were spent making good use of the excellent range facilities and the skating tracks with the mornings occupied with more classical Langlauf training. A highlight of this phase was the Annual Sylvester Lauf of either 25km or an arduous 40km where the team competed against German internationals amongst the many civilians. It is five years since the Regiment last competed in the 3 Armd Div Championships so Fulpmes, the venue for the competition, was new territory for the team members. The courses and the standard of skiing came as quite a surprise to the team in a Division where the Gunners form a large contingent. Perhaps the most exciting race was the 4 × 7.5km Biathlon relay. **Cpl 'Scotty' Scott** gave the team an excellent start with good skiing complemented by accurate shooting. As **LCpl 'Smudger' Smith** started the last leg, he was one minute ahead of an ex Olympic skier from 32 Hy Regt. At the first visit to the range they were level but on the second visit **Smudger**'s sharp shooting enabled him to draw ahead while his rival was left doing penalty loops. At the end of the day **Smudger**'s time was the third best overall. Although a little disappointed in the team's results, they were good enough to augment the Alpine team's excellent results to the extent that the Regiment won the overall Championships.

On 21 January 1987 the 'smellies' left the Alpine team at Fulpmes and headed for Zwiesel for the Army and British Nordic Championships. At Zwiesel **LCpl Carl Davies** joined the team having been training with the National Biathlon squad. Unfortunately a chest inection affected **LCpl 'Smudger' Smith**'s performance for the whole of the competition; but the presence of **LCpl Carl Davies** and the ever improving forms of **Cpl 'Scotty' Scott** and **LCpl Steve Burke** enabled the team to keep in contention with the leaders. While the 'A' team were locked in battle the rest of the squad, namely **Cpl Ged Kearne, LCpl 'Charlie' Brown, Sig 'Midge' Muir** and **'Quad' Harland** competed as individuals gaining valuable race experience. After another exciting Biathlon relay, the team was safely in third position in the Princess Marina Competition. Due to unfortunate circumstances however, 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt were unable to produce the correct rank structure in their team for the Patrol race thus giving us the chance to move into second place. There was also a remote chance that 35 Engr Regt, complete with three national standard skiers, would fall at the last hurdle. However, the Sappers did not lose their grip on the Cup although **Lt Col G. J. Barrett**, who had driven from Lippstadt to Zwiesel on the morning of the race did not give up hope until the end. The 'S' team (**Sniffer, Scotty, Stig** and **Smudger**) could not reproduce their crack shooting of the Divisional meeting. At the prize giving it was a very jubilant team that collected the Canadian Land Forces Trophy for being runners up in the Princess Marina Competition. There were two other causes for celebration in that **LCpl Carl Davies** was selected to represent Great Britain in the World Championships in preparation for the Olympics and **Sig 'Quad' Harland** was chosen to join the newly formed British National Development Squad.

Finally all the members of the team would like to thank everyone who has helped to make the season successful. Squadron Commanders can have their manpower back now . . . but not for long!

LCpl 'Smudger' Smith in full concentration during a selection biathlon relay race at Ruhpolding

Some of the team trying to decide who is going to get the worst of it on the next snowball fight
Left to right: LCpl 'Smudger' Smith, Sig 'Quad' Harland, LCpl Steve Burke, Cpl Ged Keane, LCpl 'Charlie' Brown and Sig Midge Muir

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BRITISH LUGE TEAM 1986/87

Report by team member—Sig John Rawnsley 8 Sig Regt

Luge is a sport in which you lay on your back, on a sled and travel down bobsleigh runs called tracks. The tracks are above 1,200m in length from the mens start and above 900m from the ladies start; you travel down them at speeds of around 60-75 mph.

The Luge season started for us, in Igls in Austria on 30 October. The training went well with all of the B Squad members improving on their times of the previous season. The second week in November we attended a Federation International de Luge (FIL) school in Oberhof, E Germany. There we had excellent training and coaching from two ex-world champions. The programme was tight, lasting from 0630-2000 hrs each day, and covered theory, fitness and ice training. This training was to culminate in a race but unfortunately the day before the race I crashed, broke my coccyx, and was out of commission for one and a half weeks. From Oberhof we went to Sarajevo in Yugoslavia which boasts the fastest track in the world. After a week I was fit enough to start training again and after 12 runs was achieving times similar to the rest of the team. After a few more weeks we went back to Igls and joined the rest of the national squad for more training. At this stage we went up to the mens start for the first time in the season. We took four days out to train on the track that was to be the venue for the British and Army championships the following month at Olang in Italy and then returned to Igls for more training.

COMPETITION

Immediately after Christmas we attended the Grosser Prix at Innsbruck. This is a local race attended by many international standard competitors. Among such exalted company I was pleased to finish 34th. From Innsbruck we went to Imst for the New Year where warm weather struck. The track at Imst is a natural one and rapidly becomes unusable in warm weather so we spent our time in preparing our sleds and in fitness training. Just before we left Imst we were able to get two days track training in, even though the ice was not too good. Then we were off to Italy for the British and Army Championships. The track at Olang is one of the hardest in the world but after four days on it I was ready to start training from the Mens start. Unfortunately after two runs one of the national team had a bad crash and suffered facial and body injuries after which the race was moved down to the ladies start. The race itself was held over four runs and after two of them I was lying fourth with 0.01 of a second between me and third place. At this point the race stopped for lunch and I spent an hour polishing my steels (runners) ready for the third run. After the third run I managed to take third place, leading fourth place by 0.2 seconds and only 0.05 seconds behind second.

In the final run I pulled out all the stops and took second place. This gave me second place in the British Championships and first place in the Army Championships. After all this excitement we went to Winterberg for another FIL school and the Südlands Cup. I was placed eleventh in the race and then returned to sunny Catterick. Just in time, as the money ran out.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the CO and **Lt Munnoch WRAC** for their help in getting me out to join the training in October. I would also like to thank **Lt Corcoran** for the help he is giving me now to get out to Lake Placid for a World Cup Race.

Sig John Rawnsley (*left*) after being presented with his prize for second place in the British Luge Championships

Sig John Rawnsley laid back at 65 mph

Sig John Rawnsley at the finish line looking pleased with himself after finding out his time

TWO OLD FRIENDS MEET UP AGAIN!

In the January issue we published a photograph of **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock** talking to **WO1 (GSM) Tony Pfeiffer** at the Corps Guest Night held at 11 Sig Regt, Sergeants' Mess.

We now publish a photograph taken at Famagusta in 1958 showing them together in their younger days! Also in the picture is **Maj (Retd) D. J. Carnell** who kindly produced the photograph.

1st Row: Dvr McHugh, Sig Dennison, Collins, Surfield, Dvr Clamp, Sig Rafferty, Thackery, Jackson, Allott, Mulligan and McGrory
2nd Row: Cpls Hope, Carvill, Bottoms, Marchant, Sgt Bishop, SSM Carnell, Capt D. J. Milton, Maj J. M. W. Badcock, 2Lt H. S. Wilson, SQMS Willis, Cpls Pfieffer, Toole, Pashley (RAPC) and Tilley (ACC)
3rd Row: Sig Jones, Dvrs McDermott, Scott, Sig Walker, Male, LCpl Osborne, Cpls Allen and Payne, LCpl Phelps, Dvr Collett, Sig Sturman, Smith (545), Dvr Nutter, Sig Dodds and Barr
4th Row: Pte Davies (ACC), Sig Hadley, Latto, Pte Cummins (ACC), Sig Wilshaw, Cawdron, Hannah, Barton, Middleton, Brown, Hogg, Janes, Harbach, Ellison and Duthie
5th Row: Sig Harrison, Dvr Colley, LCpls Downs and Grainger, Dvrs Harrison, Harkins, Sig Nolan (958), Roberts, Price, Dvr Smith, Sig Ingham, LCpl Ould and Dvr Goodman
6th Row: Dvrs Evans, Davis, Bailey, Sig Ring, Healy, Hooper, Taylor (943) Taylor (480), Dvr O'Callaghan, Signm Shannon, Smith (997) and Nolan (152)

REFLECTIONS ON ATTACHMENT TO THE ROYAL SIGNALS TA

Report by 2Lt Kelly Warren Royal Canadian Signals (V)

For the past year I have been attached to 12 Brigade. For six months I was attached to 34 Sig Regt and for the latter six months to 36 Sig Regt. While attached to '34', I was involved in recruit selection and generally acquiring knowledge about the functions of the Signal Corps. When first introduced to the Commcen by **Maj Walker** of 49 Sqn, he asked, 'have you seen this equipment before?' I replied, 'yes in the museum in Canada!' (Pre Triffid). All kidding aside, I enjoyed my association with 34 Sig Regt very much and especially Christmas at Scarborough where I learned that doing the dishes can be a very 'wet' experience. I owe a special thanks to the 'A Team' in Hull who always knew when to open the mess, but never knew when to close it! Thanks for making me warmly welcome in the North.

My association with 36 Sig Regt was more involved as I was attached to the Training Cell at RHQ; as deputy Regt Trg Offr. On my first weekend away, I was accompanied by the Yeoman of Signals to get acquainted with the workings of the Regiment in the field. The first thing I was quick to catch on to was that the Yeoman does not sit still nor stay in one place for more than about three minutes. I had to be a quick learner that weekend.

2Lt Kelly Warren on Ex *Strange Encounters*

The Brigade exercise was another story. Due to the unfortunate absence of the Training Major, I was thrust into taking his place. The problems that were encountered on the Regimental exercise were overcome and in fact the exercise ran itself. As you can imagine I was relieved not to encounter too many problems. I found that both exercises gave me a chance to meet all members of the Regiment and both were very informative.

One of the memorable weekends of my entire stay in England has to be Exercise *Strange Encounters* with HQ Sqn. I shall leave the explaining of that weekend to HQ Sqn; however I would like to say thank you very much for cheering me up when I needed it the most.

As the summer continued, activities slowed down, however, I was authorised by the Canadian Forces to work full time at 36 Sig Regt and I quickly fitted into the routine of the Training Cell and preparations for camp. The Training Major went on holiday and I learned quickly the importance of the telephone when trying to organise and arrange various things for the Detachment Commander's course and camp. The most amusing incident that comes to mind, was when the Yeoman and I left the filing to accumulate (all over the floor) while **SSgt Hoban WRAC** was away on a course. In one mad panic we decided we had better clear it away before she filed us, and six hours later, mission was complete!

Camp 86, well what can I say? Scotland reminds me of Canada. Camp was most intriguing especially as a member of the McMuffs. As a McMuff, I was promoted to Corporal (MP), found the correct grid reference but on the wrong map, and sat in a pile of cow dung, to name but a few of the adventures. From an exercise point of view I believe camp was a great success and I am sure it will be even more successful next year as we all learn from our mistakes. I wish the Regiment all the best for Camp 87.

Thank you very much 36 Sig Regt for a very enjoyable stay, where I am all the more wiser for having served with you. A very special thanks to **Maj T. Mountford, Yeoman Prince**, and **SSgt Hoban WRAC** for accepting me for who I am: a member of the Royal Canadian Signals.

One final note, I hope I have set a precedent and therefore look forward to seeing all of you in Canada in the near future.

Relaxing on Ex *Strange Encounters*
(*From L to R*) WO1 (RSM) Jim Preston—now Lt TA—LCpl 'Johnno' Johnson (CO's driver), 2Lt Kelly Warren, Royal Canadian Signals (V), Sig Skedd, WO2 (RQMS) Lloyd Drakes and Sgt Anne Seager WRAC

TICKLE TEST FITNESS COMPETITION

Readers may like to know that this competition which began in 1978 is aimed at promoting efficiency in the regular and territorial armies. It is named after the late **Mr A. B. J. Tickle** who served in the British army in both world wars and who bequeathed a considerable sum of money to be used for this purpose. A charitable fund was established and a part of the proceeds is used to provide prizes for this competition. There are no entry fees.

ROCKY BACKSTOP

From: Capt J. R. Wallace BEM

The night was crisp and clear. I looked up to see the sky ablaze with countless stars shining as bright as I had ever seen before. The cracking sounds of a hot engine cooling in the sub zero temperatures punctuated the otherwise total silence. 'OK then fellas, let's get to it!' said **SSgt Dave Orange APTC**. The small group, heavily muffled against the pre-dawn cold quickly picked up the ropes and other equipment vital to their safety in the task that now faced them and in single file started up the steep narrow path that showed palely in the moonlight. After a few minutes their shapes were barely discernible, already two hundred feet above the starting place. Only the occasional sound of a scuffled footfall or loose stones indicated their presence, whilst high above and beyond them the vast bulk of their objective loomed against the night sky; Mt Athabasca lay waiting . . .

This marvellous adventure started some weeks before with a notice on Part One Orders that an Adventure Training Exercise was to take place in Alberta, Canada, for a period of four weeks in late July and August. Ten places were available and applicants should submit their names quickly in anticipation of a small stampede. Not one of the applicants could have any idea of the experience that awaited them.

The flight to Calgary via Keflavik was smooth and uneventful. We had been worried that our baggage was over the weight allowance but the RAF movement personnel were obviously accustomed to the sight of groups roughly resembling pack mules carrying enormous rucksacks festooned with tents, sleeping bags, ice axes and other impedimenta. They gave us hardly a second glance.

After the usual formalities on arrival the next step was to hire a vehicle. We ended up with a 15 seater Dodge bus. This is basically similar to a 'stretched' Transit but is much more luxurious having air conditioning, power steering, automatic gear box, etc. It also drank fuel with a thirst akin to that of a group of squaddies in a Grolsch Factory. The hire rate was extortionate, we quickly calculated that it would cost roughly £900 for the trip. Perhaps we wouldn't be taking quite so many presents home on the return journey after all. Would a wife be content with a baseball cap with a maple leaf badge on it?

Two days later we were on our first rock face at Wasootch Slabs in Kananaskis Country. One or two of the party had had a couple of days climbing experience before but for the majority it was a completely new experience. Surely we weren't expected to go up there.

Gradually we learnt the basic skills necessary to ascend and, equally important, descend and along the way gained first hand experience of what we had hitherto only heard of, the infamous Disco Leg. We were to have many more encounters with this singularly peculiar phenomenon which manifests itself when all four limbs are stretched wider apart than one has previously thought possible with fingers and toes developing a prehensile quality usually associated with a Littlewoods Pools punter clutching his prize winning cheque having been the only person with 24 points on the Treble Chance.

The first real ascent of a peak was selected. A few days later saw the group standing at the summit of Mt Yamnuska (8,271ft). If we had thought the ascent was interesting the descent was to prove exhilarating. After negotiating the first 500ft of rock there then followed a furious 'follow my leader' headlong descent of a 45 degree slope of loose shale. Attempts at a 'steady clip' were to prove impossible to sustain as, with adrenalin pumping faster than North Sea Oil in the Echo Fisk Field, this quickly escalated into a 'chickenrun' to see who could reach the tree-line first without disaster, brilliant! (Your author quickly felt his advancing years make themselves felt primarily in his knees and had to be content with last place).

If we had thought this particular jaunt was a 'good-un' the next was to prove more demanding than we had bargained for. First a move to Lake Louise; a beautiful lake at some 7,000ft and named after one of Queen Victoria's children. There we caught our first sight (and sound) of the renowned Canadian Pacific Railway. This is everything you imagine it to be, and more. The sound of multiple diesel units, heading up a train of coaches longer than a queue outside the Bank of England giving away free samples, cannot be adequately described. To be woken up in the dead of night by the baleful wailing note of the siren on these monsters is a haunting experience not easily forgotten.

Our objective here was the Neal Colgan Hut. This is the highest climbers' hut in the whole of the Canadian Rockies and is named after one of the volunteers who built it and was then killed during the descent. Not surprisingly the bulk of the group were unaware of this at the commencement of the climb! To attempt this climb it is first necessary to climb from Lake Louise to Morain Lake and then walk around to the base of the climb. The lower slopes were easy enough with a river crossing involving balancing on a log whilst holding on to a rather slack wire in an attempt to prevent an 'early bath'. We were soon past the tree-line and started to begin the ascent proper. The

loose scree quickly gave way to hard compacted snow and ice that had clearly 'fallen' from above. The impact of this escaped us for the present but we too became pointedly aware of it in the next few hours. Interspersed with the ice slopes we still had to negotiate several rock bands of almost vertical slope and we were grateful for time spent on Wasootch Slabs a few days previously. At 9,000ft we came to our first experience of a proper glacier and donned crampons in the manner previously taught. Just to give us confidence in our equipment **Dave Orange** then climbed some 20ft up the steeply sloping glacier and promptly laid down and slid towards the edge only to stop himself with ice axe braking technique. This proved his point in truly dramatic fashion.

The next 1,000ft of ascent was probably the period when we learned more about ourselves individually and as a group than at any other time so far. The perils of falling down a concealed crevasse were as nothing when on reaching the snow plateau just before the final plod to our objective we heard a truly awesome rumbling, crackling and roaring immediately below us but, due to the convex slope, out of sight.

'I hope that's not what I think it is,' said I.

'It is what you think it is, I only hope it's not where I think it is,' answered Staff.

We were to learn precisely what and where within two hours when on retracing our steps during the descent we discovered that the slope immediately below the glacier was strewn with thousands of lumps of ice ranging up to the size of a large MFO box and they completely covered the route we had taken up the main gully a few hours previously, a sobering thought.

We eventually reached our bus at Morain Lake twelve and a half hours after starting out and we knew that we'd had a hard day, a real character builder!

Whilst in Lake Louise area we visited Victoria Glacier, also known as Death Trap Glacier, and practised ice-axe braking techniques and other safety methods that we might need in future climbs. We also saw why the glacier had been given its sinister alternative name when a small avalanche occurred on the opposite side of the valley in which the glacier is situated. Further rock climbing took place here before the next move to Bow Lake, the source of the mighty Bow River, but before this we had a presentation from the Park Guides who showed us a film about the dangers of bears in this part of Canada. After watching this film we were particularly careful to observe the strict rules governing the storing of food. These are enforced for the safety of all those visiting the area as well as for the well being of the bears. We never did see a Grizzly and I can't say that I minded that one bit.

At Bow Lake there followed a four day expedition above Bow Glacier that involved the ascents of Mount Baker, Mount St Nicholas and Mount Gordon (this especially for **Sgt Gordon Hitchen** who was a bit disappointed that his own peak was not more spectacular). Nights were spent in Bow and Peter Whyte Huts and much was learned.

The next move was to Mt Athabasca (11,560ft) situated in the Columbian Icefield. This is a beautiful mountain and the Canadian National Parks Authorities have made the most of the superb setting. There are opportunities for tourists to move via huge snow mobiles onto the vast Athabasca Glacier which cascades in slowly moving splendour from the central Columbian Icefield down between Mount Kitchener and Mt Andromeda to come to an abrupt halt some 150 years later to melt drop by drop and from one of the countless streams and rivers that flow throughout this beautiful area. Our campsite was situated directly opposite the peak which towered into the azure blue sky.

It was decided to ascend by the Silverhorn route and descend by the 'Bog Standard' route. The first attempt had an early finish when one of the group **Sig 'Baz' Bazley** slipped and fell some 15ft off the narrow track only five minutes after setting out. Luckily he only twisted his ankle but he was totally unable to walk which necessitated the remaining members of the group having bodily to carry him to safety using a hastily constructed Alpine rope stretcher. (Another skill learned). In carrying him, **Sig Steve Bancroft** damaged his heel thus further reducing the party who made the second attempt early the following morning. The first half of the climb was done in darkness but as dawn broke the group could clearly be seen, through binoculars, making the final ascent up the Silverhorn route reaching the summit just as the sun crept over the horizon. What a truly magnificent sight. Before going down the easier way the mandatory photographs were taken to record the feat and then with bodies hunched against the biting icy wind, the descent began. In all climbs in the Rockies it is compulsory to book in and out at the Ranger Station and on booking in on our return the Ranger thought we must have had another accident to be back so soon. Incredibly the climb and descent had taken a total of 6 hrs and 10 mins, according to the Ranger the fastest time ever!

Time for a change. We were fortunate enough to know the OIC Adventurous Training BATUS, **Capt Tom Parker APTC**, he had

Sig Bancroft, Sig Wilson, Sgt Hitchen, Capt Wallace, LCpl Dewhurst, SSgt Orange, Sig Martin, Sig Bazley pose on a rock band at 9,000ft above Morain Lake

Sgt Hitchen, Cpl Quinn at the summit, Mt Assiniboine 11,735ft

SSgt Dave Orange, LCpl 'Foggy' Dewhurst, Sgt Gordon Hitchen on the summit of Mt Athabasca

Sig Steve Bancroft, LCpl Foggy Dewhurst, SSgt Dave Orange, Sig Howie Martin, Sgt Gordon Hitchen, Cpl Tony Quinn, Sig Jock Wilson, Sig Clarky Clark atop Mt Baker 10,309ft

Sig Martin, Columbia ice fields. Certa cito or not so sure

SSgt Dave Orange at the north face of Mt Athabasca

LCpl Foggy Dewhurst is assisted from a crevasse on the Athabasca glacier

Mt Assiniboine and Lake Magog

offered us any assistance he was able to give if we could get to his location at Nordegg. ('Drive 100 miles till you get to the Saskatchewan river crossing, turn left, drive 70 miles till the phone lines cross the road and follow the track to the disused gravel pit'). We found it first time!

The next day was spent re-organising ourselves and our kit and we all found that we needed to do some laundry. The nearest launderette was at Rocky Mountain House. 'No problem,' said OIC Adventure Training BATUS 'we have a vehicle going there this afternoon you can get a lift on that.' 'Great,' said we . . . 65 miles later we came to Rocky Mountain House. It's at times like these that you begin to appreciate the vastness of this beautiful country. It is, after all, the second largest country in the world.

Next day we were lucky. The Medicine Man group from QLR were ready to leave and so we were able to have a crack at Canadian canoes. These are just like the Red Indian ones that you've seen in the films but made of aluminium.

After a few basic drills we were off. No problem at first, the river moving at about 5mph. We stopped every half hour or so to learn something new and at the second such stop the instructor said, 'OK. It's been easy so far, from now on it gets a bit rougher. I'm sorry that you've only got the one day. The Battle Groups normally have five before doing this next bit but I'm sure you'll manage. If you tip over keep hold of the canoe, OK?' A few faces changed colour noticeably but after one or two tactical crew changes; because we had already discovered that you need the heavier man of the pair in the back and the lighter guy in the front, we were away shooting the rapids. Honestly, it's just like the movies—the calm gentle gurgle gives away to a hissing sound and then you hear the thrilling noise of thousands of tons of water crashing against boulders, some of which are submerged. Suffice to say that over the next three hours everyone swam at least once and we had all learned a bit more about ourselves and each other. The final rapid, Brierley Rapids, was a cracker, which marked the end to a great day for us all and another totally new experience.

Now we had only the final expedition. This was to be the climax of the whole trip and so it turned out. After bidding farewell to Nordegg we travelled back down the Trans Canada Highway to Banff and from there planned our trip to Mount Assiniboine. The nearest road stops some twenty miles away from the mountain so when you can't afford the trip in by helicopter (and we couldn't) the only way is to walk and carry all your kit with you.

It was decided that the climb would be too dangerous for a party larger than four, thus **SSgt Dave Orange; Sgt Gordon Hitchen; Cpl Tony Quinn** and **LCpl 'Foggy' Dewhurst** were the ones to make the ascent of the mountain also known as 'The Matterhorn of the Rockies'. This they did in spectacular style taking a total of seven hours to get from the base camp at Lake Magog to the climbing hut on the snow line to spend the night. A further four hours to reach the summit, four hours to get back to the hut again and a further four hours to reach Base Camp once more. To put this achievement into perspective, Mt Assiniboine is normally climbed only by experienced mountaineers. Indeed we met some climbers who had been training for two years to make the climb. Of these experienced mountaineers only one in ten successfully gains the summit. Apart from **Dave Orange** our group were complete novices and had not been on a mountain before this trip. A truly superb achievement.

The remainder of the group who had not made the climb felt that they had something to prove and after bidding Assiniboine a fond farewell walked back to our vehicle in five hours covering 20 miles, over rough ground, descending 4,000ft in height and carrying all their equipment. A fitting finale for all and celebrated in fine style later on that evening with a good meal and a couple of well earned beers.

The last couple of days were spent in Calgary where we did our shopping, completed all administrative matters and did the usual rubber-necking that all tourists do. Calgary is a big city and will host the 1988 Winter Olympics so we were able to visit the site of the ski jumps and the bobsleigh run but we had missed the famous Calgary Stampede by seven weeks. That really would have been the icing on the cake.

SUMMARY

The Rockies are a magnificent experience and we all considered ourselves privileged to have had the opportunity to take part in such a marvellous adventure. Much was learned and none of us will ever forget being there. Words are inadequate to describe the scenery. If anyone is contemplating a similar visit I would be delighted to assist where possible. If you get the chance—GO!

— Movements —

Officers

JANUARY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
2Lt T. J. S. Allen	HS 249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Brig J. H. Almonds	ACDS (OR) Land Systems
Capt (Tfc) R. W. Badger	HS School of Signals att HQBFFI
Lt M. D. Bailes	21 Sig Regt
Capt R. D. Barfoot	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj A. D. Beach	HQ AFCENT (BAE)
2Lt P. Bosher	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. J. Bowles	SANGCOM
Lt J. R. C. Bunce	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt M. C. Burke	University of London OTC (Kingston Polytechnic)
Maj C. J. Burton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt T. W. Canham	HS Army Staff College Camberley
Capt G. J. Cary	DSS (AD)
Maj J. C. Chambers	DSS (AD)
Capt H. N. S. Colborn	HS Army Staff College Camberley
Maj M. J. P. Collins	7 Sig Regt
Capt B. A. Coram	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj G. D. Corbet	School of Signals
Capt W. P. Coupland	249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Lt S. Croft	7 Sig Regt
Maj R. M. Crombie	HQ BAOR
Capt R. B. Davis	HS School of Signals
Lt Col R. E. S. Drew	12 RSME Regt
2Lt D. Drinkall	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt M. J. M. Dyer	HS Army Staff College Camberley
Maj (Tfc) C. M. Eastland	7 Sig Regt
Maj R. J. Ebdon	SHAPE (BAE)
Capt R. J. Ellis	HS School of Signals
Maj M. J. M. Emslie	DSS (AD)
Capt K. P. Fisher	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt A. D. Forster	HS Army Staff College Camberley
Capt I. Foxley	HS HQ 1 (BR) Corps
2Lt S. O. France	21 Sig Regt
Maj J. J. C. Gareze	RSRE (PE) (AE)
Capt N. D. Gibson	7 Regt AAC
Maj A. J. Grey	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt P. A. Harlow	QG Sig Regt
Maj C. R. Harper	MOD (CGS)
Maj B. Hewitt	HS Army Staff College Camberley
2Lt S. G. Hutchinson	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (QM) M. Jennings	School of Signals
Capt A. H. Johnstone	HS Army Staff College Camberley
Maj A. M. Jones	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. S. Jones	16 Sig Regt
Maj C. L. Le Gallais	RARDE (PE) (AE)
Capt M. P. Llewellyn	29 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) A. Lynn	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Col A. R. Martin	MOD (CDS)
Lt L. D. McCourt	AA Coll Harrogate
Maj M. J. McKinlay	HQ 1 Armd Div
2Lt I. L. Meers	244 Sig Sqn (AS)
Capt P. J. Moseley	RMAS
Maj T. P. Mountford	266 Sig Sqn
Maj I. A. Noble	QG Signals
Maj A. J. Poppleton	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt R. B. Rands	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Raper	JOSC
Maj M. S. Reid	DSS (AD)
Maj L. A. Relph	DGPS (A)
Lt J. E. Richardson	11 Sig Regt
Capt T. P. Rimell	HS Army Staff College Camberley
Maj J. W. Rollins	HS Army Staff Course Camberley
2Lt A. S. Saddington	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj B. J. Scott Morton	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col I. C. Shuker	40 Sig Regt (V)
Lt J. J. Stanley	APSC Sutton Coldfield
Capt S. J. Turpin	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt A. J. Tuson	HS School of Signals
Capt (TOT) R. G. West	3 Armoured Division HQ and Sig Regt
Maj R. J. R. West	HQ Berlin (BR) Sector
Capt R. T. Weston	HS Army Staff College Camberley
2Lt I. R. Whitehall	259 Sig Sqn
Maj M. C. Wilkinson	ACDS OR (LAND)
Capt J. M. Willis	HS Army Staff College Camberley
Maj A. B. Wood	School of Signals
Lt A. J. Wood	266 Sig Sqn

FEBRUARY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Brig J. O. C. Alexander	HQUKLF
AMaj H. J. Bardell	HQ BRIGNEPAL
Lt Col G. D. Birch	HQ AFCENT
ACol A. F. Carter	A DA Appointment
Capt M. T. Crook	10 Sig Regt
Maj (Tfc) A. W. Cudlip	HQ UKLF
Lt P. J. Daisey	16 Sig Regt
Lt E. A. Davis	7 Sig Regt
Maj C. P. Donaghy	21 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) G. N. Downey	16 Sig Regt
Capt M. W. Edwards	FHQ Gibraltar
Maj R. J. Evans	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj J. K. Ewbank	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt F. N. Grant	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt M. A. Grimson	249 Sig Sqn
Capt P. J. Grogan	BDLS Canada
Capt A. A. S. Harwell	21 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) B. M. Hudson	40 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col R. M. J. Hussey	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt A. W. James	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) J. R. Jasiok	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Lt R. J. Kelly	40 Sig Regt (V)
Capt L. W. Mackenzie	RMAS
ACapt G. R. Mason	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt S. J. May	604 Sig Tp
Capt D. McDowall	HS Royal Air Force Staff College
Capt A. N. Morphet	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) A. J. Murray	HQ AFCENT
Lt Col (QM) R. A. Peake	Exeter University OTC
Maj V. J. Reed	37 Sig Regt (V)
Maj D. C. Richardson	HQ Trg Gp R Signals
Capt I. W. R. Seraph	Trg Dep Bde of Gurkhas
Capt P. Thwaites	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt M. F. Tucker	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col N. A. Vandyck	MOD
Maj M. S. Wallis	HQBFFI
Capt I. D. Westerman	233 Sig Sqn

MARCH 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
2Lt T. J. S. Allen	School of Signals
Col B. J. Austin	Misc Appts (Overseas)
2Lt M. J. Barnes	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt M. G. Billingham	AA Coll Harrogate
Capt (QM) A. W. Boag	HQ Dhekelia Garrison
2Lt P. Bosher	School of Signals
Lt Col (TOT) R. C. Boulter	School of Signals
Maj R. V. J. Brannigan	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj W. E. Brewin	HQ BAOR
Lt D. J. Brown	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt A. D. E. Cameron	7 Sig Regt
2Lt T. J. Carmichael	22 Sig Regt
2Lt D. C. Chattaway	28 Sig Regt
Lt Col B. Chubb	28 Sig Regt
2Lt A. J. Clewlow	16 Sig Regt
Capt N. J. Corbin	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt N. D. Couch	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. P. McCoulthard	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Lt Col (QM) T. E. B. Cran	Scarborough Sig Trg Centre
Maj (Tfc) P. J. Daniel	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col D. W. Dobson	RCB
2Lt D. Drinkall	School of Signals
Maj D. J. Elson	35 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col R. A. Farrimond	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj M. S. Fisher	AA Coll Harrogate
2Lt S. O. France	School of Signals
Capt (TOT) J. J. Gerrard	22 Sig Regt
Capt R. J. Good	28 Sig Regt (Northag)
Capt (Tfc) R. M. R. Graham	7 Sig Regt
A/Capt R. Hails	FSS Mossy Hill
2Lt P. A. Harlow	School of Signals
Maj (QM) J. M. Haydon	HQ BAOR (Comms Branch)
2Lt A. G. Hill	School of Signals
Lt I. Hooper	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt S. G. Hutchinson	School of Signals
Capt S. C. Johns	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt G. I. Jones	21 Sig Regt
Capt A. E. Kendall	21 Sig Regt
Capt C. R. King	HS School of Signals
Lt Col J. H. Lowe	NACISA
Capt S. O. Lunn	HS 8 Sig Regt
2Lt N. J. Makepeace	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (QM) C. Markie	16 Sig Regt
Capt J. R. M. McGrath	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Lt J. H. McKee	259 Sig Sqn
Capt (Tfc) R. W. McLaren	HQ Land Forces Cyprus
Maj (Tfc) P. J. McLoughlin	SANGCOM
2Lt I. L. Meers	School of Signals
Capt D. P. Meyer	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt N. T. Moore	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj (Tfc) J. Morrison	241 Sig Sqn
Lt G. Neal	244 Sig Sqn
Capt R. G. Nicholson	16 Sig Regt
2Lt C. S. K. Patterson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) C. W. Payne	HQ 1 Sig Gp
2Lt R. B. Rands	School of Signals
2Lt D. G. Robson	30 Sig Regt
Maj P. A. R. Rouse	DSS (AD)
2Lt A. S. Saddington	School of Signals
Lt Col A. J. Saunders	HQ BAOR
L/Maj (TOT) R. C. Scriven	MOD DSS(A)
Maj (QM) R. J. Sheldon	32 Sig Regt (V)
Maj J. C. B. Simpson	11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Lt Col R. J. Skaife	DCIS (Army)
Capt (TFC) I. Sleightholm	16 Sig Regt
2Lt J. A. F. Smith	School of Signals
Capt (TOT) G. L. Spearpoint	BFFI
2Lt S. J. P. Spiers	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt C. G. Stubbings	30 Cdt Trg Team
2Lt A. R. Urwin	22 Sig Regt
Lt H. M. Wareham	11 Sig Regt
Lt P. J. Watt	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) C. G. Webb	8 Sig Regt
Lt I. R. Whitehall	School of Signals
Capt S. P. Windson-Brown	10 Sig Regt (UKLF)
Lt M. J. Woodham	7 Sig Regt

— Movements —

WOs and SNCOs

NOVEMBER 1986

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
SSgt R. F. Parsons	11 Sig Regt
ASSgt M. J. Westrop	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)

DECEMBER 1986

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
ASSgt P. R. Abbott	School of Signals
Sgt D. R. Preston	30 Sig Regt
ASgt M. W. Brown	249 Sig Sqn
ASgt M. J. Hellewell	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
ASgt A. Marsden	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)

JANUARY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 T. Johnson	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
SSgt D. A. Knell	633 Sig Tp
ASSgt J. Bell	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt B. Lauder	254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
Sgt R. C. Bray	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. H. Dobson	254 Sig Sqn (UNFICYP)
ASgt J. L. Bennett	8 Sig Regt

FEBRUARY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 J. G. Campbell	40 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 (YofS) A. M. Stokoe	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 M. J. Moffatt	36 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 R. J. Bowman	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
WO2 S. R. Davies	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) A. C. Reynolds	244 Sig Sqn
WO2 (Supvr R) R. E. Hales	School of Signals
AWO2 T. A. Dean	Queen's Gurkha Sig Regt
AWO2 G. L. Hegarty	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 A. W. Williams	227 Sig Sqn
SSgt (Supvr R) W. Brennan	9 Sig Regt
SSgt S. G. Swinfield	56 Sig Sqn (V)
SSgt P. McD. Watson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt M. A. Ara	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt G. Duffy	249 Sig Sqn
ASSgt T. J. Harris	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. G. Dixon	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt R. E. Maddison	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. Middleton	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Hartshorne	BR Contingent UNFICYP (Sp Regt)
Sgt P. A. Cavill	8 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. McInally	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Treen	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. J. Clace	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. Rose	Int & Sy Gp (NI)
Sgt V. O. Shaw	20 Maritime Regt (RCT)
Sgt K. A. Jones	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. Brown	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt L. J. Brice	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Trivett	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
Sgt C. S. Richardson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. E. Woollard	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt R. K. Moore	8 Sig Regt RSDT
Sgt D. F. Petty	13 Sig Regt
Sgt W. J. Clarke	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt S. T. Bennett	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. P. Smith	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. J. Mardling	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
ASgt C. T. Ross	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt D. Burgess	16 Sig Regt
ASgt S. P. Caygill	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
ASgt J. R. Gray	535 RLD
ASgt P. D. Milner	8 Sig Regt
ASgt J. G. Johnson	262 Sig Sqn
ASgt I. Nicholson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt K. C. Hughes	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt K. McGready	5 Hy Regt
ASgt A. P. Flory	580 RLD
ASgt P. F. Cotterill	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt L. Twells	ACIO Luton

MARCH 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 N. G. Brown	33 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 P. T. Connors	(MOD)
AWO1 E. D. Feasey	71 Sig Regt (V)
AWO1 D. A. O. Holmes	SHAPE Sig Gp
AWO1 D. C. Mardsen	16 Sig Regt
AWO1 A. K. Harper	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO1 D. F. B. McLennan	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) R. Wilson	13 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) A. I. Fulton	NORTHAG Air Sp Radio Sqn
WO2 (YofS) H. J. Bryant	30 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) M. J. Taylor	School of Signals
WO2 T. A. Morrall	13 Sig Regt
WO2 M. J. Payne	11 Sig Regt Depot TP
WO2 M. L. Braddon	11 Sig Regt Depot TP
AWO2 J. Armstrong	8 Sig Regt
AWO2 R. Sharp	29 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) D. MacTaggart	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 J. Clark	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 S. Armitage	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 A. E. De La Haye	63 (SAS) Sig Sqn
AWO2 C. Redman	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt J. A. Streeting	11 Sig Regt
SSgt F. T. Morris	13 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) J. Mayson	REME Electronic Branch
SSgt M. Kidd	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt M. H. Yates	Army Apprentices' College
SSgt P. J. Freeman	13 Sig Regt
SSgt R. M. Hooper	71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. W. Smy	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. G. O'Callaghan	School of Signals
ASSgt E. N. Nielsen	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt S. C. Wayman	MOD UK SANGCOM
Sgt M. Bray	14 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. Young	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt R. F. Stonier	8 Sig Regt
Sgt J. B. Parkinson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. W. Martin	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. A. Rickwood	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt R. Dale	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Reeve	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. B. Joughin	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
Sgt W. Miller	AFNORTH HQ
Sgt I. Philemon	8 Sig Regt
Sgt F. G. Tedby	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Skinner	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Duddell	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. L. J. Gopsill	589 RLD
Sgt M. L. Swallow	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt K. I. B. Bevis	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt L. Hathaway	9 Sig Regt
Sgt H. L. Bradbury	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. R. Torance	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
Sgt M. W. Halford	14 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Kelly	HQ 4 Sig Gp
Sgt S. J. Walker	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt E. N. Neilson	5 AB Bde and Sig Sqn
Sgt M. E. Thomas	28 Sig Regt
Sgt C. M. Atherley	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. Riach	School of Signals
Sgt J. L. D. Bailey	16 Sig Regt
Sgt W. Drain	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
Sgt L. M. Thornton-Granville	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. W. Campbell	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
Sgt C. Aubrey	16 Sig Regt
Sgt A. J. Byrne	School of Signals
Sgt S. P. Cocksedge	40 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. E. Neighbour	21 Sig Regt
Sgt W. D. Weatheritt	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Sgt R. A. Owen	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
ASgt K. J. Dooley	Army Apprentices' College
ASgt J. Denehy	28 CTT (Chester)
ASgt C. M. Moye	13 Sig Regt
ASgt D. M. Parvin	13 Sig Regt
ASgt G. D. Cottrell	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt A. W. Dawson	593 RLD
ASgt A. W. Gregg	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt F. J. Jolley	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt S. D. Newell	16 Sig Regt

FUNERAL GRANTS FOR WAR PENSIONERS

Improved arrangements are being introduced from 6 April 1987 for the payment of funeral expenses for pensioners who die as a result of their pensionable disablement.

It will no longer be necessary for the family to ask the War Pensions Welfare Officer to arrange the funeral in order to receive payment for the cost. Instead the family will be able to arrange the funeral privately and claim the cost of a basic funeral for a war pensioner who died:-

- from the disablement for which the war pension was paid; or
- whilst receiving or entitled to constant attendance allowance; or
- whilst in hospital receiving treatment for the pensioned disablement.

A grant will be payable for funerals in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

HOW TO CLAIM

A claim for a funeral grant should be made in writing to War Pensions Branch, North Fylde Central Office, Norcross, Blackpool FY5 3TA as soon as possible and not later than three months from the date of the funeral.

The person making the claim will then be sent a formal claim form and asked to give details of the death and the funeral. Claims will be dealt with as urgently as possible.

NOTICES

DEATHS

Allsopp—2Lt H. M. Allsopp—died 20 October 1986.

Garnons-Williams—Kay (wife of **Lt Col D. P. Garnons-Williams**)—died 11 February 1987.

Gooderham—Maj (Hon Lt Col) E. E. Gooderham—died 31 December 1986.

Harris—Col G. D. T. Harris OBE—served 1933-66 and 1967-78 (as Regimental Secretary)—died 2 March 1987.

Johnson—Maj A. J. Johnson—served 1930-46—died 23 October 1986.

Johns—Maj (Retd) H. H. Johns MBE—served 1928-60—died 5 March 1987.

Kennedy—In-Pensioner (ex Sgt) R. Kennedy—served 1931-53—died 24 February 1987.

McLoughlin—Maj E. A. McLoughlin—served 1930-69—died 28 December 1986.

Pack—Capt E. W. Pack—died 18 November 1986.

Sharp—Maj A. Sharp—died 14 July 1986.

Shuttleworth—ex Sig J. M. Shuttleworth—served 1943-46—died 28 January 1987.

Weir—Capt (Bt Maj) D. F. Weir TD—died 14 January 1987.

Yearsley—Col D. R. Yearsley OBE—served 1934-66—died 14 March 1987.

OBITUARIES

Dodds—ex WO2 E. R. Dodds. Ernie died tragically as a result of an accident whilst driving an ambulance for the St John Ambulance Brigade, of which he was a member, on 18 November 1986.

He joined the service as a boy in 1951 at the age of 15½ years. Apart from a varied service career which took him to Korea, where he celebrated his 21st birthday, and Suez in 1956, **Ernie** also served in Aden and BAOR. He will be remembered for his contribution to sport as a football referee of some note.

After he left the army, **Ernie** settled in Derby and was a member of the Derby Branch. He will be much missed by his many friends and by his family, and we send our condolences to **Mary**, and daughters **Katherine** and **Alison**.

Gerrard—Maj John Joseph (Jack) Gerrard BEM MSM. Brig F. L. Clarkson writes: **Jack** who died on 13 December 1986 at Blackheath, was a soldier to the soles of his boots. A Liverpudlian, he joined the TA as a boy. He went to war with his Regiment, which was then called 55 (West Lancashire) Motor Divisional Signals. A first class operator, earned his first stripe in the summer of 1940. He progressed through the ranks at home and overseas, finishing the war in Austria where he met **Margaret** whom he married in 1946 and who survives him.

After the war **Jack** took on a regular engagement. He was an excellent administrator which showed in his many 'Q' appointments. Eventually he became RSM of 7 Sig Regt at a difficult time but he carried it off superbly. After a short spell in 11 Sig Regt, he was granted a short service commission and went to Aden. He came back to serve with the TA in Sheffield, retired in 1969 and then went to serve with the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces until he returned to the UK in 1974 but then, in 1977, it was back to the Oman to work as an administrator with Taylor Woodrow International. He retired to Cyprus in 1984. He was taken ill there in 1986 and came back for treatment to the UK where he died.

It is difficult to talk of **Jack** except in superlatives. A dapper man, he was always very smart. He displayed a love for his fellow men. He had a wide circle of friends all of whom valued his friendship. Above all he was a cheerful man who laughed easily and who had few cares. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife **Margaret** and to his daughter **Barbara**.

In the notice of his death, his family said 'He would not want us to mourn his passing, so let us instead remember this remarkable man with love and affection and raise a glass to his memory'. I will do just that! God bless you **Jack**.

McLoughlin—Maj E. A. McLoughlin. Sadly we record the death of **'Mac' McLoughlin** on 28 December 1986. **'Mac'** came to live in York on retirement from an RO appointment with Royal Signals Manning and Records, Reading after 49 years service to the Corps from 1930-1979. As an RO he had for 10 years been able to use his wealth of experience to watch over meticulously the careers of Corps members. He possessed an encyclopaedic memory and even in retirement, on meeting a senior NCO in the Corps, he was able to reminisce with them on their postings.

'Mac' joined F Coy at Catterick on 29 August 1930 at 14 years of age and trained as an Operator Signals at which he excelled. He was commissioned early in the War from 152 OCTU and subsequently saw service with 1st Army in Algeria and Tunisia, followed by the Italian Campaign where he served with 13 Corps Signals. After a post-war spell in Catterick he was sent to Italian Somaliland where he did valuable work in restoring the civil communications of the former Italian colony, having learned to speak Italian fluently when stationed in Egypt with Egypt Command Signals pre-war. **'Mac'** then served as Adjutant of 2(AA) Sig Regt in Aldershot from 1949-52 followed by an appointment with 3 Training Regt as Training Officer. Subsequently he joined 14 Sig Regt at Gloucester, followed by staff appointments at GHQ Middle East and CSO's Branch, Western Command. He then did a tour as British Signal Officer, Allied Staff Berlin where he endeared himself not only to the allied staff, but to the many Corps officers who visited Berlin. His final appointment before retiring in 1969 and joining the Record Office was with 30 Sig Regt.

'Mac' was a strong supporter of the Association and ably supported by his wife **Betty**, was an active member of the York Branch. He will be greatly missed, also at the Friday Club where his profound knowledge of Corps matters settled many a point of controversy!

Neale—LCpl Steven Neale. It is with deep regret that we report the sudden and tragic death of **Steven** during a jogging run on Friday 23 January 1987.

Steven enlisted in Royal Signals at Coventry on 8 August 1979. He served at the Army Apprentices' College Harrogate during the period September 1979 to January 1982, qualified as a Special Telegraphist, and served overseas before being posted to Communications and Security Group (UK) in May 1985.

A keen, enthusiastic and talented gamesman he was in every sense a true sportsman. Professionally he was a dedicated and thoroughly competent young NCO. His cheerful and prompt willingness to lend a hand, together with his total loyalty, and personal integrity well earned him the deep respect of all who came into contact with him.

Steven was married in July 1986 and on behalf of his many friends we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his young widow **Diane** and to all the members of his family. His gentleness will long be remembered.

Norrish—Lt Col T. W. Norrish OBE ERD died peacefully at the Royal Victoria Hospital Edinburgh on 6 March 1987, at the age of 88 years, after a very chequered career in communications.

The First World War saw **Thomas** as a rating on a 'Q' ship with service in the Dardanelles as a result of which he was decorated by the King of Greece.

At the end of the War he became a Radio Officer at a GPO station in Egypt, later returning to England to Portishead Radio Station where he became involved in the development of ship to shore Telephony which was in its infancy; he was one of the last persons to communicate with the ill fated airship R 101.

As a reserve officer in Royal Signals Territorial Army he was called up at the outbreak of World War 2, and became a training officer at Catterick. Later he was posted to Air Formation Signals serving with 12th and 14th Tactical Air Force.

For the Normandy Landings he was promoted to OC 12th Air Formation Signals. At the end of the war he became GPO training and Civil Defence Officer for Wales and Border Counties.

Col Norrish retired to Edinburgh and was for 19 years the Director of the Edinburgh branch of the British Red Cross Society, also chairman and managing director of Haven products, employers of handicapped persons.

Sometime chairman of the Edinburgh Ambulance Board, and committee for the care of the young disabled of Scotland, he also served on the committee of Stockbridge and Dalry house centres for elderly people.

A keen golfer **Thomas Norrish** still played well into his eighties. He leaves a widow, **Barbara**, daughter **Vaila** and granddaughter **Verity** who is serving in the Royal Signals Territorials.

Pettifer—Maj The Reverend Pettifer. Leslie Pettifer was born in 1915 and enlisted in the Corps in 1938, training as an Electrician Signals. He served with 1 Armd Div Sigs in France and the Western Desert: he was wounded at El Alamein and in Tunisia in 1943. After service in Italy in 1944 he returned to the UK in 1945 and completed his Foreman's course in 1946. He was commissioned from the rank of WO2 in 1949 as a TOT and served until retiring as a Major in 1965. His commissioned service took him to Egypt, Hong Kong, France and Germany. Thus far his record of service was meritorious, exemplary but far from unique. It was on retirement that he established new limits to the employability of the TOT by going on to read Theology at Cambridge and by taking Holy Orders in 1967. Appointed as a curate at Ringwood in Hampshire he was subsequently promoted in 1970 and for some years held the living of Enham Alamein in Hampshire, thus maintaining his contact with the Army by having in his parish many retired and disabled servicemen settled there in sheltered accommodation. In 1973 he decided to found a memorial to the men who had fought at El Alamein: it seemed appropriate that this should be in the village already linked to Alamein by name. St George's the Alamein Church was consecrated in 1974, and it was there that **Leslie**'s memorial service was conducted by the **Bishop of Winchester** on 11 February 1987. Whilst a number of Royal Signals officers have progressed into the Church, **Leslie Pettifer** was unique in having done so from the ranks of the TOTs—a Signal achievement. **Les** retired to Colyton, Devon in 1980 where he followed his great interests of sea fishing, gardening and model engineering. He died on 8 January 1987.

Apart from being a highly competent TOT, **Leslie Pettifer** was a larger than life character with a zest for living, a deep concern for his fellow man and a benign view of life's vicissitudes. He will be fondly remembered by all who were fortunate enough to serve with him. To his wife and family we extend sympathy in their loss. The family tradition lives on through **Capt (TOT) Brian Pettifer, Leslie**'s son.

Welfare

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

Ex-member of the Corps, who served in World War 2 has bedridden wife and a daughter who is severely disabled and incontinent, was helped to purchase a washing machine. Although disabled himself, he had previously been doing all the washing by hand.

The widow of an ex-SQMS who served through World War 2 and who continued to serve for 22 years was helped to have the guttering on her house repaired.

An ex-member of the Corps who is now a total invalid and who has to be nursed by his wife 24 hours a day, was given help to purchase bedlinen and a high-seated wing-backed fireside chair.

A grant was given to purchase carpet for the living-room and hallway to a couple with a young family, both parents suffering with health problems and father having received medical discharge.

Help was given to assist setting up a downstairs bedroom for an invalid wife. The husband had recently returned to work after a long period of unemployment. He had served with the Corps for ten years.

December 1986

Number of cases assisted financially:	57
Amount spent:	£11,362.57
Individual Christmas Grants	
Amount spent:	£4,230

January 1987

Number of cases assisted financially:	59
Amount spent:	£13,094.59

One example of the many thank you letters we receive at Christmas from the widow of an ex-member of the Corps:

Dear Sirs, Just a short note to thank you sincerely for your Christmas gift to me. I am so very grateful for your kindness, and a lovely thought to show that my husband has not been forgotten. This is a very sad time for me, but thank God I have my son, who is very kind to me. Thank you again, Yours faithfully.

CORPS DATES

HM THE QUEEN'S PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Our Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Anne** may attend **HM The Queen**'s Garden Party on Thursday 23 July 1987.

Any members of the Corps who receive invitations to attend on this date, are asked to notify **Col Francis** at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD, in order that they may be included in the Corps organised party, and presented to **The Princess Anne**.

OFFICERS DINNER CLUB

Dates for 1987:
Corps Dinner,
London Press Centre — Tuesday 12 May 1987
(Note that this has been changed this year, the dinner is usually held on a Wednesday).

CORPS LUNCHEON

Headquarters Mess,
Blandford Camp — Saturday 20 June 1987

CORPS EVENTS

APRIL			
11/12	Brands Hatch	White Helmets	Superprix
MAY			
3/4	Peterborough	White Helmets	Truckfest
8/10	York	Concert Band	Kohima Weekend
8/10	York	Display Team	Kohima Weekend
9	York	White Helmets	Kohima Open Day
16	Southend	White Helmets	Show
22/24	Plymouth	Display Team	Lord Mayor's Show
25	Hove	White Helmets	Lions Day
27/28	Stafford	White Helmets	County Show
31	Blandford Camp	White Helmets	RSA Reunion
JUNE			
3/7		Display Team	Royal Cornwall Show
5/8	Bad Lippspringe	White Helmets	Rhine Army Summer Show
8/11	Helston	Display Team	Aero Park
13	Halifax	Blue Helmets	Gala
13/14	Berlin	White Helmets	Tattoo
16/17	Blandford Camp	Display Team	Corps Day
19/21	Shrewsbury	Display Team	Carnival
20/21	Rotherham	White Helmets	Tattoo
26/28	Catterick Garrison	White Helmets	RSA Association
26	Bristol	White Helmets	
27	Northallerton	White Helmets and Blue Helmets	North Yorkshire County Show
28	Catterick Garrison	White Helmets	RSA Association
JULY			
1/3	Bassingbourn	Display Team and various units	Army Schools Exhibition
3/5	Redcar	Display Team	British Steel Gala
4		Concert Band	Army Benevolent Fund
4	Menwith Hill	White Helmets	4 July celebrations
5	Bedfordshire	White Helmets	RAF Chicksands Fete
AUGUST			
9/11	London	White Helmets	The Royal Tournament
10/13	London	Display Team	Borough of Bexley Show
12/25	Bournemouth	Concert Band	Bandstand
17/19	London	Display Team	Norbury Fair
18/19	Sunderland	Blue Helmets	Carnival
20/24	Peterborough	Display Team	East of England Show
27/2	Tyneside	Display Team	Exhibition
31/3	Wakefield	Display Team	Gala
2/15	Cardiff	White Helmets	Searchlight Tattoo
2/8	London	Concert Band	St James Park
4/6	Derbyshire	Display Team	Bakewell Show
6/10	Southsea	Display Team	Show
12/16	Carmarthen	Display Team	United Counties Show
16/22	London	Concert Band	Regents Park
16	Gloucestershire	White Helmets	Gatcombe Park Show
22/23	Hartlepool	White Helmets	Show
22/24	Leicester	Display Team	Air Show
25/27	Stafford	Display Team and White Helmets	Police Space Carnival
25/1	Eastbourne	White Helmets	
25/1	Eastbourne	Concert Band	Bandstand
29/31	Uffington	Display Team	White Horse Show
29/31	Seaham	White Helmets	East Durham Show
SEPTEMBER			
4/5	Essex	Display Team	Orsett Show
5/6	Stockton	White Helmets	Services Tattoo
9/12	Portsmouth	White Helmets	Royal Marines Tattoo
11/13	Western District	Display Team	Kingston Show
12	Romsey	White Helmets	Show
23/25	Cosford	Display Team	Joint Services Open Day
25	Redcar	White Helmets	SSAFA Day
28/17 Oct	BAOR	Marching Band	Tour
OCTOBER			
18/21	Berlin	Marching Band	Tour
NOVEMBER			
7	Salisbury	Concert Band	Cathedral Concert

FOR SALE

ROYAL SIGNALS PLAQUES

A new supplier of Corps Wall Plaques has been found. The new plaque is of similar design and pattern to our previous ones but is slightly cheaper at £10 (UK) and £9 (Overseas).

This item is shown on the price list of Goods Available on page 232.

NEW FIGURE OF MERCURY AVAILABLE ON SALE FROM ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS

Association Headquarters has obtained a new 'Jimmy' figure for sale both to individuals in the Corps, and to the unit PRI's. It has been carefully sculptured under RHQ supervision to ensure that the detail is exactly right and to look attractive. The figure stands on a marble plinth; in all it is 6½in tall. The material is solid bronze (not plastic), colour medium brown and is waxed. The retail price is £32.70 (UK) and £28.45 (Overseas). These prices including postage and packing and the UK price includes VAT.

Orders for this item should be sent direct to RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AD and should be accompanied with a cheque/postal order (Payable to:- 'Royal Signals Association') for the appropriate amount.

Royal Signals Mess Dress, Jacket and waistcoat 40in chest, trousers 34in waist, inside leg 31in. Very good condition, available after 10 April. £55 inc p and p. Contact **WO2 (RQMS) J. Moody**, QM Dept, 10 Sig Regt, Erskine Barracks, Salisbury SP2 0AG. Tel: Salisbury Mil, Ex 2427.

CORPS PRINTS

Please note that all copies of the prints of the Corps painting 'Contact, Wait out' have now been sold. As this was a limited edition no further prints will be made.

WANTED

The Museum is anxious to acquire a piece of Corps plate as used in the Headquarters Mess pre-1982. The plate has a deep blue edge and bears the pre 1947 badge. The plate, cup or saucer would be most acceptable. This is required to complete a display of Corps crockery.

REUNIONS

INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
BUFFET LUNCH RICHMOND 27 JUNE 1987

This event will again take place on the Saturday of the Corps 'At Home'. The venue will be The Town Hall Hotel Richmond and 'festivities' will commence at 12 noon. Lunch being available from 1pm approx.

Cost per head will be £3.50. No tickets will be issued but all applications will be acknowledged. Applications please, as usual, to **Lt Col E. Thompson,** 11 Woodvale Road, Darlington, Co Durham DL3 8HA. Tel: (0325) 463835.

HOUTHALEN-HELCHTEREN—BELGIUM

The British Community Association in Limburg is assisting the Mayor of Houthalen-Helchteren in his endeavours to get into contact with those who fought in the area during the last war. It is hoped to arrange a re-union with local families and a reception and memorial service in honour of our lost comrades. The date, to be announced later, will ideally be at the end of September which marks the liberation of the area by Guards Armoured and 11 Armd Div.

Anyone who is able to assist in providing names and addresses of those serving in the area towards the end of 1944 and early 1945 are asked to please get in touch with **Mr B. J. Kuipers** (Hon Treasurer), British Community Association Limburg, 6 Seringenstraat, Lanaken 3760, Belgium, as early as possible.

PERSONAL

Mrs Wendy Welch wishes to thank her many friends in Cyprus who sent kind letters of sympathy, cards and flowers for the funeral of her late husband, **Maj Peter Welch**.

WAR GRAVES IN HILVERSUM, NOORDERBEGRAAFPLAATS

Mr J. P. Hijman, Chairman, Bond of Brothers in Arms, Hilversum has written to invite all war widows and next-of-kin of those buried there to attend the annual commemoration ceremony to be held on 8 November this year.

299, **Sgt G. V. Thompson**, who died on 7 July 1945 is, so far as is known, the only Royal Signals soldier buried in that cemetery. It would be appreciated if any reader who may be in contact, or know the whereabouts of his immediate family, would kindly get in touch with the Regimental Secretary at RHQ Royal Signals.

The Netherlands association has suggested that a representative of the Corps may like to attend this occasion. Anyone who fought in that area is also asked to contact the Regimental Secretary.

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Yacht Club will be held at the School of Signals, Blandford in the conference room behind the Museum on Thursday 9 April 1987 at (1100 hrs). It will be preceded by a meeting of the RSYC Committee at 0900 hrs.

All members are most welcome to attend the AGM and may also take lunch in the Blandford messes by arrangements with the mess staffs concerned.

ARMY AND ASSOCIATES INDIVIDUAL BOAT ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987

The above competition will take place on 27 May 1987.

Venue this year is the Nab Tower area of the Solent.

This competition will also include phase 1 of the Army Team selection.

Entry is open to the following:- Serving members, male and female and dependants over the age of 16. TA Ex-service and MOD employed civilians.

All entrants must be members of the Army Angling Association. Current members should be in possession of their membership cards on the day although facilities will be available for new members and renewals to be catered for at booking in.

Entry fee is £14.00 to include boat fee, prizes, trophies and buffet.

All entries MUST be received no later than 15 May 1987. Early entrants are to be encouraged as boats can only be booked as monies are paid to skipper/owners. In the event of a shortage of boats, they will be filled on a first come basis.

Accommodation will be available for the night of 26 May only.

A large prize table will be on offer, catering for Army and Associates.

Further to the individual prizes, entries will be accepted for four man teams. This will carry an additional fee of £2.00 per team. Pools and raffle will be available at booking in.

Admin instructions will be sent on receipt of entries.

Entry forms may be obtained from **Sgt T. Vaughan**, Bldg 59, TTA SEME, Budds Lane, Bordon, Hants GU35 OJE.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
HAVE YOU INFORMED RHQ ACCOUNTS?
TEL 01 930 4466 EXTN 8247

SITUATIONS VACANT

INSTRUCTIONAL OFFICERS AT THE TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL 8 SIG REGT, CATTERICK GARRISON

Vacancies occur from time to time for Civilian Instructional Officers Grade 3 (Electronics) and Civilian Instructional Officers Grade 3 (Telegraphist).

These are Civil Service appointments.

Applicants must have completed their service engagements and be capable of teaching Technicians or Telegraphists to Royal Signals Class 1 standards.

Full details are available from:
CSI
HQ TTS
8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire
DL9 3PS
Telephone 0748-832521 Ext 2595 *or* Catterick Military Ext 2595.

LETTERS

From: Lt Gen Sir Derek Lang KCB, DSO, ML, DL

Dear Sir,

SCOTTISH VETERANS' RESIDENCES —75TH ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

Our Charity, originally 'The Scottish Naval and Military Veterans' Residence' and recently amended to 'Scottish Veterans' Residences', has been providing accommodation for ex-Service personnel in necessitous circumstances for the past 75 years. Despite this there is often an embarrassing lack of awareness of our existence in many Service circles.

Throughout the intervening years those with the responsibility for managing the Charity have always fostered a programme of development and improvement. At this particular time this aspect has taken on a particular significance due to the startling upsurge in our eligible clientele. As the veterans of both World Wars reach retirement and old age, statistics produced in conjunction with MOD (Stats) and the Department of Health and Social Security indicate that there could be an eight-fold increase in the over 80 years old ex-Service population during the next 30 years.

It is a happy coincidence that this period of special need arises 75 years on from when the first residents, at that time veterans of the Crimean, Afghan and Boer wars, first entered Whitefoord House. Although the veterans of today come from the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars and even the post war years, we have used the occasion of our 75th Anniversary to launch an appeal for funds to modernise and expand our residences.

Our priority task at the present time is to modernise and expand The Murray Home, our registered care home on the outskirts of Edinburgh, after which we will proceed to bring Rosendael, in Broughty Ferry, up to the high standard already achieved in Whitefoord House.

We have been forced to accept that, due to the competing pressures of local, national and international appeals, our main support must come from within the Service family.

Our Appeal was launched in April by **Lt Gen Sir Norman Arthur KCB**, GOC Scotland and, with the valuable support of the Service Benevolent Funds, has produced over £150,000 to date. With a further £100,000 coming from the sale of some land, we are left with the task of raising the final £70,000 in 1987.

Yours faithfully
Derek Lang

Scottish Veterans' Residences
33-34 Charlotte Square
Edinburgh EH2 4HF

How can you choose an insurance policy that's right for you?

Insurance has become a very complex business indeed. Today, there are literally hundreds of companies offering thousands of policies for every kind of insurance. How can you be sure that the policy you choose will be the right one for your particular circumstances?
You need a professional to advise you.
As insurance brokers, we'll give you this advice — free. And our code of conduct stipulates that it must be absolutely impartial.
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BROKERS'
ASSOCIATION

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.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 807

The Squadron has gone through a large change in the management over the last few months. To set the record straight, and before we continue our theme of a 'a day in the life of' and some visit stories, here is the new team:

OC	**Maj Nigel Hope MBE**
2IC	**Capt Kevin Fisher**
AO	**Capt Jim Dawson RCT**
QM	**Capt (QM) Brian Young**
OC Comms	**Capt Steve Hunt**
2IC Comms	**Lt Alex Paterson**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Keith Hudson**
RQMS	**WO2 Skip Redman**
FofS	**WO2 Bob Thompson**
MTWO	**WO2 Ian Mitchell**
YofS (Ops)	**WO2 Ron Coburn**
YofS (Cypher)	**SSgt Dave Leaning**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Dean Wood**

COUGAR RADIO

The term 'filling up' has taken on a new meaning to the new 2IC who keeps complaining that his head hurts after a two week's information blitz on the system. By the time this comes to publication the Brigade and its 'hangers-on' should be fully Cougar operational and hopefully the initial teething problems will have gone away although Mike Tp who are responsible for site maintenance and repair, amongst other things, may disagree.

COMMS TROOP
FOCUS ON CIPHER OFFICE

We've mentioned **SSgt Leaning**, but these are the others:

Cy Sgt	**Sgt Guy Benson**
Cy Ops	**Cpl Doug (Dug?) Shields**
	Cpl Eric (½ a Bee) Burns
	LCpl Paul Smith

The cipher office has had a facelift and change of personalities since our last report. Cougar net once again has been used as an excuse by the team for 'being so busy'! The office has no problems, just minor irritations one of which is the resupply of materials to units within our Tacticial Area of Responsibility (TAOR). A trip of 250 miles in one day is not unusual—hence the 1771 paperwork! So far, fortunately, there have been no 'contact-wait out!' incidents although the Troop car has done marginally worse than Mike Tp in the car scrapes league.

LINE SECTION

As part of Mike Tp, the line section is just as busy as its technician comrades. Whilst their main job is intercom maintenance and installation, it does get involved in a lot of telephone rewiring.

This has far reaching consequences and an amusing little incident occurred recently which has absolutely nothing to do with Royal Signals but we wear the badge so . . .

A SAGA
by (Sgt Neil Thomas)—Line Sergeant

0800 hrs A telephone call was received by the YofS (Ops) **WO2 Ron Coburn** that a bus had crashed into a telegraph pole and the pole was poking through a gaping hole in the side of the bus. Some cables had been chopped in the process, could we give assistance to remove the pole from the bus as it is against the Road Traffic Act 1972? In a quick side step of the squash shoes the buck was passed to **Sgt Neil Thomas**.

0830 hrs YofS and Line Sergeant proceed to Ballykelly in fit of giggles.

0900 hrs Cables were all disconnected and telegraph pole removed from bus leaving a second emergency exit.

0930 hrs YofS and Line Sergeant leave scene of accident still laughing.

1000 hrs Frantic calls made to British Telecom. Site meeting arranged for 1400 hrs.

1400 hrs Maintenance Supervisor and Line Sergeant discuss problems and come to an agreement. Because of the dispute with British Telecom no assistance could be given by Telecom.

1615 hrs Line Sergeant gets assistance from PSA and PSA agrees to loan a JCB and operator for 0900 hrs next morning.

1830 hrs Equipment loaded and section briefed. Line Sergeant goes on a long weekend leave.

0900 hrs Thur. **Cpl Mick Brown** (Grandad) and **Sig Taff Jones** (87 days to do) are the intrepid crew who boldly take up the challenge and go where many men have been before.

1230 hrs New pole erected, 20 pair cablereterminated. Ten pair cable reterminated relaid (after they had chopped the wrong cable)! All Services restored.

1300 hrs Crew returned looking for a sports afternoon. The end.

PS. There was an intercom fault at a SF Base on the border, so unfortunately no sports afternoon again (surprise!).

GOC'S VISIT

On Wednesday 28 January 1987 **Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe KCB, MBE** GOC NI visited the Squadron. He was met by the Sqn Comd **Maj Hope** and the RSM.

After receiving a brief on the Squadron employment the GOC toured the Squadron lines. He was shown a mobile emergency talk through detachment, where he met **Sgt Andy Johnson, Cpls Phil Hopwell, Steve Nix** and **LCpl Phil Quinn**.

The GOC then went on to meet Rover Gp and the Bde Comd and Deputy Comd's 'Green' transport, where he was given a complete picture of the Bde Comd's Comms set up by **Cpl Mel Clarke**. The briefing was well received said **Cpl Clarke**, but he is now looking for a new script writer.

From the Rover Gp set up, the GOC then met the Riggers Section which just happened to be working on the mast at the side of Bde HQ. **Sgt Cliff Swailes** briefed the GOC on the pitfalls of climbing the 30m mast in the winter, the GOC declining the offer to climb the mast due to time constraints. However, **Sig (Tramp) Squirrel** and **Sig Paddington Artigan** duly obliged.

After a short discussion with the OC, the GOC bade the Squadron farewell.

2IC Comms Tp Lt Alex Paterson introducing the GOC to Pte Gambo Gambino, and Pte Simon Blake

Sgt Andy Johnson explaining the ins and outs of the mobile talkthrough to the GOC. Cpls Phil Hopwell, Steve Nix and LCpl Phil Quinn all bursting with information: note the OC always ready for anything

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 801

OPERATIONS

The Squadron was actively involved in operations over the festive season with the continuing management of Brigade's COUGARNET system. This involved all the Squadron personnel including the 'unsung heroes', drivers, storemen and so on providing the 24 hour a day, 365 days a year operational support for the units on the 'ground'.

As soon as New Year commenced, TM Tp was heavily committed with the move of the Belfast Roulement Battalion HQ from Springfield Road to North Howard Street Mill. This required a massive rewiring of the interior of the Mill. A special mention must go to the antenna riggers, **Cpl Kev Smith, LCpl 'Jock' Dear** and **Sig 'Big Jim' Gibbins** who spent long hours working at night (due to the threat from snipers) in freezing conditions, producing the high standard of work expected from the Corps.

Radio Section spent many days and nights carrying out comms trials both in West Belfast and in South Armagh.

Operational moves have included the replacement of 1 Gren Gds and 1 SG with 3 Queen's Regt and 1 R Hamps respectively. We believe that the 2 Guards Bns will now be rehearsing for their 'Farewell to the SLR' parades.

The Squadron Ops Room personnel recently said goodbye to the TOT **Capt Jan Jasiok**. No longer will the Squadron resound with the phrases 'As fitted system' and 'All squared away' in **Jan**'s dulcet and lyrical Scottish tones. We would like to wish **Jan, Heather** and **Suzanne** the best of luck in Rheindahlen.

Sig Jim Gibbins installing a COUGAR antenna to allow control of HTV helicopter (Then he can remove it and re-install for the next VIP visit)

The Watchkeeper/Operator hard at work in the new North Howard Street Mill Ops Room

SHQ

Christmas and New Year passed in the traditional manner with a seemingly endless and punishing programme of Troop and Squadron functions. All the functions were held in the Horseshoe Club, and while the AO **Capt Peter 'Chopper' Humphreys** has spent most of January counting the takings, the Club President **WO2 Terry Hughes** has spent most of the takings on the refurbishment of the Club.

The Chief Clerk **SSgt John 'Supermac' McEwen** managed to escape the pressure of entertaining, with his beloved football team, who were narrowly knocked out of the semi final of the York and Lancs Cup by 175 Pro Coy RMP by three goals to two in extra time. Better luck next time lads; next time the wind will be with us.

The pressure of work has not eluded the Orderly room who have just moved back into the newly designed Orderly Room courtesy of **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes** and PSA. RQ—can we have another new carpet now the decorators have been in?

It is time to say farewell to **Cpl 'Bombproof' Trask** and his family who are posted to 21 Sig Regt in BAOR, we wish them well for the future.

We welcome to the Squadron **WO1 (RSM) Mal Boor**, his wife **Lyn**, daughter **Alexa** and dog Gipsy, and wish them a happy tour.

THE QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

The Quartermaster, **Capt Bob Vale**, has moved upstairs to join the management team from a school desk in the corner of the Ops Room in preparation for his posting to 2 Div. The RQMS, **Terry Hughes**, has moved into his office and although this is almost twice the size of his old office, the density of clag remains the same, but he is 'getting there'. With the Club refurbishment, the RQMS is spending more time as a site foreman now than anything else, as he 'keeps on top of the workmen'.

LCpl Simon Sloman has returned from his B1, eager to impress. **Sgt John Brown** and family will be here by the time this is in print, after enjoying leave from Cyprus. He replaces **Sgt Ron Torrance** who leaves in March. **Sig Niel Frank** is now swotting hard for his B1, whilst **LCpl Jim Morton** prepares mentally and physically for his RSDCC (in between checking COUGARNET).

The remaining members of the Department—**Sig Andy (I'm posted) Purdy** and **Sgt Peter Laing RAOC** continue to enjoy their work in the Squadron.

HORSESHOE CLUB

At the time of going to press the Horseshoe Club is in the throes of a major refurbishment, the new bar is at last under way. The old bar just managed to survive the Christmas attack of parties, not the least of which was the children's Christmas party.

WARRANT OFFICERS CONVENTION (NI)

The social event of the year was held on 14 January at Lisburn Garrison, hosted by **WO1 (RSM) Mal Boor**. Warrant Officers of the Corps came from the far flung corners of the globe to attend this glittering occasion. **WO2 (YofS) Ronnie Coburn** was forced to hitch up a team of huskies to cross the Artic wastes between Lisburn and Londonderry.

Comd Comms NI gave the opening address, mentioning the Corps past involvement in the Province and its future plans. **WO1 (YofS) John Haycock** explained the intricacies of AMS (Tarif without wheels), **WO1 (FofS) Drew Robertson** explained the intricacies of BRINTON (PTARMIGAN without wheels). **WO2 (FofS) John**

Mayson then gave a spoof explanation of the workings of RSMRO (Ford Cortina without wheels).

After coffee, **WO2 (SSM) Chris Conray** spoke at length about Queens (the university OTC that is), and **WO2 (FofS) Tony McMahon** presented his theories on the Technicians rank structure.

Less controversially, since no-one objected, the Warrant Officers then retired to the Mess. A great many more points (pints) were raised and discussed at length. All agreed that the event had been a success and will be repeated. Thank you 8 Bde for offering to host it next time.

INTER-TROOP QUIZ

This year's inter-troop quiz was again a great success mainly due to the hard work and organisation of **Sgt Dave 'Bamber' Norman** and his wife **Elaine**. Eight teams entered and the final was hotly contested by SHQ and TM Troop. After a neck and neck battle, SHQ Troop came out on top. Congratulations to their team of **Capt Gordon Rafferty, Capt Pete 'Chopper' Humphreys, Cpl Ian 'Umbrella' Trask** and **LCpl Nobby 'Cuddles' Clarke.**

LISBURN GARRISON INTER-UNIT QUIZ

During November and December 1986, teams entered the Inter-Unit Quiz to find out who was the smartest of them all.

After preliminary and knock-out rounds and much head scratching, the final was between 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and 175 Pro Coy RMP.

During an exciting match the two teams kept fairly close but the Signal Squadron turned on the intellect on the run-in to win by 10 points.

The team was: **Capt Gordon Rafferty, Sgt Dave Norman** (team Captain), **Cpl Chris Cadman** and the super-star of the team **Mrs Elaine Norman**. Congratulations on a well earned victory.

TM TROOP

It is unusual to begin an article with goodbyes, but this goodbye is a landmark as we say farewell to the TOT **Capt Jan Jasiok**. He and **Heather** go to 4 Sig Gp at Rheindahlen. To prove that history moves in cycles, the TOT was in the Province as a Tech setting up the very first commercial radio system back in 1970 and he now leaves having finished tidying up and replacing 15 years worth of muddle.

We would like to wish them well and hope they enjoy BAOR in (Sleepy Hollow) Rheindalen.

To **Cpl Andy Allen**, soaking up the sun in Belize, **Cpl Kev 'pumping iron' Simmons** in Loughborough, and **Sig Geordie Morrison** sampling life in civvy street, we wish you all well and hope you are enjoying life.

Sgt Simon Tatman 'Now this bit goes here', inspecting TREND ATR

COMMS TP

RADIO SECTION

Intrepid members of the Section have been deployed recently to areas of 'high tension' ie South Armagh and Belfast.

In Belfast, 3 R Anglian reported intermittent comms, so two teams were put together to carry out an Op Wristwatch in the affected areas, checking the quality of coverage. The first team was deployed to the north of the city and consisted of **Capt 'I'm still suffering from having a trapdoor dropped on my head' Renfrey** and **Sig 'I'm still suffering from dropping the trapdoor on his head' Skeels**. The period they spent patrolling the streets were extremely icy ones, not an ideal state of affairs when trying to do a rolling drop off from the rear of a moving APV.

Members of Comms Tp find time to pose during a training exercise
Standing: LCpl Rice, Sig Weaver, Churchward, Ogden
Kneeling: Sig Maclean
Smiling: Sig Harding

The ice had disappeared by the time the second team were deployed into the south of the city. This team comprised **2Lt Jeremy Tod, LCpl Steve Ferris** and **Sig George Green.** The team found out why the area was called Twinbrook, although **2Lt Jeremy Tod** found the bridge somehow.

The Scots Gaurds at Forkhill (known as FKL to the old sweats) reported problems in their TAOR, so another team **(LCpl 'I hate flying' Ferris, Sig 'Taff' Donne** and **Sig 'Scouse' Anwyll)** was deployed. They spent three days living and working with the resident company with about half the time on the ground setting up snap VCPs, making house calls and generally being 'warlike'.

Much to **LCpl Ferris**'s dismay, his caring Tp 2IC had set up a comms recce with the Army Air Corps, using a Gazelle helicopter. A firm believer in the dictum that if man was meant to fly, then he would have been given airline tickets, he was horrified to hear **Sig Donne** ask the pilot 'What can this machine do'?

The pilot proceeded to demonstrate the aerobatic properties of the Gazelle, ruining **LCpl Ferris**'s appetite. The rumour that he kissed the heli-pad on return is, of course, totally false.

Comms trial at Forkhill Sig Donne 1 SG

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Recently we have said goodbye to **LCpl 'Thug' Mills** on posting to 19 Inf Bde and hello to **Sig Pattison, Mead** and **Brown**.

We would like to welcome **SSgt Mike Hendley** and his wife **Karen** into the Troop. He was last seen heading towards the garages looking for canvas covers and tail gates. Another new arrival is **Sig 'Titch' Colquitt** from 2 Div. **Sig 'Scouse' Anwyll** has popped in from 249 Sig Sqn, but the sheer pressure of work has convinced him to rebadge to RAPC!

Fond farewells to **Sig Chris Davis** and **Ann** posted to 29 Sig Regt. **Sig 'Bob' Hope** on his posting to 'Civ Div' and **Sig Glen (Car Hire) Weaver**.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

Lt Col Rex Stephenson, over there in the colonies , would be pleased to know that his baby COUGARNET has been legitimised and that the marriage is working well. **WO1 (FofS) Jim Hanifin** will be equally sad to know that after a long and painful illness the old Commercial Radio System passed away peacefully in January and has been interred at Donnington, the service being performed by **Sgt Ron Torrance.** But on the horizon **WO2 (FofS) Tony McMahon** and Capt Henry Connor are in the advanced stages of labour and another bouncing baby named BRINTON is expected any day now.

THE SPORTS PAGE

Sgt Simon Tatman, LCpl 'Scouse' Cahill and the rest of the Basketball Team, **Cpls Steve Coulson, Shaun Mackay, LCpl Jerry Greeves** and **Dvr Nick Baker**, are somewhat put out that their achievements in becoming runners up in the Northern Ireland Basketball league did not warrant a mention. As they were competing in a league with many major units within the Province, this runner up position is even more commendable.

ENTERTAINMENT

The cultural needs of the Squadron are well catered for with active membership of the Harp Players, the Garrison Amateur Dramatic Society. The Players Production of Sinbad the Sailor was greatly enjoyed by many who saw **Capt (QM) Bob Vale** cast as the Evil Magician. Crys of 'type casting' were heard around the Squadron. They could be true.

AND WHAT ABOUT?

Sgt John Howell-Walmsley and the Mull of Kintyre saga. Paul McCartney may wax lyrical about the Mull but in a blizzard up a 40ft mast it takes on a different light.

Cpl Bob McClurg and how he dealt with the traumas of the power strike with a 500 watt charging engine and a candle.

The person who said 'the way to stop interference' was to put a metal screen around the antenna.

There must be stories of note amongst these somewhere.

Wire Notes are not hard to write if you do but look for the story.

AND FINALLY

We bid a fond farewell to **Lalita**, our hardworking Squadron Commanders wife who put so much into the Squadron Wives' Club. Be assured **Lalita**, the Squadron has not forgotten you, we wish you all the best for the future in Bedale (where?). Your efforts will be sorely missed, by one and all.

POSTSCRIPT BY THE SCRIBE

One would have thought that after so many years of writing notes for *The Wire* it would have become second nature to all Second Lieutenants in the Corps, not so, they still miss it all. Our very own **Jeremy Tod** is no exception. Here are just a few of the happenings (and I am sure there are many more) that have been missed and may be of interest of old friends of individuals within the Squadron and old friends of the Squadron itself.

THE PERSONAL COLUMN

Had he been given the chance **Cpl Dave Whitaker** would have been proud to announce to all his friends in the Corps that he achieved a very commendable A grading on his recent Medical Instructors course.

It was reported that **Capt Jan Jasiok** has left the Squadron, but did he go empty handed? Of course not, those who know 'JR' well, will be pleased to know he was presented with a packet of everlasting cigarettes which should ease problems on his future postings and he also received a replica of the last PYE PR radio to be extracted from West Belfast. A fitting epitaph to the man who put them there in the first place.

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Charles Kemp**
2IC	**Capt Simon Lunn**
SSM	**WO2 Pete Doherty**

AROUND THE SQUADRON

Col Bev Austin from 8 Sig Regt took the opportunity to visit the Squadron while accompanying his rugby team playing the latest round of the Army Cup.

Here he is with the Squadron OC, Maj Charles Kemp and Foreman Drew Robertson looking somewhat bemused at the intricacies of technician work on the BRINTON System

SQUADRON CHANGES

The Squadron is presently undergoing some fundamental surgery to accommodate all the new projects. Names such as BRINTON, the AMS and CRUCIBLE are having a major effect on our method of operation and there will also be throughout 1987 some radical establishment changes to fit in with these new equipments. Meanwhile, august personalities such as **WO1 (YofS) John Haycock** is coming to grips with the intracacies of the new Message Switch, **WO1 (FofS) Drew Robertson** is alternately planning for a future in BRINTON and/or civilian life and **WO2 (YofS) Roger Childs** is firmly convinced that life on supplementary benefit would be infinitely preferable to wrestling with the new Crucible computer!

FOCUS ON WHISKY TROOP

Report by Capt Kevin Taylor

Having seen the reports on the introduction of PTARMIGAN into BAOR, what could seem easier than introducing a single site ADP system into NI? Probably anything!

Shock number one was the size of the 'single site', this has summed to around 70 remote sites joined by BT private wires and a mass of comms equipment with computing power sufficient to run a major business. Who maintains all this? We do!

Shock number two was the user trial when I found that my Yeoman and I were the nearest thing to system experts and therefore, we were it! After meeting the DTG's who run the system my next question was who trains them for this unique task? Answer, We do, plus the technicians who support the system almost to field workshop level! After admiring the technical and exceptionally lengthy system SOP's and with the new system requiring a total re-write I was afraid to ask—but guess who writes the new set?

After taking in the enormity of the problem plans were made, tasks delegated, and work was underway. It would be unfair to even suggest that this was an individual effort. The photograph shows the two installation teams, **Sgt Mick Boland, Cpl 'Chippy' (what else) Wood, Cpl 'Chizzy' Chiswell** and **Cpl 'Ginge' McDermott** with the FofS **SSgt Graeme Wood** (complete with grey hair!) and **SSgt Mike Corsar**, the only Staff Sergeant tech who became an expert in a day, even if it did take all night.

With the installation phase nearly over we 'look forward' to the equally varied tasks of dismantling the old system, stripping the workshop and stores, back loading all of the old equipment and finally converting our old computer room to offices, releasing some useful space for a sister troop.

Whisky Troop installation teams—Foreman Graham Wood with all his technicians

GREEN MOVE TO FORKHILL

With less than five shopping days to Christmas, Comms Troop were tasked to go on a Southern delivery run and this time it wasn't to procure garden sheds for the OC Squadron! It was to distribute goodwill cabins, generators, etc, for R Tp down at Forkhill.

At 0400 hrs on the Thursday morning the Troop split into two convoys, one to be led by **SSgt Al Garvie** and one by **Lt Andy Allman**.

Special loading arrangements were made at various locations in the Province. Mention must go to **LCpl 'D Day' Dawson**, who tried to prevent a three tonne cabin being crane lifted, from crashing into a mast, by using his body as a shield. After quickly realising his mistake he jumped off, dropped 8ft, did two backloops and a twist, landed on his feet and scored 5.8's all round. (The things that boy will do for his second).

Both convoys RV'd at Bessbrook base at 1400 hrs where the Troop had a meal, rested, waited for dark and undertook a marathon Trivial Pursuits Game with **Lt Allman** coming second to **Cpl** (soon to be LCpl) **Mark Anderson.**

At 0100 am on the Friday the 1st Battalion The Scots Guards pointed us in the direction of Forkhill, wished us luck and waved us goodbye. The four landrovers, six 4 tonners and 6 tonne mobile crane left for Forkhill. This may not seem much by BAOR standards but it has a certain novelty value in South Armagh, as was seen by the special Newry 'welcome' and the number of lights that went on as we drove past.

We arrived at Forkhill SF base after a quiet journey and proceeded to unload. It had taken four hours the previous morning to load and secure everything, within 45 minutes we were unloaded and ready to leave; our cabins were destined for higher things, our (now) flat beds for home before daylight.

On the whole not a bad day out and as stated by **LCpl 'Brummie' Lawes**, 'Only "whimps" go by helicopter in South Armagh'.

GOODBYES

Goodbye to **Cpl Stevie Barr** who had a detailed knowledge about C50s, well he could recognise one two times out of three, and to **Cpl Dave Waller** now off to join the Civilian Police. Finally congratulations to **Cpl 'D Day' Dawson** on his promotion.

ADMIN TROOP

OC (Admin Officer)	**Capt M. V. Ledwards**
2IC (Asst Admin Officer)	**Lt D. A. Bould WRAC**
RQMS	**WO2 Duncan Henderson**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Ron Coleman**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Tom Swanney**
MTO	**Sgt Dave Gilbert**

The old maxim that a soldier marches on his stomach will prove true hopefully after the grand opening of the Squadron Café appropriately named the 'Nip Inn'.

Two very enterprising wives, **Mrs Marianne Robertson** and **Mrs Stella Coleman** saw the opportunity to fill a gap in more ways than one and persuaded the heirarchy that this was a much needed facility.

Indeed subsequent demand has proved them right and trade is now booming. Lovely bacon smells wafting throughout RHQ is heaven to those not on diets. Good luck ladies.

McKELVIE TROPHY

Without doubt the Troop most surprised in this year's McKelvie Trophy competition was Admin/Romeo Troop. Having in previous years finished way down the league it was pleasing to finish runners-up to the 'giants' of Tech Troop, one point separating the two Troops.

Throughout all competitions members gave their all, staggering even themselves by winning both the Cricket and Hockey trophies outright and sharing the Badminton League. Well done everyone but special mention to our imports **WO2 (FofS) Martin, Sgt Ness** and **Sgt Morris** of Romeo Troop who always made themselves available. Next year we will win!

ADVENTURES OF A TROOP PARTY

Report by Lt D. A Bould WRAC

'We'll go out' cried the boss, **Capt Mike Ledwards** which is why a local hotel was booked for the Troop party. Everyone arrived in good spirits and sat down to what would, no doubt, have been an excellent meal.

The starter was served to the accompaniment of sirens and bells. Rowdy guests? We enquired. No it's just the RUC evacuating the area and attending to a suspect vehicle.

Fortunately the Peake Inn had been booked for after dinner entertainment and it was to there that 40 rather cold and hungry bodies retired. Incredibly the party mood really did take off again with crisps and nuts substituting for roast and pudding.

During the evening farewells were said to **Cpl 'Baggy' Bagshaw** and **Sig 'Tam' Sloan.**

The whole evening was a success due to the efforts of the 'committee' **Cpls 'Spike' Spurr** and **'Smudge' Smith.**

'What next AO?'.

NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to **SSgt Ron Coleman** and his wife **Stella, Sgt Dave Gilbert, Cpl Adie Lines, Sig Paul Brain** and **Sig Steve Terry**.

FAREWELLS

Farewell to **SSgt Donnelly** posted to Edinburgh, **Cpl Bagshaw** posted to sunny climes and **LCpl Robinson** on discharge.

We thank them for their contribution and wish them well.

VICTOR TROOP

THE SPECTRE OF *WIRE* NOTES

Report by Capt Ted Flint

Icy fingers clutched my heart as I read the letter before me. The title was sinister enough: '*Wire* notes for the Squadron'. I realised that this seemingly innocent document would blight my existence for weeks to come.

It was a directive from the OC, requiring Troop Commanders to submit articles which should be '. . . topical, humorous, interesting, and a true reflection of our activities . . .'. Every word stabbed me like a knife. The letter lies on my desk now, as it has done since it arrived, glaring accusingly at me, haunting my waking moments and ruining my afternoon naps.

Oh, for the rich, lazy days of yore, when I could hand on the task to the newest arrival in the Troop, secure in the knowledge that, having removed the spelling mistakes and tear-stains, I could submit a perfectly inaccurate and untopical catalogue of farewells and welcomes.

Then, last Friday, I thought that I had been saved. How cruel is vain hope! I thought that, if I could produce the necessary . . . 'good quality black and white photographs and captions . . .' then I would be able to write an article around them. I must have been hallucinating.

Mr Brian Blackwell OC from 1972 to 1974 accompanies Mr Nicholas Scott PUSS NIO to Victor Troop

Sig Jones or is it Bobby the dog left in charge of the Victor Troop computer

As it was Friday **Yeoman Andy McIver** was in bed, so I tasked **SSgt Bob McMahon** with the problem. He rushed off eagerly to produce a photographic record of the unclassified side of Victor Troop's life and work. I breathed a sigh of relief.

I was very quiet after I had seen the finished results, though **Sgt Calum Downie** claims that I whimpered quietly once or twice. I reproduce the photographs here for the benefit of students of human failure. They require no further comment.

I am in hiding now. The OC's deadline passed yesterday, and I can visualise only too vividly the conversation which will shortly ensue:

OC: 'Well?'
Me: 'Yes Sir'.
OC: (searches for words)
(Finally, and with unnatural calm 'this article is late. It is neither humorous, topical, nor interesting. It is not a true reflection on our activities here in Northern Ireland and the photographs are . . . are . . . (words fail him).
Me: (Crawling to the door) 'Yes Sir'.

I hear footsteps in the corridor. It is time for me to get into the stationery cupboard.

COMMCEN TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC/Tfc Offr	**Capt Allan Dunbar**
YofS	**WO1 John Haycock**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Stan Wise**
DSO 'A' Shift	**Sgt Keith Dunk**
DSO 'B' Shift	**Sgt John Bell**
DSO 'C' Shift	**Sgt Alec Campbell**
Swbd Supvr	**WSgt Jan Garnett**
CDA NORIRELAND	**Sgt Hugh Sullivan**

The first half of the year had been taken up by the bringing into service of the new Merlin Digital Exchange to replace the ancient PABX 3. Once this was fully operational, maximum effort was directed to the next stage of the modernisation of the Troop, the installation of an Automatic Message Switch (AMS) to replace one of the last Torn Tape, Relay Centres on the DCN.

Cpls Brand and Ball surveying the new empire

Pte McDonald manning the new IDX exchange

The new AMS suite with the old shift manning

All sections of the Troop continue to work hard, play hard, socialise with vigour and appear well scrubbed for our many VIP visitors. During the visit of one VIP, **Mr Nicholas Scott MBE, MP**, the Permanent Under Secretary of State at the NIO in November, the Troop, represented by newly arrived and newly married **LCpls Dek** and **Dawn Painter**, was presented with a SILVER COMSTAR award. This was a particularly good achievement considering that the Commcen and TRC were both working from temporary accommodation while the AMS computer and control console were being installed. This award may be of interest to past members of the Troop in that it will be the last one for which Commcen Lisburn will be entered. The AMS has done away completely with messages in tape form and therefore we have nothing to send off to CDCN for scrutiny!

We should not forget that **Sgt Jan Garnett, Cpl Di Lawton** and the girls in the Telephone Exchange were also working in temporary accommodation—a Portakabin—while waiting for the AMS packing cases to be moved out of their new Switchboard room.

WRAC SPORTS TROPHY

On the sporting front, the girls of the Commcen and Switchboard continue to battle with each other and the Squadron All Stars for the WRAC Sports Trophy. Thanks to the prowess of such stars as **LCpls Alison Davis** and **Jane Bell, Ptes Alice Sinclair, Rolly Ellis** and **Julie Gray** of the Switchboard, and **Cpls Karen Tindall, Glynis Ball, Linda Pawson, LCpls Dawn Painter** and **Sally Fawcett**, and **Ptes Alison Bowers** of the Commcen, the Troop trophy cabinet contains the following:

WRAC Sports Trophy	1986	Commcen
Orienteering	1986	Swbd
Cross Country	1986	Swbd
Athletics	1986	Swbd
Netball	1986	Commcen
Squash	1986	Commcen
Hockey	1986	Commcen
Volleyball	1986	Commcen
Swimming	1986	Commcen

THE McKELVIE TROPHY

In the McKelvie Trophy, the lads failed to wrest the trophy from Tech Tp, but some sterling efforts were made in the various sports; none better than in the four by two mile inter Troop Road Relay race where the 'A' team consisting of **LCpl Mark Brown, Sig Jamie Gardner, Vince Tibbs** and **John MacNamara** put in a tremendous performance to retain the trophy, over half a minute clear of the second team. Out of the 14 teams competing, the 'B' team of **LCpls Sean Curley** and **Jim Knight** with **Sig Chris Goble** and **Chalky White** came in seventh and a girls team of **Cpl Linda Pawson, LCpl Alison Davis, Ptes Rolly Ellis** and **Julie Gray** came 13th.

With the modernisation of the communication system in the Province almost complete, we look forward to a year of consolidation and hard work despite the constant changeover of personnel.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

We have said farewell to many stalwarts over the last few months including, **Sgt Steve Smedley, LCpls Sean Curley, Chris Bywaters, Karen Cable, Sally Fawcett, Karen Freeman, Scouse Johnson** and **Claire Mutter, Ptes Irene Mason, Jackie Sutcliffe** and **Julie Gilchrist**.

We welcome **Sgt Taff Carr** (from W Tp), **LCpls Smudge Smith, Bob Palmer, Marie-Anne Lowe,** and **Tracey Milton, Ptes Frankie Denley, Angie Brannon, Linda Watson, Sharon Slater** and **Lisa Clayton**. We wish them all a happy and safe tour with the Troop.

TECH TROOP

Squadron TOT — **Capt (TOT) Henry Connor**
Squadron Foreman — **WO1 (FofS) Drew Robertson**

The Troop consists of five sections:

RADIO RELAY

Over the past year this section has had a number of leaders, **Sgt Bob Nichol** now runs the section, they have the joy of maintaining 120 C50 equipment along with an ageing Northern Shot microwave system to the mainland. During this year the Erastos system has been expanded by four additional shots. With the introduction of Project Brinton we hope to see the demise of the old faithful C50 (any takers?).

RADIO

Led by **Sgt Tony Woolaston,** they have spent the year hiding the new Cougar radios in cars, buildings, hill tops, boats. Yes! We do fit the RN ships, the Lance Corporal who told the RN Ops Offrs he did not care if it, HMS *Caroline* was big, we only do car fits in Lisburn, got a shock the next day on arrival at the harbour to be confronted by a Corvette!

RIGGERS

They are the unsung heroes of the Troop led by **Sgt Keith Perkins**. They have the responsibility of two very large range complexes, all the Erastos tails and force Troop rigging commitments. Added to the normal commitment they were joined late last year by the Brinton tail installation team led by **Sgt John Smith** of the School of Signals and 13 assorted tradesmen. They installed the tails for the 38 Brinton sites being assisted by local personnel who provided the much needed local knowledge. They installed over £40K of line plant, a fair job in 10 weeks. Thanks again.

SYSTEMS

This section is driven by **SSgt Pete Preen,** his section has had the most disturbance this year. It began with the trib being installed within systems Lisburn. Fortunately they left to be accommodated in their nice new area and a three tonne of UPS took their place to supply power to the AMS.

When all that is completed the task of removal of the old system will still provide work. All the above activities have been completed in addition to normal work.

PROJECT GROUP

A small dedicated band led by **SSgt 'Sid' Steel** who was ribbed mercilessly during the gas shares floatation. Permanent members are **Sgts John Gaskell** and **Kev Bickerstaffe**. They co-ordinate the delivery of anything from telephones to two inch couplers to the 38 Brinton sites. We again won the McKelvie Trophy, for the third time! The Troop presented a plate so the others had something to play for. Commcen even lost that to Admin—never mind Traffic.

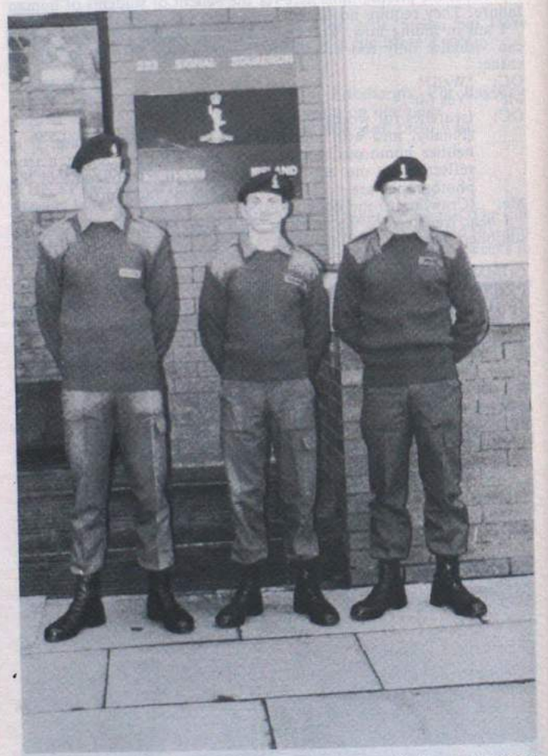
A busy year, but a good one where we are getting out from under old equipment and systems into new technology thus allowing us to provide professional communication to a very professional security force in the Province.

ANOTHER MEDAL WINNING DETACHMENT

Report by Sig Chalkie White

I had been to Forkhill SF Base for nearly two weeks now, and it had been relatively quiet, that was until two days before I was due to return to Lisburn. I had just finished work and decided to go to bed, after of course I had been relieved by my Oppo, **Sig Steve Voyse**.

Soon fast asleep I was totally oblivious of the base noise around me. Although our room is next to the helipad, incoming choppers did not normally wake me up. It just so happened one did a few minutes before this incident occurred. The Army Air Corps were let off lightly as 20 seconds after take off the first mortar came in with a massive bang and and exploded in the base. Like all good modern soldiers I turned over and went back to sleep, I was re-awakened by a combination of two more explosions and the mortar alarm going off. At this I was up and out of bed like Jack Flash trying to pull on my trousers and shirt at the same time. Although there were no more explosions the mortar alarm was still going. From the room I made my way up to the Ops Room hoping that I'd find out what was happening. They were unable to say how much damage had been done due to it being too dark. To make sure another attempt was not made patrols were sent out to clear the area around the camp perimeter. Once they were out things started to quieten down; when first light came round I went outside to survey the damage. Where the fence had previously been there was now a large hole, and I was later informed that there were two unexploded mortar bombs outside the camp, one of which failed to leave the base plate and the other which landed outside camp but had failed to go off. Thanks to this incident I had to spend another 24 hours in Forkhill while an ATO defused the two bombs. The next day I left Forkhill for the relatively quiet surroundings of Lisburn Garrison.



Forkhill detachment soldiers who have recently been mortared whilst on duty in South Armagh

Sig White, Stewart and Voyse

Ministry of Defence Whitehall

BACKGROUND

It is some years since the Headquarters of Royal Signals—the Directorate as we are known—last wrote some notes for inclusion in *The Wire*. No one can accuse us of being over eager contributors! In order to redress the balance notes from the Directorate will be contributed with the aim of informing you about the Directorate, how it is organised, who we are and what we do. (This issue will give you an overview and then concentrate on Signals 31/32. Later issues will feature Signals 34 and Signals 36).

LOCATION

The Directorate is based in Main Building, the Ministry of Defence, and occupies a suite of offices on the first and second floors of the building about half of which overlook Whitehall facing the Cabinet Office. We are also known as the Defence Signal Staff (Army) or DSS(A) because, as a single service 'brick', we form an element of the tri-service Defence Signal Staff. On either side of us on the first floor are the staff of the Director of Signals (Air) and the Chief Naval Signal Officer and at the end of the corridor the Defence Tri-service staff of the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Command, Control, Communication and Information Systems (ACDS(CIS)). So you can see, quite sensibly, all the communicators live and work together and this arrangement works just as well in practice as it does on paper. This had led, somewhat unkindly, to our corridor becoming known as Kilohertz corridor!

ORGANISATION

The Directorate is organised into three branches, Signals 31/32 who deal with Policy, Operations, Staff Duties, Manpower and Training, Signals 34 who deal with equipment procurement matters for Tactical, Fixed Service and Strategic communications and Signals 36 who deal with the control of in-service communications assets. Each branch is headed by a Colonel and each have a number of Staff Officers (desk officers as they are known) who deal with specific areas of the branch's responsibilities. The Directorate is served by about 16 civil servants, who provide the valuable continuity and clerical effort without which serving officers would find their tasks more difficult. At the head is the SOinC(A) **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** who is well known to many as he spends a great deal of his time out of the office visiting units, and the DSOinC(A) **Brig Roy Maynard** who is also effectively the Chief of Staff of the Directorate.

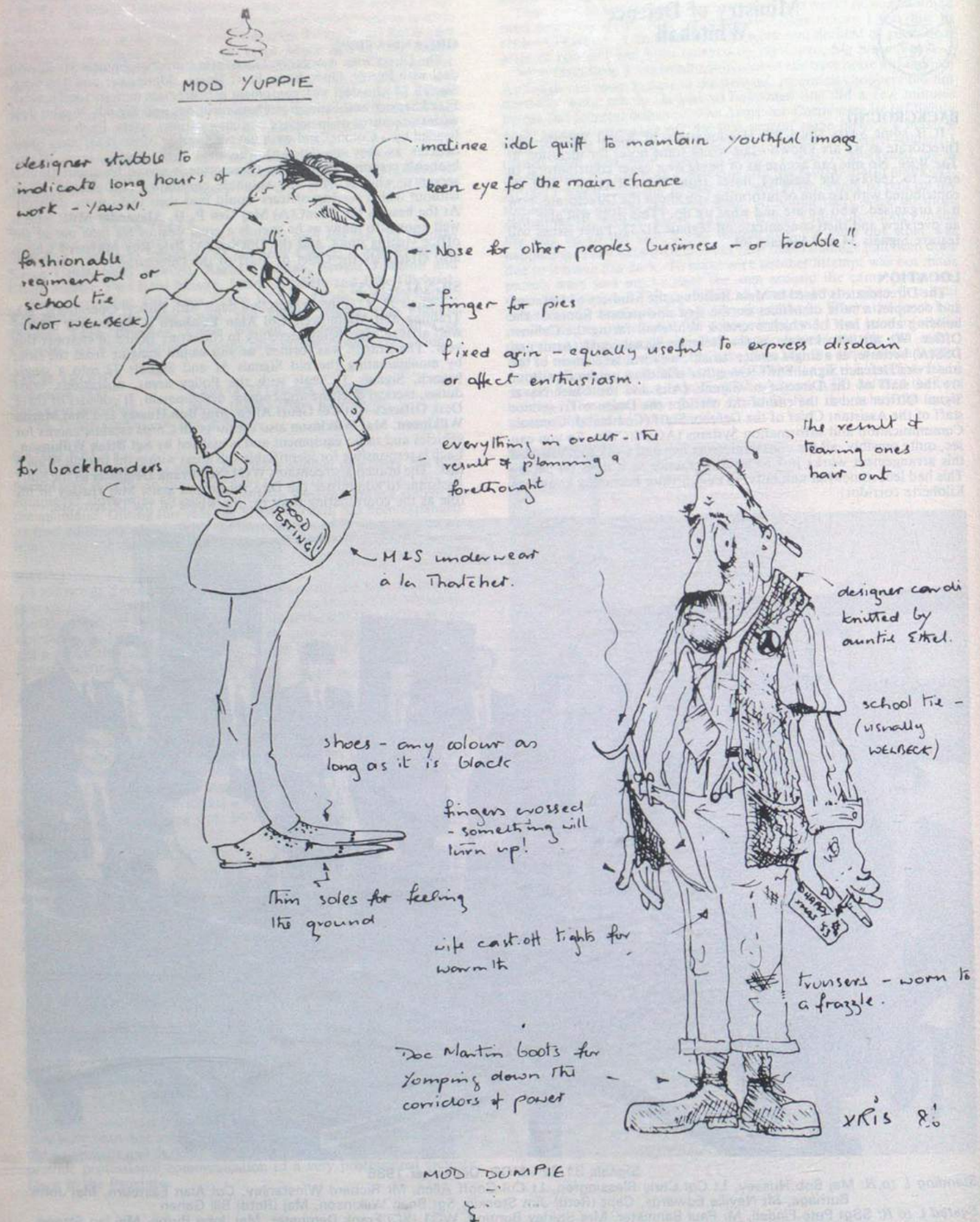
SIGNALS 31/32

Signals 31/32 is the Branch that deals with Policy, Operations, SD, Training and Manpower. **Col Alan Eastburn** is the branch colonel who arrived after being secretary to the Army Board in October this year. The Branch was formed, as you would imagine from the title, by amalgamating the old Signals 31 and Signals 32 into a single branch. Signals 31 deals with the Policy areas, operations, staff duties, tactical doctrine and combat development. It consists of three Desk Officers—**Lt Col Geoff Allen, Maj Bob Hussey** and **Maj Martin Wilkinson. Maj Wilkinson** also sponsors all Corps establishments for vehicles and radio equipment and is assisted by **Sgt Brian Wilkinson**. Each is responsible for identifiable sub areas within the overall Branch task. The branch also contains **WO1 (SC) Frank Dempster** as the Staff Assistant to administer the Directorate and assist **Maj Hussey** in his role as the coordinating desk for the whole of the Directorate.

Signals 31/32—MOD, December 1986

Standing L to R: Maj Bob Hussey, Lt Col Chris Blessington, Lt Col Geoff Allen, Mr Richard Winstanley, Col Alan Eastburn, Maj John Burnage, Mr Neville Edwards, Capt (Retd) Jim Stockill, Sgt Brian Wilkinson, Maj (Retd) Bill Gahan

Seated L to R: SSgt Pete Findell, Mr Paul Bannister, Mrs Shirley Bunting, WO1 (SC) Frank Dempster, Maj John Byrne, Maj Ian Strong, Miss Nikki Turner, Maj Martin Wilkinson. (Miss Varsha Amin was unfortunately absent on sick leave)



Signals 32 is somewhat larger and is headed by **Lt Col Chris Blessington** who has recently arrived from the School of Signals. Under him Signals 32 deals with training and has two desk officers, **Maj John Burnage** and **Maj (Ret'd) Bill Gahan**. **Capt (Ret'd) Jim Stockill** deals with recruiting in Signals 32b. **Maj Ian Strong, Maj John Byrne** and **SSgt Pete Findell** deal with manpower in Signals 32c. The branches are ably assisted in their work by five clerical staff, **Mrs Shirley Bunting,** (shortly posted as an EO to DIS) **Miss Varsha Amin, Mr Paul Bannister, Miss Nikki Turner** and **Mr Richard Winstanley**.

Many changes of staff seem to occur around Christmas, and Signals 31/32 is no exception. **Maj Martin Wilkinson** is off in January across the road to join the staff of ACDS(OR) Land in Northumberland House. **Maj Bob Hussey** moved, on promotion, to the RMCS in February to become DS(ET) (phone home!). In their places we welcomed **Maj Geoff Cary** from the Army Staff College who was last seen wearing a somewhat bemused look, and **Maj Lionel French** from 2 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt whose main claim to fame was his duck when playing for the Army in Cyprus at Cricket! No doubt two years in the 'power house' will make men of them!

LIVING AND WORKING IN LONDON

The most frequently asked question is 'What's it like living and working in London'. The answer is invariably—like the curate's egg, good in parts. Officers who join the Directorate and who wish to occupy a married quarter will be offered one in 'patches' at Kingston, West Byfleet, Shepperton, or Bushey. All involve a journey of about an hour door to door. Many people do not mind this, but the author positively loathes it! Soldiers will be offered quarters in Bushey, Whetstone or Mill Hill. Again, all involve a considerable degree of travelling. Single personnel find their own accommodation.

Whilst at work in London a dark suit is de rigueur for service personnel. When in the office everything is governed by civil service regulations, from the amount of space in your office, to the way in which drafts are prepared for typing. There are no messes for anyone and you bring either a packed lunch from home, buy sandwiches at the 'kiosk' by the main door, have 'egg, beans and chips' type meal in the staff restaurant (the Greasy Spoon) or eat outside. If you are lucky, your branch will have a 'coffee swindle' which will keep you supplied with cups of coffee or tea if not, you have to make it yourself.

Lest all this should sound a bit off putting, there are definite advantages. Firstly unless we are very unlucky we don't work at weekends. Secondly, and perhaps more important, you work in a very good atmosphere.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

ITS PURPOSE is to make the best use of Income, Capital and other Assets, to prepare the way for the individual to achieve financial aims. These may include:

FINANCIAL PROTECTION	—against the effects of possessions lost or damaged
FINANCIAL SECURITY	—for present or future dependants
HOUSE PURCHASE	—immediately or in the future
EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

WE ADVISE on the use of savings from income, the investment of capital, the use of other assets where applicable, insurance against ill health and the insurance of possessions. We help clients to lay the foundations of sound plans, to develop existing plans and keep them up to date, and then to make the best use of resources when the time comes to meet commitments.

GOOD INFORMATION is the basis of sound planning. The more clients take us into their confidence the better we can assist them. Please let us have full details of existing resources, your ability to save, and any expectations. Please also tell us all you can about commitments with which you expect to have to cope. We, of course, treat all such information as confidential.

AN EARLY START helps, and we will be pleased to assist you however modest your resources may be now. If you have existing arrangements which may need developing, the sooner you refer them to us, the more help we are likely to be able to give you.

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 39 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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ZIMBABWE

BEIRUT

HQ 1 Signal Group Tidworth

FALKLAND ISLANDS

AU REVOIR

The Year: 1968
The Date: 1 April
The Event: The formation of HQ 1 Signal Group
The Role: To command those Royal Signals units involved in operations within NATO and elsewhere throughout the world.

It must surely have been beyond the imagination of even the most far sighted staff officer to envisage the impact which this small, active and unique Headquarters was to have over the subsequent years. Almost immediately it was tasked with providing support for the peace keeping operation in Anguilla following the civil unrest in the Island. This deployment was to be the first of many over the years and was to create a spirit of adventure and expertise that has flourished as the demands have increased.

In August 1969 as the present troubles in Northern Ireland began and the gentle and relaxed life in the province was transformed, the Headquarters was involved in supporting the urgent needs of 39 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and 260 Sig Sqn—the latter in an infantry role.

At the start of the 70s, the Group assisted in providing communications support for the relief operation in Jordan. Further responsibilities subsequently were added with Belize, Malta and Gibraltar. In 1979 the Group was heavily involved with Operation Agila—the disarming of the various bands of freedom fighters prior to the granting of independence to Zimbabwe.

In April 1982 the units of the Group became very much involved with the conflict in the Falklands, with 30 Sig Regt being particularly committed. The majority of the Headquarters staff were all deployed to the Islands in the hectic days following the surrender of the Argentine forces.

A further critical deployment soon followed with vital rear links being provided from the Lebanon during the frantic period when the peace-keeping force was trying to prevent strife in that divided country. In the last two years the Group has been involved in the rescue operation following the earthquake in Mexico, hurricane relief in the Solomon Islands, the evacuation of British Nationals from Aden, assistance to the local authorities after the volcano eruption in Columbia, and the mercy mission after the flooding in Jamaica. In addition, on every day of the year there are over 120 soldiers on roulement tours overseas in Cyprus, Falklands, Belize, Northern Ireland, Kenya, Suffield and Ascension Islands.

In 1986 the Headquarters undertook a completely different role and coordinated a very successful month as the units from the Group with the Corps Band performed the Public Duties at Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and the Tower of London. As 1987 dawned the Headquarters began its last three months as an independent operational organisation.

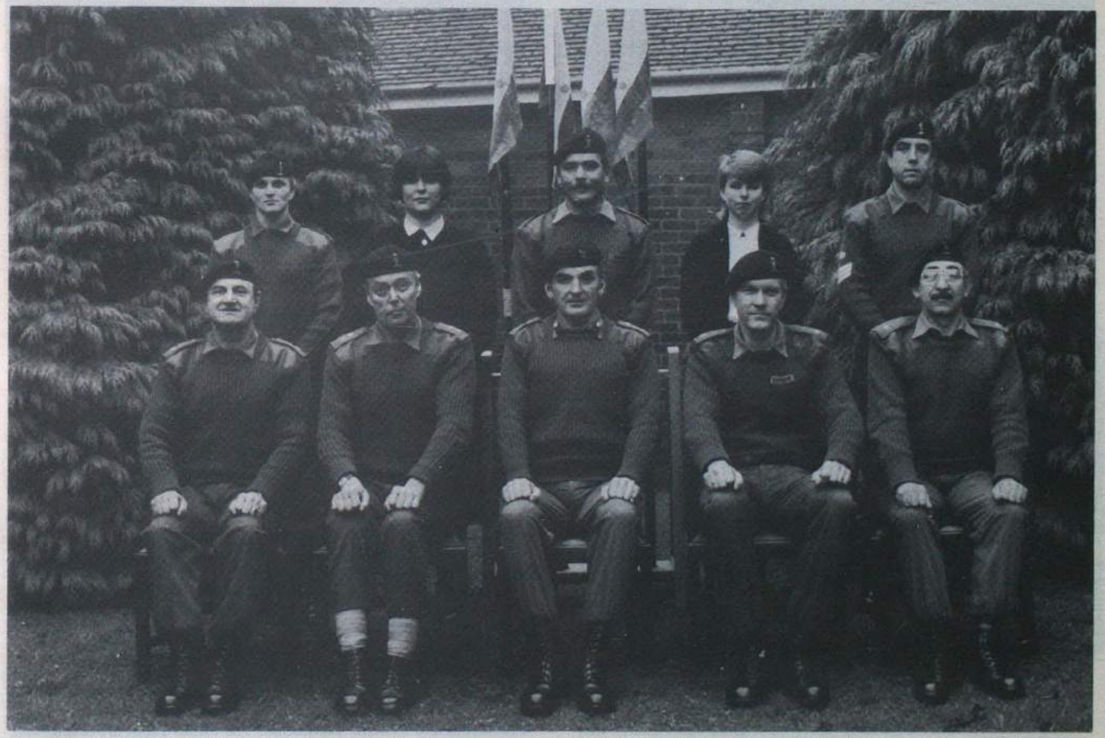
HQ 1 Sig Gp started life in Wilton but in 1970 moved to Old Sarum where it remained for nine years. In 1979 the Headquarters was on the move again as it made the short journey to Tidworth where it is currently based. The present orbat of the Group is as follows:

30 Sig Regt
55 Sig Sqn (V)
244 Sig Sqn (AS)
249 Sig Sqn AMF(L)
633 Sig Tp
642 Sig Tp
3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Royal Signals Elements with Int Centre Ashford and 11 Ord Bn (EOD)

Over the years the units in the Group have always shown tremendous enthusiasm and pride in their many achievements, and it has been a pleasure for the Headquarters to have such a special relationship with them. As the time has arrived for the amalgamation, the Commander and staff wish to thank all the units of the Group for their professional skills, physical toughness, their sense of loyalty and fun.

The Year: 1987
The Date: 31 March
The Event: The amalgamation at Corsham of HQ 1 Sig Gp with HQ 2 Sig Bde as part of the recent MOD Ex *Lean Look*. The door closes on the Group exactly 19 years to the day from its original formation.

Is this Goodbye or just . . . Au Revoir?



Back Row (Left to Right): LCpl A. Dummer, Mrs V. Macdonald, WO1 (YofS) R. D. Wright, Mrs A. Arthur-Worsop, SSgt (ORSQMS) B. J. Cartwright
Front Row (Left to Right): Maj C. G. Webb, Lt Col D. M. A. Burridge, Col C. A. Brown, Maj A. Sugdon, Maj J. Morrison

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

VISIT OF THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT
MAJ GEN R. BENBOW CB
ALL ARMS TRAINING CENTRE (AATC)
Report by Sgt Karnasher Tamang

The visit of **Maj Gen R. Benbow CB** to AATC took place on 26 November 1986. The General was accompanied by the Commander, **Lt Col J. E. Neeve**. He was greeted by OC Trade Training Wing, **Lt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa** and Assistant Unit Education Officer, **Lt (QGO)Tekbahadur Gurung.** The General was given a short brief on the trade training aspects of the Regiment by OC Trade Training Wing. This was followed by the AUEO's brief on the new education schemes, that have been recently introduced into the Brigade of Gurkhas. For the General this was more of an update, having started his career in the Regiment in 1957 and commanded it over the period 1972 to 1975. He showed particular interest in the introduction of Trend teleprinters and the subsequent training of RTGs and DTGs.

He was delighted with the news that the training function of the Regiment has been given official recognition by the MOD, which in turn, means full support from DAT. This is clearly a major step forward and hopefully the AATC will benefit greatly; less improvisation! The visit concluded with a tour of the classrooms, accompanied by **WO2 (YofS) Dick Gamble**.

L to R: Lt (QGO) Tekbahadur Gurung, Lt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa and the Colonel of the Regiment

246 GURKHA SIG SQN (48 GURKHA INF BDE)
Report by Sgt Krishna Gurung

The Colonel of the Regiment visited the Squadron on 28 November 1986. He was met by the 2IC, **Capt Richard Sparshatt, Lt (QGO) Narain Rai** and **WO2 (SSM) Kesherbahadur Rana**. (The OC, **Maj Tom Richardson**, and the SQGO, **Capt (QGO) Krishnakumar Thapa**, were in Singapore at the time taking part in Ex *Orchard Road*, along with half the Squadron). A short brief on the Squadron's role preceded a visit to Alpha Troop, where the deployment of a Heliborne Radio Re-broadcast (RRB) detachment was about to get under-way. While the RRB was being set up, the General moved to NT Troop. In the absence of the Troop Commander, **WO1 (FofS) Dave Edwards**, the General was met by **SSgt Martin Chapman**. Having spoken to various technicians, telemechs and locally employed civilian cable jointers, the visit concluded with a presentation by **LCpl Hari Rai** on Sino Hong Kong Border Communications, a personal computer demonstration by **LCpl Mankumar** and a presentation on telephone cables by two of the cable gang.

A return to the RRB found **Cpl Kadam Thapa** ready and waiting to escort the General around his well prepared detachment.

Next stop was a demonstration by **Sgt Nabinkumar Rai** and Juliet Troop, of an Incident Control Point (ICP). Here the General was shown a field Commcen, comprising a C41 terminal, field exchange, and included a short brief by **Cpl Sharky Smith** on the new Trend in its field role. This concluded the General's visit to the Squadron.

STOP PRESS

The Gurkha Field Force was re-designated 48 Gurkha Inf Bde on 16 December 1986, hence the new Squadron title.

247 GURKHA SIG SQN

On 27 November 1986 the General Visited 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn at HMS *Tamar*. Following a briefing by the OC, **Maj Pat Thomas**, the General toured the Squadron and met old friends, including **Cpl Au Leung Che**, a locally enlisted Telemech who was working for the General when he was CR Signals, Hong Kong, many years ago. He showed particular interest in the cable routes and even quoted the location of Cable joint pits, which completely surprised **SSgt John Bathe**, our senior Telemech. The Joint COMMCEN was new to the General, although he had been involved in the planning when HQBF was at Victoria Barracks. He was able to see the new automatic message switch which is being installed and have a chat with the WRAC and Gurkha operators still working torn tape.

It was a short visit in a busy programme and we hope to see him here again.

REGIMENTAL OFFICERS' WALK
Report by Sgt Krishna Gurung

On 1 December 1986 the Colonel of the Regiment, joined the officers and their families on a Regimental Officers' walk. After lunch the Officers' Mess, the General and the walking party were transported to Rotary Park, situated high on the Tai Mo Shan hillside.

At approximately 1425 hrs the groups set out, the route, known as the Sikhlishe path, followed a ridge of hills in a westerly direction, finishing near the Tai Lam Chung Correctional Centre. Overall the distance covered was about seven miles, which the majority of walkers, including the General, completed easily. Refreshments were served at the finish, prior to a return to Borneo Lines.

Colonel of the Regiment and Gurkha Major in 'sun hats'

NT TROOP (246 GURKHA SIG SQN)
Report by SSgt Martin Chapman

PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO1 (FofS) Dave Edwards**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Martin Chapman**
WOIC Wksps	**WO2 Mekman Gurung**

NT Troop is situated in Sek Kong, which is in the New Territories, away from the lights and fast life of the city. Although life in Sek Kong is quiet by comparison, the role of the Troop ensures that there is no rest.

TELEMECHS

There are 12 telemechs in the Troop, who except for myself are all locally recruited Hong Kong Chinese. They are trained in Catterick to B3 and B1 standard. Their responsibilities at work vary, from supporting the Squadron in the limited war role, to maintaining the 1,100 plus extensions within the various camps located in the New Territories, along with 58 plus miles of underground cables.

TECHNICIANS

There are 32 technicians in the Troop of which four are British and the remainder Gurkhas. They are divided into two trades, Radio Technician and Systems Technician. The Radio Techs are responsible for the Regimental and Border Clansman First Line repair, while the Systems Techs are responsible for the various exchanges in the New Territories, along with C41 maintenance.

ACTIVITIES

There is a custom within the Troops, whereby, the different nationalities arrange a function in celebration of their principal festival of the year. November saw the Gurkhas putting on a fine spread of bhat for Dashera, with the usual mixture to help wash it down, or was it to cool the chillies? December saw the British element, providing the Troop with the Christmas spirit, in bottle and can form, along with a barbecue. Needless to say, something was missing; it could have had something to do with temperatures being nearly 22°C!

Chinese New Year will see the Troop celebrating with the Chinese. Let's hope that snake will not be on the menu!

NT TROOP RE-VISITED

In 1958 OC New Territories Sig Tp was **Lt P. D. Alexander**. On 29 September 1986 the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, re-visited his old empire, and this was reported in the January issue of *The Wire*. During this visit he was given a photograph of his 'old Troop' taken in 1958, by **Mr Ho**, who was serving in the Troop at the time. It is reproduced in the hope that other ex members may recognise themselves and remember some happy days.

New Territories Signal Troop 1958

HOCKEY — INTER-CORPS TOURNAMENT
Report by Sgt Krishna Gurung

The British Forces Hockey Association Inter Corps Tournament was held on 13 September 1986, at Borneo Lines. There were 12 teams representing nine Corps, including a ladies team. We had two teams entered in the tournament and our first games saw the B team facing Queen's Gurkha Engineers with the A team against the Gurkha Transport Regiment. There were three trophies being competed for; after an initial league, the winners were in the Cup, the runners-up in the Bowl, and the losers in the Plate.

Our B team, having been runners-up to the Sappers, entered the semi-final of the Bowl against the Pay Corps, but were narrowly defeated by the latter on penalty corners. Our A team however, after a hard fought game against the Gurkha Infantry A team, emerged winners by three penalty corners to one. The victors in the other semi-final proved to be the Sappers. The final of the Cup was played with much vigour, competitiveness and above all, sportsmanship. At the end of 20 minutes, under the captaincy of **Maj Tom Richardson**, we emerged the victors, the final score being 1 to 0. The Deputy Commander Gurkha Field Force, **Col M. J. F. Stephens**, presented the prizes . . . Shyabash.

The Inter Corps Champions

EXERCISE *TRAILWALKER 1986*
Report by Sgt Omparsad Gurung

Ex *Trailwalker* took place during the weekend 14 to 16 November and is an annual charity event open to both military and civilian teams of four. It is run over a 48 hour period, covering 100kms of very hilly and in places difficult terrain. This year's entry was the best yet with 95 teams, male and female, taking part. The event is organised by the Regiment in conjunction with Oxfam Hong Kong. Part of the administration requires a Surveillance Team to be established, to ensure that teams follow the correct route and to evacuate any casualties.

Headed by **Lt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa**, with assistance from four other ranks, this report covers a small part of their weekend. At the start point we were responsible for marshalling helicopters, bringing in VIPs and the media. At the assembly area, the organising committee chairman, **Maj Hamish Adams MBE** (now Lieutenant Colonel), the Regimental 2IC, was briefing the teams on the rules and conduct of the charity walk. It was to be a mass start and the flag dropped at 12 noon. Our first task was to assist Check Point (CP) 1 in controlling the influx of teams. After about three hours we took two participants to CP3, they had been unable to continue and they were handed over to their 'back up' team. At about 2000 hrs, CP1 radioed that one Chinese male was injured and required casevac. We immediately headed for this area, with **Maj Adams** and **Mr Paul Chu** of Oxfam Hong Kong following. The casualty was found and carried by stretcher to where our vehicle was parked; a distance of 2½kms. We took it in turns; it was not easy to carry an adult weighing about 75kg, along narrow paths, often steep. We then drove the casualty to CP3, where medical assistance was available.

Our next destination was CP4 (Tait's Cairn). The route from CP3 to CP4 was probably the longest and most difficult part of the walk. The rain was incessant and it was very windy, which made it extremely cold on the peaks; the rain in turn made the tracks very slippery. Still at CP4, we were awaiting the arrival of two teams, who were already two hours behind their ETA. It was decided that **Lt (QGO) Mohanbahadur** and **Sgt Gauprasad Pun** would walk back down the route towards CP3, hoping to find the two missing teams. This was not to be. An hour later a message was received that the two teams had called it a day and gone home!

Sunday dawned cold and wet; from the last CP, **Maj Adams, Lt (QGO) Mohanbahadur, Sgt Gauprasad** and **Cpl Ramkumar Rai** volunteered to walk with the last team. We were all waiting for their arrival at the finish. At last they came; the perseverence shown by the last team to finish, was worthy of praise. I am sure that everyone who was involved in this year's *Trailwalker*, would agree, that it was quite an experience and not to be forgotten.

Lt (QGO) Mohanbahadur Thapa is all smiles

The stretcher bearers, Mr Paul Chu and Maj Hamish Adams

DEPARTURES

January saw the departure of the Regiment's 2IC and the QM(T). The 2IC, **Maj Hamish Adams MBE** left on promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, to a post in MOD. He will however return in January 1988, when he will take up the reins as commander, Queen's Gurkha Signals. Shyabash. We look forward to your return.

The QM(T), **Maj Colin Richardson** was posted to 36 Sig Regt (TA); our best wishes to **Colin** and **Terri** for the future.

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'Oh wad some pow'r the giftie gie as tae see oursels as others see us.'
To A Louse
Robert Burns

The answer was there, it was obvious.

SHAPE were to cut over from their ageing Strowger exchange to a brand new digital exchange. Live Oak's own digital exchange is still in the pipeline but SHAPE agreed an interim plan to give us subscriber access. Alas there was to be no trunk facility to those parts of the Live Oak empire that even a digit cannot reach. An interface was needed. Rapid telephone calls were made to a number of Corps notables; **Maj (Retd) Dickie Armstrong** of 4 Sig Gp, **Capt (QM) Geordie Gainford** 22 Sig Regt, **WO2 (FofS) Ramsey** of SHAPE. It was agreed, it was technically feasible, it was available and Live Oak could have it.

The exchange cut over took place one week before a major Live Oak exercise. What follows was the view of one man, **Sig Foulks** of 22 Sig Regt (an exercise augmentee), of the trunk interface equipment.

THIS EXCHANGE

First designed to meet Wellington's requirement for a new bedside portable commode, the system was a little late entering service. The main problem was that the telephone had not been invented. However, when history corrected this oversight, acceptance trials were quickly initiated. In the meanwhile the exchange had doubled as a rifle rack and a therapeutic device for lunatics. In this day and age it still works as the latter, with a secondary function as field exchange.

Through decades, various 'improvements' to the basic MODUK specifications (No 137/AB-197/XYZ/13-9) have been incorporated. The original specification (from the Roman MOD No LXXVIII) called for a 'Curious bit of junk for Caeser to puzzle over'. This influenced Wellington in the basic design of his commode, but with the additional spec (MOD No 10/A) that it be 'big and bulky, with a lead lined box'.

It was in the Boer war that the first field modification of many took place. This was by a conniving Quarter Master who, trying to profit from the war, stripped out the lead. This he melted down moulded into bullets and sold them to the Boers. He was surprised by the way his profit margins shot up. He was even more surprised when he was Shot Up, by a Boer sniper using bullets bought from the same Quarter Master. His dying words were 'Oh, my wallet!'.

In 1914 the exchange was deployed to France with the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) where Sir Alexander Haig said 'It (the exchange) was a bulky thing . . . and did a lot to confound and confuse'. Asked why the enemy were confused he said, 'I meant our troops'.

The peacetime years saw a drastic escalation in the number of exchanges. Although the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force were reduced in size, the numbers of exchanges increased to a peak in 1939. This was to stand us in good stead when the BEF redeployed to France, it did so with a massive numerical superiority over Von Runstedt's army, the BEF had a staggering three to one advantage in exchanges. The fact that not every soldier in the BEF had a rifle was neither here nor there. So vast was Britain's effort to re-equip our Allies with exchanges that the French even used them as fortifications in the Maginot line. Spitfires were melted down to make new exchanges!!

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But perhaps the most drastic use of the exchange (by now known as the 40-160) came in 1945, when a lone B-29 Enola Gay, dropped a nuclear powered exchange on Hiroshima. This was sweet revenge for the Americans after the humiliating debacle of Pearl Harbour, where the Japanese bombed the base with exchanges captured from the British in Burma. This influenced Truman in his famous order 'Bomb the Jap B*****ds!'.

Now that global peace had suddenly broken out, the British had a major problem. With millions of men being demobilised, what should they do with the exchanges? In the 1960s the answer finally came. The British finally deployed the system designed around the 40-160 exchange, it was called BRUIN. Overnight the surplus was all but soaked up. Again its ability to confound and confuse was second to none.

While the Russians deployed SS-20's in the late 70s the UK deployed far/medium range 40-160s. The Americans, as a back up, deployed some medium range Union Carbide factories.

With the defence cuts of the early 80s Britain again experienced a surplus. 40-160s were fitted to the outside of Chieftain Tanks and became known as Chobham armour.

PTARMIGAN finally killed off the faithful old exchange. As a piece of equipment it has served its country loyally down through the centuries. What will happen now? Only time can tell . . .

The 40-160 in Live Oak Ops Centre was the original commode used by Wellington. It will be donated to the Imperial War Museum at Endex, to be displayed alongside his last 'pincer' movement. The exchange incorporates *every* mod ever undertaken on this type of exchange. The hole in the side was caused by a Boer sniper's bullet. Apart from that it is in mint condition.

The Blue Thumb Nail

POST SCRIPT

The 40-160 served well during the exercise and will continue to provide trunk access for about three months more.

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1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

THE FIRST PTARMIGAN SQUADRON OF THE FIRST PTARMIGAN ARMD DIV SIG REGT

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Bernard Barton-Ancliffe**
2IC	**Capt Mike Maxwell Royal Canadian Signals**
SSM	**WO2 Bob O'Hara**
FofS	**WO2 Ron Kirkwood**
YofS	**WO2 Dave Taylor**
SQMS	**SSgt Don Bruce**
MT SNCO	**Sgt Nick Churcher**

EAGLE TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Martin Ramshaw**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dennis Cox**
R/R Sgt	**Sgt Colin Weir**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt Dennis Cox**
R/R Recce	**Sgt Paul Shenton**

EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE*

The Troop performed well, yet again, getting in twice as many moves as the other two trunk nodes. Our fearless crew on O41A, **Sig 'someone's on my roof' Kenworthy** and **Sig 'Jock' Aitken** have now officially requested daylight duties only, and preferably nowhere near any trees in stormy weather.

FAREWELL TO PAPA SMURF

December saw the departure, from the Army, of **SSgt Syd Hayward**, Troop admin expert, Corps hockey player and test driver for Matchbox. He has had so many farewell binges (and presents) that we thought that he would never leave. Seriously **Syd** will be sorely missed by Eagle Troop. The Squadron and the Troop wish **Syd** and his family all the best in civvy street.

FALCON TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Calvin Owen**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Tom Paterson**
R/R Sgt	**Sgt Graham Reith**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt Dave Toleman**
R/R Recce	**Sgt John Lewis**

SITE GUARD

1 Sqn recently undertook an exercise in Anglo-American relations whilst on site guard. It was here that **Sig 'Jonah' Jones** whilst, supposedly on escort duty, was found chatting up an American MP (female of course!). The Squadron left its mark at the site with a superb example of 'Graffiti', in the form of the word SPAM written in the snow in five foot high letters.

Don't be disappointed!

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

FAREWELLS AND HELLOS

Falcon Troop has had the sad task of saying farewell to five of its members. **Sig Mick Moore** on leaving the Army to join the prison service. **LCpl Stu Pett** and his wife **Elaine** who are on their way to join **Sig 'Pele' Matthews** in 30 Sig Regt. **Sig 'Herdie' Herbet** on joining the REMFs of the Corps at 16 Sig Regt. **Cpl 'Gordie' Stobbs** to 4 ADSR. Finally the Troop would like to welcome **LCpl Jeff Jones** and his wife to the Troop and we hope that they have a happy tour.

HAWK TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Frank Roberts**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dave Bradshaw**
R/R Sgt	**Sgt Ivor Bailey**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt Al Davey**
R/R Recce	**Sgt Ivor Bailey**

October started with a Regimental exercise which also included a Plessey trial, Ex *Third Stretch*. Soon after this we lost **Cpl 'Posser' Guy** who went to 8 Sig Regt on his class I upgrading course. The Troop had six members in the Squadron boxing team and obtained second place in the competition, not coming first was quite naturally and unfairly attributed to **LCpl Tony Barker**'s training!

NEW ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We wish to welcome to the Troop **LCpl 'Wilffie' Kempton, LCpl Terry McIntyre, Sig Tony Brown, LCpl 'Cruncher' Fegan** and last but not least **LCpl Scooby Dennis**. We say farewell to **LCpl 'I am related to Capt Maxwell' Maxwell** and to **Sgt Ian Davies** and his wife **Sharon. Ian** has gone to civvy street and we wish him all the best.

2 SQN

The Squadron wives' club bade a fond farewell to **Freda Boag** our OC's wife. With a posting to Cyprus to look forward to, and the temperature outside −15, **Freda** wouldn't be drawn on how much she would miss the winters at Verden.

LCpl Frank Cleavin was tasked with organising a surprise day out for Rover Tp. This turned out to be a five hour boat trip down the Weser. **LCpl 'Fred' Perry** was given the wheel for a while and while the skipper looked on horrified he made a 180 degree turn in the middle of the river. The skipper decided enough was enough when the next target was an innocent fishing boat. **Sig Landridge** was notably worse for wear after playing Fizz Buzz and was only saved from walking the plank by **Cpl 'Bob' Marshall**.

Has anyone seen '21 Bogged in' alias **LCpl Ferguson**, he was last seen going out on Ex *Plug Up*?

3 SQN
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj B. J. Scott-Morton**
2IC	**Capt M. P. Wise**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Britton**
OC Oscar	**Lt S. Felton**
OC Line	**2Lt P. Bosher**
OC November	**SSgt Froggett**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Hugill**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Tate**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) McFarlane**

EXERCISE *ETERNAL TRIANGLE*

This was a 1 Armd Div FTX which was supported by most of the PTARMIGAN assets in 1 (BR) Corps. The exercise got off to a 'fine' start with Oscar Tp arriving at their first location feeling more like submariners than professional communicators. **SSgt 'Geordie' Dobson** thought he had put paid to his exercise after diving from the top of a 'panzer'. The boys cheered as he was casevaced—but no, 24 hours later he was back keeping them in check. First Prize went to the FofS for the most recorded sleep of any *Eternal Triangle* and congratulations to the SSM—he saw the FofS—once. Rear HQ were stretched to their limits managing to complete one move in the whole exercise.

INTER SQUADRON BOXING FINALS

Congratulations to the 3 Sqn Boxing Team who put up a good show in the preliminaries. They then went to town in the finals, beating the rest of the Regiment and coming out tops. Many thanks to **LCpl Eddie Gajny** for training the team and congratulations to **Sig Zammo Greenhalgh** who was chosen 'most courageous fighter'.

EXERCISE *PEAR TREE*

An annual event in the Sergeants' Mess in December. SNCOs from the local German Fernmeldebattalion were invited to a games afternoon/night with a difference. We will say no more except that 3 Sqn triumped again with the A team coming first and the B team third.

EXERCISE *HIGHLAND MALT I*

The Squadron deployed on Ex *Highland Malt I* which is a Regimental warm up exercise. It really blew the cobwebs away and was invaluable training for all the Squadron.

FAREWELL

A sad farewell to **Maj 'Bert' Elson** and wife **Joe**. Farewell also to **Sgt Clive Doughty** who is now with 12 Armd Bde Sig Sqn. (Rumour has it that **Clive** still has clean denims!) The post exercise season also saw the end of **SSgt (YofS) Bob Tate**'s brand new MG Maestro and **Sgt Pete Farrington**'s brand new Cordia Turbo—both wives swear that the trees jumped out in front of them, honest.

WELCOME

Welcome to **Maj B. J. Scott-Morton** our new OC, **2Lt P. Bosher** OC Line, **Sgt Ray Bray** and **Sgt Ian McWhirter**, we hope you enjoy your tour with the Third Squadron.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations on their promotion to the following: **Sgt Pete Farrington, Cpl 'Middy' Middlemiss, LCpls 'Shorts' Dewar, 'Chris' Atkins, 'Tom' Tomms, 'Spike' Sharp** and **LCpl 'McRosie' McCall**.

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201 Sig Sqn (22 Armd Bde)
BFPO 30

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

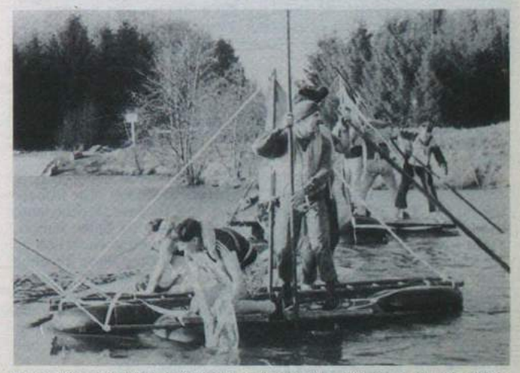
OC	**Maj D. J. Wills**
2IC	**Capt S. J. Turnbull**
OC 'A'	**Lt M. G. Billingham**
OC 'B'	**Lt H. Funt**
SSM	**WO2 Boyle**
YofS	**WO2 Sykes**
FofS	**SSgt Dott**
SQMS	**SSgt Riley**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt Jones**

INTER TROOP RAFT RACE

After a hectic exercise period the OC decided now was the time for fun and an inter Troop raft race was planned, in November! A heat wave was indented for by the SQMS but all he got was a 'dues out'. This did not deter the Troops and the race was on. Each Troop was given an assortment of equipment and a time limit to assemble their rafts.

The OC **Maj David Wills** inspected the rafts for 'A' jobs prior to launching and SHQ Troop were found to have a flat inner tube. **Cfn Martin Allso**'s explanation that it was sabotaged by B Troop fell on unsympathetic ears.

OC Maj David Wills (*left*) inspects SHQ Troop raft while Cpl Mathews (*centre*) hopes for the award of 'best dressed sailor' with Cfn Martin Allso (*right*) providing REME cover



Team 'Captain' Cpl John Levins shows his skill at 'punting' which he obviously learned at the Henley regatta, while LCpl Ted Heath and Sig Taff Wynne find a better use for figure 12 targets

Once in the water it became a two legged race between A Troop skippered by **Cpl John Levins** and B Troop skippered by **LCpl 'Hattie' Jaques** with both teams re-enacting the battle of Trafalgar and boarding parties being repelled. A Troop broke away from the conflict and took a commanding lead to the finish line followed in second place by B Troop.

SHQ Troop were in difficulty, that dreaded cry of 'Grolsch overboard' sent a shiver of fear throughout the crew but **LCpl 'KP' Wright** without any regard for his own safety, dived into the icy cold water to rescue the 'Grolsch'. He was last seen on the bank giving it the kiss of life!

REGIMENTAL INTER SQUADRON NOVICE BOXING

The Squadron boxing team, coached by **SSgt Pete Smith** and trained by **LCpls Hattie Jaques** and **Gaz Tanner** had undergone many months of training for this annual event and so with a seven man team they put up an excellent performance with three boxers reaching the Finals, **LCpl 'Hutch' Fegan, Sig 'Jock' Dewar** and **Pte Mick Callandar**.

The Finals being staged on the evening of Monday 1 December brought together many spectators from the Brigades and Squadrons to watch novice boxing at its best with boxers showing courage and determination to fight for a title.

Sig 'Jock' Dewar won his Lightweight bout by knocking down his opponent in the first round, he has now applied for the stand-in role for the next 'Rocky' film!

LCpl 'Hutch' Fegan won his Light/Middleweight bout which went the full three rounds with both boxers putting up a fine display of boxing.

Pte Mick Callander put up a brave show against a stronger opponent but his bout was stopped and the title of Light/Welterweight awarded to **LCpl Crawford** of 3 Sqn.

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn Boxing Team
Back Row (L to R): Sig Tony Pearson, Pte Andy Wait, Sig Eddie Wareing, Steve Tindal
Front Row (L to R): LCpl Hattie Jaques, Sig David 'Rocky' Dewar, Pte Mick Callander, LCpls Hutch Fegan, Gaz Tanner

EXERCISE *VOLCANO DIAMOND*

Report by SSgt (FofS) W. Dott and Sgt J. Dunne, 201 Sig Sqn

One midsummer's day in 1986 **Sgt Rubin Lynch** casually remarked to **Sgt Kev Jones**, 'Adventure Training in Sardinia is out, so why don't we go to Montserrat'.

'Where?'

'You know Montserrat — jewel of the Carribean.'

'Where exactly is the Carribean?'

One short geography lesson later, **Sgt Kev Jones** agreed that it would be a good idea, and so the seeds for Ex *Volcano Diamond* were sown.

On a wet, windy and very cold 6 November the 'Dirty Dozen' consisting of **Capt Steve Turnbull, SSgt Willie Dott, Sgt 'The Bishop' Lynch, Sgt Kev Jones, Sgt John Dunne, Cpl Buckers Buckingham, LCpls Col Etherington, Dose Rose, Nuts Nuttall, Sig Bullet Barnes, Vince King** and **DM Davis-Morris** departed Hohne for Gutersloh on the first leg of our journey, having finally prised **Capt Steve Turnbull** from his desk. The Squadron's MT again came up trumps ensuring that the journey to Gutersloh was unforgettable. They manged to supply an air-conditioned four-tonner which rarely exceeded a speed of 35 kmh, this ensured that we reached RAF Gutersloh some 20 minutes after the final booking in time. After much begging and pleading with the RAF movers, we were on our way.

On arrival in UK we scattered in all directions, after arranging to meet at Terminal 1 Heathrow on Saturday morning at 0900 hrs to check in by 0930 hrs.

As our readers will know, ensuring an RV for 12 people arriving by different methods, from different directions at different times very rarely occurs without some minor hitches. However, nobody could possibly envisage the chaos which would reign. After much to-ing and fro-ing, and fro-ing and to-ing we all arrived at Terminal 4 (the correct departure terminal) with minutes to spare.

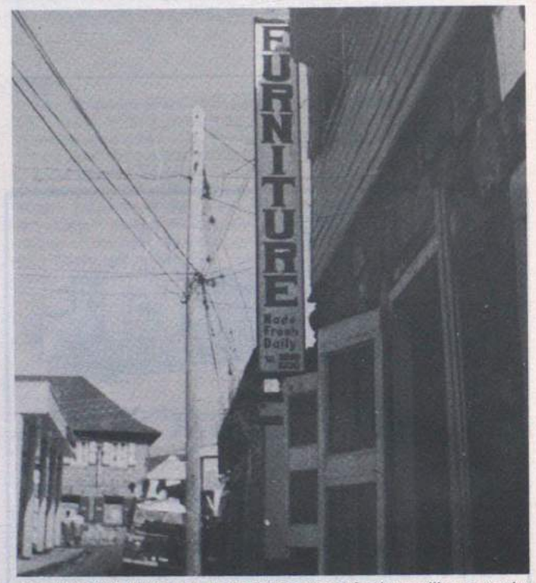
The eight hour flight aboard the Jumbo Jet from London to Antigua was for many a first time experience, particularly the hospitality extended by BA's stewardesses! We landed in Antigua without incident and connected with our Island Hopper flight to Montserrat.

We were met by the Montserrat Defence Force who were our hosts during our stay. We drove to Plymouth, the Island capital, and collected stores and equipment from MDF HQ which we took to our accommodation.

Having had a good night's sleep the early rise to attend the 0730 hrs Remembrance Service was not too painful. MDF, Police, Cadets and Girl Guides were represented on the parade. The March Past was taken by the Governor of the Island. The rest of the day was taken up with a general recce of the Island and **Sig Davis-Morris's** first climb of a coconut tree!

We had our first taste of Tropical rain in the evening and this prompted us to remain in our present accommodation as it at least afforded a roof, which didn't leak, over our heads. That resolved, we then spent the rest of the day making the rather spartan surroundings and facilities more habitable.

The roof on our accommodation had recently been replaced, unfortunately the old asbestos roof had been thrown off and piled outside the front door. **Sgt Rubin Lynch** being a Pioneer and rather handy with a shovel, decided that the debris just had to go (and so it did, some five hours and a few strained backs later!). It was during this clearing operation that **LCpl Nuts Nuttall** decided to take a shower in one of the now frequent cloudbursts.



Locally made furniture was not renowned for its resilience to the local climate. This shop in Plymouth produced furniture 'made fresh daily'!

Sgt Rubin Lynch who is a 'native' of the Island was most suited to be our Liaison Officer and also the Procurement Executive! He took to these tasks with great aplomb.

The recce's for Trekking, Abseil training, Abseiling and Top Roping then followed. A suitable location was found and during the next two days an intensive training programme in top roping and abseiling techniques was conducted because many members of the group had never abseiled before. The training consisted of knots, harness (including chest and full body from rope), belay sites and setting up belays above and below a climbing or abseiling site. Coincidentally, the site chosen for the training happened to be the Viewpoint Beach. It was reasoned that dry training could be conducted just as well on a beach as it could be on a mountain or cliff face. Needless to say, smoke breaks were replaced by cool drinks and swim breaks.

The next day was spent putting into practice the lessons that had been learned. The site chosen had a drop of approximately 120ft into the sea, and a very crumbly surface. The whole group plus a number of the MDF completed the descent a number of times which made for some excellent video shots by our intrepid cameraman **Sig Vince King**. Everyone agreed that the descent had induced a high pucker factor (little did they know what was to come!).

On Saturday we assaulted 'Chances Peak', the highest point on Montserrat, rising to a height of 3,002ft. To reach the summit did not appear, on paper, to be very difficult but in reality it proved to be a very arduous trek indeed, especially with the prevailing heat and very high humidity. We reached the summit in a state of exhaustion, well in need of the cold refreshing drinks that followed. The view from the top was well worth the effort in reaching it, and we seemed to have chosen one of the few days when the summit wasn't shrouded in cloud, which meant that we could see most of Montserrat and some neighbouring islands. The descent, nay plummet, was not without risk due to the steep gradient and loose surface. We paused briefly halfway down to refresh ourselves in a water catchment tank which was thoughtfully provided by the US Aid Foundation.

On the Sunday **Sgt 'The Bishop' Lynch** persuaded **LCpl Nuts Nuttall** and **Sig Vince King** to attend his village church. They certainly got more than they bargained for! The Church service, Carribean style, is much more boisterous than we are accustomed to! The remainder took advantage of the kind offer from the Montserrat Yacht Club to have a day's sailing using their Sunfish craft.

The following day we went off abseiling again. This started with an hour's hike following the White River to the Great Alp Falls, the sight of the waterfall prompted mutterings of; No Way, Not Me, You Must Be Joking or words to that effect. A 140ft drop with the river swollen by the heavy recent rains caused many a heart to flutter, but all managed to complete the descent at least once.

During the course of the next three days the group managed to trek over most of the hills into the interior of the island, managing to fit in climbing and abseiling whenever we came across a likely site. The most difficult part of this period was not the distances or gradients to be negotiated, but managing to forge a route through the dense foliage. On Thursday afternoon whilst following a river down to our pick-up point we had the opportunity to try and catch freshwater prawns and lobster, the local way by hand! From rock to rock we scurried feeling for the shellfish until a cadet, who was with us, found one. On inspecting his fingers it was decided, by us, that fishing should be carried out with pots or rod and reel, so we carried on and left the experts to it.

On Friday we took to the water again sailing with some of the local fishermen who had kindly offered to take us out for the day to sail and also to show us the local methods of fishing, collecting and re-setting their traps. This culminated in a beach barbecue where a large proportion of the day's catch was disposed of.

During our stay the group managed to spend time visiting various sights on the island, including Radio Antilles and the recording studios. All agreed that the expedition had been truly worthwhile and that they would take back enough memories to last a lifetime.

On behalf of the group we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted with the expedition, especially the Montserrat Defence Force who made us feel very welcome and provided invaluable assistance with our stores and equipment.

The terrible 12, complete with local guide 'Ashley', pose for a last day line-up

Sig Pat 'Bullet' Barnes climbing up the sea cliffs en-route for the first of the high abseil pitches

212 Sig Sqn (12 Armd Bde) BFPO 36

BAOR ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS
Report by Maj Jon Henderson

The BAOR Championships were held in the Osnabruck area on 29/30 November. Under the threat of 'no Christmas leave' from the OC, **Maj Jon Henderson**, a team was put together consisting of **Lt 'Yes, I know I'm last' Richard Giles, Sgt 'I'll win this time' Holden, Sgt Clive Doughty, LCpl Sam 'Where's Serendipity' Wright, Sig Tom Baker** and, of course the OC.

On the first day, in the Cross Country event, **Sig Tom 'No, I'm not following anyone' Baker** gave a fine performance and took third place behind 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt, by just over half an hour. Not to be deterred, after a short pep talk from the OC (well lads, they could break a leg), we started the second day, the Relay with little chance of success. However, fine first leg performances by **Sgts Holden** and **Doughty** left the OC and **LCpl Wright** with winning thoughts in their minds. After some fast runs, **Sig Tom Baker**'s and **Lt Richard Giles**' start to the third leg put hope in their hearts and they cruised in comfortably ahead of the 3 Sqn team. But was it enough? Nail-biting moments followed until eventually the result was announced, a win overall by 12 Armd Bde Sig Sqn by 12 minutes! A fine finish to an excellent two day event, made even better by our parent Regiment, 1 Armd Div Sig Regt winning the Major Units Trophy. Well done the lads! Also thanks to our loyal supporters who cheered us on, **Trysh Henderson, Rosie Wright, Marion Baker** and **Cpl Stevie Clark**.

EXERCISE *HUNTER DIAMOND*
Report by Lt Ian Hunter

One of the many things that took place in July was some adventure training in Bavaria which involved approximately 45 members of the Squadron. Activities included climbing, mountaineering, boardsailing and some canoeing. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, as long as they weren't suffering too much!

A healthy sense of rivalry entered into it between the Rock Apes (climbers/mountaineers) led by **Lt Ian Hunter** (missing link) and the Minceboarders (boardsailing) led by **Lt Richard Giles** (I've got a degree in sailing). Thanks go to **Cpl Mac McLeish, Sgt Dave (I'll get to the top of this mountain if it kills me) Inman**, and **Cpl Andy (I can't do everything) Stevens**, for their instruction. Thanks go to **Cpl Willy MacPhee** and his wife for looking after us and congratulations too on the birth of their baby girl, **Holly**.

The 'gang' having a rest after an exhausting climb
From L to R: Dvr Mark Rowe, Cpl A. C. O. Warren, 2Lt Hunter, Pte Sally Salisbury, Sig Scekzy Carroll, LCpl Rabbit Simpson, Sig Tom Baker, Ashy Ashcroft, LCpl Professor McDermott, Sig Dogs Bohama, Pte Bev Hoole, Cpl Stevie Clark and Sgt Dave Inman

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We would like to welcome the following to the Squadron, and hope that they and their families have a happy tour in Osnabruck: **SSgt Neish, Sgts Brown, Weir, Williams, Fell, Jeffery, Whitehead**. We say farewell to **LCpl Ager, Pte Duncan, Sgt Inman, Pte Jenkins, SSgt Mathews** and **LCpl Simpson** and hope that they and their families enjoy their new postings.

An Informal Diplay of Oscar Troop's Men and Equipment
Back Row: Sig Bob Sizeland, LCpl (Nora) Battye, Sig Jeremy Fletcher, LCpl (Spock) Kirk, Cpls George Daughtrey, (Smudge) Smith, Sig Stephen Downing, LCpl (Geordie) Raine, Sig Stevie Preece, Craig Dowdle
Front Row: LCpl Tim Hopkins, Cpl Graham Westall, Sig (Scottie) Scott, (Scouse) Johnson, Pete Hatton, LCpl (Geordie) Whittaker, Sig (Ashey) Ashcroft, Morgan, LCpl (Das) Williamson, Sig David Beauchamp, Cpl Stevie Clark
Front: Lt Richard Giles, Sgt Clive Doughty

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2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

FAREWELL TO COMMANDER ROYAL ARTILLERY

On Friday 19 December 1986 we bade a fond farewell to **Brig Giles Arnold**, the Divisional Commander Royal Artillery. **Brig Arnold** moves on to the Royal College of Defence Studies in London. He will be greatly missed by all members of the Regiment for the assistance he has afforded to the Regiment during his tour in York.

By way of farewell the Regiment lined the route and cheered him enthusiastically as he made his exit in a 'borrowed' Ferret Scout Car. As can be seen in the photograph, **Brig Arnold** took no chances and arrived armed with a lance to fend off any unfriendly spectator!

Our second picture shows **Lt Col R. H. G. Elford**, our CO replenishing the CRA's champagne glass prior to the final farewell toast.

We have great pleasure in welcoming **Brig G. S. Hollands** as our new CRA and take this opportunity to wish him a happy and successful tour with 2 Inf Div here in York.

Brig Giles Arnold making his exit in a borrowed Ferret scout car, armed with a lance and ready for anything

'Now we can get down to some real talking', Brig G. S. Hollands, the new CRA in discussion with Lt Col R. H. G. Elford, during a tour of the box body complex on the square

VISIT OF THE LORD MAYOR OF YORK TO 2 INF DIV HQ AND SIG REGT

On the morning 4 December the Lord Mayor of York accompanied by the Mayoress, Sheriff and Sheriff's Lady visited 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt.

The tour of the Regiment included a visit to the training wing where **SSM Ian McDonald** demonstrated the intricacies of a .22 rifle to all concerned.

This was followed by a visit to the LAD and finally the cookhouse, where the Lord Mayor served lunch to a lucky few. The Mayoral Party was escorted by **Maj Brendon Hughes**.

SSM Ian McDonald demonstrates the working parts of a rifle to the Mayoral Party

The Lord Mayor of York serves lunch to Pte Stuart Watson

INTER TROOP CROSS COUNTRY RUN

On a chilly, damp December morn, the 2IC, **Maj Brendon Hughes** stumbled upon an idea. 'Let's have an inter-Troop Cross Country Run!' Well as a result, the Sergeants' Mess members 'groaned', the Corporals' Mess members 'returned to the bar' (not really!), and the Officers took an extra day's leave! The 2IC, never to be put off by initial reaction (which was slightly adverse to say the least!) stuck to his guns and on a chilly, damp December afternoon the Regiment flogged around the four mile course.

The results were as follows:- first—**LCpl (Chinkie) Sloan**; second—**Sgt Neil Killen**; third—**Cpl William Dallas**.

In the veterans' competition the result was never really in doubt with **Capt 'Bergen Bob' Yeomans** coming out on top. He's not admitting that he has now reached the veterans clan—but says he can still get around the BFT in under nine and a half minutes! All in all it was an excellent day and was judged to be a first class remedy for the unfit!

210 Sig Sqn (24 Inf Bde)
Catterick

CCX

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paddy Crowley**
2IC	**Capt David Burden**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
Trg Offr	**Lt Huw Wareham**
OC O Tp	**Lt Andy Duncan**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Andy Fletcher**
SSM	**WO2 Al Gibbons**
YofS	**WO2 Mick Taylor**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Campbell**
CC	**SSgt John O'Donnell**

WE SAY GOODBYE . . .

Two new faces in the Squadron hierarchy this month with the arrival of **SSM Al Gibbons** and **Capt Mick Besant**, the former fresh from 2 Inf Div's PTARMIGAN training team and the latter from the balmy delights of Cyprus. The Catterick weather has already taken its toll.

To make way for the new SSM we have of course had to say farewell to **SSM (now RSM) Mick Pawlak** and his wife **Jenny** who have left us for the School Regiment at Blandford. The Squadron wishes them both the best of luck in their new posting.

Other farewells include **Cpl Andy Lebillon** to 28 Sig Regt, **Cpl Tommo Thomson** RCT to 205 Gen Hosp (V), and **LCpl Paddy Brown** who has left the Corps to run his motorbike business.

On 22 January the Squadron officers, SNCO's and their ladies gathered in a local hostelry to bid a final farewell to **Lt Gary Mason** and **Cath**. All enjoyed a good evening's wining and dining. The Squadron wishes **Lt Mason** all the best in his new posting and hopes 202 Sig Sqn will be able to put up with the sudden influx of sports course applications following his arrival.

VISIT of SOinC

The Squadron welcomed the SOinC **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** on his visit on Tuesday 2 December.

The Squadron was on exercise (our first time with PTARMIGAN in the field), and the SOinC joined us in time for lunch (our first time with **Sgt Dave Morris ACC** in the field). After lunch the SOinC toured the Brigade headquarters in the field.

The General visited Diamond 10 and examined the complex; he then met **LCpl Taff Mallaney** in Oscar 4's cell. Thankfully **Lts Mason** and **Duncan** managed to rescue the SOinC in time for him to catch his transport.

The SOinC visits Diamond 10. Cpl Willy Young hopes that the SOinC hasn't spotted LCpl Ginge Butler trying to see who is distrubing his kip

VISIT OF BRIGADE COMMANDER

The visit of **Brig P. E. Wooley OBE**, Comd 24 Inf Bde took place on Mon 8 December 1986, the same day that OC Papa Tp arrived back in the Troop after two months away in Verden:

'Hello **Cpl Hollingsworth**, anything happening today?'

'Yes sir, the new Commander is visiting the Squadron and we're putting the complex up for him. By the way Sir you're expected to show him round the complex.'

'But I've never seen the complex set up before. Where's the 2IC? I'm going to kill him, he didn't tell me about this over the weekend.

OC Papa Tp stormed off in the direction of SHQ.

Meanwhile the men of Oscar and Papa set up a show piece complex. The Commander arrived and the OC Sqn kept him as far away from the complex as he could for as long as possible, by showing him around as many parts of the Squadron as possible whilst **2Lt Andy Fletcher** got to grips with what goes where in the complex and who does what.

The visit ended with the Officers and SNCO's entertaining the Commander to lunch and with a visit to the Sergeants' Mess, where the Foreman discovered the latest in career furtherance—challenging the Commander to squash and then losing.

EXERCISE *GOLD KEY 5*

The fifth and final *Gold Key* exercise was the Squadron's final chance to practise PTARMIGAN deployment before being set upon by staff officers.

On the Monday morning after a weekend of heavy snow Oscar Tp set out for 'Oh no not again' Rabbit Wood, which a succession of Friday afternoon runs had confirmed had not moved in the last six months. No sooner was the headquarters up than the 'boss' was wanting us to move. It was then we realised we had a hard exercise ahead of us, but we were saved from that by the blizzard the following night.

Congratulations go to **Cpl Al Higgins** for being the only one to successfully freeze his diesel system, and also to the new **'SSM Gibbons'** who on his first appearance in the Squadron not only performed very well in the 'Golden Maggot' award but also, in a bid to show how vehicles should be marshalled, bogged in two four tonners in the snow, and that's not to mention the disappearing act (all 5ft of him) in a 6ft snowdrift.

As well as the snow causing problems moving vehicles into location it also caused them moving them out again. It was a case of three hours to move 3kms the following morning.

Despite the weather, it proved an invaluable exercise from the Squadron's point of view to deal with any problems, and a lot of fun was had by all.

Running concurrently with Ex *Gold Key 5* was Ex *Gryphons Gadget*, which was designed to introduce others to PTARMIGAN and WAVELL. **Cpls Chappy Chapman** and **Steve Haresign** explained the marvels of deducible dialling to those present, so if the system doesn't work you will know why!

UNLIKELY STORIES

2Lt Andy Fletcher has worked out how to keep track of his Troop during lunch times. One day he locked up the garages and went to lunch. Passing strangers were soon bemused by the cries from the Troop garages as **LCpl John Clifford** and **Sig Snowy Snowdon** did chimpanzee impressions up against the inside of the wiremesh doors!

YofS Mick Taylor succeeded in getting away from the delights of a Catterick winter for the second year in succession, all under the guise of a 'recce' in Cyprus ready for Ex *Lion Sun* in April. This is despite the fact that last year's trip (but not the recce) was cancelled, and that he's posted to Blandford before we go in April. His partner in crime this year was **SQMS Mick Campbell**.

January saw the annual Seniors v The Rest Football Match, on a bitterly cold day. The Seniors put in a disappointing performance, losing badly. The highlight was SSM Mick Pawlak taking an early bath in a cleverly disguised water tank. Here Cpl Steve Haresign poses on the sideline

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

EXERCISE *FALLEN BIRD*

Arnstan, a small country in the Arnsbergerwald, torn apart by civil war and now under martial law enforced by the Military Forces of Fanstasia. An American Spy Plane has been shot down and the crew captured by Arnstan Forces.

1 Sqn of 3 Div Sig Regt are required to provide a Platoon to infiltrate deep into enemy territory and extract the pilots. An all volunteer unit quickly undergoes training and after rescuing agents from the bottom of cliffs and crossing rivers, the enemy base is discovered, attacked and the pilots taken to safety.

The Platoon then infiltrates further into enemy territory ambushing convoys and harassing the enemy until they are captured by a crack Fantasian Airborne Unit. Interrogated for what seemed like days the Platoon managed to escape and evaded recapture, except one, until they fled the country and rejoined friendly forces for a curry, beer and a lot of war stories. Organisation of the exercise with special thanks to **SSM 'Green light go' Granitza, SSgt 'Bungieman' Gaffney, Sgt 'Bog-em-in' Brice** and **Cpl 'Joe' Fiteni**, and all the officers and seniors of 1 Sqn.

Cpl Pounsett, LCpl Downie and LCpl Rothery during the infiltration phase

Captured! But the lads still find time to do 'the Conga'

Friday 9 January saw the formal 'beers open' handing over of 1 Sqn from **Maj Ron Abbott** to **Maj Harry Ross** in the Squadron 'Woodstock' Club, Salamanca Barracks, Soest. (**Maj Abbott** is the one on the right poised to give a rendition of the 'Lumberjack song'.

As way of a parting gift **Maj Abbott** donated to the Squadron a scrap book for which this photograph will be the first. All those leaving from now on will get their 'mug shot' in the scrap book plus a chance to sing a song of their choice.

Maj Abbott leaves 1 Sqn on appointment as 2IC of the Regiment (he who wields mandatory training figures from on high). Both **Maj Abbott** and his wife **Pat** are wished every success by all in 1 Sqn and the wives want to say their own special thank you to **Pat**, a very special lady.

2 SQN

By the time these notes appear in print, the Squadron will have endured what appears now, to be an intensive fortnight of CPX. Ex *Flying Falcon, Iron Charge* and *Winter Sales* all take place over the next two weeks, and the efforts made over Ex *Red Tricorn I*, the various Regimental plug ups and Ex *Start Right* should stand us in good stead. Certainly the past few weeks have been hectic; preparing vehicles and equipment, and maintaining the AFV 436 fleet for the series of lead-in exercises for the next fortnight have kept the Squadron busy.

Meanwhile, our various skiers have returned from the Divisional and Army ski meets, and a separate report is included from **2Lt Colin Hinsley**, whom we now welcome back to start some serious Troop commanding.

We have welcomed a number of new arrivals, too numerous to mention, but in particular **SSgt (SQMS) Bell, Sgt Dennis Rawson** and **Cpl Craig Avey-Hebditch**. **LCpl Smudge Smith**, having spent far too long at RLD is still bemused by 'Panzerspeak', although **LCpls Steve Brett** and **Tom Glanville** are content with their comforts of home in their VIP rovers.

Farewells to **SSgt (SQMS) Bob Hope** (good luck in 1 Sqn), **Sgt Dougie Dorian, Cpl 'Spills' Spilling** on promotion to Sergeant, **LCpl Dave Stait, LCpl (now Cpl) Evans** and **Sig (now Mr) Taff Powell**. Also **LCpl (now Cpl) Nigel Lilley, Cpl Taff Thomas**. To these and those we haven't mentioned welcome and farewell.

EXERCISE *MERLIN TRIANGLE*/**EXERCISE** *EDEL IRON*
DIVISIONAL AND ARMY ALPINE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a tortuous journey the Regimental team **2Lt Colin Hinsley, Sgt Rip Atkinson, Cpls Des Donnelly, Ian Elborn, LCpl Graeme Whitehead, Sig Steve Saunders, Pete Raku** and **Toyah Wilcox** arrived in Zermatt, Switzerland to begin six weeks of training for the Divisional and Army Alpine Ski Championships. The first week of training was also week one of the Royal Signals ski camp in which **LCpl Steve Phillips** was attached to our team. Conditions were ideal for training and the team got stuck into basic skills and giant slalom practice. The second week consisted of solid slalom training with a welcome break to lunch with generous **Roger Moore** at a mountain side restaurant. After two weeks of training definite improvements could be seen in all team members. The week ended with a hectic move between chalets, the conclusion of the Royal Signals ski camp and a murderous run gaining 1,000m to the Edelweis.

The weather changed for the worse over the next week and Après ski activities took over from training which was not possible because of the poor weather and large snowfall. This was a great setback in the training schedule. The weather improved very slightly over the festive week and allowed us to ski on the lower slope but unfortunately pole training was still not possible. The final week saw some clear but extremely cold weather, which allowed us to get some very hard and continuous training done on the Glacier over Slalom and Giant Slalom courses.

As a whole the six weeks of training with 22 Sig Regt had been a success even though we had not done as much pole training as we had hoped. The team enjoyed the stay in Zermatt and were now in fine shape to go to Fulpmes, Austria for the Divisional ski meeting.

The Divisional ski meeting held over 10 days consisted of seven major races, the Team and Individual Slalom, Giant Slalom, Downhill and that old gem the 15km langlauf race. The team was now down to six members with **LCpl Graeme Whitehead** and **2Lt Colin Hinsley** skiing as individuals. The Regiment finished fourth in the Giant Slalom, second in Slalom and Downhill. This gave us an overall position second which was just behind 22 Sig Regt who won the Team Alpine Combination. This was a very pleasing result and it enabled us to qualify for the Army meeting.

RESULTS DIVISIONAL MEETING

	Team G Sl	*Ind G Sl*	*SL*	*Downhill*
Sgt Atkinson	5th	4th	3rd	2nd
Cpl Edlborn	22nd	21st	21st	14th
Cpl Donnelly	16th	22nd	13th	11th
Sig Raku	32nd	34th	29th	44th
LCpl Whitehead	DNF	64th	117th	DNF
2Lt Hinsley	85th	93rd	DNF	61st

The Army meeting included the same three disciplines but at a much higher standard. We were not as successful as we expected in the Army meeting. A bad start in the long Giant Slalom races pushed the team back in the seeding list. This made life very difficult trying to ski roller coaster style ruts through the tight slalom courses. Even so some very good results were achieved. The very testing and frightening Army Downhill course proved to be our best event in which the team finished fourth overall. The team finished ninth in the Slalom but failed to achieve a result in the Giant Slalom as only **Sgt Atkinson** and **Cpl Elborn** completed the course.

Left to Right: Sig Pete (Foreskull) Raku, 2Lt Colin (Splash) Hinsley, LCpl Graeme (Toucan) Whitehead, Cpl (Tintin) Elborn, Sgt Phil (Rip) Atkinson, Cpl (Barrel Head) Donnelly

The 3 Armd Div Sig Regt Divisional Team
Left to Right: Sig Steve Saunders, Sig Pete Raku 'Enjoying changing flags on a sunny afternoon'

RESULTS OF THE ARMY ALPINE MEETING

	Ind SL	*Team SL*	*Ind G Sl*	*Team G Sl*	*Downhill*
Sgt Atkinson	9th	11th	DNF	19th	9th
Cpl Elborn	36th	35th	39th	48th	32nd
Cpl Donnelly	34th	DNF	DNF	DNF	30th
2Lt Hinsley	DNF	77th	83rd	DNF	DNF

The team looks forward to bluer skies next year and hopes to win the Divisional and Army Alpine Combination and may be the Princess Marina Cup if the Nordic team improve as they should do.

Back Row Left to Right: Sgt Rip Atkinson, Cpl Ian Elborn, LCpl Graeme Whitehead, Roger Moore, Cpl Des Donnelly, 2Lt Colin Hinsley, LCpl Steve Phillips
Front Row Left to Right: Sig Steve Saunders, Pete Raku, Toyah Wilcox

'The team find time to lunch with Roger Moore'

RNLI CHARITY ANGLING MATCH
SOEST OTTERS ANGLING CLUB

Members of the Regiment recently joined forces with the Garrison Fishing Club, The Soest Otters, fishing a 24 hour charity match to raise money for the RNLI. The match was fished by 18 members of the club, all from local Regiments.

The day went well, with good fishing for everyone. Over 100 kilos were caught during the 24 hour period.

Seen in the photograph is **Mr John Hyde** handing over the cheque for £700 to the CO, **Lt Col Truluck**, with members of the club present; (L-R) **Cpl Joe Fiteni, Sgt Mac MacKenzie, Cpls Bill Pagan** and **Dave Hydes.**

The event will now take place annually; this year's nominated charity being Wireless for the Blind.

Left to Right: Cpl Fiteni, Sgt McKenzie, CO, Mr John Hyde, Cpls Pagen and Hydes

202 Sig Sqn (33 Armd Bde) BFPO 16

Report by Lt N. A. W. Pope

Two Regimental exercises, Ex *Red Tricorn IV* and Ex *Red Tricorn I* brought us to the end of 1986. This allowed newcomers an opportunity to find their feet, and the Squadron as a whole a breathing space to prepare for an exceptionally hectic Spring period.

HOCKEY

Due partly to the enthusiastic attention given to hockey by Comd 33 Bde, **Brig Alex Harley**, and the OC Sqn, **Maj David Proctor**, the Squadron still maintains an unbeaten record, including convincing wins against 204 Sig Sqn, 3 ADFA and 5 Innis DG. Strong back-up is provided by **SQMS Ron Woodger** and **Sgt Kerphal Singh**, with **Sig Fred 'Binhead' Walker** and **Sean Wilkinson** providing excellent strength in depth.

FOOTBALL

The team reached the third round of the Army Challenge Cup before losing to a well-disciplined 1 RS team. In the Minor Units Cup the team is through to the third round and is due to play 65 Sp Eng Sqn RE. All that remains now is to get through the backlog of league games. Players who have impressed included ex Harrogate apprentices **Sig 'Stew' Stewart** and **Nigel 'GM' Medford**.

SQUASH

Though the only minor unit team in the 3 Armd Div Squash League, the Squadron Squash Team is renowned for its durability, if not its success. The team did do well, however, to come fourth out of 12 in the Paderborn Garrison Squash Championships, with **Sig John Beavers** excelling by winning all his matches. The remainder of the team were, **Maj David Proctor, WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden, Sgt Rick Divall RAPC** and **Cpl Kev Jarvis**.

SKIING

Both Rhine and Ardennes Troops took a day off from vehicle maintenance in January to go skiing at Willingen. What was lacking in style was easily made up for in enthusiasm with many renditions of latter-day kamikaze raids. Thanks go to **Cpl Kev Jarvis** and **LCpl Pete Ellwood** for arranging the trip, and for their endless patience in instructing.

Cpl Chris Murray tied up in knots

NOTICE

Finally it has come to the attention of the Squadron Commander that he is entitled a 2IC. On checking records, the Squadron Chief Clerk, **Sgt Charlie Foster**, discovered that a **Capt Neil Couch** is indeed held on strength by the Squadron. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this officer, would they kindly inform him that he is to proceed directly to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt where he is due to take over as the Adjutant!

SSgts Gus Graham and Frank McAleer in action

Sig Nigel Medford displays the 'Ring of Confidence'

204 Sig Sqn (4 Armd Bde)
BFPO 17

204 SIG SQN CROSS COUNTRY

Over the past year, with stars being posted, exercises and other Squadron commitments, you would think that all these team weakening events would make a difference, 'but no', once again the Squadron Cross Country Team put up a great show.

Throughout the League Season, Scratch Teams often comprising press-ganged victims rather than the genuine gladiatorial types, turned up to demonstrate their running prowess (normally arriving 30 minutes after everyone else).

The Team was provided with the now kaput 110 Landrover and ventured on the once weekly journey to wherever and after being cramped and bumped around for so many kilometres were in real good fettle to take on the mandatory six mile course, so all things considered, it's understandable we only made fifth place in the League which is no disgrace.

Then came the 3 Div Championships, when the Team really produced the goods by steaming in to take the Minor Unit Runners-up Trophy. **Sgt Steve Newman** and **Jim Hawkins** excelled themselves with a sprint finish which they repeated the following week in the BAOR championships. **Sig 'Ski' Wilkes** did well to run the full distance in his leather jacket, followed closely by **Sig 'Alfie' Hitchcock** who managed to attract attention with his psychedelic super-stretch tights.

Credit must go to **Cpl John Passfield** for holding the Team together throughout the season, which ended in better shape than the start with **SSgts Jeff Williams, Cpl Keith Balsdon** and **2Lt (Superstar) Fred Whichelo** all being posted in.

Our final position of fifth in BAOR was tolerable as the field was very strong. With the Team at present we can only get better—watch out 3 Div League.

STOP PRESS:

2Lt Fred Whichelo has been selected to run for the Army Team in the Inter Service Championships.

SQUASH

Congratulations are due to the Squadron Squash Team who have won the 3 Div Minor Units Championship for the last two seasons and who beat 3 Tk Tpt Sqn RCT on 5 February to win for the third year. The team that beat 3 Tk Tpt Sqn RCT were, **WO2 (YofS) Nick Hammet, WO2 Rick Ravenscroft, SSgt Barry Palmer, Sgt Clyde Atherley** and **Sgt Phli Bozilovic**. They will now represent 3 Armd Div in the minor units section of the BAOR Championships. Due to the imminent departure of **Sgt Clyde Atherley** to warmer climes the team will be slightly weakened.

SWIMMING

This has been our first opportunity to mention the Squadron Swimming Team who during the 1985/86 season came second in the BAOR Minor Units and fourth in the Army Minor Units Championships.

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206 Sig Sqn (6 Airmob Bde)
BFPO 106

3 ARMD DIV SKI MEET
Report by Lt J. S. Field

On 29 December the Squadron's Langlauf ski team set off for the snow covered mountains of the Stubai Austria on Ex *Snow White Triangle*. The exercise was training for the 3 Armd Div's Ski Meeting.

They definitely had their work cut out as three of the six members had never been on snow before. Training started down in the valley, on the loipe running through the village. After two days it was decided to try the 10km course up in the mountains. This too went well, apart from **Sig 'Compass' Pike** who managed to get terribly lost even though the route was sign posted all the way round. The other two novices managed very well however; **Sig 'Hackit' Hogg** and **FofS 'Fallover' Gaffney**.

Training continued up in the mountains with no further problems. **Sig Pike** got lost again but was later found back at the Landrover by the rest of the team after they had done a further 15km looking for him. **LCpl 'Cordon Bleu' Taylor** wanted to tie a long piece of string to his skis but this idea was rejected.

The first race was the 10km individual for Juniors and Novices. This race went very well for **Sig Hogg** who put in a very creditable 37 minutes.

The other races were the 4 × 10km relay, the 15km individual, the biathlon and the patrol race. No spectacular results were achieved but some performances do deserve mentioning. In the 10km relay the Foreman had a good time of 44 minutes. The 15km individual race saw a few falls but **Lt 'Blue extra' Field** managed to go round in one hour and six. The biathlon course was the most interesting, with the second loop resembling a roller coaster. The first leg was run by **FofS 'Fallover' Gaffney** who approached the range for his first shoot looking like a snowman and blowing the snow out of the rear sights of his rifle. **LCpl Taylor** and **Lt Field** made respectable times but unfortunately they couldn't persuade the Foreman to leave the magic roundabout early enough!

The patrol race was enjoyed by all with the Foreman and **'Hackit' Hogg** expending considerable energy looking for Snow Snakes. Unfortunately they didn't catch any despite a concentrated effort during the later part of the course.

On the whole, the race meeting was enjoyed by all, including **Sig 'Banana' Murray** who during the training and the 15km managed to bend more poles than Yuri Geller.

THE REGIMENTAL NORDIC SKI TEAM

Training started in Norway at the end of November in a tiny mountain village called Nordsetter. The team combined with that of 22 Sig Regt for this phase of the training. Novices in the team included **LCpl Billy Bremner, Sig 'Gibbo' Gibbins** and the fastest chef on skis, **Pte (Col) Burke. Sig (Rock) Hudson** should have gone to Norway but 'scratched' his finger while trying to tickle a fanbelt doing 500 rpm, unlucky!

LCpl 'Taff' Robins arrived in Norway two weeks later than the rest of the team but made up for lost time by training hard and taking every opportunity available to sleep. He spent a considerable amount of time each day demonstrating a new skill picked up on his PTI courses, namely the Welsh head-plant turn. The team returned to Soest for a few days before moving onto Ruhpolding, Bavaria on Christmas Eve for the second phase of the training.

The team stayed in self catering accommodation on the upper floor of a large, old Bavarian farmhouse. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve was spent with the farming family in their tiny cellar bar. The family delighted in showing the team various seasonal Bavarian customs. In the same spirit, the team reciprocated by demonstrating a number of strange rituals to the family. **LCpl Billy Bremner** and **Sig Ninja McNay** excelled themselves waltzing around the tiny room with two Bavarian grannies. Snow conditions in Ruhpolding were excellent for training. The team spent a lot of time at the Ruhpolding Biathlon Centre training on the same ranges that were to be used for the World Championships at the end of January.

Unfortunately the Divisional Championships at Fulpmes did not get off to a good start. **Sig Dougie Purce** skiing the second leg of the 4 × 10km relay race broke a skibinding and was forced to ski a considerable distance with only one ski. **Cpl Ned Kelly** did his best to make up lost ground on the final leg by putting in a very fast time. The team finished in 13th place. The result of the 15km race showed the team in a better light. The team finished in seventh position with the fastest of three skiers counting for the result, namely **Cpl Ned Kelly, Lt Smith** and **LCpl Taff Robins. Sig Ninja McNay** joined the fastest three from the 15km race to make up the team for the 4 × 7.5km biathlon race that was finally placed in 10th position.

The final race of the competition was the gruelling 30km Military Patrol Race. Teams entering the race have to adhere to a strict rank structure. The team comprised of **Lt Smith, Sgt John Carpanini, Cpl Kelly** and **LCpl Robins**. The race turned out to be very long and arduous. After the race, a certain Welshman muttered something about 'hitting the wall', but no one else could remember seeing a wall during the race. His incoherent mutterings were put down to either a build up of lactic acid in the brain or PTI's shop-talk. The team was placed 12th in the race. The Third Division could only take the first nine teams on to the Army Championships in Swiezel, so with a final position of 12th place, the team returned to Soest to prepare for Ex *Tricorn*.

The General inspects the team at the start of the Patrol Race

Sgt John Carpanini and Cpl Ned Kelly race through the village of Fulpmes on the Military Patrol Race

The Patrol Race team leave the start

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4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

1 SQN

Once again the season of 'rent a node' is upon us. All three Troops have been extremely busy on their individual tasks. September saw Cheetah Troop on Ex *Third Stretch*, the 15 Trunk Node trial and Panther Troop off to Darmstadt on FTZ trials. In October Kiwi Troop took part in Ex *Eternal Triangle* providing neutral comms for 1 Armd Div.

Ex *Norman Lance* was a Regimental communications exercise which took place during the first week of December. For **Sig Gary Williams** the highlight of the exercise was a visit by the CO and RSM to his detachment. After being dragged out of bed to face a highly critical CO he was surprised to be presented with his tape and promoted! Congratulations **LCpl Williams**.

SPORTS

Between exercises the Squadron had a very successful sporting period. On 9 October **WO2 (SSM) Pete Halstead** led the Squadron to a fine victory in the final of the inter-Squadron Tug of War competition. Then on 19 November the Squadron rugby team won a hard fought final against 211 Sig Sqn in the inter-Squadron rugby competition. On the individual front **Sgt Ken Sykes** is to be congratulated on qualifying for the Army cross-country championships.

FAREWELL

The Squadron would like to say a fond farewell to **SSgt Pete Probin** who is off to York for his last six months after completing his 22 years' service. We all hope that **PJ, Christine** and **James** will be very happy and that the golf goes well.

SSgt P. J. Probin completing his 22 years service

The White Helmets

Royal Signals Demonstration Team would be most grateful if retiring or retired members of the Corps in possession of No 1 dress would kindly donate their uniform to the White Helmets Team.

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2 SQN

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj I. R. Fielder**
OC A1 Tp	**2Lt P. A. Graham**
OC A3 Tp	**2Lt A. K. Munday**
SSM	**WO2 B. C. Howe**
SQMS	**SSgt J. T. Selkirk**
YofS	**SSgt M. Brady**
Tech SSgt	**SSgt I. R. Duncan**
SSgt A1 Tp	**SSgt K. M. J. Nicholls**
Sgt A3 Tp	**Sgt J. Brookes**
MT Sgt	**Sgt C. Richardson**

The Squadron had a reasonably restful Yuletide with various individuals '*Snow Queen*ing' or bobsleighing and the remainder staggered through the melee of pre-christmas parties. All those who did this year's *Snow Queen* were unanimous in their praise and of course **2Lt A. K. Munday** had his intrepid Corps bobsleigh down to Austria, made up of **Cpls P. 'Porky' George, D. 'Horrible' Horobin M. 'Shirley' O'Connell, Sig B. 'Break a leg' Stewart,** all from 2 Sqn. The Squadron is now busy getting ready for the impending visit of 53 Danish Troops from HQ Coy, 1 Jutland Bde, one timetable has already been rendered unusable because of the weather, but **SSM Brian Howe** is doggedly piecing a new one together.

TEN PIN BOWLING COMPETITION

A bowling trip to Bielefeld was organised by **LCpl Mick 'Shinging' Winning** on 29 December.

What had originally started out as a quiet night for a dozen or so blokes, turned out to be an action packed, highly entertaining evening, for 18 'free' pads and singlies.

A competition was organised on a pairs knock-out basis. Some very close matches were played, but the eventual winners were **SQMS Ian 'Bruno' Selkirk** and **Cpl Geordie Cook**. The highest scorer was the SQMS.

Another bowling night is being planned, to which the wives have been invited.

PS. SQMS, the photos will be burnt at the usual cost.

A1 TROOP

VISIT OF THE CGS SIR NIGEL BAGNALL GCB, CVO, MC, ADC

The Troop were looking forward to a quiet December when half the Troop would be on leave and the other half getting ready to go when the Troop OC dropped a big bombshell. The CGS would be visiting the Regiment on 16 December and wanted to see the full complex of 18 AFVs set up on the main square as for exercise.

The reason for the Troop OC's tranquility at the announcement of this visit was, however, soon apparent. By some miraculous coincidence he had booked his leave over this period and as he said 'sadly couldn't attend the occasion'. **YofS Mike Brady** thus had his happy thoughts of Belize rudely interrupted and had to delay the packing of his tropical combats. The Troop was a hive of activity soon after the Troop OC had sloped off, madly painting anything that moved and if it didn't then covering it with hessian. Even **Sgt 'Brummie' Stewart** had to put away his re-settlement course booklet!

The Troop had the privilege of being the first in the Division to be able to demonstrate the newly arrived PTARMIGAN FAX system, which was of interest. The CGS was looking to the future allocation of funds so it was an important occasion. Everything went as planned and the CGS saw what he had come to see.

A1 Troop welcomes to its ranks **Sig 'Paddy' McLaughlin** straight out from training.

A3 TROOP

The Regimental exercise was the last milestone of the year before the Troop started Christmas leave. We were kept busy throughout although **Sig Steve 'Skoy' Scholfield** did have time to stalk some wild boar in the evenings. **LCpl 'Gripper' Griffiths** ensured the LAD had something to do with his one ton truck. On the last night of exercise the 'Second XI' were allowed to bat. **Sig 'Legion' Tipping** attempted to be SQMS and the stores have never been the same since.

A BAOR wide search has been implemented for the Troop Sergeant who was last seen on a Crypto or was it a Staff Sergeant's course? Welcome to the Troop **Sgt Broots.**

Sad goodbyes to **Cpl 'Ditch' Dalton** who had the incredible ability to get any vehicle, especially a Rebro, into the most inaccessible and secluded ditch in Germany. **Sig Mark 'Trucker' Henderson** has gone for a prosperous career in Civvy Strasse leaving a trail of broken hearts no doubt.

Welcome to **Cpl 'Moustache' Evans** and **LCpl 'Headcase' Paterson**. Has anyone seen the **2Lt Andrew Munday?**

SITREP FROM THE ROYAL SIGNALS NOVICE BOBSLEIGH SQUAD

Some 10 to 12 years ago, a former member of the Regiment, **Maj Duncan Jones**, was a leading light in the Army and National Bobsleigh Squads. He participated with success at both the 1976 Winter Olympics and the World Championships. In the intervening years however, interest in the sport waned within the Corps.

Towards the end of last Summer, and prompted by a promise of sponsorship, interest in bobsleighing was rekindled. With support from the Save and Prosper Group, Corps Funds, the PRI and the enthusiasm of a squad of volunteers, a novice team selection course was organised. An appeal for bobsleighers listing the essential qualifications of: 'sprinting ability of Alan Wells'; 'strength of Geoff Capes'; 'total lack of fear'; produced the following squad under the leadership of **2Lt Andy Munday**: **Cpls Mick O'Connell, Paul George, Dean Horobin, Sig Jock Stewart** and **Steve Schofield**.

These 'volunteers' were then despatched for an assessment day at Fallingbostel run by 2 RTR the recognised exponents of the sport in the Army. After a day which resembled a cross between 'Superstars' and 'DIY Bobsleighing' four members of the Squad were selected to go forward to compete for places in a joint UK/BAOR competition. Here again there were some notable performances especially by **Sig Jock Stewart**.

The selection and 'training' complete, the Squad were ready for their first run which, somewhat surprisingly was to be in the British National Four Man Championships at Innsbruck in the last week of November. Assisted by an 'out of retirement' appearance by **Maj Duncan Jones** as driver, a creditable 10th place was gained.

After a short Christmas break, the next event was the novice training week at Winterberg in the Sauerland in early January, culminating in the Army Novice Two Man Championships. The Squad had varying degrees of success; our best couple were eliminated when they crashed on their second of three runs after a good first time. At Winterberg too, the Squad gained exposure and some notoriety by crashing for the BFBS Television cameras; this was dismissed offhandedly by **Andy Munday** a little later on as 'all part of the learning process'. Overall however, a satisfying eighth place was achieved and, despite all the niggling problems encountered, spirits were high.

Innsbruck - Ready to run Maj Duncan Jones, 2Lt Andy Munday, Sig Jock Stewart, Cpl Mick O'Connel

Winterberg Squad, with the Corps Bobsleigh *Left to Right* 2Lt Andy Munday, Cpl Paul George, Cpl Dean Horobin, Cpl Mick O'Connolt, Sig Steve Schofield

As a result of the performances at Winterberg, and with a little help from **Maj Duncan Jones**, Corps Funds the PRI and the Army Bobsleigh Association, an entry in the Army Two Man Championships at St Moritz was made. At the time of going to press results are not to hand since the races are in full swing and so we will report next time.

For those who may be interested in the sport, there is nothing quite so thrilling as that minute or so racing down the 'ice'; it is literally indescribable. When one starts however, the bob usually joins the 'ice' part way down the run. Thereafter one progresses through standing starts at the top to slow then full speed. Some sponsorship is available; good drivers are always sought after as are athletic brakemen. Should you wish to find out more about this challenging and exciting sport, please contact **2Lt Andy Munday** in Herford.

STOP PRESS

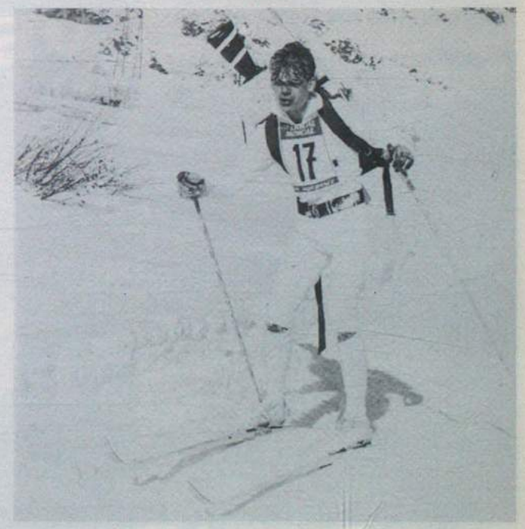
NORDIC SKIING TEAM

TEAM MEMBERS

2Lt D. Hix, SSgt M. Hopper, Cpl R. Anderson, LCpls D. Barrowman, S. Garrett, Sig P. Thomas and **G. Hibbert.**

The Regiment Nordic Ski Team qualified for the British National Championships by obtaining seventh place in the Divisional Championships; in the Army Competitions they achieved placings from fifth through to 25th in the various disciplines.

From the front: 2Lt D. P. Hix, Sig G Hibbert, Sig P. Thomas, Cpl R. Anderson



Sig P. Thomas

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn

PREPARATION FOR OC HANDOVER
THE TOWERING INFERNO II

We have been kept busy preparing for the smooth departure of the Squadron OC **Maj Jim Evans**. The OC was keen to hand-over the Squadron in the best possible condition. He therefore left for a short New Year break having expressed pleasure with the condition of our Squadron living accommodation. Unfortunately on 4 January things went slightly astray! At 0500 hrs a fire was discovered in the attic area and although the fire damage was minimal the water damage was extensive. As a result all the single soldiers are now living in borrowed accommodation. However we bounced back quickly from the shock and upheaval and are now back to normal. We would therefore like to wish **Maj Evans** and his wife **Frances** the best of luck in Bielfeld, and say hello to **Maj Burton** and wish him a very warm, or should it be extremely warm welcome to 200?

EXERCISE *NORMAN LANCE*

This short Regimental exercise held from 1-5 December 1986 gave the Squadron a chance to get back to its normal role after playing umpires in Ex *Eternal Triangle*. **SSgt John Bird** and **LCpl Mick Hurn** enjoyed their role as the new recce team and managed to find one or two very interesting brick factories for the Squadron to live in. They also managed to find what can only be described as a very 'funny' farm. The 'inmates' were very friendly to say the least. **Cpl 'Ollie' Campbell** and **Sig Martin Avins** actually volunteered to do guard duties at 0200 hrs.

THE WIVES JOIN IN

On 2 December a group of wives set out to visit the Squadron in the field and get an idea of how 'tough' life is on exercise. Scruff kit was the order of the day but never had hubbies' combat kit looked so dashing as when worn by **Mrs Maria Howarth** and **Mrs Lee Anne Price**. Rumour has it that **Maria** also braved the longjohns.

We arrived at our destination, ably driven and map read there by the husband and wife team of **Sgt John** and **Rosemary Fitzgerald**, where a dull, shapeless uniformity was achieved by the donning of Noddy Suits. Thus camouflaged we set out to trap the lads at their positions and attack them with questions. The prize for the 'smartest' question of the day, which certainly had her husband, the Foreman, at a loss for words, must go to **Mrs Joan Kidd**. When being shown the Radio Relay Detachment she was heard to ask how they tightened the clamps at the top of the mast.

Mrs Lee Anne Price lightening Hubby, LCpl Price's Load

Refreshments were obviously called for, so it was back to the barn for a super lunch, thanks to **Cpl Leybourne** and his team.

Thank you chaps for letting us come, hopefully you will let us repeat the fun. There was only one complaint, organisers please note, **Maria** was disappointed at the lack of mud.

Dot Ewen, Joan Kidd, Rosemary Fitzgerald, FofS Mick Kidd (together with offending Radio Relay mast)

Left to Right: Sgt John Fitzgerald RPC, Rosemary Fitzgerald, Robert Minto, Frances Evans, Lee Anne Price, Joan Kidd, James McIntyre, Maria Howarth, Leiann Lacy, Dot Ewen, Steven McIntyre, Allison McIntyre

SPORT

The recent wintry weather has somewhat curtailed outside sporting activities but the Squadron basketball team have been going from strength to strength. The Squad of **Sgt Brian Innes, Cpls Steve Turner, Geoff Trotman, 'Tug' Wilson, LCpls Steve Foulkes, Mick Hurn, Steve Sorbie, Andy Moir, Sig Mark Lynch, Paul Green, Ian 'Marigold' Hutchinson, Wayne Simcox** provide the Squadron with a strong depth of talent ably led by the SSM, **WO2 Mick Orrell**. They have recently reached the final of the 4 Armd Div Minor Units Championship.

FAREWELLS

The Squadron has recently said goodbye to **Sgt John Fitzgerald RPC** after three years' loyal service as the Squadron Families Officer. We wish **John** and **Rosemary** the best of luck for their short tour in Colchester. We have also seen the departure of **Cpl Leigh Northeast** to 211 Sig Sqn on promotion and **Sig 'Das' Davies** to UK. Finally a welcome to **Cpl 'Gunter' Weeks** and **Sig Chris Wilks**, we hope you have an enjoyable tour at 200.

DRIVING COURSE

The past three months have seen the completion of three 432 driving courses, admirably run by **LCpls Neil Starkey** and **Stan Bruce**.

A two week course, week one consisting of the theory and hands on maintenance with the second prgressing onto field driving. On the parade square **Sig Dean Rawlings** attempted an emergency stop with his eyes shut—just because the 432 stops going forward does not mean you do. Undaunted they left behind the square and oil cans, which by now more closely resembled dustbin lids, and made for the training area.

First of all it was a recovery, simple enough except **LCpl Stan Bruce** kindly left it in 4ft of water. Well done **Sig Sean Maidment** and **Sig Billy Kaye** for braving the water, having failed to reach it by raft. **Sgt Trev Taylor** was now in a good vantage point to help control the proceedings which was coincidently dry. That one completed it was time to replace a thrown track, or so we thought. Several bricks, one speader bar, 10 miles and slackened track later **LCpl Starkey** still could not disable the panzer. So without further ado it was back to the Squadron Bar to wish our Australian officer, **Lt Pete Jackson**, Bon Voyage.

To conclude, I must squash the rumour that **LCpl Starkey** uses his private car for off duty driving practice.

LCpl Bruce at full speed!

Sig Maidment and Kaye try recovery the hard way

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7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

RHQ

The Regiment bade farewell to **Maj John Reed** and his wife **Jean**. We wish them luck and thank **Jean** for all the work she has done for the Regiment. We welcome the new Second-in-Command **Maj Mike Collins** and his wife **Christine**. Also another new face in RHQ, our new adjutant **Capt Peter Telford**, welcome.

HQ SQUADRON
M TROOP
ELECTRONICA '86

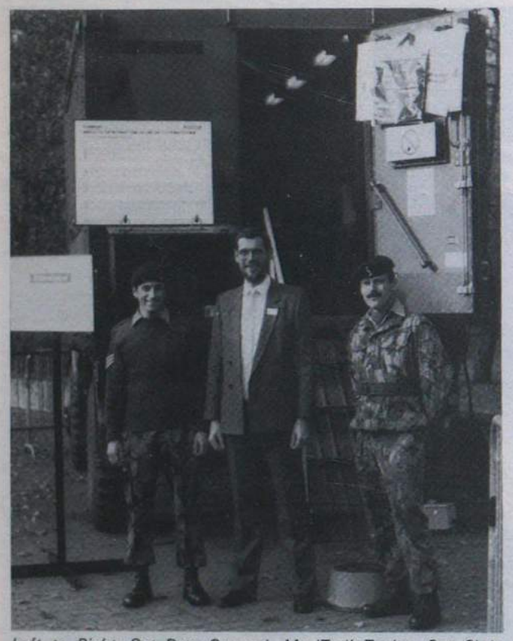
Some months ago, the Regiment was approached on behalf of Membrain Defence Systems, as to possibility of the loan of a PTARMIGAN ERV to support their stand at the Electronica Trade Fair, in Munich from 11-15 November 1986.

Much soul searching and deep thought forced **Sgts Pete Ormond** and **Chris Pederick** to reluctantly offer up their services for the benefit of the system but we were warned that extensive pre-exhibition training would be needed to cope with the pressures of the duty. The eleven hour journey was nothing in proportion to what lay ahead and, arriving a minute early, threw **Mr Brian 'Ted' Taylor** (ex Royal Signals) who was tasked with the organisation of the stand.

The Trade Fair covered all aspects of electronics with our stand showing the mobile ATE. Representatives from many corners of the world showed marked interest in the containerised ATE system. The remainder of the exhibition was an eye opener into the modern technology not normally seen in the Army.

Day shift seemed long but not half as long as the night shift and **Mr 'Ted' Taylor** proved he had not lost any of the social skills gained whilst in the Corps. He remarked that this will be the first time he has appeared in *The Wire* and it happens after he has left the Army.

It is also at this stage that we must say farewell to **Sgt Pete Ormond** as he leaves us to join Civvy Street.



Left to Right: Sgt Pete Ormond, Mr 'Ted' Taylor, Sgt Chris Pederick

LAD

KINDERHEIM GRUNAU
CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 16 December 1986 at Kinderheim Grunau the LAD of 7 Sig Regt played host to the children of the Kinderheim situated in Grunau, just on the outskirts of Bad Salzuflen.

Sponsored by the Regiment the LAD undertakes the enjoyable task of making sure that the childrens' day becomes something that they will long remember.

Unfortunately the adverse weather conditions this year (rain, low cloud, and a very cold wind) prevented the arrival of Santa Claus by helicopter. The planned football match also had to be cancelled and a wet weather programme was swung into action.

Twenty members of the LAD departed from Maresfield Barracks in the Regimental PR1 minibuses complete with Santa Claus and his presents under the watchful eye of **Sgt Jones**.

On arrival at the Kinderheim **Frau Miszourak** (The Kinderheim's Principal) and the children greeted us all warmly and directed us to various parts of the Home where we all sat down with the children and ate gateaux and drank coffee. The members of the LAD settled very quickly and soon shared jokes with the children and tried hard to speak their best German.

Father Christmas arrived by the LAD Noddy Train and was warmly greeted by the 48 children who all wanted him to become their foster father.

The LAD Disco was in full swing with a light show. Resident DJs for the afternoon being **LCpl Dave Fox** and **Cfn Mark Carrington.**

Santa Claus **(Cfn Daz Townshend)** surrounded by the children delivered the contents of his sack. Each child received a present and the children showed their appreciation with a Christmas kiss making Santa feel very rewarded and also causing the odd blush. It was a very happy and worthwhile occasion.

Frau Miszourak being presented with a cheque for DM 1,000 for the Kinderheim by Capt M. C. Heelis on behalf of the Regiment

The arrival of Santa Claus (Cfn Townshend)

3 SQUADRON
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	Maj Neil Churches RA Sigs
2IC	Capt Bruce Knobel
Node Commanders	
027	2Lt Guy Bewsher
028	Lt Bert Appleton
029	Lt John Egan
SSM	WO2 (SSM) Jim Reeves
FofS	WO2 (FofS) Chris Wilkie
YofS	SSgt (YofS) Trev Gower
SQMS	SSgt (SQMS) Nigel Scott

CHANGE OVER OF SSM'S

After more years than he is willing to admit **WO2 (SSM) Mick Goatley** has finally given up the job of Sergeant Major 3 Sqn and crossed the bridge to take over as RQMS(T) in South Camp. **Mick** claims to have seen no less than five OC's pass through 3 Sqn. **Mick** has gained a formidable reputation as an angler over the past few years, and even took time off sunbathing during summer camp to give the boys lessons in sitting on the river bank and feeding fish. We cannot pass without a word of congratulation to **Shelia Goatley** who recently gave birth to a fine son, **Matthew**.

Welcome to our new SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Jim Reeves** and his wife **Vivian. Jim** has moved all of 25 metres from Training Wing to take up his new post; we hope you will enjoy your stay with us.

We are now in possession of our very own Exchange Officer in the form of **Maj Neil Churches,** Royal Australian Signals. **Maj Churches** has brought with him from the antipodes some novel ideas to try out on the 'poms'. *Emu Bobbing* was a new exercise introduced on Summer Camp. This caused some puzzlement until the SSM translated it into Area Cleaning. Next was Australian Rules Rugby. This is rugby played without rules by an unspecified number of psychopaths; warn off the medical centre before organising a game. The latest event is *Emu's Ennui* (Ennui – Mental weariness brought on by lack of physical activity or boredom), and is a Military Training/Battle camp exercise designed to relieve (?) the Squadron's Ennui.

WO2 (SSM) Mick Goatley 30 minutes into his farewell speech

EMU'S ENNUI

The exercise was split into two parts, the majority of the Squadron departed for a week's training at Minden and a JNCO course remained in Camp for character training and education. The JNCO's were offered the chance to practise public speaking and, judging by the stage fright and tied tongues, this was a new experience for most. Map reading led more than one Corporal up the garden path while attempting to navigate a Land Rover through the scenic routes. **Cpl Green** even managed to get lost in Herford, but we suspect that he was only trying to get home for an early tea. A great deal of time was spent learning the duties of a Recce Sergeant and then putting theory into practice by looking at two future exercise locations. After this the Squadron's Corporals may not be so critical when they are up to their knees in mud, while the unit down the road is lounging in a heated barn.

The exercise ended with the Corporals going off to join the rest of the Squadron for a Battle Skills competition. The results were:–

Winning Team: **Cpl Allen** (IC Section), **LCpl Bunnage** (2IC), **LCpl Anderson, LCpl Workman, Sig Pilkington, Smith, Ward**. The Corporals were thrashed into last place albeit by a narrow margin.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Sig Ash** on the arrival of his son **David,** and to **Sig Carlisle** on the arrival of his daughter **Zara.** Congratulations to the 2IC, **Capt Bruce Knobel** who on bended knee proposed to Michelle and was accepted. **Lt M. L. Tait,** an Honours graduate is a WRAC/R. Signals officer. A good thing too, as **Capt Knobel** can no longer afford all the petrol needed to'ing and fro'ing between 7 and 16 Sig Regts.

EXERCISE *SALTY QUADRANT*

Lt Adam Hearn, the Regiment's Sailing Officer was heard cursing to himself, while doing his duties as Acting Adjutant in RHQ. In fact he was so voluble, that he could be heard as far away as the distant depths of 1 Sqn, where it aroused **2Lt Patrick Evans'** curiosity. After requesting directions to RHQ a cautious entry was made into the Adjutant's Office. It appeared that all this aggravation had been caused because his fiance wanted to get married during a sailing expedition that her future husband had already planned. Obviously a replacement would be needed and so with the speed of a striking cobra **2Lt Patrick Evans** offered his services as leader of this ready-made expedition; and so he and four other members of 7 Sig Regt found themselves on a flight to RAF Akrotiri (Cyprus). November in Germany is rather chilly so the team were somewhat amazed on landing to find that the RAF ground crew were wearing shorts and shirtsleeves. On disembarking it was immediately understood; the temperature was in the high eighties.

The expedition was based at Dhekelia Garrison but would put to sea on the Royal Signals yacht *Parang*, moored at the port of Larnaca. She is a Bowman 36ft with six berths Skippered by **Cpl Theodore Caderius Van Veen** and was chartered by a very inexperienced crew of: **2Lt Patrick Evans, Cpl Kev Greenwood, LCpls Stan Haynes, John Fulljames** and **Sig Kev Light**. High winds forced them to spend the first day in harbour where the team was given a crash course in sailing terms and methods. Out went sharp and blunt ends and in came bow and stern, although a couple of members of the crew had forgotten these technical terms within an hour of being taught them. The next day the wind had dropped right down, and so we cast off and headed out of harbour for Dhekelia, about 15kms up the coast. This was when the Skipper introduced us to another member of the crew named

Cpl Greenwood riding the crest of the waves

'George'—the auto pilot, and then continued his difficult task of training the crew. About two miles from Dhekelia the wind picked up and so up went the mainsail and genoa and off went the engine (which incidentally used to belong to a cement mixer). In the afternoon the yacht was helmed back to Larnaca by a crew well satisfied that **Cpl Caderius Van Veen** could handle them. The next port of call was to be the Sheraton Marina near Limassol. Yes, it is run by the American group of Sheratons. That evening the crew decided to visit this hotel and check whether it was up to standard. It proved to be a tolerant place as the hotel staff did not bat an eyelid at the tracksuits being worn by the more 'practical' members of the gang.

The Sheraton mooring was slipped early the next morning so that Akrotiri could be made in daylight with the help of the day's navigator **2Lt Pat Evans** who was so determined not to get lost that he even brought along his London A to Z map. By dusk *Parang* had arrived at Akrotiri Mole, home of 10 Regt RCT (Maritime), and had the honour of mooring next to *Michael Murphy VC* a huge patrol boat. Next day with the yacht heading towards Paphos and the sea rather rough the crew proved that they had not yet got their 'sea legs' as they could be seen leaning over the side 'talking' to the waves. This event was totally outshone by **LCpl Stan Haynes** proving that his head was indeed harder than the boom despite the pain!

Paphos is a very ancient town with some excellent relics of the Tombs of the Kings and so the skipper decided on a cultural visit ashore. Upon returning to *Parang* that evening **Sig Kev Light** showed his appreciation of the visit by dubbing the town 'Clacton of the Med'! After that we returned to the Sheraton, enjoying an exciting day's fast sailing in rough sea. A mention must go to **2Lt Pat Evans** who must be the only person to control 10 tons of rampaging yacht whilst having a wet shave, drinking coffee and smoking a cigar, all at the same time. This feat was beaten by **Cpl Kev Greenwood** who spent two hours in voluntary solitary confinement in the bosun's chair at the top of a wildly swinging mast. The next day's sailing was to be the best of the trip with force seven winds and a 10 hour beat; a severe test for **LCpl John Fulljames,** making coffee in the galley, luckily he did have some spare clothes. By dusk *Parang* was about five miles South of Larnaca and the sky getting darker by the minute. Coming out of Larnaca there were a lot of oil tankers proving conclusively that they will not give way to sail despite what all the sailing books say. Keeping a good lookout for navigation lights **Cpl Kev Greenwood** spotted a Port light which proceeded to speed off across the water at 200 mph and rise into the sky. It was then that we discovered that Larnaca airport is on the coast!

Cpl Greenwood and LCpl Haynes chasing the local birds

Relaxing in one of Limassol's cafes

Another two days were spent pottering up the Eastern coastline only to have to return to home port to clean *Parang* and hand her over, much to the crew's regret, at the end of a very worthwhile and enjoyable cruise.

Many thanks must go to **Cpl Theo Caderius Van Veen** for his patience in the face of adversity and to **Maj Grysppeerdt** for all his work behind the scenes. Members of the Corps please note that *Parang* which is a Corps yacht is available for charter to all Royal Signals units at a very reasonable rate and provides a different kind of adventure.

AROUND AND ABOUT THE REGIMENT

COMMUNITY CENTRES

A Christmas bazaar was organised by the mother and toddler group of Gohfeld Estate, Herford to raise money for the children's Christmas party. The Regimental Sergeant Major's wife, **Jane Hickling**, opened the event. A sum of more than DM 1,100 was raised.

RSM Andy Hickling with one of the clowns (Mrs D. Quaile) from the Bazaar. The RSM is the one on the right!

SMALL BORE SHOOTING

After nearly two years the newly refurbished 25m indoor range was reopened for shooting on 25 November 1986. To mark the event **Maj Gen A Yeoman** Comd Comms BAOR kindly consented to fire the first shot down the range and unveil a small plaque. The General took the opportunity to present the medal **Pte Mark Nottingham ACC** had gained in the Junior Army Skill-at-Arms meeting by winning Match III, which is an SLR competition fired from 500m. The range is now in full swing again under the watchful eye of OIC small bore shooting, **Capt Frank Worral** and team coach **Capt Jim Body**.

Pte Mark Nottingham receives his medal from Maj Gen A. Yeoman

SERGEANTS' MESS NEWS

CHANGE OF RSM

Mid November 1986 saw the departure of **WO1 (RSM) (Now Captain) Peter Whitehead** to 8 Sig Regt, and the arrival of **WO1 (RSM) Andy Hickling.**

The changeover of RSM's began on Saturday 15 November with the formal dining out of **RSM Whitehead** at a Regimental Dinner chaired by **WO1 (YofS) Bill Ritchie.**

Peter (Sir to most) Whitehead will probably be best remembered by mess members for his scheme of mess improvements; so it was decided that as a result of his success, he should be presented with his own personal enhancement kit—namely a pair of stilts and a wig! The presentation was duly made, much to everybody's amusement, and this was followed by the more traditional presentation of a commissioning sword.

RSM Whitehead reciprocated by making several presentations himself—notably to the PMC, a miniature cannon (which will in future signal the commencement of passing the port), a pipe rack to **SSgt Chris Bond** (for his superb efforts in running the mess disco), and, to the Mess, a beautiful Tantalus which will hold and be known as 'The RSM's Tipple'.

The dinner was followed by live entertainment in the form of a puppet show provided by some well known puppeteers from the Officers' Mess—an event which had everyone in stitches.

The culmination of the handover came on Thursday 20 November with a parade on the Square. Prior to the official handover **Peter Whitehead** was presented with a briefcase by **Sig Antony Wringe** (our youngest signalman) on behalf of all the junior ranks of the Regiment.

Having handed over to **WO1 (RSM) Andy Hickling,** the soon to be Captain **Peter Whitehead** departed to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

On leaving the Officers' Mess he was met by **WO1 (YofS) Bill Ritchie** who had (courtesy of QM Tech) acquired a suitably decorated fork lift truck on which he was driven past the members of the Regiment who lined the route to the main gate.

Now **Capt Peter Whitehead** is the Training Officer in 11 Sig Regt, where amongst other things, he will be looking after Staff Sergeants' courses—Oh, you lucky lot who still have to do Staffies courses! We wish **Peter, Maureen** and the girls every happiness for the future.

With the 'silly season' out of the way, mess life has returned to some sort of normality.

Saturday 10 January, despite appalling weather conditions, saw the first regimental dinner of 1987, the dining out of **SSgt Ian Underhill** and **Sgt Ralph Smith**, both leaving the Corps after 22 years. On the night **WO1 (RSM) Andy Hickling** presented the ROS (North Camp) Sash to **Sgt Alan Muir** for services above and beyond the call of duty!

The mess foyer has just been re-decorated and re-carpeted, as a result the 'blockies' table has gone walkabout! Reports of **SSgt Chris Bond** and CO doing a raid on the Rugby Club to retrieve said table, have yet to be confirmed.

The mess now looks forward to two ladies dinner nights in the company of the bands of the Royal Regiment of Wales and the Welsh Guards. The RSM using up his favours from old rugby enemies of the Regiment!

Sig Antony Wringe presents WO1 (RSM) Whitehead with a briefcase on behalf of all the Junior Ranks of the Regiment

Little and Large. WO1 (RSM) Whitehead hands over to WO1 (RSM) Hickling

WO1 (YofS) Bill Ritchie presents WOI (RSM) Peter Whitehead with his commissioning sword

WO1 (RSM) Peter Whitehead receives his enhancement kit. WO1 Lenny Carr finds the whole thing rather amusing

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

CORPORAL'S MESS CHEQUE PRESENTATION
Report by Cpl Pip Terry

As you may be aware the 8 Sig Regt Corporals' Mess has a few bob in the bank and sometimes a few bob too much.

To help with this problem, twice yearly, the mess disposes of this 'Extra Booty' by making donations to local charities such as SAAFA, Save the Children Fund, The Dale School for the Handicapped and The St John's Ambulance Brigade. The latter being well represented in the Regiment by their divisional superintendent **Sgt Bob White** (who, incidentally, holds the rank of Captain in the Brigade).

For a couple of years now the local branch of the Brigade had been saving hard for a new (well, second hand) ambulance, and helped by the mess they achieved their aim.

One afternoon in December we held a Regimental get-together in the mess at 1600 hrs. At 1605 hrs, much to our suprise, a blue flashing light was seen, a siren was heard and an ambulance pulled up outside. The doors opened and half a dozen delectable nurses poured forth. Later, a cheque for £500 was presented to **SSgt (Capt?) Bob White** by the CO **Col B. J. Austin.** Everyone in the mess was delighted to see that their hard earned profits had been spent.

Col B. J. Austin presents the cheque to SSgt Bob White

SSgt Bob White presents a St John's Ambulance Brigade Plaque to the Corporal's Mess PMC: Cpl Pip Terry. Cpls (*from left to right* Harvey, Wickham, Yard, Finch, Bullock and Smith look on

POWER GROUP—FARE YE WELL

Power Group said farewell to **Sgt Joe Cawley** on the completion of his tour with the Regiment and indeed the end to his 22 year career in the Army.

Joe has spent the last five years as an instructor here in the Group and was the back-bone of the instruction here during that time.

WO2 Whitehouse presents Joe with his farewell gift, on-lookers (*from left to right*) Sgts Taff Jones, Fred Townson, Bob Dunn and SSgt Mark Ellis

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

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

AYIOS NIKOLAOS GRAND CHARITY FETE

The Au Nik Charity Fete was held on Saturday, 11 October on the green playing fields with an odd assortment of tents, tables, bunting and equipment covering the area.

This attracted a bumper crowd over the four day period. 34 stalls surrounded the main arena providing various ways and means of parting anyone from their money.

Mrs Jenny Mann, wife of the CO kindly opened the fete at 1300 hrs and started the sequence of events in the arena. The most popular amongst the children was the fancy dress competition. The judges had a difficult job choosing the best entrant, but **Master Bicker**, in his zebra outfit, was a deserving winner.

The superstars competition took place at 1400 hrs. This is an annual event sponsored by 'ZACO'. Each Squadron SU provides a team plus 33 SU, making it a four team obstacle race. 3 Sqn won closely followed by 33 SU who negotiated the course with style.

Throughout the afternoon world record attempts were taking place, to see if anyone could beat the existing records in the Guiness Book of Records. You can imagine the adjudicators' delight **(Maj Garry Dover)** counting out 2,000 baked beans for **Cpl Harry Humphries** to eat in an endeavour to beat the record of 2,780 baked beans eaten from a cocktail stick in 30 minutes! Unfortunately he only managed 1,200 and a severly punctured lower lip!

The attempt at 23 Frankfurters (2oz) in 3 mins 10 secs was cancelled due to the great demand for frankfurters at the hot dog stand!

Capt Paul Monkley failed in his attempt to eat 62 buttered pancakes in 6 mins 59 secs. He managed 47 and a dangerously swollen stomach.

Sig Routledge got nearest to the world record of throwing and catching an unbroken egg, (between two people). The record stands at 97.3m. **Sig Routledge** reached 52.6m. This was a great feat, as many people thought it a good yoke!

The dog show, organised by **Mrs Jan Monkley** was a crowd puller. The classes included 'The Waggiest Tail' won by 'Patch'. The best turned out dog was 'Bonjuk'. The dog with the best trick was 'Captain' who showed great style tossing a sweet from his nose into his mouth (didn't notice him unwrapping the sweet beforehand). The dog most resembling his owner was won by **Antony Marchant** and 'Chance'.

The Grand Draw raised a substantial amount of money.

INTER-SERVICE VOLLEYBALL

The Cyprus Inter-Services Volleyball match was played at the Regiment on Saturday 4 October. This was an exciting and hard fought contest with the Army side eventual winners, and several members of the squadron played in the teams. On the Army side **WO2 John Kirk, Sgt Jock Morton** and **LCpl Nobby Clarke** were victorious whilst poor **Sgt Andy Fuller RAF** had to suffer as a member of the opposition. Well done to all of them for taking part.

TM TROOP

The months of August and September have in the past seen a relatively quiet period as the summer sporting season has just finished and the winter one isn't quite underway. However the 'TM Troop Socialites' have managed to keep Ay Nik awake with their usual fair share of 'Gozomes', attendance at social events and a singlies trip down to unsuspecting Paphos.

Over the last couple of months we have had to say farewell to a few of the Troop personalities namely **SSgt Ken (the gong hunter) Rankin** and wife **Val, Sgt Russ (the Quinten) Lifton** and wife **Lindsay, LCpl S. I. Hodgson**, many congratulations on your engagement to **Sharon, Sgt Kev (The Civi) Howlett** and last but by no means least **Sgt 'Shuggie' Barclay** and wife **Maggie.** We wish them every success and the best of luck at their new units.

On the arrivals front we welcome **Sgt Larry McHale** and his wife **Anne** to the Troop and hope they enjoy their tour.

On the sporting side of life, there have been only two competitions held within the Regiment lately, these being The Inter-Troop Waterpolo and the Ay Nik 7's Inter-Troop Rugby Competition.

The Waterpolo Competition consisted of two matches only for the Troop due to a very disappointing number of entries. In the semi-final we administered a severe thrashing to A Troop.

In the final we were involved in a 'needle' match against 'L' Troop. However the needles soon turned to nails and in what proved to be a very physical game. We finally cast away 'L' Troop's challenge to take the trophy for the third year in succession.

On the subject of waterpolo, a point to note is that the Troop teams also competed in the Minor Units Waterpolo Competition and having beaten the Dhekelia Company of 3 Para 10 mins earlier were beaten by a very strong team from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers 11-6. However, sterling performances were put in by all members of this year's waterpolo team, namely: **Capt (TOT) B. P. Pettifer, Sgt John Middleton, Cpl's 'Jenx' Jenkins, Rab Binnie, 'Polly' Perkins, Baz Fowler** and **Bruce MacPherson, LCpl Chris Greaves, Sig 'Taff' Griffiths** and **Capt Pettifer**'s son **Stephen**.

The Troop entered three teams in the Ay Nik 7's Rugby Tournament which took the form of two knockout competitions, a Trophy and a Plate. Narrowly knocked out of the Trophy competition both TM1 and TM2 went into the Plate competition.

TM – disposed of the Pioneers first team and the cooks first twam en route to the final where they played TM2 who had already seen off the Quartermasters second team and the Comms Troop team.

The friendly final was a bit of an anticlimax with neither team wishing to seriously damage the other. In a bit of a one sided affair TM1 took the Plate final with a 28-0 victory.

A special mention goes to the third team who progressed the furthest in the trophy competition first defeating the Pioneers second team but then getting knocked out by a very strong Quartermasters first team.

The photograph shows the TOT (First team reservel) with both Plate finalists.

Back Row L to R: Stephen Pettifer, Sgt Shuggie Barclay, Cpl Bruce Macpherson, Capt Pettifer, Sgts Larry McHale, Kev Howlett, John Middleton, Steve Gillham

Front Row L to R: LCpls Reg Taylor, Chris Greaves, Cpl Jenx Jenkins, Sgt Barry Briggs, Cpls Rab Binnie, Baz Fowler, Polly Perkins, Dave Harris, Sgt Tom Delaney

2 SQUADRON

After a busy summer there have been a great number of changes in personalities in the Squadron. The two Troop officers **Lt Paul Glibbery** and **Lt Jon Turner** have left us for RMCS Shrivenham and OC White Helmets respectively, and **Lt Jon McDonnell** has arrived as the first replacement. The other members of the Orderly Officer Roster are hoping he lives up to his predecessors heroic efforts in the sphere of extra duties. Also **WO2 (Supvr R) Paul Friend** has retired though not, as was rumoured, because of his folk singing and **WO2 (Supvr R) Dave Kent** has moved back to Germany. We also welcome **WO2s Dave Barber** and **Cliff Davey** as new Troop Commanders.

Congratulations to **Sgt Keith Breen** for his well deserved GOCs commendation and best wishes to both him and his wife **Jane** on their return to UK. Also congratulations to **Sgts Eric Clee, Keith Roberts, Willie McNaughton, Tigger Howarth, Mick Jones** and **Jock Fraser** on their promotions. **WO1 Jim Dodds** was heard to say that he was a better Sergeant than any of them in his time, but since nobody can remember that far back, no one believes him.

Finally, congratulations to **Capt Steve Richardson** on his marriage to **Jane.**

SOLDIER THROWS HIMSELF OFF A CLIFF IN CYPRUS!
Report by Sig Donaldson (2 Sqn)

During the latter half of October 1 was fortunate enough to be taught how to throw myself off high cliffs, courtesy of Cyprus Hang Gliding Club, and two experienced civilian instructors who were in Cyprus for a five weeks working holiday. At the start of the course the thought of throwing oneself off the 250ft high Curium Hill, near Episkopi, was quite frightening.

The course was attended mainly by X Coy 1 RRF, with some local Cypriots, and a member of 259 Sig Sqn, namely myself!

We started training on a gentle quarry slope, near Akrotiri, using

hi-way stubbies, especially designed for training purposes, ie they can withstand a good crash! as most of us were to discover.

For the first five days of the course we stayed at the quarry site, gaining experience on take-offs, landings, and how not to bend a glider. The Commander British Forces Cyprus, **Air Vice Marshal Hayr**, joined the course on the second day, and proved that even qualified pilots can crash a hang-glider!

The next two days were unflyable, due to no wind on one day, and an easterly wind on the other (we required a south westerly), so we studied the theory for the British Hang Gliding Association Pilot One Certificate.

After this short test (which had given our bruises and sprained joints time to recover) we returned to the Quarry site for one more day to clean up around the edges. In the words of one of the instructors we were now going from the top of the slope—100ft high.

The next day we went to Curium, a little down from the top, at 200ft. To qualify for our British Hang Gliding Association Pilot One Certificate we had to do five top to bottom flights, and on my second flight I proved that, despite popular belief, it is possible to top land at Curium—no I had not become an ace, I had stalled on take off!

The course was very hard work, the heat not at all helpful, but well worthwhile for that exhilarating experience of feeling able to fly 'like a bird'.

Everyone who had started the course finished with minor injuries only, and everyone gained their Pilot One Certificate. The course ended in traditional style at a Pizza House in Limassol that was owned by one of the Cypriot students.

Thanks go to **Jim Bowyer** and **Jes Flynn**, the instructors, who displayed much tolerance when we crashed their equipment.

3 SQN

Despite a heavy operational workload 3 Sqn have managed to have a very successful summer on the sporting front.

VOLLEYBALL

Noted in the past for a very strong volleyball team, this year proved no exception. 3 Sqn won the league and the All-Island Final 3—1. Eight members of the Squadron were in the Army team which beat the RAF 3—0; the first Army team to do so in five years.

Congratulations to all volleyballers especially coach, **WO2 Terry Clarke**.

SWIMMING

Swimming has also featured amongst the Squadron's strengths in the past few months with **Cpl Steve Bailey** gaining his Army colours and the Squadron winning the men's and women's Regimental Championships.

'SUPERSTARS'

The Ayios Nikolaos summer fete was a chance for the Squadron to show their athletic ability and they did so by completing a very successful day with victory in the ZAKO Superstars competition. Other members of the Squadron were busy at this event helping on various stalls such as the 'Human Fruit Machine' an excellent day out for al the family and all in a good cause.

The winning 3 Sqn 'Superstars' team

RUNNING

Out of the water and on to dry land, two Squadron members have gained quite a reputation for running this summer.

Cpl Andy Marjoribanks won the Dhekelia Marathon in a time of 2 hrs 45 mins and then went home to Scotland to take part in the Edinburgh Marathon gaining a creditable eighth place in an international field.

WO2 Gordon Edgar has also shown the rest of us a clean pair of heels with his orienteering prowess. As well as being an active organiser of the sport in Cyprus he has yet to be beaten in any race he has entered.

MUSIC

3 Sqn may be good sportsmen but they also take part in a large number of other social activities. **Capt Tony Franks** has revitalised the music scene at Ay Nik almost single handedly. This has been shown by the popularity of the Four Mile Music Club and of the very professional sounding 'Whalers' four piece band all of whom came from the Squadron.

THEATRE

On the stage, the Mercury Theatre Group entered the Cyprus Drama Festival competition once again. This year they performed Robert Thomas' 'Trap for a Lonely Man' giving what can only be described as a very professional performance. The three leading parts were taken by members of the Squadron as was the majority of behind the scenes activity. Congratulations to **Cpl Andy Barrow** on a very successful 'maiden-production'.

MAJOR PETER WELCH

Everybody in the Squadron has been deeply saddened by the tragic death of **Maj Peter Welch**. Always supporting the Squadron totally his never ending vitality and energy will be deeply missed by all his friends and colleagues. Our deepest sympathy goes to his widow **Wendy**.

AY NIK KARATE CLUB

Since July 1985 the Ayios Nikolaos Go Ju Ryu Karate Club has blossomed. Originally consisting of two members, **WO2 Mick Moffatt** and one ungraded student, the club now boasts a regular weekly attendance of 20 dedicated students. All students have taken gradings regularly and the club now has four green belts. Highlights of the year have been the three, week-long visits of **Sensei William Cuzzocrea** from the UK. **Sensei Bill** is a UK coach and instructor who, despite his international commitments, has 'adopted' the Ay Nik club as part of his Henley-on-Thames club. The high level of fitness and self discipline of service men and women lends itself well to the study of Oriental martial arts and the Ay Nik club would be happy to hear from any other *Wire* readers who study them. Perhaps we may see karate as a recognised Army Sport one day.

The club would like to take the opportunity to thank **WO2 Mick Moffatt** for his energy and hard work which he has put into building the club. We wish him and his family all the very best in their new posting.

TRAINING WING TROPHY 1987

29 and 30 January saw the annual Training Wing Trophy at 9 Sig Regt and as usual was strongly contested. Fourteen 10 man teams trained for three weeks leading up to the event which consisted of three stages: a three mile speed march, an assault course and a run and shoot competition.

A close competition saw M and R Tp, 3 Sqn winning the first two stages with SHQ 1 Sqn team coming in second. A better score on the shoot however brought victory to the 1 Sqn team—literally beating M and R Tp at the post. D Tp, 2 Sqn came in third.

The Training Wing Trophy was presented by the CLFC **Brig A. D. Myrtle CBE, ADC** to the 1 Sqn team who also received a crate of beer donated by the Training Officer **Capt R. Harris**.

Regiment Assault Course Competition
1 Winning Team SHQ Tp 1 Sqn
From left to right: Maj P. Robertshaw, Cpl Humphries ACC, Cpl O'Brien, Pte Masson ACC, Cpl Hamilton, Cpl Pike ACC, Cpl Shiels, Sig Smith, Cpl Nixon, WO2 (SSM) Mold

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) Wilton

REGIMENTAL VISIT TO HMS *WILTON*

Since 10 Sig Regt and HMS *Wilton* were given the Freedom of Wilton last year, there has been a close friendship between the unit and the ship. In early 1987 the Regiment was invited to send a small group to join HMS *Wilton* on a courtesy visit to Rouen on the River Seine in France. The party consisted of the Adjutant of the Regiment, **Capt Nigel Moore**, and **Sig Nigel Sutton** and **Christopher Bentley**. From here **Sig Sutton** and **Bentley** take up the story:

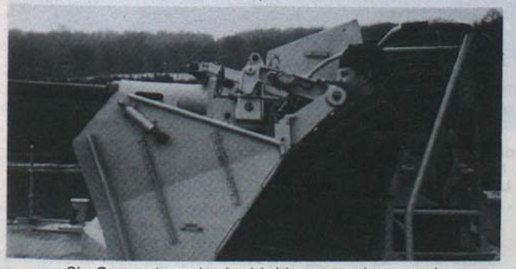
'We arrived at Portsmouth early in the morning before first light and clambered aboard with our few items of kit. After a brief tour of the ship we joined the crew in their duties as they left port. We were first to sail to Portland for a series of speed and vibration trials. On departure there was a marked contrast in size between *Wilton* the mine-hunter and HMS *Illustrious*, the aircraft carrier which we passed on our passage to Portland. Whilst in Portland the ship's crew took part in a small diving exercise where for our part we sat and shivered in the small inflatable safety boat. Needless to say the hot Navy food was most welcome upon our return.

Later that evening *Wilton* set off for France and arrived outside Le Havre before dawn. It proved to be an interesting voyage especially for the Adjutant who was helping out with the navigation! However having collected the pilot the ship sailed on along the Seine and arrived at Rouen by mid afternoon.

The following two days saw us sampling life in France. After an initial visit around the city of Rouen, courtesy of **Nigel Sutton**'s map reading, we went to Paris for the day and took in all the sights! Needless to say a "Run ashore" with the Navy would not be complete without a few beers and to finish off the night on board with a few more beers! The return home was to prove most memorable as strong winds blew in the Channel and Britain was receiving its most severe winter conditions for many years—we spent the day "hull down" in the horizontal position!

On our arrival in Portsmouth we realised how cold the previous night had been as the ship was covered in nearly an inch of ice and all too reminiscent of a World War Two Arctic Convoy. The five days were great fun, but "Viva Terra Firma"!'

Sig Sutton and Bentley on the stern of HMS *Wilton*, beside the old HMS *Wilton* ship's bell '1942'



Sig Sutton 'stood to' with his personal weapon!

CinC'S CUP—HQ UKLF

During 1986, 10 Sig Regt again organised the CinC's Cup. This is a lunch time league which runs throughout the summer months and includes Cricket, Hockey, Volleyball, Tennis and Cross Country. The latter was run as a 'Gala' event at the end of the competition, in which all branches and departments were represented. The teams were mixed and competition fierce throughout, in what we like to call the 'Friendly Games' . . .

The final event, the Cross Country, was a team event too but a handicap for each runner was applied at the start and the organisers were pleased to note that the first three runners were all over 50! All proved to be half marathon runners with years of experience. However, four of the first 10 runners came from the RHQ team which finished third and was just nudged into fourth place by the G3/G4 team on the overall points for the competition.

2 SQN'S LETTER FROM LONDON
INTER TROOP CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

This year's inter Troop cross country competition was run over a gruelling five mile course at Mill Hill on a very cold and frosty morning in December. The course was planned by **Capt Phil Castle**, aided and abetted by the PT staff, who selected the muddiest of tracks and just for good measure included a ploughed field which had to be crossed at the half way point.

The WRAC were first to depart with a 10 minute head start on the rest of the Squadron. The first to finish was **Cpl Arthur Nicols**, who was given a good run for his money by **LCpl Paul Wooding**. A brave effort was made by all concerned, with Radio Troop emerging as the overall winners of the competition.

The OC, Maj Lionel French, leads from the front!

The ladies under 33 group, Sgt Nadin and Pte Smith getting off to a quick start. They were the first two WRAC runners back and came 5th and 7th respectively

WEDDING BELLS

Our congratulations go to two couples who made their vows on 31 January. **SSgt Karen Barbe** and **LCpl Paul Woodings** were married at Kensington and Chelsea Register Office, whilst **Sig Kevin Allen** and **Pte Jo-Anne Peet** tied the knot at Regents Park. We wish them all much happiness in the future.

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1 SQN
2 TROOP
TROOP PERSONALITIES

Tp Comd	**WO1 Ken Clark**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Bushby**
	Cpl Clifford
	Cpl Crawford
	Cpl Dixon

Sunday 5 October 1986 saw the formation of the penultimate regular recruit course, No 8607, in the 1986-7 training year. The course numbered 23 persons of mixed age and ability. In the following nine weeks they were to experience the rigours of the CMS(R), a tough course which would not be completed by the faint hearted.

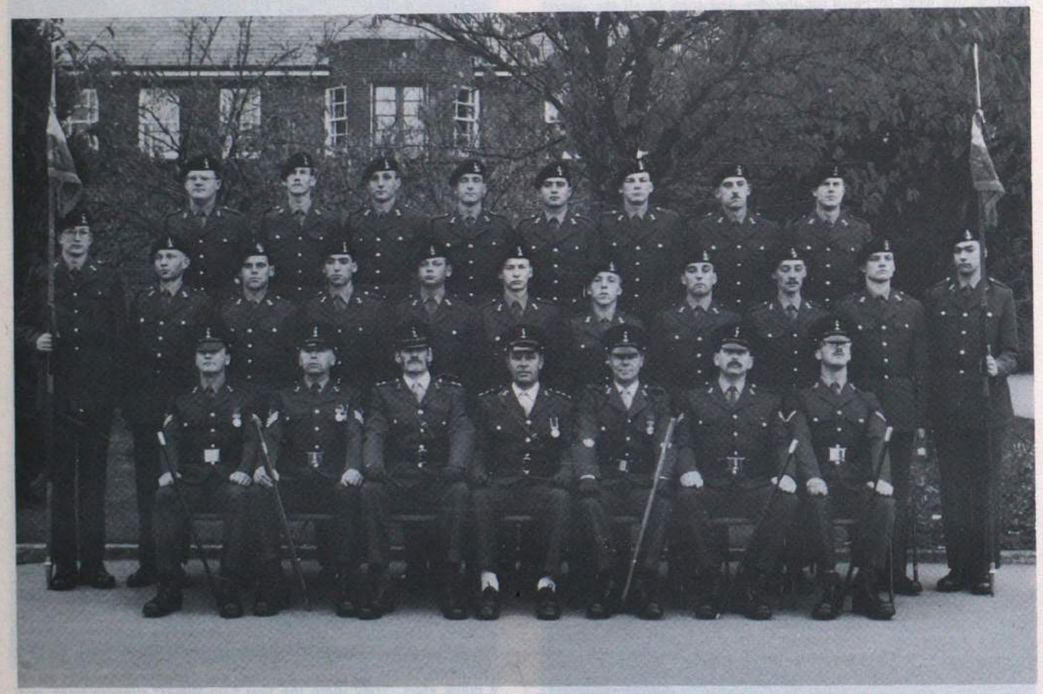
The 2 Troop cadre ran the course on a competitive basis with prizes for best recruit, shot and section, to be awarded on the final day of the course. The students were tested on individual military skills and initiative and in team competitions, including a cross-country march and shoot, the dreaded log race and an orienteering exercise. Incidentally, the log race had to be competed for twice, because someone put all the markers in the wrong place the first time round. This delighted the cadre but exasperated the recruits and the one who had the task of putting all the markers out for the second time!

High morale was maintained throughout the course by the duty comics: **Sig 'I feel a right turn coming on' Simpson** and **Eglan** whose 21st birthday was celebrated when the Troop was on one of its exercises. The cadre clubbed together to purchase **Eglan** a birthday cake—a tin of compo, mixed fruit and 21 Swan Vestas.

The Troop Pass Off Parade was combined with the Pass Off Parade of Beaufighter Troop, 3 Sqn. An excellent day which was immediately followed by some well earned leave over Christmas and New Year.

The prize for Best All Round Recruit was awarded to **Sig Hanlon** who comes from Edinburgh. He was an interior decorator before he joined the Army but now goes on to train as an Electronic Warfare Operator. **Sig Eglan** won the prize for Best Shot. He is to train as a Special Telegraphist.

Our congratulations to **WO1 Clark** on his recent good news from the Commissioning Board. Best wishes to him for the future.



Rear Row (Left to Right): Kennington, Hanlon, Procter, Simpson, Hicks, Leonard, Perrott, Cook
Centre Row (Left to Right): Fell, Gibbs, Phillips, Alexander, Nelson, Collins, Lunt, Winckle, Johnson, Sinclair, Eglin
Front Row (Left to Right): Cpl S. P. Bushby, Sgt J. N. Waddingham, Lt N. R. Davis, Capt B. P. Neilings, WO2 (SSM) L. Collins, Cpl A. Dixon, LCpl S. Crawford

ROYAL SIGNALS DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE NO 215 (AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE INITIATED)

Report by LCpl Steve Corner—School of Signals, LCpl Paul Wooding—10 Sig Regt, LCpl Jonah Blood—8 Sig Regt

'Good morning gentlemen and welcome to 11 Sig Regt and more specifically to NCO Training Wing. Points to Note—Maintain your British Army Sense of Humour.' These daunting words were the introduction by the CO to the 28 unsuspecting students of RSDCC 215.

No sooner had the CO left the cinema (why are CO's addresses always held in cinemas?) than we were being introduced to our mentors in the guise of the course instructors. Starting from the top we met the OC, who had something in common with us, in that this was his first RSDCC. His name is **Capt Whitehead**, and he constantly monitored our progress, helping one and all with the odd encouraging remark! The course officer, **WO2 (SSM) O'Hare** was next in line. He doubles as the Wing Sergeant Major and it was difficult to establish which we preferred. Our 'Q' Accounts instructor was **SSgt (SQMS) Webber** and he wasted no time in loading us down with paperwork, whilst at the same time, ensuring we kept his coffee machine from becoming redundant. The two instructors we came into contact with most of all were **Sgt Paul 'Relish' Mellish** and **Sgt Stu (Watch a Wallet) Johnston**. Nothing was too much trouble for these kind-hearted souls. They were joined by **Cpl Wardley** who appeared to be the 'straight' man of the 'team'.

Week one was spent learning, swotting, polishing, running, and week two was similar, with more emphasis on the learning, swotting, polishing and running. The high point of week two was the two day 'holiday' away from it all in that well known winter resort, Catterick Training Area, complete with snow.

Week three saw the commencement of exams and assessments and the odd invite to the SSM's office. We even re-learned how to make 'bed packs'.

Three down, one to go. Ex *Hermes Challenge* was upon us. At least the snow had cleared. The week was tiring, educational and humorous, thanks to **LCpl Steve (everything goes into the LH kidney pouch) Corner** and **LCpl (1 Section) Burrows**. The week culminated in a forced march from the ranges to Helles Barracks and it was all over bar the shouting. Thursday night saw the end of course dinner and the inevitable war story or two. A good four weeks was had by all and no failures. Well done lads. God be with you—216.

RSDCC No 215
Front Row (Left to Right): Cpl George, Sgt Mellish, SSgt (SQMS) Webber, Capt P. W. J. Whitehead, WO2 (SSM) M. O'Hare, Sgt Johnston, Cpls Snell, Wardley
Centre Row: LCpls Heward, McNaught, Britton, Wooding, Cpl Derrick, LCpls Langton, Fyfe, MacDonald, Burns, Blood, Matthews
Back Row Cpl Bradford, LCpls Corner, Thompson, Wood, Lane, Rutter, Cpls Conway, Hill, LCpls Fear, Plumb, Burrows, Esson

3 SQN
BEAUFIGHTER TROOP

Tp Comd	**Capt Vyv Thatcher**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Andy Trivett**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Al Livermore**
	Cpl Chris Martin
	Cpl Taff Webb

This is part two of Beaufighter Troop's impressive struggle with the CMS(R). For part one read 'The Royal Tournament' which was published on page 538 of the November 1986 issue.

Here are a few highlights:

The Troop's second adventure training exercise was based in Dent and the Lake District. It consisted of 'walking' (The Three Peaks), caving, canoeing and climbing. After ELT 1 the Troop was convinced that they were all Chris Bonningtons and that canoeing was for Girl Guides. The Lake District soon changed that. Climbing on exposed rock with nothing but gravity between you and a 200ft drop soon separated the men from the boys. Accordingly the Troop was seen wearing short trousers the next day.

Sgt Andy Trivett proved that there is a world of difference between canoeing on a reservoir and canoeing on a fast moving river. After giving a demonstration on how to negotiate one of the more difficult sections, he asked for the first volunteer. Everyone then became very interested in checking spray decks and paddles, etc. Once again, Beaufighter Troop adopted short trousers.

Battle Camp was also 'interesting'.

After deploying at 0230 hrs (who writes these exercise instructions?) the Troop set forth to stem the invading hordes. (Kindly supplied by **Capt Gordon 'Airborne' Haughie** of 8 Sig Regt.) Five days of constant war followed, against both the enemy and the elements. The Troop experienced the delights of living in trenches, waiting in ambush positions in sub-zero temperatures, and how to judge when dawn had really arrived. The latter was very important as it determined how long you have to freeze before the dawn attack. Seldom have I seen soldiers skirmish so fast and so willingly. It is amazing what crawling through mud, followed by an hour's wait in the pouring rain does for the speed of an attack. Unfortunately the fire support group didn't have the benefit of movement and so copious amounts of coffee and anti-freeze were administered on the re-organisation. There was no doubt that the exercise had been extremely hard. This was made obvious by the looks of sheer relief and happiness when endex was announced.

No report on Beaufighter Troop would be complete without mentioning the 'extra mural' activities. The four pass off parades (Back Up Troop), the numerous visits (Demonstration Troop), the new exercises (Guinea-Pig Troop). In short, if in doubt send for Beaufighter.

A few words on some notable individual achievements. **Cpl Ritchie Arundel**'s well deserved promotion (and subsequent posting to the Falklands—every silver lining has a cloud!), **JSig Lenny**'s selection for the Corps cricket team, **JSig Campbell** coming second in the World

Beaufighter Troop and guests (OC 3 Sqn and the SSM)
Rear (L to R): Greatbatch, Jarvis, Murray, Birkett, O'Brien, Durrant, Kielty, Holland, Garth, Rennie, Campbell, Henderson
Third Rank (L to R): Davis, Carter, Cook, Bolton, Mawers, Redstone, Walker, Ewen, Madle, McGaw
Second Rank (L to R): Flanigan, Hill, Werner, Ewart, Smart, Thomas, Palmer, Cawthorne, Lenny, Pengelley
Front (L to R): JLCpl Purfit, JLCpl Dale, Cpl Livermore, SSAM A. D. Duggan, Maj J. A. Harris, Capt V. J. Thatcher, R Signals, Sgt A. Trivett, Cpl Webb, Cpl Martin, JLCpl Webber

JSig Pengelley signing for his Christmas present from WO2 (RQMS) W. J. Henning

Brig Mundell (the Reviewing Officer) frightening JSig Palmer, while the CO gives JSig Redstone the eagle eye

Field Archery Championships. Also more personal triumphs as recruits got to grips with a life style quite unlike anything they had experienced before.

With NCOs and recruits of the calibre demonstrated by Beaufighter Troop, the Corps has little to worry about, these men can cope with anything!

Finally a few happy snaps.

THE KEEP OF RICHMOND CASTLE

A magnificent silver centre-piece of the 'Keep' of Richmond Castle was presented to the Headquarters Sergeants' Mess by **Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE,** on behalf of the Royal Signals Association on Friday 30 January 1987.

The idea of the 'Keep' was to further bind the long standing ties of the Corps with the town of Richmond. Specially commissioned for the Sergeants' Mess and hand engraved the 'Keep' stands 14in high by 5in by 4in mounted on a mahogany plinth. The centre-piece will take pride of place in the Sergeants' Mess.

The 'Keep' being admired by Gen 'Archie' Birtwistle and WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

HQ SQUADRON
TM TROOP
PERSONALITIES

TOT	**Capt Bob Wherry**
FofS1	**WO1 Pete Waring**
FofS2	**SSgt Jim Waterson**
SSgt Radio	**SSgt Dennis Southwick**
SSgt TE	**SSgt George Furber**

A busy period for the Troop with many goodbyes and welcomes. We have said goodbye to **Cpls Billy Mcreath** and **Shaun Wilde,** both on their T1 Course, **Sgt Ray Francis** to Civvy Street and **Sgt Kev Mills** to SHAPE.

Welcome to **Sgt Graham Blondel, Cpl Donald, LCpls Taff Jolly, Nigel Frith** and **Tim Banting.**

The Troop has recently been involved in two military skills competitions, the RCZ's Ex *Crossbow* where **Sgt Chris Little, Cpls Matt Worley** and **Geordie Chambers** and **LCpl Tim Banting** came in fifth overall and in the Colonel's Cup where the team came fourth.

The Troop is well represented in all the Regimental sports teams but our recent notables have been **LCpl Steve Peters** and **Cpl Newt Newton** who fought well in the RCZ boxing against 16 Sig Regt.

CATERING TROOP
Report by Master Chef SSgt Paul McCafferey

Well the first six months of my tour have flown by with the usual ups and downs, thankfully more ups than downs.

Just after I arrived **Sgt John Hill** (later to be known as the Wanderer) left for a spell of diving off the coast of Sardinia with several other members of the Regiment.

The little and large of the catering department have changed over since my arrival. Big **Sid Wakely** went up to H Troop with Titch **Colin Knight** coming back to the Regiment.

Then in October came my first internal exercise. (Still no sign of the Wanderer, an education course this time). Someone told me that the Adjutant is always blowing his top, which is why he always blows up the kitchen during the exercise but it was going to be different this time I was assured countless times by the QM. So it came as no surprise to find ourselves filling No 1 burners and erecting 12 × 12 tents at one o'clock in the morning of the second day. The happy smiling face and cry of 'good morning' from **WLCpl Rose** seemed to brighten everyone's day, well almost everyone's.

1 SQN
ALPHA TROOP

The Hephata Jungendsiedlung Haus I is one part of an institution which looks after mentally handicapped young boys. The House at present caters for 12 boys aged 10 to 19 years. Their problems range from dyslexia to conversational difficulties. By now people will be asking just what is the connection between a Troop from 13 Sig Regt and a Haus in Monchengladbach. Several years ago, the Troop played the House in a friendly football match. The House was very keen to get on the football field. This first event was a great success with a drawn match, honours remained intact.

This year it was decided to have a return match. The Troop Commander, **WO2 Pete Forster,** and **Sig Mark Wallace** once again liaised through **Mr Gordon Rutter** to set up the trip to Monchengladbach.

Before the match started the team captain, **Sgt Gav Muir** presented the German team with an engraved plaque. To reciprocate the Troop's donation, the House donated a superb wooden solitaire set which they had made themselves in the Arts and Crafts room.

The actual football was of a good standard with both teams giving their all, the German boys in particular, and at half time the Germans were slightly in front by two goals to one. Alpha Troop were still pretty confident as they now had the wind behind them in the second half. Sure enough **Sig 'Jock' Malone** cracked one past the keeper and into the opposing team's net. The Troop's joy was to be short lived though as **LCpl Trev Acres** (on loan from O Troop) scored the best goal of the match past his own keeper. The final whistle came too soon as **Cpl 'Chaff' Finch** was starting to shoot at the correct goal.

With the football over we then went to the House for an excellent buffet and 'refreshments'. The boys were all glad to host the Troop and some of the younger ones asked us to return in uniform. We might.

The whole venture was a worthwhile occasion enjoyed by the boys of the school and the Troop. It was worth losing just to see the delighted faces of the boys at the final whistle.

A Troop football team

FOCUS ON DELTA TROOP
TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO2 (Supvr R) Dave Dolling**
2IC	**SSgt (Supvr R) Steve Palfreyman**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Mick Reehal**
ATp Sgt	**Sgt Andy Snowdon**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Trev Broome**

Much has happened in the Troop over these last few months covering a wide variety of topics including drill parades, military skills competitions, sponsored runs across Germany to mention but a few. The most memorable occasion was **Lt Col Howard's** farewell parade.

As early as June, the forming of individual squads and a quick look at the Shift Roster was enough to tell us that Delta Troop being on days off would obviously be first choice. And so it was as many, many hours of rehearsals under the watchful eye of **SSgt Steve Palfreyman** meant seeing our wives and girlfriends became a rarity.

However our efforts were not in vain and we were well justified in the end in being called No 1 Squadron.

Next on the agenda was the annual 'Colonel's Cup', military skills competition. This year's competition had eight stands. Navigational cross country march in full SOP kit, First Aid, NBC, AFV recognition, general knowledge (Army), TOETs on either LMG, SLR, SMG or pistol, assault course followed by a shoot, kit and equipment inspections. The Troop team consisted of **WO2 Dave Dolling, Sgt Mick Reehal, Cpl Taff Burdge, LCpls Andy Jensen, Steve Powell** and **Sig Bryan Mason.**

It goes without saying that many hours were spent carefully covering each subject to ensure nothing would be overlooked, not to mention the physical beastings we were put through.

The day arrived finally and we were all feeling slightly confident. The navigational march went to plan with **LCpl Andy Jensen** leading us straight into every check point. The remaining stands were all covered confidently but we did lose a little time on the assault course phase. The competition was so close that even up to the prize giving nobody was sure who had won. Then came the heartbreak, we had been placed second to F Troop, 3 Sqn, losing on a technicality. It seems we had written down one of the checkpoint indicators on the navigational event in the wrong box. **WO2 Dave Dolling** and **Sgt Mick Reehal** wished to remain anonymous at this stage.

The prestigious Brains of Birgelen Competition was the next challenge and our team once again dominated the event being ably led by our resident know all, **Sgt 'Snowy' Snowdon,** who defeated the Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess, 2 Sqn A, Vicious Circle, and finally H Troop in a very entertaining and memorable final, **Sgt Snowdon** really turning the screws to the delight of the boisterous supporters.

What could be next on the Troop's agenda we all wondered? We decided on a sponsored run. No sweat came the cry, then came the details. A non stop run from 14 Sig Regt in Celle to the Regiment here in Birgelen on the Dutch border. The run itself took place over 4/5 December (our days off). The running team consisted of 12 men, who would each run a distance of approximately 24 miles, administered by the magic eight admin team. The run itself took 34 hrs 50 mins and was completed without a hitch. Well there was one, the Colonel and his wife were caught on the hop and actually had to run into the camp

The team on completion of the run

to greet a somewhat early band of runners whipping through an early morning downpour. Upon reflection, a super effort by all those involved, especially our admin team who barely slept a wink over the entire run.

Having collected all the pledged sponsorship money, a feat that we knew would be more difficult than the run itself, we set about organising a trip to the UK for the presentation.

How were we to get there? Who better to ask than the tried and trusted Townsend Thorensen. After a quick chat with their **Miss Jane Lawrence** they came up trumps and offered us return passenger tickets (free of charge). The presentation of the cheque took place on 14 January, in Roecliffe Manor, Loughborough, Leics, where **Mrs Jo Birley**, the staff and all the residents assembled to greet us. A fantastic total of £3,769.67 was actually handed over, after which the team enjoyed a lovely buffet, wine and a guided tour of the home to see where the hard earned money would be used.

Presentation of the cheque

WELCOME

Finally we would like to welcome **Sgt Al Morton** and his wife **Cath** and family who have just arrived from Cyprus. Congratulations are extended to **Sig Ken** and **Ruth Resoun**, and **John** and **Debbie Jones** who, by the time this goes to print, will be happily married.

Keep your unit notes

SHORT!

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION WASSENBERG

WO2 (Supvr R) John Chudleigh and **WO2 (SSM) Paul O'Brien** took part in the local Wassenberg Military Skills Competition. The other competitors were local German reservists and German Police. The main competition was won by a team of reservists but the two Brit oldies did win, and very convincingly, the best overall 'March time' which won them the coverted 'Golden Boot'.

WO2 (Supvr R) John Chudleigh with some of the competition winners

3 SQN

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

Firstly we say farewell and good luck for the future to the following **Sgt Phil Gordon, Cpl Dave Ruddock** and his wife-to-be **WLCpl Helen Townley, Cpl 'Killer' Armstrong** and **Cpl Andy Chapman** and **WCpl Sandie Kemp.**

We welcome **Sgt Phil Adams, WSgt Dot Hunter, Cpl Tim Howe, Cpl Scouse Davies, Cpl John Naylor, LCpl Charlie Christian** and **Cpl Phil Barclay, LCpl Paul Foody** and **LCpl Ian Shrubb.**

COLONEL'S CUP 1986

Having won the competition in 1984 and finishing as runners up last year, it was with a determined resolve that 16 members of the Squadron travelled to Birgelen to attempt to reclaim the Regiment's most sought after Trophy from 1 Sqn's silver cabinet.

With the majority of the squad coming from the shift working element, it was decided that a weekend's consolidated training at the Regiment would be the only guarantee of getting all members of the team together prior to the event.

The hardest task of the weekend was, without doubt, the selection of the two teams. Finally it was decided that **WO2 Mal Heaney** would lead the 'A' team of **Sgt John Gower, Cpls Andy Butler** and **Scouse Davies** and **LCpls Jez Bailey** and **Darren Levett.** The 'B' team would be **WO1 Alan Hale, Sgt Mick Keech, Cpls Oscar Clarkson** and **Simon Kemp** and **LCpls Pete Heppinstall** and **Nige Tickner.**

Monday dawned bright and clear and saw the competition start with a 10km navigational march in CEFO, carrying weapons. The second

3 Sqn Colonel's Cup Squad
Back Row L to R: WO2 (SSM) Heaney, Cpl Davies, LCpl Foody, Sgt Taylor, LCpl Bailey, Sgts Gower, Keech, Cpl Butler, WO1 Hale
Front Row L to R: Cpls Kemp, Heppinstall, LCpl Tickner, Sgt Adams, Cpl Clarkson

phase consisted of military training stands including vehicle and aircraft recognition, weapon handling, first aid and NBC. Unfortunately the competition organiser had a warped sense of humour and just as the teams were feeling ready to tackle phase three—the assault course—they were subjected to several lungfuls of CS Gas on the final NBC stand.

Both teams gave a good account of themselves on the assault course phase with the 'B' team beating all others by some 30 seconds.

The final phase—a 9mm pistol shoot, was probably our weakest event but even so the scores were enough to see the 3 Sqn 'B' team win the Trophy, taking it back to Berlin for another 12 months.

H TROOP

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Farewell and good luck to the OC **Capt Wayne Coupland** and his wife **Debbie** and also the SSM, **WO2 R. J. Bowman BEM** and his wife **Christine.** We wish them our best for the future. Other recent departures include **Sgt Dave Randle** and his wife **Ellie** and **LCpl Kev Haines RPC.** Both were sad losses to the football team especially **Sgt Randle** as he was a prolific goal scorer for the team.

In turn we welcome our new OC **Capt Neil Yeoll** and wife **Dianne** and the new SSM, **WO2 Stevenson** and wife **Barbara.** We hope they all have a successful tour.

BIRTHS

We congratulate **Cpl Don** and **Mrs Alison Walker** on the birth of their daughter Louise Jane and **Cpl Gary** and **Mrs Norma Melding** on the birth of their daughter Stacey.

CHARITY WALK

On 10 October, three members of the Troop took part in a charity walk covering a distaince of 30km. They were **Sgt Hannan, Cpl Kev Rhodes** and **LCpl John Winn.** Most of the sponsors were troop members but money was also raised by **Cpl Rhodes** and **Cpl Paul Cullum** (unable to take part due to injury) canvassing local firms and shops. The great event arrived and they started off at a sprint, pulling away from the walking crowd behind. With no water stops en route they carried their own water and **LCpl Winn** carried an abundance of chocolate and sweets. Following a clearly marked route in a figure of eight configuration the team made good time on the first leg but heat, tiredness and shortage of water soon took their toll. However they still turned in a respectable time of 2 hrs 50 mins for the course—without a lunch break. It seemed a lot of work for DM350 but it was for a good cause.

FOOTBALL

The season has been one of mixed fortunes for the Troop. We have had the satisfaction of playing good football but were unlucky on many occasions to be beaten. Our lowly position in the local league isn't a true reflection of the standard. It has also been a time of many changes. We have lost **Sgt Dave Randle, LCpl Stuart Adlington,** and **Sig Ralph Basnett** but also gained **Cpl Neil Butterworth** and **Pte Jock Steele** in their stead.

In the pre-season we took part in a number of local tournaments with notable success. We also had the pleasure of hosting friendly games against 640 Sig Tp from Blandford and a team from 14 Sig Regt. Both were enjoyable, highly competitive games and a chance to meet old friends again.

Finally we say farewell to **FofS Brian Gardner.** From all the team we say thank you for your help and support and wish you all the best for the future.

AROUND THE REGIMENT

WRAC ACTIVITIES

The last few months have emphasised the continued success of the WRAC of the Regiment in sporting pursuits. After a series of hard fought games we eventually won the BAOR Lawn Tennis League to consolidate our win at the BAOR Inter Unit Tennis Championships last year.

On the running front our team went back to Aldershot for the Army Womens' Relay Championships coming first out of BAOR and a creditable fourth overall.

The Women's Services Cross Country was hosted last year at Birgelen and we fielded a strong team on our home ground. As anticipated, the A team won the championships and the B team came a magnificent fourth. Our attached WRNS Officer **2nd Officer Dita James** took the individual trophy finishing streets ahead of the other competitors.

Other noticeable achievements include coming third in the BAOR (WS) Squash and fourth in the hockey.

On the home front, the WRAC team entered in the Colonel's Cup competition and led by **SSgt Nancy McDougall,** came third out of ten teams. As the results were published a quiet murmur rippled through the teams to the tune 'We've been beaten by the women!'.

SERGEANTS' MESS

During the visit of **Maj Gen C. R. L. Guthrie LVO OBE** on 19 January he presented LS&GC's to **WO2 John Blofield** and **Dave McNulty.** After the Medal Ceremony **WO2 Dave McNulty's** 10 pfgs went further than expected towards wetting the medals!

WO2 and Mrs Blofield and WO2 and Mrs McNulty with Maj Gen Guthrie after the presentation

BRAINS OF 13 SIGNAL REGIMENT

The finals of the Brains of 13 Sig Regt were held on 4 November 1986 in the Mercury Hall, Birgelen. A capacity crowd enjoyed a hard fought and entertaining competition. The eventual winners were Delta Daggers of 1 Sqn, for the second year. The plate competition was won by TM Tp who narrowly beat J Tp 2 Sqn. The competition was organised by **Maj Joe Moreland** now posted and the question masters were **WO1 (Supvr R) Tony Bird, WO1 (YofS) Trevor Taylor** and **WO1 John Skipper. Mrs J. H. Roberts** kindly presented the prizes. She reached the semi-finals of the competition with the wives' club team. Well done!

Sgt Gavin Muir, Sgt Snowy Snowdon, Cpl Frank Millington, WO1 John Skipper, Mrs J H Roberts, WO1 (f of s) Peter Waring, Sgt Chris Rumney, Cpl Andy Hilton

ANGLO-GERMAN OLD FOLKS CHRISTMAS DINNER

The old folks Christmas dinner was a great success again this year. This annual event which has taken place every year since the 60's was hosted this year by **Lt Col J. H. Roberts.** The German guests included not only the pensioners from the local area, but also the Mayor of Wassenberg **Herr Schuman** and the Stadtdirektor **Herr Windeln** accompanied by their ladies. The evening started with carols sung by the local German church choir and from the British children of Blandford Primary School at Birgelen.

The whole evening was a great success and our thanks go to **Maj John Hayes** and **WO2 John Chudleigh** for co-ordinating the event.

Blandford School children sing to the pensioners

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

After 1986 the Regiment knew how to see in the New Year with style! However, everything came down to earth as people returned to work on 6 January. The Squadrons burst into life in preparation for Ex *White Lightning*. The festive season was quickly forgotten!

The Regimental Nordic Ski Team deserve praise for their excellent performance at the 1 Div Ski Championships in Austria coming eleventh in their second competitive year. The team were: **Lt Grimson, SSgt Doughty** (congratulations on his promotion to Warrant Officer 2), **Sgt Ranier, Cpl Forbes, LCpl Castle, LCpl Connelly, Sig Proctor, Sig White.**

Sadly **Lt Mike Grimson** leaves the Regiment on posting to 249 AMF(L) Sig Sqn, so he obviously hasn't seen the last of the Nordic skiing! Any volunteers for next year's Ski Captain?

Ex *White Lightning*, the Regiment's annual training exercise proved very successful, even the Chief Clerk learned something about the Regiment. The CO, **Lt Col M. P. S. Shaw** certainly saw how we all worked in the field—including RHQ! However, left behind 'minding the shop' were **LCpl Keith Townsin** and our invaluable **Ruth**, both doing excellent jobs.

HARZ CROSSING

THE TEAM (VOLUNTEERS)

Lt Col M. P. S. Shaw, Maj R. J. Shephard REME, Capt M. J. Perry, WO1 (YofS) Cowen, Sgt Horn RAPC, Sgt Talbot, Cpl Evans, Cpl Gosney, LCpl Collinson, LCpl Dornan, LCpl Wightman. Admin: Cpl Turner, Sig Green, Pte Heap ACC.

THE PLAN (AS CONCEIVED BY THE CO)

The aim of the expedition was to langlauf across the Harz Mountains from south (Bad Sachsa) to north (Bad Harzberg) over the weekend 9-11 January 1987.

EXECUTION (HOW IT TURNED OUT)

On Friday 11 January the members of the expedition team made their way to the AMTC hut at Sonnenberg in the Harz. Due to bad road conditions causing delays, the advance party arrived at the hut only an hour before the main body and literally had to dig the hut out of a snowdrift. All heating in the hut was solid fuelled so it took a while to get things going. Once a good meal had been prepared and consumed, the CO briefed us on the next day's plans and we retired to bed in a state of shock.

At an unearthly hour on Saturday morning we arose, breakfasted and departed in the two landrovers for the drop-off point to the north of Bad Sachsa. We arrived to find that the 'tracks' were only just evident after the heavy snow falls and thus set off cutting our own tracks up the hill. The first two hours were heavy going as we re-accustomed ourselves to the art and techniques of langlaufing. The route chosen was fairly varied—including a crawl under a fallen tree led by **LCpl Collinson**. Eventually we came to some freshly cut and recently skied on tracks and at this point the sun came out, revealing some of the best views of the trip. By noon it began to cloud over and the temperature dropped dramatically, which prompted a bout of inspired map-reading to locate a cafe for lunch. At a camping-site restaurant we were able to purchase a medicinal gluhwein and feeling suitably refreshed, we skirted Braunlage on the well-used tracks. We were surprised by the number of people coming towards us and the CO spoke quite sharply to a puzzled German youth who would not allow us to pass. It dawned on us that we were in fact going the wrong way round a one-way circuit! We quickly diverted and headed off through the forested hills once again. With the dusk gathering, we arrived at the bottom of the Sonnenberg hill and wearily made our way back up to the welcome warmth of the hut. Our resident chef, **Pte Heap** produced a good hot meal and most people had an early night.

The next morning we set out in a snow storm through virgin snow in the direction of Torfhaus—relying on the 'unerring' instincts of a compass-wielding **Capt Perry** to guide us. Amazingly a track was found but when it disappeared, leaving us to break track through deep snow, our progress was further disrupted by **WO1 Cowen** managing to snap off the toe-fitting of his shoe. Luckily he was within limping distance of Torfhaus and was able to hire a replacement in order to continue. Most of the last part of the crossing to Bad Harzberg was on well-signed, freshly cut and gently downhill-sloping tracks and we made good time. Finally we were confronted with a steep descent to the waiting landrovers which was negotiated with varying degrees of skill and caution by all except **LCpl Wightman** who decided not to push his luck any further and 'dismounted'. After a quick team photograph we returned to the hut, packed up and departed for Celle. Finally . . .

The expedition was successful in its aim—covering approximately 60km in two days over hilly terrain in often quite harsh conditions. Within the group there was a wide range of ability and experience and it was an achievement for everyone to complete the crossing. The weekend was hard by enjoyable. It was made possible by the use of fairly easily available resources and an efficient admin team.

COLONEL'S CUP COMPETITION 1986

The inter-troop competition for the prestigious Colonel's Cup took place on 9 December 1986. The competition is an annual event which is designed to test individual fitness and stamina as well as leadership and team spirit.

The event consisted of a timed 15km course on the local ranges at Scheuen. Teams had to map read their way to various stands which tested their skills at First Aid, NBC, Vehicle Recognition, Vehicle Recovery and a Command Task.

On returning, the teams completed dry tests on their personal weapons and a falling plate shoot.

This year the event was dominated by 1 Sqn and Whiskey Tp in particular. In the individual team event Whiskey Tp took first and second places with other 1 Sqn teams also coming in the first six places. The winning team, led by **SSgt Maddison** and ably assisted by **SSgts Mullins, Rofe, Cpls Vagg, Bracey, LCpls Thomson, Sayer** and **Anderson.** In the main competition the winning Troop was Whisky Tp and much to everyone's surprise even our own RHQ Troop came runners up.

The team at end of trip—WO1 Cowen having trouble with his bindings

Colonel's Cup—NBC Stand

The individual team winners and the winning Troop Commander with the Colonel's Cup Trophy

Front Row L-R: Sgt Mullins, SSgt Maddison, Capt Perks, Cpl Vagg
Back Row L-R: LCpl Thomson, Cpl Bracey, Sgt Rofe

ORIENTEERING

Under the sponsorship of the Royal Signals (BAOR) orienteering president **Lt Col Mike Shaw** and his orienteering secretary **Capt Jonathan Perks**, a BAOR team was sent to compete in the UK Championships in October. Team members were drawn from various Royal Signals Regiments and had never competed as a team before the event.

All the members had good runs with notable performances by **SSgt Graham** (21 Sig Regt), **SSgt Cottingham** (4 Div) and **Capt Perks**. **LCpl Cressey** was the new blood for the team and **SSgt Pete Probin** was on his last major event before he 'retires' from the Army.

The trip to the UK included a training event day, individual championships and team relays and was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole team.

(L-R Back Row): SSgt Graham 21 Sig Regt, Capt Perks 14 Sig Regt, Maj Lloyd Jones 1 ADSR, SSgt Probin 4 ADSR
(L-R Front Row): SSgt Cottington 4 ADSR, SSgt Graham 4 ADSR, WO2 (YofS) Allen 1 ADSR, LCpl Cressey 14 Sig Regt

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Wireless Telegraphy Operators
are urgently required

for the Interpol Radio Room at New Scotland Yard, Broadway, London SW1.

Candidates are required to have a knowledge of morse code and to pass a test, transmitting and receiving, at 25 wpm. They must also be able to touch type on a teleprinter at a speed of 40 wpm.

PAY:
£8282 per annum including London Weighting, rising to a maximum of £9964 per annum inclusive. In addition, a shift allowance of up to 20% of basic salary is payable.

HOURS:
41 per week. Interpol Radio Room operates 24 hours a day throughout the year. Staff are required to undertake shift duty and weekend/Bank Holiday working on a rota system. In the normal course of employment tours of duty will mainly fall between 7am-3pm; 3pm-11pm; 11pm-7am with some variations.

Benefits include a generous leave allowance. Appointments are pensionable. The Metropolitan Police Office is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

If you are completing your service please apply for an application form and further details to the Establishment Officer, Metropolitan Police Office, E8(4), Room 214, 105 Regency Street, London SW1P 4AN or telephone 01-230 3948 or 01-230 3717.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

HQ SQUADRON
HANDLEBAR MOTORCYCLE CLUB

The Handlebar Club ended the 1986 season on a high note:

On 27-28 November 1986 at the RCZ/BAOR Motorcycling Championships held at Haltern Training Area the unit became the RCZ Champions for 1986.

This concluded a very successful year for the club, which also organised during the race season Ex *Hard Ride IV*. The course was constructed over a four day period by **Sgt Paul Engering** and members of the club. Riders from all over BAOR attended the event and the course lived up to its exercise name, proving to be a very demanding endurance test. Notable performances at the event were those of **Cpl Graham Stott** and **LCpl Dickie Cove**, who won gold awards, and **LCpl Nick Parkyn**, who won a bronze award.

RCZ/BAOR Competition Class Awards:

RCZ

Individual Winner	**Cpl Stott**
Best Novice	**Cpl Stott**
Best Team	**LCpl Barnes, Cpl Brogan, Sig Smith** (875)

BAOR

7th	Gold Award	**Cpl Stott**
9th	Silver Award	**LCpl Barnes**
12th	Silver Award	**Cpl Piper**

Cpl Williams receiving the Crook Shield from Brig Palmer, Commander (BR) RCZ. The Crook Shield is presented annually to the major unit that has shown the most sporting prowess throughout the year in all RCZ competitions

1 SQN
EXERCISE *LONG LOOK 1986*
Report by Cpl G. I. Cutts WRAC

On 4 August 1986 all the personnel on Ex *Long Look* from BAOR departed from Gutersloh Airport. I was going to 4 Sig Regt in Brisbane, Queensland to work in the Defence Commcen Automatic Relay Station.

4 Sig Regt is based in Brisbane city centre, and is fully computerised. Apart from about five Commcens, all the static Commcens in Australia are now computerised.

The British and Australian Armies are very similar in organisation. The two main differences are that the 'singlies' can live out (which most of them do, either sharing a flat or a house) and there is no equivalent WRAC. Their female Corps re-badged about two years ago. At the same time their terms of service changed to allow them to continue their service whilst pregnant and return to work after their baby was born.

The Australian Army does not provide creches though, it is up to the parents to find and pay for a child-minder.

I went on a few detachments while I was with 4 Sig Regt, I visited the Commcen in Townsville, North Queensland and also the Relay Station in Canberra and Melbourne. I was given time off work in all the units I visited to go sightseeing. In some units a sponsor and car were also provided to show me around the area.

Two weeks of my time was spent on a Driving Exercise with 1 Sig Regt, a field force unit based in Brisbane. We travelled between 300-900kms a day, all over North Queensland—through the large mining town of Mount Isa and up to the Gulf of Carpentaria, then across to the East Coast and back down the Captain Cook Highway to Brisbane.

On 7 November the *Long Look*ers met again in Sydney for a weekend before flying back on the Monday. A two day stop on the way back was arranged in New Jersey near New York, which was a nice finish to the exercise!

2 SQN
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Peter Jones**
2IC	**Capt Mick Nevill**
SSM	**WO2 Rick Lewis**
SQMS	**SSgt John Allen**
YofS	**SSgt Ian Lake**
FofS	**SSgt Ian Atherton**

Maj Brian Campbell has been given a free transfer to 3 Sqn and **WO2 (SSM) Davies** Ex SSM 2 Sqn has just returned from PIU for a short stop over before moving on to 3 ADSR; we wish him the best of luck.

SHQ TROOP

Despite a busy period during changeovers, **WLCpl Gill Briers** has announced that she is leaving the service and we wish her and her husband **Cpl Dean Briers** of 3 Sqn all best wishes in their family life. Also we wish **WCpl Sue Leitch** and **Cpl 'Geordie' Leitch** all the best in their move to Catterick.

Congratulations also go to **Capt Mick Nevill** on his recent promotion, unfortunately we have not had the chance to do it personally as he is still lost somewhere in Bavaria.

We welcome to SHQ **Sig 'Cookie' Cook** (and his haircut) a recent transfer from the bealeagured forces of RHQ as our new Squadron Clerk.

ROMEO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Jon 'Boy' Williams**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Mick 'RQMS' Wilton**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Mal'function' Harriden**

Romeo Troop has managed to keep solvent despite the exodus of its hordes for PTARMIGAN training, something to do with a flightless aerial reconnaisance aircraft.

Even with so many away, the Troop managed a minor deployment to Belgium and Holland with the aid of the newly formed Sierra Troop. The exercise had its moments—none more exciting than when **Cpl Gerry 'neckache' Hogwood** and **Sig Paul 'I'll kill them' Beeching** decided that they wanted to convert their Land Rover into an 'open top' with the help of a Belgian Truck.

The Troop welcomes to the Regiment the following: **Cpl Steve Barr, SSgt Tony Singleton, Sig Carl 'Brummy' Perks, Howard Moorby** and **Mark Grey**. We say farewell to only one member of the Troop after three years with us, **Cpl Mark 'Skinny' Quinn**, we wish him all the best at 8 Sig Regt, and in his attempt to join the APTC.

KILO TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**2Lt Neil 'Fatty' Dewar**
Tp SSgts	**SSgt Paul Staynings**
	SSgt Chris Parry-Davies

Since our last report we have said farewell to **SSgt 'Jack' Kirkpatrick, LCpl Pete Smoothy, John Pryke** and **Sig 'Yosser' Hughes**. We welcome hoards of newcomers, too numerous to mention by name, except **Sgt Howie Barlow** who is incessantly complaining that he has never had his name in *The Wire*. But best wishes to all of you.

3 SQN
ALPHA TROOP

Firstly welcomes to **Sgt (Baby Face) Andy Campbell, Sgt (Acting Handbag) Nig Richards, Cpl Tim (Pathfinder) Abbott, LCpl (Guide em in) Pete Addison, Sig 'Moggsy' Mogre** and **Chris Web**. Now almost every Signalman has his own SNCO!

EXERCISES

Only three since the New Year began! Starting with a minus 20 degrees at Leloh with **SSgt ('O' Group) Orange** teaching orders between shifts.

The following week saw Ex *Roving Third* in full swing with much movement and camouflage, although **Cpl Tim Abbott**'s detachment did more movement than was intended due to various Batco/Map-reading/CEI errors. **Cpl Derek (Bend it or leave it) Tidswell** managed to modify his truck on all four corners before leaving his generator behind, only realising when his det arrived at the next location.

On to Ex *Phantom Wire*, Alpha Troop's own two day SAS selection course. A 'highlight' of this exercise was **Cpl Bob McCall** seen reading his password by the light of his own defensive trip flare.

Whilst these notes are being written preparation is underway for next week's DCN 038; Never a dull moment . . .

'What on earth am I doing here?' asks Cpl Abbott on Ex *Phantom Wire*

LCpl Duffy and LCpl Bailey basha building training prior to Ex *Phantom Wire* I wish he'd push off with that camera!'

GOLF TROOP

Golf Troop although established only recently has quickly taken to its new role with PTARMIGAN training almost completed.

The end of January saw the Troop deployed to several different locations on Ex *Roving Third*. HQ RCZ Commhead took their lives in their hands by allowing **LCpl John 'Bubbles' Skevington** (Lineman) and **Cpl Paddy Hodge** (Powerman) to do all their cooking.

Cpl Hodge had the distinction of having to fill out an FMT 3 without his Bedford actually touching the other vehicle. **LCpl Brian 'Botch-it' Kirkup**, Combat Lineman (retired) continues to provide the Troops with a steady supply of Yellow Handbags, a consequence of his unique style of workmanship. The Troop Power Bay has now applied for their own resident Physiotherapist as their light duties chits now outnumber Dot Cotton's.

LCpl Dave Gasgoyne, just returned from his Aerial Riggers Course eagerly awaits the introduction of PTARMIGAN so that he can put his extensive Armd Div training to maximum use. Take note **Brian Kirkup!**

FOXTROT TROOP

Foxtrot Troop welcomed in the New Year with a fresh batch of the Troop off to Verden for training on the wonders of PTARMIGAN.

Late January saw the rest of the Troop deployed on Ex *Roving Third*, the annual New Year Squadron, cam, movement, and comms exercise. A valuable training exercise after which some members of the WRAC were seen camming vehicles without falling off them.

NAG Mon was also deployed on the exercise however the det was not as active as it might have been, it was stuck in one location for over 24 hours. The det comd followed a track that fell away and the det fell away with it. LAD support was called for and was forthcoming, however the first wrecker followed the same path as the NAG Mon det. A second wrecker did subsequently arrive and was able to return both wagons to terra firma. Thanks LAD.

Lt Hands and her crew are now starting their preparation for the exercise season; we look forward to seeing you on them.

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

REUNIFICATION

Many members of the Corps will know that the Regiment is scattered throughout BAOR. RAF Wildenrath is the home base with Troop sized formations at the other three airfields in RAF Germany. We also have detachments at JHQ Rheindahlen and in the Eifel at Roetgen. Our biggest single concentration of Troops, equipment and vehicles, apart from the home base, has until of late been based at Scarborough Barracks, Osnabruck.

Welcome home 2 Sqn, nice to have you back! At long last Reunification has come about after three years of a split Regiment. Our ex Osnabruck Squadron has in fact been split into two. The helicopter support element has now become the newly raised 4 Sqn (see article below) and a much reduced 2 Sqn continue with the fixed wing support role.

It has taken some time to achieve reunification but once the decision was made by our air staff bosses last August we have got on with the task apace. Some 120 families have been rehoused and around 150 bedspaces have been found in RAF Wildenrath for a single element of the ex Osnabruck Squadron.

A comment was recently made by an RAF officer whilst dining in the Mess. The comment was directed at fellow diners (dress was DJ so an air of anonymity existed). 'Gets more like Aldershot every day around here with all these "Brown Jobs" returning.' What the officer did not know was that he was surrounded by no less than three 'Brown Jobs'. We agree with his comment—there's safety in numbers!

SOinC(A) VISIT

The SOinC(A), **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** paid us a visit on 10 December 1986. In addition to touring all elements of the Regiment based at RAF Wildenrath the SOinC was invited to look at Battle Flight and see the Phantom fighters and crews which form part of NATO's Second Allied Tactical Air Force quick reaction force.

After a full day with us the SOinC was invited to present Long Service and Good Conduct medals to no less than eight members of the Regiment.

Our photograph shows the SOinC pictured with (*from left to right*) LCpl Colin Philemon (HQ), Sgt and Mrs Fred Thompson (3), SSgt and Mrs Willie Ireland (HQ), LCpl Bert Cleary (HQ), Sgt and Mrs Gary Coxon (3), Cpl and Mrs Steve Webb (4), Sgt and Mrs Steve Baker (HQ—RAOC attached) and Cpl Jeff Smyth (4)

'Always Prepared'

'Immer Bereit' or Always Prepared is the motto of Royal Air Force Wildenrath. Pictured with the SOinC (A) is Lt Col Ian Turner, CO 21 and Gp Capt I. A. D. McBride RAF, the Station Commander

2 SQN
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj T. J. Gigg**
2IC/Ops Offr	**Capt S. J. Heath**
OC D Tp	**Lt M. J. Fensom**
OC E Tp	**Capt A. A. S. Harwell**
OC F Tp	**Lt D. M. Pratt**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) E. Marsh**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) C. P. Aitken**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) C. M. Platts**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Celtel**

DELTA TP (or TNO37)

With the advent of the New Year the OC Squadron had a plan. He conspired with his 2IC and OC Delta Troop to restore the Squadron to its pre-festive season state. As a result we deployed on Ex *Husky Fir 1/87*, the first exercise of the New Year. It was held in the Osnabruck area and concentrated on the use of Band 3 and SHF. The Troop OC, **Lt Matt Fensom**, took into account **LCpl 'Deso' Connor**'s view that we were just an expensive commcen if we co-located the entire node, so as a result dispersed the Radio Relay 21kms apart.

The men who keep the trunk node running—Delta Troop combat powermen
Cpl Graham Lamberton on the *left* and LCpl 'Big Keith Windle'

The OC Squadron, **Maj Tim Gigg**, was up to the Troop OC's map reading standard. He was overdue by two hours when the following occurrence took place in Node Command:

LCpl 'Smudge' Smith came up on the intercom from the Switch and said, 'Sir, there's some bloke here who wants to speak with you on the EOW.' 'Some bloke?' thought the Troop OC as he picked up the EOW handset. 'Ah, hello sir,' he said, startled and standing rigidly to attention. 'Yes, I'll send someone down to show you the way into location straight away.' Replacing the EOW handset he picked up the intercom. 'Switch, sir,' came the reply. 'Ah, Signalman, oh sorry, **LCpl Smith**, that bloke happened to be the OC Squadron.' There was an uneasy pause followed by a whispered comment, 'Oh . . . (bleep)'.

Despite SAN 684 taking a liking to ditches the exercise was a success with lessons learned, not least of all by **LCpl (Sig) 'Smudge' Smith.**

HELLOS AND FAREWELLS

The Troop would like to welcome **Sig Graham Jenkins** who arrived straight from 8 Sig Regt and at present is doing his month's stint on guard.

We say farewell to three members of the Troop. Firstly to **Sgt Mick Couston** who has gone to 2 Div, to **Cpl Dave Smith** who also went back to UK as he was posted to 610 TACP (FAC) RAF Brawdy and finally to **Sig Dave 'Quailie Llama' Keenan** who was delighted with his posting to 249 Sig Sqn! All in the Troop would like to thank them all for their contribution to Delta and wish them the best of luck in the future.

ECHO TROOP

The Troop would like to send a belated greeting to **LCpl 'Genghis' Leyland** doing his bit in the Falklands.

The Troop OC **Capt Heath** (now 2IC and Ops Offr) has finally completed his escape tunnel from Osnabruck and has surfaced somewhere in the Gutersloh area (yes that's where the 2IC Squadron is based), we eagerly await his replacement.

We say farewell to **Sig 'Silk' Williams** who has slithered away to 16 Sig Regt.

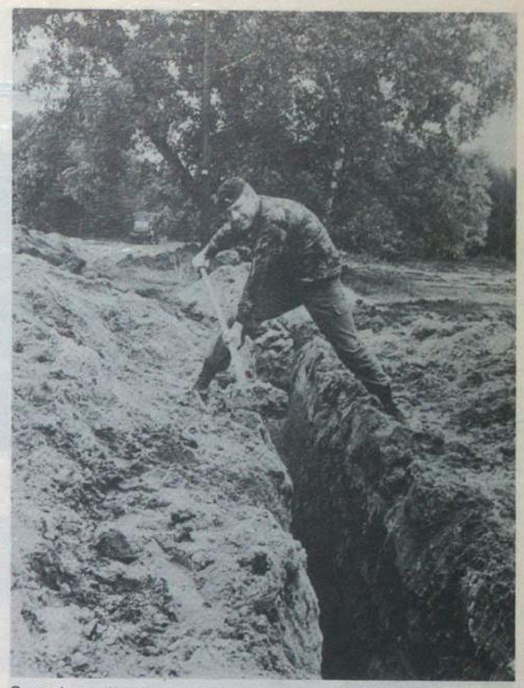
Now follows a special article by one of our Troop commanders, **Lt M. J. (Mat) Fensom.**

3 SQN
AID TO THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES

A small team consisting of Signallers, Engineers and civilians have recently completed a cable trench laying operation across the Soltau Luneburg Training Area (SLTA) in support of the Deutsches Bundespost.

This project occurred as a result of a direct request to the Regiment from **Capt Mark Keary** the OC of 256 MCPG (Damage and Repair Detachment Soltau). His unit's role is the repair and maintenance of the SLTA. Much of their work brings them into contact with the local authorities including the Deutsches Bundespost who approached **Capt Keary** for assistance in the laying of a telephone cable between the two villages of Steinbeck and Hahnkerach. The present aerial cable serving the two villages runs across the training area and is frequently subject to damage by wayward tanks and APC's thereby disrupting the local civilian telephone service.

The CO **Lt Col Ian Turner** gave permission for the task to be undertaken. 3 Sqn has much experience and expertise on telephone cable installations. As a result, a recce was conducted by the Airfield Communications Planning Office (ACPO) of 3 Sqn led by **SSgt Steve Hilton**. In liaison with representatives of the DBP, the SLO **Lt Col W. Kenny** and the Commandant of the SLTA **Lt Col T. Brown**, the plans were made. A team of three men from 3 Sqn consisting of **Cpl Bob Crossley, Sig 'Digger' Grave** and **Dave Knight** with the support of Sappers from 131 Indep Sqn RE (V) and civilians from 256 MCPG and in conjunction with Bundespost engineers the task began. Some four weeks later, some 4kms of cable had been laid connecting the two villages and their telephone facilities had been restored. Another good example of harmonious cooperation between military and civilian agencies, within BFG.



Sometimes there is no substitute for muscle! Sig 'Digger' Grave fills a trench in the traditional manner

Sig Dave Knight (3 Sqn) digging a trench with a Smalley Trench Digger

Back Row: Sig Hartley, Sig Cooke, CFN Snowdin, LCpl Wise, LCpl Inman, Sig Luckman
Second Row: LCpl Gradwell, Sig Longden, LCpl Fearon, Sig Rich, Sig Keenan, Sig Hadfield
First Row: Cpl Davies, Cpl Attwater, Cpl Parrett, Cpl Graham, Cpl Cook, Cpl Sartorius, Cpl Morgan
Front Row: Sgt Carter, Sgt Frape, WO2 (SSM) Neil, TP Comd Capt E. J. P. Kellett, Sqn Comd Maj R. Bates, Sgt Hill, Sgt Gerrish

N TROOP

In this issue 3 Sqn feature the RAF Gutersloh airfield Troop. It has been some time since the Troop has been on view for all to see, so it was decided that we would take a photograph for *The Wire*. We were able to 'hijack' a Chinook as a background, invite our Squadron Commander and SSM from RAF Wildenrath to take part, pose and also highlight the Troop's good looking faces. It was suggested that berets were left off, but our Troop Commander was most adamant that we should keep them on.

There would have been too much reflection from the top of his head; we wonder why!

4 SQN (SUPPORT HELICOPTER)
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Gordon Trevis**
2IC/Ops	**Capt Adrian Pearce**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Brian Dalton**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Clive Copestake**
MT SNCO	**Sgt Colin Riddell**
OC I Tp	**Capt John Hogan**
Tp SSgt I Tp	**SSgt Steve Buxton**
OC J Tp	**Lt Adrian Broad**
Tp SSgt J Tp	**SSgt Pete Grainger**
Tp Sgt J Tp	**Sgt Dave Parry**
Tp Sgt O Tp	**Sgt Jim Paine**
Sqn Clerk	**Sig John Clarke**

Suddenly rumour became fact, the formation of 4 Sqn and the move back to Wildenrath was on. Firm dates were given and members if I and J Troops began the hard work of packing up stores and equipment ready to go. In addition there was also the added turmoil of moving house for all the Squadron's married personnel, and with Christmas very close at hand, things had to run smoothly. Our thanks must go to **Capt Stan Long**, the Regiment's Families' Officer, for all the time and effort he put into ensuring as smooth a move as possible for the families. By the time the Christmas break arrived everything that could be was packed and ready to go. After the break we returned to work and began the move. The first stores and a small advance party left Osnabruck on 5 January bound for Wildenrath, and slowly the stores changed location with daily runs between Osnabruck and Wildenrath with **Cpls 'Hogger' Hodgson, 'Jock' Kenny, Neil Portlock** and Sig 'Paddy' Whelan, 'Geordie' Milne and **Stu Beeken** all practising their recovery procedures. By the middle of the month most of the stores were in the new location and on 15 January all the remaining vehicles were brought down to Wildenrath in convoy. All arrived safely, although a few members of the Squadron were comparing themselves to 'brass monkeys' as the temperature plunged further down the scale. J Troop were all ready to park their vehicles in the new Troop garage. Unfortunately the MFO still stacked inside had priority. So I Troop generously 'offered' to let J Troop share their garage space until a new location could be found for the MFO store. Our thanks must go to the Domestic Supply Flight at RAF Wildenrath for their help in supplying the stores and furniture for the new SHQ offices and also for allowing **Sig 'Vince Prince'** to raid the unserviceable furniture skip for equipping the rest room. The living-in accommodation is slowly sorting itself out. The Station decided to start recarpeting after the lads had moved in, so in order to hurry things along the living-in members of the Squadron decided to strip all the old carpet to help the contractors finish. Things are nearly ready, and once the showers and toilets are refurbished it should be nice and cosy here. All in all a successful move and the Squadron hierarchy would like to thank all members of the Squadron for their hard work and for the smiling faces, some frozen in places. We now look forward to this year's exercise season and hopefully a successful year in all respects for 4 Sqn (Support Helicopter). A parting note. OC J Troop left Osnabruck on a push bike sold to him by **Sig Tommy 'Fair Deal' Handley** and hasn't been seen since.

REGIMENTAL BOXING
Report by WO1 (RSM) G. M. Whelan—Boxing Officer

The 1986-87 boxing season has been a successful one for the Regiment, culminating in the winning of the Rear Combat Zone Major Unit Boxing Championships and a place in the quarter finals of the BAOR competition.

The season got under way in October 86 and the first major event was the semi-final contest against 28 Sig Regt held in the gymnasium at RAF Wildenrath on 10 October. The contest proved a hard one for the Regiment with '28' putting up stiffer opposition than had been expected. However it was a good result for '21' on the night with a six bouts to three victory. The Regimental squad was as follows:

SSgt Ramsay	Team Coach	
Sig Mullen	Bantam	Walk over
Sig Robson	Feather	Lost
LCpl Renshaw	Lightweight	Lost
Sig McKenzie	Light Welter	Won
LCpl Scoots	Light Middle	Lost
Sig Cullen	Middle	Won
Cpl Coffy	Light Heavy	Won
Cpl Rock	Heavy	Won
Sig Drury	Welter	Won

Due to the fact that 16 Sig Regt and 13 Sig Regt did not box their semi-final until the end of November, the Regiment had a long wait before taking on the winners. The final of the RCZ was scheduled for 22 December against 16 Sig Regt and again, due to the RSM's prowess at winning the toss, was to be held at Wildenrath. This was much to the disgust of **WO2 (QMSI) Richard Wilson** and **WO2 (RQMS) Colin Ross** who had to make all the arrangements.

This contest was to prove an epic battle with a very close five bouts to four win for the Regiment. The opening Bantam weight fight set the seal on what proved to be a feast of novice boxing at its best. **'Sig Mullen'** for 21 and Sig Vella for '16' put on a classic display of hard skilful boxing, Mullen proving to be the slightly fitter and harder puncher taking the verdict with a unanimous decision. **LCpl Garvey** for '16' levelled the contest by proving too strong at feather weight for **Sig Robson.** A ding dong competition was shaping up when in an absorbing fight **LCpl Renshaw** outpointed **Sig Green** to put '21' back in the lead. **Sig McKenzie** in his last fight as a novice grade three consolidated '21's' lead with a powerful display of controlled boxing which ended in a first round knock out of '16's' Light Welter. The outstanding contest of the evening came next with a contest between **Sig Cullen** of '21' and **Sig Cross** of '16'. Both boxers opened with very hard punching and crosses to the head looking for an early result. Neither boxer gave ground for the full three rounds. In a very close majority decision **Cullen** was given the verdict over **Cross** and they both earned a standing ovation from an appreciative audience. 16 Sig Regt pulled one back in the middle weight contest when **LCpl Tredwell** for '21', although well ahead on points, had to retire with a cut to his forehead caused rather unfortunately by his opponent's elbow. However much to the delight of '21's' boxing coach, **SSgt Alf Ramsay, LCpl Hendley** clinched the result with a surprising first round knock out in his light heavy weight bout against **Sig Clarke** of '16'.

Despite having lost the competition 16 Sig Regt did not give up but rallied strongly to take the heavy weight and welter weight contests. **Sig Foulger** put on a good display to outpoint **Sig Matthews** and **LCpl Hattesley** winning his fight to take the score to five bouts to four in favour of 21 Sig Regt.

It had been a fine evening's boxing, worthy of the RCZ final and the roof of the gymnasium was nearly lifted as **Sig Mullen** held the winners shield aloft.

The Regiment will take on the Berlin champions, the 1st Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment, in the BAOR quarter finals

Unfortunately when the squad was assembled it did not resemble the team which had won the RCZ final. Injuries and two boxers being committed to the Corps Rugby tour of Hong Kong meant a drafting in of new boxers and a complete change in the team. Our strongest boxer, **Sig McKenzie**, had been eliminated by the five bout rule for novices and was a major loss. Nevertheless, the squad went into full time training determined to give a good acount of themselves against the Berlin champions.

The RSM's luck held and it was another home venue, three in a row, with the QMSI and RQMS by now going spare and suspecting the RSM of having a double sided coin.

The BAOR quarter finals were held on 23 January at Wildenrath, at stake being a semi-final place against the champions of 3 Division.

An ominous piece of bad luck meant the withdrawal of our Feather Weight, **LCpl Wood**, the day before the fight due to a medical problem. Our other Feather Weight, **Sig Robson**, injured himself resulting in eighteen stitches and his removal from the squad. No-one likes to give anyone a head start but the Glosters were already one fight up with a walk-over for their Feather Weight. Undaunted the Regiment fought on but despite fine victories, particularly for **Sig Mullen** in the opening Bantam Weight fight, and **LCpl Renshaw** who scored a spectacular 27 second knock-out, the Glosters were winners on the evening by six bouts to three. **LCpl Scoots** won the final Welter Weight fight due to his opponent being disqualified.

The contest was far closer than the score reflects and could quite easily have gone the Regiment's way. **Sig Cullen** was very unlucky in his Light Middle contest losing his fight in a very close majority decision and **LCpl Hendley** had his man down and almost out in the first round only to have him recover and reverse the treatment before the bell. The Regiment did very well against strong opposition but nevertheless wish the Glosters well in their fight against 49 Regt RA, the 3 Div champions.

As we go to press three members of the Regiment are going forward to enter the BAOR Individual Boxing Championships to be held in Berlin in March, they are **Sig Gash, McKenzie** and **Mullen**, all now Novice grade two boxers.

Finally we pay tribute to the hard work and determination of **SSgt Alf Ramsay**, the team coach.

Regimental Boxing Squad pictured with the CO Lt Col Ian Turner
Back row *left to right:* SSgt Alf Ramsay (coach), LCpls 'Chippy' Woods, Dickie Tredwell, Sig Phil Gash, 'Moose' Ward, Charlie Mathews, LCpls Shaun Hendley, Willie Scoots
Kneeling *left to right:* Sig 'Geordie' Cullen, LCpl 'Ren' Renshaw, Sig 'Robbo' Robson, 'Jock' Mullen, 'Macca' McKenzie, 'Gaz' Drury

Sig 'Jock' Mullen holding aloft the Rear Combat Zone Major Units winner's boxing shield after presentation by the Commander RCZ Brig P. I. Palmer

REGIMENTAL RUBGY

WO2 (SSM) Trevor Johnson has plotted and planned the rugby at Wildenrath for three seasons. From a small pool of about 6 players in 1983, the Regiment is now fielding two sides each week. Competition is fierce and even the Adjutant, **Capt Don Steel,** is having to turn out for training to ensure that he gets a game. Even as hooker for the Corps . . . he is not certain of a place!

The season started with a trip up to 7 Sig Regt. An efficient workmanlike 12:4 victory gave the team the boost that it needed and confidence that the 87/87 season would be one to remember. Our next match under floodlights in Hannover against Northern Germany certainly was. The German side played magnificent flowing rugby which was a joy to watch; sadly at some stages of the game this was all we could do! However a clever penalty move initiated by **SSgt George Raw** put some points on the board for us and the team benefited from the whole experience. Afterwards in the club house the revelation that the German National selectors had been closely watching the performance of some six members of the other side left us with no illusions about the quality of team we had just played.

The next highlight of the season was a tour of South Wales. A feast of rugby both on and off the pitch. The itinerary was as follows: Saturday—Watched Richmond play London Welsh Sunday—7's tournament—playing against London Scottish, London Welsh, Richmond, Harlequins etc. Our 1st seven reached the quarter finals only to succumb to London Scottish who went on to win the tournament. It is of note that **Sgt Dale Ikin** did manage to sidestep ex international player **Roger Baird**! However, he only managed it once! Monday—A fast flowing game against Pil Harriers Tuesday—Newport v The Barbarians—Rugby at its best Wednesday—Up the valley to Cymtillery where, watched by a crowd of about 200, the team put up its best display scoring 12 points against 'robust' opposition.

The team was now together as a unit and looking forward to our first RCZ Cup match against 13 Sig Regt. On a beautiful autumn day we ran out confidently only to be brought down to earth by a side determined to burst our bubble. A try flashed past us in the opening minutes. The side then enjoyed a 'purple patch' where it looked as if nothing could stop us, then we fell apart. Only a flash of inspiration by **Cpl Dai Treeby** saved the day. The atmosphere in the dressing room afterwards was morose to say the least. Things could only get better.

TRAINEE RADIO OFFICERS

If you're leaving the Services within the next 12 months and wish to continue in the trade you have enjoyed then consider pursuing a career in Telecommunications as a RADIO OFFICER with GCHQ. After 32 weeks special training you will be equipped to undertake a variety of specialist duties covering the whole of the spectrum from DC to light.

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To be eligible you must hold or hope to obtain an MRGC or HNC in a Telecommunications subject with an ability to read Morse at 20 wpm. Anyone with PMG, MPT or 2 years relevant radio operating experience is also eligible.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer.

Salaries: Starting pay for trainees is age pointed to 21 years. For those aged 21 or over entry will be at £6,572. After Training an RO will start at £9,758 rising by 5 annual increments to £14,387 inclusive of shift and weekend working allowance.

Write or telephone for an application form to:–

GCHQ THE RECRUITMENT OFFICE, GCHQ, ROOM A/1108 OAKLEY, PRIORS ROAD, CHELTENHAM, GLOS GL52 5AJ OR TELEPHONE (0242) 32912/3

Needless to say they did and the RCZ final against 28 Sig Regt was an exciting game with the result never in any doubt. Man of the match was **Sgt 'Simmo' Simpkins** whose decisive runs and distribution did the damage which brought us victory. The RCZ cup was back in the trophy cabinet for the third time in a row!

The team now progressed into the Quarter Final of the BAOR competition. A confident team from 22 Regt RA travelled to Wildenrath to find themselves 6:0 down at half time. However their heavier pack dominated the play in the second half and despite spirited defence the Gunners ran out worthy winners by 12:9. Afterwards their coach and manager quietly admitted that we were the best opposition they had played during the season and he would make an effort to avoid being drawn against us in the following year. So ended our brief cup run.

Finally **WO2 Trev Johnson** left the team at the end of the year on posting and promotion to join 22 Sig Regt. His enthusiasm and drive has been the major reason why rugby at '21' has reached such a high standard. We look forward to playing against him in 1987 and taking the points off his new team!

SPORT FOR ALL AT 21

Yes, even angling is on the sporting scene. At the recent inaugural meeting of the Anglo/German Fishing Club, **Cpl 'Geordie' Fagan** (HQ), one of the club founder members gained third place in the match.

Team Captain, SSgt George Raw being presented with the Cup for the third time!

Cpl Fagan receiving congratulations and a trophy from the chairman of the club

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 attainment of an outstanding professional achievement in the Corps. An exemplary standard on the following courses will also qualify.

a. The Royal Signals Officers Telecommunication 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 Deputy 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 an appropriate occasion decided by the Senior Royal Signals Officer in the theatre/command 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. DSOinC/Chairman of Signals Association* .....
5. Institute Recommendation .....
   .....
6. Selection Committee Decision .....
   .....

*Delete where inapplicable

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

ALL CHANGE AT 22 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Recently we have seen the arrival of a new Commanding Officer and RSM. Our warmest welcome to **Lt Col Jerry Barrett** and his wife **Sue.** Also welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Trev Johnson.** Our fond farewells and best wishes for the future go to **Lt Col Peter Pritchard** and his wife **Margaret** and to **WO1 (RSM) (now Capt) Phil Daisey** and his wife **Gerry.**

4 SQUADRON
CHANGE OF OC

It was just before Christmas that the Squadron said a very fond farewell to **Capt Jeremy Ellis** and **Fiona** who are off to Blandford. **Capt Ellis** had been commanding the Squadron since July and I think all will agree that he will be sorely missed. **Capt Ian Dudding** commanded the Squadron for six weeks before the new OC arrived.

We all welcome **Maj Rob Carter** from 56 Sig Sqn (V) as OC 4 Sqn.

EXERCISE *URBAN MINDER*

Exercise *Urban Minder* was a FIBUA and military skills exercise for all members of 4 Sqn. It took place over three very cold days early in December. Day One was a day of rehearsals for the demo team. We took over the three FIBUA skills houses on Sennelager Training Area. They are modelled on typical German houses complete with cellars and 'mouseholes'. For the training we had borrowed **CSgts Parry** and **Mason** from the Infantry Tactics and Training Wing (ITTW) at Sennelager. The remainder of the Squadron did a tour of various military training stands including, NBC, First Aid, FIBUA films, Weapon Handling and 66mm LAW.

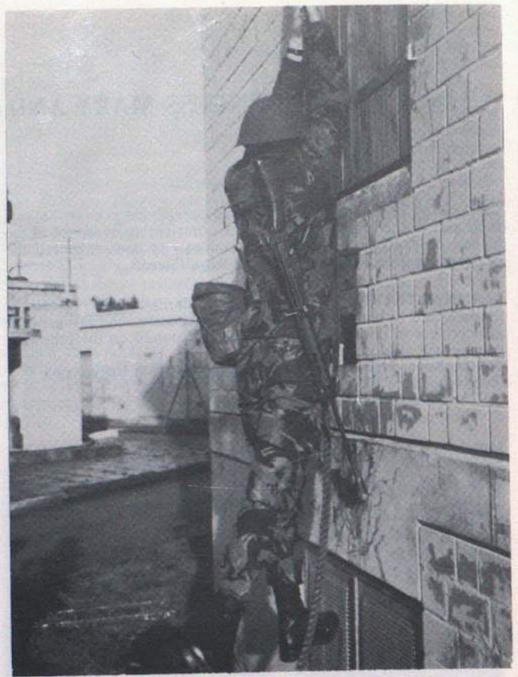
On the Tuesday and Wednesday the Squadron was divided into two teams. One went to the Skills Houses the other to the Indoor Training Theatre and .22 range.

The most successful and most enjoyable part of the training was the FIBUA training. The infantry Colour Sergeants first gave a quick lesson on techniques in attacking and defending a house. Then the demo section attacked the house to show us all how it should really be done. Everyone then had to learn some of the skills required for FIBUA (by the way that means Fighting-In-Built-Up-Areas). Climbing up the sides of buildings was especially popular.

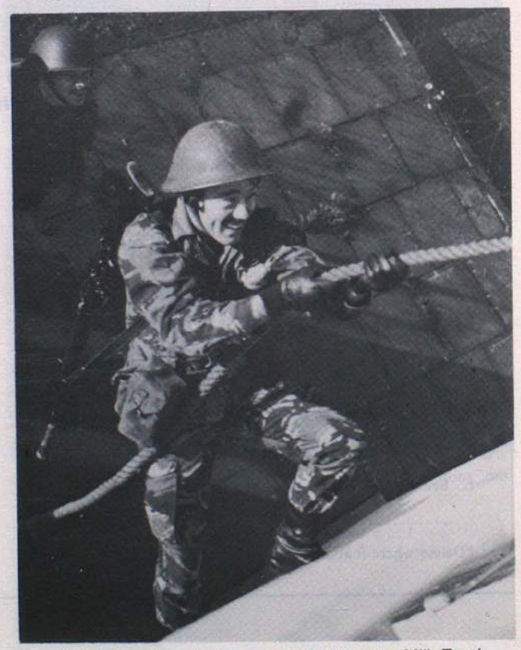
The funniest attack was by **Cpl Gleadow**'s section, **Sig Taff Morgan** threw a red smoke grenade into the cellar and managed to smoke his own section out of the house! Meanwhile, the defending section believing themselves to be under attack escaped out of a top back window. The house was then completely empty except for red smoke.

The FIBUA skills houses at Sennelager are good training value and great fun. They can be booked through the SQMS NITAT at Sennelager.

A 'typical German House'



LCpl Doyle had a few problems scaling the side of the house



Cpl Stevie Hicks 'all because the lady loves Milk Tray'

LCpl Jock Scullion 'going down'

Sig Frank Mason shows that there is no problem in scaling the house

Sultan of Oman's Land Forces

Applications are invited from suitably qualified officers who will shortly be completing their service with the British Armed Forces to fill the following vacancy:-

Staff Officer 2 - Telecomms (Major) c.£19,500 p.a.

Responsible for the planning and co-ordinating of all Tactical/Mobile Telecommunications equipment, including the trials of new equipment.

Staff Officer 2 - Telecomms Maintenance (Major) c.£19,500 p.a.

Responsible for formulating the policy for the maintenance and repair of all SOLF Telecommunications equipment.

Age limit: 50

These are uniformed contract appointments, for two years, unaccompanied. Pay, in Omani Rials, is quoted at the current rate of exchange and there is an end-of-contract gratuity of 20% of total pay received; pay and gratuity are normally tax free and fully remittable. Furnished air-conditioned accommodation and services are provided free of charge and three periods of 20 days U.K. leave are granted annually with air passages paid.

Interested applicants should write with C.V. quoting reference number 51H to:

Personnel Officer (M.R.)
Airwork Limited
Bournemouth - Hurn Airport
Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6EB.

Airwork Limited
(RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS)

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

ARU—INSPECTION BY BRIG FRIEDBERGER ACOS G3 HQ NORTHAG

22 January marked the occasion of the Regimental ARU. **Brig Friedberger**, the senior British officer on the staff at HQ NORTHAG, had chosen a cold and icy day. He began by visiting Victor Troop, our Commcen in Rheindahlen, and despite freezing rain he arrived puctually at Francisca Barracks for the remainder of his inspection.

As a regular visitor of the Regiment in the field he decided to concentrate on those support elements he would not normally see. While the Training Wing, NAAFI, LAD, and QM's departments underwent close scrutiny the remainder of the Regiment did not escape too lightly—a military skills competition was arranged to keep them happy.

During the course of the morning the Brigadier inspected various departments and also visited the First Aid, NBC, Weapon Handling, Shooting and IS stands. Before lunch he presented seven LS&GC medals to **WO2 Geoff Decateret, SSgt (YofS) Keith Pywell, Sgt Al Young, Sgt Mac Mackenzie, Cpl Lawrence Jenkinson, Cpl Paddy Reilly,** and **Cpl Dave Hart.**

In the afternoon he completed his tour of the Regiment in time to watch the final stand of the Milskills Competition, the APFA in the Gymnasium. Despite coming last in the final test, Alpha Troop of 1 Sqn had built up a sufficient lead to win the competition. The Brigadier presented the prizes. All seemed to go well.

QM, Maj 'Darth Vader' Noble, the CO, Brig Freidberger and SSgt Stavross Ross during the Brigadier's inspection of the QM's department

REGIMENTAL HOCKEY
Report by Capt Paul Wilkin

We are at the halfway stage of the Hockey season and the big freeze is now with us, it gives me an opportunity to report on the team's progress. The Regiment has entered four competitions:

In the Rheindahlen Garrison Hockey Club Festival we were beaten 1—0 in the semi-final by 35 Engr Regt. It was an excellent game with the goal coming in the last ten minutes. 35 Engr Regt then went on to win the final 2—0.

The RCZ Open Six-A-Side was next but we did not play well and were beaten in the early stages. The RCZ games of the Army Cup came next. We were drawn against 21 Sig Regt and in an exciting match we beat them 4—2 in extra time. Finally in the RCZ 2nd Division League we have so far played seven games and won all of them. Let's hope we can win the league and give the 1st Division a run for their money next season.

A special mention for team captain **WO2 Chris Martin** who is leading us steadily towards promotion to the 1st Division (touch wood!).

HELPING THE HANDICAPPED

At the end of last year the Regiment organised a party for the mentally and physically handicapped children from the Helil-paedagogisches Centrum.

This school caters for a large number of handicapped persons of all ages ranging from kindergarten children to a workshop for the handicapped adults.

It is now a tradition for M Troop to host and organise a party once a year for children up to about 10 years of age. Their degree of handicap varies from an almost imperceptible impediment to almost complete physical paralysis. However, there is one part of all these children that works well, their lungs. Provisions of whistles and hooters on the table soon ensured that bedlam reigned in the Regimental restaurant.

Silence was however restored on at least two occasions. Firstly, when the food arrived. The catering staff had once more excelled themselves, providing sandwiches, sausage rolls, mince pies, cakes, jellies and ice cream in abundance. The noise also abated for the superb mime to music on the theme of Peter and the Wolf performed by the staff of the home.

The climax of the afternoon was the arrival of Saint Nicholas in his full regalia, in a decorated cart drawn by a Shetland pony. After blessing and greeting each child individually he distributed a present to each of them.

Finally at about four o'clock around 70 weary but happy children left the restaurant, each one taking a goodies bag containing sweets, cake, crisps, fruit etc.

1 SQUADRON

On Friday 16 January **SSgt Glen Pennington** organised a bowling night in downtown Krefeld. Although the severe weather conditions put some people off the journey most of the Squadron and their wives turned out. With trophies for best male and female bowler, over three games, rivalry was intense. The whole evening was tremendous fun, techniques ranging from the professional poseur to the novice dam buster, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. **Capt Therese Crook** was photographer for the night and spent most of her time chasing after **Cpl Kev Harrod** to get a photograph (he just would not sit still!). At the end of the evening **Mrs Lesley Dobson** kindly presented the trophies on behalf of the OC, **Maj Bob Drake**, who was on the piste somewhere in Bavaria.

Best male bowler: **Lt Bob Dobson**
Runner up: **Cpl Kev Doris Roberts**
Best female bowler: **Mrs Gail Burton**
Runner up: **Capt Therese Crook**

Lt Bob Dobson being presented 'Best Male Bowler' prize by his wife Lesley!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

With such limited space it is impossible to name all of the arrivals and departures. We welcome those who are new to the Squadron and say goodbye, and thank you to those departing.

SHQ TROOP
2 SQUADRON

On behalf of the Squadron may we take this opportunity to congratulate **WO2 (FofS) Paul Wilson** on his award of the BEM in the New Year Honours List for his hard work on Data Comms in 641 Sig Tp. His brother **SSgt (FofS) Pete Wilson** is also to be congratulated on achieving his batchelor of arts degree. Well done to both of them. **LCpl Andy Moran** returned from his RSDCC a new man in an old body. **Sig Weasle Campbell** returned from completing an AIPT course successfully and **Sig Steve Appleton** returned from Leconfield after two weeks rest on an MT Accounts Course.

We would like to say goodbye and best wishes to **Cpl Clive Evison** posted to 22 Sig Regt, **LCpl Niel Gigg** posted to 1 Sqn on promotion to Corporal, and **LCpl Daisy Duke** on retirement.

Finally welcome to **LCpl Trev Shanks** and **Sig Dick Sheriff** and **Jerry German.**

29 Sig Regt
BFPO 45

RHQ
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Col John Munnery**
2IC	**Maj George Carmichael**
Adjt	**Capt Carolyn Bacon**
Ops Offr	**Capt Jim Dryburgh**
RSM	**WO1 Paddy Crabtree**
Chief Clerk	**WO2 Dave Tarrant**
ORS	**Sgt Graeme Smith**
Comms Clk	**Cpl Paula Doyle**
Leave Movements Clk	**LCpl Cathy Dickson**

Several changes have occurred in the hallowed corridors of RHQ.

After months of campaigning and petitioning our Christmas present arrived—in the shape of **Maj George Carmichael**, the new 2IC. Having received a warm welcome he is now discovering all the delightful tasks that had been pushed sideways or hidden until his arrival! The Adjutant, **Capt Kevin Fisher**, obviously decided that the New Year was a good time to ride off into the sunset. Unfortunately he mistimed his departure by a week and left in some of the worst weather of the winter. The snow drifts have now thawed upon 'the corridor' and his car has not been uncovered so we can only assume that he is now safely ensconced in NI.

Fortunately the new Adjutant didn't have too far to travel to her current appointment—a five month initiation with the Regiment as 2IC 1 Sqn failed to put her off and **Capt Carolyn Bacon** is now grappling with the piles of paper that regularly threaten an avalanche. As yet she is still smiling but this could change. 1987 is Berlin's 750th birthday year and promises to be one of the busiest yet. However no doubt the gallant RHQ team will rally around.

1 SQUADRON
THE MANAGEMENT

OC Sqn	**Maj Bob Axton**
2IC Sqn	**Capt Malcolm Llewellyn**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Andy Wilson**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Dave Bradley**
YofS Bde	**SSgt (YofS) Paul Curley**
Sqn Clerk	**Cpl Mike Cole**
Sqn Typist	**Mrs Lottie Tyrer**
OC TM Tp/TOT	**Capt George Yule**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Tony Amplett**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt John Burgess**
Mt Sgt	**Sgt Barry Postings**
OC Radio Tp	**Lt Gordon Elliott**
OC Commcen Tp/ Sector YofS	**WO2 (YofS) George McAvoy**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Alan Balderstone**

COMMCEN TROOP

We had had a hectic work schedule but also a busy social scene. We are pleased to announce that everything worked out well, with most troop members managing to attend most functions. **WCpl Sharon Kent** and **W/LCpl Glynis Every** deserve a mention for their excellent 'punch' at one of our functions and for overseeing the Yeoman raffle tickets at the Troop function (unfortunately one was drawing the winner).

SPORT

On the sporting front **WCpl Christine Edwards** is still pounding the tarmac, **Sgt Alan Balderstone, Cpls Larry Groom** and **Derek Barker** have represented the Regimental Hockey team which managed to stay undefeated and won the minor units league. **Sgt Vinny Hunter** is keeping goal for the Regimental Football team; last but not least **Sgt Pete 'the horn' Holder** is still managing to make the Hash each Sunday although as the weather gets colder he is finding it difficult to blow his trumpet!

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We welcome **W/LCpl 'Bernie' Smith** to the Troop and we hope that you enjoy your stay in Berlin. It's goodbye to **W/LCpl Glynis Every** posted to 10 Sig Regt, **Cpl Al Warburton** and to **Cpl McKenna** on promotion.

Finally will these be the last *Wire* notes from Commcen Troop—next issue we might be Sector Troop?

Cpl 'Crypto Man' Warburton showing the plaque he received from the Berlin Bde RSO's for the hard work and assistance he has given them during his tour in Berlin

TM TROOP

First of all some farewells: **Cpl Kev Enfield,** the man who could provide transport for anything from shopping trips in East Berlin to trailer recovery jobs in Kiel, **Sgt Clive 'Lofty' Hunter**, the man who it was rumoured was a technician, but who spent most of his two and a half years in Berlin organising swimming, rugby, basketball, horse shows and anything else outside the Tech Workshops; and finally to **Sig Tony (Praggle) Greenhill** who is off to NI. We'd like to welcome our three new technicians: **Sgts Kev Bailey, Peter Reynolds** and **LCpl Chris Hughes** (alias Vince Clortho key master of Goza). Also welcome to **Cpl Tony Ager** and **Sig Dave Scholes** to the MT section. **LCpl Acky Atkinson** has recently returned from a six week APTI course in Sennelager, and with his new found techniques he has been beasting the Troop around the gymnasium. Luckily we've got a two week break while he replaces **LCpl Peter Calvert** on Ex *Snow Queen* in Steibis, Bavaria. Our Linemen tell us they are currently on strike in sympathy with British Telecom, but the rest of the Troop is at work!

SSM'S SURPRISE FUN DAY

The newly inaugurated Hickstead Derby took place on 30 December with horses ably replaced by some happy and some not so happy members of 1 Sqn. The event now to be held every year took place at the Berlin Saddle Club in the form of a relay. Six teams competed with one team from TM Troop in fancy dress. This however, obviously hindered their chances and they failed to get in the frame. Possibly due to **LCpl Pete Calvert** (an overweight and sluggish Clint Eastwood).

The final result, was that **Cpl Mike 'unemployed' Reed**'s team of: **Cpls Paddy Irwin, Nigel 'Budgie' Thomas** and **Sig Phil 'Days left' Carter, Archie Gemmell,** and **Eddy Smerdon** who proved to be the best ride of the tournament.

Since our last notes we have said goodbye to **Lt Alistair Wood** who has gone to the Falklands, **Sig Simon Sweatman** to Brize Norton and good luck to **Sig Phil Carter** who is returning to Civvy Street.

Our new arrivals include **SSgt Tony Reynolds** and **Helen, LCpl Steve 'Wings' Navesey** and **Bev** and **Sig Chris Davis** and **Anne Marie.**

Congratulations to **LCpl Joe Hamilton** and **Sandra, LCpl Andy Ham** and **Abbi** and **LCpl Bob Inglesant** and **Sally** all of whom now have a new member in their families.

Sig 'Piggy' Meyers clearing Beechers

WO2 (SSM) Andy Wilson who was the secretary of the course. Obviously had his money on the favourites

Shergar would have been proud of those knees. Sig 'Caffer' Townsend looking rather apprehensive

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30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

EXERCISE *NIMBLE FINGER*

Imagine the scene. It is early September and the YofS/FofS office of 1 Sqn is enjoying an uncharacteristically quiet moment. Foreman **Blythe** is thoughtfully attending to his pipe, but still can't seem to get it lit. **SSgt (YofS) Evans** is dreaming of the Lanyard Trophy although having now seen his performance, and especially his map reading, we can't see why. Suddenly the phone rings, it's an offer from the RAF to use their Chinooks for the Squadron's next *Nimble Finger* exercise. 'Good idea', says OC1 Sqn. 'Typical 1 Sqn, doing their own thing again and pre-empting a fastball' says the CO. 'Ooh, I've never had a ride on a chopper that big' says the Assistant Adjutant!

And so it came to pass that on 29 September the Squadron waited, tensed and ready to deploy. And we waited, and waited, until **SSgt Radar Knight** said for the fiftieth time, 'I can hear them, they're coming'. He was right.

And so, after what had seemed to be an inordinate wait the RAF finally got the first chalks away. However, unknown to us at the time this was not to be 1 Sqn's day. Is it ever! The first Chinook into Piddlehinton Camp decided that it knew of a better landing site than the one marked out and promptly descended onto the local village rugby pitches and in doing so blew the roof off the clubhouse. Irate phone calls followed by some hasty and flexible planning brought this detachment back by road to the airfield in Blandford Camp.

Crisis over? Not by any means. The RAF were just warming up for their grand finale. In a stunning display of low level flying with two underslung containers the pilot of the second Chinook just prior to his arrival at Nook Camp, Salisbury Plain, decided that he would do a drop-test from 400ft on the CRL (Medium) transmit and receive cabins. This was not a very successful test as can be seen from the photograph below:

Somewhere in there, there is a Chirpsounder but I can't hear it going 'cheep, cheep'. Perhaps it has died

VISIT BY HMS *INTREPID*

As part of our training, leading up to Exercise *Saif Sareea* in the Oman, a visit was arranged for the communicators aboard HMS *Intrepid* to visit 2 Sqn with the aim of gaining a better understanding of inter-service working.

The visit took place on 8 October with a total of 14 members from HMS *Intrepid* who spent the whole day with us. After an initial brief on the role of the Regiment they spent the rest of the day operating our equipment so that they could appreciate what problems we encounter when working to them. A few days later this visit was reciprocated for a few members of the Regiment who had not been on an LPD before and this enabled better ties and relationships to be formed which was of greater benefit during our exercise with the Royal Navy in the Oman and bodes well for the amphibious exercises in 1987.

EXERCISE *CYGNET DISH*

Armed with confidence following a successful SATCOM test, **Cpl 'Enoch' Powell** (Det Comd) and his four workers, **Cpls Tom McKay, Steve Metherell, LCpl 'Kuntaa' Ginty** and **Sig 'Bud' Budding** were ready for a ten day exercise in Hong Kong. The aim was to test rear link satellite comms. The 'A (Admin) Team', **Capt Don 'Gurkhali interpreter' Macaulay, SSgt Trev 'Where's the Wanchai?' Jones** and **Sgt Brian 'I've finally escaped' Carlin** had established tenuous reasons for also participating in the Far Eastern manoeuvres.

The scene was officially set by **WO2 (FofS) George Blythe**'s technical brief: ' . . . it took me and five techs four days to lock up to the satellite last time! . . . Best of luck!'

After the long flight, a tired and over-fed team disembarked into the Crown Colony with its sticky, pungent and noisy atmosphere. **Capt (TOT) 'Taff' Hope**, our emissary from 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn soon had us cooled with a long glass of beer. All we had to do now was get used to the vertical barracks of HMS *Tamar.*

Eight eager bodies braved the heat and humidity of day and moved the 'portable' SATCOM in and out of lifts and up a seemingly endless flight of steps. The final stage being worthy of 'It's a Knockout'; the SATCOM dish, various cables, a large metal box and finally the rather expensive microwave drawer were hauled up the last fifteen feet on an old plastic rope!

The two techs, **Cpls McKay** and **Metherell** ran into problems even before the connectors were in place. Midnight oil was burned as we tackled fault after fault. Initial frustration was forced to one side; this was a job Sherlock Holmes would have been proud to undertake. Hard work enabled us to identify the faults in the first few days, and as Murphy's Law would have it, were confirmed as contract repair items! Reluctantly the OC decided to end the comms phase three days before the planned departure.

On the brighter side this allowed one day for military visits and a sightseeing day. The visit began with a border trip. After lunch it was back to HMS *Tamar* for a general Hong Kong Forces brief and a tour around the extensive comms for HQ British Forces.

Sightseeing began with a journey on the Mass Transit Railway, Hong Kong's underground railway system, to the markets on the mainland. As day turned to night different markets sprang up (poor man's markets) enabling **Sig Budding** to transform his wardrobe at very good prices. The day was made complete with a meal at the Jumbo floating restaurant (Aberdeen!), with may of our friends from 247 Gurkha Sig Sqn. **LCpl Ginty** spotted some unusual fish in the tanks after the meal and wanted to 'go round again'.

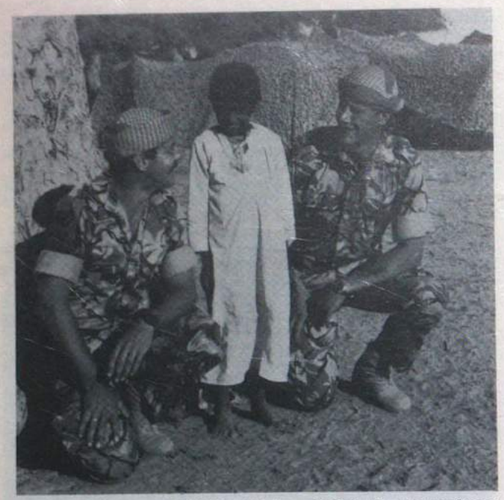
In appreciation of the hospitality received while in HK, we thought it only right that as a parting gift we should allow ourselves to be beaten at Volleyball!

'You try praying. I'm going to jump . . .!'
SATCOM still u/s on day three

EXERCISE *SAIF SAREEA*

The first frost of winter was on the Blandford hills as the first troops, a total of 105 officers and soldiers of the Regiment, touched down at Masirah in 30°C heat. No time was allowed to acclimatise,

Spot the two Europeans!
Cpl 'Taff' Childs and LCpl 'Moe' Fisher blend in with the Omani signallers



Cpl 'Taff' Childs and LCpl 'Moe' Fisher of 30 Sig Regt in the Oman on Ex *Saif Sareea* (*Swift Sword*). They were attached to the Sultan of Oman's Land Forces for this exercise providing guidance and assistance on the newly issued Triffid radio relay equipment

within days the biggest peacetime RAF airlift was to bring in over 3,000 men. Rear link comms and JFHQ had to be set up at once. Thus we were launched into Ex *Saif Sareea* (*Swift Sword*).

Together with our brethren of TCW RAF we fulfilled our 'Out of Area' role, providing SATCOM and HF rear link circuits to UK as well as to 5 AB Bde and the RN Task Force.

HOST NATION SUPPORT

'Umpire and control communications will be supplied by the Host Nation'. In fact that rather dry statement was to open a new field of experience to many of us. 2nd Signal Regiment of the Sultan's Armed Forces was deployed in support of the exercise under overall command of **Col G. Barnett MBE** (on secondment). We were able to work alongside Omanis at all levels and the sight of the Anglo/Omani line section led by **Cpl Jimmy Frew** effectively communicating with each other in no known language was something to behold! The RR Ops 'lent' to **Col Barnett** as advisors on Triffid worried us all with their rapid assimilation, adopting Omani uniforms including the headdress and preferring to eat local rations; would we ever be able to get them back to their normal way of life again? **Cpl Dave Kilby** has now in fact backloaded his stool and sits cross-legged on the ground behind his detachment!

Capt Sean Dexter was well looked after by his Arab host, as yet we have not heard the full story of their evening out together.

Cpl Keith Barker tries to keep visitors at bay!

'Beam the rest of me down Scottie'

SATCOM FLOODED

The Regiment's notes would not be complete without a mention of the ubiquitous SATCOM dets, one of which was deployed forward into the exercise area on the mainland with HQ 5 AB Bde. **Capt Don Macaulay** and his crew of **Cpls Ted Warburton, Keith Barker, Tom McKay** again!, **Steve Bason, LCpl Sammy Sampson, Sig Pete Brooks** and **Paul Clark** have no objection to the use of a JCB to dig in, but to find out that HQ was sited in a wadi was no laughing matter when for the first time in years it rained! TSC 502 does not float! It was thanks to the sterling efforts of **WO2 (FofS) George Blythe** and **Cpl Tom McKay** that the kit was dried out and circuits established 10 hours ahead of the drop by the para Pathfinders.

The calm after the flood. Cpl Tom McKay sits alone in his washed out det

COMMCEN HOTHOUSE!

Fortunately all our main circuits were telegraph as the Commcen was in a hangar 50m from the main aircraft pan, trying to work alongside Tristars, VC10s and Hercules warming up engines all at once makes life very difficult! In addition the temperature inside the hangar was such that the equipment frequently over-heated, not to

mention those using it! Fresh air was occasionally available as all hands were called to sit on the ground antenna each time a VC10 passed the site, it gives a whole new meaning to 'live antennas'. Unfortunately nobody told **Sig 'Gadget' Smith** about the power of a Tristar back blast and he was last seen bowling along in a dust cloud, arms and legs akimbo after the first Tristar landed.

MEMORIES

The exercise was declared a great success and we all have much to remember; **SSgt (FofS) Martin Webb** 'organising' sand dune races, **SSgt (SQMS) Mick Dunn** setting up permanent residence on the beach with his fishing rod, the sight of **2Lt Sharon Walker** when she caught her first fish, tactical night flying through the mountains in a Hercules, the incessant queues for meals and showers, and so much more but of course we were not at the 'Sharp End' as **Cpl Ted Warburton** goes on to explain!

THE SHARP END

Report by Cpl E. Warburton

On the morning of 24 November 1986, eight men filed on to a C130 Hercules. These were the brave lads who with the help of 5 AB Bde would make short work of the war. SATCOM 2 A1 Mahattah was 'airborne'.

After a short and bumpy flight they landed on a sand airstrip, in the middle of nowhere. Breaking out of the airhead they motored forward with 5,000lbs of their 'man portable' SATCOM station.

Their first night was uneventful except that **Cpls Ted Warburton** and **Keith Barker** sighted a scorpion. This inspired the rest of the detachment to have a 'Who can stay awake the longest?' competition. Everybody lost.

As morning dawned, so did the hopelessness of their situation. Nothing worked and to make matters worse a massive 'tactical' pit had opened up and swallowed the station.

The Techs, **Cpls Tom McKay** and **Stevie Bason** worked like maniacs, throwing screws, tools and spare boards everywhere. All to no avail. There was only one answer—deploy the 'Flying Spanner', **WO2 (FofS) George Blythe**.

Meanwhile **Capt Don Macaulay** did his best to keep up the morale by lecturing on IA drills following attacks by scorpions, snakes or camel spiders. After some liaison with the Omani radio relay det, the OC arranged a regular dhal and chapatti resupply which kept all our 'movements' in working order.

The detachment came close to a fatality: **LCpl 'Flash' Sampson** was viciously bitten by a rich tea biscuit spider which had stuck to his shoulder while posing for a 'Look Mum, I'm in the Oman' photograph. His toggle rope, disguised as a snake, also gave him a few nasty scares.

We soon acquired our first neighbours with the arrival of the Pathfinders, closely followed the next day by the Para drop. The Brigade HQ staff had just learnt how to use the equipment when the comms failed again. Hope was restored with the arrival of the FofS who came with spares and a 1918 sleeping bag liner, apparently issued to him on enlistment. After a final bout of board changes and 'Heath Robinson' improvisations, circuits were in and a flexible shift rota was put into operation.

The station now established the normal routine in defence. Washing dixies was no problem on the det—**Sig Pete Brooks** and his amazing elastic tongue removed even the toughest food stains.

In our efforts to achieve a perfect working relationship with 5 Bde, **Sig Paul Clark** had many personal encounters with the RSM. They could quite often be seen together filling in holes, the RSM at the top and **Clark** at the bottom.

The remainder of the exercise passed off fairly quietly with the exception of the sneak attack—sorry about the cam nets 'Q', but there were these thunderflashes . . .

THE REGIMENT IN KENYA

Report by Sig Mark Hurren

Between November and April each year 30 Sig Regt deploy a small HF comms detachment to Kenya in support of UKLF training. These dets are manned by 2 Sqn. For briefing and continuity purposes **WO2 (YofS) Percy Beynon** files a report from each det on return. Here, just as he wrote it, is the report by **Sig Mark Hurren**.

'Dear Yeoman,

My tour in Kenya started, for me, on 11 October when we left Brize Norton by VC10 to Nairobi.

My first views of Kenya were of vast rolling plains on the north western approach to Nairobi International Airport.

We were moved from the airport across the city by coach to Kahawa Garrison. This short trip gave me my introduction into Kenyan driving prowess. How we made the trip I'll never know!

We spent that night in BATLSK, in huts straight out of a scene from 'Tenko'. In the early morning we started the three hour trip to our new home in Nanyuki. It was a very interesting drive through varying country, changing from rolling plains to steep hills and plunging valleys.

We arrived around midday at what was to be our home for the next nine weeks, and started "settling in" almost immediately. "Settling in" consisted of unloading box after box of the Highlander's kit.

NB: Already sunburnt.

On 15 October the remainder of the crew joined us and all tedious communications work was finished within a few days and we became a working det. We could now get down to the serious sightseeing and general frivolity.

The det's two favourite places to visit were Samburu Game Reserve and the Aberdare Country Club. Sounds posh? It was, much too good for the likes of "junior ranks".

The Samburu Reserve was excellent and a haven for many species of animals. On one of our many trips out there **SAC Wilkinson** and I were lucky enough to see a cheetah and her two cubs.

If we ever felt like raising our standards we would drop into our "local" country club for lunch and a swim.

BATTLE CAMP

Report by 2Lt Sharon Walker

The Ambassador has been captured by terrorists and is being held in a disused fort. Suddenly out of the darkness shots are heard, smoke grenades are thrown and total chaos reigns for a few seconds. The men of 30 Sig Regt have rescued the Ambassador and killed the terrorists.

Just one of the activities going on at Battle Camp as the Corporals put into practice the plans they had been working on all week with **Maj Bob Wannell** and his dynamic duo **Capt Patrick Windsor Brown** and **Capt Colin Lawrence**.

Training Wing as usual had their work cut out, but **Capt Andy Keenan**'s merry band never lost their cool. **Sgt Trevor Keates** seemed to derive some sort of pleasure in making people run around in NBC suits and then straight into the gas chamber as they tried desperately to carry out their drills. **SSgt Pete Bradbury** (between Corps dinners at Catterick) enlightened us all on the delights of first aid.

WO2 (SSM) Ian McKinnon was ably assisted by **LCpl 'Turkey Mac' McLaughlin** on the ranges and impressed everyone with their display of pyrotechnics on the night shoot.

SSgt Jim Topping was drafted in from the RIT team and although disappointed to learn that NRSA was not paid on Battle Camp still managed a couple of (unsuccessful) fishing sessions.

No matter what the weather decided to do life was never dull at Tregantle, **Sgt George Mayne** and **Capt John Marman** saw to that, dressed up like Belisha beacons in their orange and yellow sailing suits for Watermanship.

Even **2Lt Sharon Walker** was drawing the crowds for Geneva Convention and written appreciations, the eagerness with which the boys attended the classes seemed to disturb the 2IC, **Maj Peter McGann**, until he realised the reason was that these were the only classes during which they were having smoke breaks!

Sgt Larry Tulett, with help from his dedicated PT staff, managed to kill us every morning on the beach just to make sure we didn't enjoy ourselves too much.

Back in the mess **SSgt Ken Jones** really surpassed himself with his choice of videos. 'Bad Girls Dormitory' even managed to get **SSgt Trev Keates** up early to see it for a second time. 'Death Wish Three' on the first night cheered us all up and got us in the right mood for the rest of the week.

All credit should really go to the CO who managed, yet again, after a remarkably fine week, to bring the rain with him on his two day visit, just to bring us all back down to earth!

RAM-BOW'S REVENGE

A 'V' TP EXERCISE

Act One

Scene One: 'V' Tp office, phone constantly ringing, people milling around, the sound of rustling crisp packets and amongst it all sits **Lt Stewart Sharman**, the Tp OC, cool, calm and collected with his band of merry men.

Turning to **SSgt Lew Oehme**:

OC: 'Well Staff, I think it's time to organise another Troop exercise.'

Staff not terribly excited by the suggestion.

Staff: 'Great idea Sir! Are you sure it's not just another excuse for you to go out and play soldiers again?'

OC (indignantly): 'Not at all; the boys would benefit from the experience, especially those doing their RSDCC and anyway, I haven't fired a blank since I killed **Sgt (Phil) Plant** on Ex *Bold Guard*.'

Sgt George Mayne: 'Please Sir can I play the enemy, you know how much I love (said with just a hint of sarcasm) getting wet, cold and muddy.'

OC: 'It's OK, **Sgt Plant** is IC the enemy, but you can join the team with **Sgt (Jim) Logan** and **Sgt (Martin) Lockyer**.'
Sgt Mayne: 'Cheers sir!'

Narrator 'And so the scene closes with the OC busily working out the details of his exercise surrounded by his 'ever helpful' team mumbling something about a not so young subaltern with his 'funny' ideas.

Scene Two: In the Tech Workshop.
OC: 'OK gentlemen are you sitting comfortably, then I'll begin. This is a FIBUA style exercise lasting two days in Imber Village. Any questions? No, good, see you on Sunday.'
So the briefing ended!

Scene Three: On the outskirts of Imber Village 'early one morning just as the sun was rising'. Suddenly, 'Bang!!' the Troop was being attacked:
Cpl Simon Norris: 'Debus! Ambush left! **Mattie** (Cpl Matthewson) break right and cover. **Waggie (LCpl Wagstaff)** go left, **Waggie** you . . . get out from under the petrol tank you wally!' (Words to that effect)

Narrator 'Cpl Hughie Mitchell storms off to attack the enemy alone—turning around he summons his intrepid Section left covering.'
Cpl Mitchell: Remembering Culloden 'Follow me you Sassenachs!'
At this point **Cpl Mitchell** does a convincing impression of a submarine and disappears into a tank rut full of freezing water.
OC: **'Cpl Mitchell** you have just highlighted an important DS point, always do a good ground appreciation no matter how quickly, before putting in an attack.'
Cpl Mitchell—under his breath: 'Smart ****!'
OC: 'Yes, but at least mine's dry!'
The Sections separate and move toward their objectives:
Cpl Norris Section 1 The Barn
Cpl Mitchell Section 2 The Post Office

Narrator 'It should be noted at this point that both Sections think that the enemy are members of 5 AB Bde who are somewhere in the village.'

Scene Four: The Sections are stalking the barn when they are set upon by the enemy. **Sgt Mayne** wearing an extremely tactical red hat and **Sgt Lockyer** looking as if he had just won first prize in a yodelling contest!

Narrator 'A prolonged bout of gunfire now ensued, the enemy decided to retreat gracefully, **Sgt Mayne** being pursued at top speed by **LCpl Steve Townsend** and **LCpl "Gut" McGarey**.'

Scene Five: 'At the Post Office. **Cpl Mitchell** congratulates himself on taking his objective so easily, when shots ring out from the barn.'
Sgt Plant (DS): 'Looks as though **Cpl Norris** has found his paras!'
A little later:
Sgt Plant: **'Cpl Norris** has failed to take the barn.'
Back at the barn the OC talks to **Cpl Norris**:
OC: 'From the sound of all that firing it seems **Cpl Mitchell** has failed to secure the Post Office.'

Narrator You may have gathered by now that the DS are in fact feeding in false information and so both Sections think the other has failed to secure their objectives. And so the Sections prepare to send out patrols to recce the para position, to confuse the issue they are also aiming to ambush what they think is a para patrol!'

Scene Six: A frosty field—**LCpls McGarey, Townsend, Cpl Matthewson** lie shivering waiting for a chance to ambush a para patrol. Along the track comes **Cpl 'Taff' Williams** and his patrol.
One trip flare—and there was light!
Cpl Williams: 'OK Boyos run!'

Narrator 'And as the night progressed, **Cpl Norris'** Section held the barn against determined attacks by the "Paras", **Cpl Mitchell**'s Section holding the Post Office. As the sun rises this is where we leave the boys of V Tp, fighting on until the OC's little trick "dawns" on them.'

The End

LANYARD TROPHY

As in 1985 the Regiment entered two teams in this event which is a 40 mile hike across Dartmoor with a bergen (at least 35lbs) and an SLR.

Team training had gone well throughout the year with only the odd individual falling by the wayside. The night before the event saw us preparing our equipment and feet and keeping our spirits and morale high. 264 (SAS) Sig Sqn were billetted next door and due to some old friendships many a war story was told into the early hours of the race day. Which probably accounts for **WO2 (YofS) Evans'** performance with his map!

The day of the race started with a 5 am breakfast, followed by weighing-in (**Yeoman Evans** equipment weighed more than he did). At 0645 hrs the event started in the early morning mists that invariably surround Okehampton Camp. The duty whippets (our 'A' team) set the pace only to find themselves halfway down the field having missed the 3rd checkpoint due to incorrectly relating contour lines on the map to what was on the ground.

Meanwhile our 'B' team plodded on and could not resist the odd bit of sarcasm when the 'A' team finally caught up with them between checkpoints 5 and 6.

By the time we got to checkpoint 7 all of us had mastered the art of walking through either knee deep bog or twisting our ankles on the coarse tufted grass. By now our feet were thoroughly wet and any thoughts of changing socks at any checkpoint was not considered worthwhile.

Halfway round the course it was a morale booster to see the fresh face of the CO who gave us encouragement to keep going. He said that he had walked out to this central checkpoint but the fact that there was a convenient helicopter close by made us all rather suspicious; added to which his boots were still dry!

During the second half of the course our energy was sapped and the jovialities and banter that we had started out with was limited to the odd few words of encouragement and the thought of why had we entered for this in the first place? Never again—until next year?

At the end of the day we all made it, and some with only seconds to spare. Out of a strong field the Regiment took 6th and 8th places, a creditable performance bearing in mind that the last four weeks of our training had been curtailed due to Exercise *Bold Guard*.

Sgt Steve Carr (640 Tp), Sig 'Willy' Wilson, 'Chippy' Lang. 'Why on earth did we agree to do this!'

SSgt (YofS) LSG Evans, Sig 'Willy' Wilson, Marshall (5 AB Bde), 'Chippy' Lang, Sgt Steve Carr, LCpl John Cairns

THE COMMANDERS'S CUP

Report by Lt Giles Henschel

Returning from Exercise *Bold Guard* the Brave Troop Detachment from 1 Sqn were eager to get away from it all with a few, well earned days off; however, before that could happen one last little thing needed to be attended to. A little thing called 'The Commander's Cup'. A devilish competition cooked up by HQ 1 Sig Gp—simple enough idea in theory—in practice a day of punishing tests in which every basic soldiering skill is tested.

I learnt that I was to lead the Regimental Team only minutes before making a 'clean getaway' late one Thursday night. Feeling a trifle like a lemon with two pips I launched myself into the task of organising my team and conducting some crash training in a few of the skills that were to be tested the following Wednesday.

Organising a team wasn't too difficult as the rest of the Regiment was away and only Bravo Troop was available, so sallying forth into the unknown, a quick training programme was rustled together—thanks be for a flexible Training Wing! The team was full of foreboding as I told them ominously that this year the Commander's Cup Competition (C3) required new blood, which, by the end of the day would probably be theirs!

At last, but all too soon, Wednesday dawned with us all parading at Bulford Barracks ready for the first part of the competition—the swimming. **Sig Dez Eldridge** performed incredibly well! Being probably the only experienced swimmer anongst us he saved the start of the day by swimming in nearly every race either regaining ground lost by us or by giving us such a good head start that the rest of us were just able to keep our heads above water! Next, after nipping down to Tidworth where the main competition stands were, was the shooting—less said the better save, unzeroed weapons! On arriving at the First Aid stand we found one of our reserves **Sig Nick Steen** covered in blood, pretending to be dumb, while we attended to his 'wounds'. **SSgt Trev Jones** and **Cpl 'Meach' Meachin** stripped to the waist to use their combat jackets as a stretcher, this caused a moment's consternation when their unconscious casualty refused to stay put on the stretcher giving **SSgt Trev Jones** a near heart attack. **Cpl Meach Meachin** saved the day and opened his mouth neatly catching the casualty—at last we found something to fit! Once all the 'casualties' were 'mended' it was time for the line laying test. There was not one lineman or tele mech amongst us so we were all a bit doubtful as to how we'd manage. **Sig 'Rolf' Harris** dashed off with a group to erect a pole crossing spilling snips and all other items from his pockets while **Sig 'Si' Cullen** ran away with a shovel—coming back in time to dig an underground cable in. With barely 30 seconds to spare the message was passed and we all breathed a sigh of relief before making our way to the Assault Course. Normal assault courses are fine but because we had 30 minutes to complete this one we had to be slowed down; so complete with 80lb tent, two Bedford tyres and a telegraph pole we started. Thirty minutes later, after much grunting and groaning with **Sig 'Bud' Budding** running about with a tyre around his neck, and **Sig Rick Bollen** dreaming about the White Helmets, we stopped, fell over and generally lay about the course in little heaps. We had run out of time and had, like several others, failed to beat the clock.

It was now time to don the NBC suit again—this time for the real thing—the NBC stand. A few red herrings, stretchers, ammo boxes of stones and huge casualties later, we arrived at the Gas Chamber. Lungfulls of CS are not to be highly recommended just before an endurance race of six miles which was to be the final event of the day.

And so to the prize giving—which was missed by **Sig 'Bud' Budding** who was sadly admitted to hospital after getting injured on the six mile march. Oh what a surprise!—the Bravo Troop Team from 30 Sig Regt won the Line Laying Competition outright! **Sig 'Si' Cullen** did an excellent impersonation of a Cheshire Cat and accepted our plaque grinning from 'ear to ear'! A welcome result for the team and an original placing of third overall (later reduced to fourth) served to leave us all with a feeling of achievement and satisfaction—and the resolution to be 'on exercise' next year like the rest of the Regiment was this year. Being in 1 Sqn does have its drawbacks.

THE 1986 ROYAL SIGNALS (UK) ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1986 Corps Championships were held in the Birmingham area and both the cross-country and relay events were organised by 35 Signal Regiment.

30 Sig Regt entered a fairly strong team: **WO2 Bernie Temmen** had recently arrived from BAOR, a good orienteer of some renown. He has now taken over as Corps Captain was known to be a strong contender for the Individual Prize, and was about to lead a strong Royal Signals team in the Inter-Corps Championships. **SSgt Wally Westrop** and **Sgt George Mayne** had both had good seasons and consistent success at league events; **LCpl Josh Mainka** has continued to improve upon his fine start at Harrogate as a Junior, and **Lt Stewart Sharman** has gone from strength to strength, somehow managing to fit orienteering in between a hectic rugby schedule! **Capt Patrick Windsor Brown** was perhaps the least confident member of the team, having recently returned from Belize and still trying to get to grips (again!) with the complexities of a 1:15,000 map . . .

The first day saw the team pitted against two strong adversaries: the School of Signals and 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, last year's champions. **WO2 Bernie Temmen** had an excellent run, winning the Individual Prize by four minutes, and Sgt George Mayne came in less than seven minutes later, clinching third place as an individual. The other four had safe, steady runs and we finished the cross-country event ahead by a mere four minutes over the School of Signals.

The Relay Event on Day two was fiercely contested, and excellent runs by **WO2 Bernie Temmen, Sgt George Mayne** and **LCpl Josh Mainka** pulled us ahead of the School of Signals by a further fourteen minutes: we were the Corps (UK) Champions, by a margin of just eighteen minutes. A thoroughly rewarding and satisfactory competition which was enjoyed by all the team.

Orienteering Team for UK Corps Championships
Back Row L-R: WO2 (SSM) Bernie Temmen, Sgts Wally Westrop, George Mayne
Front Row L-R: LCpl Josh Mainka, Lt Stewart Sharman, Capt Patrick Windson Brown

REGIMENTAL RUGBY

Lacking the equivalent of the famed Pontypool front row the Regimental rugby team has struggled to find cohesion and a prop. However, into the enormous void has stepped **Sig 'Megabelly' Bob McTague**. Nowhere in the fields of human endeavour has one man ever eaten so many pork pies. Convinced that this is the secret of his devastating side step the whole team is now training using this unique method.

However, it was insufficient for us to beat the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in the third round of the Army Cup—our first defeat this season. The scoreline of 26—6 does not reflect the closeness of this match. Determined to beat the Duke of Wellington's in the return match in the South West District Cup, the pork pie rations were doubled. On the day the recipe worked and we came home with a narrow 4—0 victory. The team is now in the South West District Cup final having convincingly beaten 22 Engineer Regiment by 31—12.

Our 2nd XV under the leadership of **Cpl Thorpe** has also had a very successful start to the season having only lost two games. **Cpl Jack Thorpe's** g efforts have been much appreciated and he has ensured a good team spirit and a solid nucleus of players that provides strength and depth to the ever improving 1st XV.

REGIMENTAL SOCCER

The soccer team has had a very successful season and at the moment are lying top of the League, but like the rugby team they fell foul of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in the fourth round of the Army Cup losing narrowly by two goals to one. They are now through to the quarter finals of the South West District Cup and wait patiently to see who they will be playing, either 22 Engineer Regiment or 13/18 Hussars.

CROSS COUNTRY

Report by Capt Dick Offord

Since the beginning of the season the Regiment has competed in all of the South West District cross-country races. Unfortunately with heavy Regimental commitments we were prevented from having a regular 'First Team' but 'well done' to those who did take part enabling the Regiment to field an average of more than ten runners in each event.

As all cross-country runners know there is nothing better to help apply yourself to the task at hand than constant rain and 4 inches of mud to run in! It seems strange then that after one afternoon's gruelling cross-country squelch, the number of athletes competing seemed to drop!

Star of the season to date is **Sig Duggie Douglas** who is currently second junior in the League. His coach, **SSgt Tony Buffery**, who is old enough to be his father, has always been close behind. He will be very much missed for his contribution to Corps cross-country, now that he has left the Service.

Sgt Larry Tulett who is now firmly established as part of the Blandford Inventory has returned from retirement and has been running at No 3 (a twentieth of his age!).

The veteran of the team, **Capt (TOT) Dick Offord**, now recovered from a leg injury and is soon to be joined by another oldie **SSgt Andy Hunt** when he reaches the big '40' towards the end of the seaon. **Cpl Andy Butler**, another regular runner, continues into the season having been warned not to beat the boss again, as he rashly did in one race!

31 (Greater London) Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

RHQ

The New Year brought a change of Training Majors and we have said a sad farewell to **Maj Graeme Halliburton**; we will miss his Chinese dictionaries and occasional Napoleonic delusions, as shown in our photograph, but wish him and **Gwyneth** every happiness in their new life in Kent. Fresh from a tour in Civvy Street we welcome **Maj Roy Westerman** who had scarcely arrived before moving his office down the corridor to keep a fatherly eye on the inmates of the Training Team. Another new arrival is **2Lt Steve Mills** from 35 Sig Regt posted to the Line Tp, 83 Sqn from where **2Lt Tim Smith** has vacated his recently acquired command to look after J Tp 41 Sqn at RHQ. We also welcome on training attachments **2Lt Carolyn Oxlee (Birmingham UOTC) and OCdt Anne Mercer** (Oxford UOTC) and hope they enjoy their stay with us.

Finally, congratulations to our Regimental Padre, **Maj David Crawley** on his recent promotion; we will expect even better weather at Annual Camp this year!

M TP JOG-A-LONG

Regular technicians should be warned that a posting here could seriously improve their health. Not content with twice yearly BFT's **SSgt (FofS) Dean Allen** now requires his gallant crew to tab from Southfields to RHQ for the monthly claims day. On their first sally forth **Sgt Dave Howe** still could not believe it was all for real even when launching himself out of the gate and into the roar of the south London traffic. The timing of 35 minutes was reckoned to be pretty good and quicker than by car at certain times of the day.

FofS 'Make 'em run' Dean Allen. *Left* is Regt TOT Maj Jim Fowler

NBC QUIZ

Q. Why do our soldiers prefer to do their NBC tests with 2IC 41 Sqn **Capt Linda Webber** rather than with the equally capable **WO2(SSM)Derek Gale**?

A. In the eating test **Capt Webber** uses only the very best quality chocolate digestives. (During his own recent test 2IC Regt **Maj Paul Whittle** was so impressed he carried on munching even when the canister parted company from his respirator at the critical moment.)

SQUADRON SNIPPETS

Capt (QM) John Robson is inseparable from the brand new jumbo sized freezer installed in his ration store. As messing officer, the ability to store fresh food between exercises will make ration accounting far less exciting than has been the case until now.

Back from her travels in Australia has come a bronzed Officers' Mess **Cpl Jill Saunders**; during her absence, her deputy, **LCpl Cynthia Bedwell** had willingly stepped into the breach and we are most grateful for her sterling efforts.

ESKIMOS AND BOXING GLOVES

St Martins' Plain Camp Folkestone was the snowy venue for January's annual management weekend for the Officers and SNCO's. Welcome variety was provided by our Hon Col **Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave** with a fascinating illustrated account of his travels north of the Artic Circle, a land which Kent county tried to emulate as those attending struggled home through blizzard conditions found out. Another highlight was the presentation by the Kent Police Drugs Squad (we promise to return those nice training aids) and the Saturday games night, culminating in the world blindfold boxing contest between **OCdt Julie Aspinall** (47 Sqn) and **Sgt Brenda Cox** (Trg Team) will long be remembered.

41 SQUADRON

Capt Linda Webber writes:

With our numbers increasing week by week life is busy at TAC Coulsdon where we now hold our parades lengthways in the main hall to cater for our high numbers; one very successful recent recruit is **Pte Sue Dent** who carried off the Top Recruit award at her Guildford course at the end of last year.

Meanwhile the HF lads of J Tp have been busy redecorating their bar at Hammersmith; the colour scheme is the traditional red and grey of Princess Louises' Kensington origin and can be best described as 'quite striking' . . .

Finally the arctic conditions early in the New Year brought the Squadron to the rescue of the Croydon WRVS meals on wheels service; PSI **Sgt Frank Vaughan** was ably assisted in this venture by **Cpl Kim Burt, Pte Nikki Walton-Moiser, Sig 'Delboy' Johnson** and **Sig 'L Plates' Holmes**. And doing his own good deed, **LCpl Dean Clarke** picked up a very unlikely passenger when he went to the aid of a stranded ambulance which on closer inspection turned out to belong to the local undertaker. Undeterred, **LCpl Clark** completed his ferrying mission, which by all accounts was rather quieter than the normal back seat driving he has had to endure.

47 SQUADRON

Late January saw all four Squadrons separately deployed on shakedown weekends in preparation for our major exercises. 47 Sqn chose the Elstead training areas, mixing some heavily camouflaged patrolling with the more traditional signal skills and a social, complete with officer-provided cabaret, on the Saturday evening. On hand as usual, and on his penultimate exercise before retirement was **SSgt Bill Ralph** whose unconventional armament was variously put down kindly to approaching old age or, more unkindly, to an over exposure to old Westerns.

47 Sqn—LCpl Sandy Giles puts finishing touches to Pte 'Worzel' Gummage

47 Sqn—Sgt Bill 'quick draw' Ralph

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

NEWS FROM RHQ

For the Regimental Permanent Staff, Ex *Stove Pipe* at Rothiemurchus Lodge, near Aviemore, gave an energetic start to the year, with various (and varying!) degrees of competence being exhibited on the ski slopes.

The evening of 7 February saw the Officers' Mess Dining in the new CO, **Lt Col D. P. Hughes**, and dining out the QM, **Maj Colin Markie**. The Mess presented the QM with a gold Albert chain, and in return he presented to the Regiment a display cabinet for all the trophies which we are due to win, at the behest of the the CO. After a most successful, and helpful tour we can only give **Colin, Jenny** and the family our sincere good wishes in their future life. We hope that 16 Sig Regt appreciate their good fortune.

The latter half of November was spent in trade Training at Burniston STC in Scarborough, and the effort put in by **Maj Jack Fiskel's** training team—**WO2 (YofS) John MacKenzie, WO2 Jess Provan** and **Sgt Adrian Appleyard**, et al, was amply justified by the number of Trade passes attained. At the time of going to press, we are preparing for a repeat performance from 14 to 21 March to further progress our Conrad II conversion training.

On 17 January the WO's and Sergeants' Mess dined in the new CO, **Lt Col Paddy Hughes** and dined out the Quartermaster, **Maj (QM) Colin Markie, Capt George Wylie** and **Capt Brian Murray**, the latter two on commissioning.

The dinner was held in the splendid setting of the Regimental Officers' Mess in Glasgow, by kind permission of the PMC **Maj Allan Lapsley**. Dinner was attended by 74 Mess members and all were aware that the RSM, **WO1 Brian Wilson**, was looking for likely contenders for the HE-HAW CUP, explained more fully in the last issue. The Cup was finally fought for by **SSgt (ORQMS) Dave Flynn** (again), **Sgt Norman Heinemeir, Sgt Keith Anderson and SSgt Hughie Lynch**. After great debate and heckling, plus an advance on the top table (no names no pack drill), the eventual winner was **SSgt Hughie Lynch**. As always, special mention and the Messes' greatest thanks go to the cooks, pipers, waitresses and all who helped for their splendid support that evening. Finally, a warm welcome to **WO2 (RQMS) Bob Rack** who takes over as 'RQ One' in RHQ.

FOCUS ON HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

After a successful training year culminating in the festive activities, the members of the Squadron managed to pull themselves together at the end of January to attend an adventure training weekend at Aviemore. The weather was kind, glorious sunshine, and the Squadron took to the ski slopes like veterans—well almost! No broken bones were sustained but several people are still counting their bruises, especially **Cpl Chick Doyle** who thought the best way of descending a slope was on his side. Despite these minor irritations, everyone enjoyed their weekend.

No training of this kind is successful without a good back-up team and this was provided by **RQMS Anne Rogers** and **SSgt Marlyn Niblock** ably assisted by **Sgt Jackie Dolan**, the cooks and other helpers.

During the weekend we were visited by the Brigade Commander, **Brig Russell** and the CO **Lt Col P. D. Hughes**. Highland hospitality prevailed and the Brigadier was able to sample some 'Highland Mist' before departing.

We were also joined this weekend by the Regimental Ski Team led by **Capt Jim McKee** who watched with interest (or was it amazement?) the antics of Headquarters Squadron on the ski slopes. However, we did have the occasional member who knew what end of the ski was what, and we were delighted that **Sig Derek Cameron** was chosen to join this illustrious group.

WO2 (YofS) John MacKenzie about to have a nervous breakdown collating the Trade Training results at Scarborough

Potential Comms Elec Sig David Gray and Sig 'Cling' Callaghan willing the Avo to do tricks

Pte (now P O/Cdt) Pauline D'Arcy in serious conversation with a new Trend teleprinter

33 Sig Regt (V) Liverpool

The Regiment started 1987 amid a flurry of activity for the preparation of our first exercise of the year. Ex *First Call*, which was a mobilisation exercise to practise call out procedures, it also enabled the clerks and SQMS's to check documentation and personal kit issues and make sure all our volunteer soldiers were in possession of all their kit in readiness for the forthcoming year.

The exercise was held over the weekend of 9/10 January and was extremely well attended with a 96% turnout, which helped in the preparation for Ex *Cold Bed* being held the following weekend. As in previous years Ex *Cold Bed* lived up to its name with temperatures falling to below freezing.

The exercise is carried out annually, with the primary aim of providing an area communication system and practising tactical movement, defence and military skills. The high turnout of volunteer soldiers made the exercise worthwhile and gave the equipment a 'good airing' before our major exercise period.

CHANGE OF HONORARY COLONELS

Since Christmas there has been very little peace for the officers mess staff who have been responsible for staffing a number of working and social functions, the most memorable of which was the dining out of **Capt (Hon Col) M. C. Stanley MBE, DL**, on Saturday 31 January 1987.

The dinner was attended by 57 officers and their wives and was held in the Alamein TAC which looked splendid with the long mahogany tables bedecked with the Regimental silver. The Training Major, **Maj Peter Hallett**, the Quartermaster, **Maj Len Jeffery** and **Capt (QM) George Tinker** were responsible for much of the organisation whilst the mess staff led by **Cpl Henry Hazeldene**, and his brother, and **LCpls Binstead** and **Lyons** were busy polishing the furniture and setting up the tables.

It is always a sad occasion when one says goodbye to a member of the Regiment and this was no exception as **Col Stanley** will be greatly missed by all ranks. The Officers Mess presented a crystal whisky decanter to the **Colonel** and **Mrs Stanley** to remind them of our dry exercises. He was also presented with a bronze statuette of a Royal Signals officer by **Sig McCormick**, the youngest recruit, from all ranks of the Regiment.

All members of the Mess were overwhelmed when, after a speech, **Col Stanley** presented to the Mess a silver model of an 18 pounder gun which had belonged to his father.

The second great event was to follow a week later when the Regiment held its annual cocktail party. **Sgt Hazel Smith WRAC** had just returned from her Mess Managers' Course and was brimming with ideas. She took a great deal of work off the committee and an excellent evening was had by guests and hosts alike. Once all the guests had departed, the officers and their ladies/gentlemen (we do have lady officers) retired to the mess where they were able to meet **Col J. Greenhill TD**, who has assumed the appointment of Honorary Colonel. He was accompanied by his wife **Elizabeth**, and little time was lost in making him feel a true member of the Regiment at his first official function. We all look forward to a rewarding time for both the Colonel and the Regiment during his years of office.

The CO, Lt Col R. F. Willsher, presents the Honorary Colonel's wife, Mrs Fortune Stanley, with a crystal decanter on behalf of the officers and soldiers of the Regiment

The Honorary Col, Capt M. C. Stanley presents to the CO a silver 18 pounder gun as a farewell gift to the Regiment

The Honorary Colonel's presentation to the Regiment of a silver 18 pounder Artillery piece which had been presented to his father Maj The Hon Oliver Stanley MC

The stalwart members of our Officers Mess Staff
Left to right: LCpl George Lyons, LCpl Dave Binstead, LCpl Reg Hazeldene, Sig Dave Hazeldene, Billy Hazeldene and Cpl Henry Hazeldene

STOP PRESS

The infamous 59 Sqn Football Team (1986 winners of the North West District TA Football Cup) are again in the final of this year's North West District TA Football Competition. They meet 238 Sqn RCT (V) in Liverpool on Saturday 14 February 1987. Good luck lads, let's make it a double.

42 SQUADRON—MANCHESTER

Congratulations to **LCpl Walton** who has just succeeded in passing his RCB and is due to attend RMAS in May 1987 for commissioning with the Corps. Well done!

GOC NORTH WEST DISTRICT VISITS 42 SIGNAL SQUADRON—MANCHESTER

On 22 January **Maj Gen C. T. Shortis CBE**, GOC North West District visited 42 Sig Sqn (V) in Manchester. Although the GOC had previously visited the Squadron on exercise this was his first visit to the Squadron TAC.

His arrival was greeted by a Quarter Guard. After inspecting the guard he was escorted around the various troops by the CO of the Regiment **Lt Col R. F. Willsher**, OC 42 Sig Sqn (V), **Maj C. J. B. Clark TD** and **WO2 (SSM) A. Byrne BEM**. During his tour he spoke to the officers, NCOs and soldiers from whom he was able to obtain an overall picture of the Squadron. After his tour the GOC commented on the high standard of training and morale within the Squadron.

The GOC North West District, Maj Gen C. T. Shortis, CBE, talking to Pte Cooker during his visit to 42 Sig Sqn (V) Manchester, ADC to GOC and CO look on

FOCUS ON 59 SIGNAL SQUADRON—LIVERPOOL VEHICLE PRE 8-19 DECEMBER 1986

Report By SSgt Deary SSI 59 Sig Sqn

Since joining the Regiment in September 1986 I had been aware that the biggest immediate task was to prepare the Squadron fleet of vehicles for the Annual REME Report.

The Squadron PSAO, **Capt Ron Meyer**, left me in no doubt as to what was required and how it would be achieved. I was grateful for the advice as it was a new experience dealing with a fleet of 42 vehicles.

Most of the credit however must go to the Squadron civilian mechanic, **Mr John Morrison** (who is also the TA SSM of HQ Sqn) who has always kept up with vehicle servicing and inspections. He carried out many other repairs which enabled us to show 40 out of the 42 vehicles on the PRE, which would be fairly amazing by any standard.

Two weeks prior to the inspection we brought in a team of four cosmetic surgeons led by **Cpl Steve Ball ACC** who steam cleaned and then painted every vehicle and trailer in only eight days, so well done lads.

Finally the Squadron MT led by **Sgt Paul Parker** and ably assisted by **LCpls Robbie James** and **Ray Crilly** put the finishing touches to the vehicles and very nearly got the documentation right.

It was a great effort by all concerned and if we can sort out one or two minor documentation problems by next year, then who knows maybe 59 Sig Sqn could almost boast the best run MT in North West District, as the report stated.

Members of the successful ARU team from 59 Sig Sqn Liverpool.
Left to Right: LCpl Dave Shires, Capt (PSAO) Ron Meyer, LCpl Ray Crilly, LCpl Robbie James, Maj (OC) Gordon Harrison and SSgt (SSI) Chris Deary

59 SQUADRON SEND A RECORD 16 TO CATTERICK

After three months preparatory training under the supervision of **WO2 Brian Worthington, Sgt Jimmy Stevenson** and **LCpl Mick Woods** at Edge Lane TAC, 16 recruits were despatched to the North East 'resort' of 11 Sig Regt at Catterick to complete a 14 day recruit course on the sunny Yorkshire Moors.

All the lads are from the Liverpool area with the exception of **Sig Gary Wilkes** from Ashton-in-Makerfield who follows his father, **Sgt Billy Wilkes** and his brother **Cpl Steve Wilkes** into the Squadron.

Sixteen recruits from 59 Sig Sqn (V) on their way to Catterick
Left to right: Sig Peeney, Sig Smith, Sig Fogg, Sig Taylor, Sig Allport, Sig Christopherson, Sig Wilkes, Sig Skyner, Sig Foy, Sig Owings, Sig Hitchmough, Sig Rigby, Sig Stanton, Sig Payne and Sig Day

VISIT OF OC 59 SQUADRON TO RECRUITS AT CATTERICK

Report by SSgt Jim Forbes

On Saturday 7 February 1987 59 Squadron Commander, **Maj Gordon Harrison**, accompanied by **2Lt Cath McGrath, SSM WO2 Bill McAlister** and **SSgt Jim Forbes**, took the coast road to Catterick to check on the progress of 59 Sig Sqn recruits.

On arriving at 11 Sig Regt we were welcomed by 4 Troop OC, **WO1 Steve Jones** and **Tp Sgt Kevin Fitzpatrick**. The boys all seemed in high spirits but admitted the course was a bit tougher than they had expected but nevertheless nothing that they could not handle. There was one good story to come out of their course. After a guard mounting on the Wednesday night, the orderly officer told the stick man to fall out 'I want to do the guard sir' replied the soldier—so the officer went to the next man and received the same reply. Eventually he ordered the seventh man back to the barrack block. Six over keen soldiers (could it be) 'The guard dismounts at 0603 hrs, there is a BFT at 0600 hrs. Recruits soon become soldiers'.

The lads were left in good spirits looking forward to their three day battle camp.

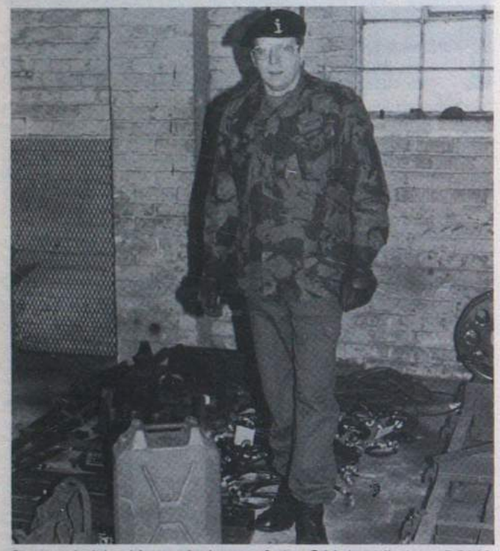
The management team from 59 Sig Sqn (V) meet the team of 4 Tp, 11 Sig Regt on their visit to the Catterick Recruit Course
Left to Right: Sgt Kevin Fitzpatrick, WO1 Steve Jones, Maj Gordon Harrison, WO2 (SSM) Bill McAllister and 2Lt Cathy McGrath

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

It's that time again. *The Wire* has just appeared, and so has the Adjutant saying '*The Wire* notes were due yesterday'.

GOODBYE . . . TO THE C41

After nearly 20 years of faithful service to the Regiment the C41's have gone. Together with all sorts of miscellaneous equipment, some of which had never been used, they were all gathered together at our most central TAC, in Darlington. There the QM, **Capt Jim Allen**, assisted by the TA QM **Capt Eric Rose**, RQMSs **Dave Courtney**, **Colin Dadson** and **Dick Grainge** and the civilian storemen **Messrs Graham Hill**, **Harry Bowman**, **Tommy Conroy** and **Dave Weeks**, counted everything and prepared it all for backloading. To some people's amazement it was all there! Taking a particular interest was RQMS Colin Dadson who remembers how, as a junior Lance Corporal, he had helped to unpack it all back in 1967.



Surrounded by bits and pieces of the C41 installations RQMS Colin Dadson remembers unpacking it 20 years earlier

With the C41s out of the way RQMS Dave Courtney, TA QM Capt Eric Rose and QM Capt Jim Allen relax with the 'civvy storemen' Graham Hill, Dave Weeks, Tommy Conroy and Harry Bowman

GOODBYE . . . TO THE RSM

After nearly three years with the Regiment **WO1 (RSM) Roy Coffill** has now left us. As **Capt Roy Coffill** he has gone to RAF Bruggen as a GLO with a Tornado Squadron. In the past three months he has been on courses all over the country to train for his new role, after handing over to his successor **WO1 (RSM) Len Rowland-Jones** who joined us from 16 Sig Regt **WO1 Coffill's** last few weeks in the Regiment naturally included many farewell gatherings and presentations—from the Permanent Staff, from the Officers Mess, and finally and most important his dining out by the WOs and Sergeants Mess. The highlight of what was, by all accounts, a memorable evening was the appearance of the White Helmets, In his earlier life **WO1 Coffill** did two tours with the team, the second as team Staff Sergeant. A contingent of this year's team came over to Middlesbrough to assist in the celebrations by carrying the RSM atop the ladder and away. Two other ex White Helmets, **Sgt Duke Forster** who is on the staff of the ACIO in Middlesbrough, and **WO2 (YofS) Keith Bark** of 50 Sqn are members of the mess while ex White Helmets **Eric Brown** and **Fred Alexander** were guests for the occasion; and just to keep the family tradition going, one of the young White Helmet riders, **Richard Holmes**, is the son of **WO2 Bob Holmes**, SSM of 90 Sqn.

Capt Coffill leaves the Regiment with the thanks of all ranks for a job well done and for the contribution he has made to many aspects of Regimental life, with congratulations on gaining his commission and with very best wishes for the future.

WO1 Dave Sparks accepts WO1 (RSM) Roy Coffill's presentation of a silver candelabrum watched by WO1 (MTWO) Dave McGurk

Ex White Helmet team SSgt WO1 Roy Coffill shows that he still remembers how to do it

White Helmets past and present at WO1 Coffill's dining out. Sgt Duke Forster (ACIO Middlesbrough), WO1 Coffill, Eric Brown, Fred Alexander and WO2 (YofS) Keith Bark, all ex members of the team, with some of the 87 vintage

WELCOME

To **WO1 (RSM) Len Rowland-Jones** and his wife Christine, and to **SSgt Syd Hayward** and **Cpl Rod McDonald** who have joined the Hull detachment for their last six months of service.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Battler Britton** a bandsman on the award of the BEM in the New Year Honours. **Cpl Britton**, who is with us for his last six months service from the Cheshire Regiment, is about to become a full-time member of 34's band. He earned his award for outstanding loyalty and hard work.

To **Sgt John Hughes**, one of our Regular techs, who has announced his engagement to **Cpl Jackie Waugh** of HQ Squadron.

FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the HQ/90 Sqn football team who reached the final of the North East District TA Cup for the first time ever with a 4—1 victory over B Coy 1 Yorks. Unfortunately in the final they came up against a very strong team, D Coy 2 Yorks, and despite scoring first, lost by the rather unflattering score of 11—2.

Runners-up in the NE District TA Cup—HQ/90 Sqn

Back Row: Sgt Davy Rowe (Coach), Sgt Colin Riley, LCpl Ken Stevenson, LCpl Ray Proctor, Sig Stuart Pearson, Cpl Joe Duffy, LCpl Kev Pountain, LCpl Gary Jowers

Front Row: Cpl Derek Phillips, Cpl Keith Steinmetz, LCpl Glen Wicks, Sig John Edwards, LCpl Davy Richardson, Sig Keith Parry

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

The Warrant Officers of 36 Sig Regt (V) held a dinner at Wanstead TA Centre on Friday 30 January to dine out **WO1 Ian Campbell** who is leaving the army in March after 22 years.

The dinner also gave us the opportunity to officially welcome the new RSM who joined the Regiment last October. The plan was for the senior volunteer Warrant Officer **WO1 Dave Watson** to welcome **WO1 (RSM) Tom Taylor** and then hand over to **RSM Taylor** who would say farewell to **Ian Campbell**.

The meal was set for 2130 hrs to enable the warrant officers to assemble from as far as Folkstone in Kent and Norwich in Norfolk. **Ian Campbell** who had taken his family north to Scotland where he is going into retirement, was due to arrive back on the Friday evening at around 1730 hrs.

Then came a phone message to the orderly room at 1700 hrs which was short. He was stuck in Scotland and would not be able to make it back for the dinner. (We had all heard that before! At the Headquarters Squadron Christmas fancy dress party he had told everybody that he was unable to go and yet halfway through the evening the gorilla quietly drinking coca-cola in the corner was heard to say 'See you Jimmy'.—**Ian Campbell** had arrived.)

The dinner was superb. It was prepared by **Cpl Liz Bilby** and her Staff Sergeant husband **Roy**, and served by **Sgt Liz Day** assisted by **Cpl Carol Bell**. The topic of conversation, 'What had happened to **Ian Campbell?**'

By the time the port was passed and the loyal toasts made we had all decided that **Ian** *must* still be in Scotland. **WO1 Watson** made his welcoming speech and then the RSM promptly threw his notes on **Ian's** chequered career away and ad libbed instead.

Despite the absence of our guest of honour the evening was a great success. We all drank the health of a gentleman who will be sadly missed by this Regiment. We wish **Ian** and his family all the very best for the future.

44 (CINQUE PORTS) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

The Squadron had an eventful camp during September this year, exercising on the Yorkshire Moors and ending up at Edinburgh.

This was the first camp that the Squadron has used its new Radio-Relay equipment. 'The Troop found the equipment far better, and considerably faster to set up and move.' said **Cpl Vic Haywood**, one of the Radio-Relay Det Commanders.

The Squadron also held an escape and evasion exercise over a two day period. Organised by **Capt Jack** and **Capt Blake**, this included a map reading exercise, and finished with an impromptu football match between the Officers and SNCO's against the junior ranks. The result was a win for the Officers and SNCO's, or so we were led to believe.

'On Exercise'
Left to Right: Cpl Stewart Gebbie and Sig Kev Lough

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

MISS ROYAL BRITISH LEGION—PTE JULIA HALL

The current new Miss Royal British Legion, 67 (QOWWY) Sig Sqn **Pte Julia Hall**, earned the only standing ovation of the Royal British Legion conference last May when she made an impassioned plea to members to step up their campaign to boost membership figures.

Julia is based with 67 (QOWWY) Sig Sqn (V) near her home of Stratford-on-Avon. She is a full member of both her local Legion branch and Women's Section, and said that she would use her year as Miss Royal British Legion to do what she could to get more people interest in joining the organisation.

Julia, who is a Data Telegraphist with the Regiment, won a national competition to become Miss Royal British Legion. Often accompanied by her fiance, **Guardsman Chris Ranell**, she has attended many fun-raising events at home and abroad on behalf of the Legion, culminating in the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in November last.

NEWS FROM 67 SQUADRON
PROMOTIONS

Long serving members **Ken Harrington** and **Sid Hartshorn** have been promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Both had served with the Squadron training unit for many years. The paperwork for both men was completed and their promotions approved within a week.

Ken a former Regular Army soldier, and **Sid**, who did National Service with the RAF, will continue to train basic recruits for the Squadron. Two years ago it looked as if **Ken** would have to hang up his TA boots when he underwent major heart surgery. But he is now fully fit again. 'He has made a remarkable come back' said Squadron Commander **Maj Edward Widgery**. 'Both men have been a great asset to the unit for many years, and we look forward to them serving for some years to come'.

Sgts Ken Harrington and Sid Hartshorn

FAREWELL TO A LONG STANDING MEMBER

The retirement of **SSgt Tony Griffiths** our Pay Sergeant marks the serving member who first put on a uniform during the 1939-45 war! At 60, he is more than twice the average age of the unit, and the only service member who first put on uniform during the 1939—45 war!

He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1944, and served in Austria before being demobbed in 1947. Transferring to the Reserve, he served with the TA from 1950. In 1971, too old to continue serving with Royal Signals, he transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps. He joined 67 Sqn in 1983 and retired in January 1987 after 42 year's service. **SSgt Griffiths** is one of the few men to hold the Territorial Efficiency Medals issued by both the Territorial Army and the former Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve.

In civilian life he is a financial controller with Birmingham's Midland Hotel and lives in Warwick with his wife, **Belle**.

SSgt Tony Griffiths

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

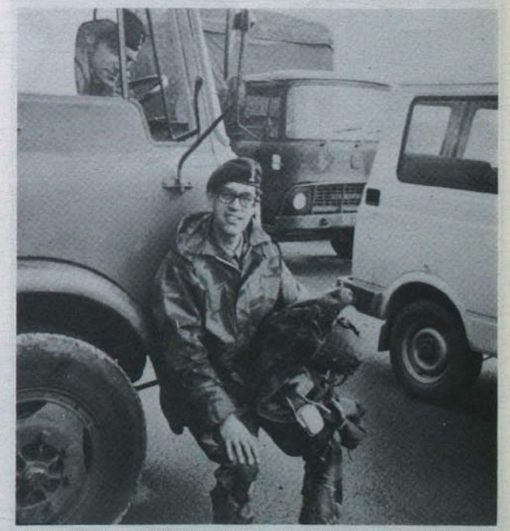
VALE TARA

We reluctantly waved farewell to **WO1 (RMS) Joe Lovell** at the end of January as he left on commissioning and subsequent attachment to the RAF. He was duly dined out of the WOs' and Sgts' Mess which necessitated, at the end of the formal proceedings at midnight, a quick change of WO1 mess kit to flying gear—a la Biggles. He was then formally welcomed into the Officers Mess by **Lt Col Steve Coltman (CO), Lt Col Toby Seymour (2IC)** and **Capt (QM) Bill Evans**. Again there was a quick dress transformation from Biggles gear to Captain's mess kit. He takes with him warm congratulations on his well deserved promotion and thanks from both messes for his contribution here. In his place we welcome **WO1 (RSM) D. McLennan BEM.**

The Hon Col, Col Alan Hawksworth, displays the new regimental tie to some of our former colleagues—Maj Ian McCulloch, Maj Nick Bradley, Capt Keith Headleand and Maj John Wardley

Capt Roger Davenport, 2IC 93 Sqn, on his rounds of the Squadron admin area, has confounded Mr John Wilson (catering support) with his question 'Where's the beef?'

Maj David Wing inducts 2Lt Mike Petty (holder of the Colonel's Spur) into the mysteries of the Gateway Ops Centre. (The admonitory 'wipe your feet' instruction has no direct connection with the latter officer!).



WO2 Alan Unwin (WO IC RRTT—93 Sqn) ponders whether the recent Recruit Selection Weekend has produced the required result!

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

FAREWELLS

Sunday 11 January was the day that the CO **Lt Col Rodney Clare** said goodbye to his TA soldiers before handing over the Regiment on 16 January to the new boss—**Lt Col Chris Shuker**. After lunching with the Regimental Officers he was towed out of the TAC on a landrover by members of the Regiment, preceeded, of course, by the Regimental Flute Band.

On his last day in the TAC on Thursday 15 January during a happy hour with the civilian and permanent staff, he received among other presents his Certificate of Service with the 40th.

A fond farewell also is extended to **Lt Lyn Gregg** who has moved to the mainland and is now serving with 33 Sig Regt (V).

Where are they taking me now?—CO is towed out through the gates

Can I go now please? - CO after his speech

NI CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Having failed to be deterred by their run in with the regular army on the 10 December at Ballykinler, the female cross country team were at it again on the 24 January at the NI Cross Country Championships. This time they were more successful coming runners up to the QUOTC who were obviously on top form on the day. Success for the 40th team was partly due to the motivation and training provided by their ever-cheerful coach—**Capt W. J. Woods**, OC C Troop. The first girl home for 40 Sig was **2Lt I Savage**, closely followed by **2Lt H Bustard** and **Capt C. Twinem**. Following a presentation by **Col A. Reid**, Col TA NI, the usual team party took place. The girls are eagerly looking forward to their next competitive encounter.

The cross country runners up: *Left to Right—Front Row*—2Lt Isobel Savage, Lt Cathy Sutherland, Capt Carol Twinem
Back Row—Lt Rosa Blake, Coach Capt Jimmy Woods, 2Lt Shelley Hardie, 2Lt Hilary Bustard

EXERCISE *BOBBING CORK II*

This was the first full regimental exercise of the year when both 66 and 85 Sqns showed off their skills on the new Triffid radio relay equipment.

New exercise locations were tried out for the first time by each Squadron, 85 Sqn using the brand new location at RAF Aldergrove, whilst at Kinnegar **LCpl Bill Herridge** carried out a few alterations to the main entrance gates with his new Triffid vehicles.

The double relay at Divis was manned jointly by 66 and 85 with **LCpl Jack**, A Tp, **Sig Weir**, A Tp, **LCpl Steve Brown**, C Tp, **Cpl Nobby Clarke, Sig Mark Paverley**, both of E Tp, and **LCpls Mo** and **Maxine Kitchen**, both of F Tp, all huddled around a tiny TV set watching Ireland thrashing England 17—0 at Rugby.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Lt Ray Scott** and his wife **Margaret** on the birth of their first baby—a daughter **Victoria.**

To **LCpl Doggart WRAC** on her recent promotion.

To the MTWO **WO1 Peter Dring** on becoming the Army Veteran Cross Country Champion of 1987.

LADIES' CLUB—ANNUAL NOTES

During the past year the number of ladies attending the Ladies' Club at Clonaver has steadily increased.

The Committee, consisting of **Mrs Margret Orr** (who has been involved with the club for nearly two years), and new committee members—**Mrs Maureen Pollock, Mrs Ann Long, Mrs Dorothy Doherty, Mrs June Cains** and **Mrs Joyce Wild** (wife of the new FoS), have worked really hard to ensure that the meetings have run smoothly.

Events have included visits to another Ladies Club in the Belfast area, a microwave oven demonstration, flower arranging, .22 shooting (run by our favourite sailor, **Bramford Wilson**, husband of **Maj Jenny Wilson WRAC**), a Fun Auction, and an introduction to the wonders of Tyrone Crystal which took the form of a video, a very amusing talk and a look at the manufacture of the famous crystal from start to finish. We have also had trips out to factory shops, Belfast Town Hall and various shopping centres.

Our Remembrance Day ballot raised a total of £162.10 for presentation to the nominated charities at the Christmas Sherry and Mince Pie morning for the pensioners who live near the camp. Nearly 70 elderly people came along, together with the PSIs and some of the civilian staff. Santa, who shall remain nameless, put in his first Regimental appearance of the year and gave our visitors a small gift each.

The year culminated in the Ladies' Club Annual Christmas Dinner, attended by approximately 56 ladies. As usual, the meal cooked by our TA cooks was superb and afterwards we held a disco and watched a cabaret. No male strippers this year though! Santa, having really passed his 'Ho Ho Ho Levels' by this point made yet another visit!

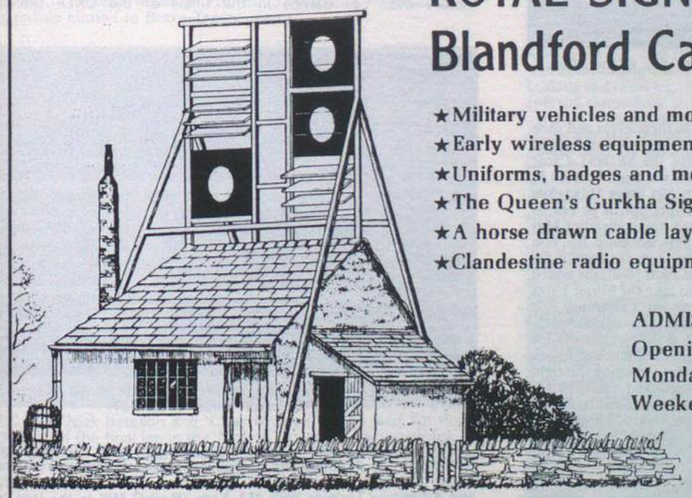
During the last two and a half years, the Ladies' Club has gone from strength to strength and the one person never mentioned, is **WO1 David Brown**, the RSM. Without him and his wife **Elaine**, life would have been very difficult at times. He has smoothed out all sorts of problems, and tables, videos, cups, helpers and bar staff have just 'happened' and all appeared at the right time and in the right place. I am sure that he will be sadly missed when he leaves 40th. But at least the Ladies' Club coffee and tea won't be taken to Summer Camp again!

Ladies' Club pensioner party—Santa hands out presents to a group of pensioners

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
Blandford Camp, Dorset

★Military vehicles and motorcycles.
★Early wireless equipment.
★Uniforms, badges and medals.
★The Queen's Gurkha Signal display.
★A horse drawn cable laying wagon.
★Clandestine radio equipment from World War II.

ADMISSION FREE
Opening hours :
Monday to Friday 0830 - 1700 hours
Weekend by appointment



Artist's impression of the early 19th Century Admiralty shutter telegraph relay station built on the site of Blandford Camp 1806-1825

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

Sgt Steve Whittick putting in another hard day at the office

CROSS COUNTRY

With the Squadron hierachy trying to prove to themselves and each other that age has not caught up with them a very senior team formed up on the start line at Blackdown Barracks for the SEDIST Cross Country Championships. Over a flat fast course the team was led in by the Pay Sargeant **Colin Withey** followed by **Sgt Steve Donaghue** and **Capt Nick Bateson**. In a final desperate effort not to be beaten by his OC **Sgt Dave Catchpole** was the next man home ahead of **Maj Gordon Shipley** and **LCpl Ric Buxton**. On this occasion the non scoring members of the team were **Pte Shortman** from the Pathfinder Platoon and the QM **Capt John Kirkman**. The final positions added up to a victory over 23 Para Field Ambulance to take the Minor Units Trophy and a chance to run in the Army Finals on 4 February.

Team selection for the Army Championships proved extremely tricky. The OC being in a difficult position of granting time off for training but trying not to allow too many people the chance to knock him out of the team. With a great amount of heart searching the eight runners to represent the Squadron were selected and achieved the creditable position of fourth behind the professionals from the Postal and Courier Depot, FOD Dulmen and our local rivals 23 Parachute Field Ambulance. The final positions were as follows:

13 **Capt S Miller Int Corps**
22 **Sgt S Donaghue RAOC**
35 **Sgt C Withey RAPC**
37 **LCpl R Buxton**
39 **Capt N Bateson**
40 **Sig N Jones (Scoring Machine)**
53 **Maj G Shipley**
65 **Capt G Wilson RAOC**

UKLF BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987

On Thursday 15 January at the Army Boxing Centre in Aldershot the Squadron once again went into battle against 9 Para Sqn RE in the final of SE Dist and UKLF Grade 3 Novice Boxing Competition. The evening began with **2Lt 'Muscles' Hill** at Featherweight and **Sig Lawn** at Lightweight putting up good performances but both losing to better and more experienced opponents. The third bout of the night was a much awaited return match at Lightweight between **LCpl Jackson** and **Spr Barnes** who had beaten him last year. The contest lived up to its expectation and **LCpl Jackson** with good footwork and sharp punching managed to out point a good experienced opponent. **LCpl Wigley** at Light Middle and **LCpl Ginge Udell** at Middle both lost to very good opponents. The Light Heavy bout was a hard and bruising contest between **Sig 'Ma' Baker** and **Spr Elliott**, with **Sig Baker** winning in the second round. **Sig Baker** has now gone on to join the Army Squad. In the final bout of the night, **Sgt Donaghue** at Welterweight lost to **Spr Morris**.

Overall it was a disappointing result losing five bouts to two. All credit must go to 9 Sqn boxers who once again proved that Fives Wine Bar is as good a training venue as the Maida Gym. Congratulations to all competitors—see you next year.

LCpl Jacko Jackson caught in a rare moment going forward in his victory over Spr Barnes in the finals of the UKLF Boxing Championships

2Lt Andy Hill's opponent winds up a blow to his nose (He could hardly miss, could he?)

After a deserved Omani—suntanned Christmas break the Squadron formed up for its latest line in training swans. Escapees from the snows of Aldershot included detachments off to Kenya with 2 Para and Adventure Training with **2Lt Andy 'Rocky' Hill** in the 'not so snowy' wastelands of Scotland. Having spent a week suffering from the freezing elements down south, Ex *Glen Ski* took off for Scotland which coincided exactly with the thaw. That's what you get for being a young officer and trying to organise something! Those left behind started the New Year with a fair degree of sporting success. We narrowly lost to 9 Para Sqn Royal Engineers in the all-Airborne final of the UKLF Boxing Championships and our cross country team emerged as victors in the SEDIST Championships. A good advertisement for leading from the front if ever there was one.

ALPHA TROOP

Alpha Troop: 'Knees together, elbows in' and back to earth after a well deserved break. **LCpls 'Taff' Rowlands, 'Scouse' Delaney** and **'Jake' Rosser** were detached to 2 Para to assist with their training in Kenya. **Jakes'**personal analyst was also in tow. Back in the 'Shot' **Sgt 'Nidge' Barnett** was teaching the Squadron how to grow trees out of his foot, it was an idea he picked up when out on a run with **Capt 'Nick' Bateson** and the rest of the Squadron. **Cpl John O'Driscoll** took over as Troop Sgt, hence the change of the Troop phone number to 'The George', The Shot. Don't worry JOD, **Jake's** analyst will be back soon.

The Troop less those who had volunteered for Sqn Pre Para selection departed for Scotland and some adventure training. The Troop took over the Para hut at Glencoe under the command of Tp OC **2Lt Andy Hill**. It was planned to do some skiing and mountaineering plus other adventurous activities! Despite the lack of snow some enjoyable and often exhilarating walking was possible.

NEW ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome the following; **Cpls 'Spike' Forbes, 'Gary' Lee, Sig 'Jock' Alexander, 'Tony' Bowe** and **'Ian' Webster**. January also saw a few changes in the Troop, with swapping around of some personalities to give everyone a chance of working in the Tactical Parachute Headquarters.

BRAVO TROOP

Once again the New Year began with comings and goings. Farewells to **Cpl Biglin** (only four and half years, where did we go wrong?), **Cpl Miller, Sig 'spaceman' Halbert, Terret** and **Sig (hope these spots go) Dobson**. Arrivals were **Sgt (where can I run to now) Catchpole, Cpl 'backdoor' Corley, Sig Forster, Greenwell, Hails, Miel** and **Sig Welch** who has finally completed the rigorous escape from the QMs to the Line Section.

On the Sports Front. Well done to the Cross Country runners especially to **Sig 'Cider Mission' Jones** who was thrown in at the deep end. Also to **Sig Baker** on his new lease in life with the Army Boxing Squad. Further congratulations must go to **2Lt Julian Brammer** for his continued run of success (figure of speech—some figure!!) on the rugby pitch. At the present moment he is Captaining the Army U21 side and is due to represent the Combined Services team against Buckinghamshire later this month. He has also received recognition at Senior level and has been on the bench for the Full Army side on several occasions. When he returns to Aldershot he promises to introduce himself to Bravo Troop.

2IC Capt Nick Bateson and 'Cider Mission' Jones lead Sgt Colin Withey on the final lap in the Army X Country Championships. A rare moment of silence for the Pay Sargeant!! (Unfortunately he beat them both in the end)

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Davies**
2IC	**Capt Jim McGrath**
QM	**Capt (QM) Charles Homewood**
AO	**Capt Pauline Lucas WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt Fred Connor**
OC N Tp	**Lt Julian Bunce**
OC P Tp	**Lt John Vlasto**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet**
MTWO	**WO1 Graham Jesty RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dougie Brisco**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley**
RQMS	**WO1 (RQMS) Tom Ferry**
AQMS	**WO2 (AQMS) Paul Windsor REME**
ORSQMS	**SSgt Sandy Campbell**

INTRODUCTION

For the last two months the Squadron has been mostly in barracks, with two weeks block leave at Christmas and one week spent on a Squadron warm-up exercise for Ex *Flyng Falcon/Winter Sales*. The major event of the period has been the change of OC's, from **Maj Tony Raper** to **Maj John Davies** with all that that entails in terms of inspections and checks.

IN BARRACKS

Ex *Timothy's Trot III* took place on 16 December. This is an annual Brigade run, in this case a very cold and boggy one. Most participants just jogged round, though some put in the effort to come in the first 100, for which they received a certificate.

On 4 January, the day before the end of block leave, the members of Ex *Alpine Panther*, a Squadron ski-mountaineering trip, gathered in Goojerat barracks. On 9 January, continuing the party season, the old OC Squadron, **Maj Tony Raper**, was dragged/towed out. The LAD did a very good job of reproducing his Volkswagen Beetle out of a trolley and a few cardboard boxes, with the added touch of a flashing light.

Also on 9 January some members of the Squadron left for Scotland on a ski trip organised by Brigade Headquarters. It was originally meant to be an Adventurous Training exercise incorporating skiiing, rock climbing, ice climbing, snow holing etc, but it ended up mostly langlauf skiing, with everyone achieving their bronze award. One day was spent skiing out into the hills to find a snow face for ice axe braking and climbing. The weather was not too good, but most people enjoyed themselves.

As the week passed so people's competence at skiing increased, all except a certain Brigade Major who continued to fall. Luckily this was always onto the same shoulder, so he did not hurt any other part of his body. There was medicine on hand at the local watering hole, the Red Mac, where each night members of the exercise revitalised themselves. In fact, the Admin party enjoyed it so much they decided to stay on for another week.

Squadron life, however, has not been all play and no work. When the heavy snow fell in mid-January a number of the Squadron went to assist the Essex County Fire Brigade. Their task was to put out fires in locations that the Fire Brigade could not reach. To this end

LCpl Dave Cuncliffe and LCpl Simon Power helping out Essex County Fire Brigade

landrovers were fitted with fire fighting equipment and followed the fire engines out on most emergency calls. Several members of the Squadron thus spent a week living and working with the Essex County Fire Brigade, playing sport with them, learning the basics of their job and so on. This was obviously a valuable experience for both the Squadron and the individuals, and those who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

For those who remained behind a lot of preparation was required before the new OC Squadron, **Maj John Davies**, could go round and do his inspections. But this preparation proved to be well worthwhile as the OC was generally impressed with the Squadron.

ON EXERCISE

The real test came on Ex *Panther's Charge* which took place 26-30 January and was the first opportunity for the OC to see the Squadron in the field. The first 24 hours were set aside for Troop exercises, and then for the remainder of the week the Squadron moved around at breakneck speed under the OC's direction. The Squadron should now be well prepared for Ex *Flying Falcon/Winter Sales*, which is the next major event in the diary.

SPORT

ANGLING

The winter of 86/87 is at present being lauded in the angling press as one of the best cod seasons for many a year. Club members have been doing exceptionally well from Walton Pier with only the occasional session proving to be unproductive. With the pier fishing so good members have been reluctant to try some of the better known shore marks. This should, however, be rectified over the coming weeks as the cod become harder to find.

Boat fishing activities have been suspended within the club due to a significant lack of interest in high charter fees. At between £80-£100 for an eight hour trip it is not a cheap proposition. Unfortunately due to bad weather coarse fishing activities have been severely curtailed with most of the water frozen over. A pike match is due to be held on 8 March which most members are hoping to fish.

BEAGLING

On 3 December a group from 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn headed by **Lt John Vlasto** left Goojerat Barracks in a 4 ton Bedford headed for Tollesbury.

They were all expecting a terrible afternoon Beagling. Nobody knew what this strange sport entailed so rumour control was working at full capacity and descriptions of the sport ranged from being hunted by hounds to chasing them and in turn being followed on horseback.

We arrived at a farm outside Tollsbury and started to Beagle. At first it seemed like a pleasant afternoon stroll following the pack of beagles around the Marshland area, waiting in anticipation for them to get the scent of hare.

There were several false alarms in the form of rabbits which produced short bursts of excitement from the dogs, and lots of short breathing from us.

Eventually toward the end of the afternoon a scent was picked up and we were off over fields and marsh getting extremely wet. After covering about two miles it was decided to call it a day, and get back for tea. We all left Tollsbury with the knowledge of what the sport entails, well and truly beagled.

FOOTBALL

The Squadron team went to Bassingbourn on Monday 8 December to play the Queen's Depot. Having been beaten at this stage last year the players were all keen to go one better this time. The game started at a furious pace with both teams trying to get an early goal, our team was nearly rewarded in the eighth minute when **LCpl Jock Leggatt** hit the post with a header from a corner. Ten minutes from half-time a mix up in the defence let the Queen's Depot in for a well taken goal. The second half was much the same as the first, the Squadron team doing most of the attacking without being able to capitalise on it.

After a controversial goal we went 2—0 down, but within five minutes **Sig Eddie Yates** pulled one back with a well taken goal. The Queen's Depot seemed to be running out of steam and our team, giving all they had, did everything except score. With 10 minutes to go **LCpl Jock Leggatt** was sent off which was a great blow to the team. At the final whistle the Queen's depot ran out 2—1 winners. The Squadron team had put up a very good fight right to the final whistle.

HOCKEY

After a successful season, the team have been playing friendly fixtures against several top sides from major units, and have shown good promise for the coming season.

In the next few weeks our indoor Hockey season starts, with a very good chance of great success coming our way. The team wish **Maj Tony Raper** all the best with the Warminster boys.

CROSS COUNTRY

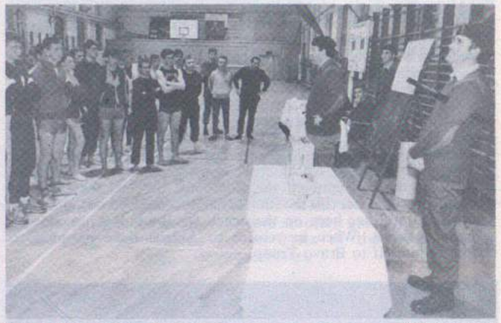
The Squadron Inter Troop cross country competition was run on 2 December with teams from all departments. The course was through muddy Friday woods for a change. Oscar Tp stormed home to a convincing win with no other team in sight.

The Eastern district championship race was next and as a result of the race **Cpl Chris Drew** and **Sig Andy McNicholls** and **Dave Bronniman** were selected to run as individuals in the Eastern area Championships at Pirbright.

At the end of last year **Cpl Chris Drew, LCpl Simon Strickland, Sig Andy McNicholls, Dave Bronniman** and **Mark Plested** ran in the Colchester fun run 10 miler our team finishing third in the military teams.

We hope to win the minor units league shortly.

The start of the Inter-Troop cross country competition



Prize giving at the Inter-Troop cross country competition. (Note the typical Squadron prize on the table)

RUGBY

In a game against 19 Fd Amb we settled very quickly and scored an early try. We created the sound platform upon which some excellent rugby was based. Special mention goes to **Sig 'Nancy' Drew** and **LCpl Nobby Noble** who ran in several tries each from either wing in the 36—4 win.

The game against 1 Sqn RCT held particular importance with regards to supremacy among Colchester's minor units. Neither team gave anything away in a hard fought battle with some excellent tackling by **Sig Charlie Carrington-Moule** at full back. 1 Sqn won 4—0 despite heavy pressure towards the end. The recent bad weather has curtailed training and matches but the interest shown this season bodes well for the future.

SUB-AQUA

A sub-aqua club is presently being formed at Goojerat Barracks. It is hoped that by the time summer comes we will be able to choose quite a few trained members and be diving regularly in the local area. Later in the year it is hoped to go on expedition to a warmer climate. The first meeting was held on 23 January and we hope the club will provide good adventurous diving.

EXERCISE *ALPINE PANTHER*

This was an adventurous training exercise which took place in Switzerland from 6-17 January and which was organised entirely within the Squadron. As such it was a very ambitious project, and one which, though it did not achieve its original aim, was of great benefit to all who took part. The expedition report is reproduced below.

EXPEDITION REPORT

AIM

The aim of Ex *Alpine Panther* was to introduce six novice mountaineers to the techniques and demands of ski-mountaineering, culminating in an ascent of the Breithorn (4,164m).

MEMBERS

Lt Vlasto—Leader
Cpl North—Instructor
LCpl Cooper
LCpl Morris
LCpl Noble
LCpl O Brien
LCpl O Shea
Cpl Terry

ITINERARY

Planning for the expedition started soon after **Lt Vlasto**'s arrival at the Squadron. This was just four months before the expedition took place and this led to a number of problems in the preparation for the expedition. Bids for almost everything went in late, and special thanks go to the Quartermaster's department for their diplomacy on behalf of the expedition.

Everything appeared ready for departure on Monday 5 January. But just two days before **Lt Vlasto** heard that the original instructor for the expedition, **SSgt Haynes**, was ill and would ot be able to take part. Monday 5 January thus proved to be a very busy day making alternative arrangements and by the afternoon of the sixth **Cpl North** from 11 Sig Regt had arrived and the expedition got underway at 8 o'clock that evening.

All next day was spent travelling in the PRI minibus, which was rather cramped with eight people and their equipment. In the evening as we approached Zermatt, our planned destination, we were frustrated to find a high pass closed by snow. As any other route to Zermatt would have cost us several hours, and as our two drivers were getting tired, we decided to head for nearby Interlaken. There we found remarkably cheap accommodation at Balmers, where 'English was spoken'.

At 0715 hrs on Thursday we were woken by a PA system 'Ding-Dong' and a very American announcement ('Have a nice day y'all' etc). We sorted out the kit fitting skis to boots and so on, in the morning, and spent the afternoon on the ski slopes at Grindelwald getting used to the feel of it all. Even at this early stage **Cpl North** realised the skiing ability was not yet good enough for ski-mountaineering. In the evening **LCpl Cooper** nearly set fire to the kitchen in his enthusiastic attempts at cooking!

That night the diesel in the minibus froze. A couple of hours were thus wasted thawing the vehicle out in a garage and adding some form of anti-freeze to the diesel. We arrived at the ski area shortly before midday and set off on a short ski tour. Three people dropped out immediately as their ski bindings could not be adjusted to fit their boots. For the remainder lack of fitness was a problem for some on the way up, and lack of ski ability was a problem for everyone except **Cpl North** on the way back down, off piste.

It was by now very clear, to **Lt Vlasto**, that the original aim of ski-mountaineering culminating in an ascent of the Breithorn was over-ambitious. Not only was the team not used to it, but the mountains were not in condition for it with frequent avalanches apparent on the higher slopes. In the evening **Cpl North** thus told us what he thought the team was capable of, given the conditions, and it was decided that we would do four days downhill ski-training followed by two days ski-touring, all in the Grindelwald area.

Saturday saw our first day downhill skiing in excellent weather and with fantastic views of the mountains, in particular the infamous north wall of the Eiger. The ski slopes were in good condition and everyone had a superb day, returning to Balmers that evening tired but well satisfied. Even the minibus had a good day!

The weather was not so good on the Sunday, and the minibus did not take to the fresh snow. As it was Sunday it was not possible to buy snowchains so we took the train to Grindelwald. We then discovered the problems of skiing, even on piste, in classic white out conditions. However, already some improvement in the team's skiing ability was now noticeable.

Monday brought good but very cold weather, and more problems for the minibus. The diesel, even with the added antifreeze, froze, and so, once again, two hours were spent thawing the engine and adding yet more antifreeze. The sky was clear and the skiing excellent, but the temperature never rose above −27 celsius, and the diesel froze once again during the day! This time we needed recovery to a garage, and we took drastic action. It appears that diesel minibuses run all right on about 90% antifreeze!

The next day; the minibus worked! With this unexpected development we were first on the ski slopes at 0930 hrs. We had a full day's skiing, with everyone achieving their bronze downhill ski award in the

An unusual sunlight phenomenon in the Grindelwald area of Switzerland, with the North Wall of the Eiger in the background

From L to R: LCpls 'Coops' Cooper, Dave O'Shea, 'Mo' Morris and 'Scouse' O'Brien skiing in the Grindelwald area of Switzerland, with the Wetterhorn in the background

morning, and confidence building exercises on some of the steeper runs in the afternoon. Confidence building seems to mean wiping out a lot, and **LCpl O'Shea**, after one particularly fine effort, managed to lose a bit of his ski-binding irretrievably in powder snow. The downhill training over, the team returned that night with mixed feelings about skiing uphill, which was to be our next activity.

Wednesday was the first of our two planned days of ski-touring, it looked as if a storm might be developing, so **Cpl North** decided we should attempt the more ambitious of the two tours he had in mind, before the bad weather arrived. The uphill skiing was hard work, and the less fit suffered. Also, it is a bit demoralising skiing uphill when you are still below the level of the skilifts, but the higher slopes were continuously avalanche prone, and the team's ski ability, through much improved, was still not particularly good. This became apparent on the way down off piste as almost everybody fell at some stage. Off piste skiing is not easy. We returned that evening considerably wiser about the demands of ski-mountaineering. Our tour had been at low level and short, but the team was very inexperienced. Ski-mountaineering is not an activity to which novice skiers and mountaineers can be introduced, without a lot of preparation.

The weather as predicted was bad on Thursday, and we had already experienced the difficulties of skiing on piste in white out conditions. However, on piste at least you know tht there is a piste, whereas off piste, cliffs, unstable snow and other hazards can be hidden. We thus opted for a rest day, hoping for some improvement in the weather the next day. That evening we had a quiet celebration at Balmers.

Our last day's skiing, but as the weather was still bad, and in England too we decided to return a day early. We all got free sweatshirts from Balmers and had a team photo taken in recognition of having stayed so long and spent so much money there! We clambered into the minibus for a cramped return journey.

PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Clearly the expedition did not achieve its aim of introducing novices to the techniques and demands of ski-mountaineering culminating in an ascent of the Breithorn. However, it was still a valuable experience for all concerned, and for a number of reasons.

For a start, everyone achieved bronze proficiency in downhill skiing. Also, everyone was introduced to ski-touring, which is a step towards ski-mountaineering from pure downhill skiing. There were in addition more general benefits gained from being in an unfamiliar environment—not just big mountains, but Switzerland as well. Overall, then, the expedition was very worthwhile.

LESSONS LEARNED

First, starting expedition planning late leads to a lot of extra work. On the other hand, it is possible to get an expedition off the ground even though it is late to start planning, provided you are prepared to do the extra work.

Second, ski-mountaineering is not an activity upon which novice skiers and mountaineers should embark. Ideally at least a week should be spent ski training and a week mountain training before ski-mountaineering is contemplated. It is also important to ensure that everybody is fit.

Third, diesel needs a lot of antifreeze!

Fourth, and finally, Balmers lodge is an excellent place to say in Interlaken. It is cheap, clean, friendly and fun. The address is: Balmer's Herberge, Hauptstrasse 23, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland. Tel: 036-22-1961.

The cost (per person, dormitory accommodation, including breakfast) was 12 Swiss Francs per night.

FAMILIES

The Squadron wishes to congratulate **Cpl Taff** and **Ruth Hughes, LCpl Brian** and **Joanne Hilton, Sig Karl** and **Sallie Tweedle** and **Dvr Dave** and **Janet Munro** on their recent marriages.

We also congratulate **LCpl Pete Morgan** and his wife **Elma** on the birth of their baby girl **Melissa.**

INS AND OUTS

The Squadron warmly welcomes **Maj John Davies, Capts Pauline Lucas** and **Richard Oldham, Lt Julian Bunce, WO2 Paul Windsor, Sgts Colin Mooney** and **Chris Allen, Cpl Bob Beaumont, LCpl Gordon Mills, Ptes Andy Penman** and **Anita Hill**.

We say farewell and wish good luck to: **Maj Tony Raper, Capt Jill Trainor, WO1 Geoff Cotter, Sgts Les Adcock, Joe Rodgers, Cpls Martin Caley, Stumpy Mason, LCpl (Physcho) Leggatt** ('honest' he was short toured by Records!), **Cfn Dippy Davies** and **Pte Knifty Kniveton**.

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Apart from the constant roulement personnel changes, the last few months have seen quite a few changes in the Squadron. We have said farewell to the following and wish them every success in their new ventures: **Maj Craig** and **Jan Treeby, Capt Paul** and **Caroline Thwaites, SSgt Carl Clark-Darby, Sgt Bob** and **Sarah Stonier, Sgt Norman** and **Jane Riach**.

To fill the vacuum we welcomed: **Maj Ruairidh** and **Colette Rutherford, Capt Charlie** and **Anne Manning, WO2 Bob** and **Angela Downie, SSgt Brian** and **Stella Lauder, Sgt Graham** and **Anne Hossell, Sgt Steve** and **Patricia Dobson**.

The new line-up for SHQ now looks like this:

Left to Right—Back Row: SSgt (SQMS) Barry Thorp, WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie, Sgt John Woolley, Cpl Graeme Grey, Sig Bob Goldsmith, Cpl Jed Astell
Left to Right—Front Row: Mrs Val Williams, WO1 (YofS) Waller, Capt Charlie Manning 2IC, Maj Ruairidh Rutherford OC, WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton, Capt Jan-Eric Juslin, Mrs Danuta Cree

UNITED NATIONS PROTECTED AREA—CABLE TV

To enhance the rather basic facilities available to personnel and their families residing within the UN Protected Area, it was proposed to instal our own cable TV system. The project was funded by the Support Regiment PRI and an approach made to the Signal Squadron for assistance.

Over the past few months Tech and Line Tp have been very heavily committed to the project, most of the work being voluntary and carried on out of normal working hours. It was a race against time, to have work completed by Christmas, but thanks to **Sgt Mick Scott, Cpls Pete Sullivan, Hugh Shotton, Guy Broom** to name but a few, assisted by the odd glass of Gluhwein, work was completed by Christmas Eve. Cable TV is now available to most messes and all quarters within the UNPA, and much appreciated by all.

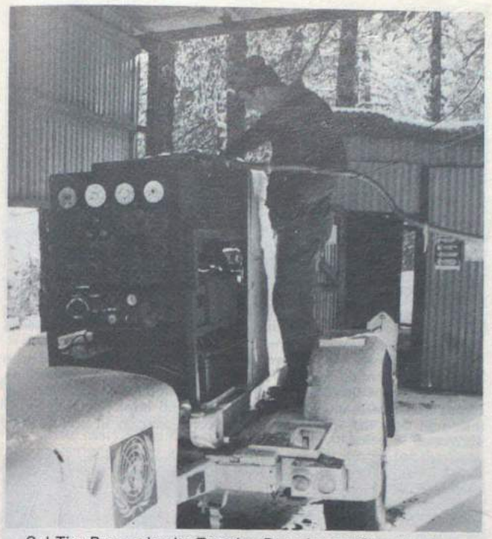
RADIO TROOP—TROODOS DETACHMENT

With the height of winter upon us, many heads turn longingly toward the snowcapped summits of the Troodos mountains—the hub of skiing in Cyprus.

What most are not aware of, is that tucked away on the south face, four members of 254 Sig Sqn are forced to survive these adverse weather conditions as a matter-of-fact routine, living off the land (and twice weekly resupply runs to Blue Beret Camp) and living with the thought that in the flash of a storm, they may be totally cut off from the rest of the UN (they are waiting for the day!).

This four man detachment provides an essential service to the UN, albeit a small one, perhaps better known as 'niner-eight' this radio rebroadcast station provides the means for all-island VHF and Motorola communications. Second in height only to Mt Olympus, Troodos provides an adequate vantage point from which to relay Motorola communicatoins to the west side of the island and VHF communications to Sectors five and six.

At present, the detachment consists of three Canadian and one British radio operators selected from Radio Tp, 254 Sig Sqn; the



Cpl Tim Bruce checks Troodos Detachment Standby Power

detachment commander **MCpl (Killar) McKellar** (he gets his nickname for his prowess as a cook), and detachment members **Cpl Bruce, Tpr Mason** and **LCpl Donoghue**. These soldiers will spend four to six weeks with the detachment and will then be rotated in order to give other Troop members the experience (pleasure?) of detachment living.

Since the net must be monitored at all times, all detachment members do a 24 hour duty during which they are also required to carry out battery maintenance, test the auxiliary power supply to the detachment, maintain the log book and last but not least do all the cooking and washing up. When not on duty the others manage to keep busy by improving the accommodation, doing twice weekly resupply runs to Nicosia, skiing, running, weight training, watching videos . . . suffice it to say that no one has yet complained of boredom.

Manning the rebroadcast detachment is a unique opportunity for both Canadian and British soldiers serving with the Squadron. Those who have spent some of their leave in Troodos making good use of the facilities available will attest to this fact.

SPORTING SCENE

The Squadron were very busy on the sporting scene during 1986 and have 'flown the flag' at every United Nations sporting event, and then some! A brief resumé follows:

CO'S REGIMENTAL SHIELD

The CO's Regimental Shield competition encompasses five different events every three months. The Squadron had a fine record in the 1986 competition, winning twice outright, and finishing joint winners once.

The events in the latest round of competition were:

CROSS COUNTRY

The Squadron team won this event, with **WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton** finishing well as second veteran, and **Cpl Ray Taylor** a very creditable third overall.

ORIENTEERING

We were beaten into third place by a very strong RCT team and combined efforts of the AAC Flt/RAOC Team.

SHOOTING

The SSM again led the Squadron team to an overwhelming victory on the Dhekelia Ranges.

SLR Team: **WO2 (SSM) Whitton, Sgt Bolke, LCpls Leyson, Holdcroft**
SMG Team: **SSgt Clark-Darby, LCpl Bullivant, Sig Hoyt**
Pistol: **Maj Rutherford, Lt Drummond**

Lt Drummond winner 1986 receives the Shield from the CO.

Left to Right—Back Row: SSM Angus Whitton—2nd Veteran, Sig Sam Samuelson, Tony Speight, Sgt Derek Bright, Cpls Jed Astell, Spence Willson, Chaz Chesters, Sigs Brummie Taylor, Rick Carley, Johno Johnson
Left to Right—Front Row: Sgt John Woolley, Cpl Ray Taylor—3rd, Sgt Mick Scott, LCpl Steve Holdcroft, Sig Craig Bird, LCpl 'Blacky' Black—8th

HOCKEY

Captained by **WO1 (YofS) Bob Waller** the Squadron won the competition beating UN Flt AAC in the final.

FOOTBALL

We were again beaten into third place, this time by Regimental HQ. Special mention must be made of our top goal scorers during the course of the competition namely **LCpls Bri Vaughan** and **Steve Holdcroft.**

SQUASH

WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie led the Squadron team to a fine win, marking his return to the game, and having a tooth knocked out in the process.

Seeds were: **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie** (1), **Cpl Chalkie Meek** (2), **SSM** (3), **Lt Drummond** (4), **LCpl Steve Holdcroft** (5).

TEN PIN BOWLING

The Squadron has a good tradition in Ten Pin Bowling, both locally and throughout Cyprus, with many Squadron personnel representing

UN teams at all levels. In particular, **Sgt Norman Riach** has represented the Army (Cyprus) for the last three years, culminating in a very fine second place in the 1986 interservice individual championships against RAF (Cyprus), when he recorded a personal best of 247.

STOP PRESS

We have just been informed that **Sgt Norman Riach** has been awarded his Army Colours for Ten Pin Bowling. Congratulations and well done.

Left to Right: Maj Rutherford, Sgt Riach, Lt Col Pyman

HOCKEY

The Squadron was responsible for the revival of hockey within the UN this season. Hockey had not been played seriously for two years in Nicosia, however, after an inter HQ UNFICYP competition organised by the YofS, and won by the Squadron, a UN team entered in the Western Sovereign Base Area league. The team captained by **WO1 (YofS) Bob Waller** and including other Squadron members, **Cpls 'Chalky' Meek, Tim Babbage, LCpls Greg Sharp, 'Jed' Nash, Sig Ivor Jones** took the honours in the first Division in their first season.

These sports notes would not be complete without mention of the annual sporting and social event:

The 1987 UN Support Regiment Bedrace took place on 1 January 1987 at Jubilee Camp within the United Nations Protected Area, Nicosia. The teams lined up to do battle after a heavy night of New Year's Eve celebrations. UN Workshops with their Black Deb 1 racing bed looked real favourites as they sped off to an early lead, followed closely by 254 thugs. At the end of lap two of the three lap race UN Wksps were still ahead as they tried to negotiate the workman's trench. **Sig Ashy Ashfield** drove an outstanding race and coolly steered around the side of the trench and into the lead. UN Wksps tried to drive through it only to find that their front axle could not take the strain. UN Wksps were out and 254 'thugs' cruised in with a 100m lead to finish 'Champions 1987'.

Left to Right: Sig Seth Armstrong, LCpl Kev Piper, Cpl Ray Taylor, LCpl Steve Holdcroft, Sig Kev Ashfield (Driver)
Centre Background: Capt Charlie Manning (2IC) and Anne Manning (IC of 2IC)

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

OC	**Maj D. McConnell**
2IC	**Capt P. Cain**
QM/OC HQ Tp	**Capt (QM) A. G. Morgan**
TOT/OC Episkopi Tp	**Capt (TOT) W. Lawson**
OC Airfield Tp	**Capt E. L. Budworth**

CHANGES AT THE TOP

November saw the arrival of **Capt Peter Cain** to take over as 2IC from **Capt Les Budworth** who moves across to Akrotiri as OC Airfield Troop.

In December we said farewell to our OC, **Maj Martyn Reid** who leaves us on posting to MOD. We wish him and his wife **Jan** bon voyage and hope they enjoy their stay in London. We welcome **Maj Danny McConnell** and his wife **Elizabeth** and hope that they enjoy their tour with the Squadron. Other recent changes in personalities were:

Handover—Maj Reid, Maj McConnell

DEPARTURES

WO2 (FofS) Roy Wilson, Cpl Dave Rickard, SSgt Des Faherty, LCpls Pete Grunnill, Lee Kerridge, Cpl Phil Pett, Sgts Lee Searle, Andy Suttie, Bob Lond.

ARRIVALS

Cpl Dave Amos, WO2 (FofS) George Blythe, Sigs Bob Johnson, Mick Lawlor, SSgt Paddy Mullen, Cpls Eddie Pluskota, Endaxi Rae, Sgt Glenn Renshaw.

BATTLE CAMP '86—THE AKAMAS HILTON
A Brief Resume by LCpl Cascarino

Well it was that time of year again—time to prove to the hierarchy that we really are soldiers as well as tradesmen.

Off trundled the Airfield Troop 'crew' bubbling over with enthusiasm and looking forward to a brief respite from the harsh regime of **FofS 'Biggles' Wilson** and his henchmen (only to find half of them playing DS for the week) and a welcome rest from the boys at RAF Akrotiri.

The week started well with a jolly 12 mile ride (it seemed like 20) through real Indian country in a delapidated four tonner which should

Battle Camp

have been cast months ago! End of the line found us at that palatial picnic area Invicta Camp; a real home from home! Everybody arriving keen and eager to get stuck into some real soldiering (did I really write that!?) The first part of the week consisted of numerous training periods aimed at honing us to a razor's edge for the final holiday, sorry, exercise phase at the end of the week.

Some new talent showed its head early on—**SSM 'Dirty-Harry' Willoughby** showing us all how to 'waste' the enemy with the 9mm pistol—keep trying sir—some day you will pass the APWT. There's no truth in the rumour that the reds have been issued KEO bottles to wear around their necks when storming the beaches! A mention must be given to **Cpl George 'De Mango Man' Henry**—light duties might get you off soldiering but it doesn't stop you doing pan bash for a week!

After much trial and tribulation we were passed fit to undertake a nice pleasant stroll around the gentle slopes of Akamas for a couple of days, with a few stands thrown in, on the way.

Congratulations to the Sergeant whose skill with the DS map and compass added several miles to the 'tab'; to the Signalman who complained of sore feet, to the Staff Sergeant for his enjoyable lecture . . . enough! We are all ready to go again next year.

CHARITY PRESENTATION

On Friday 17 October **Cpl Phil Pett** handed **Lt Col Kimber,** Comd Comms HQLF Cyprus a cheque for £1500. This represents part of £4000 raised by sponsorship of 'Mercury's Challenge'—a historic wind surf around the coast of Cyprus from Pahyammos, North of Polis to Protaras near Famagusta which was reported in the January issue.

Cpl Phil Pett was one of three board sailors who undertook the 'Challenge' the others being **Cpl Andy Elliott** of Episkopi Tp and **Flt Lt Chris Jackson** of 12 SU RAF.

The balance of £2500 was donated in August to the Theotokos Institute for physically and mentally handicapped children in Limassol.

The photograph shows **Cpl Phil Pett** handing over the cheque to **Lt Col Kimber** who accepted the donation on behalf of the Colonel-in-Chief **HRH The Princess Anne** President of Save the Children Fund.

Cpl Phil Pett handing over the cheque to Lt Col Kimber

A MERCURIAL MILESTONE

17 November 1986 was the deadline. The Jimmy Club was to be ready for the grand opening, or heads, confidentials or even careers, would roll. What, dear reader you may ask, was so difficult about that. Well, let me enlighten you. We had been left, compliments of **RSM M. Kerr, WO2 B. Cashen** and **Sgt J. Godfrey** a superbly constructed bar, but unfortunately surrounded by a hovel. Our mission was to match the Squadron's previous incumbents' skill and craftmanship, with an interior that would not shame a high class joint.

The Squadron OC felt that this task was so important that Saturday work was necessary, something which had never even been thought about before, let alone implemented, in the history of the Corps in Cyprus. Creeping like pupils unwillingly to school the troops (less a certain SSgt Technician) turned out with unfailing enthusiasm and got stuck into the task.

Some trusty souls were excused annual Battle Camp (Yipee) and working from seven in the morning 'til half past four, with a hour for lunch completed this herculean task. Technicians learnt that manual labour was not a Spaniard. Telemechs learnt that not all ills are cured with a hammer and RTG's that they really are clever. **Sgt Bob Lond** discovered that painting skirting boards not always gives the required result, as did **Cpl Simon Witwicki** who painted the door frames. **Sgt Jim Baird** was taken off **Cpl Brian Price's** Christmas card list when he wired him to the mains.

However, came the big day and not only was the club ready, but finished to perfection. **Lt Col Kimber** did us the honour of reopening the Squadron's watering hole. Carlsberg brewery supplied two free barrels of beer to ensure a good time was had by all, and pats on the back were received all round.

Special mention must be made of the following. **Sgt Steve Owen** (Plumbing and Floors). The RTGs (anything and everything to perfection), **Sgt Paul Stevenson** and his gang (walls and beautyboard), **SSgt Nick Round** (furniture), **Sig Ian Harper** (upholstery), **Sgt Jim Baird** (lighting), **SSgt Des Faherty** (woodwork), **SSgt Sandy Sanderson** (procurement officer) and others too numerous to mention.

Comd Comms, HQLFC, Lt Col A. T. B. Kimber cuts the tape to re-open the Squadron Jimmy Club

RUGBY

The last time we wrote we mentioned that we were losing some of our better players at the end of a highly successful season, and were keeping our fingers crossed for able replacements.

Thankfully, prayers were answered with the likes of **Cpl Dave Amos, Sgt Taff Preston, SSgt Billy Allen** and **Lt Morley-Kirk** (for a few games) adding their skills and experience. Newcomers to the sport such as **Cpl Don Rodham, Sig Mick Howard** and **LCpl Cas Cascarine** and with last season's regulars, the team has produced some outstanding results and at the halfway point of the season sit at the top of a very competitive league. We look forward to the New Year with confidence for our league and cup ambitions.

However, we have had to say farewell to another two good players, **LCpl Eddy Blight** who is off to Sandhurst; good luck and best wishes from all of us **Eddy** and **LCpl Alan Minton** who is off to 21 Sig Regt and will no doubt be an asset to their rugger team.

HQ TROOP
A Report by LCpl McCormick

HELLOES AND GOODBYES

First of all we say hello to **Sig Scott Cain, Ed Roberts, Mick Howard** and **Cpl Dave Welch**; may your tour be a happy one. Sadly, we say goodbye and good luck to **SSgt Des Faherty** off to 21 Sig Regt and **Sgt Lee Searle** off to 6 CTT 17 Trg Regt RA in Woolwich.

QM DEPT

Well after a hectic three months which included Battle Camp, audits and an ARU, the silly season has finally ended. Rumour has it that in between the odd game of golf at which he has been selected to represent the Army, **Capt (QM) Tony Morgan** is settling in. Meanwhile our budding thespian **SSgt (SQMS) 'I work hard' Faherty** can be seen ducking and dodging round the Garrison as he ties up loose ends before departing for Wildenrath. Up at the sharp end **Cpl Dave Thorpe, LCpl Rory 'I've got a bad foot' McCormick** and **Sig Ian 'Want anything from the YM' Harper** struggle to keep the unit operational.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

CYPRUS MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION 86

The sighs of relief were matched only by the groans of 'Why me', as the team was announced for this year's competition.

After a week's training the team travelled down to Episkopi the night before the competition and having sorted out all our kit, it was off to the Jimmy Club to talk tactics.

An early start was needed the next day as we were the second team away. Everyone was a bit nervous as we marched on to the square for the inspection, but once out there this was all forgotten as the inspecting officers ripped our kit apart in an effort to knock points off. This all seemed to go well unit the inspecting officer spotted **Sig Al Ritchie**'s white socks. This obviously made his day and we came joint first in this phase.

The second phase was a practical first aid test with lots of blood, guts and screaming, **Cpl Chris Aslett** was doing the screaming. This went really well until it came to the theory questions and our lack of knowledge on waste disposal in the field let us down.

The next phase was straight-forward TOETs which **WO2 Carter** lapped up. Then it was on to the transport and down to the start of the five mile run. This lived up to all our expectations and brought the memories flooding back for **Sgt Pete Lowe** and **Sgt 'Ades The Shades' Broadbank** who were lucky enough to be doing this for the second year.

With the run completed and after another inspection, it was onto the final phase of the shoot, which, once **Sig Mel McCorry** decided he'd shot enough of everyone else's targets, went well.

With this done we could relax and wait for the other teams to finish. As the results came in it soon became clear that we had done better than we thought but everyone was over the moon at our overall second position.

Other team members not previously mentioned were **Sgts Phil Tait** and **Brian Rogers** and **Cpl 'I don't believe I've got to polish my boots for the presentation', Morgan**.

ARU INSPECTION BY CLFC, BRIG A. D. MYRTLE, CBE ADC

Wednesday 19 November dawned bright and sunny, as it tends to in Cyprus, when the Brigadier came to visit. The day before, the warning order for the Comms test had appeared, amid much groaning and throwing up of hands from **SSgt Les Allen**. 'My box of erks is empty' he cried to retreating backs rushing off to beg, borrow, steal or dust off bits of kit that went out with the dinosaur. However, true to form, Comms Tp got erks and kit together in time and completed their task very successfully.

Except for a few minor mishaps the rest of the day went quite well. **Lt Trudi Sutcliffe** lost a few of her nine lives (has she any left?) on an unexpected visit to her office, but then the ARU took on a more serious note on the visit to the Commcen. Meeting two of the six WRAC we have left manning the 24 hour Commcen, we faced the reality of manpower shortages. After visiting the other departments the Brigadier visited our Bitsa Club for lunch and a chat with the soldiers, and that concluded the ARU.

Brig Myrtle chatting to Cpl Paterson with Yeoman Bill Jackson and the OC, Maj Ian Grieg can be seen on the left

The Brigadier meeting Pte Hawksworth and Cpl Styles, with Sgt Ann McNally introducing them

CPL TRACEY WATSON APPEAL

Cpl Tracey Watson was an RMP Corporal who was tragically paralysed in a car accident whilst on duty. To date the Island-wide appeal has raised £C9,000 (about £S12,000), and 262 Sig Sqn contributed £C1,854 (about £S2,462) to this total. This was due to the combined efforts of **Cpl John Salvesen, YofS Jackson, Sgt Anne McNally, Cpl Katriona Watson** and **Cpl Lorraine Turnbull** who organised a sponsored 24 hour disco and a giant raffle with over a hundred prizes. Many thanks and congratulations to them for their efforts.

Being presented with the cheque
From L to R: Cpls Watson, Turnbull and Col Corner

The organisers with the cheque of £C1,852.92c.
From Left to Right—Back Row: Sgt Ann McNally, Cpl John Salvesen, Yeoman Bill Jackson
Front Row: Cherry Salvesen, Cpls Katriona Watson and Lorraine Turnbull

266 Sig Sqn
(South Atlantic)
BFPO 666

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj T. P. Mountford**
2IC	**Flt Lt C. Thomson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) T. Jones**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) J. Benson**

There has recently been a complete change of personalities in SHQ with **WO2 (SSM) Trevor Jones** arriving in December to take over from **WO2 (SSM) Taff Williams**. At the top **Maj Pat Maloney** has packed his bags and returned to 21 Sig Regt leaving **Maj Tim Mountford** holding the reins.

WO2 (SSM) Jones has already made his mark by leading the Squadron shooting team to victory in the local competition, Quick-kill.

An apprehensive Maj Tim Mountford takes over the Squadron from a happy Maj Pat Maloney. WO2 (SSM) Trevor Jones verifies the signature

COMMCEN TROOP

The Troop is in a period of intense activity as preparations are made for the move to Mount Pleasant. The Commcen finally ceased operations in the middle of January but prior to that three members of each shift moved to the Joint Communication Unit to boost manning levels there. The remainder of the Troop, less a few brave souls who remain to form a clean-up party, moved at the end of January.

The move brings about a vast improvement in living and working conditions. No more shaking and leaking portakabins or cramped three to four to a cabin living on the Coastel and no more bumpy freezing rides to and from the Commcen in the back of a four-ton Bedford.

As always in a unit with short tour personnel the turnover has been rapid, with seemingly little time to say Hello before it is Goodbye, so it would be unfair to single out anyone by name. Needless to say everyone here has worked and played hard and thanks must go to all, be they Royal Signals, RN or RAF. Everyone will leave with some unforgettable memories of the Falklands, be they good or bad.

RADIO TROOP

This has been a traumatic month for Radio Troop. Due to the Change of Command from Port Stanley to Mount Pleasant Complex, the Radio room in Port Stanley is no more. It was with tears in our eyes that we closed down, turned the sets off, dropped the masts and pulled in the co-ax. **Cpl 'Rev' Bolam** says that they were tears of joy!

Now the Troop is sadly depleted, with half our number in MPA and the remainder in Port Stanley. Those in MPA have had to cope with Life in the 'Death Star' whilst the Stanley Detachment has been busy in the Troop Stores. Life goes on on the Rebro's and in South Georgia, and we hope to show the different and varied aspects of life in Radio Troop.

RADIO TROOP (PORT STANLEY DETACHMENT)

Lt Kit 'Vapour Trail' Lewis
Cpl Rev 'Home Brew' Bolam
LCpl Taff 'Funnell' Skey
LCpl Dave 'Proff-it' Lynham
LCpl 'Spook' McDonald
Sig Mac 'Kowalski' McKensie
LCpl Ian 'Screaming Skull' Stringer
LCpl Andy 'Throbbo' Dobson
Sig Den 'Bodge it' Wakefield
Sig Reg 'Shorting-Strap' Vernell
Sig Stu 'Bluff-It' Metcalfe
Sig Andy 'Karate Kid' Poole

As the Squadron has now moved up to MPA and settled in to their 'cushy' new environment, those of us remaining in Stanley were rounded up and, under the guidance of the head Sheriff **Lt 'Down-blast' Lewis** we were all sworn in as Deputy 'Normans' (ie **Norman the Storeman**).

Our first task was to refit the Tac HQ Rover Group and take it up to MPA for inspection. No problem, I hear you say. Well there were a 'few' problems as this was the first time that all the Rovers had been equipped for some time. After much searching, scrounging and 'proffing' we managed to have a fairly presentable collection of vehicles to show off. That it was achieved in two and a half days speaks volumes for the amount of hard work it entailed. But, no task is too big for the men of MFFI (Mojo Forces Falkland Islands)!!

At the moment, in between volleyball, sunbathing (really!) and sleeping, we are attempting to effect a 100% stores check and discovering the skeletons in the cupboard left by those who came before us. Cheers Lads.

Once we are done, we hope that we shall be 'Argied' ie sent home early, that is if we are good and the OC Squadron says so! Just remember the MFFI motto: 'The answer to life is Masking Tape'.

RADIO HUT MOUNT PLEASANT

Report by Cpl 'Kenny' Kendrick

PERSONALITIES

SSgt Tony Hancock
Sgt Ken Turley (our very own Tech)
Cpl Kenny Kendrick
LCpl Jim Toms
LCpl Terry Walton
LCpl 'Kowalski' Parkes
Sig Cookie Cooke
Sig 'Roy' Goddard
Sig Dave Rooney
Sig Taff Andrews

We made the move to MPA on 9 January to take up our new role as Bravo Troop JCUFI. This also meant taking over our new accommodation. Two man rooms. Nice. It also meant taking over the brand new 'JOC Radio Hut'. After removing the posh sign 'You are no longer 266 Sig Sqn' we ventured inside. Cor!

It's certainly different from the faithful old portacabin we had in Stanley. At least in this place we can swing a cat, each.

The working conditions are 100% better than we were accustomed to in Stanley. Now we've got more room, more light and better facilities, such as running water, a toilet and rest room. We also operate using a new antenna field, but instead of running up the hill in the rain to change antennas, it is all done by an internal patch panel. (Sighs of joy from the Siggie on shift!)

The change of command from the Stanley Radio room to MPA went quite well except for one light hitch. **Mr Lewis** reported someone coming up on the Command net using his callsign. Sorry Sir, we recognised your voice and bubbled you anyway! Other than that, everything has gone as planned and on time. Now that the initial teething problems have been sorted out, things are moving smoothly.

In the words of our intrepid Staffy, 'It's good here innit?'. (Please send this man home, he's been in the sun too long.)

Yes Staff, it is good now, but (M&RO please note) I don't want to come back in a few years and see how things are going. Thanks anyway.

RADIO TROOP DETACHMENTS

Despite all the 'excitement' surrounding the move to MPA, there are some members of the Squadron who remain blissfully unaffected by the upheaval. Namely the isolated detachments on Campito and Mt Adam. These are by far the most popular jobs in the Troop and allow crew members to pass the time growing hair, learning to cook and writing poetry.

CAMPITO DETACHMENT

THE LADS PRAYER
(Ode to the Great God Wokka Wokka)

O WOKKA WOKKA, who art in Chindet,
Bravo be thy Callsign.
Our turn will come, our tour be done,
At Campito as it is at MPA.
Bring us this day our long lost mail,
And forgive us all our whingeing,
As we forgive those who whinge against us.
Deliver us from Campito, for you have the Choppers,
Forever and ever . . . AMEN.

From the Lads on Campito.

Campito Detachment awaiting the return of the God Wokka Wokka

MT ADAM DETACHMENT

Cpl Bob Florence
Cpl Dave Wilson
LCpl Baz Plumpton
Sig 'I was going to do it' Bell

The OC Troop **Lt Lewis** arrived on 23 December for a Christmas visit. **Sig Bell**, being the new boy on the Detachment, underestimated the power of the Falklands wind when added to the downdraught from a Chinook. The results was that **Bell** goes 'Ding-Dong' and after taking off was smashed to the rocky ground of Adam. He compounded the error by letting go of the Christmas mail which disappeared over the edge. OC Troop carried out emergency first aid (plunged his fingers into **Sig Bell**'s mouth searching for rocks, teeth, tongue etc) whilst **Cpl Florence** stood by screaming abuse at the unconscious Signalman for letting the mail go.

On 24 December Commander BFFI arrived and looked puzzled by **Sig Bell**'s appearance. 'Why does he look as if he has just gone 10 rounds with Frank Bruno?'.

We all sat down to dinner on Christmas day. It had been thrown together by **Cpl Dave Wilson** and consisted of half a turkey, a quarter of a Christmas cake and a bottle of wine donated by the OC Troop and one or two 'Greens' . . .

On 8 January old and new SSM's came a visiting. Both were horrified by our haircuts. We told them that **Staff Hancock** sorts them all out. Ha Ha!

On 14 January the Secretary of State joined the massed ranks of VIP's and MP's who have attempted to visit Mt Adam but have been defeated by the weather, time, availability of flights etc etc. Better luck next time sir.

FITS SECTION

In common with most new jobs, one of the most difficult tasks is learning the unfamiliar abbreviations and initials. The Falklands being a tri-service theatre is more fraught with pitfalls than most, so in order to assist future personnel posted down south, here is a list of some serious and not so serious FIRUA (Falkland Islands Really Useful Acronyms).

FNG	Falkland New Guy. The poor unfortunate who has longer to serve than any other.
FOG	Falkland Old Guy. Lucky swine.
To Get BENNIED	To have your flight home delayed or cancelled.
To Get ARGIED	To go home early.
REMSDAQ	A random fiction generator used by SYSCON to mess the FITS techs about.
WOKKA	Chinook Helicopter.
ERIC	Sikorski Helictoper.
TWA	Teeny Weeny Airways. Army Air Corps.
GOZOME BIRD	Tri Star Aircraft. Outbound.
BIMBLE	A self organised local sightseeing trip.
MINJO	Men In Need Of Jolly Outings. An organised trip to one of the local islands.
BLUEY	A Forces Aerogram. Freepost.
BENNYBOP	A local dance.
FIRUGWEB	Falkland Island Really Useful Green Waterproof Equipment Box.
GOZOME BOX	A parcel weighing up to 25kg which can be sent by airmail to and from UK for £4.60.
DOLPHIN	A female who isn't wearing wool or feathers.
NELLIE	The FITS Maint team Land Rover.
FISH	False Indication Shown Here.
To Get Crated	Payment of a fine in beer.
Reds, Greens Yellows etc	Various brands of tinned beer.

POWER SECTION

Early in December, Power Section were firmly established in Mount Pleasant complex after a hectic move from Stanley. We are responsible for the FITS generators scattered throughout the islands and if a generator breaks down one of the powermen is 'choppered' out to the site for repairs. The 'Task Force' daring to go where no man has gone before consists of **LCpls Gaz Pickford, Hugh Potter** and **Baz Plumpton** and **Sig Phil Humphreys**. **Sgt Brian Clark** and **Cpl Paul Perrott** are the pen-pushers who sit behind a desk to organise it all! Two of the sites are permanently manned by **LCpl Jim McIntosh** and **Sig Shaun Stanton** who are well out of sight of the SSM. Farewell to **LCpl Willy Williams**, penguin maker for the Squadron and welcome to our new arrival **LCpl 'Baggy' Bagshaw** on his second tour.

QM DEPT

Once again it is time to put pen to paper (doesn't time fly down here). We are going through a busy period with the organisation and backloading of stores ready for the eventual change over of the Squadron to the Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands (JCUFI). The QM, **Capt Bob Sheldon** has been left in charge of personnel left in Stanley. This he has done very well, in between his tight schedule of fishing, motor-bike scrambling and his many trips to the islands.

QM Dept enjoying Christmas Day—Cpl Geordie Wynn, SSgt Taff Yates, Sigs Chris Palmer and Iain Dunsworth

Besides all this, he managed to organise a departmental trip to a local settlement but was unfortunately taken ill on the first morning. All is now well but as he had been nominated Duty Housewife for the weekend, **SSgts 'Taff' Thomas** and **'Taff' Yates** had to stand in—the rumours that these two are thinking of joining the Catering Corps are untrue.

On the sports side, **SSgt 'Taff' Thomas, Cpl Steve Graham, LCpl Barney Campbell** and **Sig 'Dunks' Dunkworth** have represented the Squadron in the Falklands Cup—unfortunately as we go to press, the Squadron has been knocked out. Another notable achievement is **Sig Chris Palmer's** world ranking as most promising Egyptian PT expert. One cannot forget the Departmental Fishing Squad; during one night's fishing, **SSgt Taff Yates** and **Cpl Geordie Wynn** caught 86 mullet between them—QM please take note.

Over the past two months, we have said goodbye to **SSgt Dave Taylor, Cpl Geordie Wynn** and **Sig 'H' Henry** and welcomed in their places **SSgt Taff Thomas, Cpl Steve Graham** and **Sig 'Dunks' Dunkworth**. As the changeover is quite frequent, the department will have to say goodbye to the following; **Capt (QM) Bob Sheldon, SSgt Taff Yates, LCpl Barney Campbell** and **Sig Chris Palmer**—all the best and think of us when you are enjoying yourselves.

LINE TROOP

The 'move' has affected Line Troop as much as everyone else. Most of the Squadron have moved to Mount Pleasant but we are left in Stanley to clear up. No-one was willing to let on when they were going or to where—the truth was no-one knew so they thought of a date, added their age and that became the 'move' date. There has been a lot of work done towards the 'move' and, as people leave for Mt Pleasant, our work will carry on, clearing up the debris.

Most of the time, the Troop has been taking in cable but we have managed to lay some out as well. **Cpls Colin Keil** and **Bob Davis** ensured the sunbathing party was correctly organised and the rest of the Troop laid the cables. After taking the Troop stores from **LCpl Andy Blackledge, LCpl Clive Smith** has spent all his time backloading stores so he doesn't have to count too much—well he is a para!

As normal the turnover rate is high and we've sent back **Cpl Andy Bain** and **LCpls 'Baz' Bazzard, Nick Foster**, and **'Taff' Jones**. Falklands New Guys include both men at the top (!), **Lt Richard Butlin** has been replaced by **Lt Jim Wood** and **Sgt Dave Campbell** has taken over from **Sgt John Godfrey**. Other FNGs include **LCpl 'BJ' Forbes-Wilson**, and **Sig Les Bloor** and **'Dixie' Dixon**.

FOOTBALL

Obviously the sports facilities are a bit restricted on the Islands but members of the Squadron make the best of what is available. In the middle of January, a team was entered in the Stanley Knockout Football competition. 'The' football pitch is built on the side of a hill and it looks as though the bomb craters still haven't filled in. The first match was against RAF Supplies Flight and produced a nail-biting finish. **Cpl Steve Graham** opened the scoring with a fine shot in the first half and in the second half **Sig Iain Dunsworth** made it 3—0 with two well taken goals, after some fine coaching by **Cpl Bob Davis**. The RAF then scored three times in the last 15 minutes (it wasn't a penalty Ref) and left it to **LCpl Clive Smith** to score the decider from 30 yards.

In the next round, the rain was more horizontal than the pitch and the ground was turned into a skating rink. The other side had more pairs of boots than us and although we'd have won the All-Island Individual Skating Championships, we were knocked out—better luck next year.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Squadron has a very strong team in the local cross-country league, regularly winning the team events. Special mention must be made of our Light Blue member of the team, **SAC Steve Marzillius** who regularly leads the field. In the last league event, we had four home in the first 10 places. A team **Cpl Andy Bain** and **LCpl Clive Smith** won the last relay event of 1986, a 4 × 3 mile race run by HQ BFFI.

PRINTS AVAILABLE FROM THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM SHOP

All are limited editions:- 100 Copies signed by the Artist
200 Unsigned copies

Title and Artist	*Brief Description*	*Approx Size*	*Cost*
'Go to it' by **Peter Archer**	Depicts **Cpl Thomas** action at Caen Canal Bridge June 1944 for which he was awarded the MM.	21ins by 17ins	£8.00 Unsigned Copy only
'Frontier ambush' by **Peter Archer**	Ambush of a Signals Detachment by NW Frontier Tribesmen August 1924. **Sgt Cook** and **Sig Punter** shown attending wounded Indian Signaller and returning fire.	30ins by 26ins	£16.00 Signed Copy £10.00 Unsigned Copy
'San Carlos Water'	Depicts elements of 30 Sig Regt landing at San Carlos. (This Painting is the property of 30 Sig Regt—the Museum acts as their Agent.)	26ins by 21ins	£3.00 Unsigned Copy

81 Sig Sqn (V)
Middlesbrough

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. P. Watson TD**
2IC	**Capt B. Harrison TD**
TOT	**Maj J. W. Roberts TD**
OC 856 Tp	**Capt N. G Parkes**
OC 857 Tp	**Capt L. P. Hinson**
OC Inst Tp	**Capt W. G. Lane**
OC RR Tp	**Capt J. E. Mainwaring-Taylor TD**
OC STARRNET Tp	**Capt R. A. McConnell TD**
SSM	**WO2 J. Roger**
PSAO	**Lt Col (Retd) J. J. Elliott MBE**

SCARBOROUGH 1986

Once again, the Squadron gathered at Scarborough in April for its four day out-of-camp training weekend, when members of the Squadron cast off their British Telecom mantle and become members of 81 again. This is currently the only opportunity for the whole Squadron to get together, so a great deal of activity, military and social, is packed into the 72 hours or so spent at the Signal Training Centre.

The Squadron welcomed Comd 12 Bde, **Brig Tom Wheawell**, and the Honorary Colonel, **Lt Col Peter Dixon**, and said farewell to the retiring SSM, **WO2 Geoff Humble**.

VISITS TO BAOR

In May, **Lt Bob Manifold** took the first party consisting of 856 (Airfield) Tp to Germany. Detachments were located at RAF Bruggen and RAF Laarbruch, working with H and L Airfield Tps of 3 Sqn 21 Sig Regt. A brief report and photograph appeared in the September 1986 edition of *The Wire*.

In June, **Capt Paul Hinson** and 31 members of 857 (Airfield) TP went to Germany in support of K and N Tps of 3 Sqn 21 Sig Regt at RAF Wildenrath and RAF Gutersloh. In addition, **FofS Charlie Jeffrey** was attached to the Airfield Communication Planning Office, where he was able to assist in planning future tasks for 81's visit to Germany.

During the final visit, the remaining four Troops arrived and departed one after another so that the Squadron was in Germany over a period of four weeks. In mid-October **Capt Bill Lane** and **Lt Alan Spencer** arrived with Installation Tp and spent their two weeks working on the airfields at RAF Bruggen and RAF Wildenrath and on some 4 Sig Gp projects at Rheindahlen. During the middle weekend of their camp, SHQ Tp arrived to spend two weeks co-ordinating work in BAOR and to prepare for the Radio Relay exercise which was to take place the following week. On the middle Friday of their camp, the OC, 2IC and TOT gave a comprehensive briefing on the role, history and capabilities of 81 Sqn to officers and senior NCOs of 21 Sig Regt. This proved to be a most useful afternoon, although the TOT has been banned from making reference to Scottish ladies ever again!

As **Capt Bill Lane** and Installation Tp departed for home, **Capt John Mainwaring-Taylor** with Radio Relay Tp and **Capt Rod McConnell** with STARRNET Tp arrived to take part in Ex *Autumn Flash*. Before departing for exercise locations Comd 12 Bde, **Brig Tom Wheawell** arrived to meet members of the Squadron going on exercise. However, a slight mishap with a trailer load of German cauliflowers delayed things a bit and resulted in cauliflower on the menu at many garrisons and exercise locations in BAOR! The exercise itself involved joint operations with the German army with their systems, and it was particularly pleasing that the ability of Germans to speak English and some of our people to speak German enabled the ticklish business of engineering joint circuits to be achieved successfully.

After the exercise, members of STARRNET Tp were able to disperse to Celle, Bielefeld and Rheindahlen to carry out static training on the STARRNET system with 4 Sig Gp staff.

REORGANISATION

Towards the end of 1986, it was announced that the Radio Relay Tp will no longer exist in 81 Sqn. The good news is that it and Installation Tp will reform as Airfield Tps, so the Squadron will now have 4 Airfield Tps and the STARRNET Tp.

Brig Wheawell talks to Sgt Dooley about cooking cauliflowers perhaps!

Maj (TOT) John Roberts who retires from 81 Sqn this year

Hon Col Lt Col Peter Dixon, ERD who also finishes his tour as Honorary Colonel this year

633 Sig Tp
BFPO 12

It has been a particularly busy period for the Troop since our last article in *The Wire*. As reported briefly in the November *Wire* the Troop deployed Detachments to assist in a disaster relief operation, in San Salvador following a major earthquake. Ex *Mopan Shield* was held in January and involved all members of the Troop, and our sporting prowess continues (much to the amazement of the rest of British Forces Belize) and there has been the usual rapid turnover the manpower.

THE DETACHMENT

OC	**Lt Phil Davies**
Foreman	**WO2 (FofS) Colin Turner**
Tele Mechs	**Cpl Matt Helm**
	Cpl Kenny Collins
	LCpl Scouse Bradley
	Sig Jog Crockart
Rear Link Detachment	**Sgt Bill Stack**
	Sgt Graham Reynolds
	LCpl John Henry
	Cpl Gus Palmer in Honduras

EXERCISE *MOPAN SHIELD*

This bi-annual exercise saw the reinforcement of the Belize Garrison by a Company of Gurkhas and elements of 30 Sig Regt. The exercise in the south of Belize was preceded by a defence exercise in Airport Camp—Ex *Toucan Blade*. The Troop provided a platoon to defend the perimeter of Airport Camp and, led by the OC and Troop Staff Sergeant **Dave Kenll**, defended the Transmitter Site against all-comers. **Sgt Larkin** and **Sgt McGaugney** manned the 'Alamo' and **Cpl Russ Russell** and **LCpl Mo McAllister** entertained the 'Maginot Line'. On Endex the Troop was hastily re-organised and the Force Signals Officer, **Capt 'Lenny the Lion' James** led the Radio Section (and most of the Commcen Workers) to Rideau for Ex *Mayan Sword*. The second phase of *Mopan Shield*. The developments are best described by **Sig Jo Mowbray**.

AND SO IT CAME TO PASS

The small host dist arrive at the place known unto them as 'Rideau Camp' and had journeyed long through the wilderness and had encountered the devil in their wanderings. He held them in his evil grip and didst say unto them 'turn my way and head for Dangriga for it is surely a ton's better place than Rideau'. So the pilgrims did turn from him and drive off (after unditching the wagon) and the devil taunted them and bashed up the trailer a bit and strewed their offerings of benz all over the road whence unto them arrived a heavenly host of four tonners bearing angels who didst help them.

At Rideau they didst look unto the lord (the FSO) and saith unto him 'pray thee FSO what wouldst thou havest us do with our kit?' and the FSO didst say unto them 'Ye have travelled far but just before ye beddeth down and rest (or eateth for that matter) cometh with me and set up a few nets' and he gavest unto them a CEI and lots of info and they dist set up Exconeth, Maritime Rear Link, umpire command (which later fell by the way), enemy command, toilet command, floor sweeping command, cookhouse command, BBC1, ITV, Radio Tyne Tees, CBN News, RSPCA and one on the roof, just in case).

After this the disciples heard of many more pilgrims who were coming from the temple of Blandford to help them in their work. But they didst refuse help and said unto FSO 'It's OK, let them stay in Washington a bit longer, we can cope—honest' and the leader of the one eyes, said unto the others, youse lads are all right now, to be sure so I'll just pop off to the mess for a few beers' (the leprechaun himself—**Sgt McGaughey**). So cameth the time of Endex and had '30 Sigs' finally arrived and they didst moan about the heat and asked why they hadst three days only R and R. The time was nigh for grabbing places on the Pumas back to APC and only the most exalted ones didst get a seat (including myself) and jeer at the lowly ones who fought over the last compo choccy bar and didst handeth over the net sharpish to Rideau Commcen and moved out with great haste before the backlog was pointed out unto them. Once more did they make the great journey back to camp and didst charge past the RAF rover that was not doing a very good job of walking on the water. Thus did the happy host all get back and rejoice in the Sunspot Club.

RUGBY SEVENS

Report by LCpl Heap

On New Year's Eve, the majority of Airport Camp watched in shock, disbelief and a certain amount of exasperation as 633 Sig Tp, not only won, but won quite convincingly the British Forces Belize Rugby Sevens tournament.

Ably supported by the rest of the Troop, the side passed, tackled, side-stepped and generally out manoeuvred its way through 78 Ord Coy, Royal Air Force Belize (unsuccessfully aided by two members of the Royal Marines, and the Royal Military Police).

In the final the Royal Engineers had us worried at half time (with the score at 10—9) until **Cpl Mark Russell** decided it was time to let the 'demon' in him come out. He then scored three tries within a matter of minutes which shattered the defences and morale of the Sappers. **Sgt Nick Hartley** converted all three to win the match by 28 to 9. Other members of the team included the OC, **Lt Phil Davies** who convinced opponents that it doesn't hurt when you are tackled correctly and **LCpl Keith Graham** who played a number of superb games at scrum half and well earned the nickname 'The Eel'.

Modesty forbids me to mention the name of the person who shocked the crowd into silence with a 50 yard sprint through five members of the opposing side to score a spectacular try, but **SSgt Pete Watson** was heard to say 'Next time he does a BFT I'm putting a rugby ball in his hands'.

After receiving the winner's plaque, we all gathered in the Sunspot Club for the 'third half' and to bring in the New Year. Special thanks go to **Lt Paul Pople** (Watchkeeper) who provided a quite passable Moet Chandon with which to celebrate, and of course to all members of the Troop, who supported the side and made a special day that much more so

The scores were as follows:

78 Ord Coy	43—0
Royal Air Force	28—0
Royal Military Police	28—0
Royal Engineers (Final)	28—9

640 Sig Tp (EW)
Blandford

We are now into the second month of 1987 and the Unit has returned to a high level of activity. Throughout January trials were conducted on two new vehicles housing yet more new electronic equipment. Most of the Troop were involved in the three phases of the exercise and, owing to the adverse weather conditions, were in a position to acclimatise sufficiently for the forthcoming winter deployment, to Norway, in March.

Throughout February there has been a requirement to confirm Military and Trade standards involving the completion of mandatory tests. There has also been a continuance of the Trials and, finally, full preparations for the Norway deployment.

Congratulations are now extended to **Sgt** and **Mrs Sam Street** on the birth, in February, of their daughter **Sarah Elizabeth**.

We also congratulate **LCpls Paddy Doran** and **'Blue' Nicholson** on their promotion and we welcome **Sgt Dave Willis** (on promotion), **Cpls Roberts** and **Finch, LCpls Costello** and **Gemmell** and **Sig Wilson** to the unit. Hope your tour with the Troop is enjoyable. Farewell and Good Luck to **Sgt Danny Glover RM, Cpl (now Sgt) Chris Moye** and **LCpl** and **Mrs Mark Gibson** (to Civvy Street).

Finally we also welcome the arrival of our Troop plaque. We will publish a photograph with our next contribution and anyone interested in receiving either a plaque or photograph of it should contact the Troop.

642 Sig Tp
BFPO 52

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj (TOT) Brian Meachin**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) Jim Hanifin**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Dave Meakin**
Tech	**Sgt Ian Hunt**
Tech	**Sgt Paul Leighton**
Tech	**Sgt Keith Mardling**
Maint/Projects Sgt	**Sgt Tony Crampton**
Records Sgt	**Sgt John Marsden**
Telemech	**Cpl Dave Wyldes**
Telemech	**Cpl Craig Wrath**
Telemech	**Cpl Bob Hindle**
Telemech	**Cpl Vince Castro**

Since we last featured in *The Wire*, the Troop has had a complete turnover of personnel and moved from Lathbury Barracks (Resident Battalion site) down to the Dockyard area. We are now occupying a new building close to the Telephone Exchange area. Contrary to popular belief, Gibraltar is not all gin and tonics on the Patio (that's only in the summer months!). The Troop's 11 military and 50 odd civilian staff cater for the Army, Navy and RAF needs in providing and maintaining all landline communications links on the Rock, run the SPC Electronic Exchange which serves the 1,800 subscribers and also finds time to provide PA for the numerous ceremonial and social functions which are held each year.

Left to Right—Back Row: Sgt Leighton, Cpls Wrath, Hindle, Sgts Roberts, Crampton, Hunt
Front Row: Sgt Mardling, SSgt (SQMS) Meakin, Maj (TOT) Meachin, WO1 (FofS) Hanifin, Cpl Wyldes, Sgt Marsden

VISIT BY COMMANDER 1 SIG GP

In early November 1986, Comd 1 Sig Gp, **Col C. A. Brown**, accompanied by SO2 G3 1 Sig Gp **Maj Cliff Webb**, paid a visit to the Troop. The Commander met and spoke to all the military personnel at their place of work and most of the civilian staff as well. During his stay, a Troop social was arranged which provided the opportunity for the Commander to meet all the Troop wives.

Col C. A. Brown having an informal talk with the Exchange Technicians

SPORT

The Troop is presently involved in a Minor Units Sports competition which entails competing against other units of the Fortress Headquarters in seven different sports. Although only 11 in number, we manage to field a competitive side and actually managed to win the Tag-Rugby—our hopes are high for the remaining events.

Drinks on the OC after victory in the Tag-Rugby event

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

Recently we have said farewell to **Sgts Dick Taylor** and **John Roberts**, both posted to BAOR. Our best wishes go with them and their families. Newly arrived we have **Sgt Ian Barnes** and **Cpl Vince Castro**—welcome to the Rock.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Changes in the Military telephone system took place on 12 January 1987. As a result RHQ is now obtained via the London District Exchange. The civil telephone number of RHQ is now 01 930 4466 and extension numbers are shown below.

Ext 8240	Regimental Secretary
Ext 8241	Assistant Regimental Secretary
Ext 8242	RHQ Office
Ext 8244	Welfare
Ext 8245	Association
Ext 8246	Editor/Assistant Editor *The Wire*
Ext 8247/8248	Accounts, including all matters relative to *Wire* subscriptions and distribution, change of address etc.

Association News

GUERNSEY BRANCH

Once again Guernsey Branch presents a Royal Signal Weekend in Guernsey, from 24 to 26 April, featuring the Corps Band directed by **Maj Gordon Turner MBE**, Director of Music, Royal Signals. The week-end has two objectives, first to provide an opportunity to welcome in our island home fellow-members of the Association and of the serving Corps who would like to visit us and second to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund from sponsors and from the public.

Please note the important change in the Friday evening programme since the November issue of *The Wire* went to press.

FRIDAY, 24 APRIL

Late-morning march by the Band through St Peter Port followed by 'Workers' Playtime'—a lighthearted entertainment for the lunch-break in the St James concert hall. (Bar service and light refreshments available in the ante-room beforehand). All seats bookable, £1.

Evening function at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre-a filial tribute in honour of the Royal Engineers who, in 1987, celebrate the bicentenary of their becoming Royal. This function is open to all former members and serving members of the Armed Forces of the Crown and their guests. It will embrace the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Army and the Royal Air Force. Our Corps Band will play a prominent part, a meal will be served and there will be some dancing and other events. Full licence facilities. Dress: Lounge Suits. All places bookable, limit 420. Price £6.50.

SATURDAY, 25 APRIL

Late-morning march by the Band in St Sampson's followed by short open-air performance on 'The Bridge'.

Late afternoon—Retreat Ceremony on the Albert Pier, St Peter Port.

Evening—Band Concert in the beautiful setting of the St James Concert Hall. All seats bookable, limit 490. Book early! £4 each (Senior Citizens £3).

SUNDAY, 26 APRIL

The Band will play at Morning Service in the Town Church, St Peter Port.

Evening get-together at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre for members of the Association and the serving Corps together with their guests. Including a meal, varied entertainment by the Dance Band section of the Band, some dancing and a table licence until 2359 hrs but above all the chance to meet old friends. Attendance at this function is included in the price of all Guernsey Travel services inclusive packages. For others, the price is £6.50 per person.

SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

Report by W. L. Grandsome

The President was beaming, the Secretary was harassed, and no wonder, the 'Jimmy' club was packed with members for the February Branch meeting. This marvellous support was due to a ceremony, that has now become traditional at the Scarborough Branch, to express our regard and respect to the departing Commanding Officer from Burniston Barracks. **Lt Col Brian Cleaver** was leaving Scarborough to take up an appointment in Germany. The Branch President **Maj (Retd) Willie Watson** presented a bronze 'Jimmy' on behalf of all the Branch members and thanked **Col Cleaver** for his kind and unstinting support to the membership during the past three years. In his reply to the President, **Col Cleaver** said he was overwhelmed to receive the 'Jimmy' and he thanked all the members for a gift that he would always cherish. He said he was happy to see the Scarborough Branch flourishing, and hoped it would continue to do so. The Vice-Chairman's wife **Mrs Elaine Steer** presented **Mrs Pam Cleaver** with a bouquet of flowers. Now, we look forward to according **Lt Col Tom Cran** a hearty 'RSA' welcome on his appointment to Scarborough. Fraternal greetings to all Association Branches.

Lt Col Brian Cleaver (*Left*) with his successor Lt Col Tom Cran on a pre-appointment tour of Burniston Barracks, Scarborough

— Sport —

BASKETBALL

Standing L to R: Maj (TOT) Terry Everett, Secretary, Col Bill Robins, ACDSOR(LS), President, Sgt Colin Elstob, 22 Sig Regt, J/Sig Andy McGlenaghan, 11 Sig Regt, Cpl Rab Mulholland, 8 Sig Regt, Cpl Jimmy Peat, 7 Sig Regt, LCpl Stu Fell, 4 ADSR, Sgt Kev Moir, 10 Sig Regt, WO2 (FofS) Boby Mahoney, School of Signals, Sgt Joe Pearson, School of Signals, Official, WO2 (SSM) Matty Matthews, AA College, Coach
Sitting L to R: Cpl Taff Chiplin, School of Signals, Sgt Nev Smikle, 16 Sig Regt, Sgt Fred Tedby, AA College, Cpl Eddy Williams, 16 Sig Regt, WO1 (RSM) Pete Sutherland, 30 Sig Regt, Cpl Chalkie Atkins, 30 Sig Regt, SSgt (FofS) Dave Smith, School of Signals

ANNUAL TOUR

Report by Maj (TOT) T. J. Everett
Secretary Corps Basketball

The annual tour took place from 22-30 November 1986. A squad of 17 was assembled including three officials: the Secretary Basketball **Maj (TOT) Terry Everett**, the Corps Basketball Coach **WO2 SSM 'Matty Matthews'** and Grade 2 floor official **Sgt Joe Pearson**.

Training started as planned first thing on Saturday 22nd, with good sessions in the morning and afternoon to sort out situation plays and get the squad working as a team.

The first match was to be against the Blandford Garrison team at 1800 hrs on that first day. Five of the Corps squad were members on the garrison side so nine were left to represent the Corps side. There was a good competitive atmosphere as the Garrison were determined to give the Corps a run for their money and the Corps had their pride to defend. The Corps started well going 24—12 up after nine minutes with some good set shooting from **Fred Tedby** ably supported by **Rab Mulholland** and **Stu Fell** inside with **Jimmy Peat** and **Eddy Williams** breaking. In their eagerness however the Corps side lost some of their rhythm as the Garrison put up a more determined defence and held the Corps to a period of more even scoring to the half at Corps 49 Garrison 31. The second half was more scrappy with many turnovers reflecting in the score line all the remaining members of the team getting court time. **Kev Moir** and **Andy McGlenaghan** working the boards well at both ends with **Nev Smikle** and **Coln Elstob** defending well to maintain superiority over the Garrison side. Final score Corps 78 to Garrison 47.

Sunday and a triangular Competition involving the Corps with Poole Bay Aztecs and Broadwey Bandits, two civilian clubs from the Dorset area. The first match versus the Aztecs and the Corps came out determined to do well and started with a three point basket from **Fred Tedby**, the first quarter of the game is dominated by Signals power play with **Tedby, Peat** and **Mulholland** scoring well and ably assisted by **Smith** and **Fell** at 10 minutes Signals 23 Aztecs 10 Signals bring on **Pete Sutherland** and **Eddy Williams** the rhythm is maintained **Mulholland** and **Tedby** still featuring supported by **Sutherland** and **Williams. Eddy Williams** with a good run during the last five minutes seemingly unable to miss either on the break or the set. Half time Corps 50 Aztecs 23.

Second half saw the Aztecs getting their act together a little more as we with a comfortable lead ease the pressure, the team is still playing well. **Bob Mahoney** comes on and begins to feature in the offence, also a purple patch from **Pete Sutherland** from the 8th to the 14th minute of the half when no one else for Signals managed to get on the score sheet. The second half was in fact won by the Aztecs, Corps 38 Aztecs 41 but the final score was Corps 88 Aztecs 64.

A break while the Aztecs played the Bandits, the Aztecs won this match at Aztecs 105 Bandits 71 so it did not look too good for the Bandits in their match v R Signals.

The omens proved right; the Corps proved much too strong for the

incomplete Bandits side, by 10 minutes the Corps were 41 to 16 up with the first half scoreline looking like a match, at Corps 72 Bandits 37. The score rate and tempo reduced a little in the second half, final score R Signals 130 Bandits 61, every member of the Corps side getting court time and aquitting themselves well.

Monday and a trip to HMS *Dolphin* at Gosport to play the Navy. A hesitant start with both teams scoring basket for basket and the Navy giving our defence some problems. At time out Navy 10 R Signals 8, a 'gee-up' from the coach **'Matty' Matthews** and the defensive cohesion showed marked improvement cutting the Navy score rate. Some sharper passing in offence with early release on the break creating more scoring chances. The breaks begin to work with **Smith** and **Peat**, the sets are not going well but **Fell** and **Mulholland** clean up the rebounds well to score. A couple of three pointers from **Tedby** get the Signals going. Rest for the first five with **Williams, Mahoney** and **Sutherland** going on to continue the good work, half time Signals 48 Navy 26. The second half starts with the five that finished the first. Things continued in a positive vein with **Sutherland** and **Peat** breaking well and good driving and rebounding from **Fell. Moir, Elstob** and **Smikle** came on with **Chiplin** and we continued to hold our own with **Mahoney, Smikle** and **Moir** adding to the scoreline. The play pattern began to break up a little but without serious detriment. Final score R Signals 98 Navy 56.

Tuesday and the first of the Inter Corps Tournament matches versus the ACC, a team who have beaten us by the odd couple of baskets in the past. An even first quarter with the Corps setting well, brought the score to Corps 24, ACC 23. Time out and a substitution by coach **Matthews** and we sped up the outlet to tighten the defence for a period of power play by **Tedby, Smith, Fell, Mulholland** and **Williams** to take us to a half time lead of 46 to ACC 32. Second half and R Signals come out looking tired and lethargic after their second quarter efforts. ACC drove on the defence to score or pick up the fouls and we only managed to bite the bullet when the lead had disappeared completely and the ACC were two up 48 to ACC 50. We then put up a fight to save the game and at the 15th minute were four points up again but the cohesion and teamwork could not be maintained and an element of panic entered the game; at the final whistle R Signals 72 ACC 76. A gift for the ACC of a match that after Signals first half efforts should never have been in doubt. A disappointment compounded by a hand injury to **Tedby** which was to take him out for the rest of the tournament.

Wednesday 1330 hrs and the opposition was the RA who fielded a new and predominantly young side this year. After a tentative start against an inexperienced side we went to a 21—9 lead. After 10 minutes coach **Matthews** started to bring on our substitutes. R Signals took command and scored 22 points without reply, but the Gunners came back in the last few minutes of the half to bring the score to R Signals 53 RA 22. The second half was much the same with all members of the squad getting court time. Signals won comfortably at 106 to RA 54. Another unfortunate injury saw **Eddy Williams** going out after a good drive for two points but landing badly and seriously damaging his ankle. It looked as if **Tedby** and **Williams** would be doing the scoring for the rest of the week, **Chalkie Atkins** had done it so far.

Wednesday evening and the next match vs RCT which fields an improved side this year. R Signals first five now **Rab Mulholland** (Capt), **Stu Fell, Jimmy Peat, Dave Smith** and **Bob Mahoney**. First score to **Dave Smith** but a quick three baskets reply from the RCT a nice set from **Mahoney** and good breaking drives from **Peat** and **Smith** with aggressive offensive rebounding and scoring from **Mulholland** and **Fell** took the game to R Signals 20 RCT 14 after 10 minutes. We then settled down to good constructive play with all members of the team working effectively in defence and taking well planned and executed opportunities to score in offence leading to a half time cushion of 16 points at Signals 47 RCT 31. Second half and the RCT tried to fight back but we had learned the lesson and stayed cool matching the RCT score with good breaking and driving from **Peat, Smith** and **Mahoney** found the groove with a flurry of set shots, **Mulholland** and **Fell** maintaining command of the backboards at both ends of the court. Substitutes were working through to rest the first five and **Sutherland, Chiplin, Smikle** and **Moir** all got a run effectively maintaining the 20 point cushion that we had built up to run out winners R Signals 85 RCT 67.

Thursday 1330 hrs and the big one REME. R Signals have have not succeeded in winning against REME ever since we have had a team. In fact the Annual Inter-Corps Tournament has grown up from the annual match between R Signals and REME so this is the contest we strive to win having been within a hair's breadth on a number of occasions in the past.

First half, good sign, we scored directly from the tip off through **Peat** then **Smith** and **Mulholland** slot two more before REME replied and after six minutes we are 14 to 7 up but don't get excited as this has happened before. REME fought back and after 14 minutes they were 26 to 22 up. R Signals stayed cool, intelligent and effective defence by **Mahoney, Fell** and outstanding **Mulholland** with fast outlet to **Smith** and **Peat** for breaks and good offensive play patiently set up and executed with **Peat** as ball handler when the fast breaks by **Peat** and **Smith** are thwarted. An excellent team performance to the half R Signals 37 REME 32.

Into the second half with the same five; good defence then set from **Mahoney** good defence and outlet to **Smith** two good drives then set from **Mahoney** another drive then **Fell** and **Mulholland** taking the boards on the offence then back to the defence **Peat** as playmaker set everything in motion and made a considerable contribution to the turnovers in defence with great skill and agility. By the half Signals are up 11 at 57 to REME 46. Then we turned the screw and started lengthening the plays holding possession making the defence come out for the ball and capitalising on the space created. Good leadership by **Mulholland** in offence and defence. An excellent team effort by all with outstanding performances from **Mulholland, Peat** and **Smith**. At last Signals defeat REME—73 to 62. Yeaah!!!

Thursday evening and the opponents are the RAC. A weaker team this year and no problem was expected. The first five go on for the first few minutes obviously vastly outclassing the opposition Score Signals 25 to RAC 6 after seven minutes. On came **Sutherland, Smikle, Matthews, Elstob** and **Chiplin**. The scoring keeps going, good rebounding at both ends by **Smikle** and breaking by **Sutherland** and **Chiplin, Matthews** got his name on the score sheet once for scoring and three times for fouls, half time score R Signals 60 RAC 14. Second half **Moir** and **McGlenaghan** get court time, the Signals take a long time to get started again five minutes to score nine points to RAC three but then a period where RAC take command and scored 20 points in reply to 7 from us, time out and then we got our act together; **Matthews** on court again but soon off with two more fouls making the disqualifying five. It is rumoured that it was a set up because of an unwritten rule that, if fouled off, it is drinks all round for the rest of the team! For the remainder of the match Signals got back into the driving seat with **Sutherland** on song with breaks and sets, **Smikle** and **McGlenaghan** rebounding and scoring backed up by **Chiplin** and **Moir**. Final score R Signals 107 RAC 45.

Friday morning and the opposition was the Royal Engineers. We went into an early lead after seven minutes thanks to driving from **Peat** and sets from **Mahoney**. The signs however were not good; there was little sharp competition for loose balls and there was only an occasional spark of someone wanting to be responsible in offence so few chances were created and we spent seven minutes without scoring although still defending reasonably well while the Sappers built up a 10 point cushion at 24 to our 14 at the 14th minute. A period of aggressive play by **Fell** livened our performance to hold the ground but that was all to bring us to a half time score of 22 to RE 31. This was our worst half match score of the Tournament and it dawned on the team that they had a fight on their hands.

The second half saw us attack with a little more determination and although the sparkle of previous days was not there they managed to reduce the deficit to 4 (Signals 41 to RE 45) at the 10 minute point. Signals valiant but lack lustre attempt to fight back was shattered when RE sunk a series of four three pointed to go four points further in front, even though we were matching them basket for basket. Leading by example **Mulholland** made a supreme effort in the second half at both ends of the court, but the team cohesion was just not there and RE ran out worthy winners at R Signals 53 RE 62.

Friday afternoon and another hard match versus the APTC. Signals knew they had to work hard to survive so went into the game with determination. Despite their efforts and good driving from **Peat** and **Smith** the APTC were 25—14 up by the 10 minute point. A determined fight back with Signals seeming to get it together again, good work by **Peat, Mulholland** and **Smith**, ably supported by **Sutherland** and **Smikle**, led to a half time score of 38 each. Unfortunately during this **Sutherland** was injured leaving the coaches options sadly reduced. Into the second half Signals were holding on at 10 minutes, honours even 56 each. However, that was the end of the line; the superior fitness of the APTC tells, but first five were dead on their feet and injuries had seriously limited the coaches options to rest them. Efforts to rest were punished as APTC went ahead against tired first five players and less skilled substitutes. Final score Signals 65 APTC 80.

The team had an informal get together on the Friday evening during which a small presentation and thanks were given to coach **Matthews** for his long, enthusiastic and dedicated services to Corps Basketball as player and latterly as coach. All good wishes from past and current members of the Corps Basketball Squad go with him after 22 years of service in the Corps more than half of them spent in the Corps Basketball team. He has the memory of beating REME to take with him. he may be back as I understand there is some possibility of an LSL appointment.

Saturday morning and our final game against the AMS. We start with a mixed team first five and substitutes as AMS are not a strong side **McGlenaghan** and **Fell** at the back **Smikle** in the middle and **Chiplin** and **Peat** up front. **McGlenaghan** starts the scoring followed immediately by a three pointer from **Chiplin** a period of driving from **Chiplin** and **Smikle** with **Smikle** and **McGlenaghan** in command of the boards. AMS reply however and by 10 minutes and some subs by the coach the score was Signals 19 AMS 13. Time out—pep talk—about organisation and cover and Signals took off allowing only one basket to AMS for the rest of the half. It is significant that **Mulholland** was at the centre of the defence for this period but quick hands from **Smikle** stole many before the AMS offence got to the Signals zone. Half time Signals 39 AMS 15. The second half is totally dominated by Signals who, now that they had established a play pattern, succeed with little effort to run out winners at Signals 87 AMS 31. Good efforts by **Smikle** and much potential shown by **McGlenaghan** who is still only 16.

All in all a good week 12 games in eight days, only three losses but these were important. It was no surprise that the team ran out of steam on Friday after the physical efforts from Saturday to Thursday and the emotional high of the win over REME. This combined with injuries put R Signals on the spot at the end of the week. On paper we can do it given a full squad and a minimum of injuries. I am sure we can get to the top and stay there for a few years.

The early Corps Captain was **Sgt Fred Tedby** whose knowledge, skill and leadership earned the respect of the team. His injury in the first match of the Inter-Corps Tournament was a hammer blow to the squad, this compounded by the injury to **Cpl Eddy Williams** in the second match. **Eddy**'s enthusiasm and skill had confirmed him as the first sub who was knocking hard on the door for first five, two matches, two key people gone. **Cpl Jimmy Peat** had an outstanding tour as did **Foreman Dave Smith**. **Cpl Rab Mulholland** was given the responsibilities of captaincy after the loss of **Tedby** and his leadership and general performance in all matches was excellent; he led by example and kept his Gaelic temperament in check, a superb performance. **Foreman Bobby Mahoney** was another who had greatness thrust upon him due to senior player injury. Although this was his first tour for several years, as he had been in Hong Kong, he rose to the challenge and responsibility of a first five slot and gave a first class performance. **Sgt Nev Smikle** and **RSM Pete Sutherland** provided excellent support work and know what is required for future tours, though this has probably been **Pete Sutherland**'s last. Young **Andy McGlenaghan** (aged 16) gave a good performance as junior sub and showed much potential for the future, having come on tour with an injury sustained at Army Junior Competition. All of the squad performed well and, I hope, learned from the experience.

And finally the results:

AT BLANDFORD

R Signals vs Blandford Garrison	22 Nov	Won	78—47
vs Poole Bay Aztecs	23 Nov	Won	88—64
vs Broadway Bandits	23 Nov	Won	130—61

AT GOSPORT

vs Royal Navy	24 Nov	Won	98—56

AT ALDERSHOT

The Inter Corps Tournament:

vs ACC	25 Nov	Lost	72—76
vs RA	26 Nov	Won	106—54
vs RCT	26 Nov	Won	85—67
vs REME	27 Nov	Won	73—62
vs RAC	27 Nov	Won	107—45
vs RE	28 Nov	Lost	53—62
vs APTC	28 Nov	Lost	65—80
vs AMS	29 Nov	Won	87—31

FINAL POSITION OF CORPS OVERALL

1	ACC	4	RE	7	RA
2	REME	5	R Signals	8	RAC
3	APTC	6	RCT	9	AMS

ADVERTISING

Notices and advertisements, other than those related to a business interest, will be published free of charge to serving members of the Corps, and to those retired members who subscribe to *The Wire*. All matters for publication must reach the Editor by the 12th of the month preceding publication. All other advertisements should be forwarded to our advertisement managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

Coach Matthews briefs Kev Moir, Nev Smikle, Colin Elstob, Eddy Williams and Taff Chiplin

Another hard match

White hand Tedby and White foot Williams

Stu fell jumps for the start of the final game versus the Army Medical Services

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB (UK)

OFFSHORE REPORT 1986/1987

CORPS YACHTS

The Corps owns two boats namely *Skywave* and *Quicksilver*. These are based at HMS *Hornet* adjacent to the Joint Services Sail Training Centre at Gosport. They are available for charter throughout the coming season and details can be obtained from the Yachtmaster: **Maj J. Barrett MBE**, c/o Instructional Wing, School of Signals. Tel: Blandford (0258) 52581 Ext 2270, Blandford Mil: 2270.

ADVENTURE TRAINING—1986
EXERCISE *IBERIAN VENTURE* AND *ALBORAN EXPRESS*

The Corps chartered two yachts *Lancer No 1* and *Firebird* for an extensive Adventure Training Charter from UK to Gibraltar and return. The period covered was from July to October. Grants were obtained from both the Corps and South West District. The execises were named *Iberian Venture* for *Lancer No 1* and *Alboran Express* for *Firebird*. After several periods of crew training early in the season the yachts departed for Gibraltar in July. The Exercises each comprised six Legs, one down to Gibraltar, four in the Western Mediterranean area and one back to UK in October. Crews were changed for each Leg.

LANCER NO 1

The yacht is a 43ft Amphirite Ketch and was skippered throughout by the Bosun **Sgt Morgan** (except for Leg three when it was skippered by the Yacht-master—**Maj Barrett**). Crews comprised both Regular and TA personnel and a total of 52 All Ranks participated. The boat left Gosport on 21 July and returned on 19 October having covered some 5,000 miles calling at ports in Spain, Portugal, Morocco and Gibraltar.

FIREBIRD

The Yacht is a 36ft High Tension cruiser/racer. Skippers were selected when possible from withing the Corps, crews again comprised both Regular and TA personnel and a total of 45 All Ranks participated. The boat left Gosport on 28 July and visited ports in Spain, Portugal, Morocco and Gibraltar. On its return journey it suffered damage whilst off the coast of Spain. Repairs were effected in Vigo. The cost of these was covered by the Insurance Company. The crew returned overland and a relief crew went out and sailed the yacht back, returning to Gosport finally on 30 November, the boat having covered some 4,400 miles.

Lancer No 1 during Leg 2 on passage Vilamoura to Tangier

ADVENTURE TRAINING 1987
EXERCISE *CARIBBEAN VENTURE*

This year it is hoped to run another adventurous sail training exercise along the lines of *Iberian Venture* and *Alboran Express*. The Exercise will run from late October 1987 to mid-March 1988 and will comprise seven Legs from Gosport to Antigua/Barbados and return. It will be funded from Adventure Training Grants and Personal Contribution and is open to all ranks (Regular and TA). In order to establish whether the exercise is viable would anyone interested please contact the Yachtmaster or Bosun as soon as possible. There will be only 40 places available on a first come first return basis. Personal contributions will be of the order of £100 per week. If viable the Corps will again charter *Firebird* for this venture.

EXERCISE *WINTERS TALE*

Planned dates are as follows:

Gosport—Gibraltar	24 August-8 September
Gibraltar—Malta	9-23 September
Malta—Cyprus	24 September-6 October
Headquarters—LF Cyprus	7-26 October
Cyprus—Malta	27 October-10 November
Malta—Gibraltar	11-25 November
Gibraltar—Gosport	26 November-8 December

The exercise will use a Nicholson 55 belonging to JSSTC Gosport, and units are being invited to run the legs to and from Cyprus. Any interested parties should contact the Co-ordinating Officer **Maj G. D. Corbet**, Planning Wing School of Signals—Blandford Military Extension 2304.

SAILING COURSES

The Corps is to run a potential Day Skippers Course at JSSTC from 27 March-3 April.

ARMY SAILING ASSOCIATION/SERVICES OFFSHORE RACE/ FASTNET

The Royal Signals Yacht Club (UK) is to enter crews in the Army Sailing Association, Services Offshore and Royal Ocean Racing Club races in 1987 aboard *Quicksilver* and *Firebird*.

Applications are requested from all ranks for the berths available. The outline programme is as follows:

ASA-SOR	24-	June	Join vessels at Gosport
	25-	June	Crew training
Firebird	26-	June	Crew training
and	27-28	June	ASA Race (1) (2) Solent
Quicksilver	29-30	June	ASA Race (3) Round IOW
	01-	July	SOR Race (1) PE Cup Cowes
	2-3	July	SOR Race (2) Passage Guernsey
	4-5	July	Return Gosport via Alderney/Poole
	30-	June	ASA Prizegiving Party Gosport
	3-	July	SOR Prizegiving Party Guernsey
FASTNET	7-	August	Join vessel at Gosport sail Cowes
	8-	August	Fastnet Race start Cowes
(*Firebird*	14-	August	ETA Race end Plymouth
only)	15-16	August	Return Gosport via Alderney/Poole
	7-	August	Pre-race party Cowes
	14-	August	Prizegiving party in Plymouth

Volunteers should have completed at least five days at sea to be eligible to apply. Anyone interested should contact the Yachtmaster as soon as possible.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ROYAL SIGNALS YACHT CLUB

The AGM is to be held at The School of Signals on 9 April starting at 1130 hrs. All members are encouraged to attend.

CORPS BOAT OWNERS OFFSHORE RALLY

In 1986, **Maj Grierson**, the RSYC Secretary and himself a boat owner decided that it would be a good idea to invite other owners to get together for a weekend rally. Many serving or past members of the Corps attended and by mid-day on 7 June 1986 they had joined the two Corps boats and *Lancer No 1* off the Nab Tower in the Solent. After a brisk sail westwards the fleet moored at Bucklers Hard when an enjoyable evening was spent by all. The following attended:

Maj Gen Sawers	*Light Airs*
Brig Alexander	*Skywave*
Col Gibson	*Herald*
Col Roper	*Petasus* (Retired to Cowes—Engine Failure
Lt Col Swindells	*Quicksilver*
Maj Barrett	*Lancer*
Maj Dyer	*Green Goddess*
Maj Grierson	*Manda*
Maj Long	*Sea Dog*
Maj Sylvester-Bradley	*Sing Song*
WO1 Millington	*Sevenem*

It is hoped to organise a similar rally this year. The venue will probably be Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight and will be during the weekend of 6/7 June 19876. Would Corps boat owners please contact the Yachtmaster if they wish to attend.

Lancer No 1 at the end of Leg 1 entering Gibraltar Bay

Firebird under sail off Vilamoura south Portugal

Firebird TA Crew member alongside at Tangier trying to sell carpet

Firebird racing to windward towards Gibraltar

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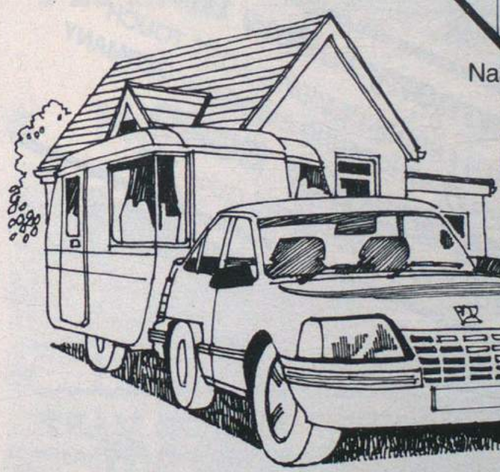

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THE BLANDFORD TOWER RUN

Sunday 31st May 1987

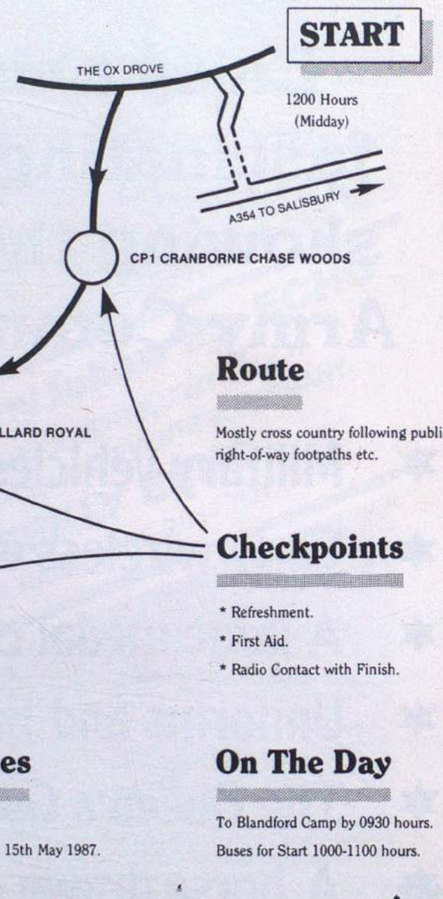
an illustrated description

Concept

A long distance (14 miles) cross country run open to Service personnel and civilians.
Mass start at midday; medals to all finishers and prizes for winning individuals and teams.

Objectives

* To provide recreation and competition.
* To raise funds for charities including:
  SAVE THE CHILDREN
  ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND
  LOCAL BLANDFORD CHARITIES



Route

Mostly cross country following public right-of-way footpaths etc.

Checkpoints

* Refreshment.
* First Aid.
* Radio Contact with Finish.

Entries

By post.
Entries close 15th May 1987.

On The Day

To Blandford Camp by 0930 hours.
Buses for Start 1000-1100 hours.

FINISH

* First runner expected about 1320 hours.
Finish closes 1700 hours
Computerised timing and results.

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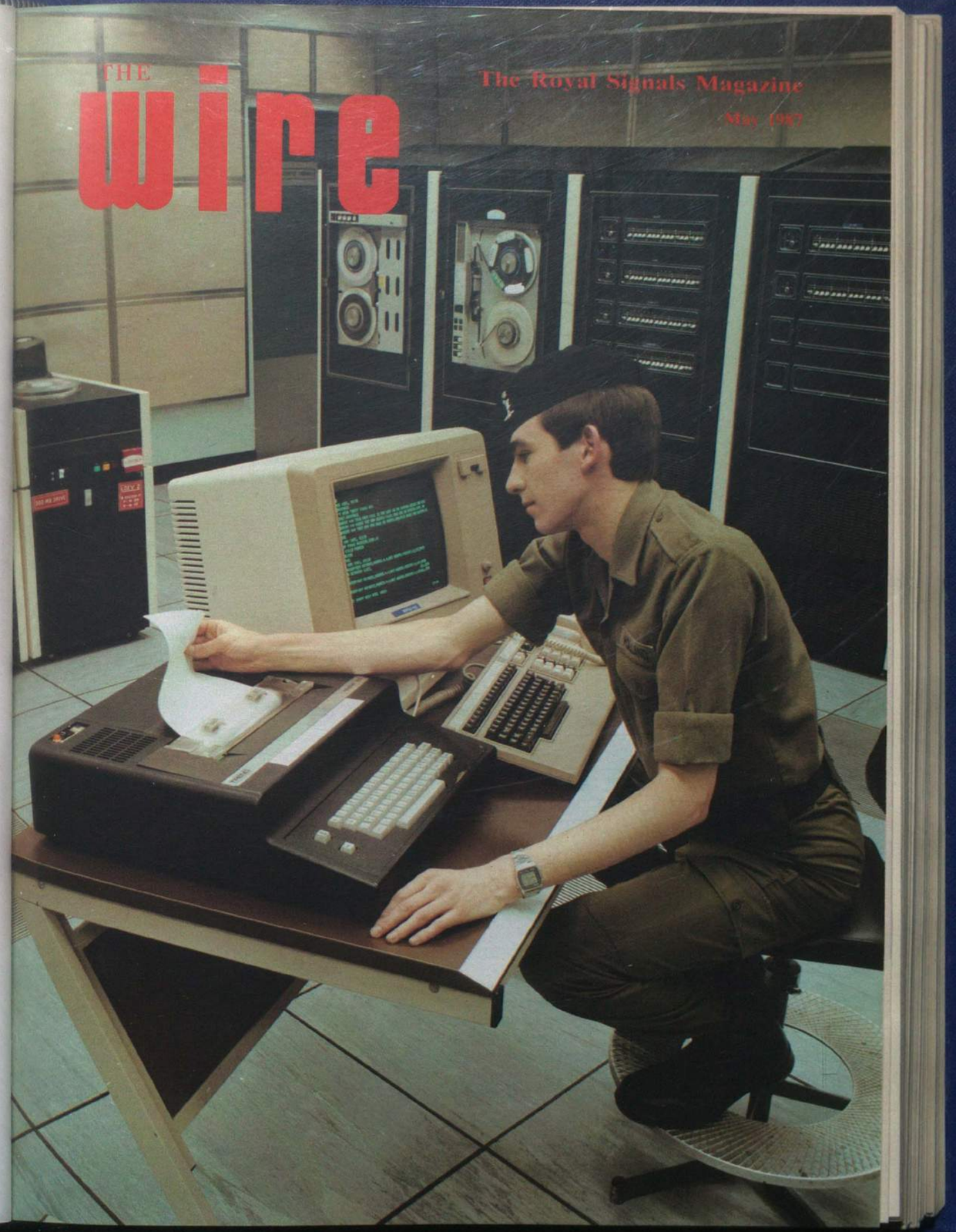

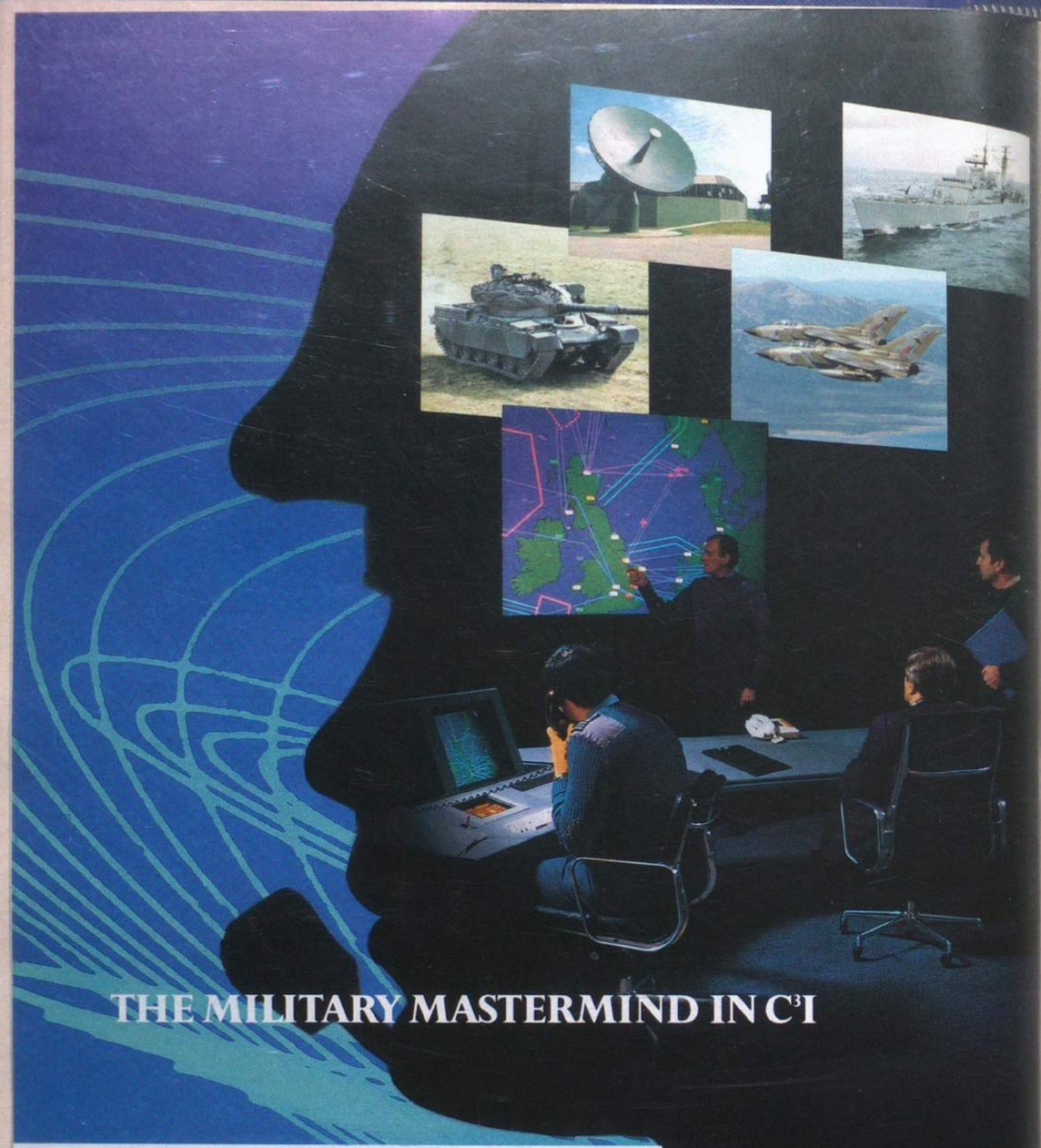

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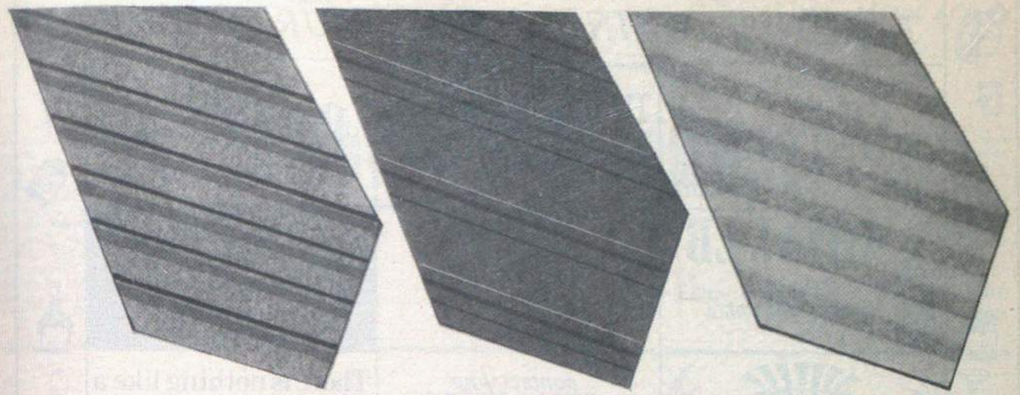

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Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
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EDITOR'S NOTES

OUR COVER PICTURE

The cover picture depicts Sig Kevin Holland of Victor Troop, 233 Sig Sqn (Northern Ireland) operating a Data terminal on the Vengeful computer system. This is one of a number of ADP systems within the Squadron giving real time support day and night to military operations in the Province. All Data telegraphists within this Unit now operate computers, training is provided on the job once the soldier or servicewoman is in post.

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during April, for service in Northern Ireland.

MBE
Capt (TOT) J. R. Jasiok

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Capt T. G. Inshaw
SSgt (AW02) S. J. Baldwin

Congratulations to **SSgt (A/WO2) (FofS) Peter Bruce** on the award of his Meritorious Service Medal. The medal was presented by **Maj Gen R. W. Ward MBE** during his recent visit to 241 Sig Sqn.

ARE YOU YOUR UNIT'S WIRE CORRESPONDENT?

* Please be sure that your contribution reaches the Editor by the 12th of the month preceding the month of publication.
* Please keep your contributions short.
* Please provide good quality black and white photographs where ever possible.
* Please type your captions on a separate sheet.
* Important — Please type your notes in DOUBLE SPACING.

THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF'S

ADDRESS TO THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION MEETING AT HAMMERSMITH—11 APRIL 1987

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you something of the Corps' activities, over the last year or so. It has been a busy period: there is a great deal going on in the field of developing technology, as well as plenty to keep us occupied on the operational side.

OPERATIONS

During the past year there have been some demands placed on the Corps for operations outside the NATO area. These tend nowadays to be mostly in the category of disaster relief. Individually they are quite small, but they are always significant. In June last year, a small detachment from 30 Signal Regiment was sent to Guadacanal in the Solomon Islands to assist with disaster relief operations following the cyclone which hit the Islands. There is no doubt that the actions of one member, Cpl Grattidge, saved the lives of many when he personally supervised the evacuation of a valley which was subsequently devastated by a mud slide. A number of soldiers from 633 Signal Troop, Belize, were sent to assist with disaster relief following serious flooding in Jamaica, last year.

In October they were also amongst the first into San Salvador to assist in the operation that was organised following the massive earthquake that hit the city. They were quickly followed by a small team who supervised work to restore the city's telephones.

In Northern Ireland, operations have been in progress for almost 18 years. We have just completed the installation of the new trunk communications system, Project BRINTON. A new radio system, Project COUGARNET, has also been installed and is proving to be a great success. The morale and high standing of the Corps in Northern Ireland are impressive.

We were able to provide communications and ADP assistance at the recent tragedy at Zeebrugge where members of the Corps were very quickly on the scene.

THE CORPS ORDER OF BATTLE

There have been some changes to the Corps Order of Battle. 31 March this year saw the demise of Headquarters 1 Signal Group. Based at Tidworth, this Headquarters has for many years commanded those Regiments and Squadrons in the United Kingdom which have been committed to operations outside the NATO area and on the flanks of NATO. It played a major role in the Falklands war and has developed unique expertise in world-wide operations. It is sad to see this Headquarters disband, but in the name of progress and economy it must happen. The role will be taken over by Headquarters 2 Signal Brigade which has recently moved from Aldershot to Corsham, near Bath, and which already has a responsibility for Home Defence communications and for static communications within the United Kingdom. In the coming months we will be restructuring those elements of the Corps which provide United Kingdom communications. 10 Signal Regiment will disband, but its Squadrons remain and become independent. This gives us the opportunity to revive some old Squadron numbers: 238, 239, 243 and 251 will return to the Order of Battle and this leaves us in fact with one more Squadron than we have under the existing arrangements.

On 1 April 1987, 266 Signal Squadron (South Atlantic) disbanded and a new tri-Service communication unit, the Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands (JCUFI), formed. Although a joint unit it will be commanded by a Royal Signals major and will be considered very much a part of the Corps. Altogether about 80 soldiers will be employed in the JCUFI, all but a few on a four month unaccompanied tour from their parent Regiments and Squadrons in BAOR and in the UK. I visited the Falkland Islands in November, the first Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) to have been allowed to do so, and I was delighted to see the excellent work being carried out. We are all proud of the achievements of 266 Signal Squadron (South Atlantic) in its short existence.

EQUIPMENT

The introduction into service of the new PTARMIGAN trunk communication system continues. The system was extensively tested in BAOR in February and responded well: in the 1st British Corps area it is now nearing its full size. We are identifying problems, as is to be expected in such an advanced system, but we are implementing development programmes to cope with these problems. In general, PTARMIGAN continues to provide us with exciting new challenges: we are pleased with the system, and it is clear that there is plenty of potential within it which we have not yet exploited.

In the UK, I am delighted to be able to tell you that our TA Regiments, who have laboured long with some ageing equipment, are beginning to be re-equipped. In some cases they are due to receive brand new equipment specially designed for their role. This makes a change from making do with other equipment passed on to the TA after use in the Regular Army. Our TA well deserve the better equipment deal they are now getting, and we are all pleased for them. Re-equipment of the whole of our TA will take some years, but at least, and at last, things are beginning to move.

MANNING

On the manning front I am pleased to say that we appear to be making good progress. Whilst it is true to say that we have, and will continue to have for some years, some critical deficiencies in the middle ranks, our young Regular officer recruiting is better and the situation at subaltern level is relatively healthy. Our premature retirement rates for Regular officers have also fallen and happily we are now well below the Army average. I am encouraged by these results but recognise that there is still much which remains to be done. The long term health of the Corps critically depends on continuing to attract high quality officer recruits, for the Regular Army and equally for the TA. I am quite clear that this will remain a priority matter. I have strengthened our recruiting structure within UK to this end, and I am seeking to involve all members of the Corps family, serving or retired, in establishing contact with the young men we need, and in promoting the attractions of the Corps. I am always particularly pleased to see the sons and daughters (or indeed grandsons and grandaughters) of members (or former members) of the Corps applying to become officers. They are especially welcome.

As far as Regular soldier recruiting is concerned, we remain slightly over-strength and our recruiting this year is somewhat restricted. We have a healthy retention rate. Our very satisfactory strength figures disguise one or two major deficiency areas in specialist trades, and we are making great efforts to remove these. But overall, our Regular soldier situation is very satisfactory and we continue to maintain our tradition of recruiting the best soldiers in the Army. Our TA soldier strength is generally satisfactory, but one or two Regiments remain under-recruited and we are always on the look-out for potential recruits for the TA, in all areas.

Our major challenge for 1987 is to produce a new trade structure for the soldiers of the Corps to reflect the very different skills which modern software-based technology is demanding. It may be that some emotional boundaries will have to be crossed, but we must move with the times, whilst at the same time safeguarding the interests of those who have served us well and have an expectation of serving on for some years. In general, the new trades seem likely to be more intellectually demanding, although clearly we shall need to reflect carefully on probable availability and the best use of the talents of those we have traditionally recruited. Conversely, some of our old and honoured trades seem inappropriate in 1987 and may have to disappear or be modified, rather as Despatch Riders did some years back. It is the price of progress. Many of you will have served through earlier changes in the trade structure, and will remember what a difficult business it all is.

Finally on manning, some of you will know that our Record Office has moved from Reading to Glasgow. We were at Balmore House, Caversham for very many years and the staff at Reading were very much a part of the Corps: they served us well. But the move to Glasgow has gone smoothly and we have been fortunate to acquire a new dedicated and enthusiastic staff who are picking up our little ways and are serving us equally well.

PUBLIC DUTIES

I sincerely hope that many of you were able to share the honour bestowed upon the Corps after a break of 13 years, when we were invited to find the Queen's Guard and the guard at the Tower of London during August last year. The Queen's Guard was found by 30 Signal Regiment and the Tower Guard by 244 and 249 Signal Squadrons. Our Colonel-in-Chief lunched with the officers of the Guard.

Together with our Band, our soldiers on public duties attracted the most favourable comment and praise, and we can all be proud of them. Perhaps I should add a word about the White Helmets, our motor cycle display team. They have a busy summer programme this year, the highlight of which will be appearing at the Royal Tournament. Some of you will know that this year is the 60th Anniversary of the formation of our display team. I know that some of the original team members of the 56 (London) Divisional Signals TA display team are planning to appear at the performance of this year's Tournament in the afternoon of 28 July. It should be a memorable occasion.

FRATERNAL CONTACTS

Our International contacts continue to flourish with our sister Corps in the Commonwealth and in the United States. I have received visits from my opposite numbers from Pakistan and from Canada recently, and I have been invited to visit Oman and the United States later in the year to see something of their Signal Corps in action. The Canadians have also asked the Master of Signals and me to attend a reunion in Ontario in September. All these contacts are useful and productive for us, and it is heartwarming to see how old affiliations are cherished and old traditions, which often have their foundations in our own Corps, are maintained.

SPORTS

Finally, in the sporting field you will be pleased to hear that the Corps has its fair share of success.

Continuing our long tradition of athletic prowess in the Corps, 2 Infantry Division HQ and Signal Regiment was joint winner of the Army Athletics last year. Lance Corporal Callender of that Regiment also competed in the Commonwealth Games. The same Regiment was runner up in the Army Cross Country Championships, and in canoeing they took both first and second place in the Army Wild Water Championship: five of their soldiers subsequently represented the Army in this event.

At soccer, the Corps team won the Quadrangular competition against the Gunners, Sappers and REME—a notable success and the first for many years. Most importantly, 28 Signal Regiment won the Army Cup this year.

Our skiing tradition is strong and healthy. 22 Signal Regiment was last year's winner of the Army's premier trophy, the Princess Marina. This year it was runners-up, but there were supporting successes by individuals and by units in both the Army Championships and in the UK Championships. Lance Corporal Brown of 22 Signal Regiment was Army Alpine Champion, four members of the Regiment represented the Army and Lance Corporal Davies was selected for the National Biathlon team.

But the strength of Corps sport lies in our young entry, and I am pleased to report that the Army Apprentices' College at Harrogate and our junior soldiers at 11 Signal Regiment in Catterick are doing us well. At Squash, Harrogate won the Army Junior Championships. At Soccer it won the Army Apprentices Cup and was second in the UK Nordic Skiing Championships, whilst the cadre of the College won the Army Minor Units Slalom Championships. Apprentice Tradesman Corporal Sharp is the Army Junior Orienteering Champion. The juniors from 11 Signal Regiment won the Junior Inter Unit Skiing Championship and Junior Signalman Carpenter became the Regular Army Junior Novice Champion. These are indeed the seeds of future successes in Corps sport.

Finally, I need hardly remind you of the very close interest which our Colonel-in-Chief takes in her Corps. During 1986 she visited:

31 Signal Regiment (V) in Belgium.
16 and 21 Signal Regiments in BAOR.
37 Signal Regiment (V) and the Royal Signals display at the Bath and West Show, including the Band, the White Helmets, the Blue Helmets parachute display team and a list of static displays from the Corps.
RHQ Royal Signals and the Corps Committee Meeting.

We hope that our Colonel-in-Chief will visit 71 Signal Regiment (V) in May and our Record Office in Glasgow in July.

Later this month there is to be a Band Concert and Reception at Goldsmith's Hall, attended by Her Royal Highness. It will mark the 10th Anniversary of her becoming our Colonel-in-Chief and it will also mark the farewell performance for Major Gordon Turner, our present Director of Music. It may be appropriate to say a word or two about the Band here. I believe that we have the best Band in the Army: they do a magnificent job and their standards are high indeed. Major Turner is to be relieved as Director by Captain Wall. I am sure we wish them both well, and I know that Captain Wall is looking forward to the challenge. We have a strong Corps musical tradition which I am sure will be maintained.

CLOSING REMARKS

Before I finish, I should like to say something about the Corps family, by which I mean all of us, serving or retired, Regular or TA—and our families. I am very keen on the wider aspects of the Corps family because I think they are important. I particularly value the work of the Association, and I regard close contacts between the Association and the serving Corps as essential. For your part, do not hesitate to ask for help and support from the serving Corps. If it is not freely given, I shall want to hear about it. I have taken steps to ensure that information about Corps activities (such as the appearances of the Band, the White Helmets and so on) are given wide publicity so that you should all know when they are performing in your areas. If I might make a personal suggestion, I should like to see much more in *The Wire* from the Association and its Branches. For the whole of the retired Corps, only 1,000 copies of *The Wire* are taken up and for a Corps the size of ours I find that a bit small. It is an excellent magazine, well produced. Perhaps if we could have more in it from the Association, its appeal to members of the retired Corps family would be stronger—and the serving Corps would be better informed about your activities.

In summary, the serving Corps is busy and in good heart. We welcome our contacts with members of the wider Corps family: I am sure that we derive our strength as a Corps from a strong family spirit and tradition. I look forward to seeing you all at the Catterick reunion: in the meantime, please keep an eye open for the young men who we need as our high grade officers and soldiers of the future.

JUNIOR INTER-UNIT SKI CHAMPIONSHIP WON BY 11 SIG REGT

This year has seen another successful season for the Regimental Junior Ski Team. Despite shortages of time and funds a novice team was assembled and trained using available resources. All but one of the Junior Soldiers had never worn skis before so a thorough coaching programme on the Catterick Garrison Indoor Ski Slope proved invaluable. The progressive training then took them to Scotland and Austria where **Cpl Mick North**, for the second year in succession, produced the standard of performance and motivation required to produce a winning team. This was reflected in the reduction of the original squad from 10 to a team of four and two reserves. Hard work and the benefit of new skis eventually gave the team the edge (pun intended). Under artrocious conditions each individual remembered the lessons learnt and at the Army Championships on the rocky and icy slopes at Aviemore achieved a series of notable successes for the Regiment and themselves.

The Team

JSig Carpenter, Devlin, Clemens, Large and Reserves **JSig Phelps** and **Wildish.**

Cpl M. North — Team Coach, **Lt P. A. Hodgkiss** — Non competing Team Captain.

The Results

Junior Inter Unit Champions — 11 Sig Regt.
Regular Army Novice Junior Champion—**JSig Carpenter.**
Army Junior Individual Championship — 2nd — **JSig Carpenter.**
Clerical and Medical Army Junior Unit Champions — 11 Sig Regt.
All members deserve our congratulations.

Left to Right: JSig Wildish, Clemens, Large, Lt Hodgkiss, Cpl North, JSig Devlin, Phelps, Carpenter

28 SIG REGT WINS THE ARMY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE CUP

With the end of the current football season approaching fast, it is an opportune time to recount some of the achievements of the Corps in what must have been its most successful season ever.

In November, The Corps won the Corps Quadrangular Tournament for the first time in a number of years.

In March, **Cpl A. 'Sandy' Brown**, School of Signals, The Army Captain, was voted the 'Army Footballer of the Year' for the second time in three years, and, **ACpl D. David Coleman**, AAC Harrogate, was voted the 'Army Youth Footballer of the Year'.

On 20 March, **WO1 R. J. 'Bob' White**, Comms and Sy Gp Loughborough, refereed the Army (UK) Cup Final. **SSgt Peter Kitson**, Corps Band, was chosen to be the referee for the Army Challenge Cup Final, on 8 April, but had to stand down when 28 Sig Regt qualified for the final tie. A consolation for the disappointment of having to withdraw must surely be his selection to be one of the Linesmen for the Football Association's Trophy Final, at Wembley Stadium, on 9 May.

On 9 April, 28 Sig Regt won the 99th playing of the Army Challenge Cup Final beating the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (SEME), Bordon, by four goals to three, after extra-time, in a replay, following a four—four drawn tie on the previous day. There were many who believed the two ties to be among the finest, and certainly most dramatic, seen at the Military Stadium since the Second World War. They had earlier beaten the 1st Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers to win the British Army of the Rhine Challenge Cup. In September they will set out on the formidable task of defending both trophies in the Army's Centenary Year—what an incentive to succeed again.

– From our "In" Tray –

ARMY APPRENTICES' COLLEGE HARROGATE

The College contribution for this issue of the Wire is unashamedly nostalgic. About one-third of the Corps have either been Apprentices or have served on the instructional and administrative staff of the College and we aim to stir their memories and possibly encourage some correspondence, contributions to later editions, or even the odd reunion.

GENERAL HISTORY

The College was founded as the Army Apprentices' School Harrogate in 1947 as an Army establishment directly controlled by the War Office. It used the two hutted camps on Penny Pot Lane called Uniacke and Hildebrand Barracks first established in 1915 as a tented camp with huts built in 1939 to house Artillery and Signals personnel. Towards the end of the war it was converted for use as a hospital by the American Forces and its basic shape then remained until the rebuild of the College, carried out by a certain Mr Poulson, in the early 60's.

Many funny, strange and even macabre events litter the history of the camp and its occupants including the murder of a matron by her insane batman, the discovery of two mysterious padded cells and the instructor who used hypnosis on his class and had other strange capabilities. The famous visitors are legion and include **'Monty'**, **The Princess Royal** and later **The Princess Anne**.

The Princess Royal prepares to start her inspection—the saluting dais has been renewed but the flagpole is thought to be still in use

PERSONAL HISTORY

Serving on the current Permanent Staff are many ex-apprentices and three contributions follow which illustrate facets of the past.

Maj (TOT) Roy Lund, now OC Technician Wing, writes:

I joined the Army Apprentices' School on 14 February 1950, intake 50A, at the age of 15 years and five months having agreed to serve three years apprenticeship plus eight years with the colours and four years on the reserve.

My first choice of trade was Electrician in the Corps of Royal Engineers but nothing was finalised until after all recruits had been given the opportunity to see all the trades which were taught. In my case, this proved to be a good thing as I didn't fancy the Electrician trade after seeing the presentation. I finally opted for Telegraph Mechanic in the Royal Corps of Signals. (Telegraph Mechanic then not to be confused with Telegraph Mechanic today). Other trades on offer were: Surveyor RE, Quantity Surveyor's Assistant, Draughtsman, Clerk, Painter and Decorator, Bricklayer and Pipefitter, Carpenter and Joiner, Electrician together with Royal Signals trades of Radio Mechanic, Line Mechanic and Operator. Other cap badges represented at the school were RASC and REME.

The Commandant was **Col Kendrew**, followed approximately eight months later by **Col Thicknesse**. The School RSM was **RSM Lonsborough**, Coldstream Guards, whose daughter **Anita** became well known in the international swimming world. The RSM was known to all the School as **'Tara'**. Guards sergeant majors were appointed to the five companies which made up the school complement. The permanent staff NCOs were mainly infantrymen. With a few exceptions, Corps cap badges were seen only in the trade training sections.

I completed my basic training in HQ Company, and was then transferred to B Company which identified with my chosen trade. RE trades went to A Company, R Signals trades to B Company and REME plus RASC trades to C Company. D Company was housed in Hildebrand Barracks and consisted of non apprentices known as GDs. These boys wore the Royal Signals cap badges, as opposed to the Apprentices' badge, having been formed from the Boys Signal Squadron. Some boys from D Company did in fact move across and become apprentices.

All the Company accommodation was constructed of wood, the living accommodation being spider layout (six barrack room legs off a central complex which contained all the toilets and ablution facilities). The toilets in HQ Squadron had no doors fitted, I wonder what they thought young 15 and 16 year old lads would get up to behind a closed toilet door! The Cinema was as it is today, the present indoor arena was a vast carpenter and joiner workshop and the only other building left in Uniacke Barracks from that time is the Jimmy Club which was the School Sergeants' Mess. The trade and education buildings occupied the same general area that they do today but were single story brick and concrete.

The Church of St Albans, now the Bate Centre, was located in Hildebrand. This church had particular significance in that it was taken as a shell and completely fitted out and renovated by the Apprentices. Church parade was compulsory for everyone, therefore, Sundays saw the whole School parade on the square in Uniacke and march to church led by the Corps of Drums.

Having had some musical experience before enlisting I decided to join the Corps of Drums. However, I cannot deny that the two days extra leave which was on offer was something of an incentive.

Trade and education followed basic training. There was more education than trade in the early part of the apprenticeship and vice versa towards the end. Education training was primarily directed towards all apprentices obtaining the Army Certificate of Education 1st Class. In those days, education was kept entirely separate from trade. As far as I can remember, all instruction given in Education was by Officers and SNCOs of the RAEC, no civilians.

Trade training on the other hand was given by a mix of civilian and military instructors. I enjoyed my trade training very much. Most people find that they take to a particular subject in training more than all the others, my favourite was the teleprinter GPO No 7B, a machine I could take apart and reassemble almost blindfolded. There was the opportunity to take relevant City and Guilds examinations. However if the exam syllabus called for knowledge not taught, it was up to the individual to make good that deficiency. The majority of Apprentices were happy to leave the school with a Class three trade qualification recorded on their documents. A few left NFQ (Not Fully Qualified) and had the problem of gaining their qualification in a field unit.

Pay was 10 shillings and six pence a week of which five shillings was paid and the remainder placed in credit. Cash requirements were minimal during the first term because everyone was confined to camp. Provided the pay stretched to a couple of visits to the cinema, tea and wads from the NAAFI and the necessary boot polish, blanco and brasso, then all was well. It was later when we were allowed into town, that the pinch on the pocket was felt. Loan sharks are not new!

Permanent passes were a feature of the school documentation. On this was recorded the hours one was allowed to be out of camp and the number of times, Monday to Friday, in any one week. Weekend free time started at 1300 hrs Saturday and 1100 hrs Sunday. Also recorded was permission or not to wear civilian clothes, wear patrol uniform and smoke.

I achieved the rank of AT Cpl during my time at the school. On promotion I was transferred back to HQ Company and put in charge of the relegated boys barrack room. I moved back to B Company shortly before leaving the school.

Graduation was known then as Passing Out. Being a member of the Drums I had the option of parading with the Drums or my intake. I opted to pass out with my intake. I was not sorry to leave the school and I have never had any regrets. That said, I consider that the training received at the school was instrumental in the excellent start I experienced in my adult career and trust that it is no different today.

Capt Colin Miller, 21C of Bradley Squadron writes:

'Get the old and bold ex apprentices to produce some copy . . .'

I bolted immediately for the Quartermaster clothing store where one whiff of the redolence of drawers, pyjama, green and all their shelfmates opens my personal floodgate of nostalgia and quickly submerges me in the sights and sounds of 26 years ago.

Life was pretty cheap then—wages were £2.2.6d (£2.13) a week, most of which was compulsorily saved for leave time. (Bank accounts hadn't been invented). Pocket money was doled out in sum of 10 shillings (50p) one week and £1.00 the next.

The old wooden spiders are now long gone. (So called due to their six legged construction). Horrendous fire traps they were, but I think remembered with affection by all who were billetted in them.

All inmates were apprentices and sentenced to a three year, or nine term course. (Don't ask some of the more prominent ex-apprentices how many terms they completed—the answer is sometimes embarrassing). This compares extremely favourably with the present day porridge of two years, or six terms, (with no remission) for apprentices and three terms for junior leaders. One can only imagine that either modern boys are brighter or better qualified, or modern instructors work harder. As I know very well that the instructors have always given of their best, I must conclude that the former is the most likely.

Many physical changes have taken place since I enlisted into the General Service Corps, the old company structure gave way to a house system and thence to Rawson, Phillips, Scott and Penney Squadrons as the Corps influence asserted itself. Bradley Squadron was born to train Radio Operators. The school was rebuilt and grandly redesignated College, (I told you these boys are smarter) and has since moved with the times. Phillips Squadron sadly faded into history and most recently Bradley Squadron has become the Junior Leader Training Squadron.

Why do I still get the impression then of moving in vast circles? On this my third tour here, the life of your average 'Jock' has a very familiar ring to it.

Bumpers and polish are still up there vying for position with high technology. Drill with morse and electronic theory. Great emphasis is still placed on military and leadership qualities, and I doubt if any trainee in Europe has more opportunity to participate in sports and hobbies.

A very high proportion of Warrant Officers (FofS, YofS and RMS) and late entry officers have shared a common military start here in Harrogate. The current crop show no sign of reversing that traditional position.

Mr Bruce Graham an Instructional Officer in Telegraphist Wing since leaving the Service writes:

Way back in the dim and distant past—around July 1955 to be more precise, the gates of Uniacke Barracks opened and discharged into the wide world a fledgling bunch of wide-eyed young soldiery. Individually they answer to a host of names, from **Archie** to **Wurzel**, with a few peculiar and unflattering ones between. Collectively the group responded to the title 52B, reckoned by its constituent parts to be the best thing ever to tread the hallowed surface of Pennypot Lane.

For the previous three years the 140 or so members of that illustrious band had been training to take their place in the Regular Army. Now the training was over and 52B proudly sported a wide variety of cap badges. In those days the Army Apprentices' School, as it then was, trained its inmates for service in the RASC, RA, RE, REME or the Corps before despatching them to all corners of the civilised world—or Aldershot!

As 52B galloped gleefully away from 'Maniac Barracks' and the all seeing eye of **'Tara' Lonsborough**, they were all certain of one thing—it would be a cold day in a hot place before they returned.

It took several years for that climatic conundrum to occur. But it did, and on 3 May last year a squad of two dozen or so ageing 52B remnants were re-united in Harrogate. It was an event which obviously had not gone unnoticed. On every street corner and behind every bush were groups of singing barbers. Rumour had it they were in town for a convention. But 52B know better—after all, they had spent many hours in barber shops singing that sweet refrain 'Short back and sides'.

No sooner had 52B got over that, when they were treated to the College complete with Band parading through the streets of Harrogate. Some said it was the College's 'Freedom of Harrogate' parade. But that was camouflage—52B know it was really for their benefit. And they were deeply impressed by the high standard of turnout and drill, agreeing to a man that today's Apprentices are almost as smart as 52B!

The climax of 52B's re-union came when they were regally entertained in Uniacke Barracks Sergeants' Mess on Saturday evening. As the lights swung, and the muck and bullets flew, 52B were transformed. The years dropped away and once again 52B were the bright young soldiers of yester-year, ready to take on the world and its problems. That illusion lasted until their wives reassumed command and 52B were forced to retreat to the reality of middle age life. It wasn't defeat, but a tactical withdrawal, so that 52B can regroup and plan another invasion of Harrogate next year—if the College will have them and their wives will let them! (We had and they did on 2 May 1987!)

COLLEGE UPDATE

To update members of the Corps, who do not know or have been left behind by all the changes, here is a summary of the College today.

WHO DO WE TRAIN?

Apprentices are trained in the trades of Technician, Radio Telegraphist, Special Telegraphist and Electronic Warfare Operators. The College no longer trains Data Telegraphists or Telecommunications Mechancis. Only the Radio Telegraphists are posted direct to working units, the remainder continue their training either at 8 Sig Regt or at HQ Comms and Sy Gp. Apprentices train for two years now and back terming is only allowed when serious injury or other serious problems occur. Driver training up to normal car licence

Pass Off Parade 1952, 30 man frontage, huts behind

is given, through civil contract, to all Radio Telegraphists. The College now also trains Junior Leaders for one year in military, leadership and educational subjects prior to their transfer to 8 Sig Regt for trade training.

HOW ARE WE ORGANISED?

The basic College structure is three Apprentice squadrons (Penney, Rawson and Scott) and one Junior Leader squadron (Bradley). The squadrons are normally around 200 strong giving a College population of around the 800 mark.

There is of course a College Headquarters and a Headquarters Squadron providing all the usual administrative support together with four Training Wings namely, Telegraphist Wing, Technician Wing, General Training Wing and Education Wing.

The training is carried out over three terms of approximately 14 weeks each year with half term breaks and leave at Christmas, Easter and Summer as in any Boarding School. Each day there are ten 45 minute periods of instruction with hobbies, activities and administration most evenings. Saturday mornings are administrative with some competitions and sport and Squadrons take it in turn to attend church every Sunday.

WHEN DO THEY COME?

The College has intakes in January, June and September and these are, with much originality, called A, B and C intakes respectively. Therefore all who pass through the College are forever known by their year of entry and intake letter, for example the current intake is 87A. Regrettably the intakes are not even and the numbers are normally 90 in January, 140 in June, and 340 in September.

WHEN DO THEY GO?

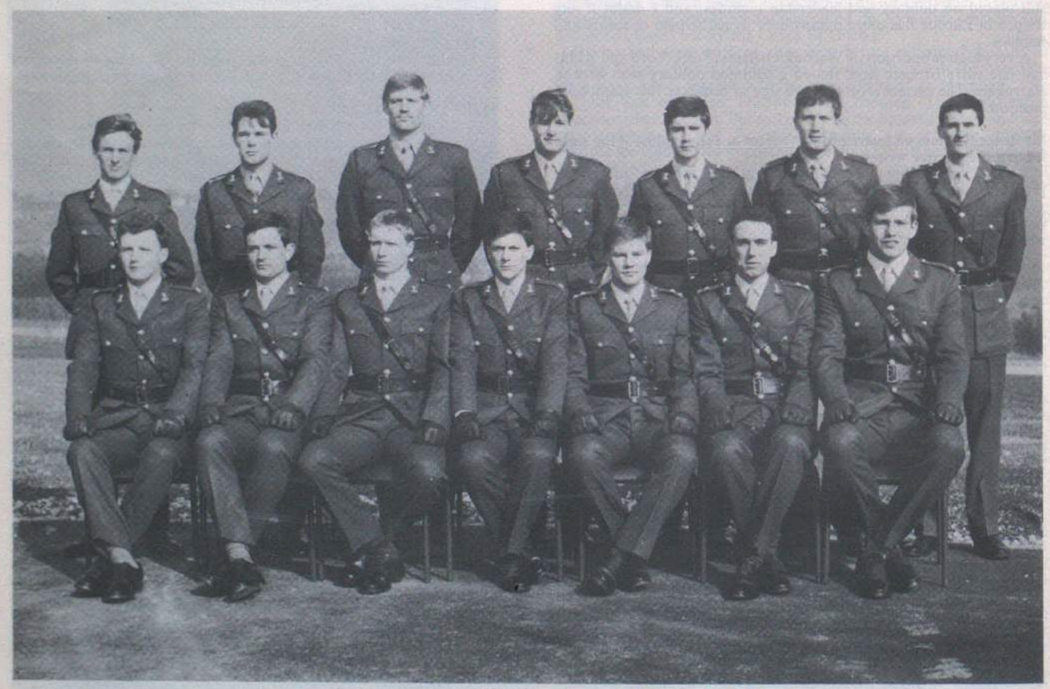
Passing out of the College is called 'Graduation' and Graduation Parades take place each June, late July and December. Junior Leaders after one year join the Apprentices of two years stay, in the Graduation Parade and of course families and friends are all welcome. The Graduation Parade is still a most impressive sight with normally about 500 on parade all commanded by the Apprentice RSM as no Permanent Staff take part. The Parade is always reviewed by a senior officer and recently these have included the SOinC and the Master of Signals.

WHAT ABOUT RANK?

Apprentices and Junior Leaders are given rank from Lance Corporal to RSM (not including Staff Sergeant). They are not paid for these ranks and they can, and do, lose them for misconduct. The rank insignia is black with a red border, Sergeants and SSMs wear red sashes and carry canes. The Apprentice Tradesman RSM on parade wears the normal regalia of Sam Browne belt and carries a pace stick.

WHO TRAINS THEM?

The Permanent Staff (PS) of the College are all very high calibre volunteers dedicated to turning out the very finest quality soldier tradesmen (I read that somewhere!). There are about 230 military PS and 180 lecturers, instructors and civilian staff. Many of the latter are ex-servicemen and some are ex-apprentices. The College, situated close to that most civilised and cultural of northern towns, Harrogate, combines good weather, good countryside, good beer and good fun in equal parts to make it a most attractive place for all ranks. Readers should book now with PB11 and Records for their next tour while vacancies exist!!



No 9 Royal Signals Troop Commanders Course 9 March-9 July 1987
Back Row (L to R): 2Lt T. J. S. Allen (Tim), Lt A. P. C. Beard (Alistair), 2Lts P. Bosher (Paul), D. Drinkall (David), S. O. France (Steven), P. A. Harlow (Philip), A. G. Hill (Andy)
Front Row (L to R): 2Lts S. G. Hutchinson (Simon), I. Meers (Ian), R. B. Rands (Richard), A. S. Saddington (Andrew), Lts J. A. F. Smith (Andrew), J. Vlasto (John), 2Lt I. R. Whitehall (Ian)

ALPINE SKIING REPORT

22 Sig Regt Alpine skiers have created a Corps record by becoming the first team to win the Army Alpine Ski Championships three times in a row.

Members of the 86/87 team were:

A—Team: **Capt Paul Ford** (Team Captain)
Sgt Paul West
Cpl Andy Brown
LCpl Geordie Crawford

B—Team: **LCpl Tommo Tomlinson**
Sig Dean Mackenzie
Sig Alan O'Kell

This year's winter training camp took the team back to their happy hunting ground of Zermatt in Switzerland. Ski training began on the 1 December, and luckily perfect conditions of cold snow with clear skies prevailed for the first two weeks. Training continued through Christmas and New Year up until 9 January when the team moved to Fulpmes in Austria for the 3 Armd Div Ski Meeting.

Since this was a new Division to the team, they were uncertain of the standard. After the first race, the Seeding Giant Slalom, **Capt Paul Ford** and **Cpl Andy Brown** were first and second respectively, with **LCpl Geordie Crawford** coming home with an excellent seventh place. This set the standard for the remaining team and individual races, and although 50 Missile Regt gave the team a good run, '22' managed to win both the Slalom and Downhill events coming a close second in the Giant Slalom. Individually, **Capt Paul Ford** won the Individual Slalom event and **Cpl Andy Brown** took first in the Downhill. **LCpl Geordie Crawford's** best result was seventh in the Slalom, **Sgt Paul West** had a 15th place in the Giant Slalom while **Sig Dean Mackenzie's** best result was 16th in Downhill. **LCpl Tommo Tomlinson** was 'knocked-out' from further racing this season by a dramatic fall in the Downhill race; his best score was being plastered from thigh to ankle by the local Doktor's assistant! And although **Sig 'Two-sticks-short-of-a-bundle' Alan O'Kell** did not qualify for the Army Championships he did have an excellent Div Meeting and took away three toes-worth of Gatekeeper's Curse (frost bite) to remind him of the experience!

After one day's rest(!) the team were ready for the Army Alpine Championships, held also at Fulpmes. This was the meeting where they would see if they had achieved the right level of training. The competition was strong; 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt, 35 Engr Regt, 3 RHA and 17/21st Lancers to name a few. But after their Div Championship win, morale within the team was high. A third place for the team in the first team race, the Giant Slalom, proved that the competition meant business. With skis well waxed and bindings tightened '22' attacked the remaining two races, the Slalom and Downhill, with all they had and came up trumps both times. They beat 1 Armd Div Tpt Regt by just enough points to clinch, once again, the title of overall Army Champions.

Notable individual achievements were **Cpl Andy Brown**, who by skiing to an outstanding standard throughout the races became the Over-all Individual Army Champion. His results were: Ind GS — third, Ind Slalom — second, DH — fourth. Also, **LCpl Geordie Crawford**, while being placed consistently inside the top 20, had an incredible result in the Downhill. Starting 26th, he skied down the high-speed Sennjoch Course coming in with the second fastest time of the day, clocking an average speed of 60.26 mph (it was estimated that speeds of up to 80 mph were reached on the fastest parts of this year's course).

Finally, both **Capt Paul Ford** and **Cpl Andy Brown** were selected to represent the Army Team in the Interservice Championships at Courmayeur, Italy. The Army Team narrowly managed to beat the RAF team by 0.3 secs over-all!

The A-Team! 1987 Army Alpine Champions
L to R: Capt Paul Ford, LCpl Geordie Crawford, Cpl Andy Brown, Sgt Paul West

The 1987 Army Individual Champion
Cpl Andy Brown in the Slalom

ARMY AND NAVY GET TOGETHER IN DERBY

11 December 1986 was the 'Welcome Ashore Day' for the Naval Recruiting staff who have moved from their old premises to join forces with the Army at 35/36 Castlefield, Main Centre, Derby. Amonst the VIP's present for the welcoming ceremony were the Director of Naval Recruiting, **Capt I. B. Sutherland RN, Cdr Stone RN**, The Mayor of Derby, **Councillor Richard Keene** and **Lt Col Wilson-Lloyd**, the Army Careers Officer Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

L to R: Sgts Jim Price WFR, Ted Carroll Grenadier Guards, WO1 C. G. (Cas) Francis, The Mayor of Derby Councillor Richard Keene, WO Peter Keeley, CWren Beryl Richards

SOLDIERS OF 21st SIGNAL REGIMENT HELP TO IMPROVE RECREATION FACILITIES AT MENTALLY HANDICAPPED SCHOOL

This article has been delayed to enable a photograph of the presentation to be included

Just before Christmas last year the CO, **Lt Col Ian Turner**, and several members of the unit visited the Erich Kästner Schule for mentally handicapped children in Singhofen near Koblenz.

The Regiment formed its association with the school in June last year when they were in Bavaria on an Adventure Training Camp. The children were on their own Summer Camp at the same time.

After the camp our soldiers were so taken with the children that they raised a total of DM 1,356.80 for their benefit. To make a special occasion of the presentation it was decided to combine it with a visit by a real English Santa Claus delivered by courtesy of a 12 Flight AAC helicopter piloted by **Sgt Dave Cauldwell** (ex R Signals).

The visit was a great success. First of all the Headmaster of the school, **Herr Kilean Schmitz**, and the leader of the parents association welcomed the Colonel and his men and thanked them for their past help, friendship and kindness to their children. In return, the CO then presented a cheque for DM 1,356.80 which is going to be used to improve the quadrangle playing area of the school.

After a super lunch, the children then performed a Shadow Play and a musical, much to the delight of the audience. Then it was time for the children and the soldiers to renew old acquaintances and also to make new friends.

Everybody, children, parents and soldiers had a really great day which they will remember for a long time to come. The friendship between the children and the soldiers of 21 Sig Regt is now well cemented. We will be seeing more of them in the next few months when they come to visit us again.

Lt Col Ian Turner presenting the cheque for Dm 1,356.80 to the Headmaster of the school, Herr Kilean Schmitz (closely supervised by Santa Claus)

NATIONAL RADIO NETWORK SUCCESS FOR THE CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL

The City of London School's CCF team won the National Radio Network Field Competition 1986, which was held in Staffordshire.

Nine pupils from the School competed against 35 other teams in a 24-hour non-stop operation passing signals, some in morse code, over short distances.

The City of London School's CCF team comprises *(left to right)* Neal Hollenberg (16), Jonathan Harris (17), Sanjiv Chohan (17), Nicholas Sleep (17), Richard Jayson (18), Ashley Rabbow (16), Martin Peel (15), Julian Raymon (18) and Simon Cobersy (16) pictured her with their 'Clansman PRC 320' radio

MEMORIAL VISIT TO JABALPUR by Mrs Creaton

Any account of my recent visit to India must start with my sincerest thanks to the Indian Corps of Signals who entertained us royally during our stay and the Royal Signals Association who made the trip possible, and **Mr Frank Lovatt** for organising the visit.

It was with great sadness that I, accompanied by my daughter and son-in-law set off to retrace the steps, and visit the grave of my late husband **Warren Creaton**, who died whilst attending the 75th Anniversary of the Indian Corps of Signals Training Centre in Jabalpur, although, it would give us the opportunity of seeing some of the many places he talked about so often during his life, and of the India he loved.

After my first ever flight we arrived in Delhi, much relieved to find that the Indian Signals, in the form of **Maj Sharma**, was there to greet us and to give us our first introduction of the hospitality that was to follow us throughout our stay. The next two days were spent getting used to the climate and culture of a new continent before 'taking off' yet again to reach our ultimate destination of Jabalpur.

We arrived in Jabalpur on Saturday 7 February to find a full and varied itinerary had been planned for us. The most heart warming being a memorial service on the Sunday and a visit to the cemetery, on my late husband's first anniversary, where a short service was held.

The remainder of our time was spent visiting places of interest such as Marble Rocks and Khana National Park, which included a jeep ride that will never be forgotten.

We were fortunate to be able to attend the celebrations laid on for the 76th Anniversary of the Indian Corps of Signals. Our ever attentive hosts making us feel very welcome by giving us invitations to dinner parties, cocktail parties, an inter-services Band Competition and many more, all of which ensured that, though our visit was tinged with sadness, we had an enjoyable and unforgettable experience throughout our time in Jabalpur.

Our return journey through Delhi was highlighted by being able to take the Agra Express and to see the magnificent Taj Mahal, although it also meant that we were now at the end of our stay and we would be leaving many new found friends.

On behalf of myself, daughter and son-in-law, I would very much like to express our gratitude to all the people involved, particularly to **Lt Gen R. P. Singh** and **Maj Sharma** (Delhi), **Brig G. Bhagat**, **Capt Dubai**, **Capt Jaswinder Singh** and **Mrs Madge Pinto** (Jabalpur) and **Maj Richard Brown** (Catterick) for all the compassion, kindness and friendship shown to us. It is a trip that will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield, as President of the Indian Signals Association wishes to thank the Signals Association for generously sponsoring this trip for one of his members. He was in touch with Lt Gen R. P. Singh and Brigadier Girish Bhagat over the arrangements and the warmth of their acceptance of our guests and their unstinting generosity demonstrates, once more, the very special bond between our two Corps.

Mrs Creaton with her daughter and son-in-law

– Movements –

Officers

APRIL 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt A. J. Allman	7 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. J. Bowen	School of Signals
Col C. A. Brown	DCISS(C)
2Lt R. F. W. Chapman	QG Sig Regt
2Lt A. Clark	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer	11 Sig Regt
2Lt P. S. Cubbin	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. R. Dick-Peter	10 Sig Regt
2Lt M. S. Edwards	5(AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
A/Maj P. N. Ellis	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt W. D. Fathers	249 Sig Sqn
Capt I. Foxley	HS RMCS Shrivenham
A/Capt A. A. Goff	640 Sig Tp
Maj (TOT) J. M. Hammonds	MOD DSS(A)
Capt S. J. Harris	HS RAEC Centre
Maj A. W. H. Harrison	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj A. B. Hill	11 Sig Regt
Lt S. J. Howard	Held Strength School of Signals
Lt A. P. Hudson	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj E. W. Hunt	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
2Lt G. Inglis	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt P. B. Knobel	HS 5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Maj (Tfc) C. M. Lightfoot	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison
Capt R. W. Lockwood	21 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc(R)) D. J. Luckett	AA College Harrogate
Capt (Tfc) R. W. Mansfield	H/S 11 Sig Regt
Lt G. J. Mason	21 Sig Regt
Maj D. J. McLuckie	HQ Trg Gp R Signals and Catterick Garrison
Maj J. P. McMahon	R Signals Manning and Record Office
Lt J. H. R. Morley-Kirk	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) N. Patton	262 Sig Sqn
2Lt J. Pettett	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
2Lt M. J. Podger	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt J. E. Richardson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj B. H. Rowe	71 Sig Regt (V)
Capt D. M. Steele	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Maj M. K. Stretch	MOD
Maj I. M. G. Strong	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj J. F. Stuart	SHAPE (BAE)
Capt R. G. Thomas	HQ UKLF
Capt R. M. Thurston	HS RMCS Shrivenham
Capt (QM) R. G. Vale	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col C. J. Walters	HQ BAOR
2 Lt D Wheatley-Price	30 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) R. J. Wherry	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)

MAY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt (Tfc) R. W. Badge	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt A. J. Bowering	28 Sig Regt
Col D. T. Burton	MS PB11
Capt A. D. Gallie	632 Sig TP (Hebrides)
Maj I. N. Greig	School of Signals
Lt C. M. R. Lewis	21 Sig Regt
Maj T. R. Manders	JCUFI
Capt (Tfc) R. W. Mansfield	School of Signals
Capt (Tfc) T. J. McLoughlin	H/S 264 Sig Sqn
Capt P. J. D. Moloney	Held Strength 11 Sig Regt
Capt T. J. Peacocke	HS 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col E. Pickup	UK CICC
Lt Col J. M. Sweetman	RSRE (PE) (AE)
Maj R. J. Turnbull	2 Inf Div Fwd
Lt M. I. Weston	40 Sig Regt (V)
Col D. C. Whitehead	Misc Appts Home
Lt B. F. Williams	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. P. Wilson	HS 71 Sig Regt (V)

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WOs and SNCOs

MARCH 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
ASgt J. Bridgewater	13 Sig Regt
ASgt M. W. Brown	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)

APRIL 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 R. M. Bee Bee	HQ UKLF
AWO1 J. Crooks	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 B. P. Gardner	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 J. J. Dent	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 S. Hutchins	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt R. P. Girst	SHAPE
SSgt S. W. G. Bromidge	School of Signals
SSgt J. R. W. Webster	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt C. M. Atherley	259 Sig Sqn
ASSgt C. Clark	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt P. Skinner	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt K. Dunk	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt C. L. Johnson	30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. A.. Alexander	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
Sgt S. Grantham	16 Sig Regt
Sgt M. K. Alcock	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt H. W. Sullivan	AFNORTH HQ
Sgt M. J. Harvey	565 RLD
Sgt D. Frost	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt F. Hutchinson	63 (SAS) Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt J. Dunne	595 RLD
Sgt S. L. Tiffin	School of Signals
Sgt M. W. E. Hutchinson	32 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt L. Okane	633 Sig Tp
Sgt J. L. Donovan	37 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. B. Wallace	608 Sig Tp
Sgt N. V. Ranier	13 Sig Regt
Sgt A. P. Wall	14 Sig Regt (EW)
Sgt D. M. Legg	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Thompson	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Whitecross	21 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Isbell	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt A. Hockley	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt J. Thomson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. G. Long	30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. McGiveron	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. R. Wilson	HQ Int and Sy Gp
Sgt N. J. Griffiths	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt N. Fordyce	13 Sig Regt
Sgt F. S. Roberts	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Stewart	21 Sig Regt
Sgt T. R. Norman	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. A. Wilson	28 Sig Regt
Sgt D. C. B. Pickard	QG Sig Regt
Sgt A. Bird	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt R. S. Galpin	ACIO Londist
Sgt D. Hopper	Army Personel Selection Group
Sgt M. K. Tiffany	8 Sig Regt
ASgt J. Fradley	21 Sig Regt
ASgt S. W. Frampton	Army Apprentices' College
ASgt B. P. Hayles	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt

MAY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 P. H. Coleman	11 Sig Regt
WO1 P. Hilton	HQ 12 Bde (V)
WO1 P. L. Deam	HQ 11 Bde (V)
AWO1 A. F. McBain	21 Sig Regt
WO2 C. J. Fielding	SOL Sp Oman
WO2 T. M. Moorhead	SANGCOM
WO2 C. M. Platts	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 T. Jones	36 Sig Reg (V)
AWO2 M. D. M. McKeating	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
AWO2 N. S. Round	21 Sig Regt
SSgt M. E. White	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt M. Knight	HQ BAOR
SSgt E. L. Gallacher	31 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt J. McElwen	HQ NORTHAG
SSgt W. J. Kelly	4 Armd Div Hq and Sig Regt
SSgt M. Poland	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt W. Watts	36 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt D. Smy	2 Inf Div HQ FE
ASSgt A. Fiddes	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt S. R. Sharma	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt W. S. Robertson	QG Sig Regt
Sgt K. M. Fitzpatrick	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. G. Artus	16 Sig Regt
Sgt V. Bragg	21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. W. H. Sixsmith	28 Sig Regt
Sgt K. R. Hibbins	560 RLD
Sgt G. W. Crosby	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. A. Wood	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt T. H. Brackenbury	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. Rogers	NORTHAG Air Support Radio Sqn
Sgt D. M. Ratcliffe	Army Personal Selection Centre
Sgt J. Shiels	15 CTT (Arborfield)
Sgt J. A. Lockert	HQ 5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt R. S. Lewis	8 Sig Regt
Sgt H. K. Copestake	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (Int)
Sgt J. K. C. Easterbrook	School of Signals
Sgt N. D. Parry	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
ASgt J. C. Clarke	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
ASgt J. R. Turner	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt R. M. Wilson	12 RSME
ASgt D. A. Ellis	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

Welfare

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

The Association was able to help the 91 year old mother of an ex Lance Corporal who was killed in action in Italy in 1944. She needed to buy a secondhand cooker and some assistance with heating costs. An extract from her letter reads: 'I am most grateful for the money you sent to help me. I got a good cooker and in good condition, I used it on Sunday, so now I will not be afraid. I got some fuel with the rest of the money. Thank you so very much for making it possible'.

The 71 year old widow of a soldier who was a FEPOW during World War Two suffered a burst water tank during the last spell of cold weather. The Association was able to make a grant to pay for the plumber.

Together with the Earl Haig Fund the Association contributed the balance towards the purchase of a power assisted car for a 76 year old widower who served during World War Two and now is severely crippled by arthritis.

An ex-signalman who was due to go into hospital for major surgery was helped to clear his rent arrears in order to protect his family from being evicted while he was away.

Due to the exceptionally cold winter the Association was asked to provide several ex-members of the Corps with extra warm clothing and shoes.

February 1987

Number of cases assisted financially:	86
Amount spent:	£13,381.98

March 1987

Number of cases assisted financially:	65
Amount spent:	£8,187.26

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during January-April 1987.

In memory of Maj J. Gerrard	£ 20.00
In memory of Col G. D. T. Harris	£ 5.00
In memory of Lt Col T. W. Norrish	£ 10.00
Lt J. C. Williams	£ 25.00
C. G. Hoare	£ 10.00
C. J. Thompson	£ 10.00
M. W. Moyle	£ 7.00
H. Bennett	£ 5.80
P. B. Cairns	£ 5.80
F. W. Milner	£ 5.80
'Gillespie'	£ 5.00
R. F. Fairburn	£ 5.00
Earl Kitchener of Khartoum	£ 2.00
RSA Shrewsbury Branch	£300.00
RSA Brighton Branch	£ 60.00
RSA Cotswold	£ 50.00
RSA Lincoln Branch	£ 50.00
RSA Bedford Branch	£ 25.00
RSA Winchester Branch	£ 10.00
RSA Torquay Branch	£ 10.00
HQ Minden Garrison Thrift Shop	£ 71.94
58 Sig Sqn	£ 26.50
St John's Church, Sparkhill	£ 17.50
Misc	£218.26
	£955.60

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FINANCIAL SECURITY	—for present or future dependants
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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
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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GOOD INFORMATION is the basis of sound planning. The more clients take us into their confidence the better we can assist them. Please let us have full details of existing resources, your ability to save, and any expectations. Please also tell us all you can about commitments with which you expect to have to cope. We, of course, treat all such information as confidential.

AN EARLY START helps, and we will be pleased to assist you however modest your resources may be now. If you have existing arrangements which may need developing, the sooner you refer them to us, the more help we are likely to be able to give you.

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 39 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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NOTICES

DEATHS

Berwick—Maj H. E. Berwick—served 1933-66—died 10 November 1986.
Colling—Lt J. C. Colling—died 13 January 1987.
Conway—Maj P. A. Conway (Royal Signals and RAPC)—died 25 March 1987.
Eraut—Lt Col R. Eraut—died 30 April 1987.
Hircoe—Lt J. R. Hircoe—served 1931-46—died 2 April 1987.
Hooper—Mrs M. M. Hooper (wife of **Lt Col C. G. Hooper**)—died 15 April 1987.
Jackson—Maj Gen A. J. Jackson—served 1942-78—died 7 April 1987.
Licence—Maj T. Licence—died 28 April 1987.
Lonnon—Lt Col P. W. Lonnon OBE—served 1935-69—died 10 April 1987.
Newsham—Maj H. W. Newsham—served 1934-68—died 25 March 1987.
Stones—Capt (Hon Maj) E. L. G. Stones—died February 1987.
Swan—Maj H. E. M. Swan—died 31 January 1987.
Tyrie—Maj D. P. Tyrie—served 1935-50—died 21 March 1987.
Yates—Capt I. L. Yates—died 26 February 1987.

OBITUARIES

Bailey—ex SQMS W. Bailey. Bill Bailey joined Royal Signals at Catterick as a Boy Trumpeter in January 1928. His parents lived across the moors near Bellerby, and he was able to escape occasionally from the spartan conditions obtaining in 'F' Company at that time, for some home comforts and cooking.

Bill saw service in Egypt and in North Africa during the War, and subsequently as a PSI with the TA in Scotland. He was serving as an SQMS in 4 Trg Regt, when he retired in 1957.

At that time the Royal Signals Museum was being set up in Marne Lines, and **Bill** was taken on as the civilian assistant. He soon became the 'curator' and 'jack of all trades' and was busily involved for the next ten years in dealing with large amounts of old, mostly war time, signal equipment, and displaying what he could in the limited space available. He was a familiar figure around Marne Lines with his faithful black labrador dog, and could easily have been mistaken for a game keeper.

In 1967 the Museum moved from the temporary accommodation at Catterick to the purpose built museum in the School of Signals HQ Building in Blandford Camp. **Bill**, under the direction of **Lt Col Edward Day**, the Corps Historical Officer at that time, accomplished this very difficult transition, and in what seemed a very short time, had the exhibits on show in their splendid new home.

Bill's health gradually deteriorated in the next few years, and he finally retired in 1975. He was never again a very fit man, and died in his home at Sturminster Newton on 15 April. He was a member of the Dorset Branch of the Royal Signals Association.

Bennett — Sig Anthony Edward Bennett. It is with deep regret that 5 AB Bde, HQ and Sig Sqn report the sudden and tragic death of **Tony** from heart failure, on Thursday 26 February.

He enlisted in Royal Signals on 4 October 1979 and was trained at 8 Sig Regt as a Combat Lineman before joining 21 Sig Regt. He was posted to 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in September 1984. In 1985 he served with 266 Sig Sqn before returning to Aldershot, where he lived with his wife in North Camp. Professionally he was a dedicated and highly competent lineman. He was cheerful, willing to lend a hand to anybody who came along, and in the lineman fashion was a good 'jack of all trades'. A small plaque has been erected at the Sergeants' Mess patio where he spent many hours ensuring that the re-build of the brickwork was done to the highest standard.

Tony was married in July 1984, and on behalf of his many friends we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his young widow, **Julie**, and to all the members of his family.

Newsham—Maj H. W. Newsham. It is with regret that we at 38 Sig Regt (V) report the death of **Harry** at his home in Grantham on 25 March.

Harry enlisted into the Royal Signals at Catterick in April 1934. Between 1939 and 1940 he served in Bulford, Malta, Jubbulpore and Singapore. In 1940 he became a prisoner-of-war. At the end of hostilities in 1945 he returned to England and Catterick. From there he moved to BAOR, serving in 1 Corps Sig Regt at Iserlohn, Lines of Communication Sig Sqn at Dortmund and 2 Div Sig Regt in Hilden. In 1951 he returned to the UK where he served in 1 Corps Sig Regt at Gloucester and Hereford, until 1956. From 1956 he was RSM of the Officer Training Wing at Catterick until he was commissioned as QM of 5 Training Regiment at Ripon in April 1957. This was followed by tours as a QM in 15 Sig Regt, in Cyprus, 21 Sig Regt in Bruggen and Wildenrath, and 38 Sig Regt (V) in Sheffield where in March 1968 he retired and went into banking.

In August 1969 he assumed a post as Retired Officer with 28 Sig Regt and remained there until 1982, having served the Corps both in uniform and as a retired officer for 45 years.

He retired to Sheffield where he renewed old acquaintances with the local branch of the Association and accepted honorary membership of 38 Sig Regt (V) Officers Mess. In July 1986 he moved to Grantham. He leaves a widow, **Betty** and three daughters, to whom we send our sincere condolences.

Wood—Maj Alec Wood died on 8 April 1987 after suffering a stroke.

Alec enlisted in the Corps as a boy in 1928 and served his apprenticeship as a Vehicle Mechanic in F Coy at Catterick under **Maj F. R. Cuff** and **Capt 'Fishy' Rance**. He was a very keen sportsman, excelling at rugger and soccer.

He was commissioned soon after the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 and served in the Middle East and Australia. On completing his service in 1960 as OC Royal Signals (Cipher) unit in Brighton, he took over the Ship Inn in Ringmer, Sussex where he was a very successful 'Mine Host' until he retired in 1980. He made many friends and the Ship Inn became a meeting spot for many serving and ex members of the Corps.

He will be sadly missed by his widow **Pat**, two daughters **Joan** and **Maureen** and his very many friends.

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LETTERS

From: ex Cpl F. Callaghan

Dear Sir,

I hope that some of my former chums from my days in Royal Signals (1970-1976) may remember me and my yen to go into show business despite all the competitive odds. I had enjoyed playing drums and singing in various groups both in Germany and in Cyprus.

Well, after leaving the Army I started singing semi-professionally in and around London and in September 1985 I joined a group called 'The Outfield' as a backing vocalist. Then I turned professional and went on tour to America three times and to Europe. Our group has achieved one 'top 10' hit, one 'top 20' hit and our first LP sold nearly two million copies: all of which were achieved in America.

Whilst I hope this news may be of interest, the purpose of my letter is to say hello to former friends and to invite them to come and make themselves known to me should 'The Outfield' group be fulfilling engagements in their area. Any letters received from old friends will be answered.

With best wishes to you all.

Yours faithfully
F. Callaghan

23 Coston Walk
Brockley
London SE4 2LS

From: Lt Col (Retd) D. P. Herring

Dear Sir,

ANNOUNCEMENT—CATTERICK REUNION

D. T. Williams and D. P. Herring will attend this year and would like to meet with all Corps acquaintances. Especially 11/12 Squad Boys 1943 vintage and 6 FofS Courses 1949/50.

'Willie D. T.' is travelling from New Zealand for this event.

Yours faithfully
D. P. Herring

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From: ex FofS George W. Cook

Dear Sir,

FRONTIER AMBUSH, AND A MURDER MOST FOUL

The new Corps painting Frontier Ambush brings to mind another Frontier ambush involving Corps personnel.

This took place in April 1937 in the Shahur Tangi, South Waziristan, just north of Manzai on the road to Wana. It was perpetrated by a Mahsud lashkar which somehow got astride the road in the Tangi quite undetected by South Waziristan Scouts picquets and a patrolling Indian Air Force Wapiti flying from Dhera Ismail Khan and later, shot down.

Four signalmen, recently arrived to start their five year posting to India, were en-route by truck convoy from the Manzai railhead—destination Wana. All were in the back of a 30cwt truck in the centre of the convoy as it wended its way through the narrow Tangi, a perfect place for an ambush. An armoured car from the 8th Light Tank Company headed the convoy, immediately followed by a truckful of Khassadars and South Waziristan Scouts. These were allowed to pass unmolested and the tribesmen then opened fire on the next vehicle, killing the driver, blocking the road, and bringing the entire convoy to a halt.

Sig Davis (Davies?) was shot dead, **Sig (Lofty) Bowkett** was badly wounded and very close to death, while **Sig (Betty) Bartlett** and **(Stumpy) Stubbs** were unharmed and managed to avoid being seen by the Mahsuds who had entered some of the trucks with their knives doing what they were born to do to the wounded. Two days later, **Sig (Speedy) Swift** and myself, with a No 1 Set accompanied a squadron of Scinde Horse out from Tank in a sweep of the stony desert just south of the Tangi in an attempt to intercept members of the dispersing lashkar. The troopers got four in a hectic charge down a nullah and bloodied their sabres.

It is with much sorrow that I relate this story. About 18 months ago I was hosting **Maj Gen Lewis Wylie** (Cdn Forces) to lunch during his visit to a 'hi-tech' company I worked for in the 'Silicon (Santa Clara) Valley', just south of San Francisco. A person lunching at an adjacent table approached over coffee, and turned to me and said with a grin, 'Number four transmitter's gone off the air Foreman'.

It was **Mike Chalkley** who had been a radio technician at 3GHQ Sig Regt transmit sites during 1955-58, first at Fanara in Egypt and later at Kokini Trimithia and Evhdimu in Cyprus. He was a competent technician, a fine NCO, and an asset to our unit.

Mike emigrated to the States in the early 60's and became chief executive officer and president of an electronics company he had founded in Santa Clara.

A mere two weeks after we re-met, **Mike** was shot dead and his body dumped into San Francisco Bay. The murderers have been apprehended and are now on bail awaiting trial. Hopefully justice will be done.

Yours faithfully
George W. Cook

183 Temelec Circle
Sonoma
CA 95476-8026

FOR SALE

Sergeants' Mess Dress—Jacket 42in chest, trousers 38in waist, 30in inside leg, including cummerband. Price £70 ono including p&p. Contact **Mr J. J. Smart**, 36 Florence Street, Swindon, Wilts SN2 1BA, Tel: (0793) 611433.

Mess dress. Jacket and waistcoat 42in chest, trousers 38in waist, inside leg 33in. Complete with badges of rank (Staff Sergeant) and lapel badges. Very good condition. £65 incl p and p. Contact: **Mr Spinks**, 7 Downs Road, Folkesfone, Kent CT19 5PJ. Tel (0303) 54304.

PERSONAL

4 COMMANDO—1942

Mr E. W. Jones is endeavouring to compile a list of names of those who took part in the Hess Battery raid at Varengeville, near Dieppe in August 1942. He would be grateful if you will get in contact with him at 5 Pentre DWR, Rhos, Wrexham, Clwyd, North Wales, (Tel 0978 840827).

REUNIONS

INDIAN SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
BUFFET LUNCH RICHMOND 27 JUNE 1987

This event will again take place on the Saturday of the Corps 'At Home'. The venue will be The Town Hall Hotel Richmond and 'festivities' will commence at 12 noon. Lunch being available from 1pm approx.

Cost per head will be £3.50. No tickets will be issued but all applications will be acknowledged. Applications please, as usual, to **Lt Col E. Thompson**, 11 Woodvale Road, Darlington, Co Durham DL3 8HA. Tel: (0325) 463835.

HOUTHALEN-HELCHTEREN—BELGIUM

The British Community Association in Limburg is assisting the Mayor of Houthalen-Helchteren in his endeavours to get into contact with those who fought in the area during the last war. It is hoped to arrange a re-union with local families and a reception and memorial service in honour of our lost comrades. The date, to be announced later, will ideally be at the end of September which marks the liberation of the area by Guards Armoured and 11 Armd Div.

Anyone who is able to assist in providing names and addresses of those serving in the area towards the end of 1944 and early 1945 are asked to please get in touch with **Mr B. J. Kuipers** (Hon Treasurer), British Community Association Limburg, 6 Seringenstraat, Lanaken 3760, Belgium, as early as possible.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER

The OWA Reunion Dinner will be held at West Court Officers' Mess Arborfield on Friday 25 September 1987. Anyone wishing to attend should contact: Orderly Room Sergeant, REME Officers' School, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NN. Tel: Arborfield Cross (0734) 760421 Ext 2483 as soon as possible but definitely before 4 September 1987. Please leave a firm contact address and telephone number. Full details will be sent out nearer the time.

Dress will be Black Tie and the timings are 1930 hrs for 2000 hrs. The cost will be approximately £10 per head and accommodation is available on request.

25 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY 1947-1984

The third re-union of 25 is to take place on Sunday 5 July 1987 at 1200 hrs.

Venue is Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Salisbury, Wilts in the vicinity of the School Officers' Mess (look for the tentage).

Wives and family are all welcome.

Further details from: **Len Haddow**, 11 Chapel Lane, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3TD. Telephone 0634 388156.

ROYAL SIGNALS PUBLICITY DIARY NOTES

(Key:

BC	Blandford Camp	RSBD	Dance Band
BH	Blue Helmets	RSBM	Marching Band
CG	Catterick Garrison	RSBO	Orchestra
HA	Harrogate	SM	Sergeants' Mess
MDT	Display Team	WH	White Helmets
OM	Officers' Mess	*	To be confirmed)
RSBC	Concert Band		

As all these dates are subject to alteration, it is suggested that you check with 01-930-4466, Ext 8444 (London District Mil).

JUNE		
2-5	Dumbarton	'Foresight Into Management' CoursesLecture
3-7	Wadebridge	MDT: Royal Cornwall Show
3-8	Northern Ireland	RSBM: Tour
5-8	Bad Lippspringe	WH: Rhine Army Summer Show
8-11	Helston	MDT: Aero Park
10, 11	Beverley	RSBM: Retreat
12-14	Wales	MDT: Derwyn School for the Handicapped
12-4 Jul	Eastern District	KAPE: 22 Sig Regt (Reserve)
13	Bristol	RSBC: 37 Sig Regt (V)
13	Halifax	BH: Gala
13, 14	Berlin	WH:
18, 19	Aberdeen	WH: KAPE
19-21	Shrewsbury	MDT: Carnival
20	BC	RSBC: Corps Lunch
20, 21	Rotherham	WH: Tattoo
22-24	York	RSBM: Kohima Celebrations
25	Beverley	RSBM: Retreat at RSMT
26-28	CG	RSBC: Old Comrades Reunion
26	Bristol	WH:
27	Kent	BH: Seal Fire Brigade
27	Northallerton	BH, WH: North Yorkshire County Show
27, 28	CG	MDT: Old Comrades Reunion
28	CG	WH: Old Comrades Reunion
28	Guildford	BH: Lockwood Day Centre
*	NE Dist	KAPE: 2 Inf Div HQ & Sig Regt
JULY		
1-3	CG, HA	All Arms Recruiters Convention
1-3	Bassingbourne	MDT: Army Schools Exhibition
3-5	Redcar	MDT: British Steel Gala
4	Dorset	RSBC: Army Benevolent Fund
4, 5	HA	RSBM: Graduation Parade AA College
5	Bedfordshire	WH: RAF Chicksands Fete
10-13	London	MDT: Borough of Bexley Show
12-25	Bournemouth	RSBC: Bandstand
15-1 Aug	London	WH: The Royal Tournament
17-19	London	MDT: Norbury Fair
18	Calne	RSBM: Wiltshire Show
18, 19	Sunderland	BH: Carnival
21-23*	Peterborough	MDT: East of England Show
24-7 Aug	Scotland	KAPE: 4 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt
25, 26	Sunderland	MDT: Show
27-2 Aug	Tyneside	MDT*: Exhibition
31	HA	RSBM: Pass Off Parade
31-3 Aug	Wakefield	MDT: Gala
AUGUST		
1	London	WH: The Royal Tournament
2-15	Cardiff	WH: Searchlight Tattoo
2-8	London	RSBC: St James' Park
6-10	Southsea	MDT: Show
12-16	Carmarthen	MDT: United Counties Show
16-22	London	RSBC: Regents' Park
16	Gloucestershire	WH: Gatcome Park Show
18, 19	Cromer	MDT:Show
21, 22	Kettering	MDT: Show
22, 23	Hartlepool	WH: Show
23-29	Eastbourne	RSBC: Bandstand
25-27	Stafford	MDT and WH: Police Space Carnival
27	Eastbourne	WH: Show
29-31	Seaham	WH: East Durham Show
SEPTEMBER		
4, 5	Essex	MDT: Orset Show
6, 7	Nottingham	MDT: Show
7-30	SW Dist	KAPE: 14 Sig Regt
7-21	Cyprus	RSBM: KAPE
9-12	Portsmouth	WH: RM Tattoo
11-13	Western Dist	MDT: Kington Show
12	Romsey	WH: Show
20	CG	WH: Pro/Am Golf Tournament
23-25	Cosford	MDT: Joint Services Open Day
25	Redcar	MDT and WH: SSAFA Day
OCTOBER		
1-17	BAOR	RSBM: Tour
18-21	Berlin	RSBM: Tour
23	HA	RSBM: Pass Off Parade
NOVEMBER		
4	Brecon	Wales Careers Convention: Lecture
7	Salisbury	RSBC: Cathedral Concert
8	Richmond	RSBM: Remembrance Parade
20-22	CG	UOTC Training Weekend
25-27	CG	RSBM: Pass Off Parade
DECEMBER		
5	HA	RSBM: Graduation Parade, AA College
12	London	RSBC: Festival Hall: Trumpets
16	CG	RSBM: Pass Off Parade
18	HA	RSBM: Graduation Parade, AA College

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SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A RETIRED OFFICER GRADE 3—AT HEADQUARTERS TRAINING GROUP ROYAL SIGNALS AND CATTERICK GARRISON

In November 1987, a vacancy will arise at Headquarters Training Group Royal Signals and Catterick Garrison for a Retired Officer Grade 3 to fill the post of SO3 G1. He is responsible for promulgating policy on Discipline, convening Courts Martial and for Summary Trials (Officers and Warrant Officers), Boards of Inquiry, Audit Boards, Processing Officers and Warrant Officers Confidential Reports, Honours and Awards, Commissions, Promotions and Retirements.

Applicants should have had sound Regimental experience and preferably have been an Adjutant or held a G1 Staff Appointment.

Applications for this post are invited from serving officers contemplating retirement and from officers who have already retired. Serving officers should apply in accordance with AGAI Vol 2 Chap 40 and retired officers should apply direct to: Ministry of Defence, CM(A) 2(RO), Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

Anyone interested may wish to discuss the work with the present incumbent, **Col David Wisdom** on Catterick Military (Richmond 832521) Ext 2010.

VACANCY FOR RO3 POST IN CATTERICK
APPOINTMENT

A vacancy exists for a RO3 in the new PTARMIGAN Wing of the Trade Training School, 8 Sig Regt.

Qualification for Post

Must be a retired Royal Signals Officer with experience of Signal and general staff work. Applicants should be under 58 years of age and should not have been out of the Army for more than five years.

Mission

Is the staff officer to the Chief Instructor of PTARMIGAN Wing and is responsible to him for the day-to-day administration of PTARMIGAN Wing.

Responsibilities and Duties

These include the duties of Administrative Officer for a specialised technical Training Wing of approximately 40 military cadre and 35 signals vehicles.

Full details can be obtained from **Lt Col (Retd) R. Winstone,** Ministry of Defence CM(A)2 (RO), Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

WANTED

The White Helmets

Royal Signals Demonstration Team would be most grateful if retiring or retired members of the Corps in possession of No 1 dress would kindly donate their uniform to the White Helmets Team.

Please send uniforms to:
Officer Commanding The White Helmets
Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Vimy Barracks
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire DL9 3PS
Tel: Catterick Military 0748 832521 ext 2566.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

COMMS TP ADVENTURE TRAINING EXERCISE *MARCH HARE*

Ex *March Hare*, a mountain walking exercise in the Glencoe area took place 6-11 March. Participating were **Lt Alec Paterson, LCpl Geordie Gunton, Sig Cam Logan, Pte Geordie Luther** and our local interpreter **Sig 'Jock' Wylie.**

On our first day, however, our worst fears were confirmed, when a check with JSMTC Scotland, just down the road at Ballachulish, told us the weather was closing in. Gale force winds were followed by a foot of snow in the valleys and this combined to keep us off the mountains.

All was not lost, however, and Plan B was swiftly put into action to prevent the Troops becoming frustrated by inactivity. During the following couple of days we completed a couple of low level walks including a section of the West Highland way, during which **LCpl Gunton** unfortunately discovered his new boots didn't fit him. Not the same problem suffered by **Lt Paterson** whose new boots fitted perfectly, once he had got over the embarrasment of returning to the shop in Fort William to complain they had only packed one boot in the bag whilst **Pte Luther** waved the other at him through the shop window.

The accommodation at the Para Hut Glencoe proved comfortable enough, although a lack of running water and of a sense of urgency on the part of the plumber coming to fix it led to some odd sights scaring the sheep on the way to the stream at the bottom of the field.

Other minor problems, such as how to acclimatise to the somewhat liberal licensing hours, whether **Sig Logan's** hair mousse would last him the whole exercise, resolved themselves allowing everyone to reap the benefit both from the training and the break from Londonderry for a few days.

Finally our thanks to **Sig Logan's** grandparents in Stranraer who provided copious amounts of coffee and tea and bullied us into eating far more cakes and scones than was good for us whilst we waited for the return ferry!

'SIGNALMAN MIKE'
Report by Cpl Mick Brown

We deviate to bring some light relief to your lives. The youngest and smallest member to join Mike Troop and the Squadron is 'Sig Mike'. He was taken under the protective wing of our QM **Capt (QM) Brian Young** and soon found his niche with the Technicians, Linemen and Riggers. 'Sig Mike' is an outcast of Londonderry and Mike Troop soon realised why the QM had so willingly surrendered this supernumerary — he was boisterous beyond belief and most ill disciplined. He hasn't improved much. His Tp Comd recently submitted a 2047 to his Sqn Comd, as he graded 'Mike' outstanding despite the awful write-up. This says it all. He is much loved though and has been adopted by **Cpl Brown** (for food and shelter) and by the Troop for comradeship. Sadly the report met its end in the bin but was resurrected for the record.

Cpl Mick Brown and his crewman Sig 'Mike'

PEN PICTURE

'Mike' has been here for only five months and is truly outstanding. He is a fit fellow who is determined, loyal, resourceful but above all adaptable. Though only a junior of one year of age (or thereabouts) his talents are considerable, He enjoys football — his team spirit is excellent, but apart from this he is useless as a Signalman. He enjoys splashing in puddles and should be promoted to 2Lt by order of 'OC Mike Troop'.

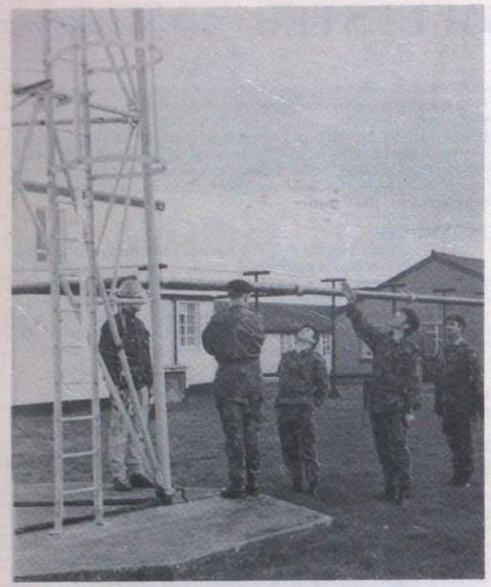
VISIT TO LONDONDERRY BY SOinC
MAJ GEN P. D. ALEXANDER MBE

We were privileged to be visited by the SOinC during his tour of the Province. The visit, though unfortunately very short, was action-packed to say the least, and started with a 'memory-lane' call on 2nd Bn Grenadier Guards in Ballykelly Camp. The Camp in fact set the scene for the visit in which the SOinC met a large number of Squadron personnel in their everyday role. Jumping from the helicopter he was escorted by **Lt Alec Patterson** as he inspected Rover Group. For this visit Rover Group was commanded by **Cpl 'Taff' Shaw** and consisted of **Pte 'Gambo' Gambino, LCpls 'Jock' Haggart, 'Ned' Kelly, Pte 'Geordie' Luther** and **Sig 'Action Man' Clavey.**

Despite **Pte Gambino's** efforts to convince the SOinC that the mafia had infiltrated the Squadron, and **LCpl Haggart's** attempts to persuade him that he commanded Rover Group from his bunk the inspection went remarkably well, and was followed by a visit to the 30m ranges, where **SSgt Donald Bennett** was busy taking soldiers through their pistol TOETS (everyone has to be skilled) and ensuring all passed at marksman level.

Next came a Cougarnet talk-through emergency replacement brief by **WO2 (FofS) Bob Thompson**. A short hop by helicopter to Ebrington Barracks and the SOinC met the Squadron wives, this time accompanied by his wife! Then to the opening of the QM Department's new buildings after which the SOinC moved on to view the new telephone exchange. An office call to the Bde Comd, **Brig M. R. I. Constantine OBE** was followed by dinner with the Officers of 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn. The visit was thoroughly enjoyable, the stamina of the SOinC amazing some members of the Squadron who were beginning to flag. The photographs cover most of the visit.

The visit starts — SOinC, escorted by Cpl Shaw RPC inspects Rover Group. Lt Alec Paterson OC Comms Tp on the left



SOinC, accompanied by Comd Comms HQNI, OC Sqn and RSM then went to see LCpl Jim McNaught and his team in their rigging role. OC does his 'points-to-note' bit . . .

. . . and then LCpl McNaught asked a question out of turn . . .

. . . and then it was time for SOinC to ask an awkward question, which stumped the QM for once! We're running this one as Caption Competition No 109, so entries on a postcard please to . . .

Back from Ballykelly Barracks and safely into our own domain. SOinC opening the new QM block. Now there's absolutely no chance of signing kit out (Stores is for storing son, remarked the RQMS)

SPORTSMANS' DINNER

On Friday 6 February the Squadron held a Sportsmans' Dinner. This event is held twice a year, summer and winter, and is the night the Squadron honours its sportsmen by presenting Colours, both Corps and Squadron to individuals. In such a multi-cap badge unit, the Corps colours can be most diverse and for an assortment of Sports.

This year **Lt Col M. W. R. Roberts MBE** Commander Comms NI was guest of honour, and he presented the awards. The occasion this year was enhanced by the presentation of trophies to Troops/Departments which competed in the Squadron Winter inter-Troop sports competition.

The evening takes the form of a dinner followed by the presentations, speeches, then all to the bar to put the world to rights. Listed below are the award winners:-

Athletics	**Sgt Leighfield, Sig Hankinson**
Football	**Sig Whitbread**
Golf	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Wood**
Hockey	**Sig Alderson**
Orienteering	**Maj N. K. P. Hope MBE**
Rugby	**Sgt Tait, Sgt Hunter**

The following Troops/Departments won the trophies listed below in the Inter Troop Sports competition:-

Champion Troop	QM/MT Tp
Six-a-side Soccer	Comms Tp
Indoor Hockey	Bde HQ
Tug O'War	Comms Tp
Basketball	QM/MT Tp
Squash	QM/MT Tp

Cries of 'fix' are still going the rounds. Another report in the summer.

COMMUNICATIONS

Improvements continue to the Cougarnet system, with anyone who is anyone becoming expert in its working. There isn't much to say about it now except there is the odd amusing incident which crops up because the Infantry have some 'great idea which we just couldn't wait to tell you about'!! Whilst we sometimes have problems picking ourselves up off the floor we truly encourage the Infantry to think about their communications and some of their ideas are very good. Some however have us fighting to keep a straight face. This isn't confined to radios either, telephone comms can be just as traumatic. The Squadron administers problems on behalf of BT to save units having to go to BT direct. However, it doesn't always work and a letter from a certain Sergeant in a UDR Battalion tried to explain away his actions. This was dug out of the archives during our run up to the ARU (more next issue) and has now been placed in the Scrapbook for following generations to laugh at. Certain things have been deleted to protect the integrity of the individual concerned.

TELEPHONES

Within the next few days HQ Coy Office, Pay Office and the Admin Officer's Office are all going to have a magical merry go round. HQ Coy Office, which at present is located in the Admin Officer' Office, will be moved to the Pay Office, and the Amin Officer's Office will revert back to being the Admin Officer's Office. The Pay Office is being moved to what was HQ Coy Office originally.

The telephone numbers for these offices are:

Pay Office	607
HQ Coy Office	602
Admin Officer's Office	706

and it is essential that they retain their present numbers.

When HQ Coy Office was moved originally to the Admin Officer's Office **Sgt Thomas** changed two telephone numbers at the exchange ie 706 and 602. We now require these changing back to their original locations. This will now leave 706 as the Admin Officer's Office. Because of the move of the Pay Office we now require 607 and 602 changing at the exchange, this will then leave all three offices with their original/correct extension numbers.

I know all these telephone moves should be done by BT, an application which we would have sent to you, but what actually happened here was the civilian contractors, who were carrying out structural repairs to what was HQ Coy Office, pulled out and left the job unfinished, until a few days ago when they suddenly arrived back and completed it, with the result that all the rebuilding, repairs and decoration is now complete. As your lines team originally swapped two of these telephones, it would be greatly appreciated if they could carry out the changes as requested.

CONGRATULATORY/FAREWELLS

Congratulations to **Sgt Patrickson** of the 1 Green Howards RLD on his promotion to Staff Sergeant and subsequent posting to 21 Sig Regt. Also, congratulations to **Sgt Swallow** on his selection for promotion (and he's only just arrived!) and to **Sgts Benson** and **McInally** on selection for the YofS course.

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39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OPERATIONS

The Squadron has been heavily involved as usual in run of the mill operations. The Forward Repair Teams from TM Troop have been kept exceptionally busy during an intensive operational period in South Armagh. Not to be outdone Comms Troop has been deployed on numerous occasions to eradicate the few remaining communications black spots in Belfast and South Armagh.

Durng his last few weeks, the QM, **Capt Bob Vale** moved upstairs to 'help out' the Ops Staff as he had sorted out his old empire. He showed 'the young' **Capt Gordon Rafferty** and **WO2 (YofS) Joe Haldane** how it should be done, the Ops Room Staff still don't know how they survived with(out) him! Alas he has now gone to York and we wish him and **Rosemary** all the very best for the future.

SHQ TROOP

Over the past three months there have been a few changes in SHQ Troop. First of all SHQ would like to welcome the new OC **Maj Hugh Hancock** and his wife **Susie** and family.

Goodbye and best wishes to **Maj Philip Rouse**, wife **Lalita** and family on their departure to MOD.

The workload for SHQ has not been lightened due to the forthcoming ARU. The Chief Clerk **SSgt John McEwen** and **Cpl 'Congratulations on his promotion' 'Nobby' Clarke** have sorted it out under the guidance of **Capt Peter 'Chopper' Humphreys RE.**

Meanwhile **Sig Phil 'The Pennine Panther' Timmins**, instead of going on a camping holiday, was sent skiing for a week in Aviemore; such hardship.

Our civilian typist **Annette 'Snopake' Campbell** has been inundated with requests for her autograph, having become a celebrity after losing 4½ stones weight and appearing on Kelly's People on Ulster Television and Good Evening Ulster.

Last, but not least — we haven't forgotten you — hello to **LCpl Paul Wicks**, fresh (very fresh) from 22 Sig Regt.

The Squadron Key (for the AO's Drinks Cabinet) being handed to the new OC Maj Hugh Hancock by Maj Philip Rouse. A good handover-takeover was had by both

THE QM'S DEPT

The QM's Department said farewell to it's leader for the last three years, **Capt (QM) Bob Vale** who departed the Squadron on 24 March for his posting at 2 Inf Div. The department, sends its regards to **Rosemary** and him with best wishes for the future. One thing is for sure, Comms conferences will never be the same again.

Capt (QM) Bob Vale was 'dined out' informally at lunch in the Sergeants' Mess on 20 March with **WO1 (RSM) Mal Boor** presiding. After a splendid lunch the RSM said farewell to **Capt (QM) Bob Vale** on behalf of all attending: the QM replied and thanked the mess for the honour of dining him out.

More personality changes with **Sig Andy Purdy** and **Sgt Ron Torrance** departing for pastures new in the near future.

Congratulations are in order to **Cpl Jock Morton** on his recent promotion after his successful Detachment Commanders Course. **Sig Niel Frank** is busy on his B1 Course and dreaming of his posting to Cyprus in October — other department personnel are **Sgt John Brown** a recent arrival from Cyprus, **Sgt Pete Laing** the RAOC FATSO Sgt and **LCpl Simon Sloman**. The new leader **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes** completes the line up.

COMMS TROOP (RADIO SECT)

The Section has been kept busy for the last couple of weeks, with comms trials at Forkhill and Newtownhamilton. **Cpl Graham Farthing, LCpl Matt Dyson** and **Sig 'Taff' Donne, 'Prof' Skeels** spent over a week with the Royal Hampshires, patrolling along the border. The week proved to be a great benefit both to the 1R Hamps and R Signals (who dispelled some of the images of laboratories and white coats). **Capt Simon 'Para' Renfrey** also went down for a weekend break.

EXERCISE *VICIOUS CIRCLE*

Report by Sig Clive Hallett

Once again 15 members of the Squadron deployed to the sunny climate of Ballykinler for Phase 2 of brushing up on our dormant knowledge of fieldcraft. Under the watchful eye of the DS, **Lt Jeremy 'Aren't we having a super day' Tod**, and **SSgt Mike Hendley**, ably assisted by fountains of Infantry knowledge from **Cpl 'Jock' Young RPC** we donned our newly acquired SAWES harness. This meant that we could actually tell who had been shot by the series of bleeps from the kit. It proved to be a very effective system and it was soon discovered that by shooting each other in the back during the fire-fight we were able to lie down and then make our way back to the van for a brew! There is no truth in the rumour that **Cpl Dave Whitaker** and **Sig Clive Hallett** did this when they had had enough. A good, cold and wet day was had by most.

SYSCON/COMCEN/CRYPTO

This side of the Troop is currently chugging along in its usual industrious manner under the ever watchful eye of our poor henpecked boss, **SSgt (YofS) Dai Jones** who is currently writing a book entitled '101 Operational Excuses to Give Your Wife'.

There have been some comings and goings since our last airing in *The Wire* and we welcome **LCpl Colin 'Egg on Legs' Williams** and **Sig 'Taff' 'ZBM2' Pattison** to our little fold, whilst bidding farewell to **LCpl Mac 'Hawway the Lads' MacKenzie** to Civ Div and **Sig Willie 'Bouncer' Rushton** and **'Jock' 'FTP' Auld** to Germany.

The Crypto moles, led by the dubious **Sgt Jimmy Johnston** and followed faithfully by **Cpls Keith Emmerson, Dave Richards** and **Paul Carr** have come up with a perfect scheme which allows them more time on the golf course. They play a repeating tape of snoring, then on the way out they put a sign on the door declaring it out of bounds to all except Benny, the Comcen dog.

A Battle Camp is planned for sometime in May and we are assured that its announcement and the sudden increase in sick chits/leave applications is purely coincidental, as is **SSgt Mick Hendley's** leave ban for the Troop over this period.

Finally, we have a few Troop Notices:

For Sale: Electric Razor — as new: apply **Sig Stan Ogden**.
Brain — unwanted gift, still in wrapper: apply **Cpl Dan Locker**.
Bravo Tp Sweatshirts, all sizes: Amalgamation forces sale.

Wanted: Washing Machine: apply **Sig Kev Attwood**.
Waterwings: apply **Sig George Green**.
Chastity Belt: apply **Sig Dicky Bird**.

Free to Good Home: One Captain, fully Para trained and in excellent physical condition, needs clipping and tends to hide a lot. Answers to the name of 'Gung Ho'.

ROVER GROUP

Rover Group has recently been working extensively with the RUC in West Belfast, providing top cover protection in the high threat republican area of the City.

The Group would like to welcome **LCpl Guy 'Bertie' Burton (Trog)** and **LCpl 'Spick' Eaton**. Also congratulations should go to **LCpl 'Cockers' Cockbain, LCpl 'Mine's a Bass' Bell** and **Pte 'Swifty' Mottley** on passing the NI Team Medics Course.

School of PT (Bulford) provided an opportunity for a few members of the Group to improve their skills on a Restraint and Arrest Techniques Course. **LCpl 'Spick' Eaton, Cpl 'Ten Bellies' Mellett** and **LCpls Clark** and **Jones** passed this very demanding course.

CONGRATULATIONS — WELCOME

Heartfelt congratulations to **Pte 'Swiftly' Mottley** and his wife **Chris** on the arrival of their first son, **Dale.**

TM TROOP

A lot of our recent work has been in preparation for visits, which in chronological order have been the CLF, **Maj Gen A. S. Jeapes OBE MC** who was invited to review the Squadron. TM Troop showed the Heli-tele Control Room and displayed a Heli-tele sphere for the General to demonstrate his control skills, before going out to see our COUGAR talkthrough hut. **SSgt Mick Partridge** and **Cpl 'Mudflap' Mudway** were proud to display this despite being the subject of some target practice by the seagulls — there's mud in your eye **Mick!**

Our Bde Comd — **Brig Freer** was next to visit us, so we laid on the Heli-tele Control Room and a sphere. However to give him a chance to meet some of our unsung heroes **Cpl Kev Smith** rigged up a chair lift to show how quickly one can ascend a mast. **Sgt Keith Wilkinson** was the volunteer for the display, but we gave the OC, **Maj Philip Rouse** a go beforehand.

The SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander** was our next visitor, on what really was a flying visit. He managed to fit in seven changes of clothing in a day designed to show him all aspects of the Squadron, unfortunately, in the event, time was the winner and we were only able to show him four of the nine stands that the Troop had organised; luckily it included the Heli-tele Control Room and a demo sphere!

Hello and welcome to the Troop to **Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell** and **Jane, Cpl Barrie Morris, LCpl Gordon Mudie** and **Sig Paul Murphy**, we hope you all enjoy NI.

Farewell to the OC, **Maj Philip Rouse** and **Lalita**, hoping you enjoy your tour in 'the monastery' and also to **Cpl Taff Boucher** and **Deborah** on their posting to 22 Sig Regt, to **Geordie Morrison** who has opted for the quiet life in civvy street and to **Cpl Sean Mackay** who has volunteered for Belize for six months to escape the dreaded OLCU. (It won't work **Sean**).

Congratulations to **Sgt Ian Horton** both for passing the Foreman's Entrance and being picked up for promotion to SSgt. Good luck on the board **Ian.**

Cpl 'Mudflap' Mudway and SSgt 'Grandad' Partridge hiding inside the COUGAR talk-through hut away from the seagulls

Maj Philip Rouse, Sgt John Howell-Walmsley, Maj Martin Wilkinson and Maj (TOT) Brian Gould admiring the new Harbilt vehicle for Heli-tele fits

EXERCISE *WHITE POWDER*

Report by Cpl Dave Whitaker

After an uneventful sea crossing, we arrived in Stranraer and began the long trek to Aviemore. We arrived about 1530 hrs and went straight to Cairdsport to pick up our ski passes, equipment and have a quick look around the Aviemore Centre.

We all then went off, faithfully following our leader **Lt 'Massive' Tod**. He led us off to our two, self contained chalets, some way from Aviemore, but very comfortable.

So began our first night in Aviemore, sampling the delights of the drinking houses and the disco. **Sig 'Prof' Skeels** had soon 'sampled' the local brew and was following **LCpl Matt Dyson** around, just in case he needed a hand 'Trapping some chicks'.

At first the skiing was excellent, as was the weather, everyone splitting into their respective groups, we all had three good days skiing. Although the weather closed in on the Thursday morning **Mr Tod** and **Sgt Jimmy 'Haircut' Johnston** braved the weather but **LCpl Matt Dyson** chickened out on the chairlift and decided to stay on the lower slopes where it wasn't so windy!

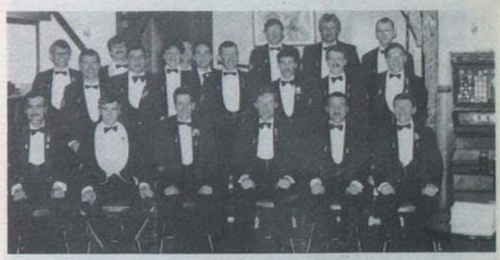
Everyone had a good week and even learnt some skiing. A special mention must go to **Cpl Dave 'Land Rover Leaping Champion' Evans** and **Sig 'Prof' 'I found the only stream on the slopes' Skeels**. We all eagerly await the next chance for a bit of adventure training.

HORSESHOE CLUB

The Horseshoe Club, having had a facelift of a new bar, has been the location for several farewell and welcome functions.

The Corprals' Club said welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Mal Boor** and farewell to **Maj Philip Rouse** on 20 February after a Regimental Dinner held in the main kitchen. At the Dinner the PMC of the Corporals Club **Cpl Bob McClurg** presented **Maj Philip Rouse** with his 'Northern Ireland Soldier' and received on behalf of the Club a Silver Plated Cigarette Box which now resides with other items on a table outside the OC's office. A good night was had by all, not least **Cpl Paul Carr** and by the Club President **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes** who broke his teetotal rule for the occasion!

The Club also said farewell to **Maj Philip Rouse** on the occasion of the Lads v The Officers and SNCOs Games Night held on 10 March, the lads winning by soundly thrashing their opponents. **Maj Rouse** saved the face of the defeated by providing a barrel of beer and by presenting the Squadron Club with a picture of a cable wagon.



An enjoyable evening was had by all and a photograph to record the event was taken. Missing from the photograph is WO2 (YofS) Joe Haldane who unfortunately suffered an unexpected attack of sleeping sickness

The Squadron Mascot Sig 'Beaker' Nield proving, at his farewell drinks, that he can finish a pint before the Chief Clerk SSgt John McEwen. In the foreground Cpl 'Nobby' Clarke tries to catch up

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

We continue to be kept busy. Numerous dignitaries have visited us including the SOinC and **Mrs Alexander** and the Director WRAC. The continually changing environment of communications in the Province means that the Squadron is constantly adapting to new equipments and tasks. The recent introduction of both the Automatic Message Switch (AMS) and the Merlin IDX telephone exchange, in addition to the forthcoming major organisational changes, mean that this is a time of flux. Whilst all this goes on around us the Squadron continues with routine Army life.

Amongst the many technical, tactical and topical changes that have been happening recently an event occurred on 6 March that almost went unnoticed. Almost, except for the fact that the sharp SSM, **WO2 (SSM) Pete Doherty**, was just passing the entrance to the Squadron when he noticed two figures shaking hands. One was looking bemused and weary, the other had a certain smirk of triumph and satisfaction on his face. Instantly the SSM withdrew his trusty 35mm from a hidden pocket of his lightweights, (yes it was a camera —he wasn't just pleased to see them), and he snapped away. Hence the spontaneous and un-posed photograph of **Capt Ian Westerman** and **Capt Simon Lunn**, handing over the post of 2IC, shown above. **Capt Lunn** is on his way to take over as Adjutant at 8 Sig Regt, by way of JCSC, and we wish him well in that post and in the future.

Capt Simon Lunn hands over to Capt Ian Westerman, the new 2IC

VISIT OF SOinC

It was an early start for the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander**, on Tuesday 3 March when his visit to the Squadron started with breakfast at the Divis radio site.

After that he toured the site, still shrouded in mist, and met the members of Comms Troop who man it. He continued with a visit to each of the Troops. Here he was briefed on the latest technology that has been introduced to the Squadron. Also **Capt (TOT) Henry Connor** discussed with him the way in which the Province's new military telephone system, Brinton, will be installed during the coming months.

After this tour the SOinC presented LS and GC medals to **WO2 (SSM) Peter Doherty, Sgts Charlie Abbot** and **Brian Collinson**. He also presented **WO2 (RQMS) Duncan Henderson** with his warrant.

Mrs Alexander visited Hillsborough Castle with the Squadron Wives Club.

The day concluded with a drinks party in the Officers' Mess attended by all the Officers and their wives.

WO2 (SSM) Pete Doherty receives his LS and GC from the SOinC

WO2 (RQMS) Duncan Henderson explains to the SOinC why he has tied the AO, Capt Mike Ledwards' hands behind his back

STOP PRESS — LATEST DISPATCH FROM THE FRONT

The day dawned much the same as any other, (ie wet and miserable). The pale skinned members of 233 Sig Sqn lurked menacingly in their troglodite roof-top lair.

'God I hate this place', thought one, as he read a three week old copy of 2000 AD for the 20th time. Over in the corner, **Snowy**, the bulbous Det Comd snored softly, twitching occasionally, as he pursued fast food in his sleep. The door opened and **Wodge**, the junior member entered the det, a broad smile lighting his plain but honest features. He had good reason to smile, he had just purchased the entire Scots Guards G1098 store at the cost of two three year old season tickets to Wigan Athletic.

Suddenly the tannoy squeaked into life. 'Clear the top floor, Clear the top floor', it announced. Pausing only to kick the Det Comd awake, the intrepid team scuttled down the escape hatch and into the NAAFI, where the DC's piggy eyes glinted at the sight of rows of fresh 'cheeseburgers'.

Upon their entry, a buzz of speculation broke out, quickly stilled by the gimlet like glare from the DC. Mere seconds later, the morning calm was shattered by the awesome sound of MK10 Mortar rounds impacting on the SF base and the demonic screeching of the mortar alarm. Everyone ran down the stairs to the emergency assembly point, then just as quickly ran out again, when it was discovered that one of the unexploded rounds was nestling against the cookhouse wall.

To cries of 'Don't panic', they flowed into the accommodation to await the all clear from the Ops room. This duly came and the detachment settled down confident that everything was now OK.

Twenty minutes later there was a dull thud. Two seconds later, the second salvo and one of the rounds blew all the mains power, leaving them grovelling under the table in mortal terror. The last round hit the roof only a few feet from their heads. Fortunately, it didn't explode, otherwise the consequences could have been rather unpleasant. Down the ladder they scuttled, Griff the mole, indignant that he had not been told about the change in the IA drills and that 'sorry' was not good enough. This time they did not re-emerge until ATO had declared the area clear.

So there you have it, a true story from one of the Squadron's quieter dets.

VICTOR TROOP

Victor Troop bears more than a passing resemblance to the Thunderbirds base. It occupies an impressive high-tech building set amidst grass and trees, some of which occasionally fall over. The interior is full of plate glass and is decorated with plants, pictures and tropical fish, and the air is full of the quiet hum of the air-conditioning plant. At the heart of the Troop lies a large and sophisticated computer, complete with all the smoked glass, panels, flashing lights and whirring drives that you could wish for. All that we lack is brains . . .

The tranquil rhythm of life here is not often disturbed. Although the work we do is interesting, sometimes fascinating, it follows a long established routine. This last month, however, we have suffered a rare trauma. I refer to the Great Spring Cleaning Project (copyright **SSgt Bob McMahon**). The OC, **Capt Ted Flint**, first realised the full horror of what was in store when he returned from a course to find that he no longer had an office. The next few days will remain indelibly etched in his memory as a collage of almost surreallistic images. **Sig 'Dutch' Holland** seemingly polishing the path outside the Troop with an electric bumper. **SSgt (YofS) Andy McIver** and **SSgt Bob McMahon** standing on the roof discussing the possibilities of a sun deck and patio. Bobby (The OC's dog) stealing the paint-stirring stick from **Sgt Vaughan Phillips** and using it to cover the floor of the stats office with white emulsion.

WHISKY TROOP

With the first signs of Spring in the air and some very rare NI sunshine around (which quickly disappeared by the time we had tracked down a camera) it seemed like time for another Troop memoir. The picture illustrates the variety of workers within the Troop. To set things straight right away the people in white coats are not waiting to escort the OC to the funny farm (though that may not be a bad idea) but are the shift workers for 'the machine'. **LCpl Gary Warn, Pte Annette Norman** and **Sig 'Spacecat' Hudson** (and yes he is in combats, we still have to do the routine guard duties) our DTgs, who tend the beast and provide system control for the 96 terminals which work to us. None of them has had any previous ADP experience (or for that matter guaranteed aptitude) and training tends to be by never making the same mistakes twice (or at least not letting the YofS find out that you have done so). The white coats are to maintain meticulous cleanliness of the computer room since modern disk drives tend to break into small pieces after colliding with the smallest piece of dust. The fourth white-coated member is **Sgt Phil Skerritt** who is the shift technician. It is his job to make the initial examination of the system after a breakdown and, hopefully, repair it. To enable him to do this he has been on a six weeks civilian course and has something like 100,000 spares at his disposal. Since all the equipment is very static sensitive the earthing bracelets worn by the technicians are a source of amusement to some. However, the boards are rather expensive to replace out of your own bank account.

The two long-haired individuals are **Cpl 'Ginge' McDermott and Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** who have spend the last four months touring the Province, first preparing the communications cabinets, then fitting the new terminals and printers and now checking and correcting the errors and making repairs to the equipment during the early bedding-in period. It is interesting to note that the excitment of driving around armed and ready tends to pale after the first 100 miles!

With the Troop diversified as they are with shift workers, workshop technicians and call-out technicians the simple aspects of military life such as BFTs, mandatory training etc, take on a whole new aspect. The Troop has to provide a working system 24 hours a day to the standards expected of our Corps. Most administrative members are 'double hatted', the OC and **WO2 (YofS) Roger Childs** are also the two system managers, this means they can look the expert when the machine crashes but has the disadvantage of dragging them in to do a similar job at 0300 hrs, usually on a weekend! The other Troop senior not mentioned and conspicuous by his absence is the Troop **FofS SSgt Graeme Wood** who, sensibly, was off skiing during all this. The FofS is the man ultimately responsible with providing working hardware which, from the state of things so far, should guarantee him an ulcer or two.

VISIT OF DWRAC

The Director WRAC, **Brig S. Nield**, honoured us with a visit on Wednesday 11 March. She was met by **Maj A. J. Isaacs WRAC** and OC WRAC, **Lt D. Bould**.

During her initial briefing **Brig Neild** took a great interest in the advanced technological systems now in use and how these will affect the future of WRAC Data Telegraphists and Switchboard Operators.

The Sqn Comd, **Maj Charles Kemp**, was able to advise the Director that the new establishment coming into force later this year would increase the number of WRAC posts in the Squadron.

Brig Neild then visited WRAC in the Commcen and found that much had changed since her last visit. **Cpl Karen Tindall** explanined the intricacies of the new Automatic Message Switch (AMS) to her and **LCpl Marianne Lowe** outlined the problems of the small detachment within the Palace Barracks. From here she went on to visit the ordered world of the Telephone Exchange. **Cpl Di Lawton** gave the Brigadier a guided tour of the Merlin exchange and introduced her to **LCpl Louise Harvey, Ptes Maxine Hughes** and **Kay McDonald**, who are employed there.

Later in the day the Director WRAC had an opportunity to meet all WRAC members of 233 Sig Sqn at tea in the Peake Inn.

Cpl Di Lawton briefing Brig Nield on the Merlin telephone system. Ptes Hughes and McDonald continue to answer irate callers

TECH TROOP

The Troop has been increasingly involved in project Brinton. Long hours and long weekends have become the rule rather than the exception and after some problems, the light is at the end of the tunnel.

While this system is being installed, **Sgt Bob Nicol** and his section have the unenviable task of keeping our steam driven C50s on the road. Good experience for the young Radio Relay techs who have never even seen the C50, but a far cry from the Triffid!

Line and Rigging section have finally, after many false starts moved into their purpose built building. This move has brought them back into the Troop from their various hiding places in the garages and the SSD compound.

SOME CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELLS

The section wishes to offer some congratulations. To **LCpl 'Sandy' Sanders-Crook**, for finding the barbers shop. Secondly, to **LCpl Les Chapman** on his forthcoming marriage and to **Sgt Jon Gaskell** who also gets married shortly. The Troop wishes them all the very best for the future. We bid farewell to **LCpl Ian Lawton** who has gone to the 'Fighting Fourth' in sunny Herford and to **LCpl Rick Edlin** who leaves us for HQ BAOR after only a very short tour here.

All that remains now is to say welcome to **LCpl Randall** and **Sig Tony Blood** and **Jim Kerr** and have a good tour lads.

MT REPORT

by Sgt Dave Gilbert

The personnel of the Troop change as ever and this time we say a sad farewell to **Sig Steve Terry** who leaves for civvy street.

Welcome to **LCpl Pete Starrs** and his wife **Tracey**. But shortly after his arrival he was taken ill and had to spend some time in hospital. On his return to duty he aplied for a transfer to the Medics. Is there a moral there somewhere?

Two members of the section **Sig Ian Speight** and **Sig Steward Parry** have been on a skiing 'exercise' in Scotland.

LCpl Pete O'Brien is renowned for his politeness. Even LAD appreciate his 1045 submissions which are always accompanied with a please and thank you. His recent effort however, capped it all and has been duly framed by the ASM. It read:

'Please Inspect and Repair as necessary. Vehicle will only start when it feels like it and today it doesn't feel like it. Thank you!'

Signed: A fed up JNCO (MT)

Congratulations to **Sig Bob Johnson** on his selection for promotion and his posting to Glasgow.

The MT Section after an unsuccessful hunt the bicycle competition organised by the AO

VISIT OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

On Wed 18 March a group of ex-Royal Signals soldiers, and some serving in the TA, battled their way through the blizzard to visit the Squadron. They were able to see the vast changes that have occurred

WO1 (YofS) John Haycock explains to Association members the working of the AMS

Sgts 'Batch' Batchelor and Bob Nicol tackle a tricky game of draughts with the 'old boys' of the Association

within the Corps in recent years, and it was an opportunity for us to strengthen our links with the Association.

They were met be Comd Comms Northern Ireland **Lt Col Martin Roberts** who guided them through his 'museum' of the Royal Signals in Northern Ireland. One or two 'old boys' had some contributions to make and Comd Comms was taking it all in!

After a brief tour of the technological wizadry of the Commcen and the Exchange everyone assembled in the Peake Inn for a social event.

The evening was enjoyed by both parties and it served to remind us that when we finish our regular service we can keep in touch with our Corps by joining our Association.

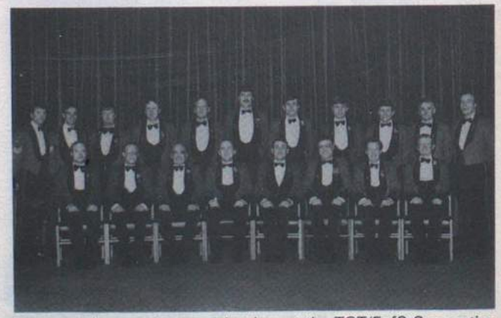
NI TOT/FofS CONVENTION 1987

The third annual NI TOT/FofS Convention was hosted by the Squadron and held on 25-26 March. It was chaired by **Lt Col M. W. H. Roberts MBE**, Comd Comms NI. The format remains unchanged and all TOT/FofS from the Province are welcomed.

The primary aim of the Convention is to update ourselves on the technical and operational state of the many projects underway in the Province, and any major recent developments in the Corps. It also provides a platform for technical discussion and the opportunity for catching up on the Corps policy. Presentations over the two days were interesting and informative, stimulating much discussion. Our thanks go to all speakers but especially to **Lt Col (TOT) J. D. Know** of CPD, **Lt Col J. S. Doody** of PWSST and **Maj (TOT) F. A. Smith** of TACT.

A highlight of the event is the Convention Dinner, and this year's was no disappointment. It was held in the Officers' Mess Annexe and our thanks are extended to the staff for providing high standards of service and catering.

The convention was an undoubted success due in no small part to the hard work of the Squadron TOT, **Capt Henry Connor**, and his FofS, **WO1 Drew Robertson**. All who attended agreed it was a worthwhile and experience and look forward to the next one and possibly expanding the event to include Traffic Officers and Yeomen of Signals.



Rouges gallery — photograph taken at the TOT/FofS Convention Dinner

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

EXERCISE *MEDAS MARE*

Report by WO1 (FofS) Graham Chaplin, Expedition Leader

Whilst most at Blandford were getting used to the UK winter, five members of the garrison were underwater off the coast of Spain. Ex *Medas Mare* was a sub-aqua diving expedition organised by **WO1 (FofS) Graham Chaplin**, which took place from 27 September to 13 October 1986 around the Medas Islands off the eastern Mediterranean coast of Spain.

The team consisted of four members of the School of Signals, **Maj Chris Durham, WO1 Graham Chaplin, Sgt Albert Allison** and **Sig 'CB' Clarke-Brown** and an army sub-aqua diving supervisor from ACIO Edinburgh, **SSgt Keith Ellison.**

In order to get the team to the protected waters of the seven Medas Islands, the services of the Calypso Diving International Centre of L'Estartit were hired. The Divemaster, **Mr Peter Lane**, proved invaluable as he showed us many of the best diving sites on and around the Islands.

Thanks to the legal protection of these waters there are many fish and species of marine life that are not seen in the more popular dive sites of the mediterranean. Huge underwater grottos and caves are also a feature of the islands. These are filled with an abundance of grouper, rays, conger and moray eels, dogfish, octopus and crayfish. One unforgettable dive occurred when **Maj Durham** and **WO1 Chaplin** hand fed a 30 pound grouper, and **SSgt Ellison** will never forget his close encounter with two monster seven feet conger eels in the famous 'Dolphin' underwater grotto.

Ex *Medas Mare* was deemed a complete success by divers and organisers alike. The Medas Islands as a dive site can be said to be possibly the best on the northern mediterranean coast. They offer unlimited potential to UK based sub-aqua clubs and are strongly recommended to diving officers planning expeditions in 1987.

Dive team on Calypso diving centre's boat *'Calypso'*

One of the Calypso diving centre's boats, *'Juan'*

WO1 Graham Chaplin après plongé

Preparing to dive — *L to R:* WO1 Graham Chaplin, Sgt Albert Allison, Sig 'CB' Clarke-Brown, Maj Chris Durham

HQ Royal Brunei Armed Forces
BFPO 605

RECREATIONAL

The team is in general enjoying itself. The tour is relatively short, two years three months, though most people find the job so rewarding (in more ways than one!) that like **Majs Danby, Brodie** and **WOs Bradley** and **McLennan**, if the chance to extend comes along, they accept gracefully!

There are also some ex members of the Corps here, working as civilians on contract to RBAF. These include **Ted** and **Dorn Williams**, **Eric** and **June Moreton** (ex Sgt Technicians) and ex **FofS Phil Waldock**. We get together for a reunion every now and then and usually invite other contract civilians associated with the Signal Squadron here. These include **Norman** and **Kath Goddard** (ex RN) and **Les** and **Kathy Allen** (ex RAF).

The last such event occurred at **Ted** and **Dorn Williams'** house where **Terry** and **Rose Jack** were introduced to the rest of the clan and provided with a first class buffet supper.

VISITOR

We were recently pleased to receive a visit from **Lt Col John Neeve**, CO Queen's Gurkha Signals, Hong Kong. He was on a very tight schedule but managed to drop in for one night. He was accommodated by **Dot** and **Ron Brodie** who arranged a cosy supper party where **Col John** met the members of the Corps and their ladies.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Since our last submission to *The Wire* in January last year Corps representation in the Royal Brunei Armed Forces is now reduced to four. We have lost the services of two stalwarts of the Force; **Maj Keith Danby** who was GS02 Sigs/Air/SD (latterly simply SO2 Comms) has left us for a stint of language training in London to be followed by a year at the Italian War College. We wish him and his wife **Jenny** a very belated 'arrividerci'! We also lost the very valuable services of **WO2 (RQMS) Don McLennan** — the last Corps Representative in the RBAF Sig Sqn. **Don** has left on well earned promotion to be RSM of 38 Sig Regt (V). We hope that everything is going to plan for him and **Joan** in their new post.

Our losses on the swings have resulted in gains on the roundabout; we recently welcomed **WO1 (FofS) Terry Jack** and his wife **Rose. Terry** is the relief for **WO1 (FofS) Pete Bradley** who should be leaving shortly, but has in fact just moved down the road a bit to join 'the folks on the hill'. **Peter** is now acting as technicl manager for a brand new commcen that is being installed at the Istana (Palace) Nurul Iman for the personal use of HM The Sultan. **Maj Alastair Clark** took over from **Keith Danby** (over a year ago!) and we hope **Alistair** and **Karin** are enjoying, and **Terry** and **Rose Jack** will enjoy, their respective tours in Brunei.

REORGANISATION

Prior to the untimely death of the Minister of Defence, the Seri Begawan (HM The Sultan's father) in September 1986, a small Ministry of Defence operated out of the Istana Nurul Iman. Now that HM The Sultan has taken over the mantle as Minister of Defence, the Ministry is to be greatly enlarged and to move out of the Istana to establish itself in Bolkiah Camp.

The old HQ RBAF which was already carrying out many of the functions of the Ministry has been integrated into the new organisation. Plans are now well advanced for the move to Bolkiah Camp and this has given SO2 Comms, and CPLA (alias **Terry Jack**) a hefty task in planning the communication requirements for the eight Directorates of the Ministry. The other communications event which might ring a nostalgic bell with older Corps members is the advent of the Integrated Communications System or ICS for short. This is no longer the pipe dream it was and by April next year all the RBAF Camps will be linked by a modern microwave system totally independent of Jabatan Talikom Brunei (the local BT). Gone (we hope forever) are the days when it was quicker to walk (!) to Muara than to telephone.

The other member of the Corps here, **Maj (QM) Ron Brodie** finds himself doing almost a completely new job, from SO3 G4 to SO3 Log Doctrine in the new Logistics Directorate. What do QMs know about doctrine? (Don't answer that!).

Ministry of Defence
Whitehall

NEVER HEARD OF US?
DON'T KNOW WHAT WE DO?

Col Brian Belton is our leader, and masterfully guides his Desk Officers through the intricate windings and myriad pitfalls of staffing papers in the Ministry of Defence.

Sigs 34 is a branch of The Defence Signal Staff (Army), and was formed in 1981 to carry out all Arms Director equipment functions (less cryptography), and certain Operational Requirements (OR) functions for the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army). Signal Works Services (SWS) and the preparation of the communications element of the Long Term Equipment Programme (LTEP) and Long Term Costings (LTC) also belong to the Branch, and recently we have taken over the responsibility for Electronic Warfare (EW) policy.

Sigs 34al, in the person of **Maj Malcolm Sinton**, covers area/trunk systems including longer-term improvements to PTARMIGAN, and looks after the in-vogue and all-embracing subject of CIS in his spare time.

Maj John Chambers, under the pseudonym of Sigs 34a2, is a Jack-of-all-trades, dealing in EW policy and equipment, future combat radio, strategic HF radio, the tasking of Engineering and Planning Wings of the School of Signals, and is the luckless branch coordinating officer.

Maj Martyn Reid, on the other hand, is a master craftsman, dealing only in satellite comms, under cover of the name Sigs 34b. Often referred to as 'Mr Satcom', he deals with the equipment from inception to grave, having delegated OR responsibilities. (He said he'd tell me what that means . . .). He is the third member of the office.

Sigs 34c is the other 'half'. The team is headed by **Lt Col Mike Macklin**, soon to command 34 Sig Regt (V). He covers Fixed Service Communications policy and plans and is the OR sponsor for such equipments world-wide where the Army has agency responsibility.

Data communications aspects of ADP in the Army are the concern of **Mr Roy Seller**, and the preparation of LTEP and LTC are in the hands of **Mr Keith Barraclough**.

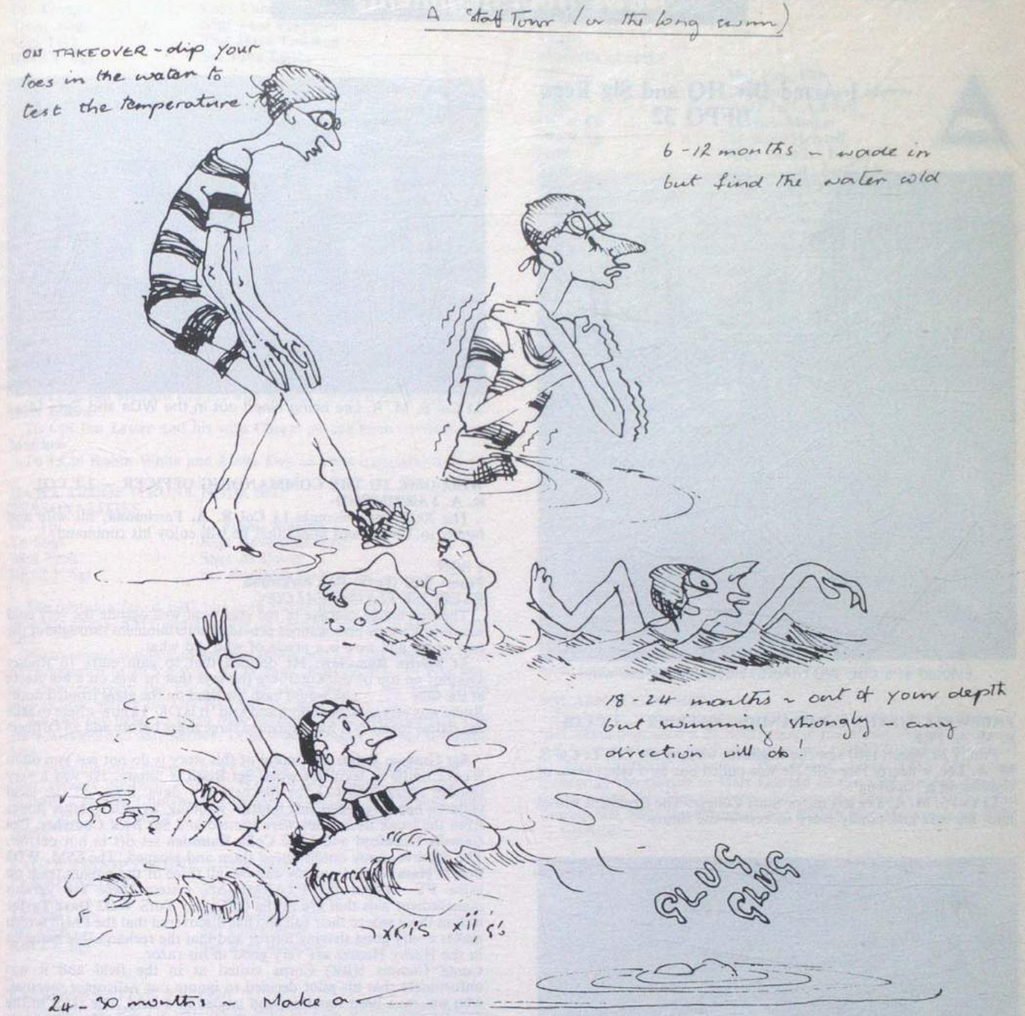
SWS is the designated job of an RO2. Having been unable to fill this post recently, we have engaged the services of **WO2 Fred Payet** and **SSgt Peter Havlin** to 'hold the fort'. **Maj Wally Hammonds** (not retired!) has just joined us to take over the slot.

Julie Draper, Tony Mann and **Pip Jones** sort out the paperwork for us in the office with commendable skill in remembering where we have previously asked papers to be filed.

We hope you now have a feel for the activities of the Branch.

Don't be disappointed!

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



1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

Evicted at a trot: WO1 (FofS) Hooley leads the way!

Lt Col S. M. A. Lee being dined out in the WOs and Sgts Mess

FAREWELL TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER — LT COL S. M. A. LEE

Friday 20 March 1987 saw the Regiment bidding the CO, **Lt Col S. M. A. Lee**, a hearty farewell. He was pulled out by a select team of caddies on a 'Golfbag'.

Lt Col S. M. A. Lee left us for Staff College. The Regiment wishes him, his wife and family every success in the future.

SSgt Ward shows exhibit A — The Golf Bag, relieved as their are no Lids involved

WELCOME TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER — LT COL R. A. FARRIMOND

The Regiment welcomes **Lt Col R. A. Farrimond**, his wife and family to Verden and hopes that he will enjoy his command.

1 SQN
From: W02 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood
EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

The first major exercise of the year went well despite the very cold weather. Various personalities provided entertainment throughout the two weeks and here is a precis of who did what.

Lt Martin Ramshaw: He decided that to gain entry to Rudies Gasthof on top of the Koterberg (he says that he was on a hot Recce at the time . . .) he would bash his head on the glass fronted door. Rudie was very understanding and said 'It is OK, I know where to take the claims forms as it has happened three times before and all Officers . . . '

Sgt Graham Retih: The moral of this story is do not put gun oil in a coke bottle at least not when **Sgt Reith** is thirsty. He was a very smooth running SNCO for the next few days. Some of the local children borrowed **SSgt Jeff Smiths'** webbing, as well as other things from the trunk node, they were spotted and **Sgt Nick Churcher, Cpl Geordie Headford** and **LCpl Colin Ramsden** set off in hot pursuit. The children easily outdistanced them and escaped. The SSM, **WO2 Bob O'Hara** reacted quickly and put all three of the pursuit team on extra PT. Within the PTARMIGAN system there are various management aids that are in the OSC, our YofS **WO2 Dave Taylor** utilises these aids to their full and has discovered that the PMIS screen makes a very good shaving mirror and that the rechargeable batteries in the Husky Hunter are very good in his razor.

Comd Comms 1(BR) Corps visited us in the field and it was unfortunate that his pilot decided to ignore our helicopter marshal, who was on a hard standing, and landed in a field. The skids of the Gazelle sank gracefully into the soft earth as did **Brig Cowan's** boots when he stepped out. The SSM was ready for it and promptly produced a bucket of water and a brush to clean the Brigadier's boots. Later, at dinner, one of the staff commented that the brush he was using to clean the plates looked remarkably like the one used to clean the Brigadier's boots.

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to our Wavell managers, **SSgt Jeff Smith** and **Sgt Pete Jackson**. They are being replaced by professional managers. **SSgt Smith** is returning to the soft line with Echelon and **Sgt Jackson** is going back to his Panzers.

CONGRATULATIONS

All members of the Squadron would like to congratulate the SSM, **WO2 Bob O'Hara** on his selection for promotion to WO1. Will the MRO please tell him where he is posted to as he is making our life a misery.

FALCON TROOP (TRUNK NODE 051)
PERSONALITIES

OC Troop	**Capt Calvin Owen**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Tom Paterson**
SSgt Tech	**SSgt Dave Toleman**
RECCE Sgt	**Sgt John Lewis**

March saw RSIT, ARU, BFT, PRE, vehicle servicing, CO's handover/takeover, board of Officers and on the 1 and 2 of April the Regiment SAAM not to mention the Regimental plug up. We can't wait for the busy part of the year!

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

We would like to offer a warm welcome to the following and hope that they have a happy and successful tour with the Troop.
Sig Asher Ashcroft from 12 Armd Bde Sig Sqn, **Cpl Mac McKernan** from 21 Sig Regt via a six month tropical holiday in Belize. He is soon to depart on his TI course at Catterick. Sadly we must say farewell to two worthy members of the Troop: **Cpl 'Geordie' Stobbs** and his wife **Elaine** who are off to 4 ADSR. **'Geordies'** expertise on PTARMIGAN generators and his sense of humour will be sadly missed, well his sense of humour will be anyway. **LCpl Stew Pett** and his wife **Elaine** are off to 30 Sig Regt, we wish them every success on their tour there.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Cpl Tez Brown** and **Ilona Kahler** on their marriage on 28 March.
To **LCpl Ian Steward** and his wife **Arlene** on the birth of their first child **James.**
To **Cpl Ian Lester** and his wife **Cheryl** on the birth of their son, **Matthew.**
To **LCpl Robin White** and **Linda Dey** on their engagement.

HAWK TROOP (TRUNK NODE 061)
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Lt Frank Roberts**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dave Bradshaw**
SSgt Tech	**SSgt Al Davey**
RECCE Sgt	**Sgt Brummie Cox**

The first quarter of 1987 has been rather hectic on the work from with site guard, RSIT and a month on exercise taking up most of our time.

We have said goodbye to **Sgt Ivor Bailey** and his wife **Margaret** who have departed to 16 Sig Regt, **LCpl John Watkinson** and **Carol** who are now enjoying the life of civvie street and to **Sig Gaz Avery** who is now with 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in the UK.

We also say hello to **LCpl Mac McIntyre, Cpl Mark Dennis, Cpl Dave Rickard** and wife **Shirley, LCpl Warren Fegan** and **Sgt Brummie Cox.**

Congratulations are due to **LCpls Nig Allen** and **Tony Barker** for their success on their RSDCC, **LCpl Tony Barker** being the top student. **Cpl Tim Comyns** successfully passed his TI entrance exam and is due in Catterick in May '87, that is, if he ever returns from skiing.

EAGLE TROOP (TRUNK NODE 041)
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Lt Martin Ramshaw**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Dennis Cox**
Sgt Tech	**Sgt Colin Weir**
RECCE Sgt	**Sgt Paul Shenton**

EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON '87*

The exercise for TN 041 began with an epic seven hour drive in pouring rain to the first location east of Neiheim. Dismounting bleary eyed from his landrover, **Sgt Paul Shenton**, better known as Sticky Shenton, had heart failure when he shone his torch round the barn and was confronted by a 20ft high cat — a carnival float stored for the winter. Once set up in the mud of the barn floor, the Node waited with bated breath for the next move — and waited and waited.

Meanwhile back at the radio relay location, **Sig 'Motormouth' Livings, Sig Evans, LCpl 'days to push' Davies** et al endured appalling conditions having to cope with hot showers, a hotel room and a hotel owner who forced them to have coffee and cream cakes. The Troop OC, **Lt Martin Ramshaw,** was so shocked by this state of affairs that he walked through the hotel front door, literally. News of this spread through the entire corps area in 20 minutes. After seven days in the mud, the move came — into a hide. Our long stay was made more bearable by the efforts of our cook **Cpl Campbell** and admin party under **Cpl Bill Brunton.** After a frantic Recce, 041 crossed the Weser with the leading elements of 1 Armd Div getting the first trunk link in two hours after crossing the bridge head. Everything went smoothly until endex when it snowed. **LCpl 'Bogger' Turner** and **LCpl '45° is FUN' Twigger** kept the LAD busy until 0900 hrs the following morning before the Dets were recovered, well done lads . . . a great end to a great exercise.

2 SQN
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paul Ellis**
2I/C	**Capt Ian Cameron-Mowat**
SSM	**WO2 Jeff Ashwell**
OC P Tp	**Lt Rick Mather**
OC R Tp	**Lt Steve Herstell**
FofS	**SSgt 'Noddy' Baugh**
YofS	**SSgt 'Frank' McCubbin**
'Q'	**SSgt 'Om' Chhetri**

Well having moved into April the Squadron hopes that winter has finally left us behind and we can all find our sports kit again. The improvement in the weather should go a long way to having many smiling faces in the corridors again rather than continuous snow clearing details

On re-capping over the last few months we said a fond farewell to the old OC **Maj 'Gus' Boag** and his wife **Freda**. He left us at the end of February after many farewell parties culminating in a dinner given by the officers and SNCOs. With his wife as the mainstay of the Sqn Wives Club and himself an honarary member they have served Verden and the Squadron admirably and we all wish them the very best in sunny Cyprus.

For some seven weeks the 2IC commanded the Squadron and was seen at his desk, though for short periods of time only. Now with the arrival of the new OC he can revert to looking for available courses which keep him on the move. OC **Maj Paul Ellis** is now in the chair. We welcome him and his family to Verden and wish them well for their tour.

On the promotion front the Squadron has done deservedly well recently and we say congratulations on selection for promotion to **SSgt John McAveety**, FofS, **Sgt Pete Jackson** and **Sgt Pete Rixon.** Also **Cpl Roberts** and **Merrill** and **LCpls Cullen, Ellis, Urquhart, Randall** and **McCoag** all received promotion at the end of Ex *Flying Falcom.*

We extend warmest congratulations to SSM and **Chris Ashwell** on the birth of their first son **Paul**. The baby held his arrival up until after Ex *Flying Falcon* and the SSM was seen to be cursing the cold nights in the 'Admin Hotel' (4 Tonner). Please note the baby's christened name, we ask does it have any connection with the new OC?

SQUASH MARATHON

During the winter months the OIC Squash , **SSgt (YofS) 'Raquets' McCubbin** organised a 24 hours squash marathon. An excellent and well supported event resulted in the sum of DM 1402 being presented to local disabled charaties. The photo shows YofS **McCubbin** presenting the cheque to **Herr Conrad** of the TSV Verden disabled sports group. Looking on were other squash stalwarts **WO2 Brendan Touhey RE, SSgt Dave Boxhall** and **RQMS Don Holmes** (now RSM — SHAPE).

Having February's exercises out of the way then the RSIT inspection in March the Squadron looks forward to a sporting and adventurous summer. Nearly half of us are off to Kiel for a sailing course and there is adventure training in the Pyrenees, Moosbach and Vogelsang to enliven us. We have been tasked as a Squadron with much of the organisation for the Morrison Cup, with our 'Q' already on the lookout for extra tentage, that will be a story for another day.

, SQN

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj B. J. Scott-Morton**
2IC	**Capt M. P. Wise**
OC L	**2Lt N. J. Makepeace**
OC N	**SSgt K. Froggett**
OC O	**Lt S. Felton**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) B. Britton**
SQMS	**SSgt P. MacFarlane**
FofS	**SSgt S. Price**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) R. Tate**

February began with a rush — a Wavell exercise during the first week plus the normal(!) pre-*Flying Falcon* exercise preparation.

Then out on *Flying Falcon* — a busy time for all with the highlight of the exercise being a visit from the MGO, **Lt Gen Sir Richard Vincent**, who toured the Headquarters complex.

Then followed a couple of weeks grace before RSIT and all the preparation that entails was upon us.

No sooner had the RSIT team departed than the Squadron's sights were set on the imminent visit of the Chief of the Defence Staff, **Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse**, who toured the Headquarters complex set up on the square. At the same time as these preparations were being made, Site Guard training was also carried out, which kept all of us very busy indeed.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Firstly, we would like to say farewell to **Maj David Elson** and his wife **Jo**, who have left us after a life here for a total change of scenery at 35 Sig Regt (V). We would like to wish them all the very best in their new posting, and in doing so extend a warm welcome to **Maj Brian Scott-Morton** and his wife **Liz**, and hope that they have an enjoyable and rewarding tour. Also to **2Lt Paul Bosher** — and welcome to his successor **2Lt Neil Makepeace** as OC Line Troop, welcome to **LCpl Archer, Sig Denny, Sig Garner** and **Sig Wright** and farewell to **Cpl Christie** and **LCpl Moore.**

During Ex *Flying Falcon*, **SSgt (FofS) Ian Hugill** left the Squadron on posting to 212 Sig Sqn . . . there is no truth in the rumour that he polished off two weeks worth of rations in four days . . . but the SQMS' first smile was seen the day after his departure. We would like to wish Foreman **Hugill** and his wife **Jane** all the best in their new posting.

THE NO 8 TROOP COMMANDERS COURSE EQUESTRIAN CAPER

By 2Lt N. J. Makepeace

The question was: 'Could the Troopies make it a clean sweep and get banned from Leigh Equestrian Centre as well?'. The sawdust of the indoor school, which had seen so much blood, sweat, tears and pain — especially pain, would now see a champion, and possibly a funeral as well. In a tightly fought battle (riders vs horses), the animal grace of **Lt Ian 'Wobble' Lawrence** amazed us all. Honours went to **2Lt Neil 'No, I am not bribing the judges' Makepeace, Lt Graham 'Padsie' Neal** and **2Lt Simon 'Yuppiefax' Spires**. True acclaim, though, goes to **2Lt John 'Banzai' Boterill** for a fine display of acrobatics. The course was soon to inflict itself upon all parts of the Corps — though not on horseback.

From L to R: 2Lts Tong Urwin, Martin Barnes, Lts Ivan Hooper, Graham Neal, Ian Lawrence, 2Lts Andy Cameron, Tim Carmicheal, Chris Patterson, Lt Martin Woodham, 2Lts John Boterill, Adrian Clewlow, Lt John Watt, 2Lts Simon Spires, Geraint Jones, Dave Robson
In Front from L to R: Lt Janice McKee, 2Lts Neil Makepeace and Dave Chattaway

201 Sig Sqn (22 Armd Bde) BFPO 30

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj D. J. Wills**
2IC	**Capt S. J. Turnbull**
OC A	**Lt M. J. Billingham**
OC B	**Lt H. M. Flint**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Boyle**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Sykes**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Dott**
SQMS	**SSgt Riley**
MTSGT	**Stg (Mole) Somers**

1987 has, so far, proved a busy time. The weather has been typical for the time of year. As these notes are being written we are entering our tenth week with snow on the ground and it is still falling. This has not, however, deterred us or even our twice weekly runs which continue, led by our intrepid explorers, OC **Maj D. J. Wills** and **WO2 (SSM) (Sir, I think that sign read Hohne 13 km:) Mick Boyle**.

VISIT OF COMD COMMS 1 (BR) CORPS

On 5 February during Ex *Start Right* the Squadron was visited by Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig S. Cowan OBE**. The Brigadier toured (skied) all departments meeting old and new faces. He was also given an unexpected demonstration of how to salute whilst carrying out a backward hand-spring (OUCH!) on ice by **Cpl Tom McCartney**. Prior to his departure the Brigadier requested to speak to S02 WAVELL at Corps on PTARMIGAN for an update on the exercise. Whether the news was good or bad is not known. However, the call was made at the first attempt, much to the relief of the OC and YofS (belated thanks to OSC 131).

FAREWELL VISIT OF LT COL S. M. A. LEE

The CO made his farewell visit to the Squadron on 11 March. After being met by the OC and SSM he visited all departments. The visit ended with a curry lunch when the CO was presented with a Squadron plaque. We all wish **Lt Col** and **Mrs Lee** the very best at Camberley.

EXERCISES

The only major CPX of the year was Ex *Flying Falcon*. The new COS, **Maj N. R. Parker** was firmly inthe chair under the watchful eye of the OC Sqn. The exercise proved a success for the Squadron with many lessons, old and new learned.

RUGBY TOUR TO SOUTHERN GERMANY

Report by Capt Stags Ruft and Cpl Jock Lambe

The Stags Ruft went on tour in early March to Augsburg in Southern Germany. The team was hosted by the Augsburg Knights from the 2nd Ops BN USAF whose coach is **WO2 Steve Lidstone**.

We departed at 0530 hrs 4 March and arrived at 1800 hrs only to find that the pitches were under deep snow! Thursday 5th was set aside for training. On 7th, having first cleared the pitch, we played Munich. What a game! The Stags won 16—6, three tries to one. It was a very hard but fair game. Man of the match was **LCpl Mick Davies**, (from 14 Sig Regt) for his outstanding performance at fly-half. That evening our team went off to the Bier-Fest (which had obviously been planned for our tour). Our final game on Sunday 8th was against the Augsburg Knights. The final score did not show the true game at 12—6 to Augsburg, two tries to one. The Stags crossed the Augsburg line no fewer than eight times but no score was given. **Cple Dave Buckingham** touched down on a line that is normally used for American football. Too much festing **Dave**!

My thanks to 207, 212 Sig Sqn, 14 Sig Regt and 1 Regt AAC for their support and to **WO2 Steve Lidstone** for his organization at Augsburg. A good time was had by all and with many trophies and good memories we returned to Hohne for RSIT, skill-at-arms and yes, more snow.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations go to **SSgt (FofS) Willie Dott, Cpls Bob Anthony, 'KP' Wright, Colin Etherington** and **Cpls Baz Basford** and **Neil Morrison** on their recent promotions.

NEW ARRIVALS

New arrivals in the Squadron include **Sgt Nick** and **Lorraine Nicholson, LCpl Chris Price, LCpl Bill** and **Anita Knox, LCpl Martin Farmer, Sig Michael Blaylock** and **Sig Paul** and **Melanie Ryder**. We hope they enjoy their tours with 201 Sig Sqn.

DEPARTURES

Departures are **Lt Mark Billingham, Sgt John** and **Angie Dunne, Cpl Stuart Gilson, LCpl Dave Finch** and **LCpl Jim** and **Kersten Richardson**. We wish them all the very best in their new postings.

BLUE PETER SIGHT SAVERS APPEAL

It was early in December 1986 when the OC first mentioned the Blue Peter appeal and the intended bring and buy sale at Hohne. A plan was soon formed to help raise money and when the Squadron was on Ex *Flying Falcon* **Sgts Kev Jones** and **John Dunne** (Steptoe and Son) toured the Garrison collecting for the sale. The bring and buy sale was supported extremely well by all units in Hohne Garrison. With the added attraction of Caron Keating, the newest member of the Blue Peter team making a one day visit to Hohne, the day was a great success. One of the top money making stalls of the day was our own **Sgt Reuben Lynch RPC** and his now famous Irish Coffee stand making over 600 DM towards a grand total of DM 8500 (£3,000).

At the Irish coffee stand

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Services. 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 engagement.

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 situtated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Job Centres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Corps, Regimental and Service Associations; Post Offices; Job Centres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1986-31 March 1987 the Association assisted 11,499 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,970 in employment. Of those placed 2,314 were men and women from the Army and 207 were from your Corps.

207 Sig Sqn (7 Armd Bde)
BFPO 37

Earlier in the year we welcomed **Brig C. B. Q. Wallace** as Brigade Commander and shortly afterwards were deployed on Ex *Hurst Part/Flying Falcon*.

Unfortunately the exercise was marred by **Sig Dave McMahon's** tragic accident. He is now recovering in England and we all wish him the very best for the future.

Flying Falcon was an opportunity for the Brigade Commander to see the Sig Sqn 'in action' and the exercise passed off without too many mishaps. However, **Sig Oliver** will remember in future, to attach his trailer before driving offf and covering 20kms without it! For this exploit he was awarded the 'missing link' prize. **Lt King** was much relieved. **SSM Bailes**, not realising his own strength, put his hand through the window of a Land Rover — he only wanted to attract **Sig Findlay's** attention! **Sig Findlay** is reputed to have carried on oblivious to what had occurred.

After the exercise we held the Squadron Superstars competition. The events included a 50m swim, a 6km run, .22 shooting, an assault course and, of course, gym tests. In a closely fought competition the eventual winner was **Cpl Dave Clark. Sig Steve Hope** was second and, proving that age is no handicap, **Sgt Mick Applegarth** came a close third.

Ex *Rancid Rat* was a military training exercise with **2 Lt Nick Coldrey** leading a desperate bunch of DS/enemy against two crack platoons led by **Sgt Dave Forbes** and **Sgt Mick Applegarth.**

We have said goodbye to **Capt Tony Rock** who has left us. We wish him and his wife to be, **Debbie** all the best in Verden and for the future.

In his place we welcome **Capt Charles Turner** to Soltau.

Finally congratulations are due to **WO2 (YofS) Drake** and **Sgt Clark** for earning their LS & GC medals and also congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Bailes** on his imminent promotion.

Maj James Shaw presents Sig Steve Hope with silver

Sgt Bond (11 Ord Coy), WO2 (YofS) Drake and Sgt Clark receive their LS & GC

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212 Sig Sqn (12 Armd Bde)
BFPO 36

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj 'Jon'Henderson**
2IC	**Lt (Soon to be Capt) 'Richard' Giles**
OC O Tp	**Lt 'Billy' Butlin**
OC P Tp	**2Lt (Nearly a Lt) 'Ian' Hunter**
SSM	**WO2 'Bob' Brown**
YofS	**WO2 'Dave' Wright**
FofS	**SSgt 'Ian' Hugill**
SQMS	**SSgt 'Graham' Hackett**
Ch Clk	**Sgt 'Glen' Brook**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Well here goes again another entry starts off with the cheerful task of saying hello to the following new inmates to this illustrious colony: **Lt 'Billy' Butlin, SSgt Ian** and **Jane Hugill, LCpl Glyn** and **Tina Harrison, Sig 'Steve' Boorman, Sig 'Billy' Johnson** and **Pte 'Billy' and Elaine Stevenson.** At the same time we must congratulate the following 'inmates' in getting time off for good behaviour and finally securing their release and our best wishes go with you all: **Capt 'Sandy'** and **Jane Gallie, SSgt 'Pete'** and **'Chris' Grist, Sgt 'Nige' Spence, Sgt 'Gran'** and **Lynn Yeomans, Cpl 'Dave'** and **Teresa Hirts, WLCpl 'Jo' Lewendon, LCpl John** and **Silke Sharples** and **Sig 'Jerry' Ashcroft.**

ARRIVAL OF LT R. M. BUTLIN

(By our practical joker correspondent — 2Lt Ian Hunter)

Lt Richard 'Sir Fred' Butlin arrived during Ex *Flying Falcon* (too good an opportunity to miss). His first job was to guide Papa Tp into location at night after the Recce Officer **Lt Richard (why am I not on a sailing course?) Giles** got 'called away'.

Unfortunately his lack of experience at guiding 43 — vehicles so upset a **'LCpl Athersmith'** (played by **2Lt Ian 'This is the first time I've driven this, how do you stop it?' Hunter)** that he jumped down and verbally — abused him. **'2Lt Hunter'** (played by **Sig 'Scegzy' Carroll)** arrived to calm his soldier down but this resulted in fisticuffs between them.

Soon the Recce Officer and **'2Lt Hunter'** were called to an O Gp leaving **Lt Butlin** to set up Step-Up. But all sorts of problems occurred: generators wouldn't start, some cables went missing, the G1098 fishplates wouldn't fit under the vehicles! After tearing his hair out **Lt Butlin** was let off the hook by the return of the Recce Officer and 'OC P'.

When he revisited the complex the next day **Lt Butlin** seemed slightly confused. Well done and welcome, but how about taking lessons in guiding 43's?

FAREWELL DINNER NIGHT

By our social correspondent Sgt Clive Doughty)

On Wednesday 4 March the officers, SNCOs and their wives, dined out three stalwart members of the Squadron, **SSgt (now WO2 (FofS) Pete Grist, Sgt Gran Yeomans** and the 2IC **Capt Sandy Gallie.**

The dinner started at 2030 hrs. After an excellent meal the OC delivered a farewell speech, which brought forth some amusing replies. It was a very enjoyable occasion. As can be seen in the photograph the wives proved that their lovley gowns outshone their husband's 'dress'.

The evening ended for the MAPs (Married Accompanied Personnel) at 1 am.

ORIENTEERING

It is without doubt, the most successful team in the Squadron. Led by **Maj 'Where's my compass?' Henderson** the team has won the minor unit titles at the BAOR Royal Signals Championships. The film star of the team is **Sig 'I'm Lost' Baker** as seen on Scene Here.

The Royal Signals Championships was a close run competition between 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt and us. After being ½ an hour down on the first day the team fought back to win by 2½ minutes after four hours of racing. This was the race where **Lt 'Legs' Giles** replaced **Cpl 'Yeti' Clark** due to his mishap in the previous week. Other team members on that memorable day were **LCpl 'Oh! that's a good rebro site' Wright, Sgt 'Where's the OC?' Doughty** and **Sgt 'What's a compass?' Holden.** Well run by all.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We would like to welcome the following to the Squadron, and hope that they and their families have a happy tour in Osnabruck: **SSgt Neish, Sgts Brown, Weir, Cpl Williams, LCpls Fell, Jeffery, Pte Whitehead.** We say farewell to **LCpl Ager, Pte Duncan, Sgt Inman, Pte Jenkins, SSgt Mathews** and **LCpl Simpson** and hope that they and their families enjoy their new postings.

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2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

PRESENTATIONS

During his initial visit to the Regiment on 9 January, the Commander, York Garrison, **Brig G. S. Hollands**, lunched with members of the WO and Sgts' Mess where he presented **WO1 (SC) Ray Duffy, SSgt Denis Jevons, Sgt Chas Hook and Sgt Steve Walder** with their LS and GC presentations. He also presented **WO2 (SSM) Sandy McLean** with his Warrant.

The CRA, Brig G. S. Hollands, presents WO2 (SSM) Sandy McLean with his Royal Warrant

EXCHANGE AU PAIR VISIT TO SWEDEN

By Capt Robin Clapp

Whilst the UK was under attack of adverse weather from Siberia, I was coping with temperatures of down to minus 28 as a guest of S1/Fo 47/48, a Swedish Signal Regiment. Following in the footsteps of two other illustrious Royal Signals officers, **Tony Elford** (1981) and **Graham Leach** (1984), I boarded a BA flight to Arlanda International Airport on 7 January and was met on arrival by the British Military Attaché, and driven to S1 based in Enkoping, 40km NW of Stockholm. Here I was met by **Maj Kenth Dagerus** who was to be my host during my stay.

I was looked after extremely well. Whilst in Sweden I managed a sightseeing trip to Stockholm, a hunting trip across a military training area on Langlauf skis, downhill skiing in Are and a helicopter ride up the Lulea River to Jokkmokk for lunch north of the Arctic Circle!

Do not get the impression that it was all play and no work. I visited many military establishments to learn the concept of defence in Sweden, how the Signals support the various HQs, as well as seeing the equipment and training. At the end of the two weeks I came away with the distinct impression that the Swedish Army is very professional considering that it is composed of only 5% regular forces (all officers), the remainder being conscripted or reservists.

I returned to UK at the end of two weeks to prepare for the return visit of **Maj Dagerus** who was to be shown our Training Regiments in Catterick before joining Ex *Flying Falcon* in Germany. He arrived on 7 February and I was able to show him some of London which included a visit to the musical 'Chess' which is a must for all Swedes, as it was composed by a member of ABBA. After a hectic day in London we returned for a similarly hectic day in York. This was followed by visits to 8 and 11 Sig Regts, AAC Harrogate, The King's Div Depot, 240 Sig Sqn and 2 Yorks before flying to Gutersloh to do a Cook's tour of BAOR. Needless to say the author learnt as much as his host, seeing for example, SEP and TSEP for the first time.

The Exchange Au Pair scheme is run by HQ UKLF and is undersubscribed. It involves travelling to a country that under normal service conditions, one would not get the opportunity to visit. Two weeks are spent being hosted by the Army of the country followed by a reciprocal visit. Many exciting countries can be visited including Iran (full CEFO required), so if you wish to take advantage of it you should contact HQ UKLF for all particulars. It is still possible, with a little bit of effort, to 'join the Army and see the world!'.

FAREWELL VISIT OF COMD 1 SIG GP

Col C. A. Brown, Comd 1 Sig Gp, paid a farewell visit to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt on Thursday 19 March to mark the disbandment of the Group HQ. Following a brief visit to RHQ, **Col Brown** took lunch with the CO and the officers. We would like to take the opportunity to wish **Col Brown** and all members of HQ 1 Sig Gp success in their new appointments.

A WORMS EYE VIEW OF EX *FLYING FALCON*

Report from: 15 Inf Bde Sig Tp

PERSONALTIES

OC	**Lt S. Aitken**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt C. Blackburn**
YofS	**SSgt S. Sutton**

It has been quite an eventful time so far this year for the Troop, with our usual quota of weekend exercises, with our TA Brigade HQ, *Flying Falcon '87, Merlins Madrigal*; a Bde CPX, *Key Lift*; a support helicopter concentration, and *Spring Tide*, our Div CPX. But we managed a **Stand down!** The year is certainly busy.

Ex *Flying Falcon* started, not so much with a bang in our case but with reveille at 0500 hrs on 6 February for departure to Hull at 0800 hrs (before most of us get to work normally, of course). Luckily, the movement plan gave us a generous six hour wait in a muddy field at Hull before embarkation on the ferry. It was an uneventful journey except that **Sig Welch** was presented with his Valentine's card in the middle of the dance floor by the OC. (Boots off, of course, courtesy of North Sea Ferries — the Army are the only people not allowed to wear Doc Martins while dancing!).

After a 'dry' two days at Haltern Staging Area during which **Lt Sandy Aitken, SSgt Clive Blackburn** and **SSgt (YofS) Sen Sutton** often disappeared on recces to locations already allocated, (who said it was for cake and coffee?), the exercise started. Three TA operators from 55 Sig Sqn (V) Liverpool joined us, **Sigs Parry, Murphy** and **McHaughlin** and thank you to them for a job well done. The weather held up beautifully except for the last few days but never the less the power det, **Cpl Bob (what's your nickname) Duff, LCpl Eric Francis** and **Sig Andy Mortlock** had more heaters than the Yorkshire Electricity Board. The highlight of our visits schedule was when Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig S. Cowan**, arrived and the OC bade a tearful farewell to his sleeping bag for two hours.

The quote of the exercise came from **Sig 'Cannibal' Wood** who, whilst having a discussion with **Cpl Al Westhoff, LCpl Mac McInnes** and **Sig Geordie Pringle** about the important things in life and duty frees, enquired 'How many beers do you get in a 10-pack?'.

Cuts again — three trailers to one Landrover, where will it all end?

'Through Time' — 15 Inf Bde's dining room was set up in a pig sty, although when it last saw pigs is another matter

RUGBY

This season has been one of team building and consolidation and, with a balanced blend of youth and experience, has culminated in the Regiment appearing in it's first major final for some considerable time. Early on in the season, the Regiment progressed to the fourth round of the Army Cup where we met 8 Sig Regt who proceeded to teach us basic lessons when they ran out winners 25—0.

Benefiting from that experience we entered the Northern Area Cup much more confidently and, having beaten the Kings and 38 Engr Regt in previous rounds, were drawn against our old rivals 8 Sig Regt in the final. On a wet and heavy pitch the Regiment acquitted itself much better than in the previous meeting. Sterling efforts from the forwards who were excellently led by **Maj Phil Wilkinson** allowed the backs some tremendous opportunities to show their pace and flair. However, dogged defence by 8 Sig Regt kicking four penalty goals and the Regiment replying with one penalty goal kicked by **Cpl Taff Lavery**.

This performance, however, augurs well for the future and special mention must be made of the rising stars. **LCpl Bobby Malvern** at Hooker, **Sig Pete Curtis** 2nd row, **Lt Dave Whimpenny** prop, **Cpl Chippy Wood** flanker, **Sig Steve Bartliff** centre and **Sgt Fez Newell** centre. In conclusion, any Rugby players posted here will find a happy squad playing Rugby for all the right reasons so just remember — York is a very nice city!

RSM Todd O'Brien clearing the ball from the scrum during the successful match against 38 Engr Regt on 25 April. The result was 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt 23, 38 Engr Regt 6

CANOEING

INTERSERVICE WHITE WATER CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS '87

Report by Lt S. N. Jackson BEM — Secretary Royal Signals Canoe Club

The Army squad at the above Championships held on the River Nith, Scotland was eighteen strong, the group photograph below shows the Royal Signals element of that squad. Although the Navy won the Championships overall, the Army would not have gained its respectable second place without the Royal Signals element.

16 Sig Regt paddlers produced the best Corps results, with **Cpl S. Wright** and **Cpl J. Harris** gaining first place in the Canadian team event and **Lt A. Mann WRAC** being second in the Individual Ladies event. **Sgt K. Truby** from the School of Signals was part of the Army A team that won the Bronze medal in the Mens team event.

It is proposed to hold the first ever Royal Signals Canoeing Championships at Monmouth in South Wales over the weekend 11/12 July. This is the weekend before the Army Sprint and Marathon Championships which are held at the same venue. Racing at both events caters for novices and gladiators so, regardless of your standard, come to Monmouth this year. If you require any information just write to me at 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in York.

Royal Signals Canoeists at the Interservices
Top L to R: Sig G. Woodhouse 2 Div, LCpl C. Lloyd 2 Div, Cpl J. Harris 16 Sig Regt
Middle: LCpl A. Dobson 2 Div, Sgt K. Truby Sch of Sigs, Lt J. Bunce 19 Inf Bde
Front: Lt S. Jackson 2 Div, Lt A. Mann 16 Sig Regt, Cpl S. Wright 16 Sig Regt

Lt Alison Mann — very casual

Lt Julian Bunce hard on the heels of Pte Carson ACC

EX *SKI WONDER*
Report by Lt Ruth Littlejohns

Early on Saturday 28 February, members of the Regiment taking part in Ex *Ski Wonder* gathered for the start of a 600 mile journey to Bavaria in search of snow and sun. After a welcome overnight stop at Tongeren we arrived in Bavaria to find a green and pleasant land, with no snow to speak of at all just rain! The first day was a major disappointment, with more rain, however, we pressed on and kitted ourselves out with boots, skis and sticks. Luck was on our side. On Tuesday we awoke to deep crisp snow and after a hearty breakfast we left for the the Balderschwang.

Learning to ski at the advanced age of 23 is a recipe for bruised body and pride, however, by the end of the first week definite progress had been made and the cries for help became less frequent. I learnt to stop properly with 'swish' of snow instead of by my previous method, heading for the nearest patch of deep snow! The skiing party was divided into three groups: beginners, intermediates and the kamikaze boys. Drag lifts continued to be a continual source of amusement as each new variation, (for example the whip action rapid take off type), sent the unwary tumbling off. As we progressed, mogul fields no longer loomed quite so large as we learned to negotiate them in our various individual styles. Ice fields, however, were a perpetual source of downfall being negotiated with either the orthodox upright method or the unorthodox sitting slide.

The middle weekend was spent off the slopes swimming, walking and watching the world free-style championships, where gymnasts on skis performed mind-boggling twists, turns and somersaults — eat your heat our ski-Sunday enthusiasts! It's even better in real life!

The evening were spent enjoying excellent German meals that managed to satisfy even the most hollow legged soldier (**Sig Simon Ridgeway** wins the eating competition), followed by games of Trivial Pursuit, backgammon, cards or ten pin bowling. The last few days were spent holding our own downhill and slalom races with varying degrees of success.

All too soon the skiing came to an end and we packed up to head for home. The snow was melting quickly, with great bare patches appearing on the slopes, accompanied by a definite end of season feeling. The suntans were complete and in many cases peeling in spite of liberal doses of baby cream. We arrived back to a typical British welcome of rain, a far cry from the sun and snow of Bavaria.

YORK CHARITY PANCAKE DAY RACE

For the first time 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt fielded a four-man team consisting of **Sig Mark Vile, Cpl Steven Lawrence, Sig Mark Perry** and **Sig Chris Ling** for the 'Round The Minster Pancake Race'. The course included strategic pancake tossing stations where runners tested their wrist-flicking and pancake catching ability. The Regiment swept away all the prizes with the exception of the 'Star Tosser' won by Yorkshire TV. We didn't want that one anyway!

Sig Mark Vile, the winner, is presented with a £100 cheque by the Crossroads star Gabriel Drake. He subsequently presented the cheque to the York Youth Theatre

210 Sig Sqn (24 Inf Bde) Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paddy Crowley**
2IC	**Capt David Burden**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC O Tp	**Lt Andy Duncan**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Andrew Fletcher**
SSM	**WO2 A1 Gibbons**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie McTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Campbell**
CC	**SSgt John O'Donnell**

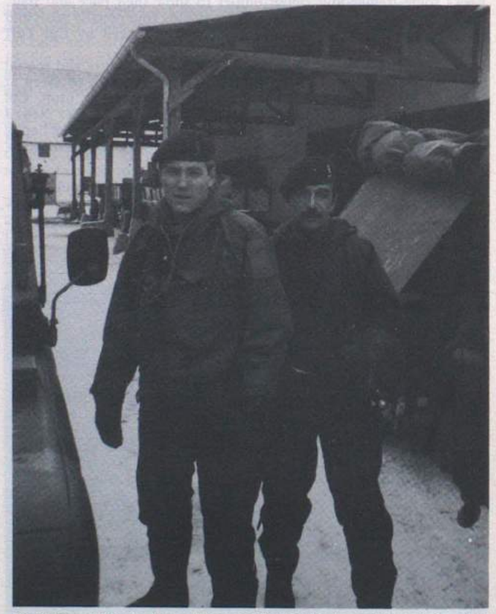
IN/OUT TRAY

A relatively stable month in the Squadron. We say goodbye to **Sgt Tommy Burns**, and **Cpls Butler, Gibbs** and **Chapman**, wishing them all the best in their new postings (has anybody warned 244 about the chainsaw yet?). Welcomed to the Squadron are **WO2 (YofS) Douggie McTaggart, LCPls Jim Davidson, Paul Scott**, and **Sig Eddy Friar.**

On Friday 6 March the Squadron Officers and SNCOs dined out, **Lt Huw Wareham**, and **WO2 (YofS) Mick Taylor** and his wife **Jenny. Lt Wareham** leaves us on posting to 11 Sig Regt (and banishment to the Mess on the other side of the roundabout), and the Yeoman on posting to Blandford. We wish them all the best of luck for the future and the best of wishes from all in 210.

TRUE STORIES

Whilst the front of the Squadron PXR book filled up with meaningful comments about the WAVELL processor, the back of the book became a repository for all those little stories of Ex *Flying Falcon.*



Ex *Flying Falcon.* Papa 'Demonstration' Troop hierachy — 2Lt Andrew Fletcher and Sgt Tommy Burns strike a pose on location in Germany. Note the 'fitted for PTARMIGAN' fish fryer trailer

Ex *Flying Falcon.* The Squadron gets down to the serious business of collecting duty frees. Sgt Rich Reed RAPC is conspicuous not only by his absence, but also by the absence of the OC's and SSM's duty frees. LCpl Eddy Edwards gets into camera shot again, BALO crew Sig Wallis and Ian Martin queue for Herfy

After a guided tour of Arnhem and all points south, courtesy of the Dutch police, the Squadron finally reached BAOR. Recce had, as usual, excelled itself with the locations, as **Sig Peach** discovered when he backed the rations trailer into a cess pit, and **LCpl Jock Smith** (complete with hair gel and rubber gloves) found out after setting Sig Ops up in a heap of manure! **LCpl Ian (I'm just an SAS operator) Church** got off to his usual fine start when he gave a particularly colourful reply to a request to dim the subset lamp in the Commander's carwagon that was keeping the OC awake. Pity the OC was sitting listening in the corner.

Movement was as ever a feature of the exercise, with both Sig Ops and the Complex doing several 6ft moves. Luckily **Sig Pat (Vasco da Gama) Kenny** wasn't navigating. **Sgt Dave Edgecombe** enjoyed his regular hate/hate relationship with the staff clerks, and was particularly impressed by their request that he refill their kero' heater. The technicians enjoyed a particularly good exercise down in 240 volt land. **SSgt (FofS) Bob Nicholson** spent most of the exercise preening himself in readines for a suitable pig farm. **Sgt Tony Heaton** dozed off early one evening, and when he awoke at just gone twelve, was astonished on opening the ERV door to find daylight outside. **Cpl Gibson** was the model tech though; in response to a request from Sig Ops to check a fault he replied 'I don't know, that sounds technical'.

Cpl Chappy Chapman survived the exercise, much against the wishes of our RMP det. They had already identified him as a dangerous intellectual having found books in his room (although it must be admitted that they didn't know what they were for), so when the RMP were asked to drive a sick **Cpl Chapman** to hospital they obviously felt their chance had come. Fortunately 'Chappy' survived both the road crash and the breakdown.

The journey home had its fair share of happenings, with **Sgt Dave Morris ACC** taking a tour of Koeln, and **Sgt Jim Pattison** giving Aral and Shell a bit of competition. The final comments on the exercise though must be focused on that fount of all knowledge, wisdom and 2000 AD comics — Sig Ops. During the exercise the Sig Ops residents consumed over a kilo of coffee, three half kilos of sugar, a kilo of powdered milk and 40 packets of biscuits. The biscuits were of course kept under lock and key to protect them from the feeding frenzies of **Lt Andy 'Locust' Duncan**, 'aka' Rip van Duncan. Despite such precautions there were still cases of missing Jaffa cakes (attributed to a 2IC/Foreman attempted frame up), and missing Maryland cookies.

GALE FORCE 8

On a typical Catterick Friday afternoon (rain, gale force 8) the Squadron Inter-Troop Cross Country was run, with the Bde Comd in attendance. The course was interesting to say the least, even the ducks had abandoned the stream crossings. **'Hurricane' Higgins** completed the three mile course in 19 minutes, followed closely by **LCpl Snowy Snowden** and **LCpl Jim Burgess**. Oscar Troop won the team trophy, with Papa second. Well done everybody for finishing, especially **LCpl Jim Davidson** and **LCpl Fred Kirkpatrick** for finishing 45th and 46th.

MATCH OF THE DAY

This year's Inter-Troop Competition started off on a very wet Thursday afternoon. Oscar Tp, last years winners, led by **Al 'Maradonna' Higgins**, obviously thought it would be a walk over but the first game opened their eyes somewhat. HQ Troop took on the skills of Papa Troop and came well unstuck. An excellent performance by the midfield, led by **Glenn 'Mongo' King**, and centre forward Rock Steady **Eddy Edwards** proved too much for them and Papa Troop won 5—2. With the rain getting worse HQ played Oscar Troop, **Cpl Higgins** put Oscar 1—0 up after five minutes, HQ Troop never looked like scoring even though the superstar Foreman tried some fancy footwork giving Oscar Troop their third goal for a 3—0 win. The last match, Papa vs Oscar, proved to be a nail biter. With 10 minutes to go Oscar Troop were 2—0 up. **'Maradonna' Higgins** in his infinite wisdom substituted himself, and had obviously been the key man in defence as Papa Troop pulled the game back to a 2—2 finish. The final score meant that it would be a shoot out on penalties. Papa Troop dominated the penalties winning 4—2.

Inter-Troop Football. Cpl Gibbs accepts the winners trophy on behalf of Papa Troop from a very wet OC. Team members 'Wildthing' Wildish, Mick Thompson, Paul Scott, Geordie Fuller, John Clifford, Eddy Edwards, Keith Rollinson, and Glenn King stand drenched behind

TYNE TEES STARS

Ex *Gryphons Gambit* is the biannual Brigade helicopter exercise. Vehicles were rigged but sick helicopters meant long delays. At last **Sig Geordie Fuller** and his det were lifted, but the remaining helicopters found it all too much, and called it a day. The second day went better with most lifts acheived, partly due to our marshal **Sgt Steve Beverly** who was drinking copious quantities of hot coffee. The third day saw a more tactical approach to the whole thing, and it was conincidentally rumoured that Tyne Tees Television cameras were in the area. After rigging, the vehs were taken to the PUP for lifting. At about 1300 a lone Puma was spotted circling the PUP. There was a sudden flurry of activity as Pumas and Chinooks came into the PUP from all directions and started lifting kit. Needless to say everybody did their best to get into camera shot. Nearly all the lifts were completed before the Chinooks broke down again, at which point **Cpls Keith Rollinson** and **Holly Hollingsworth** decided to go home. This left **Sig Clive Whitehouse** and **Dickie Bird** in the middle of the moor with one RRB vehicle wondering where their Det Comds were and waiting for the night lift. The night lift went ahead without incident and all got home safely. Conclusion—Even RRBs can be TV stars (Tyne Tees news that night).

On a suitably snowy training area 24 Bde practises it's airportable role. Unfortunately the OC was unable to bribe the Chinook pilots into dropping the WPI from a great height

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

FAREWELL TO MAJ GEN D. J. RAMSBOTHAM CBE

On 9 March 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt bade their farewell to the Commander of the 'Iron Division'. At 1130 hours **Maj Gen D. J. Ramsbotham CBE** was escorted to the Main Square of St Sebastian Barracks by the CO **Lt Col A. E. G. Truluck**. Nothing could be seen apart from a number of AFV's neatly positioned on the square. On the blast of a whistle by **WO1 (RSM) R. A. Licence**, soldiers leapt out of the AFV's and paraded in front of the General. As the last movement of the General Salute was being executed all the armoured vehicles roared into life. The combined Regimental Bands of the Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) and the Gordon Highlanders, under command of Bandmaster **WO1 A. J. Hodgetts** of the Royal Scots, played the General Salute. All in all an impressive sight. The General spoke to the officers and soldiers on parade saying that it had been his privilege to command the Iron Division for the past two and a third years and he was handing over command with sadness and gratitude. With expert precision the flypast, provided by 3 Regt Army Air Corps, flew over the parade ground. The General boarded his 'Hard Tac' armoured vehicle and was pulled by Regimental and staff officers of the Headquarters and Signal Regiment to the gates of St Sebastian Barracks. His last port of call was to inspect the Barrack Guard provided by 3 Sqn of the Signal Regiment and headed by **SSgt G. E. Cook**. The final act was carried out by **WO1 (RSM) 'Rick' Licence** who returned the flag of the Royal Green Jackets to the GOC after having it placed under close arrest. The flag had been an irritant to the RSM who got tired of seeing this weather beaten flag and so, during an absence of the GOC, he repaired the flag only to be informed afterwards that the General had not even noticed the difference! After a rousing 'Three Cheers' **Maj Gen D. J. Ramsbotham CBE** was driven away, his command of the 3 Armd Div had come to an end!

WO1 (RSM) 'Rick' Licence returns the flag to the General after having it placed under close arrest

The GOC inspects the Barrack Guard
L to R: Lt Col A. E. G. Truluck, SSgt 'George' Cook, GOC, LCpl 'Widdy' Widdicombe, Cpls 'Gaz' Stoker, 'Sutty' Sutcliffe, Sig 'Lennie' Quinn, 'Not So' Smart, LCpls 'Mabel' Pavier, 'Rosie' Rose, 'Tel' Fleet, Sig 'Nocker' McNay and 'Mac' McDonald

WELCOME TO MAJ GEN C. E. W. JONES CBE

Wednesday 18 March saw the arrival of the Iron Division's new GOC, **Maj Gen C. E. W. Jones CBE**. With the driving rain obligingly holding off for half an hour, the GOC was met at the main gate by the officiating CO of the Regiment, **Maj Ronald Abbott**, the RSM and a quarterguard provided by 3 Sqn. As a surprise, the bugler was from 1 RGJ, **Gen Jones'** old Battalion, and indeed his appointment makes two in a row for the RGJ, as his immediate predecessor was from the Regiment.

The new GOC 3rd Armoured Division Maj Gen C. E. W. Jones inspects the Barrack Guard on his arrival in the Regiment
L to R: Maj Gen C. E. W. Jones, LCpl 'Widdy' Widdicombe, Cpls 'Gaz' Stoker, 'Sutty' Sutcliffe

INTER-SQUADRON CROSS COUNTRY

The inter-Squadron Cross Country competition was held on Friday 3 April 1987 and conditions could not have been better, the sun was out, the course was good and there was plenty of refreshment at the end. The run was enjoyed by all participants and the final results were:

Individuals	1st	**LCpl 'John' Hayes**
	2nd	**SSgt 'Jimmy' Saville**
	3rd	**Sig 'Tez' Blakely**
WRAC	1st	**Cpl 'Katrina' Laker**
	2nd	**Pte 'Donna' Stuart**
Team	1st	2 Sqn
	2nd	HQ Sqn
	3rd	3 Sqn
	4th	1 Sqn

2 SQN

THE BIG JUMP

by LCpl 'Tim' Jones

Saturday 7 March saw a group of volunteers depart for JSPC (L) Bad Lippspringe to take part in a one jump parachute course. The training was soon under way with unpopular PLF's. (Parachute Landing Falls)

LCpl 'Digger' Grave showed us how to land on our heads instead of our feet. This was followed by us lying on the floor practising the stable position, this is the way we are meant to leave the aircraft but something we all failed to achieve.

Owing to bad weather we were unable to jump on the day much to the delight of some of the course but on the following Thursday we were given the thumbs up and off we went again.

After a period of revision and safety drills we prepared to take off, this is where the laughter stopped and the serious/apprehensive look took over.

Once up in the air everyone was in deep thought as to whether their courage would hold out but all were reminded by our friendly instructor that he was the only one to return in the aircraft. I was the first to go — the relief passing through me as I saw my parachute open, 'if round then sound as a pound'. **LCpl 'Digger' Grave** did have second thoughts, the first while in the aircraft, the second while he was being helped out by the instructor.

Everyone had a good jump and although there were no perfect landings all were eager to have another go. We were able to raise approx DM 1,500 in sponsorship money which will go towards the provision of specialist surgical equipment for BMH Munster.

Geronimo
L to R: Sig 'Tony' Shand, Sig 'Jacko' Jackson, Sig 'Simon' Hudson, LCpl 'Digger' Grave, LCpl 'Bert' Reynolds, LCpl 'Tim' Jones
Absent on duty Sig 'Toya' Wilcox, Sig 'Scarecrow' Timms

SHOOTING TEAM

The Regimental Skill at Arms Meeting was held at Haltern Ranges during the period 30 March-1 April. The Squadron team had a successful meeting and was only just beaten into overall second place by a very good team from 204 Sig Sqn. With only the Section shoot to go, both teams were level on points. 204 Sig Sqn had the best Section shoot narrowly beating 2 Sqn by 160 points to 153. There were some fine individual performances — notably:

Cpl Donnelly	Best A Class SLR
Sig O'Hare	Best A Class SMG

Other results were:

1st	Best Team (SLR)
2nd	Falling Plate
2nd	Pistol Tiles
2nd	Section Shoot
3rd	Best LMG Team

The high standard of markmanship within the Squadron was furthre emphasised by the selection of eight men to represent the Regiment in the Divisional SAAM.

Best SLR Shot
Cpl 'Don' Donnelly receiving his award from Maj 'Ron' Abbott the 2IC for best 'A' Shot. SSgt 'George' Cook the organiser of the SAAM looks on

EXERCISE *THREE IN ONE*

Ex *Flying Falcon/Iron Charge/Winter Sales* took place from 9-20 February. The exercise began with an early start and a good run to our first location, **LCpl 'Bob' Pye** stopping on the way to assist a local farmer to plough his field with the LAD getting in on the act by plouging the part that he missed. Eventually we all reached our destinations and the important aspects of the exercise, ie comms were put into practice. During the middle phase, Ex *Iron Charge*, the Squadron played host to the Division, as Exercise Control, in a disused coffin factory much to the delight of **Sgt 'Mac' McKinnon** who found even more to store in his already bulging Troop Store. The final phase, Ex *Winter Sales* kept us all that little more active with the recce team **Capt Fred Bancroft** and **Sgt Dave Greaves** falsely believing their task was finished, 'just pop out for a recce'; surely the CO was having us on this time.

Ex *Iron Charge*
The nocturnal habits of Capt 'Bruce' Avison OC 'O' Tp

202 Sig Sqn (33 Armd Bde) BFPO 16

Report by Lt N. A. W. Pope

Came the New Year, came the inevitable storm, with the Squadron deploying on exercise for the last week of January and not returning to barracks until effectively mid-March (no, this was not due to the BALO's map-reading!).

The first exercise of the season was Ex *Red Tricorn I* which led directly into Ex *Start Right*. Throughout the fortnight the Wavell crew of **Sgt Bill Mackie, LCpl Dave Spence** and **Sig 'Geordie' Robinson** tried to convince the PWSST team that the WPI(T) did not work. They even highlighted the areas in which it was inoperable. When the crew finally got the system up and working, PWSST arrived to fix it and promptly put it out of operation again!

Ex *Start Right* itself led directly into the Ex *Flying Falcon* series of exercises. This fortnight is remembered for the extreme cold. One incident however does spring readily to mind. The then Squadron 2IC **Capt Neil 'Knightsbridge' Couch** sited the Fwd HQ in a lunatic asylum! Needless to say an interesting time was had by both sides, **Sig Pete Forrest** was surrounded by a gaggle of inmates whilst on guard. At this time he was wearing full NBC kit, webbing and helmet. Which of the two parties was the insane one? At 2000 hrs another inmate was seen parading up and down in a stolen NBC suit and beret giving a 'unique' sounding of the last post. Needless to say it was with reluctance that we left this location. **Cpl 'Taff' Nelson** has not been seen since!

The Squadron returned from Ex *Flying Falcon* just in time for 40 Squadron members to deploy to Killymurphy Town in the Sennelager Range Complex to act as CIVPOP for 1 QLR's Northern Ireland training. The highlight of the week was a riot on the final afternoon. Special mention to **Sig Dave Pook** for a week of extraordinary acting ability. The next exercise was Ex *Brass Taurus*.

Sgt Evans (The Steam) — your defence in his hands

The 'A' Team on Ex *Flying Falcon*
SSgt Bill Magee, Lt Nick Pope, Sgt Kerpal Singh, WO2 (YofS) Hattersley, Lt Mark Eaton, WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden and Maj David Proctor

SUMMARY OF EXERCISE *BRASS TAURUS*

Ex *Brass Taurus* was a Royal Scots exercise where 202 Sig Sqn provided comms and also the enemy forces. The enemy was made up of 4 × 432's with an enemy Section in each. In command of the enemy was **Lt (I don't feel the cold) Eaton**, 2IC being **Sgt (I'm not scared of the dark) Evans**. The first day was spent listening to **Sig Donkey Nichol** going on about how smooth he can be when chatting up women (in his opinion), also **Sig Hector Conkey** going on about why **Sig Norman Needham** and **Sig Cornelious McKenna** are not out on the exercise in the cold. After moving into the first location, and having a stand-to each time the wind blew, **Sig (I love me, who do you love?) Stephenson** decided to open fire upon an unknown shadow, shortly to be followed by an attack by the Royal Scots, which lasted all of 10 minutes, unnoticed by a sleeping **Sgt Evans**. The next morning we were attacked again. A good stand was made by **Pte (I love the Army) Baker**, until an unexpected thunder flash over ran his position. The final day of Ex *Brass Taurus* was spent in a location which looked like the Gobi Desert and which had to be patrolled hourly in case an attack when it did happen of 20 432's and about six Challenger tanks appeared out of the blue.

202 Sig Sqn was then over-run, but not without a strong last-stand from **Sig (it's not my first time on exercise) Conkey** and **Sig 'Elite' Davies-Morris**. At midday endex was called, and the boys then returned to Paderborn, stopping at various hunger refreshment points carefully plotted out by **LCpl (I'm a good guy) Barrett**, who was in charge of Admin during the exercise.

SPORT

HOCKEY

The Squadron has continued in fine winning style. The team did well to win the 3 Div Minor Unit Challenge Cup, beating 204 Sig Sqn convincingly 2—0 in a rain swept final. Goalscorers were **Lt Nick Pope** and Comd 33 Bde **Brig Alex Harley**.

In the quarter-finals of the BAOR competition the Squadron (yet again!) met 204 Sig Sqn and managed to win a close well-fought match on penalty flicks, after a 1—1 draw after extra time. The goalscorer was **LCpl Mark Webb**.

In the semi-final the team came up against a well-organised 20 Electronic Wksps team and were unlucky to lose 2—0.

SQUASH

The Squadron managed to fit in an inter-Troop competition in March. With **Capt (Squash Superstar) Gary Mason** leading the way and with **WO2 (YofS) Jeff Hattersley** providing a solid number five seed, SHQ Tp were run away winners. Credit however to **LCpl Ian (Falklands Bore) Stringer** and **Sig 'Stewey' Stewart** for their novel interpretation of the game of squash.

ROAD RUNNING

The Squadron entered the 3 Armd Div Half Marathon league again this year and in the first race held at Soest, **Sgt Charlie Foster** came in first having run an extra two miles!! Running with two members of the Brigade Staff, the 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn Team won the team event.

In the second event, held at Munster on a freezing cold day, the team did not fare so well. Positions were as follows:

4th	**Sgt Charlie Foster**
27th	**Bdr Young** (Brigade Staff)
61st	**Sgt Conway** (Brigade Staff)
207th	**Capt Baird** (Brigade Staff)
209th	**WO2 (YofS) Hattersley**

The next race for the team will be the Bruggen 10 mile road race on 11 April.

The outgoing GOC Maj Gen Ramsbotham speaking to SSgt (Frank) McAleer

204 Sig Sqn (4 Armd Bde) BFPO 17

COMMCEN MUNSTER

Commcen Munster recently received a silver comstar, for signals transmitted accurately and rapidly over a period of seven months, from June to December. The comstar was presented to the Commcen on 26 March 1987 by the Commander 4 Armd Bde, **Brig W. J. Courage MBE**.

Commcen Munster is staffed by members of 4 Sqn, 16 Sig Regt aided, when not deployed on exercise, by members of 204 Sig Sqn. In addition Commcen Munster has its own pet civilian, **Mrs Carol Bolton**. After the presentation all present celebrated the award with champagne and a small buffet. The personalities at the time of the award are:

WO2 (YofS) Nick Hammett, YofS 204 Sig Sqn
Sgt Andy Rimmell, Crypto/Commcen SNCO
Cpl Mark Potter, Crypto
Cpl Gerry Harbage-Brown, Commcen Supervisor
LCpl Neil Wheatley
LCpl Karen Daniels (now posted to 10 Sig Regt Aldershot)
LCpl Dawn Potter
WPte Sue Alford
WPte Lynne Stillie
Mrs Carol Bolton (Pet Civvie)
LCpl Nigel Donohue)
Sig George Lindsay) 204 Sig Sqn
Sig Mark Thomas)

Brig W. J. Courage Comd 4 Armd Bde presenting the Silver Comstar Award to Cpl Harbage-Brown WRAC
Looking on *L to R:* WO2 (YOS) Nick Hammett, Cpl Mark Potter, LCpl Diane Potter, LCpl Neil Wheatley, Mrs Carol Bolton, Sig Mark Thomas, Pte Lynne Stillie, LCpl Nigel Donahue, Pte Sue Alford, Sig George Lindsey, Sgt Andy Rimnel (Alex the dog looks on)

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

206 Sig Sqn (6 Airmob Bde) BFPO 106

206 SIG SQN GOLF SOCIETY
by Cpl S. Martin

The Royal Corps of Signals Spring Golf Meeting was held at RAF Bruggen over 2/3 April this year and with the Squadron Commander's blessing, five members of the Squadron took two days' leave of absence from work to put their skills to the test. So with the trusty 'thrashing sticks' packed, off we set for two wonderful sunny days, four rounds of golf and the odd funny moment or two.

The five members of the Squadron were **Sgt Stu 'The Baffie Kid' Read, Cpls Hamish 'You would nee wear them in the Sergeants' Mess' Hermiston, Steve 'In future I sleep with one eye open' Martin, Nick 'I promise to stop talking' Hawley** and last but not least **LCpl Andy 'Call me second hand rose' Harriott**. As far as **Andy Harriott** was concerned we all took bets on what would happen first, the end of the competition, or the demise of his second hand golf shoes. Sad to say his shoes lost, duly depositing individual pieces of said shoes over 18 holes of Bruggen golf course, the entire heel section of the right shoe is now recognised as an official hazard on the 16th fairway, **Cpl Steve Martin** will never risk dropping off into the 'land of nod' again in the clubhouse, after waking up to find his spectacles had been given an aid to aiming accuracy with the addition of cross hairs daubed on them in a rather fetching shade of pink lipstick, **Cpl Nick Hawley** managed to keep us all amused ('yawn yawn') with his continual stream of jokes and quips, some say that's the reason why **Cpl Steve Martin** fell asleep in the first place. **Cpl Hamish Hermiston** known to like the odd beer or 12, obviously considers himself a bit of a connoiseur of fine table wines, or at least he did until he managed to sink a third of a bottle of wine only to be told by the amazed Schnell Imbiss owner that she would now have to get some more 'vinegar' from the stockroom 'and he never batted an eyelid'. Last but not least **Sgt Stu Read**, well what can we say about him, except that when he goes to the big golf course in the sky he will very probably turn up wearing his much loved carpet slippers (baffie's) to those among you from 'north o' the border'.

Overall, the 'Famous Five' acquitted themselves with honour most notable performances coming from **Cpl Martin** third in the 18 hole Stableford and **Cpl Hawley** fourth in the same event and the partnership of **Cpls Hermiston** and **Hawley** coming seventh in the 18 hole Medal Event. Considering the quality of competition and an entrance of 60 golfers all five did exceptionally well, never finishing below half-way and in most cases within the top 15 placings. Hopes are high for the team event at the 3 Armd Div Spring Meeting.

206 SIG SQN RUGBY

With the arrival of **Maj Harper**, the Squadron rubgy team has gone from strength to strength (even though it was suspected that he started the team because he could not get into the Regimental team). Then with the arrival in of **Sgt Showell** from 7 Sig Regt (Army Champions 1984/85) the team began to take shape.

The squad started training in August with **Cpl 'Fletch' Fletcher** leading the way in most of the physical training sessions, and **Maj Harper**, with his long and wise experience, on the tactical side.

Most of the Squadron's initial games were against Major Units which put us in good stead against our opponents in the 3rd Division Minor Unit Rugby Competition. The first match was in the quarter final against 6 Armd Wksp REME, last year's champions. This was a reputation we need not have feared, as we ran out the winners 24—0. The next round, semi-finals, was closer with a 20—19 victory over 5 Fd Amb RAMC.

At this stage we were put out of the BAOR Competition by 5 Armd Fd Amb RAMC, beaten more by the occasion than the team, as winning would have got us in the semi-finals of the BAOR Competition. Losing the match, however, put us into the right frame of mind to take on 4 Tank Transporter Sqn in the 3rd Division Minor Units Final. This was played at Churchill Barracks, Lippstadt, Friday 19 December 1986.

Although we had to leave our best player on the touch line, due to injury, the team took the game to the RCT straight away, with **Sig 'Taff' Davies** charging down a kick to touch, then charging through to score a fine try, one of the two he was to score. The RCT side were never given a chance to come back. Mature performances from **Cpl 'Buck' Rogers, LCpls 'Robb' Robinson** and **Selwyn 'I'll play anywhere' Rushton. Sig Simon Chandler**, an 'up-and-coming' centre, crashed through the lot in the second-half to make the score 12—0.

LCpl Keith Chinn converted, and later scored a penalty to put the final nail in the RCT coffin, leaving the final score 17—0.

Special mention must be made of **Capt John Rowley**, our 'Happy Hooker' (5ft 4in) who kept playing throughout the season in spite of sustaining several head injuries.

DIVISIONAL SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was decided early on in 1986 that the Squadron would add skiing to its many sporting ventures, so we entered a team for the Divisional Ski Championships. A team of volunteers was duly selected, a procedure which was based on a blend of natural fitness, stamina and an inability to ski. The selection complete, a team of total novices absolutely ignorant of what they were letting themselves in for, was introduced to the delights of Nordic Skiing. (No downhill glamour for us!) **Cpls Jimmy Dean** and **Steve Hughes** constructed the training programme which in time would prepare us for the dubious pleasure of competition skiing.

Now that things were set in motion, the next step was to produce the equipment. After a financial campaign worthy of Bob Geldof enough money was collected to purchase the equipment. This was a great credit to the team, who spent a considerable amount of their off duty time in fund raising efforts.

On a cold snowy and blustery December morning the team slipped unnoticed out of camp and headed south for Austria and the ski resort of Fulpmes. After a long and eventful journey we reached our destination. Credit must go to **Cpl Kev Johnson** and **Sig Geordie Johnson** (now Lance Corporal) and that unsung hero—a roll of masking tape. On arrival our coach and part time mentor, **SSgt Brian Tanner** took control and made the team painfully aware of what was expected.

Two weeks was all the time we had left before the competition and all we had to do was learn to ski. At the end of this period we were beginning to look like a team but at that point we had to say goodbye to **SSgt Brian Tanner, Sig Mick McAuley** and **Cpl Steve Hughes**. The remaining members led by **Cpl Jimmy Dean** entered the races with great enthusiasm but limited skill. The race results were not fantastic and no prizes were won, but in the final result, our novice team reached second place in the minor units league. Next year—who knows?

HOCKEY

The Squadron has no stars at hockey, just a group of runners that have had sticks put into their hands, yet by hook or by crook we succeeded in getting into the 3 Div Minor Units Final.

This was an all Brigade Signal Squadron Final as our opposition 202 Sig Sqn is one of our sister Brigades within the Division. Played in wet and blustery conditions the Squadron did their utmost to make this day theirs, but it was not to be. Again for the second year running we had to play second fiddle. On the bright side, although we did not succeed in the cut and thrust of cup hockey it now transpires that through dedication, hard work and enthusiasm throughout the season, we have won the 3 Div Minor Unit League forcing 202 Sig Sqn into third position.

The following have played hockey for the Squadron:

Maj Brian De la Haye
WO2 Rick Ravenscroft REME
Sgt Chris Nutt
Cpl Phil Holland
LCpl Andy Moffat
Sig T. J. Hooker
Sig S. T. U. Metcalfe
Capt David Jones
SSgt Brian Tanner
Cpl Gerry Harbage-Brown
Cpl Ian Putnam
LCpl Pat Paterson
Sig Mick McAuley
WO2 Nick Hammett
Sgt Graham Cottrell
Cpl Ian Seymour
LCpl Jim Stillie
Sig Geordie Moss

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The Team to Trust

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

1 SQN
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj P. Grey**
2IC	**Capt C. Richardson RNZ Signals**
OC P	**Capt A. McComb**
OC K	**Lt A. Burgin**
OC C	**2Lt D. Hix**
SSM	**WO2 Halstead**
FofS	**WO2 Roberts**
SQMS	**SSgt Cottington**

SQUADRON UPDATE

The Squadron has been fairly busy over the past few weeks with numerous exercises notably *Flying Falcon* and *Wintex*. However, the lads' sense of humour came to the fore during the long stretches of guard and fatigue duties and sounds of 1 Sqn chattering away to themselves happily was heard from the garages.

Seriously though, I have it on good authority (as I was not on it!) that the Squadron performed very well on *Flying Falcon* and all concerned can give themselves a pat on the back.

Once back in barracks having got the last of *Wintex* out of our hair (part of 14 Sig Regt liked it so much here they decided to hang on!) the tedis within the Squadron came out of hibernation and under the auspices of **FofS Andy Roberts**—soon to depart for Orkney or is it Shetland?—have begun beavering away for the RSIT, which is looming on the horizon and rumour has it that the Troop Commanders are looking, or will be soon, for new jobs—any offers to **2Lt Hix** 1 Sqn.

On his return from Nordic Skiing ('the hard way') **2Lt Hix** was heard to say 'my shooting has improved no end'—he is now trying to build a Regimental Shooting team and has been seen to age visibly in the process.

INS AND OUTS

Mainly Outs, the Squadron says farewell to **Sgt (soon to be SSgt) Wally** and **Sgt Steve** and **Christine Cocksedge, Cpl Jeff Fisher**, and when he can make his mind up to go, **Cpl H. 'I'm giving up smoking Rowe** and **Christine**.

Congratulations are in order to **YofS Andy Barrow** and **SSgt Alan Hibbern** for coming up on the Board and also to **Sgt Ian Emmerson** for his promotion to Staff Sergeant. Congratulations also to **Cpls McCann** and **Nicholl** on their promotion to Sergeant.

2 SQN

2 Sqn has been a hive of activity over the past months. Ex *Flying Falcon* and *Wintex* being two milestones that have come and gone. Tranquil and calm have now almost set in.

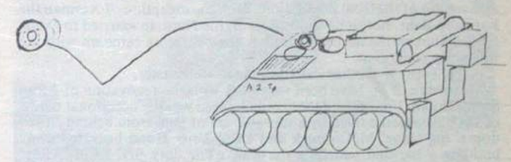
The SQMS having masterminded the renovation and modernisation of the Squadron bar was deeply disappointed at not getting the Rolling Stones for the opening night, **Sig Bingham**'s 'boogey' box did quite well as a compromise. We now have the valuable facility of a canteen and bar area in which to pontificate during NAAFI break.

The Squadron now receive full Rothman's sponsorship from **Capt A. Morphet**, who arrived in the Squadron whilst we were on *Flying Falcon*. It was a golden opportunity for the Squadron to see 58 pattern webbing fitted with field issue cigarette vending machine.

Ex *Flying Falcon* saw the rebros being juggled over what seemed the length and breadth of BAOR and the Headquarters complex commandeering one four-star factory after another. **LCpl Donaldson** had difficulty accounting for all his 349 road wheels at times, and Rebro Recce had difficulty staying on the road. The weather was a great hindrance. Ex *Wintex*, the in-barracks CPX was time consuming but interesting to watch Wavell's ups and downs; well downs anyway.

A1 TP

The Troop has had an exhausting couple of months. Ex *Flying Falcon* proved to be the challenging affair it always is, with the dets stretched to the limits, and the **FofS Ian Duncan** and **SQMS Ian Selkirk** stretching for the 'on' button on the video, all was progressing as it should. The weather threw up a few hitches including **LCpl Robert Donaldson** having his obligatory accident, this time it was road wheels. The highspots of the exercise through were **Cpl 'Bagse' Bain**'s telephone drills, **LCpl 'Whinging' Winning** not complaining for at least five minutes (date/time/group available), **Cpl Mark Harris** doing something and **Sig O'Malley** doing something right.



"3 WHEELS ON MY WAGON AN I'M STILL ROLING ALONG"

Ex *Wintex* came and went leaving in its wake only the intense excitement that this exercise always gives to the Troop. **Cpl Chris Mountain** enjoyed a brief moment of fame as 4 Division Wavell Manager, but found looking at a series of blank STE's too much and he has gone back to his original job, quite what that is nobody knows.

The rest of the time the Troop has spent diligently guarding the camp and sweeping large areas of tarmac, in the good old Army tradition.

A1 Tp says a sad, but fond, farewell to **Cpls 'Stan' Stannage, Joe Docherty, Rob Whyke** and **Sig Ray Till, Damien Greene, Anthony McGiveron, Jed Halliday** and a cheery and equally fond fond, hello to **LCpl Ian Lawton** and **Sig Tony Evans**, and **Sig Tim Dodd** who liked it so much first time round he has come back for more.

Congratulations go out to **Cpl 'Stan' Stannage, Cpl 'Giblet' Gilbert** and **LCpl Jedd Halliday** on their well earned promotions.

A3 TP

With the establishment of **Sgt Brooks** behind the desk after *Flying Falcon* the Troop has now settled into a daily routine. The rebros had one of their busiest exercises to date hampered by a few 'gremlins' in the system on *Falcon*.

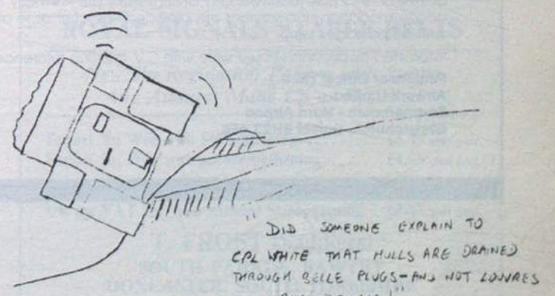
It was a sad goodbye to **Cpl Pete Beck, LCpl Dye Buter, Sig Bob Tindale**. The Troop had to wake up **Sig Anderson** to say goodbye to him after he had, without doubt, won the 'Golden Blanket Award'. **Cpl 'Bungalow' Murrey** moved across to 3 Sqn to become a professional basketball player.

Cpl 'Smudge' Smith who moved into the Troop from A1 cannot find the Troop garages (Regiment Orienteer). **LCpl Carling** and **Sig Thirsk** were welcomed into the Troop with open arms and then promptly put on guard.

With sports' afternoons on the horizon **Sig Strange** has been briefed on how not to break an ankle swimming.

3 SQN

Scarcely a moment has passed this year when the Squadron has not been committed to one exercise or another. Confusion did arise in the beginning due to the fine weather, and the CEI had to be checked to ensure it was Ex *Flying Falcon* and not Ex *Summer Sales*. Luckily everyone was somewhat relieved when eventually the inevitable cold weather arrived with a vengeance. One notable night A Tp had a lot of fun trying to move their 15 ton sledges (AFV's) which in the end rivalled the choreography of Torville and Dean. Panzers pirouetted uncontrollably into ditches, even going as far as the Engineers who


"DID SOMEONE EXPLAIN TO CPL WHITE THAT HULLS ARE DRAINED THROUGH BELLE PLUGS—AND NOT LOUVRES IN GERMAN DITCHES!"

used a richochet technique off several trees to place them back on the road. This fateful night also saw the Wavell deciding it no longer required a full complement of road wheels and G Plans decided to try and empty its hull through the louvres.

Unfortunately later on in Alten Melle an A Tp vehicle stuck again. The Tech Landrover decided to break down, much to the embarrassment of **Lt Duncan Spencer** who had to bump start it, to the amusement of the local population. With the exception of **Norman the Foreman Bahr**, not to be confused with the Norman married to Dame Edna although the accent is similar, the operators came up with the following equation.

A Tp Tech + mechanical equipment = Disaster.

Meanwhile B Tp have been very busy with the renovation of 3 Sqn Social Room. For days all that could be seen was the occasional billow of sawdust accompanied by a sporadic cry of pain from behind closed doors. **Sig 'Mac' McCormick** and **LCpl Tony Hood** beavered away building a bar and panelling the walls. The duty jiff, **LCpl 'Andy' Parker**, made the tea to help nurse the sore thumb-nails.

The news from Line Tp centres around the exploits of **Sig Aitchison**. While on Ex *Snow Queen* he decided to impress all as he sped down hill in his new ski suit. He was unable to stop or turn and consequently disappeared over a ridge at a great rate. In the distance a tree was seen to shudder. Then a forlorn looking signalman arose, with ripped jacket and multiple abrasions.

The following sportsmen are to be congratulated on receiving their Regimental Colours:

Cpl 'Tom' Murney	Soccer
LCpl Bill Agnew	Rubgy
LCpl 'Tony' Hood	Boxing and Tennis
LCpl 'Russ' Martin	Swimming
LCpl 'Stu' Sells	Rugby
Sig Sean Humphreys	Squash
Sig Steve Wilson	Basketball

A fond farewell and good luck to the following:

Cpl 'Eddie' Goff	posted to 8 Sig Regt
LCpl 'Max' Boyce	posted to 30 Sig Regt
LCpl 'Oliver' Bruce	posted to 249 Sig Sqn
LCpl 'Andy' Parker	posted to 10 Sig Regt
LCpl 'Stu' Sells	posted to 21 Sig Regt
Sig 'Boxcar' Jezzard	posted to HQ Sqn
Sig 'Plug' Chadwick	posted to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt

We bid welcome to:

Cpl Ray Burrows
Cpl 'Chippy' Davis
LCpl Reg Pani
Sig 'Chris' Roberts
Sig 'Sutts' Sutton
Sig 'Hospital' Ward

Also we wish to congratulate **Cpl Ray Lang** and his wife **Karen** on the birth of their second son **Christopher**.

And finally congratulations go to **WO2 (SSM) Andy McBain** on his promotion and posting to 21 Sig Regt as RSM. We wish him all the best for the future.

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200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN
FOCUS ON ALPHA TP

Alpha Tp has been kept busy over the last couple of months, with Ex *Flying Falcon*, Squadron military training and the 'ever so secret' Troop exercise.

Ex *Flying Falcon* was our first opportunity to show our skills to our new Squadron Commander. This was achieved with a lot of hard work. However there were one or two notable exceptions. **2Lt Matt Hanson** was heard to ask **LCpl Andy Moir** and **Sig Ben Casey** 'What Coax?' as he erected the 8m mast on the Comd Tac vehicle without a coax or whip sections. **Sig Billy Duggan** obviously thought he was still on Ex *Snow Queen* when he snow ploughed the BEME FV 436. Luckily the only damage was to wake **Sig Niel Watt** from his deep sleep!

EXERCISE *SURPRISE PACKAGE*

Ex *Surprise Package* was the Troop 'secret' (that's a joke) military training exercise held to test the leadership qualities of the junior NCO's and the stamina and character of all concerned.

The exercise got underway on Wednesday 18 March with a short helicopter ride to the Sennelager Training Area. **Cpl John Murray**—better known as **BA**—eventually boarded, albeit reluctantly. This was followed by a 'tab' of 10kms to the Stapel Training Area in full CEFO and pack through some terrible rain, sleet and finally thick snow. The next 48 hours consisted of a series of map reading and patrol exercises which culminated in an ambush executed most successfully by **Cpls John Murray** and **Tug Wilson**. The highlight of the exercise was the survival demo by **Cpl Lynch** on loan from Bravo Tp who taught everyone how to prepare a chicken for cooking. **Sig Cooky Cooke**, after initial doubts, managed to persuade his chicken that it was time to go.

We welcome back to the fold from their tour in Northern Ireland **Sig Dave Morton** and **Nobby Newman** and at the same time say farewell to **Sig John Seaman** and **Snowy Thorpe** on their departure there. Have a good tour lads and keep your heads down.

Congratulations to **LCpl Mo Howarth** on passing and gaining second place on his Detachment Commanders course.

We must say a sad farewell to one of the longest serving members of the Troop. **Cpl Gaz Hughes** and his wife **Judy** who are leaving us on posting to 29 Sig Regt in Berlin. Thanks for all your hard work over the past four and a half years and have a happy tour.

Welcome to the Troop to **Cpl Ian Spruce**, just posted in and away on a course already. He will, hopefully, pass his AFV Instructors Course.

CANADIAN SKI SCHOOL WEEK

Four members of 4 Armd Div recently took part in a rather unusual *Snow Queen* when they were invited to spend a week at the Canadian Forces Ski Training School at Lahr. The party consisted of **SSgt Graham Cottington** IC Party and **Sig Steve Shawcross, Adrian Compton** and **Pte Robert Payne**. It was the largest skiing programme that the Canadian hosts had ever organised. The week began on the Sunday with a very long drive from Herford to Lahr, in the Black Forest region.

Due to heavy rain and foul weather the course was delayed until Tuesday morning, when at 0730 hrs five coaches departed from the Air Base at Lahr bound for the ski resort of Feldberg. This resort is the largest in the area with over 15 ski lifts ascending to heights exceeding 1,400m. The journey by coach took one hour and twenty minutes but was well worth it for the four days of remarkable skiing which followed.

Left to Right: Pte Robert Payne, Sig Adrian Compton, Sig Steve Shawcross and SSgt Graham Cottington

SSgt Cottington (right) presents RSM Van Bleet of the Canadian Ski School with a Regimental plaque

The four British members were placed in separate groups among the 300 Canadian members, the majority of whom were French Canadian. The course of instruction was first class and geared at a level from novice up to the more experienced skier, and ending on Friday with a slalom course for all classes. **Sig Steve Shawcross** shone through here with 26 seconds on the Intermediate course.

On the Friday, presentations of the certificates were made to all skiers, and medals to the winners of the slalom courses. Following this, **SSgt Graham Cottington** presented **RSM Van Bleet** of the Ski School with a Regimental Plaque in appreciation of the week's training and thanked them for the opportunity of skiing with first class instructors. All that was left was to return the Ski Equipment to Lahr.

Comments of the week:- 'I thought Britain led the way in Skiing', 'God are we going down there' and 'What's the name of that Indian . . .!'.

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211 (11 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Macfarlane**
2IC	**Capt Brian Peel**
OC A Tp	**Lt Rob Salvoni**
OC B Tp	**Lt Iain Standen**
SSM	**WO2 Derek Boyd**
YofS	**WO2 Steve Whytock**
FofS	**SSgt Trevour Payne**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Herbison**
CC	**Sgt Graham Pollard**

The early part of 1987 saw the Squadron heavily involved in the preparation for Ex *Winter Sales* and its associated warm up exercises. This year it was the turn of 11 Brig to provide the control headquarters for the exercise. As a result most of the Squadron spent a large part of January and February in Herford transforming the gymnasium into a fully functioning control HQ, ably assisted by **SSgt Davis** and **FofS Connelly**. This was then manned by the Squadron for Ex's *Start Rite, Flying Falcon and Winter Sales* before being passed to 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt for Ex *Wintex*

Credit must go to all members of the Squadron involved in producing a very efficient set-up in a comparatively short space of time. Once this was completed we were able to undertake some interesting leisure activities.

EXERCISE *CHILLED LOIPE*

Ex *Chilled Loipe* was a Bravo Troop adventure training exercise in the Harz Mountains.

Arriving on the Monday **LCpl (Banzai) Watson** decided that he couldn't wait for his NATO planks so went down the slopes on a inner tube which was to hand; unfortunately he forgot to work out how to stop before reaching the road which did not have any snow on it.

Tuesday was spent practising our new found skills. **Cpl (Give me an edge) Chubb** proved Newton's Law yet again, with an additional fifty pounds on your back you do go much faster. **Sgt (I've done it all before) Gladwin** then demonstrated how to build a snow hole — on paper. Whilst **Cpl Matthews** showed us what to do with a broken leg, thanks to **Sig Murray** for volunteering himself as a casualty.

Once the training had been completed we were all ready for an overnight loipe. **Lt Smith**, using good map readng principles aimed for the large feature of a lake, only he forgot it was frozen and went straight across it. After negotiating some arduous terrain the party returned for a well earned rest on Thursday. **LCps (Where's my big bass drum) Chalmers** acted as the band.

After a successful and entertaining week Friday came all too soon and we were on our way back to Minden.

Sig Somerville, Constable and LCpl Roberts tow the volunteer casualty Sig Murray!

Cpl 'Stan' Matthews shows how its done

BOXING
BAOR MINOR UNITS FINAL

The final of this year's BAOR Minor Units Grade 3 Boxing Championship was held on 2 March at the P & RTC in Clifton Barracks.

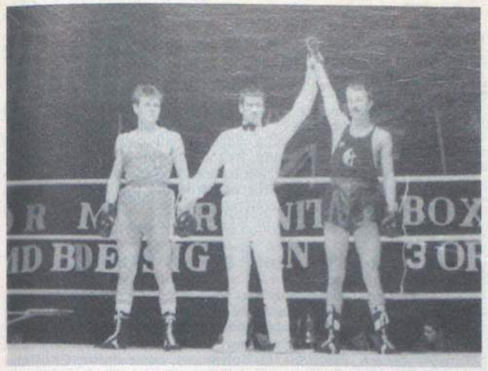
Unfortunately we were unable to retain the title for the 4th year running although not through lack of trying and a lot of effort.

The first bout was a feather-weight contest in which **Pte Rick** (on the canvas) **Coffey RPC** produced a text book display completely out-classing his opponent with the referee stopping it in the third round. He has subsequently gone on to become Army Individual Champion in this weight. Next came **Sig J. C. Cartmell** who was involved in a very closely fought contest which was difficult to score but in the end the decision went against 211 to level the scores.

LCpl Tyke Stevenson REME was up against a cagey southpaw, but his own accurate straight right soon got to work and the ref stepped in to stop the bout after only 1 minute 20 seconds of the first round after the 3 Ord Bn opponent had been on the canvas twice, making that 2—1 in Signals' favour at the interval.

LCpl 'Tyke' Stevenson on his way to Victory

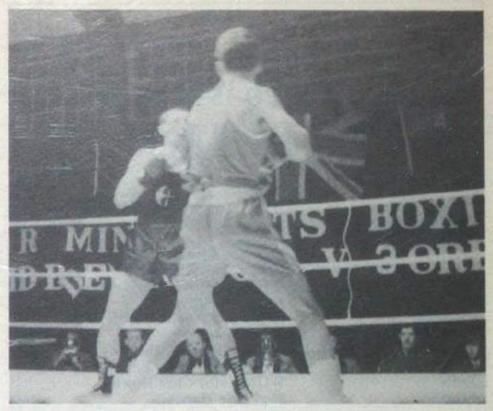
After the interval came the light-middle weight bout with **LCpl Tony Ellison** representing 211 not knowing that he was to be involved in the most controversial decision of the night. After **LCpl Ellison** had continued to come forward all the time throwing combinations to the head and body, and never looking in any trouble, it was left up to the judges score cards and to the surprise of the 211 followers and maybe relief of the 3 Ord supporters his opponent was given a majority decision.



LCpl Stevenson wins!

The next two bouts were both very exciting spectator bouts with lots of heavy punching and knock downs, the first involving **Sig Tommo Thomson** who put up a gutsy show having been drafted in at short notice but his inexperience showed and the referee stopped the bout in the first round to avoid him taking any further punishment. **Cpl (Steve) Dodd** was our light-heavy and having survived a gruelling first round he was eventually caught with a thunderous right which as soon as it connected sealed his fate. This made the score 4—2 in 3 Ord Bn favour with only one bout so we knew that the title was already lost. **Sig (Steve) Lewis** was our welter-weight and hoping to put on a good show in his first fight started well but on returning to his corner after the first round complained of a sore hand which later proved to be fractured and so had to retire making the final score 5—2.

Thanks must go to the Squadron for their help in ensuring the team had time to train and special thanks to **Sig Kev Cooney** although during training some of us may have thought differently. Also congratulations go out to 3 Ord Bn.



LCpl Tony Ellison puts up a good fight

FINALLY

The end of February saw the departure of **Lt Andrew Smith** who has gone to the School of Signals on his Troop Commanders Course. He is replaced as OC B Tp by **Lt Iain Standen**, a fully fledged Arctic Warrior following his six weeks in Norway on Ex *Whiteshod*.

We also welcome back the Chief Clerk **Sgt Graham Pollard** and **LCpl Taff Skey** from their holiday to the 'Costa del Falklands'

STOP PRESS

Alpha Troop are pleased to announce that their OC **Lt Rob (I want to go on another course) Salvoni** has returned from his extended stay as OC *Snow Queen*, and will be around just as long as it takes for him to decide where he wants to go next.

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4 SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

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2IC	**Capt John Illingworth**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Graham Twisse**
OC B Tp	**Lt David Kenyon**
Tp Sgt B Tp	**SSgt Mike Palmer**
OC C Tp	**2Lt Tim Jones**
Tp Sgt C Tp	**Sgt Les 'Demon' Deeming**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Alfie Edwards**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Chas Dowie**
SQMS	**SSgt Pete Harris**

4 Sqn started 1987 halfway through a particularly taxing work cycle that had kept it on the go since September 1986. Ahead were three major exercises which the Squadron Commander, no doubt inspired by either **Bobby Robson** or his previous Sergeant Major **Tom Ponton**, likened to a series of football matches, starting with the FA cup final or Regimental exercise and ending with the World Cup or *Wintex*. Sadly, as one lineman remarked, it was impossible not to go forward to the next competition or to get sent off for one early bath. However, for the Regimental exercise, *Woodland Flight 1/87*, it would be true to say that the weather stopped play, or more accurately froze it. 4 Sqn, it can now be revealed, is, in fact, Major Access Node 01 (the Main MAN, the Men's MAN and all the others, yes we've heard them all before!) and as such deployed with the temperature a relatively warm – 10°C. A few of the new arrivals from 8 and 11 Sig Regt looked perturbed, **LCpl Dicko Dickens** clearly wondered if he would not have been better off in the Falklands, **Cpl Steve Adams** and **LCpl Neil Braisdell** looked questionably at the frozen hill tops, **LCpl 'Eggy' 'Say Again' Eglinton** said pardon and Line Troop alias the Time Bandits, were seen converting line poles to stilts. Things by now were bad—the temperature dropped to – 20°C, the wind got up, it snowed and drifted, MAN 01 were told to move, we moved, 24 hours later we made it to the new location, 15 miles away, a Rococco post-Renaissance wind tunnel found by our intrepid recce officer **Capt Illy 'The more I meet people the more I like my dog' Illingworth**. Things by now were really bad!—the village was cut off, **LCpl Neil Braidsell** and **Sig 'I've passed my BFT' Palmer** running a Radio Relay Det 400 yards outside the village were cut off, **Cpl Griff Griffiths** could be seen hacking the ice off the inside of the heated switch to keep warm, the Time Bandits were laying yet another HF quad out to the Radio Relay to replace the last one buried and eaten by the snow plough. But then things really were bad!—they stopped the exercise! What about communications? They worked all the way through; that was the easy bit. On a serious note, the weather was atrocious but most soldiers had been forewarned and most of the Squadron invested in Helly Hose thermal underwear. At the end of the day, we all survived and as it turned out, we were the only MAN to move location—the MAN that can? Anyway, a pause of two three and into *Flying Falcon* and *Winter Sales*, everybody's chance to earn a nervous breakdown as the staff descend on their HQ. Suffering from culture shock transformed into the galloping trots were **Sgt Jock 'where's the Vodka?' Main, LCpl Coops Cooper** who deserted the MAN at high speed looking for Dan Dan the potty man. After a warmer *Flying Falcon* than we were used to, only – 10°C, it was a pause of two three again and into *Wintex*. Of note were **Sgt 'where the hell are we' Howland**, an intrepid pathfinder who scorched a trail across Sennelager training area for the Squadron to follow—why could we not have used the main road? There was the inevitable packet following out of curiosity led by **2Lt Tim Jones**—why does he always have a smile on his face?

LCpl 'Eggs' Eglinton, on being shown how to operate the RAF ADP tasking terminal, managed to stand-to eight Squadrons of Harriers for an immediate strike. After several mild coronaries at Maastricht someone remembered that there was one not eight Squadrons of Harriers in the entire RAF, let alone BAOR and took **LCpl Eglinton** off line, Pardon? Free expression was exercised in the Message Centre by **LCpls Stanley Cumming, Ibbo Ibbotson, Micky Mann** until interrupted by Comd Comms—whoops . . . yes, that's right, apocalypse! The Oscar Herald has now gone underground.

On a rational front the Squadron wives have been busy organising lunches and afternoon teas. All the families managed to grab the opportunity for a day out at Winterburg, squeezed between exercises. **Sgt Demon Deeming** was left holding the babies (not his own) with his wife **Irene** and **Jacky Howland** while **Sgt 'where the hell are we' Howland** followed his own route card to the slopes—almost not seen again!

The winter season has been somewhat arduous. Not many will forget the frost bitten days of January or the mania of *Winter Sales*. Yet summer is nearly here and a chance for all to get back to normal and regain a little of their sanity. By the time this is in print it will be time to say farewell to **SSgt Colin Roberts** and his wife **Vanessa** who are off to Wilton, Yeoman **Alfie Edwards** and **Debby, LCpl Coops Cooper**. The Squadron also congratulates Foreman **Chas Dowie** on being selected for promotion to WO1.

CORPS HQ LIGHTING TROOP RE BAOR—WHO?
by LCpl R. D. Prime

CLT is 35 men strong and relies on thirty-eight 40kw generators, 10kw distribution equipment and 3kw lighting kits to power Corps HQ. We do not hold any searchlights! But we do hold spotlights and floodlights for 1 (BR) Corps which we use to illuminate military band displays, concerts, functions, fashion shows, horse shows, Christmas trees, presentations, you name it we have 'lit' it! Which is why the present OC, in his first week with the Troop, was heard to remark: Now I know where they got the idea for 'It ain't half hot mum'.

The result of all the above mentioned commitments is what we call 'chaos' and the OC calls 'a busy programme'. CLT put in an appearance on 34 exercises and completed 16 other major tasks in 1986. To get everything done CLT splits down into six Detachments which rove Northern Germany like bands of travelling gypsies. Each Detachment is a mixture of electricians, fitters and drivers. The fitters get the generators set up and running whilst the electricians lay cable and and power up 'circles' and 'diamonds' in a variety of 'mains', 'step ups', 'rears' and 'alternates'. CLT has an MT Section with the unenviable job of dividing three Bedfords between 38 generators. Fortunately they are helped out by vehicles from within Corps HQ and 623 MT Unit RCT.

What sort of man copes with this life? Firstly, he must be professional; there cannot be a power problem while the Corps Commander briefs the whole Corps. Secondly, he must be diplomatic; every member of the Troop is in regular contact with staff officers of all ranks and we always aim to keep the customer satisfied.

The work is not all of an electrical nature though. We get away on a combat engineer training camp at Hameln once a year to revise our combat engineer skills. The Troop has a good working relationship with 7 Sig Regt and we accompany them on battle camps and adventure training. The change in routine is much appreciated and we were accused of being too enthusiastic as we fought our way from Soltau to Hammelburg last autumn.

On the sporting side, the Troop football team is unbeaten at Squadron level in Herford and our squash team was placed third at the RE Games last year. Six of the lads represent 7 Sig Regt at various sports. It is also an extremely social Troop for not only do we work together, we also play together and social events are frequent.

I am off to the bright lights! And pray that you do not suffer a power failure.

Capt Barry Le Grys, Spr Steve Moroney and Cpl Ian Sawers participating in Ex *Vultures Foot*

EXERCISE *SNOW QUEEN*
by Lt Phillips

An intensive langlauf course in temperatures sometimes below – 30 degrees centigrade and in winds in excess of 30 mph followed by a gruelling week of learning how to use gravity skis has proved a welcome rest for some members of the Regiment. The evenings are taken up with a course of lectures giving the students a basic grounding in how to survive in mountainous areas and in sub-zero temperatures, but it's not all work—there are at least two evenings set aside for 'recreational' activities. Even though there is a charge for the course there are queues both outside the training wing and the Adjutant's office in anticipation of gaining a place. Why, you ask is there such an interest for a demanding course such as this? Well, Ex *Snow Queen* does have this effect on some people!

This year's exercise has proved a success both on and off the slopes, and in particular for **Cpl Vincent**, assistant Chief Instructor! The snow conditions have been excellent on the Bolsterlang where the Alpine skiing is taught and the tracks are well worn on the hut's favourite slope from Feundpolz to Rieggis. Whilst many sets of skis have not survived the journey, there have been no serious injuries for the soldiers, although the administrative staff have had their fair share.

This year's personalities included **Lt Phillips, Lt Hogarth, SSgt Duffin, Cpls Cox, Vincent, LCpls Wood, Davies, Ede, Morgan** and last but not least the two drivers **Cfn Cope** and **Cfn Hawksworth**.

Top L to R: Cfn Cope, Lt Phillips, SSgt Duffin, LCpl Ede, LCpl Wood, Cpl Cox, Cpl Vincent
'The permanent staff posing'

'Survival in the field on Ex *Snow Queen*'
L to R: LCpl Morgan, Lt Kelly, Capt Collins ('Super doc')

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WHAT DO THE ROYAL STAR & GARTER HOME AND BONHAMS HAVE IN COMMON?

A major Auction of Militaria on 11 November 1987

In 1915 a sale was organised by the Auctioneers and Estate Agents' Institute who shared Queen Mary's concern about the future for badly disabled servicemen after their discharge from military hospital.

Sufficient money was raised to buy the Old Star and Garter Hotel at Richmond, which is the site of the present Home.

The Queen gave a silver Indian casket to be auctioned and two letters sent from Khartoum by General Gordon were also donated. These were just three of thousands of items donated to the huge sale which lasted for seven days. Goods ranged from a herd of Shetland ponies to a pair of knitting needles.

Now, 70 years on, military memorabilia is needed to help raise money for the soldiers, sailors and airmen who live there today. More than £3,800,000 has to be found every year so that the Home's important work can continue, and that is why Bonhams the London Auctioneer is planning a sale of Militaria to follow the success of the first one. Bonhams will give a percentage of the proceeds of the sale to the Home.

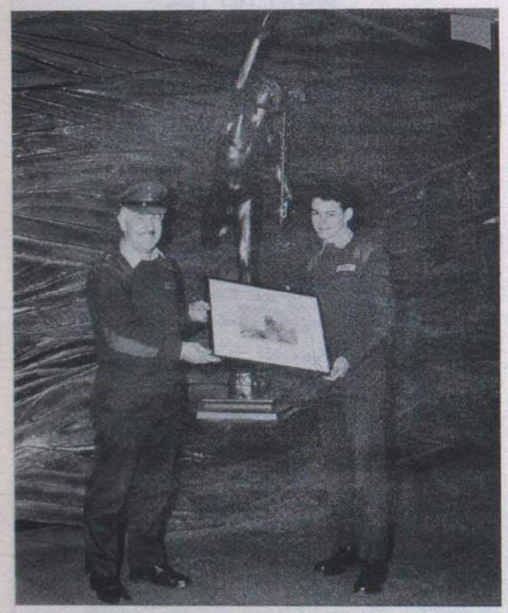
If you have any items of Militaria or Memorabilia that could be included in this Auction, please contact Lt Col Rodney Cotton at Bonhams.

Final date for entry of items for Auction, Wednesday 16 September.

W. & F. C. Bonham & Sons Limited,
Montpelier Galleries, Montpelier Street, London SW7 1HH.
Tel: 01-584 9161 and 01-589 4577

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

Lt Col Finney congratulates Cpl Rajendraman Gurung on attaining his A Grading



Lt Col Stoddart congratulating Cpl Steele on his A Grading

The men from his Radio Telegraphist upgrading course and Mr Harry O'Mahoney were there to lend moral support

CPL MIKE TOMISON DRESSAGE CHAMPION OF 8TH SIG REGT

The arrival of **Cpl Mike Tomison** on his T1 upgrading course in May 1986 was unusual in the recent history of 8th Sig Regt.

The reason for this is that he came to Catterick from the School of Signals accompanied by his horse 'Ozzielation'.

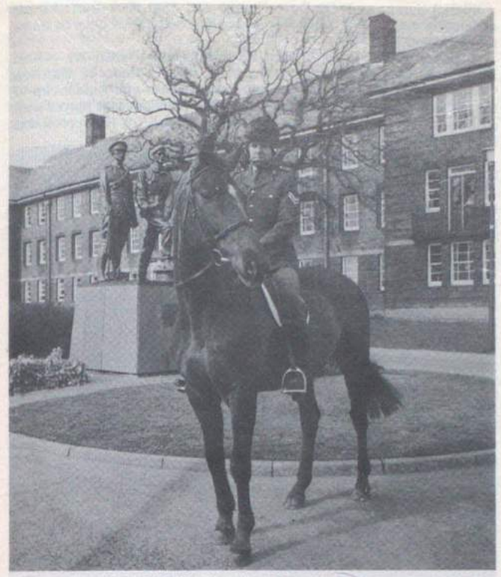
Cpl Tomison became interested in horse riding while on his Basic trade training course in 8th Sig Regt and has made steady progress.

On his arrival in Catterick, it was seen that he had potential in Dressage and Eventing. To assist him, he was given support by the Regiment and indeed continued to ride in Corps Colours, as he had done in the School of Signals.

Cpl Tomison has had a great deal of success in local events while serving in Catterick. On departure from the Regiment he was presented with a saddle blanket by **Col Peter Webster.**

Cpl Tomison intends to build upon the success he has already enjoyed. In the short term he hopes to qualify for the Dressage competition to be held at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley this Christmas. In the long term he would like to represent Great Britain at Dressage in Horse Trials and ultimately to compete in the Olympic Games.

Col Webster presents Cpl Tomison with a horse blanket. Lt Col (Ret'd) Mike Deverill looks suitably impressed



Cpl Tomison on 'Ozzielation

EXERCISE *MAIDEN SCURRY 1986*

Report by W/Cpl Julie Barnard

Ex *Maiden Scurry* is a WRAC Military Skills competition held annually alongside the men's Ex *Devil's Leap* on the Catterick Training Area. Although it is a TA competition 8 Sig Regt entered a guest team which included the following:

W/Cpl Julie Barnard — Sect Comd, **W/Cpl Bev Fox** — 2IC, **Ptes Tracey Scorer, Karen Miller, Carolyn Bowskill, Fiona Baker, Jane Flynn, Sue Cronin, Jackie Wood** and **Britt King.**

The competition was held over the weekend of 21, 22 and 23 November 1986. Rather predictably, the weather was not too kind (is it ever in Catterick?) None the less we cheerfully embarked on our first mission, map reading our way to various stands within a time limit. We became less cheerful as the day progressed. However, morale was restored once we had set up our night time camp and were preparing our tea. Never has compo tasted so good!

At 2000 hrs we split into two sections and began the night navigation exercise as two half sections. This didn't go according to plan and both half sections had to abandon the exercise (as did several men's teams, I might add, for the sake of feminists pride).

Sunday dawned, and we found ourselves up to our necks in mud and crawling along ropes (very painful) in the command task. Having completed this we set off on the final haul, a march and shoot.

BASKETBALL — THE 86/87 SEASON

Report by SSgt Trevor Smith

In the beginning the Basketball Officer said, 'let there be a league' and so it was that seven teams entered the Catterick Garrison Basketball League 86/87.

The league season started in November with the two favourites, 8th Sig Reg and Mercury B (Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate) winning their opening games convincingly. Both teams continued their winning ways throughout the season and when the two met in February for what was to be the 'league decider', neither side had lost a game and 8 Sig Regt were top of the league on points.

In a fiercely contested match, Mercury B were the early leaders thanks to some good set shooting from **Sgt Fred Tedby**, ably supported by **WO2 Matty Matthews** and **Sgt John Guy.** After ten minutes of the first half, **Fred Tedby** had to leave the court with a rapidly closing eye due to a collision with **SSgt Trev Smith.** This enabled 8 Sig Regt to settle into the game with **Cpl Rab Mulholland** and **Sig Mark Reeves** scoring well with support from **Sgt Brian Pritchard** and **Sgt Jim Clace,** playing his last game for the Regiment.

Although Mercury B were back to full strength for the second half 8 Sig Regt kept control and were the eventual winners by 66 to 56.

The League having been decided, the next goal was the District Group 5 eliminating stage of the UKLF Championships with the prospect of going to the finals of this competition.

The Group 5 eliminating games took place on 26/27 February and 8 Sig Regt were the eventual winners of the major units competition beating 1 Kings and 1 Black Watch.

And so the the finals of the UKLF Major Champtionship in Aldershot. Due to course commitments we were restricted to a six man squad. Nevertheless, we left camp on Wednesday 18 March hopeful and determined.

We won our preliminary group beating the Life Guards comfortably by 84 to 37 on the Wednesday afternoon and SEE by 47 to 41 in a much harder game on the same evening.

Now we were through to a three-way final with 39 Eng Regt and Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Permanent Staff (RMAS (PS)). The team was in good spirits, but all were well aware of the hard task ahead.

Our first game in the finals was on Thursday evening against the much fancied 39 Eng Regt team. 8 Sig Regt started well and with eight minutes gone were ahead by 15 points to 6. We managed to keep the lead with a good team performance and with seventeen minutes gone, the score was 8 Sig Regt 33, 39 Eng Regt 22.

However, in the last two minutes the Engineers fought back scoring four baskets in quick succession without reply, to put the half-time score at Signals 33, Engineers 30.

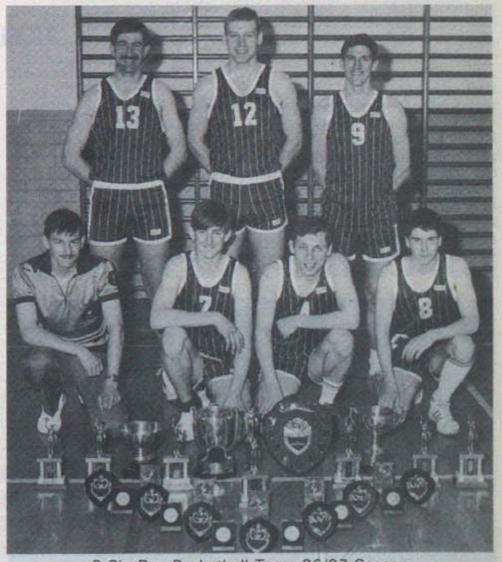
At the restart, the Engineers decided upon man to man marking which proved to be a mistake for them. 8 Sig Regt, taking advantage of the space provided piled on the pressure, increasing the lead within nine minutes of the second half to Signals 52, Engineers 34.

With 8 Sig Regt maintaining control, the final score was 8 Sig Regt 76, 39 Eng Regt 54. This was a fine victory due to good team effort and it was probably the highlight of our season so far.

Friday 20 March, the last and deciding day of the Championships. The next game of the finals was 8 Sig Regt against RMAS (PS) during the Friday lunch time. As the game approached, the tension increased.

RMAS started the fresher and stronger team and with eight minutes gone were winning 13—5. For the next five minutes 8th Sig Regt recovered slightly to hold RMAS to a period of more even scoring. This was not to last however, as 8 Sig Regt began to tire due to the efforts of previous games and the lack of substitutes. RMAS came back again getting inside our defence with strong offensive play. The score at half-time was RMAS 34, 8 Sig Regt 21. Despite much soul searching at half-time, the second half went much the same way as the first with RMAS keeping the lead to win 65-44.

The deciding game between RMAS and 39 Engineers was all set for



8 Sig Reg Basketball Team 86/87 Season
Sgt Brian Pritchard, Cpl Rab Mulholland, Cpl Ian Savage, Cpl Paul Sexby (Official), Sig Mark Wyldes, SSgt Trev Smith, Sig Taff Davies. *Absent* Cpl Ginge Robinson, Sig Mark Reeves

1700 hrs that same Friday afternoon and proved to be a fitting climax to the competition. Our team watched with great interest, because if the Engineers beat RMAS by 21, 22 or 23 points, we would become the overall winners.

39 Engineers started well and went into an early ten points lead. RMAS fought back briefly, then the Engineers regained control and increased their lead. Meanwhile our team were pulling their hair out in frustration, shouting for RMAS in one minute and the Engineers the next, trying to will the result we needed. With just 36 seconds to go before the final whistle and the score at 95-73 to the Engineers, RAMS were awarded a free shot. This was the big moment, if RMAS could score this one point and hold the score at 95—74, then 8th Sig Regt would be the UKLF Champions!

RMAS missed the free shot and on the fast break that followed the Engineers scored again making the final score, 39 Engineers 97, RMAS 73. It was all over. All three teams in the finals group had won one game and lost one. Therefore the positions were decided from the points difference of each game.

The positions and results were as follows:

39 Eng Regt +2
8th Sig Regt +1
RMAS −3

A closer and more exciting result could not have been planned. We had lost by one point, but we came a very creditable second and made many friends. It was a maverllous tour played in great spirit and the team were a credit to the Regiment and themselves both on and off the court.

As well as finishing second in the competition, there were individual honours for **Cpl Rab Mulholland**, who was awarded the annual trophy for 'Most Valuable Player of the Tournament' and **Sig Taff Davies** who was awarded a trophy for the 'Player that contributed most to the Army Major Units Final'. Both were well deserved.

After returning from Aldershot there was just one competition remaining, the Catterick Garrison League Knockout Cup.

This took place on the afternoon of 25 March. 8 Sig Regt reached the final of this competition with 15 Field Workshops, REME the other finalists. 15 Field Workshops put up a gallant fight but with 8 Sig Regt in a confident mood after Aldershot the outcome was inevitable. The final score was 8 Sig Regt 68, 15 Field Workshops 28.

Congratulations to 15 Field Workshops, not only for achieving second place but for entering the competition and the final in good spirit. Congratulations also to **Cfn Williams** for achieving Best Young Player of the Knockout Competition and **SSgt Phil Batty** for most valuable player of the competition, both of 15 Field Workshops.

Special thanks to **WO2 Dave Cooper** and **SSgt Rick Garrioch** for officiating and to **Pte Dawn Kernaghan** for helping ot once again as table official.

The Basketball Season ended on a high note when we played Mercury B in a friendly game on 31 March so that the Garrison Commander could present trophies to the winners and runners up of the Catterick Garrison 'League'. Once again the game was played with enthusiasm and sportsmanship and the result just for the record was 8 Sig Regt won.

Special thanks to **Cpl Paul Sexby** for officiating on this occasion and various other occasions throughout the season.

Finally, good luck and congratulations to **Sgt Jim Clace** who was posted to Belfast mid-season and who has since 'come off' the promotion board. Also thanks to **Lt Martin Corcoran** for his continued support as Basketball Officer throughout the season.

All that remains now is for the team to enjoy their end of season 'briefing' in a little pub not far from camp.

UKLF Championship Team (8 Sig Regt)
Left to Right Cpl Rab Mulholland, SSgt Trev Smith, Sig Taff Davies, Sgt Brian Pritchard. *Absent* Cpl Ginge Robinson, Sig Mark Reeves

10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) Wilton

BRUNO CUP TROPHY

Once again the Regiment met to contest the Bruno Trophy, an annual inter Squadron sporting event. The day started early for some of us who assembled at the Wilton Officers Mess for breakfast with the SOinC and to say farewell to several officers.

Meanwhile the Aldershot and Chelsea Sqns' teams were making their way to Wilton to join the Wilton Sqn and HMS *Wilton* in a pre-competition lunch. After lunch everyone made their way to the Old Sarum airfield wielding hockey sticks and other dangerous items — it was all rather like the gathering of clans! This year the events included Netball which ensured that those Squadrons with a high female contingent could take on their male counterparts with a chance to win. The entire competition was fought on a very competitive but sporting basis and we were most grateful to the CO's wife **Mrs Karen Thorne** for presenting the trophy to 3 Sqn (Aldershot). The most sporting award was given to HMS *Wilton* — which they duly drank! Congratulations to 1 Sqn for laying on a superby day's competition — and the evening entertainment that followed and of course 3 Sqn for winning the trophy.

Capt Nick Naylor of 3 Sqn team takes on HMS *Wilton*—stick a little high don't you think!

The team captain of 3 Sqn 2Lt Tina Taylor receives the Bruno Trophy from the CO's wife Mrs Karen Thorne. The CO obviously approves!

OFFICERS CLUB

A farewell dinner for the CO, **Lt Col Mike Thorne** and his wife **Karen** was held at Wilton on 3 April '87. The evening was tinged with a certain sadness as it heralded the start of the disbandment of the Regiment. However it was in no way a gloomy event — mainly because **2Lt Tina Taylor** was, coincidentally, celebrating her 21st birthday and the Royal Signals Corps Band was on hand to add the necessary colour to the occasion.

The 21C bids farewell to Mrs Karen Thorne

The 21C, Maj Brian Robinson, presenting the CO with the Coalport Bear. Mrs Angela Wilson-Brown (*centre*) takes evasive action

Despite the CO's lead, the Corps Band plays on in tune

The Sqn OC Maj Martin Wilson-Brown enjoying a farewell drink and chat with Mr Derek Batty

2 SQN (CHELSEA)

The last couple of months have seen a number of changes at Chelsea, and a number of different events to keep us busy. We bade a fond farewell to 60% of our officers, the OC, 21C and OC Radio Tp, all in the space of one week! Regardless of their hasty exit, we would like to thank: **Maj Lionel French** and his wife **Anne, Capt Sally Bates** and husband **Rob**, and **Lt Alistair Beard**, for their hard work and efforts, and wish them the best of good fortune in their new environments of; MOD, the United States of America, and the School of Signals, respectively.

The new team of **Maj Peter Dick-Peter** (OC), **Capt Therese Crook** (2IC) and **Capt Patrick Windsor Brown** (OC R Tp) have all arrived, and have quickly reaslised that life at Chelsea is indeed different from anywhere else.

Amidst all this 'turmoil' other events, such as Battle Camps at Crowborough and the State Visit of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia have continued, and been handled as usual with the cool professionalism that 2 Sqn is renowned for! — that is our assessment anyway!

EXERCISE *LION BEAR*

The Squadron went to Crowborough for their annual military training camp from 7 — 20 March. The training was conducted over two weeks. In the first week some 40 members of the Squadron underwent training. The second week saw a slight reduction in numbers due to the Squadron's involvement in Ex *Winter* and a State Visit which took place in March. All those who took part said (well, afterwards) how much they enjoyed the various activities and subjects they were trained in. The first of these activities was the CFT; everyone thanked our PTIs, **WCpl Helen Emms** and **Sig Paul Meredith**, for finding the longest and steepest hill in Crowborough, which was included in the CFT (thank goodness for the ice cream van). The rest of the week was taken up in practical and theoretical lessons in the following: Map Reading, Fieldcraft, NBC, First Aid and Dry and Live Firing TOETs. All were to be tested in the activities, the aim being to find the best section, the best male and the best female soldiers. The last two days of each week the sections were deployed onto the training areas of Crowborough where they had to defend their positions and also to send out patrols to recce enemy positions. Despite the cold weather they all enjoyed their two nights under the stars; even more so the rum and coffee which was given to them on their second night.

LCpl 'Kal' Kalmar has a problem in 'camming' up his cigarette!

On conclusion of the exercise everything was cleaned up prior to the move back to Chelsea Barracks then all that had to be done was announce the weeks winners.

Week one — Best Section — 2 Section
Best Male — **LCpl Kev Jones**
Best Female — **Pte Lindsay Ridley**
Week two — Best Section — 3 Section
Best Male — **Sig (Now LCpl) Sammy Anderson**
Best Female — **Pte Leslie Younger**

Pte Mandy Blackburn puts the final touches to a somewhat reluctant Sig 'Simmo' Simpson

All smiles in the sunshine after the Section Attack. *Back row (L to R):* LCpl Neil Perry, Cpl Mark Jackson, Sig Jimmy Watson, LCpl 'Tug' Wilson, Pte June Withers. *Front:* Ptes Kay Wright and Sue Stanford

2 SQN BASKETBALL

On Wednesday 28 Junuary, the Squadron Basketball team played in the Londist Minor Units Championship.

Three other units had also entered, PCD RE, LEA and 20 Sqn RCT.

The first game was against old rivals PCD RE — it was to prove our hardest game, but in the end we came through to win an exciting game 26—24.

Our second match was against LEA Andover and this was a much easier game in which we ran out winners by 24—8. The third and final match was against 20 Sqn and was the easiest and we duly won 38—13. So far so good. Played three lost none—Londist Minor Unit Champions—and on to the Army finals at Aldershot.

Here we were drawn in a pool with 24 Fd Sqn RE and 8 Fd Wksps.

On 1 March we played 24 Fd Sqn RE in our opening match. This proved to be a close fought thing, with one of our players fouled off early in the second half. However much sterling work was done by the rest of the squad and we managed to win 44—37.

The following day we played 8 Fd Wksp, this game was of a very different nature. 8 Fd Wksp showed their superior skills and had soon built up an early lead. We played well up to our best and managed to keep the score difference to a reasonable level. The final score 28—67. 8 Fd Wksp subsequently went on to win the tournament. Still, valuable experience was gained by all involved—and here's looking forward to next year.

OSCAR TROOP

Oscar Troop have been fairly busy during the last two months with various activities, starting with a 'Toga' party. It was a great success and many other Troops joined the party. Everyone made a great effort with the fancy dress, much to the distress of the SQMS, who probably found he was few sheets down in his store!

After recovering from the party, we were raring (well nearly) to go for our annual battle camp. All week we prepared ourselves for the simulated 'War Theme'. That didn't always go according to plan. No wonder Section 2 had difficulty in finding Section 1, the ambush had fallen asleep! Mind you, a little bit of snoring did the trick, and in no time at all, we were 'at war'.

Towards the end of March many people from Oscar Troop entered the Fleet Marathon. A great effort was made by everyone, especially **Pte Mandy Blackburn**, who came home having won the females under 21. **LCpl Julie Baker** and **Pte Anne-Marie Flynn** may not have been quite as fast, but there again, they were the only ones running around dressed as clowns. I'm still not sure if those red cheeks were painted on!

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Apart from a 60% turnover in officers, a number of other old faces have moved on, and new faces arrived to take their place.

Farewell and good luck to; **Cpl Pete** and **Heather Schollick** and **Cpl Helen Emms**, who have both left for NI, **Cpl Arthur Nichols** and **LCpl Larry Brown** to civvy street, **LCpl Andy** and **Michelle Cameron** and **Pte Joanne Allen** to 16 Sig Regt, and **Sig 'Herry' Herrington** and **Joe Smeeth** to 3 Div and **Pte June Withers** who leaves the Army on marriage.

Welcome to all our new members; **Sgt Paul Brabbins, Cpls Keith Loughlin** and **Rachael O'Pray, LCpls Tony Young, Joanne Inman** and **Dave Butler, Pte Sarah Recardo, Sig Paul Haughton** and **'Daz' Durtis**.

Finally congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Dave Simpson** on his selection for promotion, and the newly promoted **LCpl Sammy Anderson**.

3 SQN (ALDERSHOT)

Apart from our magnificent success in winning the Bruno trophy—which has already been covered we have one or two items of interest.

Firstly a fond farewell to **Mr Derek Batty** who left us in February after 21 years service. **Lt Col Box**, CO HQ Int Depot and Centre presented **Derek** with a watch and an inscribed plaque. **Maj Martin Wilson-Brown** was also at the ceremony and presented **Derek** with a Gold Comstar which added to the other 24 Comstar Awards which is a pretty remarkable achievement by any standards. Our best wishes go to him on his retirement.

Finally we welcome **Capt Jill Trainor** who replaced **Capt Eilean Cunningham** as 2IC, we wish them both well in their new posts.

The 3 Sqn team (at least some of them) celebrating their victory

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

Nothing lasts forever and Helles Barracks is in the midst of several important managerial changes, the most important of which is the arrival of **Lt Col David Collyer** as the CO on 3 April. We welcome him, his wife **Andrea** and their family to Catterick; we wish them a happy and rewarding stay in the North of England. Our outgoing CO **Lt Col Mike Powell** and his wife **Anne** left the Regiment after 18 months to move to **Col Mike**'s new posting as Chief of Staff at the School of Signals. **Lt Col** and **Mrs Powell** made a significant contribution to 11 Sig Regt and they will be missed by their many friends in Catterick and the surrounding district. He was dined out in the traditional manner by the Officers' Mess and the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, the latter event requiring the departing CO to master the art of riding a pantomine horse and become the top man on a three bike fan kindly provided by the While Helmets. We wish **Lt Col** and **Mrs Powell** well in their Dorset posting.

Other changes see the departure of **Maj Tom McMahon** for Royal Signals Manning and Record Office in Glasgow — apart from running HQ Sqn for three years he recently organised the Corps Dinner Night. Also soon to leave is **Maj Jim Harris** who relinquishes command of our Junior Soldier Sqn at the end of April to be succeeded by **Maj Alan Griffiths** currently serving with the volunteers in Middlesbrough. We wish all three success in their new appointments. We welcome **Maj Barney Hill** from Wales who assumes command of our adult recruit Sqn, vice **Capt Bernie Neillings** who moves sideways to the vacant HQ Sqn slot.

THERE ARE GOOD DAYS AND THERE ARE BAD DAYS

(The trials and tribulations of a Football Manager by **Capt Brian Smith** who recounts an interesting if not too successful season)

To all my friends in football circles I have to admit that this last season has been a stinker. When I arrived in Catterick in September 1985 the Regimental team was doing very nicely in the North Yorkshire Services League Division One and under the direction of **Maj Tom McMahon** was heading for the top. I thought to myself 'I cannot muscle in here telling tales of past exploits and how well I know **Brig Tom Wheawell** or how I once laced **WO2 'Butch' Maycocks** boots and the fact that I actually saw **Capt Ian Sleightholm** score a goal or was it **Capt Colin McLaughlin**? How the memory fades. I watched every game, and quite a neat side they were, eventually winning promotion and then . . . **Maj Tom McMahon** took the cup and the glory and — ran handing me the team saying 'You will really enjoy the Premier Division' I was puzzled as to why his face was twisted in a wicked smile . . . I knew something was wrong when I was told it was Sanatogen at half time instead of oranges and when I was issued the Sports kit I was given a number of white sticks, I thought they were rather cheap corner flags until I really got to know the defence. Yes it's been different, we have a goalkeeper with permanent backache, a centre forward who thinks shooting is against the Geneva Convention and a centre back who considers anyone over 5ft 2ins, tall! Oh yes, finally, the coach, I told him to get the sub ready, he looked perplexed and said he would have to flood the pitch first. It's been a long season. We completed 17 fixtures in a cup and league with the outrageous record of:

Played 17, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 15, For 10, Against 89, Points 3.

Sunderland eat your heart out.

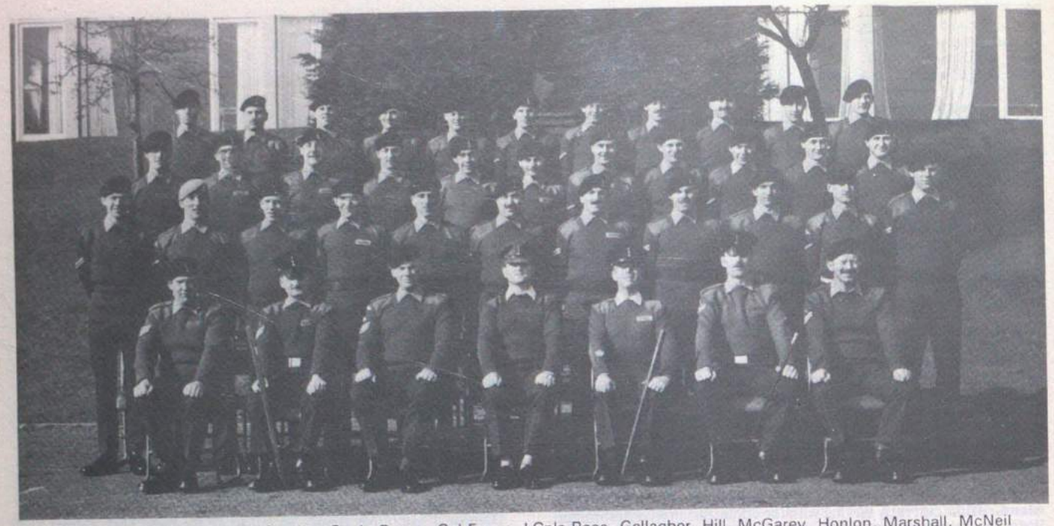
But apart from all that we have had tremendous spirit and we are all looking forward with renewed enthusiasm to next season in Division 1 again. My thanks go out to all the team both players and back room boys. In particular I would like to thank **Cpl Mel Hough** the Captain, **WO2 Mick O'Hare** the utility player and **WO1 John O'Rourke**, Super Sub, for playing (at their age too!).

FOCUS ON NCO TRAINING WING

In recent *Wire* contributions we have given prominence to new adult entries into the Corps via the Regiment and so we now propose to rectify any imblance by recalling photographically two recent military training courses for more senior members of the Corps held under the auspices of **Capt Peter Whitehead**'s NCO Training Wing. Firstly then, RSSSC No 248 which eventually gave **Sgt J. Cakebread** of 538 RLD the opportunity to smile!

And we happily recall Royal Signals Detachment Commander's Course No 217 which was such a success for **Cpl Evans** of 8 Sig Regt who deservedly was top student.

Royal Signals Staff Sergeants Course No 248
Back Row: Sgts Hay, Stachini, Malley, Acklaw, Appleyard, Bell, Downie, Rofe, Cakebread, Maher, Ridley
Centre Row: Sgts Catchpole, Dixon, Allen, Flintham, Beattie, Cole, Hibbins, Stevenson, Backhouse, Duffy, Caukwell
Front Row: Sgt Nicholson, SSgt (SQMS) Webber, WO2 (SSM) O'Hare, Capt P. W. J. Whitehead, WO2 (QMSI) Hanlon, Sgts MacLean, Sloane



Back Row: LCpls Freeman, Sanders-Cook, Bunce, Cpl Evans, LCpls Rose, Gallagher, Hill, McGarey, Honlon, Marshall, McNeil
Centre Row (1): Cpl Walker-Morecroft, LCpls Wills, Williams, Cpls Gorman, Griffiths, LCpls Simpson, Crossley, Parker, Roberts 890, Cpl Allen, LCpl Ostashuk
Centre Row (2): Cpl Quantic, LCpls Burnett, Roberts 578, Cpls Fleming, Stuart, LCpl Hutton, Cpls Sanderson, Smoothy, LCpls Piper, Hindley, Cpl Clogg
Front Row: Sgts Johnson, Mellish, SSgt Webber, Capt Whitehead, WO2 (SSM) O'Hare, Cpls Standford, Wardley

PASS OFF PARADE

This pass off parade on 20 March marked the end of six months hectic training for 129 Junior Soliders of Iron, Kohima and Battleaxe Troops. We were therefore honoured when **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, SOinC reviewed the parade.

By agreement with the Padre 20 March dawned bright and clear; a relief for the Regiment staff and the 650 plus guests, and the parade was conducted in bright Catterick sunshine.

Immediately after the faultless parade the Regimental gym was filled to capacity for a prize giving at which the SOinC presented awards for military and educational prowess.

THE PRIZEWINNERS

Best Junior Recruit	**JSig Fensom**
Best Shot	**JSig Dudley**
Champion Section Kohima Tp Section 2 received by	**JLCpl Musham**
Military Calculations	**JLCpl Holroyd**
Orientation for Service	**JSig Mesmer**
Map Reading	**JLCpl Wooley**
Best Overall in Military Studies	**JSig Palmer**

The Reviewing Officer Maj Gen P. D. Alexander steps out to inspect the parade accompanied by the CO Lt Col E. M. Powell and Maj J. A. Harris the Parade Commander

Battleaxe Troop
Rear Row (L to R): JSig Taylor, Phelps, Smith, Young, Tupper, Woodward, Devlin, Naylor, Carpenter, Smithurst, Pollard, Dennis Barton, Wells, Walters, Tinnion, Randle
Centre Row (L to R): JSig Faulkner, Frame, Caulfield, Marshall, Journett, Robinson, Jones, Hodges, Jarvis, Lougher, Wood, Nicholls, Phillips, Large, Luddington, Clark, Lennox
Front Row standing (L to R): JSig Tench, Rayner, Fensom, Parker
Sitting: JLCpl Woodfind, Challiner, Moore, Wooley, Nixon, Cpl N. A. Heathcote, Sgt K. A. Fisher, Maj J. A. Harris R Signals, Lt R. A. Howie R Signals, Cpl T. E. Tranter, A. K. Waldron

Iron Troop
Rear Row: JSig Petricca, Baldwin, Whitaker, Rix, Binstead, Poppa, Rose, Lockheart, Hearne, Murray, Watkins, Neale, Tedstone, Scarlett, Binnington
Centre Row: JSig Radley, Gilshrist, Jones, McAlphine, Fairclough, Rapier, Chapman, Bramwell, Ferrell, Miller, Smith, Scourfield, Wrench, Culham, Herbert, Phillips, Topping, Moran
Front Row: JSig Callaghan, Ranson, JLCpl Teale, JCpl Ahmed, Cpl Avery, Sgt D. Henry, 2Lt K. W. Bowers R Signals, Maj J. A. Harris R Signals, WO2 (SSM) D. Duggan, Cpl Cartledge, JCpl Smart, JLCpl Pollock, Conteh, Foord, Link AOD JSig Pas, Clemens

Kohima Troop
Rear Row: JSig Mesmer, Jones, James, Nixon, Harmer, Richards, Castano, Smith Patterson, Beckett. Waltens, Price, Palmer
Third Row: JSig Doyle, Paxton, Rowson, Berrill, Goodwin, O'Neil, Bradbury, Thomas, Scrase, Povey, Stokes, Griffiths
Second Row: JSig Scriven, Styes, Cowern, Scott, Evans, Wildish, Turner, McKeown, Robinson, Masters, Greenbank, Rosenfield, McClenaghan
Front Row: JLCpl Macleod, Musham, JSgt Whitehouse, Cpl Gaston, Sgt Alexander, Maj J. A. Harris R Signals, Lt Parry-Jones R. Signals, Cpl Talbot, King, JCpl Dudley, Collins, JLCpl Holroyd
OAD WO2 (SSM) D Duggan

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES AND SPORT
MILITARY SKILLS—SCHWALMTAL

Every year the local German Reservists run a Military Skills Competition. This year, on 14 March, we not only faced the challenge of taking part but also of defending the title which we won last year. Two teams were chosen to represent the Regiment, the A Team consisting of **LCpl Chunky Watson, Cpl Andy Brown, LCpl Steve Powell** and **Sig Dave Grainger** from 1 Sqn. The B Team **SSgt Taff John, Cpl Mike Ellis, Cpl Derek Graham** and **LCpl Andy Jones** from 2 Sqn. The course consisted of 12 different stands spread over a distance of 20 km. Sadley the A Team had to retire but the B Team went from strength to strength not only winning back the Challenge Cup for the best foreign regular army team but also coming third amongst the 29 teams taking part.

In addition the Regiment hosted two of the stands (assault course and .22 shooting) which was much appreciated by the German organisers.

The B Team and the firing point

VOLLEYBALL

One of the BAOR quarter finals took place on Saturday 21 March at 13 Sig Regt, between the Regiment and the winners of the Berlin Competition. Having qualified for the quarter final stage by winning the RCZ Championship, we had to wait until 14 March to find out our opposition when Berlin was to hold their competition. By the Monday morning, the Regiment was told that its place in the semi-finals depended on beating its own 3 Sqn which had won the Berlin title.

The game turned out to be an exciting, hard fought one with both sides having to work extremely hard. The Regimental side were taken by surprise in the first set, but made a very good comeback to win 15—11.

The second set was a close and exciting one, with 3 Sqn ensuring that the game would last longer by winning it. The third set started with Birgelen taking a 10—0 lead which was soon eroded by a determined 3 Sqn and it ended at 15—12 to the Regiment. By now, both sides were weary but the fourth set was still a spectacle of long rallies and excellent attacking and defending from both teams. The Regimental team held on to win and now go on to the BAOR semi finals on the 7 April.

The Regimental team comprised **WO1 Tony Bird, WO1 Trevor Taylor, WO2 Dave Dolling, WO2 Dave Kent, SSgt Les Robinson, Sgts Dougy Wright, Jack Mortin, WSgt Carol Robinson, Cpls Richie Maddock** and **Andy Hamilton.**

RUGBY 1986/87 SEASON

In short, an interesting season; dominated by bad weather, heavy snow and rock hard pitches, resulting in a massive rescheduling of fixtures since Christmas. Early September brought the first fixture against a team we had not played before, HQ AFCENT. We fielded a team with many changes from last year, with much younger blood to revitalise the team. Our lack of cohesion was sorely tested by HQ AFCENT whose experienced team won the day 16—4.

We weren't slow to learn, the following 5 games being played without defeat, and we went to the Rear Combat Zone semi finals with our tails high. The match was against our old rivals, the veteran 21 Sig Regt who were fielding many Corps and BAOR players in the team. With five minutes to go the score was 16—16 but our cup ambitions were ended when 21 Sig Regt scored a try. A bitter disappointment as we had already squared away the other finalists 28 Sig Regt.

Since then the club has had just nine more games as the winter weather has wrought its havoc. So to date we can claim six defeats and nine victories, a great improvement over last year with a team that can now be called such. Much is owed by the Regimental rugby fraternity to the RSM, surely the most senior (he wouldn't let me write oldest) prop in the world. His family too are worthy of mention, both as our staunchest supporters and for their washing of kit. In the centre, the field has been dominated by **SSgt Taff John** whose boundless energy has given us a captain of note, more especially his ability to pull players out of a hat at ridiculously short notice. Two players received Royal Signals BAOR trials—**Cpl Newton** and **LCpl Jolly** and **Cpl Wall** was once again called upon to play for the RPC. **LCpl Gale** converted from football at the beginning of the season and rose to become our top try scorer.

So rugby in 13 Sig Regt is in good shape with firm foundations, enjoying healthy support, I hope I can write of even greater successes this time next year.

LADIES CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

In October the Regiment hosted the RCZ and BAOR (WS) Cross-Country Championship. The two WRAC teams ran very well, winning the team prize with **Second Officer Dita James** taking the honours as first lady home.

In November, six members of the WRAC travelled back to UK (via Northern Ireland) for the Army Cross-Country relay championships. Both teams of three ran well despite the muddy conditions, and came in fourth and twenty-fourth respectively out of a total of 65 teams running.

After winning the BAOR Championships the team qualified to represent BAOR at the Army Championships on 4 February at Aldershot. Unfortunately, due to an error in administration, this event was rendered null and void and is due to be re-run on 22 April—watch this space.

Throughout the 1986/87 season, the Ladies Cross-Country team competed in the RCZ League with great success, battling for honours with RAF Bruggen, finishing the season in March, as overall winners with the 10 best scores counting. **Mrs Nielson** finished sixth, **Cpl Jenson** seventh in the league.

The RCZ and BAOR (WS) Champions
Back Row (L to R): Cpl Griffiths, LCpl Taylor, Cpl Cross, Brig P. I. Palmer OBE Comd (BR) RCZ, Col N. R. Robertson MBE Comd WRAC, Lt Col J. H. Roberts, WO2 McDougall, Pte Booth, Cpl Jezard
Front Row (L to R): 2/0 James, Cpl Jensen, Sgt Reehal, Cpls Budden, Newell, Neighbour
Missing: Mrs Nielson, Mrs Dolling, LCpls Maun, Wild, WO1 Heyland (Team Coach)

EXERCISE *SNOWQUEEN*
by Second Officer Dita James WRNS

Exercise *Snow Queen* has yet again proved to be a great success with all those who took part. During the course of the season a total of 34 officers, soldiers and WRAC from the Regiment, ranging from complete beginners to experienced skiers, took to skis for two weeks.

The students were very comfortably accommodated in the HQ (BR) RCZ Hut in Wertach, which was run for a short period by **Second Officer Dita James WRNS** who is attached to 13 Sig Regt.

This year there was greater emphasis on cross-country skiing (langlauf) with five days devoted to the slender planks. Despite the groans on arrival, the students throughly enjoyed their excursions on skis—spills and all! But as always, the downhill skiing proved to be the firm favourite, with instruction taking place on the slopes of Jungholz, just within Austria. The highlight of each course was the trip to the Fellhorn, which offered greater variety, more demanding runs and a fun day, for all the skiers.

The majority of the beginner and novice skiers gained their bronze awards, but congratulations must go to **Sgts Cliff Knighton, Mike Sheppard** and **LCpl Ade Storey** on gaining their silver awards.

One or two other skiers deserve a mention, not least **LCpl Andy Jensen** who won the slalom race on Course six, after being pipped at the post last year by his wife **LCpl Jeanette Jensen**; she fell this year, but did beat him in the langlauf race! the AAdjt, **Lt Niki Moffat** developed into a very enthusiastic skier, always maintaining close contact with the snow. **LCpl Sarah 'Swinging Hips' Moorekite, WO2 Nancy 'The Rabbit' McDougall** and **Cpl Dave 'I like the woods best' Mountain** displayed considerable variety in skiing styles, whereas **LCpl Penny 'I like the Gluhwein' Roberts** and **LCpl Chris 'Look at my suntan' Savidge** preferred to concentrate on other very important aspects of skiing. And finally, it is confirmed that **Lt Ian Woods** was momentarily seen on his two feet during the slalom race, although he claims he fell only twice.

Sig Alan Smith practising aerials

2 SQUADRON
MILITARY ASPECTS

Recently several members of the squadron elected to take part in a pre-drill and duties course run by the squadron as a build up to the real thing. A four week course was embarked upon, which covered all aspects of the D and D syllabus and culminated in a weekend exercise in a local training area.

It took the form of a patrol with various tasks to be completed by the participants. Each member of the 10 man section was called upon to lead and command through a series of section attacks, ambushes, recce and fighting patrols and finally a FIBUA attack.

Although the sun shone during the whole preparation and training phase, when we moved out to the training area the heavens opened . . . and it rained for the whole weekend. Supplemented by a drop in temperature, down to minus 10, and freezing fog, the weather was taking no prisoners. So it was that **Cpl Andy Tippman** decided to lecture the troops mid exercise on the dangers of exposure. Shortly after his lecture **Cpl Tippman** was whisked off to RAF Wegberg with . . . you've guessed it—exposure! Another highlight of the exercise came when a certain section member decided that an airborne assault on the objective of their fighting patrol was the best tactic. The objective was a bunker. Hearing gunfire from behind him as he cleared through the position, **Cpl Hammy Hamilton** dashed forward up the side of the bunker, firing as he went, until he ran out of ground to stand on. An Acapulco cliff-diver would have been less impressive. **Cpl Hamilton's** attempts at death-from-above (headbutt style) landed him spread-eagled on his back. It was fortunate that he bounced. Despite all this the exercise was a great success and will be repeated again this year.

On the home front it is rumoured that 2 Sqn deployed in support of the Regimental exercise, during what was perhaps the coldest period of March. But the cold did not keep the enemy away and the squadron steeled itself to repel all boarders. **Lt Peter (Rambo) Wreford** took command of the Regimental reserve platoon whilst **Capt Ian Watts** and **Lt Ian Woods** had to endure the rigours and inherent hardships of defending their place of work . . . Excitement struck early on with two NAFFI Car Insurance men paying a call on **Lt Woods** only to be despatched, bomb in hand, back to RCP. The climax to the exercise came when **WO2 McConnon** and his masked marauders made their final assault. Within minutes the Squadron had scythed down the remaining enemy and declared the world a safer place in which to live.

3 SQN
CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE 1986/87 MINOR UNIT WINNERS

On Tuesday 3 February to mark the end of a long hard season, the Brigade Commander **Brig R. F. Powell** presented the trophies and medals to the winners and runners up in the Berlin Inf Bde Cross Country League.

The League began in October and continued throughout the winter with a total of 15 races in all. Both major and minor units ran together with some of the fields topping the 100 mark. In all races it was the first four runners to count and the final team results taken as the best nine results from 15 events.

The Squadron won the minor unit league from 62 Sqn RCT with a score of 7388 to 7902. This result in fact was a taste of sweet revenge for 3 Sqn, as 62 Sqn RCT had pipped them for the Brigade Championship event by one point earlier in the season (mainly due to a much weakened team on the day).

A special mention must go to **WSgt Dot Hunter** who turned up week after week despite the sometimes sub zero temperatures knowing that she had a 99.9 per cent chance of being the back marker and a 100 per cent chance of all the sandwiches being eaten before she got back.

The Winners

THE MINOR UNITS SMALL BORE TEAM

3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt won the Minor Units prize in the Berlin Small Bore Winter League. They completed six matches and gained a total of 4303 points, an average of 110 per firer. **Cpl Owens** had the distinction of being the individual Minor Unit Champion, scoring a total of 772 points, the highest score in both Major and Minor Units Competitions

We look forward to the BAOR Inter-Divisional Champions competition at Sennelager at the end of March.

Winners
L-R: Sgt Horner, Cpls Varley, Kelly, WO2 (SupvrR) Armstrong, Cpls Butler, Clarkson

ROYAL SIGNALS DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE (BAOR)

'There is nobody who cannot vastly improve his powers of leadership by a little thought and practice.'

Field Marshal The Viscount Slim

THE WING STAFF

OC	**Capt P. Clarke**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) J. E. O. McConnon**
Instructors	**Sgt M. Black**
	Sgt J. Bridgewater
	Sgt S. Parnell
	Sgt D. F. Petty
PT Staff	**WO2 (QMSI) D. N. Scott**
	Sgt S. A. Cranwell-Child WRAC

In this short report it is expedient to mention the major change in the RSDCC (BAOR); that is the field location which is ATA Haltern, an area south of Munster.

THE COURSE

The first two weeks of the course is well documented in all Units and in summary it is a 'sharpening up' phase culminating in a 24 hour exercise to clear away any misunderstanding about living and operating in the field. This has proved to be a most useful exercise so that any mistakes are not compounded at Haltern.

After continual assessment into the third week, the course main party deploys to ATA Haltern in the early hours of Thursday morning.

THE FIELD EXERCISE FORMAT—AN OUTLINE

The advance party of one Section and two instructors, **Sgt Scouse Black** and **Sgt Dave Petty**, deploy to the training area on Wednesday evening and set up a Platoon at Havesum campsite. This is a grand affair of canvas and bog supplemented by a wooden building aptly named Mercury Lodge.

The main party set forth on Thursday morning with the SSM, **WO2 Paddy McConnon**. The OC, **Capt Peter Clarke** is still asleep at this stage, contemplating how to deploy with the PRI books.

Thursday is then devoted to individual shooting skills by day and Section skills at night. The students having correctly (we hope) zeroed their weapons. From the range, which is an ETR, they deploy to hide locations testing their navigation skills. These skills are essential because not only is Haltern a much bigger area than Grobbendonk, the terrain is more demanding. It has been found that in the age of transport, navigational skills are somewhat rusty; future students take note.

GRENADE RANGE AND STRETCHER RACE

At 0830 hrs the tactical grenade throwing commences and those of you who have been to the range will know exactly what is inferred by tactical. Every JNCO has the opportunity to throw one, two or even three grenades in a tactical situation. This completed, and after a change of clothing and an adjustment to any part of the anatomy that may have moved location, it is the Section stretcher race, which takes place over the Borkenberge Ridge. There is no doubt that this is an extremely rigorous test of guts, determination and teamwork. After hard work by Units, individuals and PT staff in the guise of **WO2 Dave Stott** and **Sgt Sally Cranwell-Child**, the best time so far is just over 48 minutes. After a suitable clean up in the nearest river, it is the start of the assessment phase. This is 48 hours of command tasks.

THE ASSESSMENT PHASE

Each Section deploys to hide locations and sets up a defensive perimeter. During the course of the evening they receive instructions to RV with the DS.

Then follows night navigation, resupply, tactics, NBC, first aid and watermanship.

This phase is extremely demanding, both physically and mentally. Not only do they have to complete each task but there is the added problem of vehicle ambushes, site clearance for a simulated node and the vital RV procedure for food and water. The assessment phase finishes at 1800 hrs Sunday and then follows a period of 'checking' by the staff to ensure that all the course, though tired, are physically well.

DEFENCE RANGE PHASE

The next phase is very important. Each Section in turn moves into a defensive location where range cards and a defensive plan are formulated. Targetry is electronic and each Section is tested in fire control orders, and the ability to fire and pass orders by radio in an NBC environment. After all Sections have completed this phase there is a new element of the course which includes not only ability to move tactically but to shoot well on the SLR CQBR. Practice is also given on the ETR with LMG and on the MMTR with pistol and SMG. The two days of this phase are a good guide to an individual's command and control capability.

A withdrawal then takes place on the Monday evening when the Sections deploy rearwards to a rest area prior to the individual battle run.

THE BATTLE RUN

The battle run is the final test for the individual. The first 6km is by Sections under control of the staff followed by a further 6.5km of individual effort, a fitting finale to the field exercise.

ON RETURN TO BARRACKS

On return to barracks at approximately lunch time on Tuesday there is once again a physical check of all the students then clean and return stores. Wednesday morning is the practice drill parade followed by the actual parade on the Thursday afternoon. A dinner is held on the Thursday evening. The best student and Section trophies are presented after the parade, or at the dinner should the inspecting officer be able to attend in the evening.

Shooting skills ETR Kohima complex

The Section Stretcher Race

NBC Casevac Casbag style

Panoramic view of the Section in attack

Lt Col D. J. Walden, Inspecting Officer, talking to LCpl Barnes

TRAINEE RADIO OFFICERS

If you're leaving the Services within the next 12 months and wish to continue in the trade you have enjoyed then consider pursuing a career in Telecommunications as a RADIO OFFICER with GCHQ. After 32 weeks special training you will be equipped to undertake a variety of specialist duties covering the whole of the spectrum from DC to light.

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Salaries: Starting pay for trainees is age pointed to 21 years. For those aged 21 or over entry will be at £6,572. After Training an RO will start at £9,758 rising by 5 annual increments to £14,387 inclusive of shift and weekend working allowance.

Write or telephone for an application form to:—

GCHQ THE RECRUITMENT OFFICE, GCHQ, ROOM A/1108 OAKLEY, PRIORS ROAD, CHELTENHAM, GLOS GL52 5AJ OR TELEPHONE (0242) 32912/3

14 Sig Regt (EW) BFPO 23

February saw the Regiment on Ex *Flying Falcon*, the Assistant Adjutant certainly had a problem with the Orderly Officer duty roster!

In February we welcomed **Mr Arthur Brick** and sadly said goodbye to **Mr Graham Keith. WO1 (ASM) Sheldrake** retires from the Army, we wish him well. His replacement **WO1 (ASM) Shone** was thrown into the deep end with exercise commitments. Yet more changes of personalities in March, **WO2 (QMS) Pyle** moves up the road to Hohne and **WO2 (QMSI) Parker** replaced him. **Capt Malcolm Robinson** is posted to York as Quartermaster (General) and the Regiment send their best wishes to his family. The new Quartermaster (Technical) **Capt Gordon Platts** is well settled in. Finally we welcome two new subalterns from Blandford as K and J Troop Commanders.

The Regiment has had many visitors, including the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** who was here for the unveiling of our very elegant silver vampire model.

The Regiment has participated in many sporting events: football, basketball and rugby. A hockey team was sent to the 1 Division Indoor Championships. Over 100 members of the Regiment entered the Celle Wasa Lauf, 5, 10, 15 and 20km races, and, again, we took the Military Prize.

RIVER ALLER SWIM

On 21 February, 14 members of the Regiment's Diving Club, led by the CO, **Lt Col Mike Shaw**, braved the freezing waters of the River Aller for the annual 7km swim. The temperature was approximately 7°C, however, due to a 'warm' spell we were fortunate to escape the 'icebergs' of the 1986 swim. After one hour in the water the successful swimmers were welcomed at the NAAFI, in Celle, with mugs of steaming gluwein.

2 SQN

Change and upheaval appear to be life within 2 Sqn. The OC, **Maj Williamson**, is working overtime on his computer in an attempt to keep track of his continually changing offsets.

Last month we said farewell to **Capt Fred Wood** and welcome to **Capt Dougie Kempster, Capt Jeremy Wilson** shortly hands over N Tp to **Capt Alfie Brand** on return from JCSC. **Lt Ian Lawrence,** fresh from his Troop Commanders' course at Blandford has been thrown in at the deep end on assuming command of the newly formed K Tp.

YANKEE TROOP

Yankee Tp under command of **Lt Mark Whyte** is preparing for exercises. There have been many comings and goings in the troop, **SSgt Fred Share** has taken over as Troop 'Staffy'. Welcome also to **SSgt Bamforth** and **Sgts Pearson** and **Wall.** We have bade farewell to **SSgt Bernie McCormick, Cpls Shane Knight, Sean Thickett** and **Bob Nixon** and **LCpl 'Sally' Stokes.** The Troop Commander is anxiously awaiting a driver.

On the sporting front, the Troop has been well represented in the Regiment's Basketball and Volleyball teams, with Troop 21C, **WO2 John Smith, LCpls Mark Shaw** and **Clive Cullington** helping the Regimental Teams to become runners up in the 1 Armd Div Championships.

EXERCISE *WHITE LIGHTNING*

Ex *White Lightning*, the Regiment's annual self-test exercise was notable for two things this year, the extreme cold and the mobilisation into the field of all but a handful of the Regiment. Amongst those who gave up their warm offices for the Arctic conditions of Locon were the Chief Clerk, **WO2 Chris Bell** and **RQMS WO2 Bob McKenzie**. The logistic problem of providing warm kit for a much increased exercise complement was not wasted on the QMs and RHQ senior ranks who had been called to arms. A quick look at the falling barometer ensured an emergency O Group and raiding parties were despatched to procure as much kit as possible. As a result, despite being tented in—15°C, we enjoyed relative warmth. The shock of having to go on exercise was accompanied by the mystery of what the non-communicators could possibly do in a Control HQ. Their chagrin was further accentuated by the news that they would be working shifts in a simulated DF baseline. As a result administrators and suppliers found themselves rubbing shoulders with **WO1 (Supvr R) Bob Carty** who had the task of advising a large collection of Warrant Officers what we were all about, further exacerbated by the presence of three Yeoman of Signals; all in the same tent!

Once the exercise got underway, our responsibilities became clearer and a team spirit quickly evolved. It was soon realised that the sight of the Chief Clerk in this environment pleased the CO. At the end of the exercise **Capt Perks** presented **SSgt Doc Holliday** with the Golden Blanket Award. We all benefited from the experience and were very grateful for the advice of **SSgt (YofS) Steve McMahon.**

Golden Blanket Award

Ex *White Lightning*

VOLLEYBALL

In March the Regimental Volleyball team took part in the 1st Armd Div Volleyball Championships and managed to come away as the winners of the Plate Competition. With no and limited facilities for gymnasium practise this was a good performance. Next year with more practice, who knows? The team consisted of:

WO2 Frize, WO2 Smith, SSgts Mann, Hughes, Cpl Daniels, LCpls Shaw, Cullington, Sig Ball and **Pte Walbran.**

Team Captain receiving the Plate Trophy from Miss G. Caddick and the Chairman of Divisional Volleyball

TEN PIN BOWLING

The Royal Signals BAOR Ten Pin Bowling Championships were held in Krefeld over the weekend 3-4 April. We had a very strong team and ran off with most of the prizes.

MENS TOURNAMENT

Teams:	1st place	—	**Cpls Duncan, Layton, Howard** and **Howitt**
Doubles:	Runners-up	—	**Cpls Howitt** and **Layton**
	3rd place	—	**WO1 (RSM) Watson** and **WO1 Seaword**
Masters:	4th place	—	**SSgt Craig**
	5th place	—	**Cpl Duncan**

LADIES TOURNAMENT

Teams:	1st place	—	**Mrs Craig, Mrs Griffiths-Williams** and **Mrs Milne**
Doubles:	1st place	—	**Mrs Craig** and **Mrs Griffiths-Williams**
Singles:	Champion	—	**Mrs Craig**
	Third	—	**Mrs Griffiths-Williams**

ADVERTISING

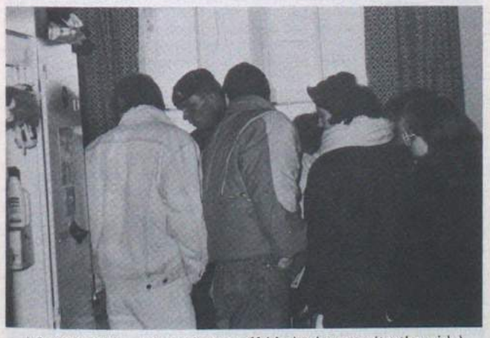
Notices and advertisements, other than those related to a business interest, will be published free of charge to serving members of the Corps, and to those retired members who subscribe to *The Wire*. All matters for publication must reach the Editor by the 12th of the month preceding publication. All other advertisements should be forwarded to our advertisement managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

A VISIT FROM LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN

This Regiment opened its gates to a group of local school children from the Städtische Hauptschule, Krefeld. The visit, arranged by **Lt Julia Hands**, was designed to give the children an insight into a soldier's life in BAOR. Assisting in showing the children around the Regiment and talking about their experiences were **Sgt Mick McDonald, Cpls Christopher Brown, Steve Cotter** and **LCpl Clark Stanley-Jones.** The most popular stops on the tour turned out to be the cells in the guardroom and the single soldiers' accommodation!

Cpl Steve Cotter talks about the soldier's lot in BAOR

'This is where the naughty boys go . . .'



LCpl Stanley—Jones shows off his bed-space (to the girls)

Sgt Hunt (*Left*) checks the children through the gate

16 SIG REGT CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Report by Pte Karen Mackie

The WRAC of 4 Sqn 16 Sig Regt entered two teams for the above event. The Championship was held at Krefeld and 4 Sqn were the team winners. The overall WRAC winner was **Cpl Sue Joanes** a 4 Sqn member.

The teams consisted of four people. The first team being **Cpl Sue Joanes, 2Lt Janette Deans, Ptes Karen Mackie** and **Tracey Lissimore** and the second team being **Pte Nicola Watson, LCpl Toni Sugden, LCpl Norma White** and **Pte Inga Millett.**

Despite the bad weather and difficult terrain over a part of the course, both teams were delighted to win. The course was 2.8km but few would argue that it might have been a bit longer. It certainly seemed longer anyway.

Maj Gen Yeoman presents Sgt Dave Burgess of Kilo Troop with his LS&GC Medal. Sgt Dave Burgess has just arrived in the Regiment hot on the trail of his previous OC (now Adjt), Capt Nicholson having spent several years with the White Helmets

Maj Gen Yeoman and the CO, Lt Col David Lowe are absorbed by Capt Mike Tucker's seeming technical expertise—but not the Adjt, Capt Rod Thomas who looks straight ahead

Everybody gives a hand as the WOs' and Sgts' Mess push WO1 (RSM) Dave Simpson out of the camp gates on his final day in the Regiment

4 SQN
VISIT TO 4/7 ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS
Report by Cpl Debbie Simpson

On Tuesday 17 March, 10 of the bravest WRAC from 4 Sqn were given the opportunity to learn how to drive a tank. (Rumour control has it that WRAC are about to be issued with weapons, so we thought that we would start with the biggest ones first!). You are probably reading this with a look of sheer horror on your faces, at the thought of 10 women being let loose with tanks. Well if others can do it, so can we!

The day started in arctic conditions as we left Bielefeld at 0800 hrs, and battled our way through snow blizzards to Detmold.

Upon arrival we were brutally introduced to the 'beasts', but none of us even so much as blinked, we were very determined to show the men that we meant business.

Cpl Debbie Simpson, LCpls Gale Syph, Toni Sugden and **Ptes Jill Rankin** and **Ruth Taylor** got into a CVRT (Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance Tracked) Scorpion for a gentle drive, or so we thought. **LCpl Gale Syph** was first into the driver's seat and took us for a 'spin' around the garages. We all had a go in turn and did well considering that most of us hadn't even been behind the wheel of a car before!

Whilst we were driving around in the Scorpions **LCpls 'Dusty'Hayward** and **Dawn Collins, Ptes 'Cliffo' Clifton, Nikki Rose** and **Jackie Malcolm** had a go at driving a Ferret and took a look at the inside of the CO's Chieftan. During this time **Pte 'Cliffo' Clifton** led the girls into unarmed combat against the men in a snowball fight.

After all this, we were given the chance to drive a Chieftan. **LCpl Toni Sugden** turned out to be the most proficient, even though she only just stopped short of a row of parked cars, much to the horror of her instructor.

NAAFI Break came around and we all had a chance to thaw out. After further instruction on tanks, we made our way to the Squadron Bar, where refreshments were laid on. A great time was had by all, can we come up again sometime lads?

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

Squadron News

HQ SQN
PERSONALTIES

OC	**Maj P. H. MacCulloch**
21CUFO	**Capt S. J. Long**
SSM	**WO2(SSM) R. I. Grant**
SQMS	**SSgt(SQMS) A. F. Hamilton**
QM	**Capt (QM) C. W. Lockwood**
RQMS (Gen)	**WO2(RQMS) A. C. Ross**
RQMS (Tech)	**WO2(RQMS) R. I. Hill**
FofS M Tp	**WO1 (FofS) B. K. Bilsberry**
MTO	**Capt(QM) S. Hargreaves**
OC LAD	**Capt D. Clarke REME**
NCO IC Trg Wg	**SSgt M. Ireland BEM**

The squadron continues to buzz along with its job of supporting the Regiment in barracks and in the field. Yet, we do still manage with much reduced manpower and vehicles that play us up occasionaly. The LAD keeps our vehicles roadworthy and fit for role. Don't worry you REME fitters the word 'CAST' may hopefully one day come back again into regular useage in BAOR workshops. Catering Troop continue to sustain alongside RAF sustainers — funny but you can't tell them apart when they have their working clothes on. Mike Troop is creaking just a litte under the strain of converting the operating squadrons to PTARMIGAN, breaking in the new Electronic Repair Vehicles (ERV) and all this at a time when the automatic test equipment (ATE) computer breaks down. Keep up the good work Techs.

RHQ Troop is as busy as ever. The RHQ Typing Pool — actually **Mrs Margaret Maguire** (yes, a major unit with just one full time typist!) is continually under pressure typing for so many customers and this month has seen an even heavier load what whith all those confidential reports. Its CR time for the Corporals and considering some 150 reports have had to be typed this has been some task for our hard pressed **Mrs Macquire**. Of late queues of worried looking JNCOs have been seen in the RHQ corridor about to have the contents of their CRs disclosed to them by the CO. The RSM has loved it — so many JNCOs to 'grip' en masse.

MT Troop, that gallant band of 12, continue to say NO to all requests for transport and drivers. **SSgt 'Taffy' Eynon** is considering creating more manpower and vehicles from cardboard cutouts. Many of the MT's clients have now taken to sending all AFs F756 (Transport Requisitions) to the BBC in London in the hope that their ageing disc jockey employee can fix it for them — well MT can't , can they? The MTO, **Capt 'Jahangir Khan' Hargreaves,** often *not* seen in his office, but hangs around the Gym and Squash Courts a lot, has got a standard reply to all requests for transport, 'Send them by train' he says.

The real stars of our squadron news this time must be Q Troop. Now we all know that the new QM, **Capt Wally Lockwood**, has a reputation in the Corps for total efficiency with generous helpings of charisma, but have you seen his department of late? The Quartermaster's Store doesn't look like it used to do in the old days; its now more like a cross between 'Southfork' and 'Fort Knox'. Many nights hard labour by his staff and sacrificed weekends by the rest of the Regiment have enabled the QM's department to be completely transformed to a swish (and loyal because Corps colours feature strongly in the colour scheme) working environment. Piped music, conference rooms and aspidistras are the order of the day. OK men, everything looks find now, you can put the trowels away, the Escape Committee is now disbanded.

21 SIG REGT
(AIR SUPPORT)
REUNIFICATION PARADE

As reported in the last issue of the Wire the Regiment was recently reunified with the return from Osnabruck of the SH and FW air support squadrons. To mark the occasion a Regimental parade was held at RAF Wildenrath on 31 March 1987. The CO, **Lt Col Ian Turner** addressed the Regiment and welcomed the return of the troops to RAF Wildenrath. Also the CO presented suitably engraved new canes to all five SSMs. Our photographs show scenes from the Reunification Parade.

2 SQN
'ESCAPE FROM OSNATRAZ'

It finally happened! 2 Sqn have moved from Osnatraz, better known as Scarborough Barracks, to rejoin the Regiment at RAF Wildenrath. Used to film the Colditz Story, Scarborough Barracks are being handed back to the Stadt. The first mass escape of 100 men took place in mid January. **Capt 'Cultural Attache' Adrian Pearce** cunningly used his donkey to stand in for him for a spell. The remainder of I and J Troops managed to escape in the ensuing confusion closely pursued by Camp Commandant **Capt Ron Hails** and Osnabruck Garrison. Unfortunately they were all caught and are now incarcerated in Stalag Wildenrath. They have been reformed as 4 Sqn under the command of **Maj Gordon Trevis**. Some members did manage home runs to the UK but some of the more disreptuable escapees like **Sgt Ray Bray** are in other Stalags in Germany.

Following the mass escape, retribution swiftly fell on the remainder of the Osnatraz inhabitants. All furniture and luxury items were taken away and even the bar was closed! The gymnasium and wooden horse were also put out of bounds to prevent any tunnel escapes.

The escape committee reformed and decided that the only option was another desperate attempt at a mass breakout. Gliders were discounted as the pilot in the camp was **Lt Matt Fensom** who was more used to Harriers anyway. The best possible time was during the exercise period. Reports from new inmates had mentioned that Stalag Wildenrath was being prepared for more prisoners and that it was a vast improvement on the attic quarters in Osnatraz. It was also a mixed camp!

Wednesday 25 February was the chosen day and preparation began in earnest. Survival rations, clothing and other essential stores were carefully smuggled past the Camp QM — **WO2 (RQMS) Mick Hill** — and his team of ferrets. As the day drew closer tension in the Camp rose to fever pitch. There was much celebration as some of the supplies ie the alcoholic refreshments could not be taken on the escape.

The day finally arrived and as the early morning mist began to clear rows of vehicles were to be seen lined upon the Osnatraz Camp square. Under the direction of the escape committee chairman, **Maj Timbo Gigg** and his deputy **Lt Matt 'Goldilocks' Fensom** (who arrived a little late for the beginning of the escape) they were sent on their way. Half an hour later Osnatraz lay emtpy except for the chosen few who had sacrificed their freedom to stay behind and put off any pursuers by giving the impression that everything was normal. Two such unselfish people were **Lt Dave Pratt** and **WO2 (SSM) Eddie Marsh** and I am glad to report they have now successfully completed their own escape.

2 Sqn is now happily accommodated in Hangar seven at Stalag Wildenrath.

PS **Capt 'Uncle' Ron Hails** was posted to the Northern Front (FFS Shetland) for allowing the escapes to take place. We wish him well.

'Well, I suppose I'll have to walk' says Maj Tim Giggs as his Squadron drives out of 'Osnatraz' for the last time.

2 Sqn has finally escaped from Colditz!

Where have all my soldiers gone?

2 SQN MT

The details book has finally closed as the last vehicle leaves Scarborough Barracks. After a comparatively short stay in Osnabruck, 2 Sqn is returning to RAF Wildenrath.

During its time in Osnabruck 2 Sqn MT has had a large turnover of personnel, with up to 20 drivers employed on regular MT tasks. Two SSgts, many Cpls and LCpls and far too many Signalmen to mention have passed through the MT. From being one of the busiest Sqn MT Sections in BAOR, covering over 2 million km's in three years, the few drivers that are left will feel slightly redundant as far as daily details are concerned. The MT has covered everything from driver training, supplying coach drivers and welfare cover to shovelling horse manure for the Garrison stables.

The seven drivers remaining are **LCpl 'Polly' Pollock, LCpl 'Giant' Hawkins, Sigs 'Jock' Reid, 'Robbo' Robson, 'Geordie' Cullen, 'Biff' Baker, 'Mars Bar Kid' Smith** and last but by no means least **Sig 'Not very active' Edge**. Life for them looks like being fairly quiet after the non-stop rush of the last few months when everyone was involved in the move.

As for the 'Orphans of the move' I am glad to say they have all been found good homes. The formation of 4 Sqn has absorbed four of them and the rest have been posted to such places as RAF Gutersloh, UK and Cyprus.

FAREWELLS

Farewells are due to a number of characters. Firstly to **Capt Ron Hails** the Sqn MTO as well as having numerous other duties. He will shortly be taking over a crofters cottage in the Shetland Islands where he will pursue the pleasure of burning sods on an open fire. I think he may enjoy it.

Although there are no Christmas trees in Cyprus, **Cpl Barry Foster** and his wife **Jan** are on their way to 262 Sig Sqn. (Try climbing Mount Troodos **Barry**). **LCpl Andy Rook** is leaving Osnatraz for his second tour with 30 Sig Regt. After advanced warning being sent to RAF Gutersloh to increase their ration stock, **Sig 'H' Hitchin** has moved to O Troop of 4 Sqn accompanied by **Sig Pete Earp**. In fairness to the RAF cooks **Sig Paul Elson, Sig Frost** and **Sig Brown** have joined 4 Sqn at Wildenrath. As for **Capl Nige Carr**, he's off to play with trains in York (that's York in the UK — **Cpl John Dill** please note).

D TROOP
EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

Trunk Node 037 deployed on Ex *Flying Falcon* in February and had quite an eventful time. We started off in barracks as we were trying to pack up the Troop stores at the same time as being on exercise. However, the noise was too much for our neighbours and after two days we were forced to deploy into the field.

It was suggested that the exercise should have been renamed Ex *Warm Start* as the majority of the Switches in the system decided that they weren't playing the game. It was a quiet exercise until two days before endex when it was decided to move us. Twenty hours later we were in our new location. The reasons for this long move are too numerous to relate but needless to say the lads weren't too happy about it all. We had moved from being the most rearward TN in the system to being the most forward — 30km east of Hannover.

It was in this new location that we experienced a few 'minor' problems with three of the RR wagons getting bogged in. We had already had similar problems whilst attempting to get into a previous location. **Sig 'I can reverse a wagon' Tim Knowles** was not Mr Popular as he gently guided a wagon into a ditch. The heavy snowfall claimed its victims too. **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** found himself also in a ditch after doing a Holiday on Ice impression on a small backroad.

3 SQN
N TROOP (RAF GUTERSLOH)

Since November life has been fairly hectic. Our Telemechs have settled down to some intensive ASM and admin cable maintenance. **Cpl 'Taff' Davies** has had a continuous problem of crews changing and disappearing due to courses and detachments. One of the biggest problems encountered was that the normally soft sandy soil was frozen and could only be dug with a kango concrete breaker. All problems were overcome and he still found time for a bit of leave. **Cpl 'Scouse' Sartorius** as project NCO is getting his teeth into the new computer systems and will have his work cut out later in the year if the new exchange arrives as planned. Our Techs have been heavily involved with PCM and after many hours work on unfamiliar equipment have now engineered it to each Squadron. There is still a lot to do, but so far well done. March saw Ex *Wintex* arrive on Station and our Techs stood a 24 hour watch in the COC and watching over the new PTARMIGAN equipment. After a slightly difficult start the Exercise was mainly quiet and every occurence was dealt with swiftly and competently.

Not all the Troop suffered the cold weather as some flew down to sunbathe in the Falklands. **SSgt Nigel Grant, LCpl 'Snib' Little** and **Sig 'Quasi' Meade** are returning shortly with **Cpl 'Budgie' Parrett** and **LCpl 'Evo' Evans** and **Sig 'Jammo' Hartley** returning in the spring.

Some of our JNCOs are catching up with career courses. Well done **LCpl Ernie Wise** and **LCpl Neil Inman** on passing RSDCC and good luck to those who start their courses soon.

CO VISITS

On Tuesday 24 February the CO, **Lt Col Ian Turner**, paid a visit to the Troop. He was shown round the Troop and work areas on the Airfield by the Troop OC, **Capt Eddie Kellett** and the acting Troop SSgt — **Sgt Rob 'I am enjoying all this power' Frape**.

After seeing the Troop at work everyone made their way to the Troop 'T' Bar for a presentation to the CO. **Sig Fred Ponting** presented the CO with a picture of the Troop. (Photograph shows the Co receiving it from **Sig Fred Ponting**).

The CO has often said how much he enjoys his visits to the Troop and has promised to hang the picture in his office.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
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THE SOCIAL SCENE

Friday 6 March saw the Troop and their wives take over the Station Kegelbahn for the evening. The Troop OC, **Capt Eddie Kellett** bowled the first ball and judging by the performance of most of the Troop it was a new game to many. We did however discover that we had one or two secret followers. A very dapper looking **Cpl 'Scouse' Sartorius** started the evening well with high scores but by the end had deteriorated to the standard of the majority of us.

The evening was well supported by the wives and **Sabine Fearon** bowled exceptionally well, and won the ladies first prize followed closely by **Karen Inman**.

LCpl Jim Fearon made it a family double by winning the 'pads' first prize with the highest score of the night of 108, well ahead of **Cpl Tony Attwater**. Many of the wives were complimentary about the buffet, saying it was a novel idea to have Chilli Con Carne with cold rice and that they must try it on their husbands over the weekend. **Sig Paddy Keenan** was very impressed with his aftershave, first prize for singlies, but was heard to say 'it left rather a funny taste in his mouth'. **Sig 'Touche' Hadfield** completed the prize winners finishing second for the singlies.

Thanks go to **Cpl Ada Cook** and **LCpl Neil Inman** for organising a very enjoyable evening and to **Jan Cook** for presenting the prizes.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Recently the Troop has seen several changes, we welcome **Sigs Bho Pradhan** and **Lee Ingram**. We say farewell to **Cpl John Graham** who has left RAF Gutersloh for Wildenrath, **LCpl Jim Fearon** and **Sig Touche Hadfield** to 39 Inf Bde Sig Sqn. And **Sig 'Ade' Luckman** to 259 Sig Sqn; all the best to you and your families in your postings.

CONGRATULATIONS

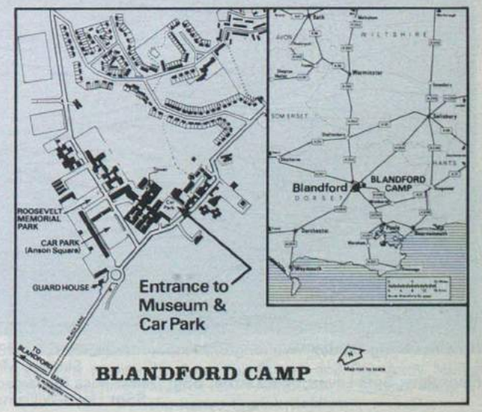
Our congratulations go to **LCpl Ernie** and **Lisa Wise** on the birth of their baby girl **Loretta**. To **Maria** our Troop clerk, our best wishes for your future happiness on the occasion of your marriage to **Philip**.

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
BLANDFORD CAMP, DORSET

The museum contains items dealing with the history of army communications dating from the Crimean War to the Falkland Islands Campaign of 1982, as well as the history of the Royal Engineer (Signal Service) and the Royal Corps of Signals.

The display contains early telegraphic and radio equipment dating from the South African War, World War I, the campaigns on the North-West Frontier of India, and World War II. There are many colourful uniforms on display as well as the only surviving example of the horse drawn cable laying wagon, also an 8th Army Armoured Command Vehicle in a desert setting. There are a number of examples of military motor cycles used by the Despatch Riders of the Corps and an airborne communications jeep.

Admission: FREE
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 0900 - 1700 hours. Saturday - by appointment.
(Telephone: 0258 52581 Extension 2248)



22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

QM (A) DEPARMENT
Maj (QM) J. H. Richardson
WO2 (RQMS) T. Marsh
SSgt J. Larley
Sgt D. McMillan
LCpl A. Macpherson
LCpl C. Booles
Sig L. Mellon
Sig M. Burdon
Mrs Joyce Hughes

October 1986 saw the departure of **WO2 (RQMS) Tom Wood** on completion of 22 years service. He took local discharge and, as when serving, had 'no problem'. We wish him well. His successor **WO2 (RQMS) 'Boggy' Marsh** (any old port in a storm, preferably Cockburns) had just settled in with his wife, **Sue**, when his number appeared on the LS list. They are off to Berlin as a start to a possible further 15 years service (and just catching up on the QM!) Our thoughts (and hopefully no stores) and best wishes follow him.

WO2 (RQMS) John Mackay is in the chair and learning. (How long have I got? What curve?) We welcome him from 4 Sqn. The QM has sat quietly through this mild period in his life and carried on hunting and fishing with his one-eyed dog (bitch).

Perhaps it would be the time to welcome relatively new members to the Department, just in case the all change syndrome of the RQMSs isn't at an end. Welcome to **LCpl Craig Booles** from 1 Div, **Sig (Buddy Holly) Burdon** from Training. Keep up up the good work — at work and at squash! Welcome to **Sig 'Lol' Mellon** and for being out of plaster. **LCpl Angus Macpherson** who joined us from 4 Sqn has recently passed his BI and RSDCC and continues to be as successful at work as at golf. Keep it up. **SQMS (A) John Larley** recently received his substantive promotion and **Sgt Dave McMillan** his promotion to SSgt and yes, he is posted!

Mrs Joyce Hughes, who is the only permanent member of the Department speeds around camp on her bike, takes military-sponsored courses and holidays, fusses over the Regiment's civilian staff and generally does sterling work for the Regiment. Thank you, **Joyce**, and congratulations to your daughter on her academic achievements.

QUARTERMASTER TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT
Report by Cpl Tunstall

It is some time since this department appeared in the *Wire* and quite a few changes have occurred of late, including accepting all PTARMIGAN Installations.

DEPARTURES

We begin by saying goodbye to **WO2 (RQMS)** now **WO1 (RSM) Boor** and his family on their posting to 39 Inf Bde. We also say goodbye to **LCpl SKirton RAOC** on his posting to Dortmund.

ARRIVALS

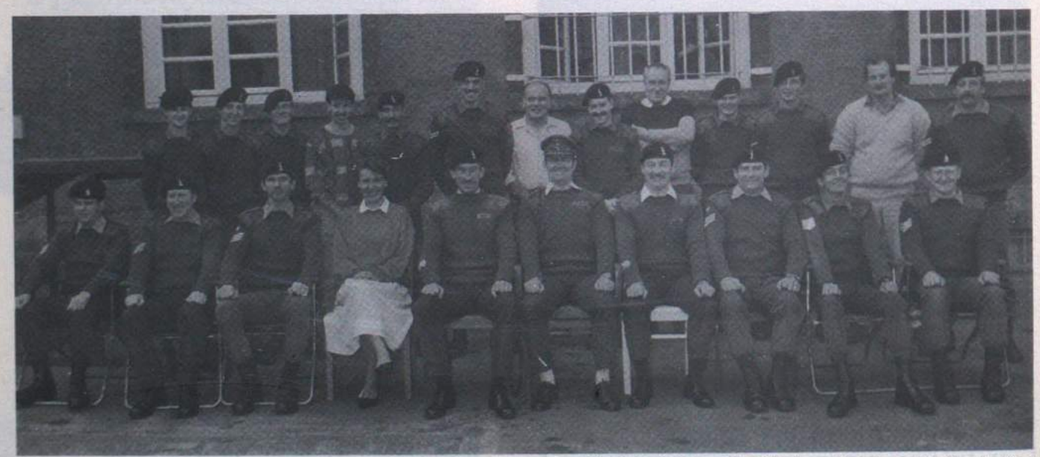
We welcome into the department **WO2 (RQMS) Wood** and his family, **Sig Whittington, Sig Scott** and **Hanna**.

DEPARTMENTAL DINING OUT OF WO2 (RQMS) BOOR

It is normal, when personnel are leaving, for the department to get together for a meal and a drink, and there was no exception for **RQMS Boor**, in fact it was one of the best occasions we have had for some time. The evening started off in traditional style and then the fun began.

Presentations were made to **RQMS Boor** in the form of a wooden box for him to stand on, so that he could be seen on parade, and a bright silver tin helmet with RMS painted on the front and a bullseye on the rear. The he was asked to stand on his box for one final presentation (which only a few of the department knew about) — a Kissogram, which made the RQ's toes curl for days afterwards!

WO2 (RQMS) now WO1 (RSM) Boor being presented with his RMS's Pace Stick by Capt (QM) T. R. Gainford



Back Row: Sig Burden, Whittington, Finney, Mr Newton, Cpl Briant, Tunstall, Mr Reightley, Cpl Balkeley, Mr Bahme, Sig Scott, LCpl Skirton, Mr Lloyd, Cpl Moses
Front Row: Sgts Levett, MacKenzie, SSgt Dales, Miss Richardson, WO2 (RQMS) Wood, Capt (QM) T. R. Gainford, WO2 (RQMS) Boor, SSgt Lloyd-Williams, Sgts Bradbury, Bousfield

INTER TROOP/SQUADRON MOVEMENTS

Sgt Mackenzie has now left the department, to become the Regimental ration storeman. **SSgt Dales** is now the SQMS of HQ Squadron. **Sig Burden** is now in Quartermaster Admin department and **Sig Finney** is now in 2 Sqn.

CORPS RUGBY

You may wonder what this department has to do with Corps Rugby, well, let me tell you. We reckon that we sold approx 90% of the raffle tickets, the proceeds of which went towards financing the BAOR Corps tour to Hong Kong.

Capt (QM) T. R. Gainford featured on BFBS radio giving details of where they were going and who they were playing. For anyone who missed this programme the QM has it recorded on cassette and copies can be made, and supplied—for a small donation to the Corps rugby fund, of course!

THE FORK LIFT TRUCK

Loading and unloading of freight trucks has recently taken on a new meaning, **WO2 (RQMS) Wood** asked me to instruct him on the operating procedures of the fork lift truck; this was done in half an hour. Ever since he has insisted on loading and unloading all freight trucks himself, which has increased the operation time threefold, but he is getting better and faster. Now he wants to learn how to operate an Eager Beaver; thankfully this Regiment does not hold any!

EXERCISE *KUDU TRIANGLE*

We're going to KENYA! This was the chant by 12 members of the Regiment when it was learned that nearly a year's planning for an expedition to climb Mt Kenya might have to go by the board. But the expedition was able to go ahead and the team listed below made a successful climb to Pt Lenana on Mt Kenya:

Lt A. J. Wilson (Leader), Capt P. A. Brown (2IC), SSgt Gilder, Sgt Minvalla, Cpls Hicks, Wilkinson, Rogers, LCpls Whatley, Morton, Scullion, Sigs Simpson and **Foulkes.**

The expedition began on 23 February with a CNFP flight to the UK. After a few days in the UK the expedition flew on to Nairobi via Rome, arriving in Kenya at 1000 hrs on 27 February. A few days were spent at BATISK in Kahawa Barracks acclimatising before setting out to climb Mt Kenya along the Chigoria Trail accompanied by two members of the Kenyan Signals.

Camp one was established late on the eveing of 2 March at a forestry camp some 2km from the start of the trail at 5,300ft. After an uneventful night we left Camp one. **Sig Foulkes** writes 'We left Camp one at 0730 hrs. I am receiving medication for my stomach. The route to Camp two is 16km long and the scenary is spectacular. **LCpl Whatley** is coming down with a stomach upset as well. Everyone is suffering from the heat and the leader has blisters too'. We eventually arrived at Camp two at 7,000ft at about 1630 hrs. **LCpl Whatley** writes 'After an unforgettable night listening to the sounds of Africa we got up at 0630 hrs for breakfast. We walked an arduous first hour to a weir where we filled our water bottles. The journey after the river to Mintos Hut can only be described as the most physically demanding thing I have ever done. Ofter we had to stop every 20 paces or so. We arrived at Mintos Hut at varying times having tendered assistance on the way to an Austrian girl and her boyfriend who were suffering from the heat'.

A day was spend acclimatising at Mintos Hut prior to beginning our ascent. **LCpl Whatley** continues, 'waking up on the sixth was another cold event, though the sun soon came up. We set off for Top Hut and after some two hours walk we reached Top Hut at 15,800ft. **Cpl Wilkinson** remained behind at Top Hut whilst the remainder of the party climbed to Pt Lenana. Following our ascent, we had to begin our descent immediately as some people were suffering from altitude sickness'. The night of 6 March was spent at the Teleki Hut at 10,000ft.

Sgt Andy Minvalla modelling the team T shirt

We returned to BATLSK once more on 8 March. After a turn around and a presentation of our Regimental plaque to the Kenya Signals, we departed on a Safari to Amboseli and Masai Mara Game Parks. A most interesting experience and we also took some spectacular photographs of Mt Kilimanjaro. Following an all too short stay in the parks the party returned to Nairobi and we flew back to the UK on 16 March arriving back in Germany on 18th.

The summit party on Pt Lenana 16,355ft

Expedition leader, Lt Alex Wilson finds time to rest by the camp fire

Cpl Taff Rogers too tired to make friends

OSC 138 Nightshift. Capt Phil Brown and Sgt Andy Minvalla setting new height records for PTARMIGAN Pt Lenana, along with the Kenya Signals soldiers

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

INTRODUCTION

The Regiment has got off to an action packed start to the year. We have seen a change in Commanders; sporting success, both in football and badminton; a full deployment of the Regiment on Ex *Wintex*; the 'Storming of the Gates' during the local Karnaval; and despite all this we still managed to fit in Ex *Franski* down in the Allgau.

CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE

On 20 March **Lt Col Cliff Walters** formally handed over command of the Regiment to **Lt Col Brian Chubb**.

The Parade marked the occasion of the 14th change of command of the Regiment over its 34 years of existence. An inspection of the three squadrons was followed by **Lt Col Walter's** farewell speech. Command was passed during a symbolic flag ceremony: the old flag was lowered and presented by Commander NORTHAG Signal Support Group, **Col A. Barten** German Army to the outgoing CO; the incoming CO presented the new flag which was then raised. The March Pasts and Salutes which followed were accompanied by music by the Band of The Queen's Regiment.

Lt Col Walters came to 28 (BR) Sig Regt in November 1984 from a Staff appointment in MOD. He now departs to take up the post of SO1 in Comms Branch HQ BAOR. During his time in the Regiment he achieved a great deal and will be missed by all. We wish him and his family well for the future. We welcome **Lt Col Brian Chubb** and **Pandy** and hope they enjoy a successful tour.

Lt Col Cliff Walters handing the Regiment over to the new Commander, Lt Col Brian Chubb

Lt Col Walters saying farewell to Cpl Francis on the Change of Command Parade. Also in the photograph: Capt Gilchrist, Cpl Herbert and Sig Keogh

REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL SECOND XI

It is a well known fact that 28 Sig Regt are renowned for having a good football team, as consistent within BOAR football as Liverpool is in the English league! However, with the first team squad away preparing for the Army Cup Final in UK we can turn the spotlight to the other football team we have within this footballing Regiment.

The team run by **Capt Eddie Jones** and assisted by **SSgt (FofS) Pete Wilson** is in the Wednesday league. At present the team is seond in the league only one point behind but with two games in hand, so giving us an excellent chance during the forthcoming few weeks to clinch the title. The team is also doing well in the League Cup having reached the semi-final due to be played shortly against 38 Sqn RCT and they also reached the quarter-final of the North Rhine Inter Services Football League Cup. The team narrowly lost the latter match against the RAF(G) finalists, RAF Wildenrath on penalties and probably gave their best performance of the season.

Mentions must go to the leading goalscorer **Sig 'Johno' Johnson**. He has scored 12 goals in eight games. **Cpl Bob Breheney** just posted in from 22 Sig Regt adds strength up front.

The team can also boast about having the best defensive record in the league, only eight goals conceded thanks to **Sgt Ian Brereton** (veteran goalkeeper) probably in his last season and also to **SSgt Mick McAvoy RAPC, Sgt Bob Cook, Cpl Tony Mee, Cpl Eddy Edwards** in helping to close down the attacking opposition.

The team performance so far this season:

Played	12
Won	10
Drawn	1
Lost	1

we sincerely hope our next football report will highlight 28 Sig Regt's success in winning the Army Football Challenge Cup!

BADMINTON

After several years of relatively little success the Regimental Badminton team has this season been able to boast of a definite improvement in their RCZ situation! Due mainly to sheer perseverance and regular team practice the Regiment was able to complete its RCZ league programme before any other team. At the time of writing we wait with bated breath to hear the result of fellow Krefelders from 16 Sig Regt's final match. The outcome of this fixture will decide who, between us, will win the league and who will finish runners-up.

We beat 16 Sig Regt in the RCZ Inter-Unit Competition to become champions. A very skilled and experienced team from 35 Engr Regt which knocked us out in the semi-final went on to win the BAOR Inter-Unit Competition. Perhaps next season given the same enthusiasm and devotion the Regiment will achieve even greater heights!

The RCZ Inter-Unit Champions photographed with the CO Lt Col C. J. Walters
Back Row (L to R): WO2 (SQMS) De Carteret ACC, Cpl Cryans, CO, Sgt Kendall and Cpl Lamplough
Front Row (L to R): Sig Hall, Capt Gilchrist, Cpl Marshall and Sgt Leverton RE

'STORMING OF THE GATES'

The annual ceremony of Storming the Gates of the Regiment recently took place. Tradition dictates that a Karneval Prinz and Prinzessin are elected by the local community. They have a number of guards from Tonisvorst area and their different coloured uniforms are representative of their district. Each guard consists of a number of long serving retainers, by virtue of their appointment they have a right to demand entry to all establishments during Karneval. As the procession approached the camp gate the Commander **Lt Col Walters** called out the guard to ward off the invaders. The shots fired were reminiscent of 'Zulu' as the ranks fired harmless blanks at the invaders. The warning shots were ignored so a cannon was brought to the fore.

After stiff resistance the Karneval procession was allowed entry and escorted to the Gymnasium where food and drink was offered to pacify the revellers. During the speeches the traditional Karneval gifts were exchanged between the Regiment and the Karneval Prinz and Prinzessin. Oompah music then struck up, and much to the delight of the Regiment dancing girls displayed their considerable talents.

The storming of the Gates

EXERCISE *FRANSKI 87*

The annual Regimental ski exercise took place in Wertach Bavaria from 2 January to 28 February. The permanent staff were:

OIC Franski	—	**Lt Gemma Fesemeyer WRAC**
Instructors	—	**Cpl Steve Francis**
		LCpl Gordon Roberts
		Sgt Graham Wolverson
		Pte Wilco Paymans
Chef	—	**LCpl 'Foz' Foster**
		LCpl Andy Riley
Driver	—	**Sig Phil McNeilly**

The hut had to be set up quickly due to our late starting date. With the help of permanent staff, nine Officer Cadets from Birmingham UOTC and the remainder of the first course, the day to day running of the hut was established in double quick time: The snow arrived as soon as we were ready to begin the ski courses, so everything was timed really well!

This year the Regiment chose to ski at Nesselwang — a good move, as the slope is nice and long and caters for all standards. **LCpl Gordon Roberts** also found a few new routes for his advanced class — a few trees suffered as they were headbutted on the way through, but the students' skiing did improve!

The hut can cater for 22 students at any one time, plus permanent staff. It also comprises a four-person flat for families should any wish to join in. This year each course welcomed one family and they all enjoyed themselves. A total of 70 members, male and female participated in *Franski* this year. Surprisingly enough most survived the two week ordeal, although **Sig Killoran** unfortunately had an accident while sledging and spent the remaining week of his course in a German Convent hospital!

As the exercise is funded totally by the Regiment, luxuries are at a premium! Hence travel to Bavaria is in the latest heated ('The heating is full on in the cab' says the driver!) four tonner, with modern interior design! Well done to all for putting up with the 12 hour journey from Krefeld!

The highlight of each course is the slalom race and we certainly saw some competition this year! No-one managed to beat **LCpl Gordon Roberts** but **LCpl 'Cookie' Cooke** and **Sig Ian Sanders** came very close. The beginners had a good shot at beating him too! The trip to the Fellhorn is the other exciting day for Franskiers and for those who found the sun, the views are beautiful.

All in all it was a very successful exercise and we look forward to the next skiing season with glee!

FOCUS ON ONE SQUADRON

EXERCISE *WINTEX*

Language can always cause problems when engineering the NORTHAG Communications System. **WO1 (FofS) Pete Johnson** was getting technical on Ex *Wintex* and, in the course of attempting to get two modems to work together, asked the German at the other end to check his clock. When he called back a few minutes later to ascertain the result of the check he was informed that the gentleman was still on the toilet.

GENERAL

WO2 (FofS) Bob Thomas has now successfully established a high powered Microwave Engineering Dept within the Regiment. Because of the great importance of this department he is ably assisted by **SSgt (RR Tech) John Jackson** and **SSgt (RR Tech) Glen Pennington**. During Ex *Wintex*, extra support was provided by M Tp who attached **Sgt (RR Tech) John Middleton** to 1 Sqn for the exercise. Due to the marvellous work produced by **Sgt Middleton** he is now to be promoted SSgt. Congratulations **John**. It is felt that this department will truly come to the fore if the Regiment is ever actually given Radio Relay Equipment.

Our thanks also go out to **LCpl 'Jack' Frost** for this entertaining demonstration of 'hopping' whilst wearing a sleeping bag, due to the fact that his tent was burning down around him. Also to **Cpl 'Geordie' Wightman** for managing to set fire to his combat jacket, thus keeping up the tradition of Switch Bravo.

WRAC

It is with great sadness (lots of tears and kisses) that we say farewell to the last of the Squadron's female officers, **Capt Therese Crook**. Two years ago the Squadron was run by **Maj Judy Webb** (OC), **Capt Atchenson** (2IC), and **Capt Crook** (B Tp OC). The only male officer was **2Lt David Kenyon** (A Tp OC).

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

As with the last issue there are too many arrivals and departures to name, so without wishing to offend anyone by leaving their name out, we wish all concerned the very best for the future.

29 Sig Regt
BFPO 45

VISITS

During the last few months we have received several VIP visitors to Berlin, some of whom have visited elements of the Regiment. We were also fortunate to have our own 'exclusive' flying visit from Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen Yeoman**.

Gen Yeoman was due to spend a day and a half in the 'Grosse Stadt' but regrettably his programme was somewhat complicated and shortened by the car bomb explosion at Rheindahlen. He arrived some six hours late, having had no sleep at all the previous night and still managed to compress his entire programme into the time available. This included a dinner night with the Royal Signals community in Berlin, a visit to a Meteor Scatter Trial, presentations of LS & GC followed by a buffet lunch in the Sergeant's Mess, a visit to 'those on the hill' of 3 Sqn 13 Sig Regt, and a final lunch in the East with the Regimental Officers — phew!

Presentation of LS and GC to WO2 (YofS) George McAvoy by Maj Gen A. Yeoman, Comd Comms BAOR

. . . and to Sgt Pete Holder

During his busy schedule Comd Comms found time to present BAOR water polo colours to Cpl Pete Taylor

TELEPHONE BOX ARRIVES IN WILMERSDORF

Two years ago 29 Sig Regt was awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Wilmersdorf and since then has always enjoyed a very happy relationship with the Burgermeister, **Herr Dohm**, and the citizens.

Several months ago it was decided that the one thing lacking in Wilmersdorf was a red old fashioned English telephone box. One was immediately acquired and then the problems began — have you any idea how heavy an old fashioned red English telephone box is? Still where there's a will there's a way and all that . . .

Last month saw the opening of the box and a smiling **Herr Dohm** and equally happy CO **Lt Col John Munnery**, prepared to make the first 'official' call. Regrettably, a small boy had got there first and was obviously 'making someone happy' with a very long phone call. Our gallant duo and assembled members of the local press all had to wait until the young man's pfennigs ran out and, totally unabashed, he continued on his way.

1 SQN
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Sig Charlie Etienne and **Sig 'Piggy' Myers** left TM Tp among 'tearful' farewells and clouds of beer fumes. Radio Tp said a rather more sober but nonetheless fond farewell to **LCpl Robbie Bailey** and family and all members of Commcen Tp wished **LCpl Bernie Dyer** and family the best of good fortune in 'Civvie Street'. The Squadron would like to welcome **Sgt Pete Reynolds** and **Anna, Cpl Chris Hobday** and **Lina, Cpl 'Mac' McLaughlin** and **Susan, LCpl Rick Cummins, LCpl 'Paddy' Hineson** and **Joanne** and, last but not least, **LCpl Rock Hudson** and **Monika.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Promotion notices have been coming in thick and fast recently and congratulations go to **Sgt 'Mick' Murphy** and **Cpl Pete Calvert** on their recent promotions and to **Sgt John 'Down Shep' Burgess** and **Sgt 'BJ' Johnston** on being selected for promotion on the last Staff Sergeant Board.

Very best wishes for the future go to **Pte Kim Graham** (nee **Routledge**) on her marriage to **LCpl Anthony Graham** from 1 RHF. We also wish her well on her posting to 10 Sig Regt.

VISIT BY CINC BAOR

Recently **Gen Sir Martin Farndale** visited Berlin Infantry Brigade and spent the afternoon touring Bde HQ and Log HQ set up 'in the field' or, in the case of Brigade, in a disused 'S' Bahn station.

CADRE COURSE

In February the Squadron ran a Cadre course for potential NCOs and those who are soon to suffer RSDCC. The two weeks course passed in a hurried haze of inspections, drill, TOETS, NBC, Fieldcraft, Map Reading, the dreaded mandatory lectures . . .

Obviously the extra hours worked by the dedicated instructors paid dividends for all passed the final tests with flying colours. This was most fortunate as initial tests indicated that some had much to learn.

CinC meets the staff at Log HQ OC 1 Sqn Maj Bob Axton (*centre*) stands guard

The two BFTs, a CFT and the orienteering course were undoubtedly the most popular elements. Cries of 'I'll stop drinking', 'I'll never smoke again' resounded through the Grunewald as well as the usual 'Who moved the markers', 'This grid's out' etc. At the end of the orienteering **LCpl 'Saf' Aziz** realised he had lost his own compass and spent over two hours looking for it before he remembered it had only cost 20 East German Marks (about £1.12).

The Day of Judgement dawned and after an inspection by the RSM, **WO1 'Paddy' Crabtree**, the sufferers/students awaited the verdict. The top three places were closely fought and the final positions were as follows:

First — **LCpl Steve Navesey**
Second — **Sig Caffer Townsend**
Third — **LCpl Vince Moody**

Comd Berlin Inf Bde, Brig Powell, congratulates LCpl Steve Navesey upon his success in the Cadre Course

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

The Whistler Trophy
Lt Phil Davies receiving the Trophy from Maj Gen P. D. Alexander SOinC, at the Corps Guest Night held at Catterick on 19 March 1987. Maj J. P. McMahon (Tom) the Officers' Mess Manager looks on

EXERCISE *WINTER CHALLENGE*
Report by Sig Grady

Sunday 25 January 0530 hrs and all these talented people lucky enough to be chosen for the 'Finlay Maclennan Skiing Bonanza' are on their way.

Not too many hitches to upset the exercise but a definite feeling of 'start as you mean to go on' was apparent as we arrived at Preston to find **WO2 'Ivanovich the Terrible' Temmen!** This feeling was followed immediately by one of doom at **Cpl 'Angus' Palmer** decided we should carry on without 'Terrible'.

We arrived at Carrbridge to find members of the advance party, **Sig Stu 'The Quaff' Bull** and **Ross Tong** getting ready to collect the SSM from Preston. 'Thanks Lads'!

So the evening moved on, we were all feeling pleasantly relaxed when the phone rang, it was our 'intrepid duo'; 'the landrover has 'blown up' and we can't go any further!' Sympathy oozed from all of us.

Monday 26 January despite the obvious lack of snow in the valleys, the OC, **2Lt Finaly Maclennan**, assured us there was enough snow on the hills to do 'some sort of skiing'.

Off to the slopes. One hour 15 minutes later we arrived and were thrown straight into the hands of the instructor for assessment of our skills!

Sig 'Scouse' Ryding found himself in one of the experienced groups and began to show off his skills, while poor **Sig 'Wee Jock' Campbell** had great difficulty standing up on his!

Wednesday 28 January and the more adventurous members of the team spent the day skiing in Aviemore. How it came about that **Sig 'Baby face' Tong** got locked out of the accommodation one will never know, but he was last seen stuck in the window whilst trying to get in in the early hours of the morning.

The last full day of skiing and no broken bones, although judging from the number of times the OC fell flat on his face we are not convinced that he isn't hiding a broken nose!

Monday 2 February and **WO2 'Terrible' Temmen** organised some orienteering (really!—how out of character). Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the event as **Cpl 'Angus' Palmer** gave a few hints to help with the map reading,—'I say no more'.

We were supposed to leave the next day at 0700 hrs but why should things be any different from last year, no coach!

Finally we arrived back at Blandford and were greeted in the only way possible, 'nice to have you back; you're all on exercise next week!' and so life goes on.

EXERCISE *MOPAN SHIELD III*
Report by Lt Mike Griffiths

Ex *Mopan Shield* started inauspiciously! The outgoing flight was delayed by 24 hrs and this set the tone for the RAF participation throughout the Exercise. On the 9 January however we were able to get on the Herc and were airborne, but wait, the fun is yet to start.

Canada, and a stopover for the night, we made the most of our time, **LCpl 'Doc' Halliday** winning the endurance record.

Boarding the aircraft at 0600 hrs suffering from lack of sleep we took off and reached Pope USAF base in South Carolina. Leaving the Pope AF base was to prove something of a task. Just before take off the aircraft developed some form of engine trouble which caused a three day delay. What do you do for three days in South Carolina? Get yourself booked into the nearest Holiday Inn and enjoy the food, swimming and whirl pools; what price hardship!

Could this be a carefree flight? Over the intercom the pilot informed us that there was a pressurisation problem and the plane was returning to Pope AF base, meanwhile if anyone had trouble breathing they were to ask one of the crew for a breath from their oxygen mask! 'This is a conspiracy'! Five days after leaving UK soil we touched down in Belize, hurray!

The Team in Belize
Back Row Left to Right: Cpl Turner, Sgt Geoff Sims, Sig Barlow, LCpl 'Doc' Halliday, Sig Jase Andrew, Stan Howarth, Jock Bruce, 'Chewey' Annett, Cpl Langton, Lt Mike Griffiths, Mr Franklin, Cpl Rick Ball, Sig Jonesy Jones
Front Row Left to Right: Sig Thomas, James, Chris Varty, Cpl Proctor

Roughing it in South Carolina
Left to Right: Sig Jonesy Jones, Lt Mike Griffiths, Sig Rick Ball, Chris Varty, Jase Andrew, Mr Franklin

Arriving five days late limited our participation in the main exercise but there was still plenty to do in small scale operations with the Belizian Defence Force. The exercise ended four days after our arrival so the team then travelled to Mexico for well earned R&R!

R&R was spent in Mexico,bathing on the fashionable beaches at one end of the town of Cancum and living in a £4 a night hotel at the other end. A suntan which lasted for at least a month was acquired.

Back in Belize and now time for jungle familiarisation; sounds ominous. For four days we learnt how to survive in the wilds of the Belizian Jungle, even how to make our own cigarettes, something that seemed to catch **Cpl Langton's** attention.

And so another arduous exercise drew to an end leaving a couple of days before the flight back to UK. The time was put to good use by visiting a desert island several miles off the coast but still we were dogged by bad luck. The boat that was to take us had sunk the night before; a replacement was found and despite its appearance it made the trip both ways.

We left Belize on 10 February and actually made it back to the UK on schedule, we were then faced with two problems: how to get used to the awful weather in the UK, and how to convince everyone what a hard time we had!

EXERCISE *PENDULUM 87*
Report by Lt Giles Henschel

Well, here we all are, aboard the good old MV Dana Anglia—that Danish Car Ferry with all those scrumptious stewardesses! What a way to go to war! Luxury liners with gorgeous food—eat your hearts out the rest of you, we always travel in style!

The fun started with the first continuation skiing course; myself, **LCpl Jeff Love, Cpl 'Col' Rothwell, LCpl 'Scouse' Johnston** and **Sig Dave Wilson** all attended. Our newest Sgt, **Sgt 'Bluffing' Bill Johnson** managed to escape the experience.

Numerous bruises later, the powers that be decided we were good enough to be 'Arctic Foxes' once more, so, smelly, unshaven and hungry we returned triumphantly back to camp for a hot shower and some decent food, (not Chicken Suprême à la Naptha dans le tentsheet!)

LCpl 'Scouse' Johnston returned happier than most, he had been recommended for his military ski instructors course; a feather in his cap—but he's still in Norway doing the course! The rest of the merry little crew had to do the Arctic Warfare Training Course, being fresh to the Arctic. Without exception we all enjoyed it—albeit in varying degrees.

Now ready to do the actual job; providing DCN National Rear Link to 3 Cdo Bde RM.

Working with the Royal Marines is different, as long as you speak the lingo you've got it made. Bootnecks (Royal Marines) speak a variety of English not commonly found anywhere outside Plymouth, it certainly isn't The Queen's English.

About the rest of the crew, I have tales to tell. By far the most sought after by the local talent was **Sig Sven Eldridge,** who was so bemused by his sudden popularity he came over all shy, and blushed permanently from the roots of his flaxen hair to his boots for the entire deployment. Not so **LCpl 'Scouse' Johnston** and **Sig Bud Budding,** who both refused to believe they weren't Tom Cruise, and spent many happy hours whizzing around the slopes like extras for 'Top Gun' (boys will be boys!), even **Sig Dave Wilson** was seen to 'pilot' rather than drive his landrover occasionally!

The long suffering techs; **Cpls Rab Hartley, 'Col' Rothwell** and **Ken Eaton** uncomplainingly fixed all the kit that gave up in the cold.

Sadly during the deployment **Sgt Bill Johnson** and **LCpl Joe Cresswell** had to leave us, but they were very ably replaced by **Sgt Jenkins,** (never known as Adrian, merely Jenks!) and **Cpl Sam Sowerby**.

Battling away for this third successive year was our det comd, **LCpl Jeff Love**. A skier extraordinaire who was aided by **LCpl Simmo Simpson**.

Perhaps the hardest working of all the det were the combat powermen, **Sig Frank Pilgrim** and **Taff Jones,** who spent the majority of their time in ferocious temps bathing in Diesel and AL11, battling to keep the generators running.

Everyone enjoyed themselves, even **Sig Dave Major** and **Nick Steen,** once they had mastered the art of skiing.

This is probably my last deployment to these frozen climes and I must admit this year it was fantastic, and made all the better by the excellent crew who contributed hugely to the undoubted success that it was. To you all 'thank you'.

EXERCISE *CYGNET TREK 8*

The first Battlecamp this year took place on the Sennybridge Training Area. The aim was to test NCOs in Platoon tactics. I'm not sure if it was the shock of infantry tactics or the weather at Sennybridge, but suffice to say the MRS was well attended!

As is the Regimental norm on battlecamps, we were all; well I say all, (**SSgt Pete Allen** was seen to attend one session) dragged out of our warm beds to attend early morning PT, all the activities being so thoughtfully prepared by **WO2 (QMSI) Terry Dolan** and his faithfully follower **LCpl Paul Williams**.

While the troops were up in the wilds of the training area patrolling, ambushing and fix and destroying, the MT and admin staff were out on a recce of the area. Quite an easy task except for the fact that 'Little and Large' **SSgt (SQMS) Ken Jones** and **SSgt (SQMS) Peter Allen** found it necessary to stop and compare map reading notes every so often!

Training Wing spent the first couple of days recceing the range areas and while recceing the 'Crack and Thump' range, **Capt 'Black Leg' Keenan** was seen to disappear into the marsh! The rumour that **Sgt Trevor Keates** is still laughing about the incident is to end forthwith!

And so battle camp went on without too many hitches. **Sig Brooks** still owes the **WO2 (SSM) Mackinnon** a pint after his premature heart attack obtained on the grenade range. 'How far beyond the wall should I have thrown the grenade Sir!'

To finish the week the DS played enemy and began late night and early morning attacks on the 'secure patrol bases'. Shaking out bashas, if awake at all seem to be the procedure for the Dawn Stand too! The QMSI, **WO2 Terry Dolan** was seen on more than one occasion having a tantrum in the corner as yet another well thought out plan was defeated by an incorrectly set trip flare!

The 21C **Maj Peter McGann**, who we now know is an undercover member of the Abergavenny Tourist Board; decided to give the young officers a tour of the Welsh countryside, at 2200 hrs! He wishes to thank all those who made him feel so welcome back at the camp!

On a cheerful note we left Sennybridge and looked, with expectation, toward *Cygnet Trek 9*. 'Capel Curig here we come'.

1 SQN MARCH AND SHOOT COMPETITION
Report by Cpl Dominic Cox

After a Regimental 'aerobics' on the Square one Friday, the OC **Maj (Recce) Grierson** decided we needed some military style physical training. He planned a March and Shoot Competition scheduled for a date during his Carribean recce. The OC and **SSM** (part-time YofS) **Whillock**, managed to find the longest, steepest hill in Dorset, so that we would get a good view . . . ho, ho!

The morning of the competition dawned wet and windy (somebody had been booking the weather agin). We collected our weapons at an unearthly hour and set off for East Holme ranges.

On site **Cpl Tim** (not heavy enough) **Babbage** weighed everybody's webbing. **Sig Jock** (not me agin) **White** produced a cheque for £25 saying 'That was the weight you wanted?'.

Eventually the teams set off at 10 minute intervals. All started enthusiastically running around the first corner, except team six, ably led by **Cpl (Ferret) Cox,** who started walking, incurring cries from the DS of 'what do you think this is, a Sunday afternoon stroll?'.

During the 10 mile course **Cpl (Jono) Johnson** used his First Aid Instructors training to devastating effect, but his patients still lived!

The March phase went well with some good times turned in, even though two of the nine teams took 'scenic' routes . . . what was that about extra map reading periods?

The shooting phase consisted of 10 rounds grouping, and considering the weather conditions, there was plenty of good shooting.

Finally came the prize giving. The winners were **Cpl (I'm a Sgt really) Meachin's** squad. Although not first in the March phase, made up for it with some excellent shooting, receiving a well earned crate of beer.

SOLDIERS VERSUS OFFRS/SNCOs FOOTBALL MATCH
Report by SSgt Mickey Dunn

On a typcial Autumn day, (rain, hail and snow), the Offrs/SNCOs took on the soldiers in the Regiment, out to gain revenge for the 8—1 thrashing handed out in the previous encounter!

The Offrs/SNCOs brought in a number of new players, notably **Lt Col W. K. Butler, RSM Peter Sutherland** and **Sgt Jim Logan**. **Capt Sean Dexter** was removed from a comfortable position in the Mess after a gruelling week at JDSC to make up the full side.

The soldiers, capably led by **Cpl Jim Frew** stormed all over the opposition. 'Blandford Camp Convention 87', no officers to be taken prisoner! The boys quickly went into a two goal lead. **Sgt Lenny Mills** soon reduced this mid way through a snow storm.

The CO, former star with 259 Sig Sqn? was overheard saying 'I'm sure I could kick straight in Happy Valley!'

The soldiers scored two more goals to finish worthy winners by four goals to one. Refreshments were provided at the OR's Club after the game. The Offrs/SNCOs won 10 goals to three! **Capt Sean Dexter** being the star of this match!

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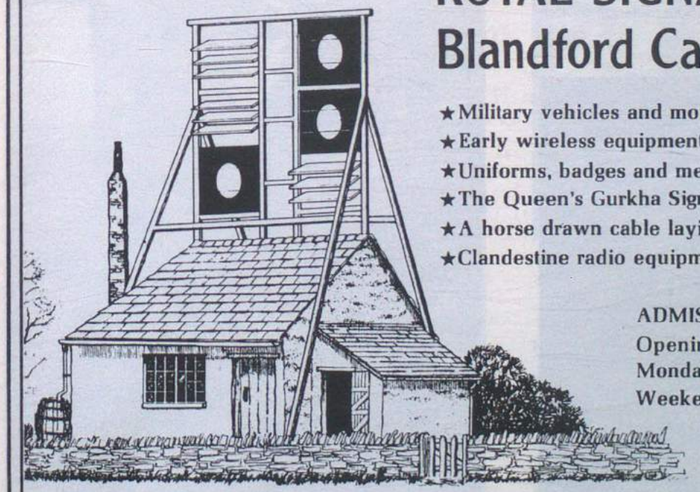
Monday to Friday 0830 - 1700 hours
Weekend by appointment



Artist's impression of the early 19th Century Admiralty shutter telegraph relay station built on the site of Blandford Camp 1806-1825

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

RHQ

The first three months of 1987 has seen the Regiment as busy as ever with our first full Regimental exercises — *March Hares* — held in the frozen wastes of the Aldershot Training areas, a welcome visit to 47 Sqn Harrow by the GOC London District **Maj Gen C. J. Airy CBE,** and a well deserved success for our WRAC team in the Courage Trophy competition.

Sadly, we have said another farewell, this time to our Regt TOT **Maj Jim Fowler** who is retiring after 38 years service in the Corps; we will miss his great fund of technical expertise (not to mention those reminiscencies of when he was a para!) and wish him and **Pat** all the very best.

Ex *March Hares*—Pte Angela Bishop (47 Sqn) defends Switch Hotel

Endex-OC 41 Sqn Maj Keith Bruce-Smith says farewell to Capt Diane Fernley-Jones

Ex *March Hares*—LCpls Sandy Giles, Jackie Stacey and Pte Sue Eglington in the Switch Hotel message vehicle

COURAGE TROPHY

Four teams entered this military skills competition competed for by units throughout London and, against the odds, our 41 Sqn team led by **2Lt Carolyn Oxlee** were WRAC winners, receiving a silver tankard each for their efforts. In the 41 Sqn male team **Sig Ian Mackay**'s improvised splint (a starting handle) did not over-impress his patient on the first aid stand whilst on the gruelling assault course **Pte Dawn Boothby** (83 Sqn) needed real splints for a painful broken ankle. OC HQ Sqn **Capt Alan Lafferty** has been particularly sympathetic in wishing **Pte Boothby** a speedy recovery; in civilian life she is his secretary.

Courage Trophy—The 47 Sqn team; OCdt Cameron Rennie, Sig Brian Curtis, Steven Bown, Jeremy Ralph

Courage Trophy—WRAC Champions
In Front L-R: Pte Barbara Williams, Lt Vicki Hutchinson, Cpl Camellia Chapman
Behind L-R: Ptes Tracy Palmer, Alison Herriett, 2Lt Carolyn Oxlee, Ptes Nikki Walton-Moiser, Sue Dent

47 SQN

2IC Sqn Capt Mike Lucas writes:

Late March saw the GOC London District **Maj Gen C. J. Airy CBE** visited our TAC at Elmgrove Road, Harrow and after briefing by OC Sqn **Maj Chris Mote** and a tour of our training facilities the GOC presented medals to;

WO2 (FofS)	**George Johnston**	**EM**	(47 Sqn)
SSgt	**Rudi Rayner**	**EM**	(83 Sqn)
SSgt	**Gordon Brain**	**EM**	(83 Sqn)
SSgt	**John Crook**	**Clasp**	(47 Sqn)
SSgt	**Martin Jones**	**Clasp**	(47 Sqn)
Sgt	**Brian Keefe**	**EM**	(47 Sqn)
Sgt	**Bronwyn Fraley WRAC**	**EM**	(83 Sqn)

Maj Gen Airy presents the EM Clasp to SSgt (SQMS) Martin Jones

The GOC Londist presents the third EM Clasp to SSgt John Crook

The GOC meets the DTgs; left is instructor Cpl Cecili Joyce

FAREWELLS

Several valuable and long serving members of the Squadron left us earlier in the year. **SSgt Bill Ralph** has retired after 30 years of service (14 of them with 47 Sqn) and after regular service in such exotic climes as Aden, Suez and Kenya, whilst from SHQ **SSgt John Crook** has hung up his boots after 36 years' service both as a technician and latterly as the lynchpin of our recruit reception team.

Finally we have said a sad farewell to our civilian clerk **Fred Fairclough**. With many years service with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire TA Association already behind him, **Fred** joined 47 Sqn on its formation in April 1967; he will be remembered for his quiet hard work, his immaculate handwriting and his much appreciated skills as a sign writer.

We thank all three for their many years of steadfast support to the Squadron and our best wishes go with them into retirement.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

NEWS FROM RHQ

Once again, March saw the Regiment in Burniston Barracks, Scarborough for Trade Training. A successful week culminated in a further crop of passes at the 'new' trades. Our thanks and credit to Training **Maj Jack Fiskel**'s training team.

Not content with Squadrons in Edinburgh and Aberdeen on the East Coast, we are now in the midst of recruiting in Brechin for 514 TAOR Troop. **Lt Brian Gilfeather** has been tasked with co-ordinating this recruiting drive and any ex-regulars or others from that part of the world who may be interested in joining should contact RHQ (Tel 041-339-8401).

SKIING

In 1987 UKLF Downhill Ski Championships were held in the Cairngorms from 2 to 7 March.

The Regiment competed for the first time this year. Two four-man teams were entered.

The A Team, **Lt Col David Hughes, Capt Jim McKee, Sig Keith Marshall** and **Derek Cameron**, won the Scottish TA team prize, and **Capt McKee** won the Scottish TA individual prize.

The B Team, **SSgt Dave Cormack, Cpl Bif Williamson, Cpl Fiona Phimister** and **Pte Laura Fraser**, also did well, coming third. The meeting organiser did confess that our B team was the most glamorous one on the hill. He was probably talking about **SSgt Cormack** (61 Sqn PSI)!

There were some 97 teams and a total of 475 competitors entered for the meeting, the biggest ever.

The competition was a friendly and well organised affair. It was marred only by the weather. Lack of snow forced the race organisers to hold the races on the M1, instead of the usual place in the Coire na Ciste. Howling winds meant that the races on Thursday, Friday and Saturday had to be cancelled. The winds were so strong on Saturday that they blew down a tree almost smashing the 4 Para minibus.

The training and the competition were thoroughly enjoyed by all the team members. With such a good start the aim for the next year must be to win outright.

Pte Laura Fraser looking good in the B Team race

The teams: Lt Col David Hughes, Sig Keith Marshall, Sig Derek Cameron, SSgt Dave Cormack, Capt Jim McKee, Cpl Fiona Phimister, Cpl Elisabeth Williamson and Pte Laura Fraser

PRESENTATION OF EFFICIENCY MEDAL (TA)

On a recent visit to 69 (NIH) Sig Sqn (V) the GOC (NI) **Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe KCB MBE**, kindly presented the Efficiency Medal (TA) to recently qualified members of the Squadron. The photograph shows the GOC with recipients in the Sgts Mess at Clooney TA Centre, after the short ceremony. From left to right: **Cpl Keys, SSgt A. Deans**, GOC (NI), **SSgt Lynch, LCpl Glasgow**.

FOCUS ON 51 (HIGHLAND) SIG SQN (V)

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj D. Bartlett TD**
2IC	**Capt S. Ahmed**
Trg Offr	**2Lt B. Reid**
PSAO	**Capt R. Esson**
OC 511 (51 Bde Main/Dsc) Tp	**Capt G. Findlay**
OC 512 (51 Bde Rear) Tp	**2Lt L. Duncan**
OC 513 (Highland TAOR) Tp	**Capt J. F. Geddes**
OC 514 (Island TAOR) Tp	**2Lt D. Herron**
SSM	**WO2 J. Muirhead**
PSI (RTG)	**SSgt I. Walker**
NRPS (SQMS)	**SSgt G. Fraser**
R Tech	**Sgt C. Braid**
Mould Tech	**Sgt A. (Sleepalot) Reid**

This winter, just for a change, we have been highly amused to hear on the national news how our brethren in the South (Edinburgh) and the deep South (Glasgow) and even further South (Englandshire) were coping with our share of inclement white stuff (snow).

Normally such a deluge is reserved for us Highlanders, but this year had us basking in our Bermuda shorts and laughing up our short sleeves, well almost.

MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

The Squadron entered a Team in the 51 Highland Brigade Military Skills Competition. It consisted of **Capt S. Ahmed, SSgt D. Webster, LCpls I. Bissett, R. Burr, R. Lindsay, Sig J. Grant, A. Falconer, D. Wisniewski, D. Gair** and **Cfn A. Murray REME**.

The first time attempt gained the team valuable experience for future years as we hope to make this an annual event in the Squadrons' Training programme.

Now spring is here a young man's thoughts turn to removing the snowploughs from the D11's and winter-grips off the landrovers.

CONGRATULATORY NEWS

2Lt Linda Duncan (nee **Smith**) recently married **John** in Huntly, Aberdeenshire. **Linda** a Candidate on Direct Entry Scheme 7 (TA Direct Entry Commissioning Sheme sponsored by 52 Lowland Bde) was commissioned the month before her marriage.

2Lt David Herron commissioned on TA Commissioning Course No 7 at RMAS.

On 14 February, to **Capt Saddiq Ahmed** and his wife **Heather** a firstborn **Shaun. Won't forget that date in a hurry!**

On 9 March. To SSgt Donald Webster and wife **Sylvia** twin sons **Ross** and **Ryan**, (numbers four and five of the Clan.) We look forward to some recruits in 17 years time! When's Camp this year **Donald**?

LCpl Mike Clark was attached to 7 Sig Regt during '*Winter Sales*'.

As we go to press, we wish every success to **Pte Elaine Sim WRAC** on her forthcoming marriage to **LCpl Michael Ogg**, 2/51 Highland Volunteers.

Last but not least, we welcome **Sgt Christopher Braid** from RSRE Malvern and his wife **Karen** and wish them many happy times in Aberdeen.

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

If 1986 was the year of the Triffid, 1987 is going to be the year of the Euromux. Already we have had our first 'last exercise with the 1+4', but nobody made much of the occasion. Many of the Regiment have seen and started to work on the Euromux equipment in the TTS at Catterick. **WO1 (FofS) John Latham**, 90 Sqn's Foreman, is the instructor in charge of all Euromux courses at Catterick, so we should not lack for basic knowledge when we eventually get out own.

Meanwhile we have been busy doing all the things which have to be done towards the end of the training year, catching up on last minute BFTs and range courses etc, and then starting on the workup to BAOR camp in September.

HQ SQN

Sadly we have said goodbye to **Capt Judy Walker**, Squadron 21C for the past few years. After a career in the Regiment she has 'retired' to Scotland. We have also said goodbye to **WO2 Mick Johnson**, formerly SSM of 50 Sqn, who has been in charge of the Regimental Recruiting Team for the past year. He leaves behind as a 'memento' a very smart Display Stand, which he designed and built.

CPL MANDY LEE

All members of the Squadron, indeed of the Regiment, were saddened by the tragic accident which occurred in early March which has left **Cpl Mandy Lee**, the senior stewardess in the Officers' Mess, paralysed from the chest down. The NRPS SQMS, **SSgt George Wright** has arranged regular visits to **Mandy** in hospital, where she expects to be a patient for several months. A great number of fund-raising activities have been started to create a fund to provide her with extra help which she will need when she leaves hospital.

Congratulations to **LCpl Neil Williams** and his wife **Pam** (the former **LCpl Pam Cody**) on the birth of their son **Daniel**.

Congratulations also to **Sgt Margaret Roe** who was presented with a Lord Lieutenants' Certificate by **Lord Gisborough**, Lord Lieutenant of Cleveland.

Welcome to **Cpl Steve Williams** who has joined the regular tech team from our friends across the water, 40 Sig Regt (V).

49 SQN

Farewell to **Lt Sharon Matthews**, OC D Tp (Radio Relay), who has moved from Yorkshire to Hampshire—a bit too far for Tuesday night commuting. She is hoping to transfer to another Regiment, nearer her new home. Welcome to **Lt David Perkins** who has transferred from 212 General Hospital (V) and is in the process of rebadging to Royal Signals.

Welcome also to **2Lt Jeremy Gambles** who has joined the Squadron from Northumbrian UOTC.

Welcome to **SSgt Sid Heyward** who has joined A Tp in Hull for his last six months of service, and in time to fill the gap when **Sgt Tim Cowan** goes to Catterick for his RSSS course.

Congratulations to **Cpl Phil Wright** presently attached to the Leeds TA Centre, and his wife on the birth of their daughter **Dawn**.

About a year ago A Tp acted as good neighbours and provided training accommodation (and bar facilities!) for 56 Post (Kayingham) of the Royal Observer Corps. In recognition of this their Post OC, Chief Observer **R. W. Crawforth** recently presented A Tp with a plaque to fill a space above the bar.

50 SQN

After a long period when there was only one officer at Gateshead we now have two. We welcome **Lt Denise Barker WRAC** after a spell on RARO. **Denise** formerly served with 3 Yorks, so she is busy learning all about the RCZ and the Regiment's role in it.

Sadly we have said goodbye to two of the longer-serving members of the Gateshead Detachment. **SSgt Jimmy McDonald** has been with the detachment since its early days, and has been Tp SSgt of G Tp for the past six years. He will not be lost to the TA as he is transferring to the staff of Northumbrian UOTC. **Sgt Jean Douglas** has also left after many years of service in G Tp. The family connection with the Regiment will carry on, however, as her daughter **Pte Carole Douglas** is serving as a Telemech in F Tp.

Congratuations to **Sgt Jim Meaney** of Darlington and **Sgt Barry Williams** of Gateshead who received Lord Lieutenant's certificates for the Counties of Durham and Tyne-and-Wear respectively.

90 SQN

No sooner had we got **Lt Richard Newcombe** in post as OIC Recruit Training than his employers decided to move him to the South. Maybe one day 'they' will move him back! Meanwhile he leaves with our best wishes.

Welcome to **SSgt Guy Richards**, who has arrived from the Falklands to take over as PSI from **SSgt Dave Aldous**. **Dave** has retired to a new career in the retail trade. With thanks for all he has done for the Squadron we wish him well.

Congratulations to **Sgt Kath Walden** who was the youngest recipient of a Lord Lieutenant's Certificate in Cleveland this year.

Congratulations also to **OCdt Sarah Meredith** who was awarded her TA Colours for cross country running following her highest TA place (fourth overall) in the recent Regular Army v TA competition. The Regimental team were runners-up in the WRAC TA competition.

BAND

The recently-appointed Band Sergeant Major, **WO2 Mel McTominey**, lost no time in exerting his authority. It is reliably reported that he ordered his three sons **Daniel, Neil** and **Mark**, all members of the Band, to 'get your hair cut'.

DINNER FOR PAST AND PRESENT WOs

Thanks to a great deal of research and even more letter writing by himself and his wife **SSgt Carol Sparks**, the Senior Volunteer Warrant Officer, **WO1 Dave Sparks**, organised a follow-up to the successful dinner held last year for past and present WOs of 34. Well over 30 WOs, both Regular and TA, most accompanied by their wives, descended on Brambles Farm in early April for a meal, and more important, a long evening of reminiscences. Many hundreds of thousands of words later they agreed that they should do it again next year.

EXERCISE *NORTHERN CONFORT 5*

Report by Capt Geoff Thirlwall

This annual exercise in Scotland took place from 7 to 14 February. The aim was to give training in downhill skiing up to intermediate level for both Regular and Volunteer members of the Regiment, using the civilian facilities in the Cairngorms. This year the number of participants was 22, drawn from all Squadrons of the Regiment and the LAD. Accommodation was at Rothiemurchus Lodge, near Aviemore.

After arrival late on Saturday everyone was fitted with boots and skis, in preparation for an early start on Sunday. Unfortunately there wasn't much snow but we managed to find a patch big enough for basic instruction. The same happened on Monday but that night there was a miraculous change for the better—fresh snow which gave excellent skiing conditions for the rest of the week. All members of the party, 11 of whom had never skied before, managed a slope officially graded as 'difficult', and all agreed that they had had a good week.

WO2 (FofS) Phil Berry was the outright winner of the 'Best Bruise' competition—his bruise was not only the biggest but its colour changes were much admired. Unfortunately torn ligaments caused him to withdraw from the 'Most Effective Fall' contest, leaving the field to **Cpl Les Grace, LCpl Kev Pountain** and **OCdt Jake Thackerey**. After a hard fought competition it was decided that **LCpl Pountain's** sound effects (a laugh turning into a screem) had won the day.

Participants in Ex *Northern Comfort*—looking good. Capt Thirlwall is at the left in the front row

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

HQ SQN

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Sarah Maude TD WRAC**
2IC	**Capt Colin Dyball**
QM	**Capt Frank Jepson**
TOT	**Maj Paul Burton**
OC RTT	**Capt Paul Redrup**
OC LAD	**Capt Dave Burton REME**
MTO	**Lt Jim Preston**
SSM	**WO2 Roy Cooper**
RQMS Tech	**WO2 Lloyd Drakes**
RQMS Clothing	**WO2 Pete Boultwood**
Pay WO	**WO2 Ken Radley**

INS N' OUTS

Welcome to our new SSM **WO2 Roy Cooper** — poached from 45 Sqn Colchester. Sad farewells however, to **Capt Barry Greenwood, Sgt Billy Howes** and **Sgt Anne Seager WRAC**, all of whom will be greatly missed by the remainder of the Squadron. Also, we now rejoice in having our very own PSI — **Sgt Alan Peaper**.

SHQ

Reputed to be the hardest worked department in the Regiment, a claim shared by a number of personnel especially **SSM Roy Cooper** (the OC's goffer) but everyone outside the 'Knock and Wait' sign knows that **Mrs Edna Pearce** our Sqn Admin Officer works the hardest, at least that's what she says!

PS **Capt Colin Dyball** is still hopping along but he tells us his recent skiing trip to Scotland was just the therapy he required.

PAY OFFICE

The Pay Office continues to operate leaderless since the departure of **Maj Sally Casanett WRAC** but the staff, consisting of **LCpl Wanda Girej** and **Pte Jahan Rashid** under the expert guidance of **WO2 Ken Radley** RAPC, somehow manage to ensure our hard earned pennies end up in the correct place at the right time.

MT TROOP

Congratulations to **LCpl Martin Hull** on his recent promotion and to **Ptes Kim Scroxton** and **Susannah Batty** for being nominated 'Top Student' on their respective recruit courses at Guildford. Also to **Pte Jane Kingsley-Smith** who came a close second to **Pte Batty** on their course.

TM TROOP

TM Troop have been through a very hectic time since their last *Wire* entry. Ably led by **Maj (TOT) Paul Burton** and **WO2 (FofS) Bob Walton** the Troop has built up to some 14 volunteer members.

The past year has seen nine Tels inspections, a cypher inspection and a visit by RSIT. Amazingly, the Troop still managed to fit in a weekend's adventure training on the Brecon Beacons, where **Pte Tracy 'Regular' Hook** attempted to walk on water, but failed. The Troop also managed to prise the Christian (Technician of the Year) Cup away from 45 Sqn with the help of the new holder **Sig John Pitkin**. The regular element has seen **Sgt Brian Izzard** and **Sgt Derek Hannan** leave for civvy street to be replaced by **Sgt Taff Lewis** and **Sgt Steve King**.

LAD

The LAD is alive and kicking still, up at the sharp end (the outer reaches of Ilford!). Although our rank structure is a little thin at the moment, things are beginning to change, congratulations go to **April Woodford** on her promotion to Cpl and on passing her class 1 trade course. Congratulations also to **Aidie King** (a signals convert) on his promotion to LCpl. Our latest recruit, **Bob Cope** has just completed his recruit course at Bordon; we are a bit concerned about him though, he actually enjoyed it! Our trade training is progressing well with no failures at trade courses to date, congratulations to the following who have recently passed trade courses at Bordon:- **Aidie King, Pam Bartholomew, Neil Reid, April Woodford** and **Graham Daniel**. Hark! is that the kettle boiling? Must go!

44 (CINQUE PORTS) SIG SQN (V)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to **Sgt Phil Hall** and his brother **Sgt George Hall** for their promotion to the Mess, and **Cpl Dave Kingstone** and **Cpl Glen Swallow** for their second stripes. Well done all of you, and **Phil** you will now be able to wear your mess kit which has been hanging in your wardrobe for the last two years! Well done also **Capt Sharon Barkley (WRAC), Cpl Dave Kingstone** and **Pte (Mrs) Tracey Kingstone** all three were part of the winning 36 Sig Regt (V) team in the recent London District Orienteering Championships, **Capt Sharon Barkley** also qualified for the Army Orienteering Championships to be held later in the year.

FAREWELL

On Thursday 12 March the Squadron said goodbye to **Capt Ken Ficklin**. He joined the Squadron as a Tech and reached the rank of LCpl before commissioning when he became OC 816 Troop. He also served as the 2IC, Ops Offr and OC 748 during his time with the Squadron. We wish him the best of luck with his new job with the OTC London District.

VISIT BY GOC LONDON DISTRICT

Maj Gen C. J. Airy CBE GOC London District visited Regimental Headquarters on the evening of Thursday 12 March. He was accompanied by **Lt Col (Retd) P. E. Piggott** and spent the evening visiting the various departments of RHQ and HQ Sqn.

The visit started with a briefing by the CO **Lt Col Chris Gale TD** and 2IC **Maj Mike Sexton TD**. The General then visited the Orderly Room, where he met **Sgt Linda Cooper WRAC** and our civilian staff **Miss Lorraine Mooney** and **Mrs Margaret Dyball**. After visiting the Training Cell and HQ Sqn Office, where he met **Mrs Edna Pearce, Maj Gen Airy** went on to meet our technicians and recruiting team and finally to the QM Dept where he was introduced to QM's **Maj Barry Greenwood** (who has just retired after 35 years) **Capt Frank Jepson** an ex RSM with this Regiment and our new Regular QM **Maj Colin Richardson**.

After all this official business the General visited the Junior Ranks Club where he spent the next couple of hours chatting informally with the younger members of the Regiment.

FAREWELL TO MAJ (QM) BARRY GREENWOOD

It was with much regret when the Regiment finally said farewell to one of its staunchest members **Maj (QM) Barry Greenwood.**

Barry enlisted as a national serviceman into the REME in August 1950 serving for the next two years as a Tech Storeman in Blandford, Catterick and Hamburg.

In February 1953 **Barry** enlisted as a volunteer into 2/20 Sig Regt (TA) and became a vehicle electrician with the LAD, breaking service in 1962 to rejoin 45th (Essex) Sig Regt as a Tech Storeman but still wearing a REME cap badge. In 1967 he transferred into the Royal Signals to coincide with the formation of 36 (Eastern) Sig Regt (V) as a Corporal in charge of TM Troop stores. A steady progression throught the ranks saw **Barry** holding positions in HQ Sqn ranging from O Troop Sgt, SQMS,SSM and RQMS and eventually as Quatermaster.

Barry is a supervisor with the London Electricity Board in civilian life in charge of installation inspectors and meter fixers and although his TA commitment has finally come to an end he will still be keeping in touch via membership of his local branch of the Royal Signals Association.

On behalf of his many friends and aquaintances we wish **Barry** and his family the very best for the future.

STOP PRESS

Is this a first! Elements of 36 Sig Regt (V) have gone to the sharp end, roughing it with the best in the Falkland Islands.

Leadership training in the cold. A selected group of people fighting the elements in Scotland.

Magnificent Orienteering Success. 36 Regt beat Paras and SAS in the London District Orienteering Championships.

The General meets from *left to right*: QM Barry Greenwood, QM Frank Jepson, QM Colin Richardson

The General talks to: Sig John Pitkin watched by RSM, CO and Adjt

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

FOCUS ON 43 SIG SQN (V)

The Squadron's Preparation for the Brigade Exercise began early this year with a exercise in early March in which we practised movement and setting-up drills. This was followed by a Regimental Exercise which took place in extremely high winds when it was suggested that it might be quicker to pass messages on the downwind in paper dart form!

Our Military Training has not been forgotten. **2Lt Chris Thompson** put us through our paces with a gruelling Navigation Exercise on the Quantock Hills. Small teams had to complete first aid, map reading, camouflage and concealment and command tasks as well as visiting as may check points as possible. The winning team was led by **Cpl Steve Bond**, but **Cpl Nick Porter**'s team was judged to have provided the best entertainment value with its 'suspension bridge' solution (illustrated) to the Command Task.

Before

After!

As the Regimental SAAM the Squadron just failed by two points to become champion squadron but succeeded in carrying off the SLR Championship Cup and a large number of the individual prizes. **Sgt Gaynor Avery** did particularly well, coming away with four Trophies. We now look forward in anticipation to the SW District SAAM.

Over ninety Squadron personnel and their partners attended the Annual Squadron Dinner at which our principal guests the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col M. K. Carson**, and our civilian fitter, **Mr Barry Ireland**, were presented with engraved farewell gifts. We were delighted that **Barry**, who has given over 19 years of service to the Squadron, was joined at the dinner by the other members of our civilian Permanent Staff. They all provide valuable and often unsung service and support to the Squadron, and deserve our thanks. Congratulations to our Squadron Clerk, **Mrs Margaret Rolling** who recently obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree through the Open University.

Four of our Data Telegraphists took part in 'Op Pendulum' with the Commando Forces in Norway. **LCpls Sharon Brailey, Sue Godwin, Gill Carey** and **LCpl Sue Palfrey**. **LCpl Palfrey** also completed and passed the rigourous Royal Marines Arctic Survival Course. She, together with **Cpl Hardiman** of 53 Sig Sqn (V) and **Pte Gould** of 67 Sig Sqn (V), spent two days being instructed in the art of Arctic survival followd by three days practical experience during which they took part in intensive cold-weather warfare training and spent the nights in a five-berth arctic tent, a make-shift poncho shelter and finally a snow-hole all of which they constructed themselves. In addition to this, **LCpl Palfrey** took part in a 20km ski-race carrying a back-pack and SMG. Although her chances of completing the course were rated very slim, she surprised herself and all concerned by not only finishing in the very creditable time of two hours 56 minutes, (which included time taken to fire 10 rounds from her SMG on a range in mid-course) but by coming in ahead of over 100 male competitors — no mean feat for someone whose only experience of skiing before coming to Norway was on a school trip some years ago!

Royal Marine Section Leader with LCpl Palfrey and Pte Gould in their snow hole

SOinC VISITS BRISTOL

The members of RHQ and 67 Sqn were very pleased to welcome the SOinC to a Drill Night at Bristol in March. The General met many members of the Regiment and was entertained in both messes. He was obviously pleased with what he saw, and as a result he has accepted invitations to visit 57 Sqn in Stratford in May and the Regiment on exercise in the autumn.

Smile Please, SOinC and Cpl Carr

LCpl Paul Buley, 2Lt Andrew Creasy SOinC

LAD REME in Action

Lt Col Mike Carson, SOinC, Maj John Reed, Maj Ian Thomson

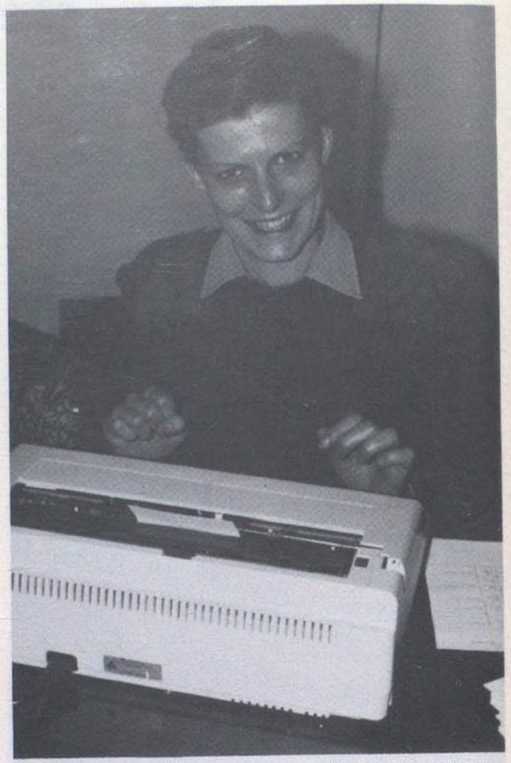
38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

CIVIC VISIT

We were very pleased to receive a visit from the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, **Councillor Frank Prince**, during our recent field exercise. The Lord Mayor spent a whole day with the two Sheffield Sqns, HQ and 64, lunching with 902 Sig Tp/SHQ/HQ at the Arctic site at Driffield before going on the the Delta Tp elements at Church Fenton. **Councillor Prince** has proved to be a particularly good friend of the unit since he assumed office — he typifies the respect and affection held by the good people of Sheffield for the military.

Other very welcome visitors have been **Rev Peter Dodd**, Senior Chaplain NE District and a very old friend and close associate of the Corps; **Brig Dick Mundell**, Dep Comd NE District; **Col Jeremy Towler**, Comd Maint NE/NW Districts and **Brig John Russell**, Comd 2 Sig Bde. We were also joined by **Col Alan Hawksworth**, who as our Honorary Colonel is not regarded just as a visitor, during our concentrated training weekend at Scarborough.

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Frank Prince, lines up with members of 902 Sig Tp (*L to R*: Sig Stuart Sinclair, LCpl James Hartley, Pte Angela Drabble, Sig David Hall, the Lord Mayor, Sig Steven Plant, Sig Shaun Rick, Sgt Jim Mees and Sig Paul Parker)



2Lt Kate McConachie lends a hand (or rather two fingers) in the compiling of the place cards and seating plan for the Regimental Dinner at Scarborough

Maj Bob Barnes confers with the Hon Col, Col Alan Hawksworth, on recruiting matters during the concentrated training weekend at Scarborough

SKILL AT ARMS

Congratulations to the following for their success at our recent Regimental SAAM:

SSgt Szulakowski (64)	Best Rifle Shot
Pte Hardy (87) WRAC	Joint Best Young Soldier with Rifle
Cfn Renwick (HQ)	Joint Best Young Soldier with Rifle
Sig Parker (64)	Best SMG Shot
Sig Burton (87)	Best Young Soldier with SMG
SSgt Pearson (87)	Best Pistol Shot
LCpl Hollingworth (87)	Best WRAC Rifle and SMG Shot
Pte Wild (93)	Best WRAC Young Soldier with Rifle
Pte Poole (64)	Best WRAC Young Soldier with SMG
Pte Chauter (93)	Best WRAC Pistol Shot

87 Sqn carried off the Male Championship Trophy and the LMG Cup whilst 46 Sqn scooped the WRAC Rosebowl, the Rifle Trophy and the Falling Plates Cup and Shield.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done! to **Mike Philip** on his promotion to Captain and to **Mike Petty** and **Alan Whittle** who have removed the obstacle of the Lt-Capt promotion exam from their paths to that rank with their recent very good results at the TA Royal Signals examination.

OPENING OF THE GLEN PARVA TA CENTRE

After 19 long years cooped up in the restricted accommodation at the Brentwood Road TA Centre, the Leicester Det of 46 Sqn moved to the luxurious surrounds of Glen Parva Barracks where the old depot of the Leicestershire Regiment has been imaginatively converted into super TA accommodation. The Grand Opening took place on 28 March '87 when the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, **Col St J. Martin OBE JP**, officially opened the centre after inspecting the Guard of Honour of personnel from the units sharing the barracks, 46 Sqn; 16 Lincoln Coy 4 Para; 118 Recovery Coy REME and the Leicestershire ACF. The Corps was handsomely represented at the ceremony by the presence of the SOinC, **Maj Gen Paul Alexander and Mrs Alexander**. Other Corps guests were **Col Peter Myhill**, Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde, and **Mrs Myhill; Col Alan Hawksworth**, Hon Col, and **Mrs Hawksworth; Lt Col Mike Panton**, SO2 Tels E District and **Lt Col Nick Henwood**, lately CO 38 Sig Regt. Regimental guests were **Lt Col Steve Coltman**, CO; **Lt Col Toby Seymour**, 2IC, and **Mrs Seymour**; and **Maj David Podevin**, Trg Maj. The hosts from 46 Sqn escorted their guests around the various displays before the serving of the splendid buffet provided by the 46 Sqn cooks led by **Capt Cliff Webb** and served by the Regimental team led by **WO2 Joe Hodgson**.

Maj Terry Phillips, OC 46 Sqn, hands the Certificate for Outstanding Recruit awarded to Pte Karen Kavanagh at her Guildford Recruits Course. Pte Kavanagh joined in November 1986

Brig Dick Mundell, Dep Comd NE District, welcomes OCdt Kath Warhow into the Officers' Mess following her award of a cadetship. Pte Barbara Palmer of the Mess staff looks on pensively thinking of her own prospects whilst Lt Col Steve Coltman, CO, smiles benignly

EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON*

An Account by OCdt V. Walker WRAC

It is not often that members of 38 Sig Regt are given the chance to go abroad on exercise, so when 210 Sig Sqn (24 Inf Bde) asked for Radio Operators from the Regiment to join them on exercise, three members of 87 Nottm Sig Sqn were not slow in volunteering their services. So on Thursday 5 February, **Cpl Marvin, LCpl Orme** and **Sig Bateman** were packed off to Gaza Barracks not really knowing what the next two weeks held in store for them.

From Catterick they travelled to Osnabruck, Germany via Europort, Rotterdam. This in itself was an experience as driving on the 'wrong' side of the road was completely new to the three volunteers.

The three Radio Operators were placed with their respective troops, **Cpl Marvin** with Oscar Tp **LCpl Orme** and **Sig Bateman** with Papa Tp, where they were quickly adopted into the radio detachments.

The exercise consisted of tactical moves working in the radio complex, helping to set up and work with what was, for them, completely different equipment, for the various stages of the exercise.

Moving mainly at night, a large area of Germany was covered on the following days. From seemingly endless muddy corners of farms, factory units and warehouses, sleep and snatched as, when and wherever possible, only to be broken after much too short a time to stand guard, operate the radio or to start yet another move.

Finishing at Detmold the chance to sample a little of the social scene was readily accepted.

Arriving back in the UK on Sunday 22 February the three Radio Operators were tired but more experienced in the communications war.

The Operators would like to thank 210 Sig Sqn for the opportunity to exercise with them this year, and hopefully prove that the Territorial Army is part of 'the Army', and that other members of the squadron will be invited to join them on future exercises.

Our thanks go to 210 for their hospitality from **Cpl 'Hank Marvin, LCpl 'Orrible' Orme, Sig 'Sam' Bateman**.

EASTERN DISTRICT ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIP

A team consisting of **Maj Terry Phillips** (OC), **Capt David Etherton** (OC Leicester Det) and **Sgt Martin Aubrey** (PSI Tech) represented 46 Sqn in the recent competition. **Maj Terry** won first place in the 40 class and **Capt David** was first in the 45 class — well done! **Lt Helen Roy** and **2Lt Rhona McPhail** represented the Squadron in the WRAC competition.

PRINTS AVAILABLE FROM THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM SHOP

All are limited editions:- 100 Copies signed by the Artist
200 Unsigned copies

Title and Artist	*Brief Description*	*Approx Size*	*Cost*
'Go to it' by **Peter Archer**	Depicts **Cpl Thomas** action at Caen Canal Bridge June 1944 for which he was awarded the MM.	21ins by 17ins	£8.00 Unsigned Copy only
'Frontier ambush' by **Peter Archer**	Ambush of a Signals Detachment by NW Frontier Tribesmen August 1924. **Sgt Cook** and **Sig Punter** shown attending wounded Indian Signaller and returning fire.	30ins by 26ins	£16.00 Signed Copy £10.00 Unsigned Copy
'San Carlos Water'	Depicts elements of 30 Sig Regt landing at San Carlos. (This Painting is the property of 30 Sig Regt—the Museum acts as their Agent.)	26ins by 21ins	£3.00 Unsigned Copy

39 Sig Regt(SC) (V)
City of London

THE VISIT OF THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON

On 30 January we were honoured with a visit from **The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor Sir David Rowe-Ham GBE, DLitt** when accompanied by the Aldermanic Sheriff, the Lay Sheriff and The Duty Esquire he visited the Regiment's Headquarters. The Lord Mayor was met by a Guard of Honour provided by the WRAC of the Regiment and a Quarter Guard provided by HQ and 1 Sqns.

The Lord Mayor presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to **SSgt (FofS) McCartney** and **SSgt (YofS) Oates** and then went on to meet other senior members of the Regiment, namely **WO2 (RQMS) Atherton, WO2 (QMSI) Wilmot, SSgt (YofS) Riding, SSgt (ORQMS) Harley, Sgts 'Dave' Clark** and **'Agee' Clarke**.

Maj Fisher then escorted The Lord Mayor around the Regiment where he saw an exhibition of traffic handling incorporating one of the Regiment's HF Syncal radios. He visited the Lynx club where he took the opportunity to have informal chats with most members of the Regiment.

The visit concluded with dinner in the Officers' Mess with the Corps Band in attendance.

Having a friendly chat with WO2 Wilmot WRAC

Guard of Honour *L to R:* Ptes Brown, Rowe, Breach, LCpls Roylance, SSgt Baker

Maj Fisher, assisted by Sig Seamen, explaining to the Lord Mayor how the Syncal works

Presentation of LS & GC to SSgt (FofS) McCartney, SSgt (YofS) Oates
Background L to R: LCpl Morris, WO2 Atherton, WO2 (QMSI) Wilmot, Sgts Clark, 'Agee' Clarke

WO1 (RSM) Stone being introduced to the Lord Mayor

SSgt Baker sharing a joke with the Lord Mayor in the Lynx Club: In the background Ptes Vince, Rowe, Sig Sene

WO2 Atherton with the Lord Mayor

FOCUS ON 1 SQUADRON (LONDON)

WHO'S WHO:

OC	**Maj Ian Fisher TD**
2IC	**Capt Malcolm Bryan**
Cipher Officer	**2Lt Wendy Cameron WRAC**
Admin Officer	**Lt Helen Hay WRAC**
Troop Officers	**Lt James Abell**
	Lt Mark Bretton
	Lt Paul Willmott
SSM	**WO2 Dave Williams**
PSI	**Sgt Chris Marshall WRAC**

INTRODUCTION

Write a few words about the Squadron—easy I thought, but how wrong can you be? A lot has happened since the Squadron returned from summer camp in July. For a start we've been re-roled, and so having bidden farewell to our faithful D11's (yes, someone still uses them) we set about learning our new task of providing Regimental Commcen, maintaining our landrover based Syncal stations, and providing specialist and parachute Detachments. As a result the Squadron, as we knew it, has changed completely, with each of the three Troops being re-organised around our new role.

EXERCISES

Ex *Fisher Bank* was not quite the exercise we knew from the past. Instead of the normal military training exercise the Regiment embarked on a major comms weekend to test each of the Squadron's new roles. The commcen under the guidance of **Lt James Abell, 2Lt Wendy Cameron, Sgt Heather Parkhouse, Sgt Veronica Grace** and

SSgt (FofS) McCartney, SSgt (YofS) Oates and 'Unit' photographer Sgt Marshall

our new PSI **Sgt Chris Marshall** opted to stay in the TAC and concentrate on perfecting their new skills, whilst the field Detachments headed for windy Thetford, with 3 Sqn (Tunbridge Wells), to work to 2 Sqn from north of the border. This was a reasonably successful exercise, even our traffic managed to elude the Scottish customs officials as it passed by them at least twice.

Ex *Dogger Bank* was held a month later. Traditionally this is one of our major annual exercises. **Capt Malcolm Bryan** decided (rank has its privileges) to spend a week in Cyprus, and took a number of the Squadron with him, namely **Sgt Veronica Grace, Cpl Mark Lawrence, Sig Gary Thomas, Jim Griffiths, Dave Hedges, Didor Tuzcu, Ptes Kim Waite, Lorraine Bird** and **Donna Leech**. Mind you they weren't there to enjoy themselves, instead they had to man two links back to the UK, although they didn't lose the opportunity to let everyone in the commcen know how good a time they were having. Whilst the Cyprus bunch were sunning themselves, the rest of the Squadron headed for Hankley Common, a rain swept boggy marshland specifically designed to show our newest members what soldiering is all about. Whilst the Squadron deployed the commcen into the field for the first time on a live exercise, we also had the privilege of deploying the Regiment's first mobile 'specialist' Detachment, with **Lt Paul Willmott, LCpls Hilary Breach, Julie Roylance** and **Sig Wickens** taking the honours.

Ex *Runnel Stone* in bleak November once again saw the Squadron fully committed with the commcen UK based, and the parachute and field detachments in Denmark. This was an extremely successful exercise with those in Denmark pitting their military skills against the Danish Home Guard. Whilst the field Detachment busied themselves with passing intelligence (of sorts) back to the UK, the Paras went off to live up their reputation, whizzing around in Puma's, dropping out of the sky on unsuspecting farmers (and trees), and generally making their presence felt.

LCpl Hillary Breah and Pte Alison Burn, relaxing in Denmark during Ex *Runnel Stone*

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

RECRUITING

Despite having our headquarters within the City of London, recruiting has been consistent. Most potential recruits are introduced by members of the Squadron, and we are now getting more ex-regulars (from all three services), or transfers from other TA units to swell our ranks. The Squadron has a catchment area of around 40 miles, so there is a fair mix of people from within the Squadron and this leads to a good unit social life. Of course we are always looking for new people, so if you are interested please get in touch.

Pte Jane Wellstead on recruit selection

SOCIAL

Although we've been working hard over the past few months, we've also played hard too. On Squadron weekends Saturday night tends to be party night, and the OC, **Maj Ian Fisher** found out, like many before him, that playing games in the field when **Pte Bill Derks**, the cook, is in charge of the rules is not a game to get wrong (is it Sir?), and if **LCpls Lindsay Frost, Julie Roylance** and **Pte Debbie Augood** are also involved then you might as well give up anyway.

The Squadron matchmaker has also been doing overtime in recent months, with the marriages of **Cpl Darryl Frost** and **LCpl Lindsay Pugh**, and also of **Sig Tony Mather** and **Pte Donna Leach**. Meanwhile **Lt Mark Bretton** announced his engagement to **Lt Leah Doughty RAEC/WRAC** (presently serving in Krefeld), and promptly booked his wedding on the weekend of a major exercise (as if that will stop us). Our hopes and wishes go out to them all (and also the couple who announced their engagement at the Christmas Party weekend—we know who you are).

CITY LINKS

When not on exercise the Squadron together with others is heavily committed providing ceremonial guards for the Lord Mayor of London. This year the Guard of Honour provided by the City of London TA Units which forms up at the Mansion House to greet the Lord Mayor after the annual procession was commanded by **Maj Ian Fisher** (anyone see us on the TV?). More recently, the Lord Mayor visited the TAC in London, during which time he met many members of the Squadron, had a few drinks with the Troops, and dined with the Officers. On this occasion the Guard of Honour was commanded by **Lt Paul Willmott**, who broke last year's record of 10 minutes for changing from service dress to mess kit by a clear two minutes.

Finally, 1986 saw the Regiment's turn to provide the WRAC TA representatives for the annual Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall in November, and all locations (Dundee, Banbury, Tunbridge Wells and London) were represented. **Pte Debbie Augood** proudly marched across the floor as the 1 Sqn representative.

VISIT OF THE SOinC

The Regiment once again had the pleasure of welcoming the Signal Officer-in-Chief on his first visit to the TAC at Clonaver Park, Belfast. The visit took place on a normal Drill night on Tuesday 3 March 1987.

He arrived at 1945 hrs and after discussions with the CO he toured the TAC visiting recruits, weapon training, miniature range, band practice, DTg training and workshops.

At the end of training he attended a supper with the Regimental Officers and SNCOs during which he was presented with an Irish Blackthorn Cane as a memento of his visit to Ulster.

The SOinC chats to 2Lt David Given and SSgt Tommy Caines while Cpl Moates tries to pinch his wallet when the CO's not looking

Now this is the way we used to do it. SOinC chats to Pte Karen Johnson

SOinC chats to Cpl Canning in the Tech Workshops

What's keeping him? SOinC chats to Ptes Sheena Cassidy and Christine Marks while Pte Alison Dangely times him!

BAND NOTES

On Sunday 8 March the Regimental Flute Band gave an hour long performance at the local Geriatic Hospital. The music and 'crack' was very much enjoyed by both patients and staff and the band was entertained to tea and sticky buns afterwards.

Sister Maureen Elliot poses for the camera with Bandleader WO2 Harry Lee after the band performance at the Geriatric Hospital

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Capt (QM) Gordon Platts has departed for 14 Sig Regt and we send him and his wife **Joyce** all our best wishes for the future. A warm welcome is extended to **Capt (QM) Brian Hudson** and his wife **Susan** after his tour with the Northumbrian UOTC.

A welcome also to **WO1 (RSM) John Campbell** and his wife **Peggy** after his tour with the UK Support Unit Shape and goodbye and best wishes to **WO1 (RSM) Dave Brown** and his wife **Elaine**. **Mr Brown** left on commissioning for 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt.

Capt (QM) Gordon Platts hands over to Capt (QM) Brian Hudson

WO1 (RSM) Dave Brown hands over to WO1 (RSM) John Campbell

CONGRATULATIONS

To **WO1 Peter Dring** on winning the Army Cross Country Veterans Championship and also the Army Half Marathon Veteran's Championship.

Also to brothers **SSgt Bernard Hume** and **LCpl Joseph Hume** who won the Mens' Double Final and the Northern Ireland Badminton Champtionship. **SSgt Hume** also won the Men's Single Final and with **Sgt Collette Murray** also won the Mixed Doubles Final.

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. K. Ewbank**
2IC	**Capt A. J. Madsen**
Adjt	**Maj S. C. Firbank LI**
QM	**Maj H. A. C. Meekings**
Tfc Offr	**Capt R. C. Papworth**
OC A Tp	**Capt R. F. M. Cousins**
OC B Tp	**Lt I. Hooper**
OC C Tp	**SSgt D. Thomas**
TCO	**Capt G. A. Morgan RCT**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) G. C. Air**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) C. S. J. Phillips**
YofS 1	**WO2 (YofS) C Newby**
YofS 2	**SSgt (YofS) B. Hayward**
Ch Clk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) G. Manning**

WELCOME

The Squadron has had a turbulent period recently saying hello and goodbye to most of the personalities. We welcome the new OC, **Maj John Ewbank** and **Denise** and bid farewell to **Maj Martin Stretch,** lost somewhere in the MOD. Congratulations to **Capt Alan Madsen** on his promotion to 2IC from Charlie Tp and farewell to **Capt Jim Clark** and **Eileen** off to sunny Cyprus after JCSC. **Lt Ivan Hooper** arrived and took over the running of the Squadron ski camp from **Lt Paul Bailey**. We bid him and his wife **Caroline** farewell and good luck with Sainsburys (pies, pastries and sausages). We congratulate **RSM Bailes** on his commissioning and welcome **RSM Air** to the fold. Congratulations also to **RQMS Ernie Feasey** on his promotion and posting as RSM to 71 Sig Regt (V) and welcome **RQMS John Clark** from Cyprus. We also bid a fond farewell to **Sgt Pete Johnston RAPC** and **Treve Daley REME, Cpls Nigel Kirk RAPC, Graham Cornish RCT, Barry McLaughlin, Dave Sands, Steve Nobbs** and **LCpl Steve Burrows**. In return we welcome **Sgts Tony Gregg** (no relation), **Geoff Prewitt RAPC** and **Andy Hunter REME, Cpls Vic Thompson, Andy Owen, Tony Meakin RCT** and **Andy Peat RCT, LCpls Les Lingard, Dave Standing** and **WLCpl Paula Jeffery WRAC/RAPC.**

EXERCISE *DOWN FALL*

Under the dynamic leadership of **Lt Ivan Hooper**, fresh from his TC course, the Squadron travelled north to Grantown-on-Spey on its annual (hint) ski camp. The advance party under the guidance of **Lt Ivan 'excuse me could you tell me what time the bar shuts' Hooper** and **Sgt 'I'm fed up with all this free skiing I get with Royal Signals' Woodcock** departed on a Friday midnight to make sure the 'no snow' programme was secured. By the time the main party arrived the advance party had established that the bar closed in October and there was some snow. The main party was keen to discover what exactly the 'lech' (Lecht) ski resort was like. Orange smocks, short hair, convertible green 3.5 litre, 4 WD hatchbacks and racing snowploughs meant 'oh no, not another military party' for the locals. While the posers group disappeared to the upper slopes **LCpls Ray Lippe, 'Stretch' Wilson** and **Steve Franklin** beasted the less able. **Sgt Jeff Woodcock** helped occasionally when he wasn't busy helping poor Scottish widows with their bindings.

On the Wednesday the new OC 'Maj Who?' arrived, turning his nose up at the Osprey and Eagle runs and demanding that the 2IC, **Capt Jim Clark** discover a PTARMIGAN run. After many days of hot sunshine it was disappointing that the 'Grand Slalom' on the last day took place in wet snow and dense mist.

Everyone entered into the spirit of the race 'What Slalom Poles' and the results were as follows:

	Posers	**Beginners**
1st	**Sig Lodge**	**Sig Lyons**
2nd	**Cpl Carter**	**Sig Clark**
3rd	**Sig Price**	**Sig Parsons**

Special awards went to **Sgt 'Car wax is best' Lynch** for his high speed skills straight through the poles, to **Pte 'Ginge' Ashmon** using a ski as a splint and to the most novice beginner, **Sig 'Flash' James.**

The week culminated with an untraditional 'traditional Scottish' evening' with the live folk group sending everybody to sleep. Rumours that **YofS Chris Newby** is leaving the Squadron to become a roadie are unfounded.

WINTER SPORTS CUP

Results of the winter Sports Cup were as follows:

	A	B	C	Q	SHQ	MT/LAD	BRIGADE
X Country	1st	2nd	7th	6th	6th	4th	3rd
Volleyball	3rd	6th	2nd	1st	5th	7th	3rd
Hockey	5th	7th	6th	1st	3rd	4th	2nd
Rugby	7th	4th	6th	5th	3rd	2nd	1st
Basketball	7th	2nd	5th	1st	6th	4th	3rd
Swimming	4th	3rd	2nd	7th	1st	6th	5th
Football	1st	3rd	2nd	5th	4sth	6th	7th
Overall Results	5th	6th	2nd	3rd	4th	6th	1st

OFFICERS AND SNCO's VERSES THE REST, RUGBY

Once again the annual clash between the 'Young and Virile' and the 'Old and Bold' produced sterling rugby. It has been noticed that it is about time that some of the 'Old and Bold' realised that they are no longer nor ever will be David Duckhams or Phil Orrs. Much blackmailing went on this year to ensure a victory for the Officers and Seniors but alas due to pressure of work (and good sense) four players were not available! Undeterred the 'Old and Bold' hobbled on to the warm spring pitch with high hopes. The game had been deferred from 1 April for obvious reasons. From the kick off the aim was to attack the juniors using superior intelligence and strength if not speed, before the seniors were worn out. The pressure on the juniors held them in their own half until **Capt Steve Johns** (SO3 G1!) scored from a well placed drop kick. It was pressure again with the old forwards winning most ball due to the largest (15½ stone) fly half making the connection with **Capts Simon King** and **Steve Johns**. Many 'thrusting' movements were tried by the wings **Capt Jim Clark** and **Lt Ivan Hooper** to no avail. At last **Maj Ken Lawson** went over under the posts but was not converted, 7—0!

The over-confident seniors were then taken by surprise by the young and virile juniors. Two tries were scored by the juniors in both corners in short succession. The first, scored by **Cpl Steve Casson** forcing his way valiantly over in the righthand corner, and the second by **Sig Harry Harwood** playing both attacking and defending rugby. In the forwards **Sig Phil Carter** at wing forward succeeded in producing game a mention needs to be made of the efforts of **Sig John Streamer** and **Sig Taff Ryder** playing fine attacking rugby and **Sig Harry Harwood** playing both attacking and defending rugby. In the forwards **Sig Phil Carter** at wing forward succeeded in producing many bruises on the seniors side. The portly props of **Sig Frank Baker** and **LCpl Dave Standing** stood up well against the seniors. On the Officers and SNCOs side credit must go to **Capt Ray Papworth** and **Sgt Steve 'if it moves break it' Meachin** and the youngest member of the forwards, **Sgt Jim 'I can't get my feet of the ground' Monkman**.

Shortly afterwards the Officers and SNCOs lost two members, **Sgts Jeff Woodcock** and **Steve Winterburn** due to old age, flat batteries, damaged shoulders and ribs. With only one reserve available a likely spectator, **SSgt Dave Thomas** was called upon in his denims and boots. After a period of re-grouping the elderly still were not without their problems. With aching knees, hands, joints and backs the seniors secured a penalty kick by **Capt Steve Johns** (Welsh, you see), 10—8!

At half time after a pep talk and a lie down the seniors had their batteries re-charged. The juniors however had also had some orange juice and took them by surprise. As the seniors were looking forward to a free pint in the Bradley Club **LCpl John Forbes** took a quick penalty and **LCpl Dave Standing** went over for a try but alas unconverted, 10—12!

The most amusing incident happened when a scrum, close by the spectators produced possession for the seniors thanks to **SSgt John Parish** hooking. The ball passed unnoticed through the legs of scrum half **FofS John Phillips** and lay in dead ground with everyone mesmerised by a confused Foreman circling aimlessly out of sight of the ball. The situation resolved itself by target indication.

For the final 20 minutes experience was the only thing the seniors had going for them in lieu of fitness. At last the final whistle ended the misery and embarrassment of all and a free pint beckoned. The final score was 12—10 to the juniors and well deserved, better luck or judgement next year.

THE OLD AND BOLD

Maj Ken Lawson, Capts Ray Papworth, Jim Clark, Bob Cousins, Steve Johns, Simon King, WO1 John Phillips, SSgts John Parish, Dave Tennick, Sgts Bill Fielder, Jeff Woodcock, Steve Winterburn, Tony Day, Steve Meachin and **Sgt Jim Monkman.**

THE YOUNG AND VIRILE

Cpls Rich Hannah, Steve Casson, LCpls Scott Adam, Mick Shaw, John Forbes, Dave Standing, Mark Langley, Sig Grank Baker, Adrian Heath, Harry Harwood, Taff Ryder, John Streamer, Dvr Taff Evans, Sig Adams Maggs, Phil Carter and **Cfn McGurk.**

TO PLAY LATER

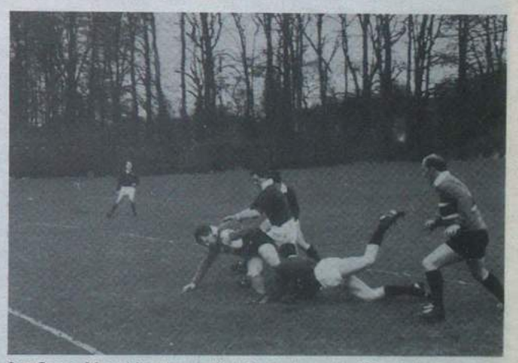
Lt Ivan Hooper and **SSgt Dave Thomas.**

The old and bold team

The young and virile team

Sig John Streamer and Sgt Bill Fielder compete for possession

Capt Ray Papworth stopped in his tracks with Maj Ken Lawson in verbal support



Sgt Steve Meachin stopped in his tracks with SSgt John Parish in support

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

MONTGOMERY LINES GOSSIP

Proving once again that time waits for no man — not even Airborne warriors, the Squadron enters the spring with a hat full (please excuse the expression) of overseas commitments.

Bravo Troop have just returned from France and Ex *Panache Breton*, the Squadron is deployed to Cyprus on Ex *Lion Sun* in May and a lucky few are bound for the Caribbean on Ex *Nickel Mercury* in June. With our daily routine enlightened by the PRE Team, the Fleet half marathon and the RSM's farewell celebrations, there hasn't even been time to repaint the square! (Apologies to our ex-RSM (now **Capt John Aspinall**).

In the space of a month the Squadron Orderly Room has been the next department to be hit by the OC's silver tongued trips to Manning and Records. The two men and a dog (no jokes please!) are now supported by **Sig Bryan** and **Pengilley** and the maroon bereted **Cpl Ginge Hurford**. Welcome also to the main man the new Chief Clerk **SSgt Nobby Clark** (unbelievable!) and sad farewells to **SSgt (ORSQMS) Steve Hutchins** and **Cpls Andy Butterworth** and **Bill McKenna**. Thank you and good luck in your new jobs.

The Squadron also said goodbye to **Cpl Pete Wathey** from the QM's department. Good luck — I hope the beer is less potent in York. Also farewell to **Cpl Martin Richards** and **Sgt Bob Porter** from the same department. **Cpl Richards** is moving on to SHAPE.

ALPHA TROOP

Alpha Troop saw March arrive with a trip to London to visit the Imperial War Museum. After a good day, all members of the Troop returned more cultured and sober to boot! (a first for the Troop Sgt at least). The hassled members of the Troop would like to say a fond farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Aspinall** and wish him well as a 'Wodney'. He will be particularly missed by **LCpl 'it's outrageous' Rosser** and **Sig Spike 'yet more nick' Evans.**

The Troop has been very busy with commitments to Squadron CPXs, Ex *Winter*, Ex *Panache Breton* and tent erecting at Shrivenham and a glorious PRE. The end of March saw **Sgt Barnett, Cpls Couszins** and **Bauress** deploy to Scarborough to give instruction on the 321/320 to 32 Sig Regt (TA). The smiles on their faces are still there for all to see. We also deployed a section to France to play as enemy for the RMAS, the smiles on their faces being even broader. Morale was dealt a swift kick when we returned for PRE, each man to a tom picking up a paint brush and an adjustable. We are now halfway through the inspection and someone has just mentioned 'A' job on one of our Rovers, so dear readers before I dash to 'take cover' we'd like to say welcome to all new Troop members and please collect paint brush and coveralls from those departing: **Cpl Horan** — posted NI, **Cpl Chillcot** 566 RLD, **LCpl Rosser** 566 RLD, **Sig Parker** 565 RLD, **Sig Phelps** 566 RLD.

The Boss, Capt John Lugg reflecting on his Sandhurst days during his appointment as Enemy Platoon Commander on Ex *Panache Breton* with Normandy Coy RMAS

BRAVO TROOP

Recent activities in the Troop have seen the lads turning their hand to interior and exterior decorating — better known as PRE! Congratulations you've all done very well.

Of course it was a rush to fit it all in before our most recent trip to Brittany, on Ex *Panache Breton* to play a very convincing enemy for Normandy Coy, from the RMAS. Their 28 weeks basic training never really prepared them for the French Resistance; alias Bravo Troop. One thing can be said, however, their bar work has improved and I'm sure it will put them on the right lines for their future careers.

5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

We welcome back into the Troop, (for a second try) **Cpl Rod Cowan** and say hello to **Sig Sid James.**

Promotions: Congratulations to **Cpl Eric Udell** on coming top on his RSDCC. His promotion is well deserved as is the promotion to LCpl of **Sig Mobey Whale** and **Sig 'Cider Mission' Jones.** We also welcome the return of **Sgt Dave Catchpole** and **LCpl Dave Hindley** from their RSSSC and RSDCC respectively, **Dave Catchpole** coming a convincing second place.

The lads are now looking forward to a well deserved Easter Leave whilst preparing for Ex *Lion Sun* in Cyprus during May.

WITH GREAT REGRET

It is with very much sadness that Bravo Troop express their deepest regret at the loss of **Sig Tony Bennett.** He is greatly missed. All members of the Troop send their condolences and best wishes to **Julie** and his family.

Normandy Coy's enemy prepare for action — Sgt 'Strings' Stringer and the boys with everything under control

TM TROOP

Sgt Rog (The Dodge) Taylor was attached to 2 Para for Ex *Grand Prix* — a six week exercise in Kenya. He was kept busy providing second line repair facilities using the Marconi 2955 Radio Test Set. R+R was a week's safari returning with many stories from being stampeded by elephants to killing lions with bare hands!

Back in the 'Shot' the Troop has undergone plenty of changes in the last few months, with the wayward Powermen now under the protective wing of the Tech's. Congratulations are in order to **John Black** on his promotion to Sergeant and to **George Webb** for keeping his so long.

Just a few welcomes to the Troop for **Cpl Taff (the secretary) Wilce**, also **Sig Honeyman** and **Sig Woodward** the new EDs all of whom are on Pre Para this month and to **LCpls Matt (Mr Clansman) Wigley** and **Dave (Thrapman) Chapman** who have both recently completed their jumps courses despite creaming in on virtually every drop.

Farewells to **Cpl John (Witless) Whity** on posting and of course to **Cpl Willie Nicol**, the finest R+I clerk any unit could hope for, on his banishment to 8 Sig Regt.

LCpl Taff Bowen minutes before being run over by a tank on Ex *Panache Breton*

Dining Out of WO1 (RSM) and Mrs J Aspinall Tuesday 17 March 1987

Rear Row: Sgts Jones, Porter, Black, Richards, Scowcroft, SSgt Nielsen, Sgts Davies, Stringer, Whittick, Molloy, Webb, Sleeman, Hutchinson

Third Row: WO2 (RQMS) Thomas, Mrs Black, Mrs Richards, Mrs Scowcroft, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Nielsen, Miss Parker, Mrs Stringer, Mrs Withey, Mrs Teece, Mrs Molloy, SSgts Duncan, Humble

Second Row: 2Lt Brammer, SSgt (ORSQMS) Hutchins, Mr Hodgeson, WO1 (FofS) Jackson, Capt Lugg, Capt (QM) Kirkman, WO1 (RSM) Aspinall, Maj Shipley, Capts Bateson, Hamilton, WO2 (SQMS) Holbrook, Mr Alder, SSgt (SQMS) Shaw, Capt Gillespie

Front Row: Mrs Hutchins, Mrs Barry, Mrs Jackson, Capt Lugg (QARANC), Mrs Kirkman, Mrs Aspinall, Mrs Shipley, Lt De La Haye (QARANC), Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Holbrook, Mrs Alder, Mrs Shaw

WOI (RSM) GOES QUIETLY

A tradition started by himself was carried out in predictable style by **RSM 'Chopper' Aspinall** as he prepares to cultivate his Barnsley accent and cock his little finger around his tea cup.

The time honoured visit to the Basingstoke Canal by Officers and Seniors leaving the Squadron was cleverly disguised as assault course training by the new Training Wing heads **SSgt Nick Nielsen** and **Sgt Ricky Richards.** Unfortunately the disguise then involved carrying the RSM almost a mile to the water's edge! In predictable style he managed to drag half the Line Section with him as he rolled like a beached whale to the edge of the canal. As the remainder of the Squadron grappled with his writhing body **Capts Bateson** and **Gillespie** stood on top of Engineer's Bridge. As the laughter subsided

and further entertainment was sought realisation came too late for the two Captains as they tried to evade 60 maroon sweat shirts and any belief that either of them walked on water was quickly dispelled. Democracy then took over as one by one the seniors were despatched into the canal culminating with **SSgt Nielsen** (false shoulders and all) parading the Squadron at the canal edge and ordering them to swim across. Non swimmers were given Airborne encouragement and the early morning Fleet commuters were treated to the amusing sight of a freezing squad of soldiers making their way back to Montgomery Lines.

The members of the Squadron ended a love/hate relationship with **WO1 (RSM) 'Chopper' Aspinall** on Friday 27 March '87. At the end of his handover/takeover week with **WO1 Jess Harper** (he's the one with the black balaclava) the Squadron formed up on the hallowed and much repainted Arnhem Square. A surprised and for once almost silent **John (as such) Aspinall** proudly accepted his sword and sweater adorned with pips. The final touch was not accepted so graciously as a blue beret was sent skywards by a size 10 boot. Unfortunately that is probably the closest it will become to being Airborne in the sunny climes of Cyprus with 9 Sig Regt.

The Squadron is indebted to the RSM for his enthusiasm and professionalism and particularly for his love of Airborne Signals. I honestly believe there can be no better advert for 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn than **Mr Aspinall** and he has been respected and admired by both members of the Squadron and Brigade Staff throughout his tour in Aldershot. He will be greatly missed by all and the Squadron would like to take this opportunity to thank him and his wife **Carol** for everything they have done here.

On a sadder note I have to report that due to commissioning circumstances beyond our control 'The Aspinall School of Diplomacy' has been forced to close and any potential applicants should now direct their applications to OC A Troop **Capt Pete Gillespie** who deals in a similar line of straight talking.

RUNNERS UP SE DISTRICT MINOR UNITS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

As if to prove a point the 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Orienteering Team consisted of five officers and a lone representative of the Sergeants' Mess. As if to prove another point **Sgt Withey** came home with the fastest time finishing the 'A' course in a very creditable 10th place. **Maj Nick Fresson** paying us a rare visit from Planet Mars had a poor run by his incredible standards finishing in 31st place. The third 'A' course competitor **Capt Mark Rusby** had what is described in the trade as a concentration lapse and after having a three course lunch managed to finish in 95th place overall.

The teams' strength was undoubtedly in the 'B' course where the 2IC **Capt Nick Bateson** did a little bit to improve his map reading by finishing in 18th place closely followed by **Maj Bob Hill** and **Capt Ron Thwaites** in 22nd and 23rd places.

With a pocket calculator in hand this all added up to us losing to the Depot Para by about 15 mins and finishing as runners up in the Minor Units Competition. With better runs from the Man from Mars and **Capt Mark Rusby** remembering to take his compass with him we are looking forward to an even better result in the UKLF Championships on Saturday 25 April.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Changes in the Military telephone system took place on 12 January 1987. As a result RHQ is now obtained via the London District Exchange. The civil telephone number of RHQ is now 01 930 4466 and extension numbers are shown below.

Ext 8240	Regimental Secretary
Ext 8241	Assistant Regimental Secretary
Ext 8242	RHQ Office
Ext 8244	Welfare
Ext 8245	Association
Ext 8246	Editor/Assistant Editor *The Wire*
Ext 8247/8248	Accounts, including all matters relative to *Wire* subscriptions and distribution, change of address etc.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Davies**
2IC	**Capt Fraser Grant**
QM	**Capt (QM) Charles Homewood**
AO	**Capt Pauline Lucas WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt Fred Connor**
OC N Tp	**Lt Julian Bunce**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet**
MTWO	**WO1 Graham Jesty RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dougie Brisco**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Tom Ferry**
AQMS	**WO2 (AQMS) Paul Windsor REME**
CC	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Sandy Campbell**

1987 is a busy year. The Squadron recovered from Ex *Panthers Charge* on the Stanta Trg Area in time to catch the ferry to the Hook of Holland on 6 February. (We even managed to take our original landrovers with us.) Back to BAOR for *Flying Falcon '87*.

EXERCISE *FLYING FALCON '87*

The Squadron deployed to BAOR for the first major exercise of the year with few problems. Once **LCpl Dave O'Shea** and **Sig Al Garrard** had woken up, we were able to leave the docks at the Hook of Holland and drive to Germany. **Sig Russ Thorpe** and **Sean Fairfield** managed to miss the POL stop but finally we all arrived in Echelon. Oscar Troop established themselves in a wood yard and November Troop in a chicken farm as we entered the first week of the exercise. This proved to be quite gentle and by the weekend November Troop was occupying a very comfortable school while Oscar held out in a cement factory. 'Any chance of the weekend off, Sir?' enquired **Cpl Dave Cooke**.

Unlucky, for **Lt John Vlasto** had spent the first week preparing an evasion exercise. Rumours were rife and on Saturday morning all was revealed: three hours introduction on bashas, field cooking and patrolling then bricks of four were let loose on the hills for the next 18 hours. 30km later many had sore feet, and **Cpl Chris Drew** was pronounced winner, closely followed by the OC Sqn **Maj John Davies** and his driver **Sig Rod Helps**. Other notable performances included **Cpl John 'Pathfinder' Sexton**. . . Sunday was spent resting followed by a Squadron 'smoker' on Sunday evening.

The Squadron Smoker: Sgt Tim Wynn puts the QM, RSM, 2IC and Cpl Hayter on to his 'train'

EXERCISE *WINTER SALES*

The weekend's entertainment over, we eagerly awaited the arrival of the Brigade Staff on Monday for the beginning of the CPX. The new 2IC, **Capt Fraser Grant** also appeared for the first stage of his handover — welcome.

The weather rapidly deteriorated, but the countryside looks better covered in snow. November Troop were very reluctant to exchange their heated childrens home (how appropriate!) for a tent in the woods. Flexibility was a good shout.

The move back to Colchester was very successful as usual and the OC Squadron even managed to win a race this time (landrover class, Harwich to Colchester trophy).

EXERCISE *SNOW PANTHER*

The advance party left on 4 March for what (hopefully) is the Squadron annual skiing exercise in Scotland. Led by **Lt Julian Bunce** and **SSgt Time Haynes** the exercise consisted of two ten-day courses in downhill and cross country skiing. Snow conditions were not too good for the first week but we did manage some skiing. Much to the disappointment of the troops, langlauf was not possible!

Under the instruction of **Cpls Hoppy Hopkins, Greg Terry** and **LCpl Tony Waddington** all students learnt or revised the basics of downhill skiing and some even progressed to death defying stunts such as jumping fences. Some were better at this than others; no names, no pack drill but somehow **Sig** (now LCpl) **Dave Bronniman**'s name comes to mind.

On the days when skiing was not possible the programme included rock climbing, canoeing and hill walking. **Sig Al Garrard** learnt that trees, white water and canoes are a dangerous combination. On a final note, **Sig 'Dolly' Parton** produced a radical new design for the rear of a Renault 21. We liked it but the owner didn't.

MILITARY TRAINING

Meanwhile back in Colchester **Capt Fred Conner** was busy organising a programme of military training to occupy the rest of the Squadron. Highlights included night operations in the woods, trench construction and helicopter handling. The summer battle camp is now eagerly awaited.'

FROM THE FOREMAN'S DESK:

WO2 (FofS) Dougie Brisco made the following contribution:

ODE TO WAVELL

The Wavell system was under test,
system managers had to try their best,
they sent out sitreps every hour,
to ascertain the processing power.
This was achieved ever so slowly,
by the Wavell operators every so lowly,
but these men did not despair,
despite the greying of the hair.
Into the night all drawn and gaunt,
the orange glow began to haunt,
the operators at the mammoth chore,
until they were nearly at death's door.
As morning breaks it's off to bed,
a chance to rest the weary head,
off to dream 'why it has to be me',
the signals operator of the STE.

This was composed under field conditions during Ex *Flyng Falcon*.

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) BFPO 18

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj R. C. Etheridge**
2IC	**Capt G. Clark**
SSM	**WO2 A. W. Williams**
Ch Clk	**Sgt K. C. Hughes**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome the following new arrivals:

WO2 (SSM) and Mrs A. W. Williams, Sgt and Mrs K. C. Hughes, Sgt and Mrs A. C. Pagdin (RAPC), Cpl and Mrs J. D. Bryant, Cpl and Mrs D. A. Clarke, Cpl and Mrs P. S. Latimer, Cpl and Mrs S. R. Nobbs, Cpl M. Purnell, Cpl and Mrs K. Thurling, Sig and Mrs C. W. Snedden and Sig S. R. Chapman-Yates.

Thank you and good luck in your next posting to:

WO2 (SSM) and Mrs N. G. Brown, Sgt and Mrs A. B. Jackson, Sgt and Mrs P. J. Cotterill, Sgt and Mrs J. K. Green (RAPC), Sgt S. E. Sherry, Cpl and Mrs P. C. Headland, LCpl and Mrs R. O'Hara, LCpl and Mrs G. W. Birse and Sig and Mrs M. Neal.

WOs'AND SGTs' MESS DINING OUT

On 7 February the WOs' and Sgts' Mess dined out **WO2 (SSM) Neil Brown,** and his wife **Pat,** and **Sgt Barry Jackson** and his wife **Anne.** It started off in the AFCENT International Dining Hall with the PMC **WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson** keeping the soup from being burned while wondering where the OC and 2IC had gone to, but eventually they arrived and a splendid dinner was had by all. We finished by climbing Mount Everest (Block B staircase to the Mess). **Neil (the word is 'it's different' Browns** should by now be settled into his well deserved post of RSM 33 Sig Regt (V) and **Barry** for his last six months service with Comms and Security Group Loughborough. We say farewell and wish them and their families every success and happiness in their new postings.

Cpl Jeff Martin of 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) has made a remarkable recovery as shown by these stupendous results following major surgery in 1985:

March 86	Eindhoven half Marathon. £200 for charity.
April 86	HQ AFCENT International Triathlon—second overall.
October 86	Eindhoven Marathon—time 2 hrs 46 mins. £424 for charity.
86/87 Season	RCZ Cross Country League. Sixth overall individual.
1987	Selected for Inter Corps Cross Country championships. 14th overall individual, fifth Corps individual.
3 April 87	HQ AFCENT UK Triathlon—overall winner with 3760 points.
11 April 87	Bruggen 10 mile road Race—10th individual.
18 April 87	Rotterdam Marathon—time two hrs 43 mins

Cpl Martin being presented with HQ AFCENT UK Triathlon Winners Trophy by OC UKDSU, Wg Comd J. W. Davies RAF

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

EXERCISE *HARDFALL (SOUTH)* '87

During the months of February and March all of the normal comings and goings in the Squadron ceased for the annual deployment to Norway. For many this provided continuation training and for the rest an introduction to Arctic training. This training was so intense that the continuation course was almost pushed out and replaced in the Hagglunds.

ULVIK

For the second year in sucession the Squadron was based at the head of the Hardanger Fjord in the Brakanes Hotel, Ulvik. Although this is a small community all the locals were extremely friendly and helpful. However, it was disconcerting to find a Glaswegian Norwegian whose husband spoke with a Govan accent! South Wales and London were also well represented in the population.

TRAINING

For the first two weeks **YofS Terry Crosby** was given the unenviable task of putting the Squadron onto skis. To help him he had a group of posey Military Ski Instructors, and to hinder him NATO planks. For those individuals who excelled in the skiing, skins were presented, and for the 'Prima Donnas' snow shoes. The culmination of the ski training was the 10km Race and the 'Cook Pot'. The winner was **YofS Terry 'The course setter' Crosby** and the first novice was **LCpl Terry Dowse** who came in a very good 8th.

Now that the Squadron was mobile on skis and **YofS H. T. B. Elkan, Sgt 'Billy the Kid' Bull** and **Cpl Mick O'Brien** had learnt to stand up, the Arctic Survival phase started. **Lt Nigel Godbolt** took **Sgt Alec Sampson** and **Cpl Ozzy Osbourne** (the video team) aside. The Squadron was then issued 100lb Bergens, a steep hill or two, and crash barriers to play with. It was at this point that the Squadron was renamed 249 Sig Sqn ASF (L-S), ACE Static Force (Land-Soft). During this all members of the Squadron, by Platoons, spent three nights out, sleeping in ridge tents, tent sheets and brushwood shelters. As an added bonus, three members of each Platoon volunteered for swimming lessons, wearing skis and carrying rucksacks.

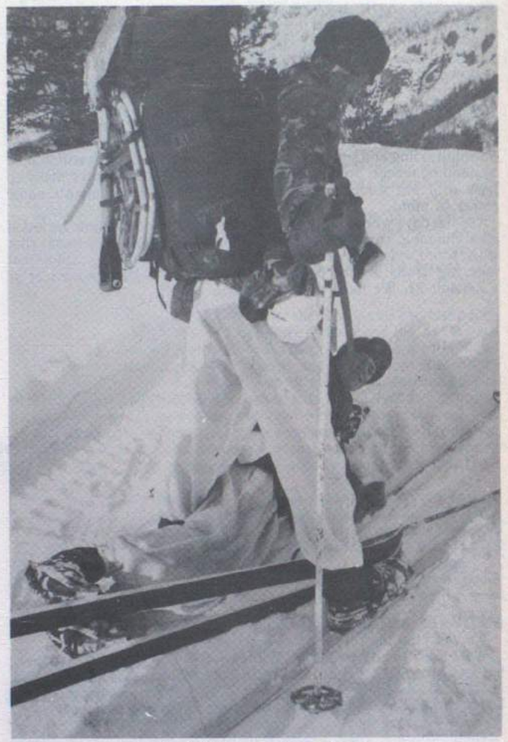
The next stage of the deployment was the Arctic Warfare Training. This involved the application of low level tactics to the Arctic conditions and this was covered in two exercises. The first was an itroduction to basic tactics, involving section battle drills, patrolling and the Platoon in defence. The final night of this phase was spent in a 'survival situation', in a real white-out living in snow holes and snow graves. **Cpl Whacko Jackson** and **Cpl Dave Kennedy** will verify the 'survival situation' after spending a frightening night watching the roof of their snow grave getting lower and lower as the safety patrols stomped around trying to find their entrance. The second exercise was *Pronto Skirmish* which allowed 249 Sig Coy to practise its newly learnt skills and fieldcraft and to provide Garibaldi biscuits for the visit of **Maj Gen F. Angioni**, Comd AMF(L). It also gave **Cpl 'Pathfinder' Waters** the chance to create an amphibious snow shoe Platoon, which could cope with ice-floes on lakes in the dead of night. The rest of the Platoon wish to stress that (L) stands for (Land).

In order to qualify as Arctic Warfare Trained individuals had to compete a 20km Biathlon race for the Squadron's Richmond Trophy. This was won by **Lt Mike Grimson**, and the first novice was **Sig Clinton** from 244 Sig Sqn, closely followed by **LCpl Charlie Challinor** in 22nd place.

On the last day of *Pronto Skirmish* **Col C. A. Brown** flew out to pay the Squadron his last visit as Comd 1 Sig Gp. During his tour he has given much time and attention to the Squadron and we are much indebted to him, and indeed to HQ 1 Sig Gp. Many thanks to all those who have helped us.

The final exercise of the deployment, *Eagles Domain*, allowed the Squadron a chance to return to the work of communications, and to provide an enemy Platoon for 1 Para. Over the five day exercise in the area of Voss, the locals became accustomed to heli-borne assaults, convoys of Volvos and the midnight para illuminating sun.

As well as the military training the Squadron also became involved with the local school, and a few other tasks. Shifting timber by Puma is a new sport and it has been heard that the Squadron clears a good area of brushwood.



Don't kick sand in my face

LCpl Tim Mackereth not even bothering to watch the 2IC Capt Wayne Coupland digging with an empty shovel

Lt Rob Healy 244 practising his ice cross skills

PR SCHOOL VISITS

During our time at the Brakanes Hotel the Headmaster and English teacher of the Brakanes School approached the Squadron with a view to helping out with their 'living English' lessons. Everyone backed off from the challenge except **WO2 (SSM) Gordon Shelley** and **Cpl 'Bob' Unsworth** who visited four classes in all and had a thoroughly enjoyable time in the process.

The format of each session began with a question and answer interlude and some of the questions proved very searching indeed!

What are the responsibilities of a Brigadier?

Do you like Norwegian girls?

Is the British Army food as bad as we have heard it is?

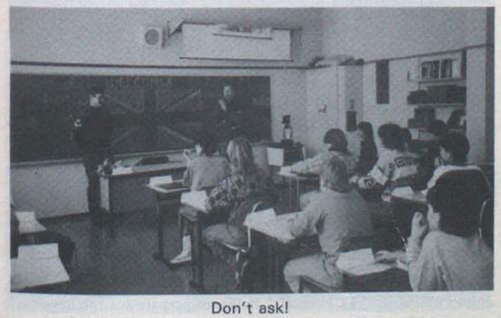
Can **Mrs Thatcher** ski?

Despite these the SSM bobbed and weaved and kept the party going explaining to the children that his job was to tuck up in bed each of the soldiers in turn and take them tea first thing each morning.

After the classroom the children flocked outside and clambered over **Cpl Ian Crawford** and **Sig Jason Barsley** as they sat in their detachment vehicle and queued for a ride in the Hagglund expertly driven by **LCpl Annie Barker**.

From Norway, the Squadron has returned to reality, Periodic REME Inspections, BFTs and so on. However, Turkey is in June.

The school kids in Ulvik



Don't ask!

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

HIGHLIGHT ON COMMCEN TROOP

ROLE

The Troop, the largest in the Squadron, is responsible for the running of the UN Commcen based with HQ UNFICYP in Nicosia. As well as maintaining our DCN circuit to the outside world for the benefit of all British troops serving with UN, we are responsible for seven other local circuits to all the different nationalities monitoring the Buffer Zone which runs the length of the Island between the Greek and Turkish cease fire lines. The Commcen also has a radio room and supplies a regular SDS service.

Commcen Troop — March 1987

First Row (Left to Right): Cpls B. Cable, R. Cookson, Sgt D. Hartshorne, WO1 (YofS) R. L. Waller, Cpls P. Fowkes, D. Murphy
Middle Row (Left to Right): Sig Armstrong, LCpl B. Leyshon, Sig P. Messenger, N. Ingram, LCpl S. Holdcroft, Sig R. Smales, D. Bird
Back Row (Left to Right): Sig M. Johnson, K. Ashfield, G. Ollington, N. Bond, A. McPhee, LCpl S. Lewton, Sig A. Speight

PERSONNEL

With the exception of the OC Tp, **WO1 (YofS) Bob Waller** and the Tp Sgt **Dave Hartshorne** who are on a two year tour, the Troop is consists of R Tgs and D Tgs on a six month detachment from 30 Sig Regt.

TOO MUCH WORK

Whilst Nicosia cannot claim the wealth of facilities available within the SBA's we still have some ideal opportunities for the soldiers to occupy their free time. **LCpl Steve Holdcroft** and **Sig Tony Speight** have just returned from a trip to Egypt and Israel. Having flown from Larnaca to Cairo, they spent three days sightseeing the nine pyramids and Sphinx at Giza. The nightlife was not what two young single soldiers quite imagined! However, this was soon rectified when they moved on to Israel staying at Eilat and Tel Aviv, which must rate as the most expensive places they have ever been to!

LCpl Steve Holcroft (the one holding the bottle)

Regular trips, especially to the Northern part of the Island are organised — as our the heavily subscribed trips to the local breweries! Windsurfing and sub-aqua courses are also readily avilable. On the sporting scene the Troop are to be found prominently to the fore in the majority of Squadron teams. **Cpls Brian Cable** and **Paul Fowkes** stroll around at the back of the football team providing the through balls for the whippets up front, namely **Sig Craig 'Dickie' Bird, Bobby Smales, Ollie Ollington** and **Tony Speight**, with **Dave Hartshorne** saying he gets paid for what he knows — not what he does!

VISITORS

The Squadron have had some VIP visitors recently who always want to pay a visit to the Commcen in order to see our antiquated equipment (which saves a visit to the museum in Blandford!). The DSOinC **Brig Maynard** paid a visit on 11 March and was pleased to see some of the soldiers who were under his command at Catterick. **Sig Ollington** was quick to remind the DSOinC that they had actually shared the same staff car — an event that is often told in the Naafi bar! On Friday 13 March (good job we are not superstitious) we had the visit of the Force Commander **Maj Gen Greindl** who took a very keen interest in the Commcen and the job we do for the UN, which was fully appreciated. March 16 saw the visit of OIC RSMRO **Col Miller** who, after the formal presentations, relaxed with all the Squadron over a curry lunch (with the inevitable ear bending).

MOVEMENT

Due to the fact that personnel are posted here for a six months tour, we always have a large 'turnover', so we wish to say farewell to the following. **SSgt Paul Ratcliffe, Cpl Ray Taylor, LCpls Steve Holdcroft, Stu Lewton** and **Sig Nick 'Scribbler' Bond, Billy Ingram** and **Tony Speight** and welcome to . . . **Sgt Dave Hartshorne, Cpl Ritchie Cookson, LCpls 'Rolf' Harris, 'JB' Bowring** and **Sig Jones, Salisbury** and **Enderby**. We hope you all enjoy your tour.

THE DANCON MARCH

The Dancon (DANish CONtingent) March is a prestigious and testing two day, 50 km hike in the Troodos Mountain range, based along the lines of the Nijmegen and Rheindahlen Allied Marches. In the Dancon March, however, the emphasis is on individual effort. It is essentially for Danish military training, but a small number of places are allocated to the north UN contingents. To ensure maximum participation, the March is held twice in March and twice in September.

254 (UNIFICYP) Signal Squadron was well represented in both of the recent marches.

It had been cold for some time, with over 2m of snow on Troodos, when we left Nicosia and headed through the orange groves to the start, at Kakopetria. This ancient village was soon full of troops from all the UNFICYP Contingents, Danes, British, Canadians, Swedes, Austrians, Irish, Finns and Aussies. The kit was weighed in, causing come confusion in the Squadron team, as **Sig Messenger** and **Ashfield** were deemed too young (under 19) to carry weights. However, they carried their packs anyway, to their credit. **Cpl John Phillips**, from Line Troop, counldn't help casting a professional eye over each telegraph pole along the route. Everyone finished the first day comfortably, with **Sig Ashfield** turning in the fastest British time, a feat he was to repeat the next day. By the end of the second day, **Sig Smale** was suffering from a surfeit of Danish sandwiches, and slowed down enough to let the FofS overtake him.

At the finish all the kit was weighed again, and Commander Dancon was there to present each, and every finisher with the well deserved Dancon March medal. Everyone ejoyed their two days, but **Cpl Hugh Shotton** spoke for the majority when he said, 'I'm glad I did it, but I won't be doing it again, thank you very much'.

The Dancon March

TECH LINE TROOP

While sitting having yet another cup of coffee, a rumour was overheard that Tech Line Tp hide themselves away and avoid even mentioning the word 'work'. This is total fabrication! (I was also ordered to say that Commcen Tp are always in the limelight, and its time we put in a showing, so here goes).

The Troop consists of the Boss **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie** who is ably assisted on the Tech side by **Sgts Graeme Hossel** and **Derek Bright** (on two year continuity postings) with **Sgt Mick Scott, Cpls Guy Broom, Pete Sullivan** and **Hugh Shotton** (on six month roulement tours). On the line side we have **Sgt Steve Dobson** and **Cpl John Phillips** (on two year posts) with **LCpls Dave Reith** and **Al Ritchie, Sig Mark Crook** and **John Bower** and **Tprs Ben Mitsuk** and **Henrikkson** (Canadian Army)—all on six months tours.

The Troop is responsible for all lines and telephones with the UNPA (Unit Nations Protected Areas) as well as the other lines and telephones serving the various other UN Contingents, manning Sector HQ's and OP's along the Green Line. On the Tech side we bear responsibility for the maintenance and repair of all trunk communications to the various Sector HQ's; technical assistance to the Sectors and OP's, provision of a Public Address system, whenever and wherever required, and last but not least, our favouriite occupation, installation and maintenance of the cable video system to the MQ's, messes and clubs within the UNPA.

However, apart from working our little pinkies to the bone, there is occasionally, time for relaxation and doing something different, be it going off to Egypt, Israel or elsewhere (on leave I hasten to add) skiing or sub-aqua courses, bowling; entering a boat for the Australia Day Boat Race, or going for a gentle 50km stroll in the Troodos mountains, on what they call the Dancon march!

Due to one of our test huts being demolished (purposely) cables had to be removed from the frame to a cabinet nearby. This was completed in four days, much to the amazement of CYTA. Here **Cpl John Phillips**, and **LCpl 'Bully' Bullivant** prepare for the move.

Farewell to Sgt Norman Riach
Left to Right: Sgt Bright, SSgt now WO2 (FofS) Downie, Cpl Sullivan, Tpr Ludiciani, Sig Bower, Cpl Broom, Sig Cook, Sgt Riach, Cpl Shotton

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Over the past few months we have said goodbye to the following: **Sgt Bob Stonier** and his wife **Sarah** to Catterick on promotion, **Sgt Norman Riach** and his wife **Jane** and family to Blandford, and more recently to **LCpl 'Bully' Bullivant** who returns to 262 Sig Sqn and Troopers **Jeff Sandney** and **Wax Iudiciani** who both return to Canada to rejoin Canadian Airborne Signals.

We would like to welcome **Sgt Steve Dobson,** his wife **Pat** and family who have joined us from Catterick, and **Sgt Graeme Hossel** and his wife **Ann** and family who have joined us from the Shetland Islands.

SOCIAL

Although extremely busy, the Squadron still manages to leave an odd evening free for the social scene and pictured here is the Squadron Dinner Club on one of the many outings held recently.

VISITORS

OC tells DSOinC (nicely) there are more important places to visit that COMMCEN. Whilst **Sgt Dave Hartshorne** (left), **WO1 (YofS) Waller,** (centre), and **Cpl Paul Fowkes** listen in disbelief.

AND FINALLY . . .

Just to prove that all our recent visitors were not permanently hogged by Commcen Troop during their visits:

Sig Craig Bird and Mac McPhee sharing a joke with DSOinC. Note delayed response from Sig McPhee

The UNFICYP Force Commander Maj Gen G. G. Greindl signing in on his visit
Left to Right: Maj Gen G. G. Greindl, Jimmy

HELLO AND GOODBYE

The Squadron welcomes our new Chief Clerk **Sgt Howard Ripley** from 14 Sig Regt soon to be joined by his wife **Jenny** and children **Nicola** and **Daniel**. Farewells were bid to **Sgt John Wooley** and his wife **Kathy** off to 16 Sig Regt via 8 Sig Regt (CC Cse) and 11 Sig Regt (SSgts Cse)—we wish them the best for the future.

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Danny McConnel**
21C	**Capt Peter Cain**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Willoughby**
CC	**SSgt Clyde Atherley**
SNCO Trg	**SSgt Colin Thompson**
Clk	**Cpl Ken Richards**

Since our last feature in the *Wire* the Inter-Troop Competitions have been progressing well. The ultimate test of the Pentathlon coincided with the visit of the Commander Land Forces Cyprus **Brig A. D. Myrtle CBE ADC**. Each month the troops have been competing in a different sport for the coveted Hodgson Shield. This year the winners were Episkopi Troop, TM Section.

Silly season has recently sneaked up on us keeping SHQ well and truly busy. Visits abound, and the latest include those of the Chief of Staff **Col The Hon Nicholas Vivian**, the Deputy SOinC **Brig F. R. Maynard**, and OIC Manning and Records **Col D. M. O. Miller**.

Brig Myrtle makes a call through the new Berengaria Exchange. Comd Comms (*extreme right*) looks on with interest while Sgt Farrell and Cpl Kemble take it all in their stride

Commander Land Forces Cyprus presents Sgt Thompson with the prize for the individual best overall performance

MOUNTAIN TROOP—PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Jan McKee**
FofS	**SSgt Cy Fawthrop**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Duncan Forteath**

For all those in the Corps who think that Cyprus is all sun, sea, sand and brandy-sours think of poor Mountain Tp. Here we have just experienced a Cyprus winter of three months without the sun, and 3m of snow. **Cpl Steve Wells** had to be winched by Wessex into Olympus, but the novelty was short lived when he discovered his car under 2m of snow and spent the rest of the day digging it out.

Congratuations go to **Sgt Duncan Forteath** who is soon to leave us on promotion. Also to **Sgt Steve James** and **Cpl Dave Amos** who have been selected to play Army (Cyprus) Rugby, and **LCpl Jacko Jackson** on his recent promotion and selection for Army (Cyprus) Football.

Farewells go to **Lt Jim Morley-Kirk**, our late OC, who has headed off for Blandford. Pursuing his brainchild, the troop has managed to raise £700 for muscular dystrophy by pulling a landrover from Troodos to Olympus.

Welcome to our new OC **Lt Jan McKee** from Blandford, **Cpl Dave Amos** from 8 Sig Regt and **Cpl Fergie Rae** from 22 Sig Regt.

Also welcome to four very young new members of the troop: **Matthew** born to **Sgt Schaun** and **Rachel Dandy**. **David** to **SSgt Cy** and **Sue Fawthrop**. **Stacy** to **LCpl Jacko** and **Wendy Jackson**. **Benjamin** to **Sgt Duncan** and **Nicola Forteath**. All those and we only have six married couples!

The Signals Bar nearly disguised itself as a snowdrift—but we still found it!

FofS Fawthrop hands over the cheque for £700

AIRFIELD TROOP—PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Les Budworth**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Bill Allen**
FofS	**WO2 George Blyth**
SNCO Maint	**Sgt 'Rocky' Hudson**
SNCO Projects	**Sgt Bob Witherstone**
SNCO Syscon	**Sgt Glenn Renshaw**
SNCO PABX	**Sgt Dave England**

Gone are my illusions that Cyprus is always warm and sunny.

Amidst the rain storms, hail storms and typhoon type winds, work goes on . . . and on. With the road side lakes and numerous swimming pools created from cable pits, the faults on our cables weren't the only things that came flooding in. Words like 'overtime' and 'working weekends' became common patter. But alas, the morale of the Telemech at Akroriti still stayed sky high.

We have seen a vast change of personnel within the Troop. Farewells go to **WO2 (FofS) Royce WIlson** wife **Trudy** and family. We wish them all the best at their new abode. We have also lost one of our stalwarts and a valuable member on the sporting front, **LCpl Al Minton**; also **Sig Chris Alger**, wife **Raine** and family all off to 21 Sig Regt. By the time this goes to print we will have said 'Au Revoir' to **LCpl Ron 'Bilco' Hirst** whom we will all miss. Although not travelling far and not qualifying for a 'Gozome', we say farewell to **Sig Taff Lewis** who has run away to Epi.

Welcomes are in order for **WO2 (FofS) George Blyth**, wife **Jo** and family; **Cpl Pluskota**, wife **Arlene** and family; **Sig Dickie Dickerson**, wife **Fiona** and baby; and to **Sig Lilburn**.

The formal side of Airfield Troop

EPISKOPI TROOP—PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt (TOT) Ben Lawson**
Troop SSgt	**SSgt Keith Leighton**
SNCO IC Line	**SSgt Graeme Hillhouse**
SNCO IC Radio Relay	**SSgt Roy Habergham**
SQMS SWS	**SSgt Duggie Ward**
SNCO IC Radio	**Sgt Dave Morley**
SNCO IC TE	**Sgt Paul Stevenson**

Since the amalgamation of Tech Tp and the old Episkopi Tp life has continued in the same hectic manner with various communication tasks always to be completed.

One of the major projects finished recently was the provision of a telephone exchange and BFBS television (cabled) into Berengaria Village to allow nearly 20 Service families some of the privileges of living on the SBA! Besides providing radio paths, an IDX and all the internal and overhead cabling, the troop were then tasked with the opening ceremony/cocktail party where various new skills were learnt.

Mention must be made to one of the Squadron characters who has just left us for civilian life, **Sig Shuggy McCallum**. A Gozome was held in one of the larger restaurants (it had to be large) where **Shuggy** received the farewell he deserved. If he happens to receive a copy of this, we all wish him the very best for the future.

259 AIRBORNE SECTION (HQ TROOP)

A Report by Sig Colin Grainger—(footnote by Anon)

Due to some gentle probing (?) by **LCpl Rory McCormick**, 10 (brave) members of HQ Tp/Epi Line Section volunteered their bodies for one weekend for the sole purpose of leaping out of a perfectly serviceable Cessna 206 light aircraft.

The 10 intrepid nutters were **Cpl Dave 'Mad Dog' Thorpe, LCpl Andy 'Porky' McKie, Cpl Stan 'The Man' Staniford, Cpl Andy 'More! More!' Elliott, Sig Mick 'The Brick' Howard, Sig Jonah 'Aaargh' Jones, Sig Eddie 'The Chod' John, Sig Scott 'Canny Like' Cain, Sig Jason 'Fish' Fisher** and **Sig Colin 'Liberace' Grainger**.

After arriving 30 minutes late our merry band of braves was shown quickly round the DZ and then on to Pergamos Camp to complete documentation. Next, ground training including six hours worth of screaming numbers like a lunatic, with a liberal dose of safety training thrown in.

Next morning we were awakened by the ever happy **LCpl Rory McCormick** at 0530 hrs. Some of us pretended to eat breakfast but the rest just admitted to being scared stiff!

We arrived at the DZ just after dawn and the damned plane was still serviceable! phrases like 'how do you sabotage a Cessna' abounded, but did I not mention earlier that we were brave? Indeed I did, so up we went and down we came. Brilliant!

Only two notable duff landings were witnessed, one by **Sig Mick Howard** who decided he was a bit peckish and promptly landed in a nearby orange grove, and the other by **Sig Colin Grainger**, who wanted to land on the runway but forgot to stay in the aircraft! An unforgettable experience.

Sig Colin Grainger doing the biz!
'What's the name of the damned Indian?'

FOOTNOTE

Also thanks surely go to **Sig Colin Grainger** for his most impressive and impromptu bit of piano playing on the way back to Epi. Is this man the new Beethoven?

HEADQUARTERS TROOP—PERSONALITIES

OC (QM)	**Capt Tony Morgan**
Tp SSgt (SQMS)	**SSgt Stew Mullen**
RTG SSgt	**SSgt Colin Thompson**
Mt Sgt	**Sgt Steve Owen**

Welcome to our new Tp SSgt/SQMS **SSgt Stew Mullen** and also to **Cpl Stan Staniford** our latest RTg Cpl. We hope you enjoy your tour.

Farewell to the old SQMS **SSgt Des Faherty** and **Sig Jonah Jones**. We wish both of you and your families all the very best for the future.

WSBA SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY

This year's annual six-a-side Hockey Competition was organised by **SSgt Graeme Hillhouse** and hosted by 259 Sig Sqn, with nine men's teams and three ladies' teams competing.

With close fought matches taking place during the day, the two finalists for the showdown were RAF Akrotiri and 259 Sig Sqn. Although both teams were well balanced, the final score saw Akrotiri as the winners—three goals to one.

Maj Danny McConnel and his wife **Liz** presented trophies to the teams and thanked all for a good day's sport.

259 Runner-Up Hockey Team
Back Row (L-R): LCpl Roberts, SSgt Hillhouse, Maj McConnell, LCpls Nelson, Silver
Front Row (L-R): Sgt Stevenson, Sig Johnston, LCpl McKie

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Nigel Cory**
TOT	**Capt Norman Patton**
Admin Offr	**Lt Trudi Sutcliffe WRAC/R Signals**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Turvey**
FofS	**WO2 Taff Mugford**
YofS	**SSgt Jackson**
RQMS	**Vacant**

Here in sunny Cyprus we had the worst winter on record and the most rain for something like 180 years. However you will be pleased to know the climate soon righted itself and our tans are coming along very well.

On 24 February **Brig H. J. Hickman OBE**, Director of Army Pioneers and Labour, visited the Squadron, specifically to meet the Pioneers at Cape Greco. He presented LS&GC Medals to **SSgt Belshaw** (Telemech Supremo), **Sgt Rogers** (MT Wallah), **Cpl Cotter** (DTg Crypto Expert) and **LCpl Elliott** (RPC, Dog Handler and Lion Tamer). Lunch followed at the Bitsa Club. On 10 March the DSOinC, **Brig Maynard** spent the day with us. He visited all departments, including the Troop Scatter Station and Cape Creco. After lunch at the Bitsa and talking to Squadron members, the Brigadier toured BFBS, hosted by the General Manager **John Campbell.**
Campbell.

Last, but not least, **Col Miller** from MRO Glasgow visited the Island and the Squadron.

The other notable event was the departure of **Maj Ian Creig** to Blandford. His exuberance and cheerfulness will be sadly missed by the unit and we wish him all the best for the future. **Maj Nigel Cory** took over the Squadron on 1 April (no joke). We wish him well in his job and we hope he will enjoy it. **RQMS Carter** followd **Maj Greig** to Blandford and we wish him and his wife well for the future. (We hear that the windsurfing is not that good in Dorset these days!)

L to R: Cpl Cotter, SSgt Belshaw, Brig Hickman, LCpl Elliott and Sgt Rogers after the presentation of the LS & GC Medals

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL, DUNBLANE

For the Sons of Scottish Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen

Patron: H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T., O.M., G.B.E.

The School provides free boarding school education for the sons of Scottish Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen of the Regular Forces. The sons of officers are not eligible unless their fathers have had at least four years' service in the ranks. The preferred age of entry is between 10 and 11. The School is organised in Primary and Secondary Departments in accordance with the requirements of the Scottish Education Department. Boys leave the School between the ages of 16 and 18, according to their academic ability and choice of career.

Applications should reach the School by 31 December so that they may be considered for admission the following September.

For further information write to: The Commandant, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire FK15 0JY.

266 Sig Sqn
(South Atlantic)
BFPO 666

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tim Mountford**
2IC	**Flt Lt Colin Thompson**
AO	**Lt Kit 'Not *again* Sir' Lewis**
SSM	**WO(2) Trevor 'Get your silver out' Jones**
ORSQMS	**SSgt Jack Benson**
Clerks	**Cpl 'Diddy' Didcock**
	Cpl Des Wheatley
	LCpl Colin Leonard
	SAC 'Flash' Vickery

SQUADRON HQ NOTES

This is the last time that 266 Sig Sqn (SA) will appear in *The Wire*. From 1 April 1987 (who on earth let that happen?) we will be known as Joint Communications Unit Falkland Islands (JCUFI). To mark this auspicious event, much brain-power was expended and many creative ideas were considered, yet none matched the sheer brilliance of concept of the JCUFI cocktail party!

Picture the scene if you will, at a recent 'O' Group . . .

OC: 'I want to do something memorable to mark the disbandment of the Squadron and the formation of JCUFI. Any ideas anyone?'

SSM: 'Let's have a parade with DRILLandflagsandsoldiersand-sailorsandcrabsand . . . DRILL Sah!'

2IC: (Who just happens to be in the RAF) 'Don't the Navy do drill differently from the rest of us? Anyway, everybody will be on shift. Why don't we organise a fly past, it would look jolly good!'

OC: 'Well I did rather want to do something to thank those people who helped 266 to form . . . '

AO: 'Not the Argies sir . . . '

OC: 'No you berk, the staff and those who have helped us over these last few traumatic months whilst we moved up from Stanley and have undergone a dramatic change in our organisation and manning levels. Don't you realise exactly how much work has gone into what we are today, how many sleepless nights and how few Blueys I've had? The pressure has been awesome!'
(or words to that effect).

AO: 'Gosh sorry Sir . . . I didn't realise . . . (he never does) Sounds like you need a drink!'

OC: 'Brilliant! That's it, it's exactly what I've been looking for, just the thing . . . well done, organize it will you!'

AO: (Will he never learn?) 'OK Sir it's a fair cop, I'll come quietly . . . '

So there you have it, the story of how the absolutely crucial decision was made. The Admin Officer was left wondering how on earth to persuade all the guests to take the invites seriously, as it was planned to hold the party on 1 April as well!

On a more serious note, we have been busy preparing for the disbandment, accounting for our stores and generally re-thinking our role and our organisation to cope with the change from the old to the new. This has led to many innovations and much change. Full marks to everybody who has worked to make the transition to JCUFI as smooth as it has been. There have been hiccoughs, but that was expected and teddies have not spent too long in the corner!

Perhaps the most heartening thing to witness has been the sense of identity in the new unit. There is a certain pride in the history and future of JCUFI, and this should stand us in good stead.

The new JCUFI offices which have been occupied for some months now, are certainly a step up from the old BFFI Hostel in Stanley. We have a purpose built office block, with our own computer and word processors in each office. The transition from the Stone Age to the Computer Age has been helped along enormously by the stalwart efforts of **Cpl 'Diddy' Didcock** who has mastered the machine and seems to be on hand just when you need him!

As the last days of the Squadron draw near, and the formation of JCUFI draws ever closer, **Lt Lewis** the Admin Officer can be seen slaving away at his desk, with steam coming out of his ears. As self appointed JCUFI publicity officer it is his sole aim to win as many 'Brownie' points in as short a time as possible. So soon the post was full of articles for the Soldier magazine, and the Navy and RAF news. (After all, we are a Joint unit!). The Mount Pleasant magazine also felt the 'lash' of his 'WP' (he probably had a hand in writing these notes, I shouldn't wonder.)

1 April will be a time for reflection on the past, and a confident look forward to the future. JCUFI is a unique unit and one which has an enviable reputation to live up to.

Several senior members of the Corps have visited recently . . . Here Col Alan Eastburn is briefed by Comd JFSS about the hazards of Falklands travel, namely having to dress up in silly suits, Cpl Bob Lewis 17/21st Lancers winds up the elastic whilst the pilot, Lt Peter Davis LI tries to prevent the door from falling off

Who said that you can't teach an old powerman new tricks? Cpl Dave Bagshaw shows the operators a thing or two on a typical day on Mt Adam

LCpl 'Hughie' Potter does some serious posing with a screwdriver and some earmuffs. The engine's off and look at those clean hands!

The 'crew' from Adam show off their haircuts and artwork
From L to R: Cpl Dave Bagshaw, Sig Simon Plant, Cpl Bob Florence and LCpl 'Baz' Plumpton

LCpl 'Evo' Adams gets 'stuck' into a knotty problem in one of the airfield cable cabinets

Single handedly using the Troop's allocation of masking tape . . .
LCpl Colin Usher and Sig 'Chadwell' Jenkins
All photographs by SSgt K. Langan RAOC

CROSS COUNTRY

The first Mount Pleasant half marathon was run on a very hot and surprisingly calm day at the end of February. The race was run over probably the only roads in the Falklands long enough to stage it and was also the last race in the four month cross country league. The Squadron was in a strong position and with a good chance of winning overall.

After more than a little encouragement, 38 members of the unit ventured out in assorted forms of running gear—the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Jack Benson** wore a pair of shorts that were definitely in the style of 'Chariots of Fire'. Setting a blistering pace, and a course record, was **SAC Steve Marzillius**, who romped home in just under 1 hr 7 mins. The A team was just pipped at the post for the team prize but their second positon earned the team the overall league prize.

Special mention must be made of **Cpl 'Diddy' Didcock** and **LCpl Colin Leonard** who raised £71 for the NSPCC—well done lads.

BRAVO TROOP
EXERCISE *ROCK HOPPER*

After much deliberation, **Sgts Ken Turley** and **Richie Arundel** decided that rather than go to Miami for their R and R, they would like to spend their time in the mountains for a bit of peace and quiet. It just so happened that **Cpls Dougie Hassel** and **Andy Strudwick** were similarly inclined and so after much thought it was decided to walk from Campito to Mount Pleasant complex taking in the peaks in between. On the way it was planned to place a Squadron plaque on the summit of Mt Usborne, the highest point on East Falkland.

Well, the idea was fine, but it was to be several weeks before we were to get to the beginning of the walk. Much scrounging and paperwork later, the final hurdle of a 'Burns night' overcome, and we were dropped off at Mt Campito and hit the trail at 1400 hrs on 25 January.

The weather was windy and clear for our first day as we set out along the Sussex ridge on our first leg to Bodie Peak. We had only gone some 3km when down came the mist and torrential rain. We beat a hasty retreat to an abandoned Rapier site and remained there for some four hours whilst we waited for the weather to turn. Finally the rain stopped and we were pushed on and reached Bodie Peak at about 1900 hrs. We bivvied up, reported in, and got a brew on whilst the mist cleared to reveal our true location. We were on the wrong Bodie Peak! The other (real) Bodie Peak was some 2km distant. Still, as it was getting dark we decided to stay put.

'Herewegoherewegoherewego . . .' Day one. The Start!

The first Bivvy site on the 'impostor' peak

Everybody was up by 0700 hrs the next morning, well, all but **Dougie**, who swears blind that the zip on his bivvy bag was stuck . . .

An hour later we were off again and found the going hard almost immediately. The track faded out and we were into the Tussock grass. This grows in lumps and clumps and is ankle breaking stuff. Before we reached the summit we had all fallen at least once. In the distance lurked Mt Usborne.

After a brief stop, we set off for Usborne, which is the highest peak in the Falklands and was by far the hardest obstacle between us and our soft beds in MPA. At first it was just another steep hill, but soon we found that we had some scrambling to do as the slope became steeper and rockier. As we came to the summit the wind rapidly chilled our warm bodies and we were forced to cover up. On our arrival we set the plaque into the face of a cairn and posed for some photographs before moving away for, by now, the wind was becoming dangerous. Before too long we reached our next bivvi site and gratefully sank into our maggots and tended our blisters.

The next day we suffered more setbacks and a late start due to the poor weather. Once we were away the weather soon improved and we began to encounter the Stone Runs that cover the slopes of the Falkland peaks. These vast rivers of boulders were deposited by wind, rain and ice and are crossed by hopping from boulder-to-boulder. This is very hard on the knees and ankles and a false step would probably lead to a broken limb.

Eventually we reached our next bivvy site after much hard work. The exercise was living up to its name!

A view of the terrain to be crossed on the second day. On the left Bodie Peak and on the right Canterra Mount and in the distance Mt Usborne

The party of Mt Usborne
L to R: Sgt Ken Turley, Cpls Dougie Hassell, Andy Strudwick and Sgt Richie Arundel

The final day, and a memorable one indeed. We were treated to a clear, still and breathtakingly warm day. For the last leg of the walk we were so de-hydrated that we had to make several water stops and all manner of headgear was worn, the best being a T-shirt worn Egyptian style! Eventually we reached 'civilisation' and our self imposed punishment ended. All we had to do was shower, unpack and talk over our adventure over a few 'fizzy tinned drinks'.

In all Ex *Rock Hopper* was a very hard but, ultimately, enjoyable exercise. We covered about 80km of very hard ground in some difficult weather. Our thanks to all those who helped us on our way, especially the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who provided the bivvy bags which were excellent. (If only we all had them!) Why not try something similar when you come down here?

The end of the road, and the finalists in the silly hat competition

CHARLIE TROOP
SYSCON AND FITS
By WO2(FofS) Mick Cooper

The FITS front at the moment, under the tender (?) administration of **SSgt John Smith**, is putting together a programme of maintenance to see the system in good stead prior to the 'Gold Standardisation' of all the radios; the basis of which has been started by CPA's **Sgt Martin Drake**. The FITS team, which was supposed to be a quick reaction team until **Cpl Bill Devitt** bogged 'Nellie' the Rover in, is spear (bald) headed by **Sgt Bill Robertson**. Following close behind are **Cpls Pete Tasker, Martin Gritton, Graham Ramsdale (The Nose), Al Gordon, Paul Newholme** and **Bill Devitt**. The team is completed by our Mountain Men, **Sgt Ian Melville** (Mt Alice), **Cpl Jim McRoberts** (Byron Heights) and **Cpl 'Evvo' Evans** (Mt Kent) all of whom lead a demanding life in the social clubs out in the sticks.

Down in the JOC where the light of day never shines we find a very pasty faced bunch of individuals who struggle manfully to keep communications on the island together. We have **Cpls 'Bev' Beverley (III), Rab Benson** and **John Kennedy** keeping the FITEN (Falkland Island Trunk Exchange Network) system up and running. **Cpl John Kennedy** is an exception to the rest of the JOC crew in so far as he has achieved something our Hispanic brethren across the water could not ie resisting the might of the British Forces to get him out of Stanley! Finally, in the JOC, we have eight of the most maligned men on the Island, the Syscon 'shifties' **Sgts Chris Hartley** and **Rick Hughes** ably assisted by **Cpls Nick Wainwright, Dave Bradford, Dave Snowball, Tony Winter, Robbie Hearn** and **'Squeaky' Moore**. Completing the technical content of the Falklands (as far as the Corps is concerned) are the Radio Techs, **Cpls Howie Richardson** (JOC Radio Hut) and **'Rosie' Pennel** (South Georgia).

To those who departed before I arrived I apologise for not mentioning your names but to you all I say thank you for the hard work you put in to lay the groundwork for the establishment I have come 8,000 miles to administer. The recent departures include **WO2(FofS) Mick Poland**, to whom I owe a lot for the way he left things; **Cpls Nick Shaw, Al Kemp** and **Ken Dodd** from the FITS side; **Sgts Charlie Whitecross, Adrian Woodley** and **John Dennis** with **Cpls Dougie 'DAQ' Hassel, 'Hobbit' O'Brien** and **'Spud' Parkinson** from the Syscon/Exchange team; finally one man who is too short to go without a mention, **Sgt Ken Turley**—a group of men, without whose single minded devotion, the NAAFI would never have shifted so many 'tinnies'. I salute you all, thanks a lot.

As a postscript I would like to say that any stories that might be spread around connecting pork pies, tennisball haircuts, vicars and myself are all lies and if anyone believes a word **Cpl 'Spud' Parkinson** says, they have only themselves to blame!

POWER SECTION
PERSONALITIES
Cpl George Fisk
Cpl (I've got 126 days to do) Allen
Cpl Gizzit Bagshaw
LCpl Shaky Atkins
LCpl Huey Potter
LCpl Baz Plumpton
Sig Jonah Stanton
Sig Argied Heathershaw

It has been an uneventful month, but **Sig Jonah Stanton** did go up to Mount Caroline for the day with **'Big John'** from PSA to fix the FITS Fire Systems.

The day turned into three days due to bad weather conditions and **Big John** lived up to his name and ate his way through 16 men's rations.

THE FIRST MPA HALF MARATHON

The Section participated in the MPA half marathon, on a very hot Saturday afternoon. Congratulations to **Sig Jonah Stanton** for coming in first of the Section, closely followed by the other exhausted members.

ARRIVALS/FAREWELLS

We would like to say farewell to: **Sgt Brian (Windsurfer) Clark, Cpl Paul Perrott, LCpls Jack Pickford, Mac McIntosh** and **Sig Phil Humphreys**.

CABLE SECTION
by Cpl Parrett

CABLE SECTION TURN PHYSICAL

On 28 February there was a Half Marathon at Mount Pleasant and it was put to us in such a way by **Sgt Geoff (it's only a suggestion) Gardner**, that Cable Section just had to enter.

LCpl Keith Ritchie and **Sig Mick Drury** agreed to change duties under 'great pressure' to allow **Cpl 'Budgie' Parrett** and **LCpl Doug Easby** to run in their places.

Our Section, which was entered as part of the JCUFI team led by **Capt (take it easy at first) Wood**, were **Sgt Geoff Gardner, Cpls Jim Duncan** and **Budgie Parrett, LCpls Andy Little** and **Doug Easby** and **Sigs Colin O'Brien, Wilba Wilson** and **David Jenkins**. The support team were led by **SSgt Nigel (I'd love to come with you but!) Grant** and consisted of **LCpl 'Evo' Evans** and **Sig 'Jamo' Hartley** whose main job was to take photographs and supply the odd drink of water en route.

The planning of the date was good because it was the hottest day for weeks and there was hardly any wind which is very rare in the Falklands. The start time of 1400 hrs gave the group from Cable Section more time to think why they had said they would run, but we did. Although **Sgt Geoff Gardner** and **Sig David Jenkins** were the only members of the Section who had run a Half Marathon before, we all finished and received our medals.

AIRFIELD CABLE CONTROL
CRASH COMMS
The Story So Far . . .

Crash Comms as we all know are vital on an airfield, and Mount Pleasant is no exception. The Telemechs were therefore tasked with supplying MPA with its Crash Comms; 'No problem' says **Sgt Tam (Stab) Tulloch** 'Leave it to us!'. He did, and left two weeks later, but before he went he did leave us with a complete ring of five pairs going around the Airfield—the idea being that the nearest cabinet to the crash would have the facility to provide five extension numbers if the Incident Commander so wished. At this stage exit **Sgt Tam (Stab) Tulloch** and **Sgt Geoff (You need a haircut) Gardner**.

So far we have the lines, all we need now is Equipment and a Crash Trailer and **Cpl Jim Duncan** and **LCpl Evo Evans** get jiffed to get that all sorted out. Off they went and nicked a trailer from the Troop MT (who can't fight?) and the next two days were spent tapping out Ten Pair Field Cable, making up crash phones and getting bits and bobs together; generally stealing, scrounging and borrowing. In the end it was worth it for ACC were the proud owners of a nice new Crash Trailer. Not a bad effort you may say, but not good enough for **Sgt Geoff (I want my BEM) Gardner**. He wants it tested. Fair one you may say, but he wants it tested big time, ie station involved and we are talking about ambulance and fire service also being called out to the Crash Site. Now I am not holding **Sgt Gardner** fully responsible for this little plot because I also heard **Capt Wood**, the Troop OC may have helped a little.

The site for the Exercise Crash had been decided but **Sgt Gardner** wouldn't let on where and when, all we got was 'Sometime today boys, snigger snigger'.

Cpl Jim Duncan and **LCpl Evans** were pacing up and down worrying whether their baby would pass the test, 'Will everything work okay?' 'I wonder where the Crash Location will be' and 'Will **Sgt Geoff Gardner** get his BEM?'.

We were all waiting in anticipation for the callout, pretending that we were carrying on with our normal work and not really knowing that there was to be a callout. Most of us managed it quite well, but **LCpl Stig (the Pig) Richards** was a dead giveaway sitting in the wagon with the trailer hitched up and the engine running.

All of a sudden the call came and off goes **Cpl Budgie Parrett** to 30,000ft and stayed there until Endex. The Grid Ref was taken by **Sig Colin (Deep Throat) O'Brien** and the Crash Crew were off. As the three brave soldiers **Cpl Duncan** and **Cpls Evans** and **Richards** sped off, **Sig O'Brien**, Crash Controller, decided which cabinet to feed from and radioed the crew. 'No prob' we thought, until on arrival at the scene **Sgt Gardner** pointed out exactly where the Crash was. 'Cheers Sarge', yep, you guessed it, not an easy one, but no fear, the lads got two telephones out to a location in the middle of nowhere to find a well satisfied Troop OC and a grinning Troop Sergeant. 'Well done lads, now you can reel the lot back in!'

Ah well, at least we know that it works.

A CONTENTED TELE-MECH AT MPA
by Sig 'Jamo' Hartley

Any Telemech who has not yet done a tour at MPA, beware! For nothing in this whole mixed up world could prepare you for it. Someone, somewhere, perhaps whilst lying on a psychiatrist's couch, once said 'The Falkland Islands are a beautiful place'. If you like penguins, sheep, being really cold and wearing silly hats that make you look like Deputy Dawg, you might agree with him.

FNG is another abbreviation to add to the endless list I have already; it stands for Falklands New Guy and it's what I am. An FOG therefore, is a Falklands Old Guy. The FOG is the FNG's greatest bane, for every chance he gets to remind the FNG how long they both have to do he will leap at it and execute it with rich sarcasm. At this stage of my tour I cannot conceive why the FOG does this but I am assured that by the time I am one, I'll know only too well.

I cannot describe all the jobs Airfield Section do at MPA, as I have only been here three weeks, most of which I've spent meggering. I've just been moved to Line Records after countless nights waking up in a cold sweat screaming 'short on, short off!'. Now I just get cold sweats and dream of suffocating under thousands of record cards.

Being so far from home, morale rises and falls with each mail drop. Here neither money nor class count for anything; mail is the only status symbol. The more you get, the higher your status. This, however, is dangerous ground, for if you get too much mail in one day, (10 or more letters/blueys) then you must pay a fine of a crate of beer to the Troop. That is also the price an FNG must pay for arriving and an FOG for leaving. Whoever said 'You can save lots of money in the Falklands' was obviously not a Telemech . . .

A FLIGHT
RADIO ROOM NOTES
CURRENT CREW LIST
SSgt John Hall
LCpl Terry 'The Hunk' Walton
LCpl 'Baby-Scarer' Parkes
LCpl 'Dinga' Bell
LCpl Toms 'of the Antarctic'
Sig Roy 'the Beast' Goddard
Sig Taff 'Sober' Andrews
Sig 'Interested' Bell

HELLO TO THESE FALKLAND NEW GUYS

Cpl 'Howie' Richardson, Sig Bullet-head' Pringle and **'Airborne' McGuinness**.

Got a communications problem? Phone Extension 6789!

Yes, that's the new radio room phone number and it seems that everybody on the island knows it. We specialise in constant queries relating to the obvious . . .

Veterans of the Port Stanley radio room would be amazed at our new home. Well away from casual visitors and with a panoramic view of the airport, we are truly well sited and those new arrivals who should look out to the left as your plane lands will undoubtedly receive a welcoming wave as you touch-down. Happy smiling faces will greet you at air movements, wasting absolutely no time at all in telling you when you are on shift!

You will be escorted to a comfortable new room, settled in and your first night will be one of great generosity. Yours. Get the crate in mate!

Shifts are of two days and two nights followed by a sleep day and then a day off. Relations with the RAF and Navy are excellent. They have to be because they organise all the parties! On days off, you can travel down to Stanley to see the locals, or walk out to Bertha's beach to see the Penguins. Contrary to popular belief, romance can blossom whilst down here, so for all you Valentino's, pack some trendy threads!

What else is necessary for a tour with the Radio Hut?

A sense of humour, ability to learn quickly, knowledge of diverse dialects, and big woolly jumpers throughout the year. Hope to see you soon!

Lots of Love—The Radio Hut.

POST SCRIPT

After many hours and some underhand methods, the men of 266 Sig Sqn have obtained a World Photo Scoop!

For the first time in print, we present . . .

THE PORT STANLEY EXCHANGE DISTRIBUTION FRAME

We felt it should be told . . .

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— News from Troops —

PWSST (Fwd)
BFPO 107

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

At the end of January the Team said farewell to **WO2 (AQMS) Colin Nash REME** and his wife **Sandra** who have escaped to Malvern. However, on seeing the UK weather reports he arranged with REME Records to go via Belize! He is replaced by **SSgt Percy Thrower** who is quickly adapting to the Royal Signals but is still wondering what happened to the electric fan he used to propel his cigarette smoke to everybody else's side of the office.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are due to **LCpl Scouse Horabin** for passing his driving test! He has now taken possession of the OC's Staff Car, so watch out if you see a battered black Metro approaching you at speed. **Sgt Max Steele** has accepted a chocolate frog for his promotion to Sergeant, but everybody knows that by now. A pat on the back must be administered to **Sgt Colin Thirkettle**, our MT Sergeant for escaping from the Army after 22 years, much to our relief! Finally congratulations to **WO2 (FofS) Lee Randerson** on his selection for promotion to WO1.

EXERCISES

Nearly half way through 1987 and we have already completed Ex *Woodland Flight, Start Right, Flying Falcon* and *Wintex*. The annual competition for the Golden Blanket is on, and the leader so far is **Sgt George Wilson**, but as some members missed the first exercise of the year they may be able to rectify this situation during the exercise season. **Capt Suzy Reed** maintains she was on an exercise, *Snow Queen* for a month and is still anxious to pack in maximum time on the Piste!

Ex *Flying Falcon* produced its usual crops of quotes:

'He is in a telephone box' said **Capt Suzy Reed.**

'What is the grid reference?' asked **Maj Andrew Symmons.**

Capt Reed (under pressure) 'He doesn't have one because he's in a telephone box'. Well really Ma'am, with a BA(Hons) in geography too!

Those of us who went out on *Flying Falcon* will remember that several people came out from UK, including the ACU Engineer, **Mr Paul Connolly** who looked distinctly alarmed when **Capt Suzy Reed** arranged to fill one of his Freon canisters with Acetylene, the latest modification towards jet propelled moves for Trunk Nodes.

Other exercise war stories include **Sgt Ted Edwards'** airborne tent and **Spr 'fixit' Armstrong** fixing five Wavell Installations under the guidance of **SSgt (FofS) Gordon Marchant** from PWSST (Main). One of our other visitors from Main was **Capt Kate Martin WRAC** who managed to lock herself away for a while but fortunately reappeared in time to do her shift.

Capt Suzy Reed sprouting ears on Ex *Flying Falcon*. Does working in the PWSST CP do this to you?

RUGBY

SSgt (FofS) Terry Waites disgusted us all by appearing with a suntan in January after his rugby trip to Hong Kong and managed to miss the first exercise of the year, but we are delighted to know that his wife **Catharine** is well on her way to recovery after her time in hospital.

SKIING

Skiing was definitely favourite of the month in PWSST with **WO2 (YofS) Wayne Brown** and **Sgt George Wilson** going down to Ex *Snow Queen* and our own very successful Adventure Training, Ex *Winter Plumage*, which was held courtesy of the 1/22nd Luftwaffe Battery in the Sauerland.

The three days proved most enjoyable, with all of PWSST (Fwd) and their families managing to achieve a reasonable degree of proficiency, that is, they managed to spend fractionally more time on their skis than their bottoms. Except perhaps poor **Sgt George Wilson** who was our only limping casualty after he tried to do the splits on his skis! Thanks are due to **Sgt Colin Thirkettle, LCpl Geordie Crawford** and **Capt Suzy Reed** for their efforts as instructors.

Naturally the evening activities were fairly arduous and involved a fair amount of partying, however, **Maj Andrew Symmons** firmly drew the line at playing bingo in German!

SSgt Billy McLean has been christened a 9 × 9 on skis because of his large ski trousers and jackets, carry on **Banzai Bill**. **Sgt Max Steele** surprised even himself on skis but decided that ice skating was not his scene after only one lap of the ice rink, but **WO2 (FofS) Lee Randerson** definitely takes first prize for entertainment value on ice skates, and it's all on video too! **Sgt Ted Edwards** completed the exercise by obtaining a speeding fine when returning our hired skis, he must have thought he was still on them!

Ex *Winter Plumage*—some posing in ski kit after the efforts of the day

Maj Andrew Symmons and Hauptmann Wehr from 1/22nd Luftwaffe Battery

640 Sig Tp (EW)
Blandford

Our main item on this occasion is a report on our recent deployment is support of 3 Cdo Bde Royal Marines.
Cpl 'Chaff' Finch joined the Troop in February this year. An account of his first field deployment with the Troop is featured below.

EXERCISE *COLD WINTER 87*

Before the deployment, in March, to Northern Norway I was introduced to the role and capabilities of the Unit courtesy of the OC **Capt John Terrington** and the 21C **WO2 (Q) Dave Green**. I was also introduced to physical exertions and Artic Survival Training by our resident Royal Marines—**Cpl Paul Bowler** and **Cpl 'Taff' Roberts**. The exertions did not come as a shock but the Marines drive and enthusiasm was a surpise and something I had rarely witnessed before.

Norway kit was handed out and, another surprise, it was all brand new. The main body of the Troop departed, for the docks in Southampton, on 3 March. My passengers for the journey were **Cpl 'JP' Felix, Sig Gav Wilson** and **LCpl Pete Peak** (from 13 Sig Regt). Tyres were changed at the docks before a one in three loading ramp was negotiated to the upper deck for all our vehicles. Our first problem was an apparent absence of tyres and it seemed that **LCpl 'Benny' Benham** had miscalculated and we had insufficient with us.His 'O' level maths exam is next week. The second problem concerned **Sig Rick Taylor** and the ramp. He completes his driving test soon. Once on board **'Q' Green** was given the role of Ships Sergeant Major (SSM). I was told a particular pet hate of his is to be addressed as Sart Major. Despite this it was a title that was used in abundance during the journey and it did not make it more enjoyable for him. Needles to say 'Q' made things difficult for the rest of us by detailing personnel for Galley Parties, Fire Piquets, and Stern Watch. It passed the time, as a week is too long crossing the North Sea. At the end of the week we were all familiar with the words 'Rounds' and 'Heads' **LCpl Gaz Costello** did not endear himself to the ships' crew, however, when he called the vessel a 'Prawn Trawler'. He spent some time in the Brig!

The crossing itself was smooth, the off-loading was not, but no more on that . . . We travelled from our disembarkation point to the replenishment site where we were met by **Sgt Dave Taylor**. Unfortunately an order to refill was missheard and 10 minutes later 10 vehicles and trailers were lined up behind **Sgt Sam Street's** lead vehicle at the local petrol station. We should have exchanged cans at the site. We soon did and continued on our way to our final destination at Setermoan Camp. Our hosts were the Norwegian Army and they provided us with accommodation that did not sway and rock and they also provided food about which I will make no further comment. Sufficient to say I will never complain about British Army cooking again.

The following week was dedicated to skiing and to acclimatisation. Some Troop members fared better than others. **Cpl Felix** hardly used his skis, **LCpl 'Ernie' Wise** of 14 Sig Regt was hardly off his and **LCpl 'Blue' Nicholson** managed to break both of his. No bodily damage occurred and most people enjoyed the experience. The training also included a night-out under tent sheets and a demonstration of our equipment for our hosts. Shortly before the exercise we were joined by an American Liaison Officer—**Capt David Gregan USMC**. After over-hearing **Sgt Graham Miles** proclaiming that he was going for a 'Pony' he was subtly introduced to Cockney rhyming slang. Confident that he had mastered it, he presently excused himself, declaring that he was going for an 'Egg'. Later he was asked if he had had a 'Pony' and promptly replied 'Yup', it was a horse. He fitted in well and was very impressed, in more ways than one, with the Troop.

The Exercise that followed was busy, varied and interesting and the Troop performed very well. Two other 'guests' from 14 Sig Regt, **SSgt Steve Maddison** and **Sgt Steve Phelps** were so impressed with the Troop they even considered remaining on the posted strength. Such is the extent of their expertise and experience they would be welcome to return anytime.

I could write about many events that occurred but space and likely censorship prevents me from doing so.

There is more to say, for example, on the battle between the USMC and one of our forward detachments following a beach landing by the US Marines. Owing to the lack of suitable ammo and also the lack of an umpire the battle was declared a draw and fortunately our men were able to continue with the exercise.

The exercise ended on 26 March and we were looking forward to the return trip home although I did not relish the sea journey ahead. Imagine my surprise when we all boarded a luxury ferry of the DFDS Lines and sailed home in complete luxury, comfort and spendour. Mind you, part of our journey involved a muster practice which did not leave us too impressed particularly as it was carried out in Norwegian waters and it was pretty cold on the boat deck without windproof jackets. Not many units complete an exercise with a cruise home though, so it was certainly welcome. My impressions of the exercise were mixed but I felt quite satisfied with the role of the Troop and we certainly carried out our job well, leaving me very impressed and happy to be part of it. I look forward to the next deployment although I doubt if the weather will be quite the same.

L to R: Cpl 'JP' Felix, Mne Andy Lambert (40 Cdo), Sgt Steve Carr, Cpls 'Taff' Roberts, March Finch, Sig 'Sor' Sorley, Sgt Chris Moye, Mne 'Sticky Green' (40 Cdo), LCpl 'Paddy' Doran, SSgt Steve Maddison (14 Sigs)

Ski Yawing
Cpl Finch (the author) at the front

CONGRATULATIONS

Our other news, concerns the recent promotions of **LCpls Roberts** and **Marchant** to substantive full Corporal. Our congratulations are passed on.

Association News

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Your association has 57 branches and eight affiliated branches throughout the United Kingdom. Particulars can be found on pages 230 and 231 of the March issue. We like to hear your news. Please keep in touch via your magazine. If activities are limited, an annual news letter would be appreciated.

3 DIV REUNION CLUB

Report by Mr E. E. Bayley, Hon Secretary

Another year and another historic milestone in the history of the Reunion Club, 'A member of the Royal Signals Association'. A great moment had been reached when the Club celebrated the 35th Annual Reunion on Saturday 28 March, at the Victory (Services) Club under the new president **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe CB, MBE** with 43 members and guests present. To mark this historic occasion in the life of the club our special guests were **Col J. A. D. Francis** and **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon**, the Regimental Secretary and Assistant Regimental Secretary respectively of the Royal Signals Association. **Maj A. Poppleton**, Squadron Commmander, 204 Sig Sqn, 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, represented the Regiment.

The president **Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe** in a short speech welcomed our guests and our first footers all ex despatch riders **Messrs Dilworth, East, Hindle** and **Veasey**, all of whom served under **Brig C. G. Moore** when he commanded the Regiment in Egypt and Palestine, and who joined the Ironsides in Ghent. **Gen Tighe** also paid tribute to the late **Col G. D. T. Harris (Blocks)** one of our members, who sadly passed away on 2 March 1987, a particular loss for me as I was his clerk during the latter days of the war. The president also paid tribute to **Mr R. Wheeler**, Secretary, of the Victory Club on his retirement on 18 March. He has done us proud over the years. The catering manager **Mr S. S. A. Ginever** was present to accept the tribute to **Mr Wheeler.**

Col John Francis and **Col Alistair de Bretton-Gordon** thanked the Committee for having invited them to this 35th Anniversary Reunion and wished the Club continued success and good fortune in the future.

Maj A. J. Poppleton, who represented the Regiment said that it was a great honour to be with us on this evening. He had just assumed Command of 204 Sig Sqn based in Munster, and was getting to know the Division, having been recently posted in after his tour of duty with the Ministry of Defence. The Regiment was in fine spirit, fully equipped with PTARMIGAN and proud of their leading communications role in BAOR. The Division will be involved in a major exercise with the Dutch later this year.

The Reunion Club had been invited to the Regimental Weekend in Soest 18/19 July when the Mohne Fest will be held. It was regretted that **Lt Col A. E. Truluck** CO 3 Armd Div was unable to attend.

Those present were:
Col J. A. D. Francis
Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon

THE REGIMENT
Maj A. Poppleton
Mr W. J. Anderson
Mr E. E. Bayley
Col T. W. Baynes
Mr J. E. M. Brady
Mr L. J. Collins
Mr T. H. W. Dean
Mr F. Dilworth
Mr F. East
Mr A. E. Foot
Mr K. A. Hindle
Mr W. H. Holden
Mr R. Hobbs
Mr I. C. Hounsell
Mr S. G. Hounsell
Capt A. Hughes
Mr E. G. Leat
Mr L. F. Martin
Mr A. R. Mills
Brig C. G. Moore
Mr S. J. Morris
Mr P. H. C. Munchin
Mr S. G. H. O'Dell
Mr E. W. Packham
Mr T. A. Pakeman
Mr H. W. Palmer
Mr P. W. Pannett
Lt Col M. A. Philp
Col A. F. Pownall
Maj D. J. Roberts
Brig The Rev W. B. Rowett
Maj K. N. Smartt
Mr W. Spittal
Mr A. W. Spratley
Brig R. L. Stonham
Mr J. Y. Templeton
Mr R. W. Thomson
Maj Gen P. A. M. Tighe
Mr H. F. Timms
Mr A. Veasey
Maj A. B. Wheeler

BRADFORD BRANCH

90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

A party was held on 24 February to celebrate the 90th birthday of our oldest member, **Mr Charles Firth**. **Mr Firth** joined the Royal Engineers in 1915 and saw service on the Western Front as a Sapper in the RE Signals Section.

Chairman, Mr Clifford Thompson presents Mr Charles Firth with an inscribed tankard to mark the occasion of his 90th birthday

Photo by courtesy Bradford Telegraph and Argus

DERBY BRANCH

Report by Dorothy Williamson—Chairman and Entertainment Secretary

The dinner dance was held on 11 March and was a tremendous success with 103 members and guests attending.

It was with pleasure that we entertained, as guest of honour, **Maj Loveday**, Chairman of Derbyshire TAVR Association and his charming wife, and **Lt Col Clanville**, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire. The Chairman proposed a toast to absent friends.

Our guests were much impressed by our relationship with 46 Sig Sqn; we are proud of this and hope that it will long continue and grow from strength to strength. The Branch would like to record its appreciation to the Squadron and the committee for a successful year.

During the evening an Honour Members Badge was presented to the Chairman, together with a bouquet, by our President, **Maj J. P. Rose TD**. She says that she will wear her badge with pride. (Readers may wish to know that **Mrs 'Dot' Williamson** is an ex-WO2 WRAC who served for 12 years being attached to the Royal Signals from 1959 to 1965. The Honour Membership Badge was awarded by the Central Committee of the Royal Signals Association in recognition of the exceptional service she had rendered the Association over a considerable period of time. Her enthusiasm and devotion to the Association, and all that it stands for, are an outstanding example to us all).

In April we held our Annual General Meeting and the serving committee was re-elected with the exception of one person; **Sig Swarbrook** filling that vacancy.

We have had a sad year with several deaths and serious illnesses. Our sick visitors have kept in close touch with everyone and we send them our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We wish to express our thanks to the SNCO's for their use of their mess and for entertaining the committee after the meetings who greatly enjoy mixing with their serving friends.

The Chairman thanked the committee for their work and their loyal support and also expressed her appreciation of the interest and enthusiasm shown to the branch by the young serving TA members.

Mrs Dot Williamsen after receiving her Honour Members Badge

SHREWSBURY BRANCH

The Branch has had another good and successful year but, like most Branches we could do with a few more active members; we keep trying to encourage the younger element but, as yet its not paying off. Come and join us—you will be made very welcome. We have now changed our meeting place from the Youth Centre, Harlescott to the Sergent's Mess, Headquarters Western District by kind permission of **WO1 McMullen** Irish Guards. The Branch had an excellent evening on the occasion of our annual dinner, arranged by our Entertainments Member **Colin MacMillan**, we changed the venue this year to the Lion and Pheasant, Wyle Cop. The photograph shows members and friends after enjoying a very pleasant meal.

Congratulations to **John Wall** our Branch Chairman on being made MBE in the New Year Honours List, a well deserved award. **John** has spent over 30 years in the TA most of that time with 35 Sig Regt (V) (which is now based at Sutton Coldfield) as their TOT.

During last year we were, once again, able to contribute to local charity, this time to Overley Hall School, Wellington. They required three electric razors for use by the handicapped boys of the school; we were delighted to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

The Grand National Draw run by the Branch was slightly down on last year, but we were still able to pass a cheque for £300.00 to RHQ London being the profits from the sale of tickets. We would like to thank all those both serving and Branch Secretaries who took 'time out' to sell the draw tickets; without your help and generous assistance we could not raise this sum of money on our own. Thank you and if you didn't win this year, better luck next year. The winners were as follows:

1st Prize £150: Ticket No 02495 Horse, Maori Venture.
K. Appleby—Tyne-and-Wear.
2nd Prize £75: Ticket No 12193 Horse, The Tsarevich.
A. N. Petch—1 Armd Div Sig Regt.
3rd Prize £25: Ticket No 05352 Horse, Le-Ar-Aghadh.
C. Shaw—Liverpool Branch.
4th Prize £10: Ticket No 08601 Horse, West Tip.
Maj A. Hudson—Preston.

Shrewsbury Branch Annual Dinner 1987 Branch members and friends

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by Capt Jane Knight

There seems always to be a lull in activity at this time of the year, a quiet time between winter sleep and summer blossoming when little seems to happen. However, **Mr John Billett** organised another visit to the 'Beeb', this one revealing the mysteries of the News Room. An excellent buffet supper followed.

In March our Chairman, **Mr H. Johnson**, had the honour of being Royal Signals Escort to **HM The Queen** for the unveiling of the Korean War Memorial at Westminster Abbey, a ceremony at which one serving and one retired member represented every regiment and corps which took part in that campaign.

We now are getting our Branch into fine fettle for Blandford, Catterick and, we hope, many other social occasions, but those two in particular because they afford the opportunity of meeting so many old friends.

Shrewsbury Branch Committee
Left to Right: Phil Johnson (Treasurer), Maj Bob Aitken (Secretary), Maj John Wall (Chairman), Colin MacMillan (Ent Member)

— Sport —

RUGBY

ROYAL SIGNALS (BAOR) RFC HONG KONG TOUR 1987
Report by Capt P. Stephenson

After two years planning and organisation by **Capt 'Geordie' Gainford**, the Royal Signals (BAOR) RFC Hong Kong tour finally got under way. A squad of 25 players from 22, 7, 16, 21 and 29 Sig Regts assembled in Blandford on 16 January to commence the tour. Each player contributed £350 towards the cost of his air fare, ferry fare, blazer, flannels and badge, the rest of the money required was raised from raffles, ticket sales, Corps and Regimental grants. British Caledonian Airways allowed a concession of £200 on the air fare because of the group size.

The blight of bad weather affecting Europe in January hit the tour immediately. A planned warm up game against Wimborne RFC had to be cancelled due to frozen pitches. This was replaced with a strenuous training session to allow all the new faces to become acquainted with the old sweats of BAOR. The afternoon's activity was rounded off with a devastating right flanking attack on the Blandford Tandoori. **Sgt Bobby Snow** was taking no prisoners and **LCpl Tank Sherman** was taking no chances. An early morning run on Monday followed by a photo session outside the Royal Signals Museum brought everyone together again and ready to leave England's cold for sunnier climes. After final packing and with the best wishes of **Lt Col Roy Shiner** (Secretary of Corps Rugby), the squad departed by high speed luxury coach (Blandford's best) for Gatwick airport. The journey was to prove an uncomfortable and expensive one for skipper **Cpl Dave Wood** who was severely afflicted by that mystery disease which strikes all rugby players when travelling on coaches.

The long and arduous flight (18 hours with a short stop at Dubai) was made comfortable and pleasant by the extremely friendly and helpful British Caledonian cabin staff. (We love those B Cal girls!) The flight crew was surprised to find a quiet and well behaved rugby team and showed their appreciation with numerous cockpit tours and some free champagne to celebrate the tour. Even so it was a welcome relief to disembark at Kai Tak airport and step into the cool, if not quite fresh, atmosphere of Hong Kong on the Tuesday evening. Our hosts, the Queen's Gurkha Signals were waiting at the airport to conduct us to our tour base at Sek Kong camp. After a welcoming drink the squad split into two groups—one taking a taste of Chinese cuisine at the Golden Cockroach Restaurant, and the other more adventurous venturing to Kowloon to return the hospitality of the air hostesses. It was at this stage of the tour that the first problems with the local taxi drivers were encountered. The phonetic difference between Sek Kong and Sai Kung is small when spoken by a westerner, but the geographical difference is about 20 miles. This linguistic and financial difficulty was found to be directly proportional to the amount of alcohol each passenger had consumed.

The Wednesday morning training session saw everyone bleary eyed and weary but enthusiastic for the afternoon game against the Hong Kong Police. The session allowed the squad to become accustomed to the heat (although it was considered a cold spell in HK), and the rock hard pitches.

The game was played at the Police sports centre at Mong Kok and was a tremendous start to the tour with a 19—8 victory. Although the Police were on the defensive for much of the first half, two tries gave them the upper hand at half time. But in the second half a combination of effective rucking, back row incisiveness and superior fitness resulted in three tries. Centre **Cpl Paul Gartside** and wingers **LCpl J. J. Jones** and **LCpl Kenny Anderson** were speedy and adventurous whilst the back row **Cpl Dai Treeby** and **SSgt Terry Waites** were unstoppable. Tries came from **Gartside, Anderson** and full back **Cpl Ian Stallard**, who also steered over two conversions. The other points came from a drop goal from **Cpl Dave Wood**. A remarkable achievement for a jet lagged team. The evening festivities commenced in the bar at Mong Kok Police station and continued with a guided tour by Police of such high class Kowloon establishments as Bottoms Up, Red Lips and Ned Kelly's Last Stand. The team began to explore the pulsating night life from the exotic to sleazy, but still managed to find a 'MacDonald's'.

The next day had been carefully planned by QG Signals. The team were treated to a tour of the San Miguel brewery followed by a lunch at a Chinese restaurant. In the afternoon there were visits to the Chinese border, some people travelling by land rover and others in helicopters organised for the day.

The hospitality of QG Signals continued with another organised trip on the Friday. A coach trip across Kowloon and through the harbour tunnel to HK Island gave us an introduction to the colony by day. At Aberdeen harbour a few minutes spent haggling with junk and sampan owners secured a boat trip to Lamma Island. The scene of chaos in the harbour as hundreds of boats vied for trade tried to enter and leave the harbour, whilst attempting to dodge each other, and the larger boats that went hurtling past is one that no photographer can do justice to. It was a definite relief to escape on to the clear waters of the inlet. Once on Lamma Island the team spent a long lunch at the Wan Kee Seafood Restaurant. Customers can go to the many tanks in the dining room and choose exactly which fish or lobster they want.

R Signals (BAOR) Hong Kong Rugby Tour January 1987
Back Row (L-R): Sgt Snow (7 Sig Regt), Cpls Hobday (21 Sig Regt), Stallard (7 Sig Regt), Lloyd (22 Sig Regt), SSgt Waites (22 Sig Regt), Lts Stephenson (22 Sig Regt), Egan (7 Sig Regt), Cpl Treeby (21 Sig Regt), Sig Matthews (21 Sig Regt), Cpls Sartorius (21 Sig Regt), Gartside (16 Sig Regt), LCpl Roberts (7 Sig Regt)
Front Row (L-R): LCpl Jones (21 Sig Regt), 2Lt Cotterill (22 Sig Regt), Sig Ferguson (29 Sig Regt), Lt McCourt (AAC Harrogate), SSgt James (7 Sig Regt), Capt Gainford (22 Sig Regt), Cpl Wood (21 Sig Regt), WO1 Johnson (22 Sig Regt), Capt Steele (21 Sig Regt), Cpl Clare (22 Sig Regt), LCpls Treadwell (21 Sig Regt), Anderson (7 Sig Regt), Sherman (22 Sig Regt)

It is then caught and killed before your eyes. But no matter how fresh the food is, until the art of eating with chopsticks is mastered, it remains either on the plate, on the tablecloth, on the floor or all over your lap as **RSM Trev Johnson** found. A gentle afternoon rowing boat trip across the bay for **Cpls Dai Treeby** and **J. J. Jones** was turned into a very long trek back. As they landed on the opposite shore to the bay, intent on examining the work of the lobster farms, they were chased by dogs and forced to abandon the boat and very nearly parts of their anatomy and stumble back across the island on foot. Evening happy hour at the Sheraton Hotel in Kowloon prepared everyone for the hustle of Temple Street market. Here you can buy genuine imitation Lacoste T-shirts for £2.50 and Rolex Oysters for £20. That is if you have the nerve and patience to haggle and argue with the Chinese street merchants. Not a place for the faint hearted or those easily separated from their money.

A Sunday game against the Combined Services XV produced a fine 36—8 result at Kings Park. Once again the steamrolling efforts of **Treeby** and **Waites** set up scoring opportunities. The first score came from **LCpl Kenny Anderson**, who blazed down the left flank from the half way line before touching down. It was then that **Treeby** and **Waites** moved into action. A break of scrummage saw **Waites** pass on to **Treeby**, who in turn sliced through most of the defence before giving over to scrum-half **Lt Lawrence McCourt**, who scored under the posts, to give centre **Cpl Ian Stallard** an easy conversion. Minutes later **Treeby** was on the move again, this time sending fly-half **Cpl Dave Wood** over the line. Not to be outdone **Waites** chipped in with a brilliant piece of individual play when off a lineout on the halfway mark he gathered a long throw, broke away to cover 35m and then sent **McCourt** who was backing up well, to score. In spite of a revival by Combined Services, the match was sealed in the dying minutes with two tries in quick succession by **Anderson** and **Waites**. After a vocal session in the Tigers rugby club afterwards, highlight of the day was **Treeby** falling asleep head first in a bowl of chop suey.

By this stage in the tour people were staying around Sek Kong more outside the training sessions, even sunbathing in the good weather that favoured us. Another notable event of the week was a vist to the vast Ocean Park funfair on HK Island. For Chinese New Year we were kindly invited on to the roof of HMS *Tamar*, overlooking the harbour, to watch the fireworks display. Certainly a sight which could not fail to impress. A full hour's show fired into the night sky from boats below us in the harbour, an event which we were fortunate to find coinciding with the tour.

Watering the pitch Hong Kong style

The return game against Combined Services was a disappointing affair, resulting in a 23—12 defeat. By now losses through injuries were beginning to hamper the team but nevertheless it was useful experience for the several reserve players fielded in the game. The final days were spent nursing the injured players back to health and winding the whole team up for the climax game against a Hong Kong XV. An entertaining game of attacking rugby left the Signals narrowly defeated 24—22, but made a lasting impression on the HK community. A tense seesaw game was marked by the brilliance of individual players on both sides. Once again **Treeby, Stallard** and **Anderson** kept the Signals colours flying and tries by **LCpls Tank Sherman** and **Jones** contributed to an admirable performance. Unfortunately the referee's whistle prevented a memorable end to the tour.

After final opportunities for shopping, haggling and sightseeing, and a farewell party for those in the QG Signals who had helped to make the tour run smoothly, a weary team embarked upon the return journey with British Caledonian. Even the smiling hostesses could not lift the gloom of leaving bright, lively Hong Kong for the delights of *Flying Falcon '87*. Kong Hei Fat Choy!

A special thanks to the following without whose help the tour would not have been such a success: **Maj Gen A. Yeoman, Col C. T. Garton, Lt Cols R. P. Shiner, D. T. Burton, J. E. Neeve, Maj (QM) A. Davies, Maj (Retd) W. H. H. Parkes, Maj (QM) K. Davies-Stewart, WO1 (GSM) Lumb, SSgt M. Chapman, Sgt Sharma**, and all Commanding Officers for releasing their players.

Lineout action against Hong Kong Police, WO1 Johnson looks in amazement

Sampling the local cuisine
Foreground L-R: Cpl Dai Treeby, Sig Fergy Ferguson, Cpls Blue Lloyd, Paul Gartside, Brummie Clare, Capt Don Steele
Background L-R: SSgt Terry Waites, Cpl Ian Stallard, LCpl Nigel Roberts, Capt Geordie Gainford, Cpl Dave Wood, Sgt Bob Snow, SSgt Martin Chapman

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free from the obligation to support a wife or children;

passed medically fit for admission.

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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.

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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 attainment of an outstanding professional achievement in the Corps. An exemplary standard on the following courses will also qualify.

a. The Royal Signals Officers Telecommunication 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 Deputy 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 an appropriate occasion decided by the Senior Royal Signals Officer in the theatre/command 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. DSOinC/Chairman of Signals Association* .....
5. Institute Recommendation .....
   .....
6. Selection Committee Decision .....
   .....

*Delete where inapplicable

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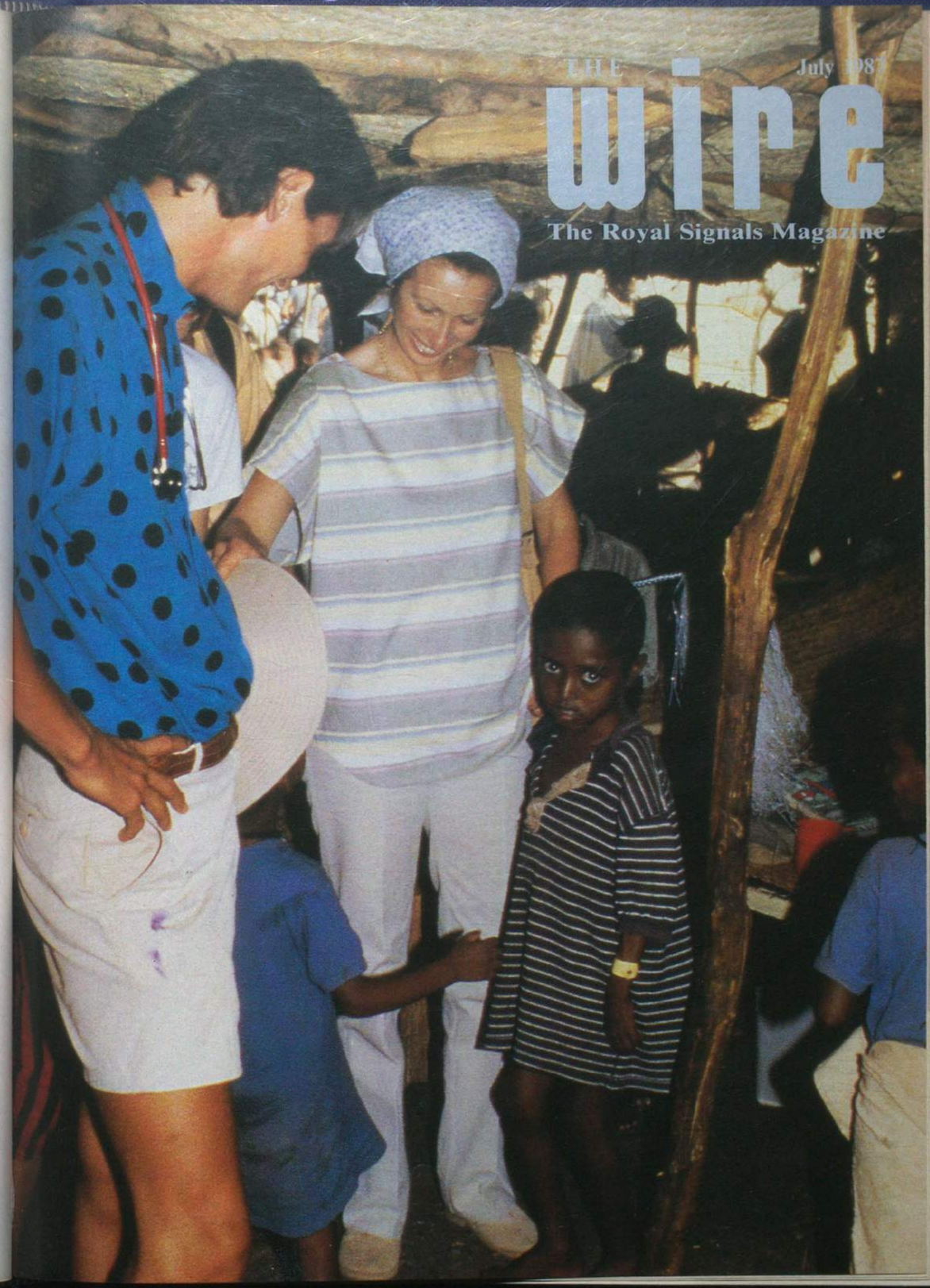

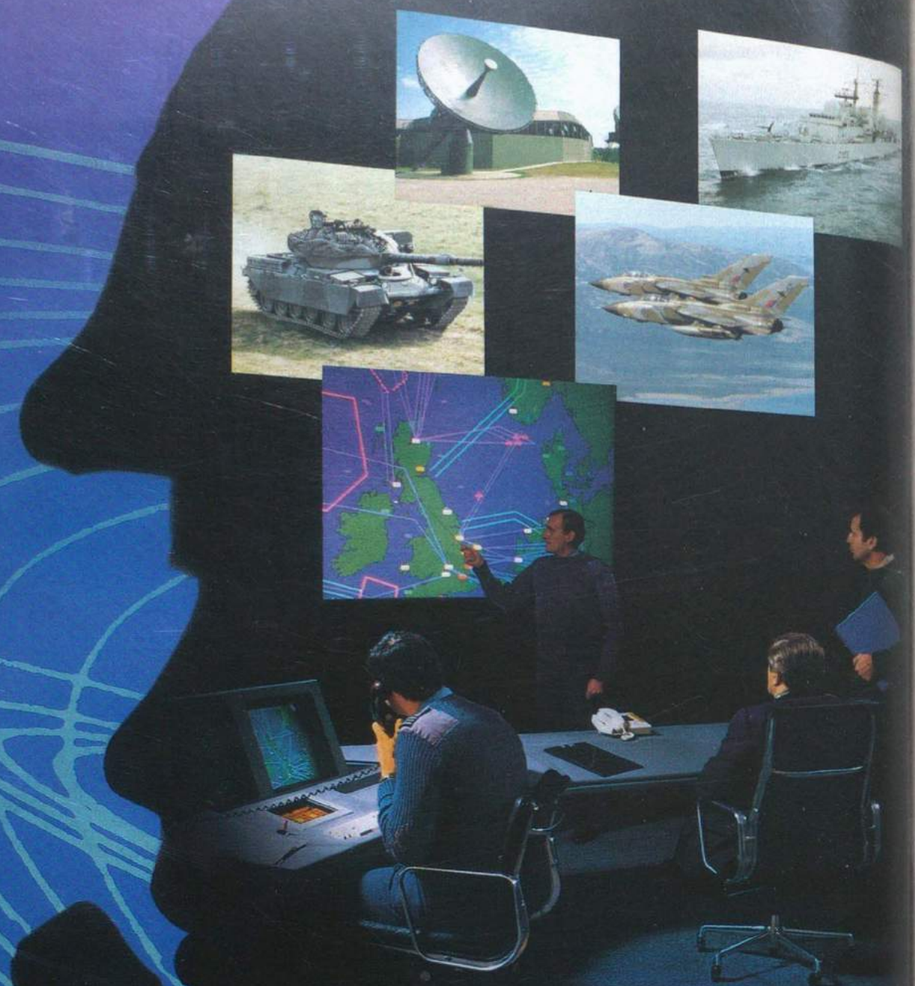

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Editor Lt Col K. E. P. Andrews MBE
Assistant Editor Mrs M. A. Riggs

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Master of Signals, **Major General J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL** sent the following message to our **Colonel-in-Chief**.
'On behalf of the whole of your Corps I send you our warmest congratulations upon your recognition as our Right Royal Princess'.

The following reply was received from the Colonel-in-Chief.
'Please convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to the whole Corps for their congratulations and kind remarks on my appointment as Princess Royal'.

Readers may wish to know that our Colonel-in-Chief's title is now 'Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal GCVO'.
On occasions when a loyal toast is proposed the correct form is 'Ladies and Gentleman (or Mr Vice) Our Colonel-in-Chief', the seconder or Mr Vice responds 'Ladies and Gentlemen, The Princess Royal'.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

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

CB
Maj Gen A. Yeoman

OBE
Lt Col (Rtd) R. Goodman BEM

MBE
Maj A. J. Roper
Capt R. W. Mansfield
Capt W. H. White

BEM
SSgt J. E. D'Alquen
SSgt F. T. Morris
Sgt G. H. Pollard
Cpl W. C. E. Grattidge
Cpl R. F. Jones
Cpl M. T. Thompson

We also send warm congratulations to **Yeoman Goaler Alan Copestake** on the award of the BEM (Civil Division).

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 1987, 28 June, the Master of Signals and all ranks of her Corps, serving and retired, send HRH The Princess Royal their affectionate greetings, and grateful thanks for her great kindness and devotion to her Corps during her first 10 years as Colonel-in-Chief, and take special delight on this, the first occasion on which they may address her as The Princess Royal'.

The Princess Royal sent the following reply:
'I was so pleased to receive your very kind message of greetings on the occasion of Princess Royal Day 1987, 28 June. Please convey my thanks and best wishes to all members of my Corps'.

OUR COVER PICTURE
This shows our Colonel-in-Chief Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO visiting a refugee camp in the Sudan in 1985 in her capacity as President of Save the Children. The photograph is reproduced by courtesy of Save the Children and was taken by Fritz Curzon.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO BERLIN

THE ROYAL VISIT TO BERLIN

Virtually the sole topic of conversation and the main focus of attention within Berlin for the last three, if not six, months had been the forthcoming visit of **HM The Queen** and **HRH The Duke of Edinburgh**. All heads of state of the three Allied powers in the western sector of the city have, or will have, visited in this, Berlin's 750th birthday, year. **The Queen**'s visit in May was the first of visits by other members of The Royal Family. This is very much appreciated by the Berliners who were delighted to host Her Majesty and His Royal Highness at a civic reception held in their honour in Charlottenburg.

The main involvement for the Services was The Queen's Birthday Parade and subsequent reception in Olympic Stadium Barracks. 29 Sig Regt played a major role in these events: the CO, **Lt Col John Munnery** was responsible for the organisation of a reception for 1,500 guests whilst the RSM, **WO1 'Paddy' Crabtree** was responsible for the detailed planning.

Now that it is all over, and we look back with pride on a very happy and memorable occasion here in Berlin, we know why we all worked so hard beforehand to ensure all would go well on THE DAY.

Planning started in November and with two feet of snow on the ground it was difficult to imagine hundreds of soldiers parading in the Spring sun or indeed our guests sipping sparkling wine and eating strawberries and cream at the Reception. Preparations continued throughout the New Year and by February the Adjutant, **Capt Carolyn Bacon**, was fast disappearing under a pile of instructions, amendments, more instructions, more amendments . . . The ORQMS, **WO2 Dave Tarrant**, and the Orderly Room staff looked on in amazement as the QBP files seemed to multiply daily.

By 'visit minus 10 weeks' the pace had hotted up considerably and the CO and Adjutant found themselves at yet another planning conference!

The parade square began to resemble a complex game of cat's cradle or an origami puzzle but the RSM worked on undaunted. Rehearsals began and at times our RSM appeared near despair—would the Colour Party ever get it right? Why have so many of the marching troops got two left feet . . . ?

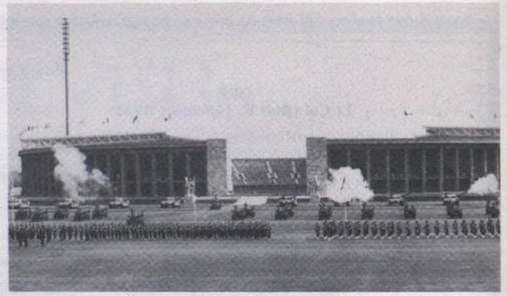
So far the majority of the Regiment had been left untouched by the ever increasing excitment but then a weighty document arrived from Brigade HQ with the marvellous title of 'Troops to Task'. Soon the SSMs of the two Squadrons were scratching their heads and trying to fit too few soldiers into far too many tasks. **WO2 (SSM) Sandy Wilson** produced a marvellous bar chart to reassure himself that he had not forgotten some enormous pool of manpower lurking somewhere around Olympic Stadium Barracks. Needless to say he hadn't and soon the 60 JNCOs and soldiers that provide the Regiment's only workforce were guarding tanks on the Maifeld one day, providing an anti-vandal patrol for the reception area the following day and escorting carpet layers, electricians and a varied assortment of other workmen around the hallowed portals of Sector Headquartes the next. Life became very hectic to say the least.

HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh riding in open carriage to an enthusiastic welcome

Finally the day dawned and the Parade took place on the morning of Wednesday 27 May. The best laid plans can never take into account those numerous headaches that arise during dress rehearsals. However, on the day, the sense of occasion, and pride in ourselves carried us through. The parade was magnificent as can be seen from the photographs; a tribute to the CO and the dedication of his RSM and staff and the Adjutant who brought all her talents to the fore as she carried out her numerous tasks with efficiency. Just being there and playing a part in such an historic occasion is unforgettable.

The reception that followed, in glorious sunshine, was an enjoyable end to the day.

The Queen accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh meets the Brownies and the Girl Guides before leaving the Regiment



Pride of the RSM

Lt Col John Munnery is presented to The Queen

43 (WESSEX) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) ON PARADE FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Twenty-four members of the Squadron, led by **Capt Andrew Cornish**, paraded for **Her Majesty The Queen** during her visit to Bridgewater on Friday 8 May 1987.

Since no reigning Monarch has visited Bridgwater for over 300 years there was no-one who could recall what form of military participation had taken place last time! on this occasion, the Squadron members lined the route for the Royal 'Walkabout' in the High Street.

A period of intense preparation under the watchful eye of **SSM Sidney Lang**, paid dividends. Several kit inspections, tailoring by **Cpl Linda Reeve** a WRAC member of the Squadron who is a lingerie designer in civilian life, and a series of parade rehearsals on a simulated High Street in a local car park, ensured that the Contingent's turnout, drill and steadiness on parade were of a very high order.

HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and Sig Paul Wolley

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, WO2 (SSM) Sidney Lang and Sgt Alan Dorrit

DISBANDMENT OF 10 SIGNAL REGIMENT (HQ UKLF) 31 MAY 1987

As part of the reorganisation of Royal Signals in the United Kingdom, 10 Signal Regiment (HQ UKLF) disbanded on 31 May 1987. However, although the Regiment has now disappeared, the personnel involved soldier on as members of new independent units. 1 Squadron has become 243 Signal Squadron and serves all units in South West District, 2 Squadron has become 238 Signal Squadron in London District and 3 Squadron has become 251 Signal Squadron in South East District. RHQ and HQ Squadron have formed the nucleus of the new HQ UKLF Support Unit, based at Wilton, so it is still business as usual, even if we are all under new titles.

The Regiment can trace its origins back to a Signal Company raised in Glasgow in 1924, and has had its fair share of trials and tribulations since then. Under various guises, it served in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Coventry before World War 2, and in the early days of the war was the GHQ Signal Regiment with the BEF in France. After Dunkirk, the Regiment served in England until 1944, when it moved to France, Belgium and finally in 1945 to Bad Oeynhausen in Germany. The Regiment remained in Germany until 1962, in various locations and under equally various titles, becoming 10 Signal Regiment on 1 September 1959. At that time, it was located in Essen, and moved to Krefeld in 1960. On 1 April 1962, the Regiment was placed in suspended animation.

Reactivated on 1 June 1964, the Regiment became part of the static communication system within the United Kingdom and was based in London. Exactly 21 years after reforming, the Regiment moved its RHQ from Hounslow to Wilton, and became 10 Signal Regiment (HQ UKLF), with the additional responsibility of administering HQ UKLF. On 31 May 1987, all these responsibilities were handed over to the new units, and the Regiment disappeared once more from the order of battle.

No history of the Regiment would be complete without an account of Bruno, the Berlin Cable Bear. In 1945 an undamaged statue of a bear holding a big cable drum in his paws was rescued from the ruins of Berlin. It belonged to the Deutsche Fernkabel Gesellschaft and stood at their headquarters in Rognitzstrasse. Not wishing to see such a prize fall into the hands of the Russians, the Bear was loaded on to a 3-ton lorry, concealed by signals equipment, passed through the zone check-points and taken to Harewood Barracks, Herford. In the spring of 1948 the bear was hoisted into place on top of a column which once carried a German Eagle and there he stayed until his ceremonial move to Essen-Kray. Bruno's enduring presence with the Regiment has had its effects. He was adopted as the Regimental Mascot and was used by sports teams on their track suits as a form of 'Colours', then on Christmas Cards and eventually on our writing paper. It was at Essen that a visiting engineer from Siemens saw 'Bruno', recognised him, and thereby started off the negotiations which eventually resulted in the return of the statue to the Deutsche Fernkabel Gesellschaft. The Bear was handed over to Herr Fredrich Muhl, Director of the firm, with full honours at a ceremony in the Barracks at Essen Kray on 28 November 1957. As an expression of the extreme gratitude of the firm they presented a replica of the statue to the Regiment on 28 May 1958. Bruno has occupied an affectionate place in the hearts of the members of the Regiment ever since, and now stands proudly in Erskine Barracks in Wilton. It is intended that responsibility for Bruno should pass to 243 Signal Squadron, and he is expected to move to Bulford later in the year.

The actual disbandment of the Regiment was a low key affair, as almost everybody concerned was to carry on doing the same job after disbandment. Friday 29 May 1987 was the last working day for the Regiment; prior to this, a Farewell Buffet Lunch had been held in Wilton on 22 May, with the Corps Band in attendance, and guests appearing from all over the South of England.

On Friday 29 May, the day was strictly routine until mid-afternoon, when the Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant Colonel Mike Thorne**, had a farewell drink with his RHQ staff. He was then formally escorted under protest to the Erskine Barracks Car Park, where arrangements had been made to remove him from the Barracks.

After inspecting an appropriately dressed guard of honour found by the Regimental Tug-of-War Team commanded by **Sergeant Bob Archer**, the CO climbed aboard the specially equipped armoured vehicle which was to take him from the Barracks. Already aboard was **Sergeant Jock Carnegie**, our head chef, prepared to serve the CO a late lunch, complete with several glasses and a bottle of wine (or was it a glass and several bottles of wine?). As the vehicle moved slowly through the Barracks, the route was lined by the Wilton—based members of the Regiment and many friends from HQ UKLF. The CO was last seen making good speed towards Wilton Town Centre; we presume he got home safely—at least, we have heard nothing to the contrary!

Lt Col Mike Thorne (CO 10 Sig Regt) briefs Maj Ian Bingham (OC 243 Sig Sqn) on his new responsibilities—Bruno looks satisfied with the arrangements

The CO inspects the Guard of Honour—(L to R) Sgt Bob Archer, Cpl Gary Hammond, Sgt Stephen Phillips, Cpl David Parker, John Hamaton, Dean Nichols, Wayne Radcliffe

Lt Col Mike Thorne (assisted by Sgt Jock Carnegie) prepares to leave the barracks for the last time

At 1630 hours on the same afternoon in a simple ceremony outside RHQ, the Regimental flag was lowered for the last time. The flag party, consisting of **Corporal Dick Rutherford** and **Lance Corporal Paul Smith**, under command of **WO1 (RSM) Robbie Burnett**, handed the flag for safekeeping to the 21C, **Major Brian Robinson**. At that moment, the life of 10 Signal Regiment came effectively to an end. Hopefully, the loss of the Regiment is only temporary, and it will rise in a new form at some time in the future.

Cpl Dick Rutherford and LCpl Paul Smith lower the Regimental flag for the last time

Maj Brian Robinson accepts the Regimental flag from WO1 (RSM) Robbie Burnett

10 Signal Regiment—31 May 1987

Back Row—Mrs Angela Bingham (CAO 1Sqn), Capt John Nichols (Ops Offr), Maj Peter Steeples (OC SWS), Maj Ian Bingham (OC 1Sqn), Maj Peter Dick-Peter (OC 2 Sqn), Maj Martin Wilson-Brown (OC 3 Sqn), Maj Andy Andrews (Pmr), Mrs Sandra Jenkins (CAO Wilton)
Front Row—Lt Col Mark Wilson (QM), WO1 (RSM) Robbie Burnett, Lt Col Mike Thorne (CO), Capt Leslie Scott (Adjt), Maj Brian Robinson (2IC), WO1 Alastair Sykes (Supt Clk)

COLONEL J. A. D. FRANCIS RETIRES

As many will know, **Col John Francis** retired as the Regimental Secretary on 31 July 1987 when he was lunched out by the Corps Committee. He joined Regimental Headquarters in May 1978, shortly after our Colonel-in-Chief was appointed.

During his tour he instituted a number of innovations. The most significant of these was the computerisation of all the Corps funds of which he was manager and thereafter a number of administrative practices within RHQ. He introduced the convenanting of all Corps subscriptions which led to a substantial increase in Corps income at no expense to individuals.

During this period RHQ experienced two significant changes. The first was the banishment from its old premises in the Duke of York's HQ to the near derelict TA Centre at 56 Regency Street. **John Francis**, through a combination of persuasion and forcefulness ensured that the facilities and decor were worthy of the Corps' Regimental HQ.

The second was a major reorganisation of the responsibilities within RHQ resulting in reduction of staff and the coordination of the administration for the Association, Institution and Financial affairs whilst in all other respects preserving their independence.

Probably the most enjoyable of his duties was the planning and supervision of the Princess Royal's visits as Colonel-in-Chief and it was in this field that his anticipation, eye for detail and willingness to help and support units involved were most evident. It was he who produced the guidelines for Royal visits which has led to the success and enjoyment of all the visits undertaken by Her Royal Highness. On many of these occasions his wife **Jean** accompanied him and always displayed charm and cheer and selfless concern for others.

The Corps will miss **Col John Francis** as it did his predecessors but **Col Alastair de Bretton-Gordon** will be a worthy successor.

We shall look forward to seeing **John** and **Jean** on many occasions in the future and we all wish them every happiness in their retirement.

JMWB

MAJOR GORDON TURNER, MBE, BA, ARCM, LGSM, FTCL, FICM, psm

Maj Gordon Turner MBE, Director of Music, of the Corps Band is retiring after 38 years' service. Born in Willenhall, Staffordshire, he was taught to play the cornet in the local Salvation Army Band. After enlisting into the Royal Engineers (Chatham) in 1949 as a band boy he became a pupil at Kneller Hall. In 1953 the National Brass Band Club awarded him the Empire Scholarship to further his studies and two years later, at the age of 22, he returned to Kneller Hall as a student. Completing the Bandmaster's course, it was ruled that as he was under age to be appointed to a band he could, in the meantime, become a part-time student at Trinity College of Music in London and he went on to gain a Fellowship, both at Trinity and the London College of Music. The holder of a Bachelor of Arts Degree, his other distinctions are the diplomas of ARCM and LGSM.

In 1958 he was appointed Bandmaster to 15/19th The King's Royal Hussars. While a Hussar he won the Peter Yorke Composition Prize for his brass band overture, The Trojans. Subsequent appointments as Bandmaster/Director of Music, the Rifle Depot the Prince of Wales Division and the Cambrai Staff Band (RTR) when he was awarded the MBE. He was appointed Director of Music the Royal Signals Staff Band in 1982. It was fitting that his last public performance was in the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief at Goldsmith's Hall on 28 April 1987 after which the SOinC presented him with a piece of silver in recognition of his significant contribution to the Corps as Director of Music.

The Corps wishes **Gordon** and **Olive** a happy retirement.

The CO Lt Col Alan Stutchbury, presenting a School plaque to Maj Gordon Turner on behalf of the School Regiment officers, having received from him a coffee table in the design of a Corps drum

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CAPTAIN D. F. WALL LTCL BBCM psm

Capt David Wall was born in Redditch, Worcestershire and enlisted into The King's Shropshire Light Infantry as a Junior Bandsman in 1960. A cornet player, he soon reached the position of 'Principal' with his band and served with them world-wide before attending The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, as a student Bandmaster.

Graduating in 1975, he was appointed Bandmaster to The King's Own Scottish Borderers and to The Scottish Division School of Music in Edinburgh—later Aberdeen—in 1978. Selected for commissioning as a Director of Music, he took up the position of Director of Music, The Queen's Division in 1984, and Senior Director of Music of the newly formed Army Junior School of Music, Bovington, in February 1986. Carrying the rank of Major, he was largely responsible for the inauguration of the School which trains Bandsmen for the Regimental Bands of the Royal Armoured Corps and Infantry.

Capt Wall was selected for appointment to one of the Army's major staff bands when taking up his appointment as Director of Music of The Band of The Royal Corps of Signals in May 1987.

We welcome our new Director of Music and his wife **Heather** into the Corps.

Capt David Wall

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THE FIRST EVER!

It was a memorable day for the Families Office 7 Sig Regt, when **Mrs Jan Hughes**, who has worked for the office for three years, was presented with her Meritorious Service Certificate.

The Certificate is in recognition of 12 years continuous service working for the Army. This is the first ever to be presented to the wife of a serving soldier.

Brig S. Cowan OBE Commander Communications 1 (BR) Corps presented the Certificate.

RAF BRUGGEN 10 MILE ROAD RACE 1987 NEW COURSE RECORD

Set by Sgt Dave Carr—7 Sig Regt

The eighth meeting of the RAF Bruggen 10 mile road race, was held at RAF Bruggen on Saturday 11 March. The wet windy conditions were not the ideal setting for producing records, but **Sgt Dave Carr** of 7 Sig Regt proved he could beat both the elements and the opposition.

In winning this prestiguous event he set a new course record in a personal best time of 49 minutes 13 seconds, surpassing his old record by some 10 seconds. His previous best time in this event was 50 minutes 39 seconds set in 1986, in which he was placed fourth. **Sgt Carr** becomes the first Army runner to win this race and clearly he is on target for the next major event, 'The London Marathon'. He has trained long and hard throughout what has been a vicious German winter. His weekly training programme varied between 60 and 90 miles depending on the snow and ice. In recent months this dedicated training has also led him to individual victories in both the BAOR Cross Country Championship and the BAOR 10km Cross Country Relay.

His sights are now firmly set on producing a sub two hours 20 minutes in the forthcoming London Marathon. In the 1986 Berlin Marathon he achieved a time of two hours 23 minutes, this was without the preparation and dedicated training he has achieved over the past six months. It is this sort of form that may gain him international recognition and we wish him continuing success in his future events.

28 SIGNAL REGIMENT'S FOOTBALL SUCCESS

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL 1986/87
CLEAN SWEEP

This has been the most successful season ever by the Regimental first Team during which a very high standard of football has been set. For the first time 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) now hold all of the following:

Army Challenge Cup, Army Challenge Cup (BAOR), (BR) RCZ Major Units Cup, North Rhine Interservices League Division One Shield, North Rhine Interservices League Cup, Rothmans Area (3) Rheindahlen Six a Side Cup, Rothmans Grand Final Six a Side Cup, NORTHAG Six a Side Cup, R Signals (BAOR) Six a Side Cup.

ARMY CHALLENGE CUP FINAL v SEME BORDON

Two finals, both with extra time, were necessary before the home of the Army Cup was decided. In the first game the score was 4—4 after extra time. Goal scorers **Cpl Chris McQuade 2, Cpl Brian Wilkins 1,** and **Cpl Simon Booth 1,** 17 hours later the replay began at the Military Stadium Aldershot with both sides showing signs of battle fatigue. After 72 minutes we found ourselves two goals down and looking dead and buried, however two minutes later **Cpl John Wayman** scored to revive our hopes. With just three minutes to go it was 2—2 through **LCpl 'Cheets' Cheetham** scoring to take the teams yet again into extra time. After going 3—2 behind **Cpl Brian Wilkins** scored another equaliser. The Cup marathon was decided on a penalty converted by **Sig Gary Maloney** to direct the Army Cup back to BAOR and 28 (BR) Sig Regt. Wimbledon's late manager, **Dave Bassett** attended both matches and presented the trophies. The team travelled back to St Tonis, very tired but elated, and to a suprise victory celebration.

As well as having a busy season on the Regimental side, we had the honour to provide players for both the Royal Signals BAOR squad and the (BR) RCZ squad. Congratulations go to **Cpl Brian Wilkins** and **Cpl John Wayman** on being selected as joint winners of the Players Player of the Year Award.

Back Row: Cpls Webb, Lincoln, Booth, LCpls McHale, Cheetham, Cpl Bunkle, Sig Maloney, LCpl McKeegan, Cpl Wayman, LCpl Fife, WO2 Parkhill

Front Row: Cpls Grierson, Norris, Lt Nelson, Cpl Wilkin, Lt Col Chubb, Sig Rankin, Cpl McQuade

Trophies: NSSG six-a-side, NRISFL Ko Cup, Rothmans BAOR, Army (BAOR) Challenge Cup, RCZ Maj Units, Army Challenge Cup, NRISFL Shield, Rothmans RCZ, R Signals (BAOR) seven-a-side

33 SIGNAL REGIMENT'S RECRUITING

RECRUIT SELECTION

Recruit Selection is still an enviable success story within the Regiment with standards steadily rising all the while. It was with great interest that the compiler of this report received an unsigned account of a recruit's view of one of our Recruit Selection Weekends. It makes interesting reading.

THOUGHTS OF AN UNKNOWN RECRUIT

After a hard day's work I was hardly feeling up to facing a tough weekend with the Territorial Army, but I thought to myself I joined because I felt that I wanted something more than just a hobby, I wanted excitement and to improve my fitness.

After saying this, it was the last thing on my mind as I made my way to the barracks on the Friday night to join the rest of the recruits who, like myself, had joined two weeks previously. My boots are still hurting my ankles, my uniform felt too big, but I put this down to not being used to wearing a uniform of any description before.

On arrival at the barracks I was met by a Corporal I had seen two weeks previously on my recruit selection weekend. He had not been my team leader, but I remember thinking at the time that I was glad he was not, because of his attitude. However, when seeing myself and other recruits arriving he seemed okay. He then asked all of us, 13 in number, did we have all the equipment required for the weekend. On replying 'yes' he proceeded to check it after which we proceeded to the Drill Hall, which I could vaguely remember from Thursday night where we had paraded on reporting. As we went into the hall, the sound of our boots echoed throughout. We arrived at a large brown steel door and stood there not knowing what was about to happen.

After a few minutes the Corporal arrived back with a Staff Sergeant, who opened the door, and a loud whistling sound nearly deafened us (a door alarm). He then disappeared inside and the whistling stopped. The door was then opened wide and we were called inside. There I could see racks and racks of guns. Having handled a rifle briefly for one hour two weeks previously on my selection weekend, I was a bit wary. I was given a rifle and two magazines and a sling, told to sign and fall in outside. We then marched outside and were told to wait, after which a four ton vehicle arrived.

We all boarded the vehicle and were transported to a camp in North Wales called Kinmel Park. On arrival at the camp we reported to the reception where we then met up with **WO2 Jolliffe** whom we had previously met on our recruitment selection weekend. He took our name and squadron and allocated our accommodation. We were then taken to our room by the Corporal who had escorted us. We made our beds, laid out our overnight kit and reported back to reception.

Recruits from other Squadrons had arrived and been allocated accommodation. We all assembled in the main reception area and were addressed by **WO2 Jolliffe** and **WO2 Watkinson** who outlined the programme for the weekend. At this stage I was still not sure what was about to happen to me. After the briefing we went to bed. I found no problem in falling asleep as I had been up since 0500 hrs that morning to go to work.

After what seemed only a few minutes but was actually six and a half hours sleep, we awakened to the sound of shouting. I opened my eyes to see the face of that Corporal whom I had feared just two short weeks ago! He shouted 'Come on, up you get, outside in three minutes, in trousers, lightweight and boots and vest only'. He then moved down the room still shouting his orders. I rubbed my eyes and tried to recall where I was. I then realised that I was away with the TA for the weekend. We all paraded outside in three ranks, cold and shivering, not having had time for our bodies to readjust to the temperature outside. We marched and ran for three miles in 27 minutes. I remember that the three miles seemed more like 20, and not a bit like the three miles I had run on the Monday night before.

After reviving ourselves, we were told to shower and be ready for breakfast at 0800 hrs. After a quick shower and polishing of my boots, I went to breakfast. As I stood in the queue, I was thinking about these army breakfasts. I had heard so much about them from my father and was hoping that they weren't as bad as he had made out.

This being the first army breakfast I was about to receive, I faced it with an open mind and I was quite surprised to find the food very good and plenty of selection and quality.

After breakfast, we were marched through the camp into the woods where we were split up into three groups. We were group one which consisted of about 14, mixed from all squadrons. On arrival at the first stand we were instructed on how to use a 24 hr pack. At first sight, I thought, by the size of the box, that won't be big enough to feed me for 24 hrs, and as the lecture unfolded I found out that sometimes there is too much for 24 hrs. After about one hour we moved on to another stand where we were instructed about cookers and burners. I found this very interesting, having not been an outdoor man before now.

We then moved on to the next stand which was 'Basha Erecting'. When I heard the name 'basha' I thought it meant an evil looking Sergeant about to do nasty things to you. As it was, it was just the opposite. It was **WO2 Worthington** who instructed us on how to survive a night and keep warm and how to erect a basha. I think I found this lecture more interesting than the previous two because it only seemed like 20 minutes, instead of one hour long. After this we reformed three ranks on the road and marched to lunch, by this time I was looking forward to it as I had had such a good breakfast.

After lunch we marched back to the woods, but this time we stayed in one group and were instructed on field craft by **SSgt Salmon** who seemed very enthusiastic about his job and I think this was reflected to the pupils. I personally found this very interesting as this lesson covered most aspects of field craft, cam, section attacks, formations etc etc. After the end of three hours I was asking myself 'what am I doing here when I could be at the match at this time on a Saturday afternoon?'

However, here I was, tired, and trying not to feel sorry for myself. I thought if only they would let me put down the two ton cannon, that was resting on my shoulder, I would be happy. I never realised that the rifles I had seen soldiers carrying on the TV were so heavy.

We went for tea after which the one hour lesson was to be on 7.62 calibre ammunition, which was then turned into a two and a half hour weapon cleaning lesson. This was because of the state that the weapons were in, and not knowing how to clean weapons it was a problem. After our final briefing of the night we went back to our hut, then there was a dash for the showers and a change of clothing and we returned to the bar area where a games night took place. I have never known bar games like these. It was a very good ending to a very hard day.

On Sunday morning we were again awakened by our Corporal who, by this time, seemed even meaner. We again assembled outside to continue on yet another run. Every step I took I regretted every pint that I had had the night before. After what seemed like a lifetime, we finished, had breakfast and then were split into details to clean all the accommodation out ready to be inspected by **WO2 Jolliffe**. On completion of our cleaning details, we then returned to the woods still carrying our rifles which, by this time, were getting in the way. Some recruits had managed to adjust to it and looked quite happy with it.

Then for the next three and a half hours we were put through our paces bringing into operation the things we had learned the previous day on fieldcraft and section attacks.

By the end of this three hours I was thanking God that it was all over. We were then marched to the cookhouse. At this time I remember thinking we will now have lunch and get ready to return to our barracks, but how mistaken can you be. We were, in fact, paraded for a battle run through the camp, the woods, the streams and I think we located every bit of mud in North Wales.

On arrival back at the cookhouse, we had lunch and carried on afterwards with a lecture on trip flares and pyrotechnics. After that we got into the four ton trucks that had brought us in two night's before. The difference this time was that I was soaking wet and tired. When the vehicle started off back I just sat there quietly. There was no chatter as there had been on Friday night when we were all fresh. I must have nodded off because the next thing I knew we were back at Huyton. By this time my uniform was nearly dry and the mud had set and started to crack as we jumped out of the wagon. We tried to clean our weapons, this alone took two hours and by the time we had all handed our weapons into the armoury and attended dismissal parade, it was close on 1800 hrs on Sunday night.

As I made my way home, I thought that there must be other ways of spending my weekends, but it would be without the satisfaction I got from that weekend.

A tired, but happy, new recruit.

A NEW RECRUIT TO SANDHURST

May 1987 sees **Ian Walton** among the new intake of officer cadets to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Ian who lives in Middleton, Manchester joined 42 Sig Sqn (V) in 1983 at the age of 18 years. During his service with the Squadron he has worked as a TE Technician in Engineering/Line Troop and has been on exercises in Belgium, Germany and UK.

Before joining the Squadron **Ian** attended Dominic Savio High School in Middleton, after leaving school he went on to Brunel University where he studied engineering. After leaving Brunel he decided to apply for a regular commission in the Royal Signals and make the army his career.

LCpl Ian Walton seen here engineering a radio net for the regiment prior to his leaving to attend RMAS

MORE SHOOTING SUCCESS
37 SIG REGT (V)

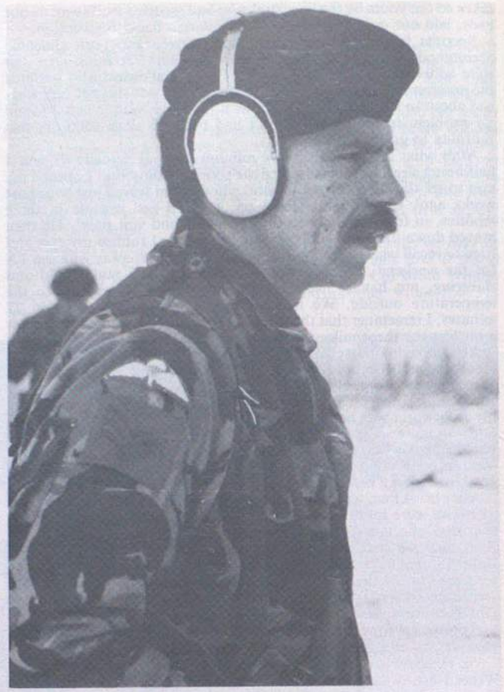
Just to prove that the 1987 shooting successes were no 'flash in the pan', the 37 Sig Regt shooting teams have carried on where they left off last season. In May, against 37 teams, they retained five of the trophies which they won so convincingly at the South West District Skill-at-Arms meeting last year and added one individual trophy. The trophies were:

Major Unit Champions
Best Unit Team overall
SMG Match (Winners and Runners Up)
Section Match
March and Shoot
Champion Pistol—**LCpl Newton**
Class A Rifle and SMG Runner Up—**Sgt Head**
The Team positions were first, sixth and eighth

Our Welsh Squadron which was the Champion Unit team in the South West, entered the Principality's Skill-at-Arms meeeting against eight Regular and TA major units, some of whom were equipped with SA80. As the only minor unit the Squadron achieved an exceptionally creditable third place. **Sgt Bonzo Head** once again excelled himself by being TA Rifle Champion, SLR Champion and winning the Clay Pigeon Shoot.

The CO, Lt Col Mike Carson with members of the successful Shooting Teams

LCpl Newton receives his prize from GOC South West District



Sgt Bonzo Head eyes the opposition!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS—EX *SUMMER TIDE*
by 2Lt Peter Cubbin

(**2Lt Cubbin** was attached to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt for two months prior to his Tp Comd's Course).

Having finally left the hallowed halls of Sandhurst in April, I had only been with the Regiment for two weeks before we embarked upon Ex *Summer Tide* in Germany. The object of the exercise was to test the communication arrangements for the forthcoming Ex *Keystone* in October. However, being nobbut a fresh-faced lad, most of the technical factors and equipment went straight over my head. This being the case, I have decided to write about the exercise from a very personal point of view as opposed to trying to explain events which I may not fully understand myself.

We left York for Hull docks mid-morning on Tuesday 12 May after the various Troop seniors had begged, borrowed or stolen in order to get enough of the trucks on the road at the same time to carry us all over. Once at the docks we had the statutory three to four hours wait before we could actually get on to the ship. This is obviously a major part of the overall military religion, as even at Sandhurst timetables were dedicated to rushing beings around, in order to have them kept waiting for vast amounts of time once they got to their destination. All good character-building stuff!

The first thing I noticed about the cabins was that all the beds had straps on them. Reflecting upon how liberal-minded the ferry company was in catering for all tastes, I wandered away to have my first experience of 2 Div being presented with a free and seemingly inexhaustable supply of food. It was a very moving experience. To see people forcing themselves almost against their will to go around for the second or third time for another meal impressed me greatly. **Capt Frank Riley**, my Tp OC and mentor during my two months attachment, led his men valiantly in this phase of the exercise.

The next day we arrived in Rotterdam after a night of light refreshments, to travel by convoy through Holland and Germany to the exercise area in Stadtoldendorf, just south of Hameln. We finally arrived late at night after some inspired tac-sign interpretation by **Capt Riley** and **'Staff' Ratcliffe** in the leading Rover. I am still not sure whether the signs were meant to help or whether they were some kind of pre-exercise initiative test but we arrived relatively unhindered.

Having just left the Sandhurst world of ponchos and sleeping mats, the tented city that awaited us at 'Kohima Camp' was penthouse accommodation indeed. Yet this was where the Regiment first discovered **Capt 'Comfort' Riley**'s penchant for comfort in the field. In his tent was a full-sized normal army bed complete with polished bedside locker, and (after a nocturnal recce to the Mess tent) a kerosene heater. 'Any fool can be uncomfortable on exercise'. I obviously still had a lot to learn.

The first few days of the exercise were concerned with the construction of the Control Headquarters formed from the Ptarmigan box-bodies and the notorious catwalk. The catwalk, as always, proved to be unwilling to fit together easily and had to be constantly 'adjusted' by **LCpl Gibbs'** nine-pound micro-adjuster, proving that he is really a frustrated tech.

Eventually the construction was all but complete and most of the men could relax slightly after working hard over the past few days. In some cases traces of boredom were noticed, but in the back of the SAS/MC box-body **Sig Palmer** had the situation well in had, although **Capt Bob Yeomans** could still be seen jealously guarding his job of Chief Nail-Banger-Inner for **SSM Harrison**.

On the Monday the Staff Officers arrived to test out the communications we had set up for them and with them arrived some of the only girls we had seen for weeks. **LCpl Wood**, poor man, had the unenviable task of spending four days cooped up in the manual exchange with two girls from 16 Sig Regt, **Lesley Davies** and **Micky Montgomery**. Life can be rough! Suddenly the manual exchange became the most interesting piece of equipment in the area, although this popularity was aided by the DEL having to be periodically tested; just to make sure.

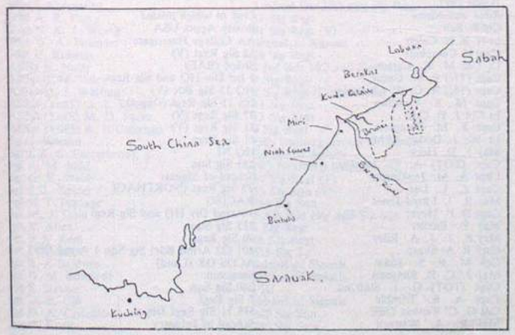
At the end of the week the staff announced themselves satisfied and the headquarters was stripped down enthusiastically by men already anticipating one or two post exercise drinks on the ferry. However, they had still to cope with my map reading to get us to the port, **Capt Riley** having left early to hand over his quarter in York. I decided whilst we were travelling to Rotterdam in convoy, that the route card had a deliberate mistake on it and that it really would be far more interesting to go through Dortmund, rather than around it. **SSgt Paul Ratcliffe** visibly aged 10 years in those few short miles, obviously regretting that he and **SSgt Gary Davies** hadn't, after all, been able to sell their new subaltern for beer money in that German bar. Still we got there eventually, clinking with duty free goods and with **SQMS Davey Kerr** making use of his last opportunity to practise his multi-lingual abilities on bemused foreigners and soldiers alike.

All in all it was a very different experience from the exercises I'd previously been on, and invaluable in as much that it gave me some idea of the real problems, other than technical problems, of setting up a control headquarters or any other communications centre. As an exercise, all the equipment worked and it was a success. I just wish the Division every success in October. Especially **LCpl Pellett** who never appears to be unsuccessful.

NIAH CAVES, SARAWAK, NORTH BORNEO
by Maj (QM) R. C. Brodie

(**Maj Ron Brodie** is currently on Loan Service with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces).

The Niah Caves are situated in the North of the island of Borneo, in the Malaysian state of Sarawak. The caves are very well known—probably amongst archaeologists more than the general public but their popularity in South East Asia is spreading and they are becoming a tourist attraction. They are becoming more popular as access to them becomes easier.



The caves are found in a 394m high massif called 'Gunung Subis' which is visible from many miles away. There are three main caves, the Traders Cave, Great Cave and Painted Cave. They came to popular notice in 1948 when archaeologists discovered that man had been living in and around the caves for almost 40,000 years. The rock paintings found in the 'Painted Cave' are the only such paintings in Borneo and are associated with several small canoe like boats which were used as coffins indicating the use of this cave as a burial ground.

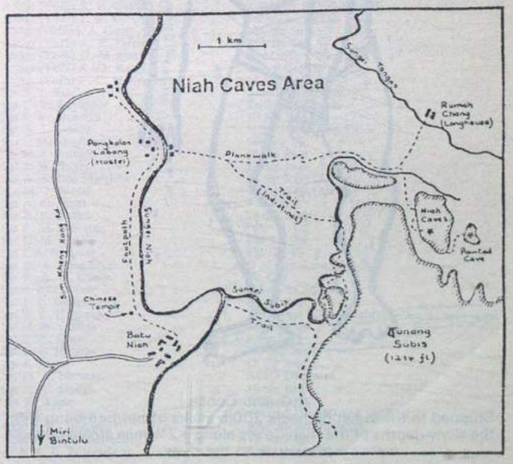
The caves were exploited commercially many years before the archaeologists came along. They are home to some 4 million swiftlets divided into three species. There are also 12 species of bat whose population is many millions. The swiftlets build their nests in the crevices of the roof of the 'Great Cave'. It is these nests that are the main ingredient of that famous Chinese delicacy, Birdsnest Soup. The nests are harvested by local tribesmen who use poles suspended from the 300ft plus high roof of the cave. They move around like agile monkeys, it is a very hazardous and dangerous process and how the poles got there in the first place is quite a mystery. Also, over the last 60 years, guano, the accumulation of bird and bat excrement, has been harvested from the cave floor for use as a fertiliser. Conservationists will be pleased to know that both these activities are now carefully monitored and controlled to maintain an ecological balance.

So, being reasonably close at hand (some 160 miles up the coast from the caves) in Brunei, we decided to go and see the caves for ourselves. Having read reports of previous intrepid travellers who had made the trip, may I tell those of you who did, that as time goes by, it does get easier. The journey is nothing like the nightmare it was 10 or even five years ago. It is, however, still an interesting journey and a sight of the caves at the end is a worthwhile climax.

Our small expedition set out in an ordinary saloon car from Berakas Camp and followed the recently opened coastal highway to Tutong and then the main road to Kuala Belait. All main roads in Brunei are metalled and sealed and this part of the journey was little more than a pleasant drive—provided one drove with care and kept an eye open for the unpredictable South East Asian driver! At Kuala Belait we embarked on the ferry across the Belait river. Then followed a stretch of about 10 miles of good, sealed road to the Baram River, the largest river in North Borneo. The only hazard on this part of the journey was negotiating the Brunei and Malaysian customs posts as the border between Brunei and Sarawak bisects this road.

On reaching the Baram we were pleased to find the recently introduced roll on, roll off ferry, capable of taking up to 40 cars. This ferry had replaced a much older version which held under half this number of vehicles and had a much longer turn round time, thus our waiting time was greatly reduced.

Once over the Baram, we set course for Miri, a town that has grown from an oilfield 'boom' town to a major port and provincial town of Sarawak. Miri is still very much an oil town and evidence of how its wealth is derived is everywhere. This being a leisurely tour, we booked in to the best hotel in town, the Park. The ladies spent the rest of the day exploring the shops whilst the two harassed husbands made plans for the morrow and set about organising four wheel drive transport for the 75 miles journey from Miri to the caves. This did not prove easy, for the day we had picked for our assault was May Day, a public holiday in Malaysia and we could not get a four wheel drive vehicle



for love nor money. We did however find an agreeable car hire firm who rented us a car—they were quite happy about our destination as long as we took it easy on the rougher sections of the roads . . . So our own car was parked up for the day—why risk broken springs or axle on your car when you can risk someone elses?

We set off early the following morning. The 60 mile journey took some two and a half hours. About half the distance was on sealed road, the remainder on graded track, some good, some bad. About 20 miles of the journey was through oil palm plantations after which cultivation peters out to both primary and secondary jungle. Evidence of wild life abounded but little was seen close to the road.

On arrival at the Niah National Park Hostel (which we had decided not to patronise), we found ourselves a Dayak (probably Dusun) guide for $25 (just over £7) for the day, took a boat across the 30m wide Niah river and arrived at the start of the plank walk. This is about two and a half miles long and takes you to the cave complex.

The plank walk is about 18in wide and between 2 and 10ft above the swampy jungle floor. There are handrales in some places and non in others! Fortunately it was dry and fairly easily negotiated—we understand it is treacherous when wet. We saw some interesting insect life during the walk but nothing larger. We did encounter three guano carriers, each with a load of 200lb on their backs! They make the trip about six times a day and have right of way on the plankwalk.

The plank walk passes through the 'Traders Cave'. Up to about 30 years ago, the birds nests and guano collectors lived in this cave until they had accumulated a large cargo before heading through the jungle in convoy to the river where their cargo was transported by boat to Batu Niah for sale. The building of the plank walk made access much easier and the collectors were able to travel daily, in safety, with their cargo and the traders' kampong (village) was abandoned. All that is left today are the skeletons of the old houses of the kampong.

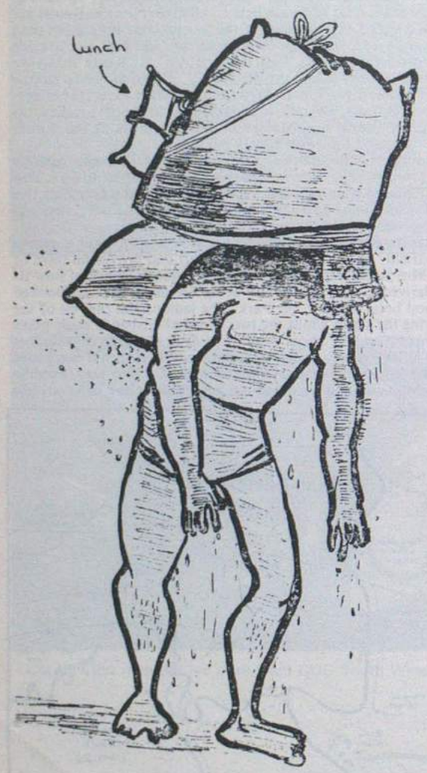
A further five miles walk brought us to the main (Great) cave. It is indeed a sight to see and well worth the long walk. First we saw evidence of the archaeological digs confirming man's presence some 40,000 years ago. Then we looked up, the roof of the cave soars above like the vaulted ceiling of an ancient cathedral, it is well over 300ft high. It was quite light at this point because the cave entrance is so large, daylight penetrates 200-300m into the cave. Thousands of swifts/swallows darted to and fro—they are the day shift, the bats come to life at night and if one is able to stay until after 1800 hrs in the evening (unfortunately we could not), we are told it is quite a sight to see as millions of swiftlets and bats mingle in their air as the birds prepare for sleep and the bats awake for their night of foraging.

Its advisable not to look up for too long . . . 4 million birds can deposite future guano on you and the rocks at a considerable rate!

At this juncture my wife **Dot** and **Mal**, the wife of **WO2 Alan Hatcher REME** our companions on the trip, decided they had seen enough and stayed in the Great Cave. **Alan** and **I**, torches at the ready followed our guide on into the depths of the Great Cave and through the Gunong Subis massif and out the other side. We travelled down a well worn track but in pitch darkness for most of the time. It was damp and wet in parts and keeping ones' feet was quite an art—one even forgot about the threat of scorpions when the need came to throw out a hand on to a rock wall to keep balance. When we finally reached daylight on the far side of the Great Cave, we set off on another plank walk, this time only a single 9in plank and no handrails. This took about five or so minutes until we reached the door to the 'Painted Cave'. The door signified the cave was protected from casual visitors but our Guide produced a key to the huge padlock and let us in. There followed a climb of about 200ft, mainly on wooden steps until we were in the cave proper. There, on the right hand side of the cave in an area of about 20ft long and 4ft high, protected by a screen of chicken wire, were the only known haematite rock paintings in Borneo. The style of paintings bore a definite similarity to the aboriginal cave paintings which I have seen in Australia.

We had completed our exploration. Having followed our guide, we knew the route back and left him to lock up the Painted Cave and follow us. We arrived back at the Great Cave where our wives were holding out cans of (reasonably) cold Tiger beer in welcome. Our guide came panting along some 100yds behind us. We were wet, sweaty and dirty but satisfied that we had achieved what most people who come to Brunei promise themselves they will do but the majority never actually do.

Our trip back to Miri was uneventful. Another night in the hotel, where we had a good shower, change of clothes (does 'guano' smell!) and a nice meal. We set off for home the following day, pleased with what we had seen and doubly pleased that the hotel had given us an unexpected 25% discount!



A Guano Coolie
Stripped to the waist he hauls 200lb sacks of bat/bird dung from the slimy depths of the Niah Caves along a 2½ mile steamy Jungle plankwalk to the river

— Movements —

Officers

JUNE 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Col R. Bell	British Appts USA
Lt N. R. N. Caleb	AA College Harrogate
Capt P. Campbell	32 Sig Regt (V)
Lt Col M. K. Carson	Shape (BAE)
Capt (Tfc) P. M. Castle	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) R. C. W. Chisholm	HQ 12 Sig Bde (V)
Capt M. R. Complin	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Lt Col J. D. Cox	37 Sig Regt (V)
Capt F. M. Dempster	31 Sig Regt (V)
Lt W. J. Dodds BEM	11 Sig Regt
Maj J. D. Heck	HQ NI
Capt (TOT) A. G. Hooley	233 Sig Sqn
Capt A. M. Jenkinson	School of Signals
Capt C. L. Lee	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Maj R. J. Lloyd-Jones	RACISG
Capt D. P. Meyer	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj P. Parfitt	233 Sig Sqn
Maj F. T. J. A. Riley	30 Sig Regt
Capt R. A. Sharp	201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn 1 Armd Div
Col M. P. S. Shaw	ACDS OR (Land)
Maj J. C. B. Simpson	Sangcom
Capt (TOT) G. J. Sullivan	240 Sig Sqn
Capt A. K. Trimble	7 Sig Regt
Col G. C. Verdon OBE	HS 11 Sig Regt Depot
Maj R. A. Wannell	School of Infantry

Lt G. M. Whelan	School of Signals
Capt A. J. Wood	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt Col J. A. Wraith	SANGCOM
Capt (Tfc) R. D. Wright	30 Sig Regt
Lt A. H. Mullan	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt G. H. A. Odling	22 Sig Regt
2Lt V. K. Pandya	HS School of Signals
Lt C. C. Richards	16 Sig Regt
2Lt N. P. R. Selby	HS School of Signals
2Lt A. J. Stringer	HS School of Signals
2Lt I. P. F. Vingoe	HS School of Signals
2Lt D. Wheatley-Price	HS School of Signals
2Lt A. M. White	HS School of Signals
Lt K. Whitehead	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt J. H. McKee	262 Sig Sqn
Lt M. Nott	11 Sig Regt
2Lt A. D. J. Picknell	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt D. J. Poole	33 Sig Regt (V)
Capt D. W. Powell	School of Signals
Capt N. A. Swainson	HQ BF Belize
Capt V. J. Thatcher	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt S. J. Turnbull	11 Sig Regt
Capt N. R. M. Wood	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

JULY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt M. D. W. Alexander	30 Sig Regt
Maj C. Arthur	School of Signals
Maj (Tfc) R. A. Baker	241 Sig Sqn
Capt (TOT) B. K. Billsberry	Held Strength 21 Sig Regt
2Lt A. R. Blackwell	HS School of Signals
Lt N. J. Borrill	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt K. W. Bowers	Held Strength School of Signals
Maj T. J. P. Bryning	7 Sig Regt
Capt I. K. Bucklow	244 Sig Sqn (AS)
2Lt M. C. Burke	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt L. B. Campbell-Black	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt N. C. Coldrey	259 Sig Sqn
Lt J. W. Dakin	School of Signals
Maj M. M. Ferguson	8 Sig Regt
Maj A. Field	16 Sig Regt
Lt J. S. Field	16 Sig Regt
2Lt M. J. Finch	HS School of Signals
Capt A. Ford	HS 11 Sig Regt
2Lst G. R. Grant	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt R. Harris	11 Sig Regt
Lt D. B. Hudson	HS School of Signals
Capt (Tfc) J. Isherwood	238 Sig Sqn
Capt G. A. James	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj D. B. Jones	RMA Sandhurst
Lt Col I. E. Kerr	Misc Appts (Overseas)
Lt Col J. E. F. Kirby	BDLS Australia
Capt H. Lund	30 Sig Regt
Capt D. E. A. McAllister	21 Sig Regt
2Lt S. McLeod	HS School of Signals

WOs and SNCOs

JUNE 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
AWO1 R. Smith	MOD DSS
AWO1 J. Neil	13 Sig Regt
AWO1 B. A. Thomas	37 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 J. A. Pape	30 Sig Regt
WO2 G. A. Y. West	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
WO2 D. Barnett	HQ 2 Sig Bde
WO2 G. D. Crabb	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
AWO2 D. Thomas	262 Sig Sqn
AWO2 A. R. Small	633 Sig Tp
AWO2 M. Brady	RMAS
AWO2 G. F. Manning	MOD(A) PB11
AWO2 A. C. Hedgley	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 R. A. P. Pylee	14 Sig Regt
AWO2 T. A. Mortlock	Army Apprentices' College
AWO2 P. White	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt M. W. Dawson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt S. J. Hawey	School of Signals
SSgt B. Lewis	28 Sig Regt
SSgt J. P. Thomas-Peter	36 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt J. Abernethy	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt A. R. Parry	11 Sig Regt
SSgt N. A. J. Worth	31 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt W. A. Pounder	School of Signals
SSgt C. Roberts	10 Sig Regt
ASSgt K. Nulty	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt G. M. Tilley	9 Sig Regt
ASSgt D. J. Whiting	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
ASSgt (YofS) G. T. Denar	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) M. D. Facer	13 Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) R. I. Coleman	9 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Benson	HQ Training Group R. Signals
Sgt J. K. C. Easterbrook	School of Signals
Sgt A. M. Reid	HQ Northern Ireland
Sgt G. E. Webb	39 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. L. Spicer	55 Sig Sqn (V)
Sgt M. T. Pottage	264 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. J. Cole	5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Allen	8 Sig Regt
Sgt S. S. Kent	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Boland	633 Sig Tp
Sgt R. J. Baldwin	School of Signals
Sgt G. M. Edwards	School of Signals
Sgt S. Steven	PIU
Sgt D. B. Gill	School of Signals
Sgt D. A. Critchlow	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt D. Ryall	240 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. K. P. Logan	School of Signals (Course)
Sgt J. Whitmore	School of Signals (Course)
Sgt D. M. Legg	School of Signals
Sgt I. G. Tepielow	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt I. R. Melville	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. N. Fisher	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. MacPherson	UK Support Unit
Sgt K. A. Maguire	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Sloggett	ACIO Dundee
Sgt F. E. Small	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt A. E. Snowdon	EW Op Sp Unit
Sgt C. D. Horner	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt G. D. F. Barclay	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. A. Howitson	30 Sig Regt
ASgt T. J. Gigg	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt P. J. Griffiths	16 Sig Regt
ASgt R. C. Clair	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt S. Brant	School of Signals
ASgt G. R. Grey	11 Sig Regt

JULY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 S. Grimmitt	13 Sig Regt
WO1 S. A. May	32 Sig Regt (V)
WO1 P. H. Waring	11 Sig Regt
WO1 P. J. Welch	R Signals Manning and Record Office
AWO1 E. C. Callaghan	R Signals Manning and Record Office
AWO1 J. Stirling	8 Sig Regt
WO2 C. M. Mitchell	233 Sig Sqn
WO2 J. Mugford	608 Sig Tp
WO2 J. G. Scullion	8 Sig Regt
WO2 K. J. Stoch	School of Signals
WO2 M. D. Turvey	School of Signals
WO2 S. J. Walls	HQ Trg Group R Signals
AWO2 W. Heelan	London UOTC
AWO2 I. L. Parry	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 J. E. Storey	22 Sig Regt
AWO2 T. M. Perkins	Army Apprentices' College
AWO2 T. R. Whateley	HQ Training Group R Signals
AWO2 P. Smyth	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
AWO2 G. Wood	31 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt J. Hall	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt R. W. Taylor	Army Apprentices' College
SSgt L. J. Robinson	28 Sig Regt
SSgt M. Barker	16 Sig Regt
SSgt K. Bridger	22 Sig Regt
SSgt D. R. D'Silva	8 Sig Regt
SSgt W. J. Celtel	262 Sig Sqn
SSgt (YofS) S. W. Catterall	7 Sig Regt
SSgt T. P. Delaney	13 Sig Regt
SSgt S. A. McElreavey	PIU
SSgt C. McIntosh	School of Signals
SSgt P. J. Robinson	UK Support Unit SHAPE
SSgt D. O. Allen	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt B. J. Spiers	14 Sig Regt
ASSgt J. Godfrey	259 Sig Sqn
ASSgt D. L. Parry	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt R. P. Iley	7 Sig Regt
ASSgt A. G. R. Hoensch	35 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt N. M. Sloane	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt T. Hague	633 Sig Tp
ASSgt A. J. Bottomley	DADPTC
ASSgt G. R. Dodd	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt G. McMillan	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt (YofS) J. F. Murray	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) A. K. Oakman	36 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt (YofS) K. M. Parker	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
ASSgt (YofS) S. D. Potterton	UK Sup Unit
ASSgt (YofS) K. E. Roach	Royal School of Artillery
ASSgt (YofS) P. J. Stoddart	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) W. J. Thompson	QE Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) R. E. Davies	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt (YofS) J. B. M. Dyer	School of Signals
ASSgt (YofS) I. A. Gunn	264 Sig Sqn
ASSgt (YofS) A. P. Ferris	264 Sig Sqn
ASSgt (YofS) D. M. Gray	20 Maritime Regt RCT
ASSgt (YofS) K. O. Ratcliff	40 Sig Regt (V)
ASSgt (YofS) P. C. Halfpenny	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt S. I. Barclay	School of Signals
Sgt C. P. Batchelor	School of Signals
Sgt S. F. Meachin	10 Sig Regt
Sgt B. J. Geddis	HQ ARCENT Sp GP
Sgt I. McNaughton	608 Sig Tp
Sgt M. J. Stringer	14 Sig Regt
Sgt J. W. Salter	14 Sig Regt
Sgt A. S. Dos Martyres	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
Sgt M. J. Wood	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
Sgt A. C. Hunt	7 Sig Regt
Sgt R. P. Pullan	28 Sig Regt
Sgt P. H. Newman	PIU
Sgt C. M. Liddle	242 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. A. Simpson	632 Sig Tp
Sgt D. A. Langridge	D of Sup Computer Svcs
Sgt R. A. N. Quaile	Int Cen
Sgt A. McCartney	School of Signals
Sgt J. P. Gaskell	28 Sig Regt
Sgt R. K. Hughes	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
Sgt M. W. Collins	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. A. Shaw	9 Sig Regt
Sgt C. L. Higgins	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. Fraser	13 Sig Regt
Sgt D. A. Norman	ACIO Liverpool
Sgt G. C. Hodge	10 Sig Regt
Sgt B. White	9 Sig Regt
ASgt F. J. Jolley	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt I. R. McAlroy	RAF Mount Pleasant
ASgt A. S. S. Sherrard	11 Sig Regt
ASgt R. L. Witherstone	Army Apprentices' College

Welfare

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

The working widow of an ex-Corporal with four children was helped to purchase a fridge/freezer in order that she could shop more economically by taking advantage of bulk purchase offers. She did not have a fridge prior to this.

Help was given to enable a victim of terrorism in Northern Ireland to recover his health and set up a family home again.

The family of an ex-Warrant Officer was helped to prepare for the future after he was diagnosed as suffering from terminal cancer.

Together with the Army Benevolent Fund it has been possible for an ex-signalman to become self-employed through the Enterprise Allowance Scheme.

Also a combined payment from the Association and the Army Benevolent Fund was made to renew and instal a boiler for the widow of an ex-Sergeant. She is severely disabled with osteo-arthritis and has had two hip replacements and can only walk a very short distance with the aid of sticks. Her old boiler was unsafe and it was absolutely essential that she has good heating.

Also, through the Army Benevolent Fund we have been able to provide holidays for deserving cases. We receive many letters of thanks; a typical one is as follows: 'Just a few lines to let you know we arrived home safe and sound from our holiday. When we arrived at the Camp we found everyone on the site more than helpful, the welcome was great and the staff were most pleasant. The entertainments were fabulous and I came first and third twice in competitions. I was also selected as a judge for several other competitions. Anyhow, hope you had our card. Thank you and the Royal Signals Association for the holiday my wife and I would otherwise not have had. Once again thank you very much'.

April 1987

Number of cases assisted financially:	52
Amount spent:	£8,937.50

May 1987

Number of cases assisted financially:	86
Amount spent:	£12,911.40

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during the month of April 1987.

Mrs F. Stanley	£100.00
RSA Leeds Branch	£ 60.00
2Lt A. J. Botterill	£ 25.00
Maj R. F. C. Penford	£ 10.00
Miscellaneous	£ 3.00
	£198.00

The following donations were gratefully received during the month of May 1987.

St George's Garrison Church Bielefeld	£100.00
St Alban's Church Council (AAC)	£ 90.00
Maj J. A. G. Stokoe	£ 10.00
Miscellaneous	£ 4.70
	£204.70

The following donations were gratefully received during the month of June 1987.

The late Mrs D. Earnshaw	£2,500.00
Catterick Garrison Church Fund	£ 237.00
E. E. Bayley	£ 10.00
	£2747.00

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NOTICES

DEATHS

Burrows—Maj L. J. Burrows TD—served 1929-58—died 7 May 1987.
Cooper—Maj E. Cooper MBE—died 21 November 1986.
Elliott—Beryl, wife of **Maj G. F. G. Elliott**—died 25 May 1987.
Gubler—Capt G. I. D. Gubler—served 1946-73—died 21 May 1987.
Haigh—Brig J. D. Haigh OBE—served 1929-58—died 11 June 1987.
Houghton—ex SSgt A. Houghton—served 1934-46—died 11 April 1987.
Hughes—Capt (Hon Maj) A. Hughes—died 24 February 1987.
Kerr—Maj A. Kerr MBE—died 4 December 1986.
Kinnar—ex Sig B. Kinnar—served 1942-1947—died May 1987.
Locke—Maj P. F. C. R. Locke—died 19 March 1987.
McDonald—Lt (QM) B. McDonald—died 2 February 1987.
Melady—ex LCpl J. H. Melady—served 1937-41—died 1987.
Pape—Capt (QM) (Hon Maj) J. W. Pape—died 13 July 1987.
Roskrow—Maj B. Roskrow—died 12 January 1987.
Salisbury—ex Sig E. Salisbury—served 1941-46—died 1 May 1987.
Smith—Capt C. W. Smith—died 29 March 1987.
Spencer—Rino—widow of **Col H. A. Spencer OBE MC**—died 25 June 1987.
Surgrue—Capt (Bt Maj) W. F. Sugrue—died 22 March 1987.
Webster— G. D. Webster—died May 1987.
Wilson—Maj R. O. Wilson—served 1938-70—died 30 May 1987.

OBITUARIES

Aldridge—SSM Brian Anthony Aldridge died on 21 April 1987, at the age of 41, after an unexpected, painful illness borne with great fortitude.

He served as a Regular Soldier in the Corps for six years mainly in BAOR and Blandford, leaving as a Junior NCO. Soon after leaving the Regular Army he enlisted into 43 (Wessex) Sig Sqn (V) and rose swiftly through the ranks to Troop Staff-Sergeant and eventually Squadron Sergeant-Major.

His funeral was attended by a strong contingent of both uniformed members of the Squadron, and former members who had served with him. **Maj I. H. Thomson TD** laid the Squadron wreath at the graveside. Our sincere condolences are extended to his widow **Sue** and to his four young children.

Licence—Maj (Retd) T. J. Licence. WO1 (RSM) R. A. Licence writes: It is with the deepest regret that I report the death of my father **Terry** on 27 April 1987 at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Woolwich. **Terry** was born of serving Army parents in Lahore, Pakistan on 11 November 1924. He enlisted into the Royal Signals at Bangalore on 16 April 1942 but in order to enlist during the war he added 11 months to his age giving his date of birth as 13 December 1923. He was trained as an Operator Wireless and Line at the Signal Training Centre (British) at Mhow. During World War 2 he served with 251(I) and 50(I) Tank Bde Sig Sqns seeing service in India, Burma and Java. He remained in India until September 1947 when he was posted to Southern Command (M) Sig Regt stationed at Salisbury. He returned to FARELF GHQ Sig Regt in February 1949 and then joined 19 Air Formation Sig Regt in Singapore in August 1950 where he remained as a Troop Sergeant (SQMS) until September 1953. As an acting WO2 he was posted to 7 Malay Regt in January 1954 and was seconded to the Federation Armed Forces for employment as RSO/Instr with the Div/Dist Sig Sqn in Taiping. During his service with this unit he was mentioned in Despatches. In July 1957 he returned to the UK to join 3 Training Regt as WO2 (SSM). In August 1959 he returned once again to the Far East this time as WO2 Tp Comd with 17 (Gurkha) Sig Regt where he remained until he joined 237 Sig Sqn (COMCAN) in September 1960 as RQMS. On promotion to WO1 he was posted to 24 Sig Regt at Catterick to take up the appointment of RSM on 9 October 1962.

Terry was appointed to a short service combatant commission in the rank of Lieutenant on 27 May 1965 and was posted to 21 Sig Regt (AS) RAF Laarbruch where he was detached to the 'G' Airfield Sig Troop at Geilenkirchen. He was promoted to Captain on 27 May 1967. In June 1968 he returned to the Far East once again to 237 Sig Sqn (DCN) in Singapore where he remained until July 1969 when he moved to 18 Sig Regt. He returned to the UK in April 1970 this time to 19 Airportable Bde HQ and Sig Sqn in Colchester. Between October 1972 and October 1975 he served in 7 Sig Regt Herford where he was promoted Major on 13 September 1973. For his last tour he joined 10 Sig Regt in Hounslow where he served until retirement on 12 December 1978.

A notable sportsman who represented the Army and Corps at Hockey and Boxing.

He will be sadly missed by his widow **Iris**, his five sons, **Llewellyn, Richard, Alan, Ian** and **Robin** and all his family and many friends.

Morris—Sig Darren Scott Morris. Sig 'Mo' Morris died tragically as the result of a traffic accident during the early hours of Friday 10 July 1987 near Viersen. He was born in Barnstaple on 2 October 1968. His enthusiasm for the military career he had chosen was evident from his early success as an army cadet in Torrington where he attained the rank of Cadet Sergeant and won the Best Cadet of the Year Award. He continued his links with the Cadet Force visiting them whenever he was at home. He tackled the regular army with the same enthusiasm and when he joined Kilo Troop, 16 Sig Regt in December 1986 quickly established himself as a popular and cheerful young man, who was always eager to assist, whatever the task.

Darren or **'Mo'**, as he became known amongst his many military friends will be remembered most for his natural military ability and willingness to get on with the job in hand. He had a ready sense of humour and a dedication which was an inspiration to his many friends. He was happiest on exercise where his spirit and enthusiasm were ever present and set an excellent example for his contemporaries to follow. His loss will be felt by many but most particularly by his Troop whose universal respect he had won. The Commanding Officer and all ranks of the Regiment extend their deepest sympathy to his parents, **John** and **Janet** and his sister **Kerry.**

Watson—Hazel Watson, wife of **ex WO2 (YofS) W. M. Watson** died suddenly at her home on 5 July. We extend our sympathy to **Mel** and their children **Tracey** and **Craig**.

Wilson—Maj R. O. Wilson. Bob joined the Army in 1938 at 43 (Wessex) Division of the Royal Corps of Signals TA, where he rose to the Rank of Sergeant. In 1941 he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery and served in India, Burma, French Indo China, Malaya, Egypt, Greece and Gibraltar. In 1944 he was aboard the troopship SS *Medina* when it was torpedoed off India. He was taken to Chittagong hospital suffering from a head wound and a fractured spine.

In 1949 he was granted a regular commission with the rank of Captain in the Corps and his peacetime service included tours in Germany and Malaya. He retired in 1970 after suffering a stroke. On recovery he joined the Southern Electricity Board, finally retiring in 1981 to nurse his wife.

He and his wife **Kay** had three children and after a life on the move the family settled at Rowledge in 1967 and settled into village life quickly. **Bob** died on 30 May 1987.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

The Corps Museum is now firmly established on the tourist map of Southern England and the number of visitors attending the Museum has increased greatly and continues to do so.

Unfortunately the Museum has insufficient staff to open at weekends which means that many would-be visitors are turned away. To help overcome this problem it is hoped to establish a voluntary society, 'Friends of the Royal Signals Museum', whose members might agree to man the Museum shop and supervise visitors during weekends.

Once the society has been established it is hoped to expand its role into research, cataloguing, preservation and assisting with displays. Assistance is also needed from volunteers who would be prepared to help renovate and maintain the historic uniform collection.

Any reader, resident sufficiently close to Blandford who is interested in helping the Corps Museum is asked to contact: **Maj (Retd) L. J. Taylor MBE**, Secretary, Friends of the Royal Signals Museum, c/o The Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

CORPS DATES

The Royal Signals Institution London Lecture will take place at the International Press Centre, Shoe Lane EC4 at 6.00 pm on 26 November 1987. The lecturer is **Mr Jonathon Porritt,** Director of Friends of the Earth and his subject is 'Battle for the Planet: A Challenge to Us All'.

Application forms for tickets will be distributed with the Summer Issue of the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution at the end of August.

REUNIONS

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER

The OWA Reunion Dinner will be held at West Court Officers' Mess Arborfield on Friday 25 September 1987. Anyone wishing to attend should contact: Orderly Room Sergeant, REME Officers' School, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NN. Tel: Arborfield Cross (0734) 760421 Ext 2483 as soon as possible but definitely before 4 September 1987. Please leave a firm contact address and telephone number. Full details will be sent out nearer the time.

Dress will be Black Tie and the timings are 1930 hrs for 2000 hrs. The cost will be approximately £10 per head and accommodation is available on request.

HOUTHALEN-HELCHTEREN—BELGIUM

The British Community Association in Limburg is assisting the Mayor of Houthalen-Helchteren in his endeavours to get into contact with those who fought in the area during the last war. It is hoped to arrange a re-union with local families and a reception and memorial service in honour of our lost comrades. The date, to be announced later, will ideally be at the end of September which marks the liberation of the area by Guards Armoured and 11 Armd Div.

Anyone who is able to assist in providing names and addresses of those serving in the area towards the end of 1944 and early 1945 are asked to please get in touch with **Mr B. J. Kuipers** (Hon Treasurer), British Community Association Limburg, 6 Seringenstraat, Lanaken 3760, Belgium, as early as possible.

PALESTINE POLICE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

The Palestine Police Old Comrades Association are planning a visit to the Holy Land in 1988. This is a very special memorial visit which will take place from 11-21 May, inclusive. They would be especially pleased if their close comrades in the Forces at that time could also be there too. Wives will be most welcome.

Orientours are preparing a brochure which will be available to anyone wishing to join the tour. Further information may be obtained from: Orientours (London) Ltd, Kent House, 87 Regent Street, London WIR 8LS. Tel: 01-434-1551/8—(Managing Director **Morris Perry**).

ROYAL SIGNALS PUBLICITY DIARY NOTES

(Key: BC Blandford Camp; BH Blue Helmets; CG Catterick Garrison; HA Harrogate; MDT Display Team; OM Officers' Mess; RSBC Concert Band; RSBD Dance Band; RSBM Marching Band; RSBO Orchestra; SM Sergeants' Mess; WH White Helmets; * To be confirmed)

As all these dates are subject to alteration, it is suggested that you check with 01-930-4466, Ext 8444 (London District Mil).

AUGUST		
1	London	WH: The Royal Tournament
2-15	Cardiff	WH: Searchlight Tattoo
2-8	London	RSBC: St James' Park
6-10	Southsea	MDT: Show
12-16	Carmarthen	MDT: Show
16-22	London	RSBC: Regents' Park
16	Gloucestershire	WH: Gatcom Park Show
18, 19	Cromer	MDT: Show
21, 22	Kettering	MDT: Show
22, 23	Hartlepool	WH: Show
23-29	Eastbourne	RSBC: Bandstand
25-27	Stafford	MDT and WH: Police Space Carnival
27	Eastbourne	WH: Show
29-31	Seaham	MDT: WH: East Durham Show
SEPTEMBER		
4, 5	Essex	MDT: Orset Show
5, 6	Newton Aycliffe	WH: Newton Aycliffe Show
6,7	Nottingham	MDT: Show
7-30	SW Dist	KAPE: 14 Sig Regt
7-21	Cyprus	RSBM: KAPE
9-12	Portsmouth	WH: RM Tattoo
11-13	Western Dist	MDT: Kington Show
12	Romsey	WH: Show
20	CG	WH: Pro/Am Golf Tournament
23-25	Cosford	MDT: Joint Services Open Day
OCTOBER		
1-17	BAOR	RSBM: Tour
1-20	SW Dist	KAPE 14 Sig Regt
18-21	Berlin	RSBM: Tour
23	HA	RSBM: Pass Off Parade
NOVEMBER		
4	Brecon	Wales Careers Convention: Lecture
7	Salisbury	RSBC: Cathedral Concert
8	Richmond	RSMB: Remembrance Parade
20-22	CG	UOTC Training Weekend
25-27	CG	RSMB:Pass Off Parade
DECEMBER		
5	HA	RSBM: Graduation Parade, AA Coll
12	London	RSBC: Festival Hall: Trumpets
16	CG	RSBM: Pass Off Parade
18	HA	RSBM: Graduation Parade, AA Coll

SITUATIONS VACANT

Retired Officer Vacancy at Regimental Headquarters

A vacancy exists for an RO3 at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1. The duties cover the whole range of regimental, domestic affairs which include welfare and benevolence, financial management, acting as secretary to a variety of committees and as staff officer to the Colonels Commandant.

Candidates must be officers of the rank of major or above, serving or retired. Retired officers must not have left regular service for more than five years and must be under 60 years of age.

Applications should be addressed to: **Brig F. R. Maynard,** DSOinC(A), Ministry of Defence (Army), Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn BFPO 807

Not the Falklands but Northern Ireland. Today's Combat Lineman on Operations

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

In the weeks following the Units ARU, there have been an increasing number of hoax bomb calls and the usual display of patriotism by the Loyalist bands. Just to keep people in the Squadron alert, a 50lb device was planted near to the 21C's house in May but, thankfully, was defused. The MTWO and his driver narrowly escaped serious injury or worse when an unstable bomb in a parked van detonated 30m to their front. And, despite this, Rover Group still try to 'story-cap' by giving variations on the old theme of the stone-throwing competition (one-sided) between the Greysteel youths and the gallant lads in green. ('. . . I'm telling you, the rock was this big').

GENERAL

We continue this issue with our 'day-in-the-life-of' series and move on to—The Hill Top Site Repair Team. Other articles include a hockey report on our outstanding successes this year, the ARU, Corps Band visit and road running training programme 'a la 8 Bde'. How do we fit all this in and operations too? Well, at the sharp end (cutting edge some prefer to call it) we just get on and do it (39 Platoon eat your hearts out!).

ARU VISIT

On Tuesday, 7 April, the Squadron had its ARU visit, the inspecting officer was **Brig M. R. I. Constantine OBE**, Comd 8 Inf Bde. After a short discussion with the Squadron Commander on the latest squadron deployment, the Commander started on his inspection of the Squadron. First port of call was the Orderly Room, where he inquired what was stored on the Pampas terminal. **Sig Reg (le Crisp) Harley** came forth with the relevant information, and was then promptly asked to prove it. Chief Clerk, **SSgt Dean Wood** breathed a sigh of relief when the information was finally presented. From the Orderly Room the Brigadier made his way to the Armoury and the less said about that the better. (**Pte Blake RPC** now knows the name of everyone in the Squadron, including the Brigadier!).

On to meet Comms Troop where the Commander was shown the versatility of the Heli Tele detachment by **Cpl 'Tubbs' Clark**. The Quartermaster's department was next, **Capt (QM) 'Buttons' Young** gave the Commander the latest on his golf handicap. The inspecting officer toured the brand new QM's block, which in fact had only been in operation since the day before. Then the Comd asked to exchange his web belt. Needless to say that by the time he reached the end of the block, he was wearing a new belt and the RQMS was in tears ('But stores is for storing—what's your name again Sir?').

By this time refreshments were in order, and so the Brigadier was met by the RSM at the Foyle View, where he was given lunch and met more Officers, WO and SNCO's of the Squadron. To complete the visit the Commander was taken to a Hilltop Site by the Squadron Commander and the RSM. He was met by **Cpl (£150 light this month!) McCready** and was given a brief on the facilities that the site can give and how repairs are effected. The Brigadier finally declined the offer of climbing the mast, although we all know he was tempted to do so. At this point we bade farewell to the Commander at the end of a successful day.

HILLTOP SITE EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Report by Cpl Mark Yates

Another transceiver is pushing out less power than it should and the link controller alerts the duty systems controller, via a data link into the Ops Room. The equipment is on a remote hilltop site and during the next 45 minutes the stand-by team consisting of a Radio Technician and Combat Lineman Rigger will prepare themselves for deployment. In the heart of the winter this can mean a trip by helicopter if the snow on the ground is bad enough and/or it is vitally, ie operationally important, that the faulty equipment be replaced immediately. Once on the hilltop site, the area has to be 'swept' before the team enter and continue with their task. The fault does not necessarily lie in the transceiver. A report of bad communications or an alert Systems Controller noticing that a battalion's communications have deteriorated can mean a faulty coax or a broken antenna (through icy conditions). The rigger takes over here and its not a job for the faint of heart. Force 9 gales with horizontal freezing rain make the job difficult and arduous. Once completed, the Radio Technician ensures the Radio Talkthrough is 'back on line', confirms this with the Battalion Ops Room to ensure their comms are working well and proceeds to reload the vehicle (if they have one). The vehicle has to be kept running in bad conditions not just so that the Rigger can warm up after the job but simply because the vehicle was not designed to work in arctic conditions.

The job doesn't finish there, records have to be updated and a site report completed. And then, as likely as not, the 21C will come in with a deployment task which has to be done by 0600 hrs. The job is exacting but enjoyable and immensely rewarding and satisfying. Could you meet the demands?

ROAD RUNNING

We have a bunch of mad soldiers who enjoy running in the local road races and who, for security reasons, are obliged to train within the camp area. **LCpl Kevin Martin** has devised a Marathon training schedule which has won the admiration of many and simply confirmed that he is the nutter everyone thought he was. Here is his story.

A MARATHON TRAINING SCHEDULE FROM THE SHARP END

A report by LCpl Kevin Martin, Comms Troop

Being a soldier in Northern Ireland poses its own special problems when it comes to devising a training schedule—especially when the camp is only 400m round.

The main problem however is not that one misses the 'sweet melodies of birds singing in the spring sunshine' or even the lack of 'leafy hedgerows bordering quiet country lanes'. No, the main problem is that all too often as one is pounding across what little tarmac there is left, a tinny voice can be heard barking across the tannoy that 'all personnel must be in the training room in 10 minutes'. This is depressing enough, but it is doubly annoying if one has just missed out on a 'personal best' by seconds, thanks to falling into a hole left unguarded by building contractors, or having to stop to retrieve a shoe from yet another of those mud filled 'trainer extractors' that seem to be so abundant in this part of the world. Then it's a quick sprint back to the 'rabbit hutch' and an even quicker change of costume amidst twenty other cursing squaddies.

Still, these things are sent to try us as they say, and, amazingly I found myself in March with a whole month in which I knew exactly what I would be doing. Ah, the bliss of shift work!

Never having been one to let an opportunity go to waste I hurriedly set about devising some sort of training plan around the complexities of night shifts, day shifts and sleep days. This was not an easy task, but there was something about the idea of overcoming these problems, and hopefully, completing my first half-marathon in under one hour thirty minutes—that appealed to me.

The biggest problem was boredom, I could not be expected to run endlessly round a 400m route, could I? The very idea of attempting sixty laps for a 'long slow fifteen miler' made me go cold. So the challenge was to work out a varied and interesting route. My imagination ran riot!

After a hard day shift, I used my run that night to do a complete 'recce' of the camp area. Thanks to a mortar attack a couple of months previously there was an abundance of wood and wire netting lying around. I managed to utilize these to cover the more boggy areas, no more lost shoes for me, and by the time I'd finished I'd worked out that I need only do the same route once every four laps. We also have a multi-gym on camp so I wrote some exercises into my schedule, together with a little weight training. My finished schedule for the month was:

Week 1
Monday . . . 5 miles easy
Tuesday . . . 3 miles fast
Wednesday . . . 5 miles easy
Thursday . . . 3 miles fast
Friday . . . 7 miles steady
Saturday . . . rest
Sunday . . . 8 miles easy

Week 2
Monday . . . rest
Tuesday . . . 5 miles fast
Wednesday . . . 5 miles intervals
Thursday . . . 10 miles easy
Friday . . . rest
Saturday . . . 7 miles easy
Sunday . . . 4 miles fast

Week 3
Monday . . . 7 miles easy
Tuesday . . . 3 miles fast
Wednesday . . . 13 miles easy
Thursday . . . rest
Friday . . . 5 miles intervals
Saturday . . . 3 miles fast
Sunday . . . 10 miles easy

Week 4
Monday . . . rest
Tuesday . . . 8 miles fast
Wednesday . . . 3 miles easy
Thursday . . . 7 miles intervals
Friday . . . 3 miles fast
Saturday . . . 15 miles easy
Sunday . . . rest

I managed to follow the plan more or less as it stands, although on the longer runs I tended to lose count occasionally of the number of laps I'd run. Due to the shift system I was working I was often to be seen plodding round camp at rather unsocial hours, much to the amusement of my 'mates'. Many were the calls of 'get them knees up' or ''eft, 'ight, 'eft, 'ight' that I had to endure.

All in all I'm quite pleased with the way the training is going considering the difficulties involved. I've finished with shift work for the time being, so, from now until I go on leave to compete in the Derby Half-Marathon, it's back to training (when I get the chance!)

HOCKEY

Report by SSgt (YofS) D. R. Leaning

Having started the Hockey season with a determined effort and no training, we embarked on another crusade of trying to field the same 11 players for two consecutive games. Unfortunately we never achieved this but will endeavour to do so next season.

Throughout the season we managed—not by choice—to use a pool of 27 players with whom we achieved Runners-Up NI Hockey league (Minor Units) and also Runners-Up NI Outdoor Sixes having been beaten 4—0 in a hard fought final.

We wish to bid a fond farewell to the following players:
Capt Steven Hunt—detached to HQNI (slippers in the post).
Cpl Doddy Dodsworth—Umpire extraordinaire.
WLCpl Angie Sparling—Raven on the wing.
Sig Terry Alderson—Duty bruiser.
Dvr Nigel Braun—Soon to be a PC.
The following people deserve a special mention:
Keeper—**Sgt Guy 'Kami Kaze' Benson**
Backs—**WO2 (YofS) Ron 'Buzby' Coburn, WO2 (SQMS) Pete 'let me stay on' Harrison**
Mid field—**SSgt (YofS) Dave 'Wouldn't say boo to a goose' Leaning**
Forwards—**SSgt Benny '1-2-3-1' Bennett, Cpl Dougey 'Sheridan' Shields, Capt David 'I never carry' Hopps**

The Squadron Hockey Team

Standing left to right: WO2 (SQMS) Pete Harrison RAOC, WOs (YofS) Ron Coburn, Cpl Peter Schollick, Dvr Nigel Braun, Cpl Fozie Forsyth, Sgt Ian Drinkall, Sig Terry Alderson, Tony Squirrell, Sgt Andy Johnson, SSgt Benny Bennett
Seated left to right: Cpl Mick Hedges RMP, Cpl Dougy Shields, Sgt Guy Benson, Maj N. K. P. Hope OC, SSgt (YofS) Dave Leaning, LCpl Sean Boyd, Cpl Doddy Dodsworth

Lady Pascoe, wife of the GOC, Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe presents a Runners-Up Shield to SSgt (YofS) Dave Leaning after the NI Sixes Tournament

SHOOTING TEAM PROGRESS

Report from the RSM

The Squadron Shooting Team has had some success up to the time of writing, namely coming third out of three in the Mercury Cup. This compeition is run between ourselves, 39 Inf Bde and 233 Sig Sqn. This result annoyed the RSM, to say the least, so along with **SSgt Donald Bennett** he decided to sort out the team and try to bring them up to scratch. Needless to say lots of 9mm and 7.62mm were quickly converted to brass, while **Sgt 'Padre' Leighfield, Cpl 'Scouse' Hornby, Cpl 'Taff' Shaw, LCpl 'Billy' Dodd** and **Sig 'Streaks' Scott** were pursuing averages of 30 and 40 hits in the Roupell, Whitehead and Roberts Cup practices. Rumour had it that the RSM got so annoyed that he fixed the Whitehead and got 31 hits, but nobody really believed him (I did though).

The next competition was the NISAAM where we were full of confidence and thought we'd do well. However, we hadn't done any practice in the monsoon conditions in which we found ourselves. We still managed to qualify for RASAAM, even though **Sig Scott** was half way through the Roupell when the bottom of his SLR mag fell off and 15 rounds dropped on his toes!

We are shortly competing in the Corps SAAM, and then on to RASAAM in July. Full reports in the next issue.

Standing—Cpl Hornby, Sgt Leighfield
Kneeling—LCpl Dodd, Sig Scott, Cpl Shaw

VISIT OF THE CORPS BAND

Report by WO1 (RSM) K. Hudson

During the period 3-8 June the Corps Band visited the Province. The Squadron was lucky enough to secure three engagements. Firstly, they gave a concert to our local Old People's Home on Friday 5 June, a concert that was very well received by the old folks, as was the Guinness by the Band afterwards! With the schedule running a little late, due to the liberal opening hours of the old folks home bar, the Band packed away their instruments with all speed and prepared for the WOs' and SNCOs' formal dinner engagement that same evening. The Band did us proud, although some of the nine cap badges at the dinner could not agree with us when the Corps and Regimentl Marches were played. Our Supt Clk, **WO2 (John Travolta) Harrison** only just managed to recognise his Corps March and got up for the last few bars, bettered only by a nameless Green Howard Sergeant who duly stood up when our own Corps March was played. We were also lucky to be able to present two LS and GC Medals that night. **SSgt Dean Wood** and **Sgt Neil Thomas** were the recipients. **Maj N. K. P. Hope MBE**, our Squadron Commander, made the presentations.

On Sunday 7 June the Band played for us at our Church Sunday and again all went well, as expected! At the festivities after the parade, the Squadron entertained the Band for a change. Our thanks go to **WO1 (BSM) Ian Green** and all the members of the Band that performed so well for us here in Londonderry.

Sgt Neil Thomas receiving his LS and GC from Maj N. K. P. Hope

SSgt (ORSQMS) Dean Wood receives his LS and GC Medal from Maj N. K. P. Hope

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OPERATIONS

The upsurge in violence within the province recently has been well documented in the media. Naturally the Squadron has been very busy coping with all the increased operations and deployments.

A major deployment recently saw nearly 1,400 soldiers deployed in South Armagh to improve some observation post positions near the border. A high percentage of the Squadron was deployed. The 2IC, **Capt Gordon Rafferty** and OC Comms Tp **Capt Simon Renfrey** manned a Brigade Tac HQ at Bessbrook. Rover Group performed its normal tasks and also provided additional escorts for convoys. TM Tp provided the expertise to re-wire/re-rig and re-install all the equipment in the OPs.

Sgt John Haggar and Sig 'Titch' Hadfield at one of the Border OP positions

BATTLE CAMP 1987
EXERCISE *IRON CIRCLE*
WATHGILL TRAINING AREA

This year the Squadron Battle Camp, under the title of Exercise *Iron Circle* took place in the training area around Catterick Garrison. The aim of the camp was to practise Squadron personnel in playing 'real' soldiers.

Expert assistance was given by **Capt Brian Smith** of 11 Sig Regt who led us through the various ranges including the Individual Battle Shooting Range and the Close Quarter Battle Range; a new experience for us.

Some notable incidents occurred during this camp. **Cpl Dave Evans,** during the final attack, managed to 'kill' his own cover group and **Sig Kev (I'll catch a thunder-flash) Attwood** was caught unawares by **Cpl John Young** inspecting the inside of his eye lids whilst on sentry duty. **Lt Jeremy Tod** finally made his only command decision of the exercise when the fog was thick enough for him to cancel one of the ranges — the fog immediately lifted in response.

An enjoyable week was had by all who attended and thanks go to **Lt Jeremy Tod, Sgt Dave Norman** (on his swan-song), **Cpl John Young** and **Cpl Jock Morton** for their invaluable assistance as DS.

SQUADRON ATHLETICS MEETING

The inter-troop athletics competition took place on 6 May. Unusually for Northern Ireland, the day dawned bright and sunny and remained that way for the rest of the day.

Despite heavy operational commitments, all Troops managed to raise a team, and indeed all performed creditably.

Special mention should go to several competitors, particularly **Cpl John Whitty** who, after winning the 5000m and running a heat of the 400m, then came second in the 400m final. Also to **Dvr Taff Edwards RCT** and **LCpl 'Scouse' Cahill** who took first and second position in the discus and shot. Worthy of note too was the participation in the MT Troop team of **Pte Sue Lacey**, who but for an unfortunate fall, was in a strong position in the 110m hurdles against all male opposition and **Pte Jane Tulloch** who ran in the 800m. **WO2 (YofS) Joe Haldane** demonstrated the new way of high hurdling, which approximates to a dive forward roll. Finally congratulations to **LCpl Steve Baird** who won both the 100m and 200m.

The competition was followed by the chain of command 100m relay carry, in which the MTWO, **WO2 Neil Sinclair RCT** had the unfortunate experience of carrying 14½ stone of **Sgt Andy Henwood RCT**. The final event was a spirited and well contested tug of war won by Comms Troop.

The prizes were presented by the OC's wife **Mrs Susie Hancock. LCpl 'Scouse' Cahill** overcome with receiving his trophy surprised **Mrs Hancock** and himself, by returning the compliment with a kiss.

The overall winners of the competition, after a very closely fought day, were Comms Troop, with the very small SHQ Troop team second.

MERCURY CUP SPORTS DAY

The Mercury Cup is competed for annually by the three Signal Squadrons in the Province. Units compete in a variety of military and sports events, the final event being the sports day, traditionally organised by this Squadron. The four sports this year were Rugby, Soccer, Hocky and Basketball, all run on a round-robin basis. After an enjoyable day, the event was won by 233 Sig Sqn. All teams and spectators then retired for refreshments in the Squadron Club, where both the Sports Cup and the Mercury Cup were presented to 233 Sig Sqn by **Maj Chris Greig** on behalf of Commander Communications, Northern Ireland.

SHQ TROOP

The line up in SHQ has changed again! We have just said goodbye to the Chief Clerk **SSgt John 'Mine's a Bass' McEwan**, his wife **Ann** and family on their departure to Rheindahlen, and **Sgt Dave Norman** and **Elaine** on posting to ACIO Liverpool.

SHQ Troop welcomes **SSgt Alan Fiddes** as the new Chief Clerk and his wife **Eve** and family.

Meanwhile **LCpl Paul 'Vannessa' Wicks** has gone to Catterick for a four week holiday in the shape of his Detachment Commanders Course . . . Good Luck.

Sig Phil 'Timbo' Timmins has just returned from another 'swan', a Basic Rock Climbing course and now all we get is Chris Bonnington impressions!

Cpl 'Nobby' Clarke is still keeping the SHQ Team including **Annette** — our faithful and (very trying) typist in good order.

Congratulations to **Capt Peter Humphreys, Capt Gordon Rafferty** and **WO1 (RSM) Mal Boor** on winning the RPC sports Quiz Night — applications for Mastermind have now been despatched.

HORSESHOE CLUB

The Horseshoe Club has now had a complete facelift. Not content with a new Bar the president **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes,** (with assistance from the PRI) has now had the whole Club redecorated — more refurbishment still to come. As a trial of all the new facilities; a most enjoyable night was had by all on the 15 May when the committee, under the excellent supervision of **Cpl Paul Carr**, held a German Night.

RQMS's DEPARTMENT

The RQMS **WO2 Terry Hughes** has recently returned from a successful Range Management Course at Catterick whilst **Sig Neil Frank** returned from his B1 Upgrading Course. The Department had a new arrival in the shape of **LCpl Shane Ackers** from 14 Sig Regt and **Cpl Jim Morton** has now deployed on the Squadron Battle Camp at Wathgill after being promoted to Corporal.

Sgt Ron Torrance has departed for pastures new; the Department wishes **Ron, Irene** and family all the best for the future.

Sgt John Brown and **Sgt Pete Laing** (now warned of posting to Bicester) continue to enjoy the variation in work which is common here.

On the work side Cougarnet continues and Brinton has now reared its head, causing the RQMS actually to leave his office to take over various sites, assisted in the latter stage by **LCpl Shane Ackers**.

COMMS TROOP
ROVER GROUP

With the Cat, **(Sgt Dave Bunt)** away, the mice, led by **Cpl Tony 'The Smiler' Mellett** went to play in Sough Armagh for two and a half weeks. During this time the Group was working with the RMP, escorting a variety of convoys to Crossmaglen and to a number of OP sites close to the border. This provided the group's old hands; **LCpl 'Dinger' Bell, LCpl 'Arnold' Jones** and **Pte 'Swifty' Mottley** with a chance to show off their best tiger stripe cam cream and DPM boxer shorts. After 18 days of shuttling between Crossmaglen and Beesbrook our intrepid heroes returned without so much as a sniff of a terrorist but with a vast collection of war stories.

HELI-TELE

No sooner had **Cpl Dave 'I never get a mention in *The Wire*' Whitaker** gone on another instructors course when **Sig 'Prof' Skeels** was tasked to send the heli-tele mobile ground station into West Belfast. Under the wing of **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell, Sig 'Prof' 'Call me Clint' Skeels** deployed into West Belfast with an escort crew to provide the mobile ground station to cover the funeral of Lawrence Marley. This task proved to be a three day epic with the mobile ground station being used to its full potential as a Battalion Tac HQ.

BDE COMMS TRIALS
(YET ANOTHER MORTARING STORY)

During the preparation for an operation the Troop was tasked to carry out a prior test of the communications. Teams were deployed to Forkhill, and Crossmaglen SF bases by air in April for a 48 hour period. These teams were composed of the following lucky volunteers chosen from a cast of thousands; **Cpl Cal Hewitt, Cpl Graham Farthing, Sig 'Prof' Skeels, 'Scouse' Anwyll, Stan Odgen** and **Kev Attwood**. In addition three hand-picked members of the Troop; **Capt Simon Renfrey, LCpl Steve Ferris, LCpl 'Moshe' Dyson** were inserted with the infantry recce parties, two days later, working back to **Cpl 'Uncle Mitch' Mitchell** at Bessbrook. As luck would have it, just as the team from Crossmaglen was flying back, Bessbrook was mortared. This was an ideal opportunity to snatch some dramatic photographs for *The Wire*, fortunately the pilot's reaction time was significantly faster than any member of the Troop hoping to snap a few pictures for the album. During the attack a number of vehicles were destroyed including a van, borrowed from the MT by the Troop, which contained the spair bergens and Cougar ancillaries (with the massed write-offs for an armoured division). **Cpl Mitchell** continued to act as a base station throughout the whole incident whilst a 'blind' lay in the vicinity of the ops room.

The remains of the Comms Tp Transit and an EOD team Transit after the mortar attack on Bessbrook—Sorry MTWO!

LCpls Steve 'the nose' Ferris and 'Moshe the Frog' Dyson survey what remains of their transport and kit after the Bessbrook mortaring

LCpl Steve 'the nose' Ferris books in for his heli flight back to Bessbrook International at the end of another comms trial somewhere in South Armagh

Sig 'Clint' Skeels in his attempt to win the Forkhill base golden blanket

COURT AND SOCIAL

MARRIAGES

Despite advice from some of the units 'pads', a number of the Troop have made the plunge recently. The first was **Sig Willy Rushton** who married **Marion** on posting to Germany, next in line was **Sgt Dave Bunt** and **Lindsey**. This was closely followed by **Sig Clive Hallett** and **Nichola, Pte Peter Graham** and **Nicola**. We would like to congratulate all four couples and wish them every success in the future.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to **Cpl 'Jock' Young** and **Annette** on the birth of their daughter — **Emma Jayne Marie.**

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **LCpl 'Benny the Ball' Williams** from the sunsoaked shores of Belize. We are proud to announce that **Cpl Phil Fluck** finally managed to catch up with his MFO in the beginning of June though in the excitement left his service dress on a Hercules bound for Lyneham.

DEPARTURES

Recent departures from the Troop include **Cpl Dave Richards** who is now earning a fortune in his new career on the stock exchange and **Sig 'Scouse' Anwyll** who is in the process of transferring to the RAPC. Best of luck to both of them in their new careers.

TM TROOP

Since our last contribution the workshops has been in an upheaval, the floor of the workshop had to be renewed. This has now been accomplished after much hammering and drilling by contractors, and we are now back in our old location. (Much to the relief of **Sgt Howell-Walmsley**, IC Heli-tele, whose workshop and coffee were much in demand during the rebuild).

In spite of all this, the work role has gone on as usual. Now Cougarnet is well and truly established and the need to dash around our talk-through sites growing less, more attention can be given to our outstations.

With operations to rebuild the OPs in South Armagh now complete, a re-wiring of the sites was necessary. A team comprising **Sgt John Haggar, LCpls Jock Dear, Jim Fearon, Willy Morgan** and **Sig 'Touche' Hadfield**, duly volunteered! They were flown into each OP on a daily basis to effect all the re-wiring of intercomms and radio remotes.

Work has also been carried out in most of the sites in Belfast with our video crew installing intercomms and pipe videos to places like Fort Whiterock and North Howard Street Mill to name but two. This is only part of the work carried out by our small telemech section comprising **Cpls Steve Coulson, 'Yogi' Cauldwell, LCpl Willy Morgan, LCpl Jim Fearon** and **Sig 'Touche' Hadfield**. Along with this were various ops room rebuilds, including a major rebuild at Keady, which kept Techs, Riggers and Telemechs busy. This led to an appearance by a TE Tech, a rarity now that Brinton has been introduced and kept our TE Section fully stretched in site preparation and installation work.

Despite all this some have managed to get on leave and courses, such as rock climbing and canoeing, plus the necessary equipment courses needed for the introduction of Brinton.

The Troop also contributed a fair proportion of the NI First Aid Competition (NIFAC) led by **Sgt Ian Horton**. On top of this there was the unit PRE, all of which kept us very busy.

We would finally like to say our farewells to **Cpl Chris Cadman** and his wife **Theresa, Cpl Kev Smith** and his wife **Jan**, both on posting, **Cpl Clive Wragg** and his wife **Sandra**, on moving to civvy street, **Cpl Paul Gardner** and his wife **Julie** posted to his Class 1 Course and finally **Sig Gaz Rushworth** (need another soap box) and his wife **Diane** on posting. Our best wishes, go with them all for their future.

We welcome **LCpl 'Jock' Mundie, Sig 'Sproodle' Murphy, Sig 'Touche' Hadfield** and his wife **Anne, Cpl 'Taff' Morris, LCpl 'Baby Tech' Simcock** and finally a belated welcome to **Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell** and wife **Jayne**.

NIFAC Team. *L-R Rear:* Sgt Ian Horton, Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell, LCpl John Dear, Cpl 'Poser' John Whitty, Sig Martin Breckenridge, Jim Gibbins
L-R Kneeling: Sig 'Touche' Hadfield, Jeze Brown, Cpl Paul Gardner

233 Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

SHQ PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Charles Kemp**
2IC	**Capt Ian Westerman**
SSM	**WO2 Pete Doherty**
AO	**Capt Mike Ledwards**
AAO	**Lt Denise Bould WRAC**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Ron Coleman**
ORC	**Cpl 'Spike' Spurr**
Mov Clerk	**Pte Heather Downes WRAC**

EDITORIAL
by the Second in Command

As another *Wire* reporting period draws to a close it is time for me to reflect on the events of the last two months, and to attempt to get others to do the same. By the age old method of the carrot and the stick I have persuaded the troops to produce some illuminating articles, (for those of you who are wondering what the carrot is — it is the promise that I won't use the stick!).

Since you last heard from us we have been visited by several personalities, (nothing new); successfully brought a new technological wonder to the Province in the form of Brinton, (again nothing unusual for the Squadron); raised £1,300 for charity in a 24-hour track run, (fairly unusual); and managed to obtain a photograph of the Traffic Officer at his desk — well almost, (nothing short of a miracle!).

In this report you will find details of all of those events and more. One article, however, deserves special mention. Victor Troop has always conscientiously produced *Wire* notes of outstanding frivolity. However, this month **Capt Ted Flint** has reached untold heights. Published below in its entirety, including his note to me which accompanied it, is OC Victor Troop's attempt to win the Nobel Prize for literature. Read on and discover how we fill our hours here in Northern Ireland.

WO2 (SSM) Pete Doherty shows the incoming CLF, Maj Gen R. J. Hodges, the new Sqn transport, *(in the background)*, whilst the OC keeps a lookout

NORTHERN IRELAND FIRST AID COMPETITION '87

The Squadron team had been training hard for two weeks for the competition, giving up days off and coming back early from leave, to enjoy running round the garrison with a stretcher. As the competition drew closer the training became harder and we all suffered from bruised shoulders and aching limbs.'

At last the day arrived and amazingly everyone was up at 5 am to set off for Magilligan, despite there being a happy hour the night before. We were all ready to go by the time we arrived at Magilligan two hours later. We were one of the first teams off which was an advantage as we didn't have to stand around for too long.

The first stand was an inspection followed by a written test and resuscitation assessment. That went well and we were soon off running across the training area to the first incident. Things started gradually with two casualties building up to stand six where we had seven to deal with. The competition ended with evacuating a casualty on a stretcher across rough ground for about one and a half miles.

The NIFAC team tackle the arduous stretcher race

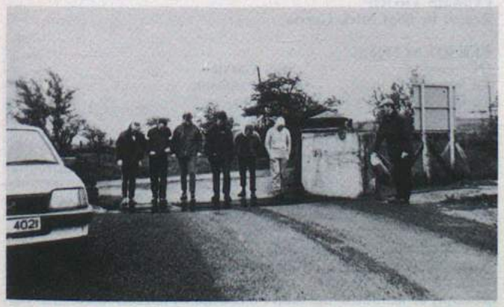
Time for a team photograph—The NIFAC team pose prior to starting the course

This was where our training paid off and we put in the second fastest time of the day.

It was a great relief to finish and we all enjoyed a beer, courtesy of the Squadron while we watched the other teams nervously waiting to start. The final outcome was that we finished third behind 1 DERR and 1 LI. Finally a word of thanks to **Sgt John Grandison** for his contribution to the training, and of course to all the team members:- **Sgt Calum Downie, Cpls George Lazenby, Colin Dawson, LCpls Mac McLaren, 'Daz' Pallet, Sig Steve Jones** and **Jock Starrs**.

THE GREAT DIVIS RUN — 12 MAY '87

With a sigh of satisfaction the OC put his pen down on his desk and put the letter in his out-tray. So it was that the Great Divis Run was born. Each of the three Signal Squadrons takes it in turn to host Comd Comms' monthly Sqn Comds' Conference. To mark the occasion of the last conference hosted by 233 Sig Sqn whilst he was in command, **Maj Charles Kemp** decided to organise a conference with a difference. The meeting was to be held on Divis Mountain Radio Site, and open with breakfast there. However, the twist in the tail was that all participants were to be taken to the bottom of the mountain and were to race to the top. A prize was to be donated, by OC 233 Sig Sqn, to the winner.



Mr Starter—The SSM—prepares to begin the great Divis run

The gauntlet was taken up with varying degrees of incredulity and dismay — but taken up by all it was.

Maj Nigel Hope tried to give the impression that he had not been preparing for the event. He arranged for his 2IC **Capt Kevin Fisher** to ring the 2IC of 233 Sig Sqn the day before, claiming that he had just heard about it and was it 'a wind-up'. However, it is believed that he had in fact spent many hours in intensive training, including conducting several helicopter recces of the route. This must have been the case for it is the only way to explain the results on the day.

The six participants were **Lt Col Martin Roberts**, (Comd Comms), **Maj Chris Grieg** (SO2 Comms), **Maj John McIntyre** (SO2 Comms (Tels)), **Maj Charles Kemp** (OC 233 Sig Sqn), **Maj Nigel Hope** (OC 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn), and **Maj Hugh Hancock** (OC 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn).

The race was keenly contested but in the end the exhaustive preparation of **Maj Hope** paid off and he beat **Maj Charles Kemp** into second place with **Maj McIntyre** coming third.

So the Great Divis Run took its place in history. I am led to believe that the conference that followed was the quietest on record—except for the creaking of limbs and the occasional groan.

The OC, Maj Charles Kemp, appears out of the mist to complete the race

VICTOR TROOP
Report by Capt Ted Flint

Life is, as ever, tranquil in the quiet backwater that is Victor Troop. Work proceeds according to a ritual whose origins are lost in the mists of antiquity. Every morning the Troop's courier, **Pte Fern White**, ventures bravely out of the refuge of the Troop building to collect the mail. She is, by custom, the only member of the Troop who is allowed to mingle with the uninitiated in the outside world.

Downstairs the computer operators reverently unpack bales of gleaming bytes, specially imported from the ivory coast, and shovel them into the computer, mumbling words whose meaning is long forgotten. In the dank and cavernous workshops, hewn from the living rock, gnome-like technicians fashion strange and marvellous devices resplendent with flashing lights and ornate appendages, pausing now and again to gaze with awe and terror on the noble form of their leader, **Sgt Calum Downie**. Not for nothing is he known as callous Calum! High in the lofty towers of the building the mail is carefully sifted by **SSgt 'Mad Bob' McMahon**. He sits hunched over what he likes to call his 'desk' and gently croons and moans as he sorts the meagre pile of papers by colour, smell and taste. From time to time he emits a delightful crackle as he recognises a word or phrase, or comes across some brightly coloured item.

In another garret the Yeoman slumbers peacefully, the cobwebs and dust which blanket his form rising and falling gently with his breath. Now and then a telephone will ring tentatively as if afraid to disturb the rich silence, then fall silent, abashed by its presumption.

That, then, is Victor Troop: a sombre, twilight world waiting for something to happen.

CHARITY RUN

Over the weekend of 16/17 May four members of Commcen Troop were out pounding round the track in Lisburn Garrison in an attempt to raise money for the Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster Appeal Fund. Starting at 1000 hrs on the Saturday, running through the night until 1000 hrs the following morning, each of them completed an hour on the track for each leg. The final figures resulted in over £1,300 being raised for charity, and also a lot of blisters.

24 HOUR CHARITY TRACK RUN
Total Miles — 186.5
Total Laps — 742 times 400 metres
186.5 Miles — 7 Marathons
186.5 Miles — 14 Half Marathons
186.5 Miles — Sore Feet and Blisters

Time Keeper **SSgt S. Wise**
1st Runner **LCpl V. Tibbs**
2nd Runner **LCpl G. Keith**
3rd Runner **LCpl J. Knight**
4th Runner **LCpl M. Brown**

Cash Raised — £1,300

The weary runners complete their final lap accompanied by their coach SSgt Stan Wise

After raising over £1,300 for the Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster Fund

WRAC NOTES
Report by Lt Denise Bould WRAC

In keeping with the remainder of the Squadron the WRAC element has seen a great deal of change over the last period, with new posts appearing and 'old' and familiar faces moving on. For all past Commcen Operators who spent restless nights in the Medical Centre of Palace Barracks, whilst on detachment there, you will be pleased to learn that the detachment is now all female with the girls working three months at a time in support of the local Infantry Battalion. In view of this, the present Regiment, 1 DERR, has made available two porta-cabins as permanent houses for the girls and at the time of going to press they were persuading the battalion QM to provide extra home comforts and luncheon invitations to friends from Lisburn were being issued. The girls have been made extremely welcome by the battalion and are involved in all their social and sporting events. In fact the biggest problem seems to be persuading them that three months is enough for anyone! The familiar faces moving on to pastures new include our stalwarts of the HQNI telephone exchange, **Sgt Jan Garnett** and her 2IC **Cpl Di Lawton**. Both have been heavily involved in the several moves the exchange made before finally settling in the Squadron complex, in their swish, modern surroundings. Their personalities and capability for hard work will be sorely missed and we wish them the very best for the future. The sporting scene in Lisburn continues to be hectic and the WRAC swimming team recently concluded the season by winning the NI League. The team ably captained by **LCpl Jane Bell**, performed consistently well and although duty often dictated last minute replacements, all who participated deserve congratulations for their efforts. Further congratulations go to **LCpl Bell** and **Pte 'Rolly' Ellis** for winning individual titles. We now look forward to the summer season of rained off rounders matches and tennis played in gale force winds!

The successful WRAC swimming team show off their trophies

WHISKY TROOP

Things are still changing in Whisky Troop. Highlight of the last few months has been the back-loading of four juggernauts of old equipment. Masterminded by our storeman **Sgt 'Smudge' Duckworth**, over 70 major items and 150 terminals were checked, packed and loaded by the Troop before waving a slightly sad farewell to 10 years of Troop history. With all that out of the way the Troop has also moved down the corridor giving up one third of the space to Romeo Troop (welcome ghostbusters!). Despite moving such a short distance every office was changed round and virtually every telephone re-sited. **Sgt Phil Skerritt** found that the phones had probably moved once too often and ended up fitting new cable to most. However, after a long slog since last October we are now set up with new equipment and our new offices and are looking forward to a quieter life for a while. Is this hoping for too much?

COMMS TROOP
Report by SSgt Mick Garvie

PERSONALITIES

OC	**SSgt Garvie**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Grandison**
Tp Cpl	**Cpl Dawson**
Tp Stores	**Cpl Adams**
Tp MT	**Cpl Naylor**

With the demise of Comms Troop not far away this contribution will, more than likely, be the last words from the Troop. The members of 'Bryin in NI' wish all of the Squadron a fond farewell and hope they keep up the standards that we have worked for so long to achieve!

As a last footnote anyone who would like a C50 please contact the RQ as he has a few spare (127 in total) — we've even got the original with the serial No 0001, and it's still going strong. Who knows perhaps, some time in the future there will be another Comms Troop, 233 Sig Sqn — until then goodbye.

A piece of history. Comms Troop line up with the OC and the SSM to give a final glimpse of Erastos before the troop is dispersed

TECH TROOP
Report by SSgt Peter Preen
Systems Control 233

Over the weekend 9, 10 May 1987 'Erastos' (NI Version of Bruin) breathed its last and 'Brinton I' fought its way into existence. There was no dramatic clash of cymbals, no drum roll, one minute we were 'Erastos' and the next we were 'Brinton'.

To the outside world it appeared that everything had gone smoothly, as planned; this is the impression we like to give. In fact the TOT, **Capt Henry Connor**, and his 'Brinton' sidekick **SSgt Sid Steele** managed to fight their way through the many hundreds of unforseen difficulties thrown up by the sheer scale of the project, the newness, complexity and untested nature of the various equipments, and those intrinsic problems arising from the need to organise the multitudes of outside agencies involved in any one given site.

Systems Control has moved out from its small cubby hole into its spacious, freshly painted (who said Radio Ops can't paint) central location. This move has given **Sgt Len Munday** and **Cpl Dave Menice** great pleasure as it heralded the fourth and final move of the Bid 200s in one year. This time it's out of the building.

All that was needed was for **Sgt Kev Bickerstaffe** and his crew of two **(Cpl (why me?) Murr** and **LCpl Dave Mathewson)** to deliver us the management system, REMSDAQ, intact and working. (Apologies to all our Falkland Veteran readers, but we think our 'REMSDAQ' works). This has now been done and apart from a few teething problems **Kev** should now be allowed home once in a while.

So now Systems Control 233 has leapt into the 21st Century with four micro computers, teletypewriters, numerous phones and other scientific gadgets.

This has been made possible mostly thanks to the many thousands of late nights, early mornings and weekends worked by the crew involved. All we can do now is hope that Brinton II comes in as well and that all in all 'Brinton' gives us as faithful a service as 'Erastos' has done in the past.

Sgt Wilkerson does his impression of a Kangaroo as he just fails to leap to victory in the High Jump

1987 INTER-TROOP ATHLETICS COMPETITION

On Thursday 21 May the sun shone, (a rare event in itself), on the annual Inter-Troop athletics competition. Tech Troop was attempting to defend its title from the previous year, and at first it seemed they would have no difficulty in doing so. However, as the afternoon progressed, both Admin Troop and Commcen Troop showed that they were not prepared to allow an easy ride for the technicians. By the end of the day it all rested on the results of the 4 x 100m relay which proved to be an exciting race. The final result was Commcen Troop third, Admin Troop second, but, by a narrow margin, Tech Troop retained the trophy. It was an enjoyable day, only made possible by the effort put in by the officials who took part.

The Traffic Officer Capt Alan Dunbar shows off his unique stance as he takes first place in the Discus

Sgt Charlie Abbott accepts the Athletics Trophy from the 2IC on behalf of Tech Troop

Ministry of Defence
Whitehall

Ministry of Defence (Signals 36),
Main Building,
Whitehall

Dear Bill,

A few lines to keep in touch. As you can see I am now in Signals 36 in the Ministry of Defence—and a right old pantomime it is—but more of that in a moment. You won't believe it but they've told me to write notes for the *Wire*. I ask you, who wants to read a load of turgid prose about the shuffling of paper in the corridors of power? In times past they drew a decent veil over such things but the new policy is to let the Corps know about its Whitehall Warriors. No reason for it—just new policy. 'What am I going to write about?', I asked. 'Just tell the readers what Signals 36 does', they said. Well, I don't want to sound defeatist, but even Charles Dickens and Harold Robbins combined would be a bit pushed to knock out riveting copy on the life and work of Signals 36. Still, nil desperandum, I'll have to do my best. The boss has made me an offer I can't refuse—do the *Wire* Notes or move to a life after military death in the Directorate registry.

First off is what we do—the scaling, issue and control of all communications and crypto equipment for the Army. Doesn't set the pulses racing does it? But there is a lot of this kit—five billion pounds worth to be roughly exact. So now you know where your taxes go. It wouldn't be so bad if it all stood still but the Army keeps changing its plans and organisation and we have to try to see that everyone gets the kit they need. If I tell you that just one Triffid installation contains about 250 items you'll get an idea of how hectic it is. Of course we use a computer. In fact we use two computers but they can't or won't speak to one another. So they have to employ a civilian firm to act as marriage guidance counsellor to the computers to get some sense out of them.

Signals 36 is part of the Signal Officer-in-Chief's Directorate. Not that you would notice. We don't live beside the SOinC in the main Directorate corridor on the first floor of the Main Building like the glamour girls of Signals 31, 32 and 34. Most of us are crammed into a little cul-de-sac on the second floor which would make the black hole of Calcutta seem like a rest home for the elderly.

One section, Signals 36a, has been moved out of the building altogether and is lodged in Northumberland House. I'm not sure of the reason for this apartheid. Perhaps they reckon the presence of us artisans would lower the tone for the other Branches dealing with 'concepts' and similar high-brow matters. The only exception is our boss, **Col Martin Pickard**, who has an office at the end of 'snobs alley' to act as the Directorate's token Signals 36er and avoid any accusations of 'branchism'. The Colonel seems an amiable old buffer. Spends his time wandering around—bald as a coot—saying 'Well done chaps'. Still, no selection system is perfect and it does hold out hope for the other officers of the Branch. He seems more interested in gardening than anything else. Always banging on about his 'pelargoniums' and 'getting the soil right'. Must spend all his off-duty time up to his armpits in horse manure. On reflection I suppose home isn't all that different from work. Always seems to get his own way, though. Which just goes to show the power of the confidential report system.

The way the work goes is this—the kit is scaled in the first instance by the Army Communication Equipment Committee with Signals 36b1 acting as the Secretariat. Any unit that wants more communications or crypto kit puts in a case and the ACEC tries to find reasons for not giving it to them. Either they don't need it, or there's no money to buy it, or the manufacturer can't produce it until the end of the century etc etc. In spite of all this a lot of the cases do get through and **Maj Peter Richards**, he's the Secretary, spends hours writing the minutes—hours writing the minutes, get it? **Maj Richards**; now he's an odd-ball. I suppose they all are. But he goes from the sublime to the gorblimey. One minute he's writing articles for the British Army Review, all full of four-syllable words, and the next he's banging along doing forced marches with 5 Airborne Brigade. I think it's what they call an identity crisis. The assistant Secretary is **Lt Col Roy Edge**. He's a retired officer but isn't very retiring and really runs the show. If he was on Mastermind his specialist subject would be 'minutes of the ACEC 1963-87'. The ACEC had its 250th meeting a few months ago which was an excuse for champagne and having a photograph taken. I have enclosed copy of same—looks more like a picture of the Politburo.

Once ACEC has scaled the kit the two issue sections, Signals 36b2 and b3, try to put it in the hands of the customer. Sounds easy but the manufacturers, sub contractors, supply managers, equipment managers, and many others all have a finger in the pie. Trying to get those 250 bits of a Triffid that I mentioned earlier all together, in the Ordnance depot, checked out and ready to issue can be like trying to knit jelly. In charge of the issues sections is our SO1, **Lt Col Hamish Adams**—the white sahib of the second floor. He is a bird of passage, convalescing with us for a year between severe bouts of Queen's Gurkha Signals. He came here from being 2IC and goes back early next year as CO. So it's not surprising he always has half an eye on the steaming Orient. We have got quite used to seeing the float file stuffed full of his signals to Hong Kong congratulating Bandahadur Thapa or some such on shooting straighter than Robin Hood and hearing cries of 'Shabash' every time he finds his place in his Filofax. I reckon he has more notes in there than the Bank of England.

Signals 36b2 issues and controls trunk equipment—the 'hot numbers' being Ptarmigan, Triffid and Euromux—but also including teleprinters, cable, EW equipment and lots more. They have a team of three—**Maj Malcolm Emslie, Maj Derek Copeland** and **Maj (TOT) Bob Scriven**. Such is the shortage of accommodation in MOD, that all three are crammed into one small office which no self-respecting Regiment would use as its stationery store. Talk about the plight of London's homeless!

Maj Emslie's main concerns are Triffid and Euromux. The latter is driving him up the wall as he sits like meat in the sandwich between manufacturers who keep missing their deadlines and formation commanders who reckon the Red Hordes will overwhelm our brave lads in BAOR unless the new kit is delivered on the dot. A bit hard on him having to fight the Whitehall battle because he is really a frustrated Commando and rumour has it he runs into work each day carrying a rucksack full of rocks. Don't know about the running or the rocks but I can vouch for the rucksack.

The other two control Ptarmigan. **Maj Copeland** is the father figure of the system as far as issues are concerned and recently had to pop up to the Palace to collect a very well-deserved MBE for all his efforts. He has also given himself his own reward in the form of a constant supply of sandwiches at his desk and, on Fridays, a large packet of jelly babies from Fortnum and Mason.

Maj Scriven deals with Ptarmigan 'loose items'—very loose at times—and keeping track of them would make a tricky task for Interpol. And with subscriber sub sets at £7,000 a throw we are not talking about petty cash. He says he really enjoys his job but if he keeps taking the tablets it will probably pass. He is a keen philatelist so perhaps it's just a case of him being the right stamp of man for the post.

Signals 36b3 deals with all radio. **Maj Peter Williams**—Wales, rugby, home-brew and gardening—tries to control Clansman. There are some 230 different items of Clansman and about two and a half thousand units who use it. And they change *all* the time. The pace is hectic and is not helped by the very non-user-friendly computer which sulks if it is not treated just right. No wonder **Maj Williams** sometimes looks as if he is about to flip his lid. Still he has been promised a calm and peaceful environment in his next job and this will no doubt do him good. He is also doing well on his Open University course, which is another example of there being hope for all of us.

Maj (TOT) Ken 'Rambo' McRae covers commercial radio about which he has forgotten more than any reasonable person would care to know. He was shipped off to Beirut recently to sort out the British Ambassador's radio system but judging by references to commercial radio projects in Gibraltar and Cyprus seen on the float file, he has some rather more pleasant trips lined up.

Helping to keep the computer at bay we have **Mr David Hanney** and **LCpl Julie Baker WRAC**. **David** has a desk in a corner behind the door just in case the computer decides to attack. **Julie** wants to make a career in 'computering'. If she can crack our system. I reckon everything else will be downhill. Lodged with Signals 36b3 is **Sgt 'DZ' D'Rozario**. He is a Radio Technician so there is at least one person present who can add up. He does all the detailed work for the Harness and Ancillaries Sub Committee of the ACEC. This mouthful means he picks up all the jobs too difficult for **Col Pickard** and **Maj Richards**.

The Branch Registry is run by **Mr Kanti Raval** and **Miss Beverley Edwards**. Don't want to seem a chauvinist but **Beverely** definitely makes better viewing than **Kanti**—just have a look at the enclosed snap—her smile is a definite plus for the Branch. **Kanti** has been in the Civil Service for many years but **Beverely** is in her first post—what a way to start a career. One thing they are not short of is paper. We put out 50 issue orders every week. Each order has about 15 copies. Add that to 80 copies of the ACEC minutes sometimes running to 100 pages plus signals from every QM in the Army saying they want more of everything and you've used up several miles of potential Andrex. Same everywhere in the MOD. If I was in the Kremlin I'd forget about nerve gas and concentrate on sabotaging the paper mills. It would paralyse the British Army in an instant.

Last but not least we have Signals 36a, the burn-before-reading section, dealing with the procurement, issue and control of all crypto kit. Here we have **Maj Dick Thwaites, Lt Col (Tfc) John Beasley** and **Miss Kay Masters**. They can't talk much about their work—except that there is a lot of it—and they have more BIDs to deal with than Sotheby's. Although they have been sent into exile in Northumberland House they do have a nice little set-up there with a comfy office each, well out of sight of the boss. Although they moaned when they had to move from the Main Building they don't seem to be agitating to come back.

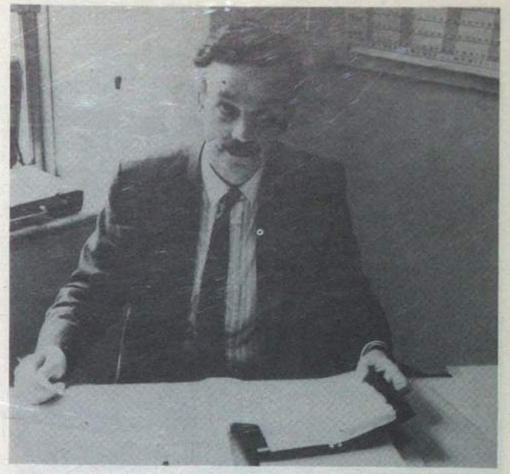
Well, there we are. A pretty polyglot crew. In spite of all the paper and the constant turmoil, the job gets done and everyone seems cheerful. Perhaps it's comrades in adversity, the Battle of Britain spirit and all that. I nipped around the Branch the other week with the old Box Brownie and took a few pics which I enclose. I'm not there of course, being behind the camera.

Must finish this now and get on with the *Wire* Notes.

Yours
Charlie

The band of heroes—Sigs 36. *L to R:* Lt Col (Retd) M. R. Edge, Maj (TOT) R. C. Scriven, Sgt L. M. T. D'Rozario, Maj R. C. Thwaites, Col M. J. Pickard, Maj P. Williams, Miss B. Edwards, Lt Col (Tfc) J. P. Beasley, Mr K. Raval, Lt Col H. M. Adams, Mr D. Hanney, Maj (TOT) K. R. McRae, Maj D. L. Copeland and Maj P. Richards

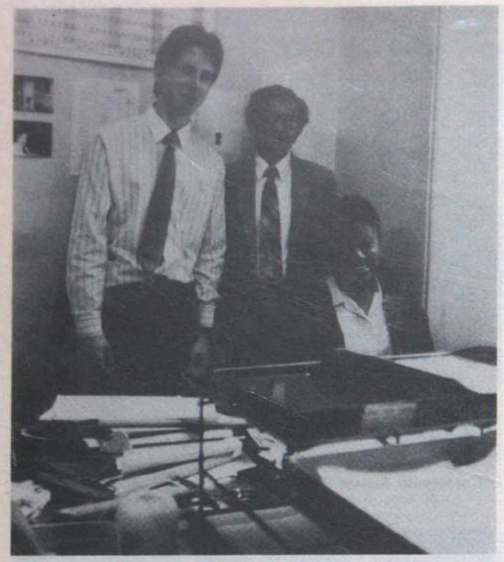
The Gang of Three. Maj Malcolm Emslie, Maj Derek Copeland and Maj Bob Scriven, Scrivens checks on opening time for Copeland's 'refreshments' cupboard



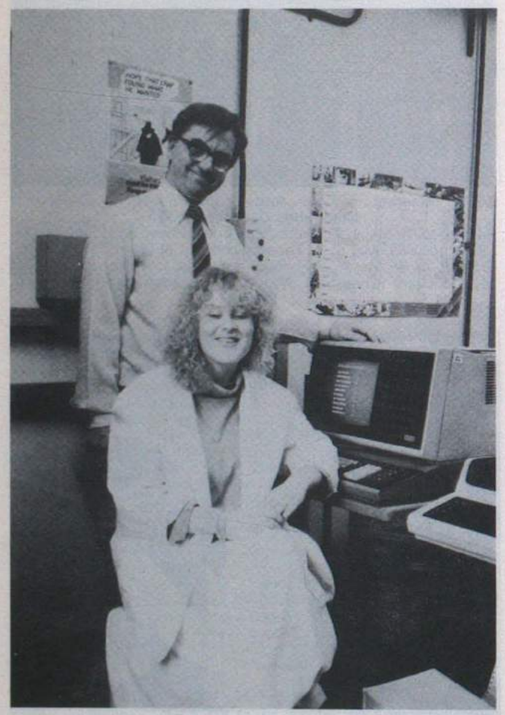
Lt Col Hamish Adams. The 'white sahib' checks his black Filofax for Hong Kong LOA rates

250th Meeting of the Army Communications Equipment Committee December 1986
Back (L to R): Maj J. T. Smith, Maj A. McGowan REME, Maj C. M. Bremner WG, Maj J. E. Thomas and Lt Col (Retd) M. R. Edge
Front (L to R): Maj A. J. P. Poppleton, Maj I. A. Noble (sec), Col M. J. Pickard (Chairman), Maj M. P. Manson RA and Maj J. L. Davies

Trying to placate the Computer. Maj Ken McRae, Maj Peter Williams, Mr David Hanney



You in your small corner . . . David, Kanti, Beverley



Beauty and the beast. Maj Ken McRae ready to protect LCpl Julie Baker from attack by the computer

HQ Queen's Gurkha Signals
BFPO 1

AUTOMATIC MESSAGE SWITCH HONG KONG

On Friday 8 April at HMS *Tamar* the Commander British Forces Hong Kong **Maj Gen T. A. Boam CB CBE** unveiled a plaque to commemorate the official opening of the Automatic Message Switch (AMS) in the Joint Commcen Hong Kong.

The opening ceremony concluded months, if not years, of planning and preparation by past members of the Squadron. **Lt Col (Tfc) French** and **WO1 (YofS) Richie** in particular, whose letters, on file, are evidence of their keen involvement and provided the traffic and manning statistics which are vital for such a project.

The last nine months in particular have seen a complete change in the Tape Relay Centre where the computer room and console area have been constructed. The area has looked like a building site for most of this period but is now back in some semblance of order! Communications have continued uninterrupted thanks mainly to the 'close' liaison between the Ops, led by **WO2 (YofS) Tony Glover** and the Techs, led by **SSgt (FofS) Russ Moren**. An emergency fall back position was constructed using Trend and PTAs and, there were some problems initially but, these were quickly sorted out.

The benefits of the AMS are three fold, a saving in manpower, quicker more efficient re-routing of signals and the improved security of signals within the TRC now that they are not handled manually by the operators. On average over 2,000 messages pass through the TRC each working day and I'm sure that all operators will appreciate the time and 'hassle' factor saved is enormous.

The supervisory and control facilities enable the console operator to intercept and correct messages which are rejected and if a circuit drops out, to re-route messages to another circuit quickly.

All operators, WRAC and Gurkhas included, are being trained to use the supervisory and monitor facilities to control the AMS. Those who are already trained are finding the 'computer' user-friendly and certainly much less hectic than passing punched tape from one circuit to another.

The excellent relationship and liaison with Scicon (the installation contractors), in particular **David Birch, Brian Winstanley** and **Charlie Childs** has ensured the smooth transition from Torn Tape to automation.

Recorded for posterity—Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Maj Gen T. A. Boam, Commander QG Signals Lt Col J. E. Neeve, Lt Col B. T. Connor SO1 Comms (Projects), CPD Blandford, members of the staff of JSSS Hong Kong and two shifts of 'the workers'

The General 'books in' supervised by Commander QG Signals, Lt Col J. E. Neeve

The moment of unveiling

Commander 1 Signal Group, Col C. A. Brown, being shown the functions of the AMS during his visit on 9 February
L-R: Col C. A. Brown, Cpl Lorraine Littlewood, Cpl Ruth Jarvis

SQUASH

The Hong Kong Inter-Unit Squash Championships were held during March 1987. Ten teams from Hong Kong and the New Territories took part, the Regiment entered three teams.

The competition was run as two leagues, one league comprised teams from Hong Kong side, (247 Sig Sqn, 248 Sig Sqn, St George's School, 1 Battalion Coldstream Guards and Comp Ord Depot) the New Territories league comprised (RAF Sek Kong, 1/2 Gurkha Rifles, Queen's Gurkha Engineers, 10 Gurkha Rifles and Queen's Gurkha Signals Borneo Lines). QG Signals won convincingly in the final against 1 Battalion Coldstream Guards; 5—0.

The victorious QG Signals team consisted of players from 246 Gurkha Sig Sqn and Headquarter Squadron:

1—**Cpl Ray Yu** (HQ)
2—**Sgt Bruce Barnes** (246)
3—**Sgt Joe Ip** (HQ)
4—**Maj K. C. A. Davies-Stewart** (HQ)
5—**SSgt (YofS) Ken Jones** (246)

The Final results were as follows:

1st—Queen's Gurkha Signals (Borneo Lines)
2nd—1 Battalion Coldstream Guards
3rd—RAF Sek Kong
4th—St George's School (last year's winners)

At the time of writing the Team is now looking forward to the Inter Corps Squash Competition which will take place in June.

Bottom row L to R: Sgt Joe Ip (HKMSC), SSgt (YofS) Ken Jones, Cpl Bijaibahadur Limbu
Back row L to R: Sgt Bruce Barnes, Maj K. C. A. Davies-Stewart, Cpl Ray Yu (HKMSC)

Sgt Bruce Barnes receiving the trophy from CRAF HK, Group Capt M. J. Milligan

News from Regiments

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

1 SQUADRON
Report by WO2 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood

SQUADRON COMMAND TROOP

A fairly quiet period for the squadron with only second line inspections, ORT, a demo for RCDS and preparation for Ex *Reforger*, not forgetting the Regimental Battle camp.

OPERATIONAL READINESS TEST

The Regiment ORT was called just before midnight on Wednesday 3 June. Was it just a coincidence that the SSM, **WO2 Bob O'Hara** left for the UK on leave that very morning? We think not. All the Squadrons TNs deployed to their Active Edge locations with very little difficulty except for Falcon Troop (TN 051). Their OC, **Capt Calvin Owen** decided that it would be a good idea if his TN left camp via the 'Pig Farm' gate and not like the rest via the main gate. **Capt Owen** now has his Guider's badge for reversing a TN, complete with trailers.

The OSC was having a fairly easy time of it until the OC Sqn, **Maj Bernard Barton-Ancliffe** decided that as well as the TN having defence trenches the OSC should have a command trench. The FofS was heard to remark, in a quiet whisper, 'What is a trench?'. **Cpl Geordie Headford** and **Sig Paddy Long** set about instructing the FofS on the intricacies of building a stage four trench. The FofS passed on his newly learned information to the YofS, **WO2 Dave Taylor** and in no time they were chest deep in a hole in the ground. The OC not to be out done by this feat of engineering, decided to add an officer's mess annex to the FofS/YofS trench. It was at this point that the FofS and the YofS retired to the OSC vehicle.

TROOP SUMMER CAMP

The Troop summer camp was held on Sunday 24 May at Osterode in the Harz mountains. The advance party consisted of **WO2 (SSM) Bob O'Hara** and the FofS, **WO2 Ron Kirkwood** complete with caravans and families. They arrived on the Friday evening and on the Saturday made the preparations for the arrival of the Troop next day. They set up the barbeques and put the beer in the fridge. As luck would have it the weather was not too bad, in fact, it was quite warm although **Dorothy Bruce** said that it was warmer in Fiji. The troop arrived in a mini bus driven by **Sgt Paul Shenton** who volunteered to drive as long as he did not have to pay for his barbeque! The troop departed for Verden that evening while the SSM and the FofS stayed on for another night.

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome all the combat powermen in the Squadron, on their postings to SCT. Also **Capt Tony Rock** the Squadron's new 2IC and his wife **Debbie** and **Capt Al McPhee Royal Canadian Signals** who replaces **Capt Mike Maxwell**.

FAREWELLS

Sadly arrivals are normally followed by farewells and this is no exception. We lost **LCpl Colin Ramsden** to 3 Sqn and we wish him all the best in his new job as 3 Sqn barman. Ordered the new BMW yet Colin? **Capt Mike Maxwell** and his wife **Gail** leave us after being the Regiment's Canadian Exchange Officer for two years. The whole Squadron would like to wish them all the best for the future and a safe journey back to Canada.

EAGLE TROOP

EXERCISE *EAGLE DIAMOND*

Fifteen members of Eagle Troop, and a few privileged guests, spent 10 days climbing and trecking in the Allgauer Alps at the beginning of March. The exercise was based at the Regiment's adventure training hut at Moosbach. Large quantities of late snow considerably limited our achievements and hard lessons were learned of the difficulties of 'breaking track' in fresh snow. A largely inexperienced group of soldiers did, however, learn a lot about mountaineering in winter conditions, particularly the hazards of bad weather.

We completed a number of low level climbs including the Breitenberg (1,800m). During a coffee break at the ski hut near the top, **Sig 'Dick' Barton** amazed the local skiers with his display of aerobatics while diving on to snowdrifts. During the descent we learnt the art of the plastic bag slide which is faster and far more terrifying than any sledge. **LCpl 'Sledger' Turner** proved this by dragging a sledge up the 1,500m Grunten and then dragging it back down the other side through mushy snow.

Members of Eagle Troop on Ex *Eagle Diamond*

Sig 'Dick' Barton practising for the next Olympics

A lot of energy was expended on our treks, particularly during an epic on a 30 degree ice slope near the top of the Grunten. Even **SSgt 'I hate hills' Cox** was subdued. Morale remained high and was kept that way by a few characters like **Sig 'Wot' Fennel** and **Sig Jock Aitken**.

While this was going on up in the clouds, small groups of rock climbers were posing on sun drenched rocks under the excellent instruction of **LCpl 'Bob Marley' Downes**. A superb introduction to the sport.

During our more relaxed moments, we learned how to Leg Wrestle at the local shooting club. The OC, **Lt Martin Ramshaw** was easily the champion despite the best efforts of **Cpl '6 years is too long' Donald**.

The troop enjoyed a refreshing and often exhausting week climbing in some beautiful mountains and are ready for more of the same.

FAREWELLS

Three old hands have left the Troop recently, **Cpl Taff Donald** for Catterick, **LCpl Elliot** for 21 Sig Regt and **LCpl 'Roughy toughy para' Rogers** for Aldershot (where else?). We wish them all the best for the future.

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome **SSgt Taff Cox** on his unexpected extension with the Regiment and hope that the new year will be as enjoyable for him as the last three.

HAWK TROOP

ARRIVALS

The Troop would like to welcome **LCpl Frank McGoldrick**, who decided to make the most of his first posting to Germany by going via 7 Sig Regt and arriving somewhat bemused at Verden railway station a day late!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order to **SSgt Al Davey** and his wife **Lyn** on the arrival of their baby son.

FAREWELLS

The troop says farewell to **Sig Del Boy Kavanagh** who is posted to 21 Sig Regt and we wish the 'Blue Jobs' all the luck with him; they will need it.

REGIMENTAL SAAM

The Squadron did very well at the Regimental SAAM winning the Falling Plate, the team SMG shoot with, **Sgt Graham Reith** winning the individual SMG match and **WO2 (FofS) Ron Kirkwood** coming runner up in the pistol match. The photograph shows the members of the Squadron team.

Squadron Shooting Team

STOP PRESS

SCT would like to congratulate **LCpl Tony Barker** and his wife **Lisa** on the birth of their son **Matthew**.

2 SQUADRON

The threat of summer hanging over Verden predictably brought a busy time for the Squadron, with the art of crisis management once again proving a valuable skill. In addition there have been numerous welcome sporting breaks with the Squadron competing in the Regimental Athletics and Swimming competitions, with many surprisingly good individual performances. The Squadron attained creditable placings in both competitions notable performances include **Sig 'fish' Bowman** in the individual medley and **Lt 'sailor' Herstall** in the Javelin.

On the arrivals and departures front we bid farewell to **SSgt (FofS) Baugh** and his wife **Sue** and **LCpl** and **Sabine Cleavin** who all depart for 8 Inf Bde, **Cpls Prince** and **Parr** with **Sig Chas Fisher** and his wife **Sandra** en route for Celle and last, but by no means least, **Maj 'Gus' Boag** and his wife **Freda** who leave us for the sunshine and 'peace and quiet' of Cyprus! We wish them all the best. They will be sadly missed.

We welcome the new man in the hot seat **Maj Paul Ellis** and his wife **Juanita** and wish them a good tour. We also congratulate **Lt Steve Herstall** on his series of arrivals and departures to and from Kiel training centre.

Papa Troop border patrol proved an interesting break from life in Verden as well as useful Cross Country driving experience, (whilst some 100 miles away **Lt Herstall** sails the Baltic).

Congratulations to the Squadron's collector of medals **Sgt Mick Wray** on the award of the LS and GC. An extension to his left chest has been applied for!

3 SQUADRON

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS MEETING

2Lt Makepeace captained a Squadron Athletics team in the Regimental Competition and everyone competed bravely. However special mention should go to the Tug-of-War team. The Tug-of-War competition was dominated from the start by the teams from 1, 3 and 201 Sqn's. 3 Sqn was narrowly defeated by 201 which was in turn beaten by 1 Sqn. That allowed 3 Sqn, as shown in the photo, to win the overall competition by beating 1 Sqn, 2—0.

3 Sqn Tug-of-War Team, *R to L:* LCpl Thomas, Sig Littler, 2Lt Makepeace, LCpls Oliver, Taylor, Sigs Caughey, Yates, Cpl Eley, Coach—Sgt Harman

EXERCISE *SABRE EDGE*

The Squadron used the opportunity of a Regimental Plug Up to practise deployment and communications in the local area. The highlight of the exercise was definitely the last day when we got the chance to use the wash down point on Haberloh Training area. **Sgt Ray Bray** was particularly difficult to prise away from the high tech controls. Apart from that YofS **Bob Tate** informed us that we had 'strutted our stuff well'. If anyone out there knows what that means, send your answer to a member of 3 Sqn please.

FAREWELLS, HELLOS AND BIRTHS

It has been a productive time for the Squadron. We must congratulate the OC **Maj Brian Scott-Morton** and his wife on the birth of their son, **Sgt Dave Harman** and **Jo** on the birth of their son and **Cpl Sam Slade** and **Liz** on the birth of their son **Sam**. New arrivals in the Squadron have been numerous. **Lt Peter King** has taken over from **Lt Steve Felton** as Oscar Troop's B1 Orphan (OC). **Lt Neil Makepeace** has been adopted as the latest Line Troop mascot. Oscar Troop welcomes **Sigs Garner, Thompson** and **Giblin**. November Troop's new boys are **Cpl Sid Perks** and family, **LCpl Sprocket Archer** and family and finally **LCpl Jonah Jones** and family. The Squadron has also had to say goodbye to **Cpl Dutch Holland** who left us for 7 Bde, **Cpl Steve Davison** who left to go to 21 Sig Regt, **Cpl Brummie Cox** who went to 1 Sqn on promotion, **LCpl Taylor, Sigs Thompson, Caughey, LCpl Camilleri** and **LCpl Taff Williams** who left for Blandford. We wish them all well in their new postings. In addition we must mention **SSgt Geordie Dobson** who has left Oscar Troop and is now sitting in the SSM's chair while **SSM Britton** enjoys some well earned golf. Finally congratulations to **Cpl Chalky White** on his marriage and to **Sig Norman Cooper** on his marriage.

SWIMMING

The swimming season started with the Inter-Sqn match which 3 Sqn won comfortably. We took the overall trophy and also won the chain of command race. The Regimental Swimming Team was then formed and competed in the 7 Bde championships. The team finished second to the QDG and hence we qualified for the Divisional Championships in June. In addition four men from 3 Sqn have qualified for the BAOR individual championships, well done to **2Lt Makepeace, Sgt Bray, Cpl Slade** and **Sig Turner**.

201 Sig Sqn (22 Armd Bde)
BFPO 30

Since the last issue of *The Wire* the time has been taken up with many 'extra-curricular' activities. The 'Stags' Rugby team tour of Munich, a week of field training and a visit by our new CO and the Adjutant General are the most notable.

As we enter the Summer sports season the athletics and cricket teams have acquitted themselves well, especially with new finds such as **Cpl 'Gnasher' Dennis**. However the most outstanding success has been achieved by **SSgt 'Why doesn't anybody talk to me? Donovan** and his merry band of swimmers coming second in the Regimental championships. The sport was previously unknown in the Squadron.

ALPHA TROOP

Many Troop personalities have featured in various events over the past few months. Mention must go firstly to **LCpl Basford** who became Regimental Master-At-Arms at the Regimental shoot.

Congratulations to **Cpl Niblock** on the award of his LS and GC.

ARRIVALS

Hellos go to our new Troop OC **Lt Watt, Cpls Montgomery** and **Pollitt** and **Sig Goodman** and **McGuckien**, and farewells to **Sig Mick Block** who left the Army in April.

BRAVO TROOP

The Troop would like to say fond farewells to those leaving 'sunny' Hohne. These include **Sgt 'JD' Dunne, LCpl 'Hattie' Jaques** and **Richie Richardson** and **Sig Gunter** whose inexhaustible wit no doubt now plagues 2 Inf Div in York. Hellos to **Cpl 'Gnasher' Dennis** and **Sig 'which Troop am I *really* in?' McKindland**. Congratulations to **Cpl Taff Parry** and his wife on the birth of a baby girl.

INTER TROOP ASSAULT COURSE COMPETITION

As part of the Brigade Commanders Informal ARU visit it was decided to hold an Inter-Troop assault course competition. To make things more interesting the teams of six were to be supplemented by a log. So after 'intense training' the three teams lined up ready for the off. Alpha Troop, led by **Lt 'Rambo' Watt**, charged their way around the course aided by **Cpl 'Gungho' Miller**. Bravo Troop, even after the early retirement of **Sig D. M. Davies-Morris**, managed to beat them by one second. However, it was SHQ Troop who were victorious, inspired by **Sgt 'gnome' Murray**, collecting the Jaques Trophy.

SHOOTING

The Squadron is enjoying successful season under the guidance of **SSgt 'Seven heads' Stemmer**. After the formality of winning the Regimental SAAM the team then went to Sennelager for the Divisional shoot. Two teams were entered, gaining first and fifth places. So for the third year running we are the First Division minor unit champions. Next stop Royal Signals SAAM and Bisley.

Standing: Sig King, Cpl McCartney, LCpl Bousfield
Kneeling: Cpls Stevens, Rix, LCpl Basford, Sig Purnell, SSgt Stemmer

SQUADRON CRICKET

'Cricket is a funny game!' said the great Freddie Truman. Nothing was further from the truth as the four teams gathered on a chilly Sunday in May for the Squadron Cricket Challenge. **Sgt Reuben Lynch**, using his West Indian prowess, led the Seniors' team to an early defeat at the hands of an inspired Alpha Troop scratch eleven, while Bravo Troop decimated the middle order of SHQ Troop to qualify for the final.

So it was the grudge match A Troop vs B Troop and tensions were rising as it reached its climax. **Cpl 'Gnasher' Dennis** and **Sig McKindland** proved too much for the batsmen of A Troop, **Sig Chalk** succumbing to the electric atmosphere as he was given out by a controversial catch, and so B Troop managed to stop an Alpha Troop victory.

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The Team to Trust

207 Sig Sqn (7 Armd Bde)
BFPO 37

Yet again the combined 7 Armd Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Squash team has provided the Squadron with some success in matters sporting. After beating the Ordnance Services team to become BAOR minor unit Champions, it went on to further glory by winning the Army Championships. Congratulations to all the team members: **Maj David Leakey RTR, WO1 John Wallis RAOC, Maj Seamus Kerr RAOC, Maj James Shaw, Cpl Dave Clarke.**

7 Armd Bde inflicted massive casualties on GSFG during a classically fought out defence of the IGB, which took place in Sennelager at the Brigade and Battle Group Trainer. **LCpl 'Spot' Arthurs** was somewhat concerned about not being able to get communications in, until **SSgt 'Baz' Palmer** explained that it was all hard wired. **SSgt 'Jack' Wright** was concerned about how much work he had to do, **Capt 'Chuck' Turner** referred people to his Admin Order. **LCpl 'Geordie' Whitehead** put his technical skill to use by explaining to **Sig Bob Findlay** how to make a cup of tea. Generally a very enjoyable week and the Brigade Staff seemed to like it too.

Along with this came Ex *Knotted Rat* and Ex *Highland Malt II* (the men who came out from the bog!) so the Squadron have had a couple of fairly busy months. No cheers were heard echoing through the Troop lines when it was announced that summer time hours were cancelled. However, with the latest task of building a security fence around Oerbke Camp for Ex *Reforger*, it became obvious that summer hours were not practical.

ARRIVALS

Some new members of the Squadron include **Lt 'Birdface' Felton, SSgt 'Dave' Hollis** (SQMS), **Sgt 'Scouse' Mahoney** and **Sgt Ken Sirr**. Whilst **Lt Peter King** was required to leave certain pieces of his car behind (which are still in the Mess Attic) when he moved to Verden.

Finally we are able to announce some hot news concerning the latest winner of the Squadron Missing Link Competition. For those of you who are not aware of the rules of this competition, it involves the presentation of a bulled AFV track link to the person who in the opinion of the Squadron made the greatest faux pas on an exercise, although other nominations are considered, so long as they are appropriate.

Nominated as runner up was **Sgt 'Scouse' Mahoney** for forgetting to invite Snow White and the other six dwarfs along. The winner was **SSM Steve Bailes** for his assistance to the Trumpton Fire Brigade after a station fire practice to which the entire Soltau fire brigade turned up.

New Chief Clerk, Sgt 'Scouse' Mahoney, without Snow White!

Blue Forces at Work, BBGT

The Trumpton Fire Brigade in action

212 Sig Sqn (12 Armd Bde)
BFPO 36

Since the last *Wire* the Squadron has been on exercise in one form or another almost constantly. **Sig 'Deano' Dean** has notched up seven weeks solid of them except for two weekends moving from one to another. The new arrivals thrown in at the deep end have included : **Sig William Johnson, Sig James Edgeley, LCpl Archie Brown, Sig Smudge Smith, LCpl Glyn Harrison, Pte Ken Mount REME, Pte Ross Gray ACC, Pte Leanne Myford WRAC, Pte William Stevenson RPC** and **2Lt Neil Selby**. The latter had an interesting spell as 'Duty Officer' on arrival and demonstrated a good ability to perform under pressure.

Some of the old timers got out while the going was good:- **SSgt (FofS) Pete Grist, Cpls Bernie Haskayne, Dave Hirst REME, Sig Phil Jennings, LCpl Jo Levendon WRAC, LCpl John Sharples, Sgt Gran Yeomans, LCpl Griff Williams** and **Cpl Phil King RPC.**

Sorely missed will be the ex **2IC Capt Sandy Gallie,** now in Benbecula, who put in a lot of hard work here especially when dealing with soldiers problems with an ever-open office door and a sympathetic ear. Best wishes to him and his wife **Jane**. How are the sun tans coming on in desert island paradise?

ACF VISIT RHEINSEHLEN CAMP SOLTAU

OC Visit — **Lt I. N. Hunter**
Camp SSM — **SSgt W. R. Neish**

On the morning of Tuesday 21 April, BAOR was still on bank holiday except for **SSgt 'Big Wyn' Neish** and his loyal volunteers who paraded, ready to move to Rheinsehlen Camp. By the time the 4 tonners were loaded with Tuck Shop goodies and a few cans of beer they were already late. It was then that **Lt Hunter** arrived in shirt sleeves, ready to face a week's sunbathing.

On arrival at Rheinsehlen Camp, two hours ahead of the cadets, it was cold, wet, misty and miserable so **Lt Hunter** sadly rolled his sleeves down again. The heroes were worried—if their leader can't hack it, what will the cadets do? On arrival the cadets took one look at it and asked to go home; but the JNCO's handpicked for their tact, herded them into their billets.

The first visit, on the following day, was to the inner German Border and was followed by a visit to Belsen. The 24th brought a day of rest at the Heide Park leisure park. Sunday was sports day and Cornwall won the football with Somerset snatching the volleyball title. Points from this counted towards the inter-section competition held throughout the camp. This competition demanded high standards of turn out, drill and room inspections.

Tuesday 28 April was barbeque night and time for the prize giving. Cornwall did well but were just beaten to first place by Oxfordshire. The standard of achievement was very high and all teams were congratulated.

Wednesday was **SSgt Wyn Neish's** last parade. **LCpl Tim Hopkins** and **Sig 'Big John' Bushby** took over the parade for five minutes and presented all the girls with a single red rose each. There were tears all over the parade square. Some of the permanent staff looked ready to cry too. **Lt Ian 'Slopes' Hunter** was crying with joy!

Three members of the ACF tried to stow away to Osnabruck in the back of a 4 tonner, but were spotted by **Cpl 'I'm a civvy' King**. At last the bus arrived and the cadets all set off on the return journey to the UK.

Receiving the Cup for Oxfordshire

BRIGADE CONCENTRATION

The ACF visit over, the Squadron deployed straight away on Ex *Zodiac Dragon*, the Brigade Concentration at Soltau. We arrived at the Hengtzburg on Thursday 30 April and started setting up in the gorgeous Soltau sun. 'What's wrong with Soltau?' asked all the new guys.

Then things started to go wrong:-

Firstly the Brigadier decided that as a control station we should be tactical;

Secondly the clouds moved in and the temperature dropped;

Then the rain came down in torrents; and

Finally someone forgot to bring the gas for the cookhouse, not to mention numerous other little essentials.

Those problems sorted out we settled down to man three nets and one telephone for the next two weeks while the Battle Groups ran around the training area.

Just to relieve the boredom we changed command four times in one day and were very thankful when 'Endex' was called.

Then came the 'Great Race', trying to get to the washdown point in Rheinsehlen before 1st Royal Irish. After a hectic journey which took us straight across the training area we found thankfully that the Irish lost the race. Panzers loaded, all returned to Osnabruck for a few days rest before Ex *Summer Tide*.

EX *HIGHLAND MALT II*

With most of the Squadron personnel busy on the ACF visit or Brigade Concentration it was a very depleted group that set off on this Regimental exercise. The sun came out each day but this went unnoticed by **Sgt Clive 'I feel the cold at my age' Doughty** who stayed in the back of the vehicle and shivered for the first two days.

Sig James 'Edgebaston' Edgley invented a new type of kit loss: The **Edgley** Write Off:

'I gave it to **Edgley** and he lost it, webbing, plates, steel helmets, 436 etc'. **Cpl Errol Bekret** had a good try at driving the ERV like a Paris-Dakar Rally car but stopped by the last puddle. The MT pack wagon tried the same stretch of track but in reverse and ended up in the ditch with **Dvr (Alain Prost) Roe** at the wheel. But the real casualty was the LAD's own 434 which had to be low-loaded back to Osnabruck, hard luck **SSgt Phil 'bungalow' Hawke REME,** but lucky you had your 'REME Relay' membership up to date. The golden blanket was definitely won by **Sig Edgley** with 11 hours at a stretch on his first exercise with the Squadron, even beating that old pro **Sig Steve 'Hello Bud' Preece** who only managed 10½ hours. The golden mess tin goes to **Lt Richard (have you finished with that) Butlin** who **YofS Dave Wright** says was always hungry! The most mobile det was Papa Radio Relay—**Cpl Lee Warren** was moved three times by the Recce Offr **Capt Richard 'I drive an XR3i' Giles** without success and it fell to **Sgt Kev 'Light my cigar, Signalman' Jones** to get the shot in. Being kind to dumb animals: **Jock Signalmen 'Wahhey!' McKinnie** and **'Bonnie Laddie' Dougan** spent all night on guard throwing sticks for a German dog—he obviously had them well trained. **Sig 'Where's my compass' Bohanna** led the OC **Maj Jon 'What is a compass?' Henderson** on an interesting route at change of command but luckily the Squadron Orienteering Officer didn't notice so **Bohanna** gets to keep his Para posting unscathed.

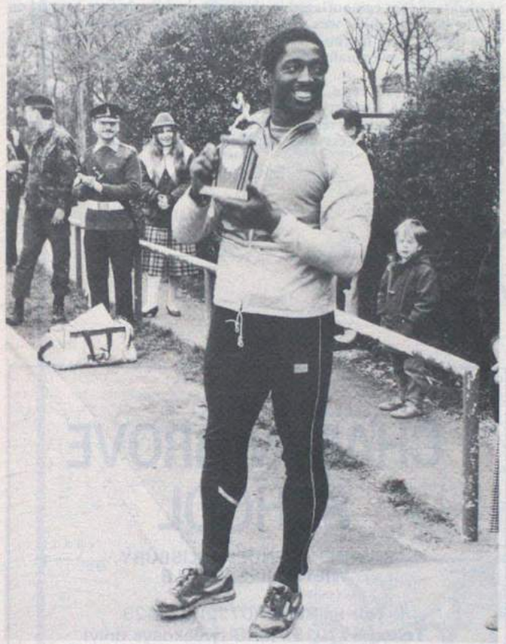
Highland Malt (II) REME on recovery task

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
York

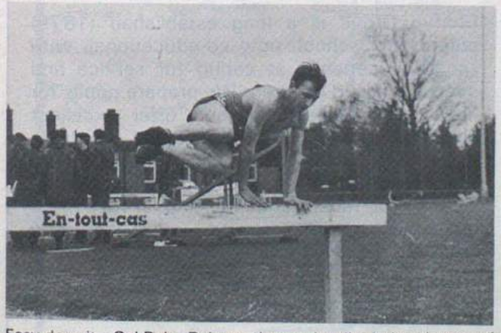
INTER-TROOP ATHLETICS

The Inter-Troop Athletics was held on a beautifully windy iron-grey day at Leeds Polytechnic stadium. The competition was strong with all elements of the Regiment competing.

There were some very respectable performances from the senior ranks, **Sgt Philip Wallis** winning the shot and **SSgt Martin Altham** winning the hammer—proving that technique overcomes bulk. **Sig Trevor Claudius McSween** completed a double in fine style by winning both hurdles and the pole-vault. The overall winners of the day were Oscar Troop. **Cpl Dobbo Dobson** received the prize from **Mrs Irene Elford**. A great day out was had by all and we now look forward to a successful Army Athletics Championship.



Nice Init! Cpl Dobson complete with the McLean's smile



Easy does it—Cpl Robo Robson clears a hurdle during the steeple chase

Your're supposed to go over it not through it! Cpl Darbyshire making a valiant attempt at the pole-vault

Doing it in style—Sig Jock Taylor completes the triple jump with a swing to the right

EX *LIONS SUN II*—THE 2 DIV ELEMENT

Armed with Bermuda shorts, sun-tan lotion and sun-glasses, 3 Troop (the 1, 2 and HQ Sqn elements of Ex *Lions Sun II*) descended upon Radio Sonde Camp, in Episkopi Garrison to join 210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn, the main participants in this particular exercise. Cyprus —a land of sun, sea, parties and easy living (so we thought). Wrong. Scratch 'sun', replace 'parties and easy living' with 'battlecraft and sore feet' and we now had the right idea about Cyprus!

Under **Sgt Steve Smith**'s fatherly eye, 3 Troop embarked upon the first phase of the exercise—adventurous training. Four days of fighting gales, dodging water spouts, folding and unfolding sails (and

umbrellas), negotiating rock faces and waiting for decent weather. We had the additional pressure of performing a 'hearts and minds' operation in the Limassol night spots.

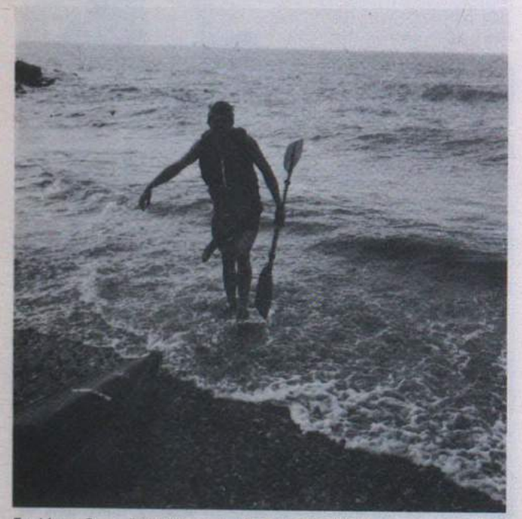
With our spirits only slightly dampened by the weather, we began phase 2—tactics. In typical style, the weather changed, making the phase even more exhausting. The phase lasted four days and was run by a team from the Light Infantry. As the emphasis was on section-level tactics, it was a case of everybody having a revise and relearn everything from Patrol Harbours to Ambush Drills. We were even let loose on live-firing section attacks at Pyla Ranges. Spirits lifted tremendously when **Cpl Benny Bywater** received a field presentation of a telegram—pronouncing him 'Uncle Benny'.

Probably the hardest phase was next—R and R. Four days of globe-trotting around the island. Troodos, Mount Olympus, Paphos, Nicosia and the famed Keo Brewery of Limassol. After very little rest and even less recuperation, we headed east towards Dhekelia and the ranges. The phase consisted of four days concentrated range-work, using an abundant supply of ammunition. Whilst completing nearly every APWT under the sun, we toured the local beauty spots—particularly Ayia Napa beach.

The finale of the exercise's training (apart from the barbeques, mezzes, sports day and smoker) was the final exercise. It was two days of putting into practice all that we had been taught during the tactics phase. It passed in a blurr of sun, rock, dehydration, cam-cream, section attacks, sore feet and confined map reading.

The four weeks passed rapidly and we finally left the now hot weather to return to a 10 degree temperature drop, much tanned and prepared for the exercise season.

Ex *Lions Sun*—Sgt Steve Smith 'The pressure is killing me'



Ex *Lions Sun*—Sig Barber, realising he had forgotton something!

EX *MALHAM MOOR*
(OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE RHQ RAMBLE')

After a busy start to the year, RHQ shut up shop for the day and headed for the hills. All kitted out with waterproofs, maps, compasses and the inevitable 'death bags' we climbed aboard the distinctive white Army bus and set off for Airton near Skipton. **Pte Becky Hobday** must take the star prize for dress, proving that combat highs can have style when worn with shrink-to-fit jeans and shades.

The intrepid party stepped out heading for Malham with the incentive of lunch and liquid refreshment spurring us on. The more enthusiastic members of the party took an added detour to visit Malham Cove while **Sgt Ray Stone** guarded lunch from inquisitive ducks. After a quick, decisive inspection of the 'death bags', all and sundry adjourned to the Hikers Bar for lunch!

After a leisurely lunch, we reluctantly set off for 'Janet's Foss', a picturesque waterfall, where **Cpl Mac McCullock** and **Cpl Steve James** provided entertainment by taking an impromptu dip, much to the surprise of two onlookers. Next came the real work: out of the valley and up to the tops, a steady four mile pull which separated the 'men from the boys'. No hill walk is complete without its nature lesson, provided on this occasion by **Lt Col Hugh Elford** who spotted a nest of pheasant eggs camouflaged in the grass, luckily, before he trod on it! The last four miles was a gentle descent into Littondale where we were due to meet the bus—'Bus? What bus?' It was nowhere to be seen and was eventually tracked down in Arncliffe. Life can be difficult!

The weather, for once, was kind to us with blazing sunshine and not a cloud in sight, a far cry from the rain and hail of November when the route was originally reconnoitred. In spite of a few aches and pains the walk was a success and hopefully a preview of forthcoming attractions.

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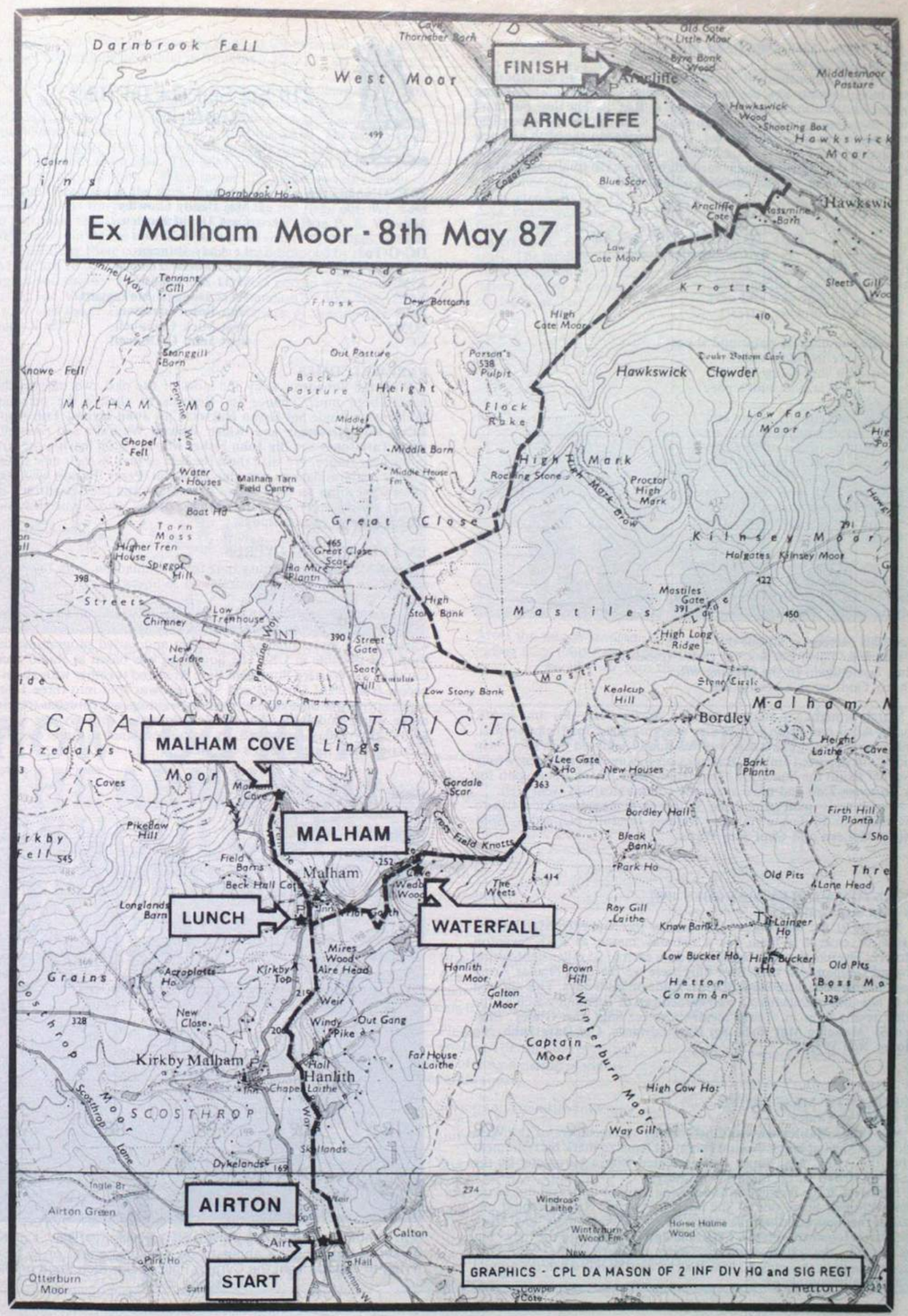

1 SQN 1987—'THE FIRST SIX MONTHS'
by SSgt Jim Graley

The first six months of 1987 have been, with one thing and another, very busy. January saw the final Regimental exercises in preparation for our first full Ptarmigan deployment in BAOR. The time put in on these exercises proved well worthwhile by the Squadron's excellent performance on Ex *Flying Falcon*. This exercise saw the birth of a new newspaper, The Daily Icicle, edited by myself. It would be impossible to print all the contributions I received, but here is a small token which is printable after a small editorial adjustment:

ODE TO THE RADIO RELAY
by Cpl Smudge Smith

To *Flying Falcon* we did go
Thro' the rain and falling snow
With new Triffids nice and neat
If they work, oh what a treat!

Gone are the days of point and shoot
Now we have to fiddle aboot
We test each shot using TACE
And we work at one snail's pace

To get all the circuits is our aim
The hardest thing is getting frame
The shot goes in but another hitch
Not again! They've crashed the switch

We always work with relative ease
That is if the masts don't freeze
Now and again we stand on guard
It's bloody cold, but not too hard

We work all night to earn our pay
And over here we get LOA
Then off to the NAAFI on a spending spree
Buying all our duty free

Now this exercise is all but over
It's back to York, but not via Dover (please)
Then home again to the nagging wife
Oh my God! what a boring life

March brought yet another exercise, *Spring Tide*, this time in UK and in April our Bruin box-bodies were prepared for their farewell. This proved to be quite a task but was finally achieved with some help and Bruin departed Imphal Barracks on 8 May. Having successfully seen off Bruin the Squadron then deployed to BAOR once again for Ex *Summer Tide* and once again the communications went well.

Now June is upon us and the Squadron is preparing for a trip to Inverness for 10 days of military training carefully planned by **SSM Sandy McLean** and **Capt Tim Watts**.

SWANTON MORLEY MARCHES 1987
by SSgt Jim Graley

As part of the training programme for the Nijmegen Marches the Regiment entered a team for a two-day march at RAF Swanton Morley. The march consisted of two days each of 25 miles sight-seeing around the Norwich area. Not only were we the only regular Army team to enter but were the first team home on both days. This allowed us to hide our pain behind a well earned can of beer and watch all the other teams limp in. Team members were: **SSgt Jim Graley, SSgt (YofS) 'Moaning Mal' Ball, Sgt Paul Edwards, Cpl Dave Jubb, Sig Storey**, and **Wahid**.

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES
by SSgt Jim Graley

Maj (QM) Mal Smart was dined out by the members of the WOs and Sgts' Mess at lunch time on Friday 24 April to mark his retirement from the Army. **Maj Smart** was presented with a barometer by the RSM on behalf of all the Mess members.

The Mess at the moment is undergoing a minor upheaval due to the completion of Stage one of the interior rebuild. Having rebuilt one half of the mess building, the task is to move living-inners, lock stock and barrel together with the TV Room and pool table to the 'new' bit, and allow the contractors to start converting the 'old' bit. Inconvenient as this may be, it will all be worthwhile when the rebuild is eventually completed.

210 Sig Sqn (24 Inf Bde)
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paddy Crowley**
2IC	**Capt David Burden**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC O Tp	**Lt Andy Duncan**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Andrew Fletcher**
SSM	**WO2 Al Gibbons**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie McTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Campbell**
CC	**SSgt John O'Donnell**

FAREWELCOMES

With the Squadron away for most of the past two months there hasn't been much chance for Records to change the personnel. Welcomes include **Sgt Bryan Hayles, Cpls John Hynes, Trib Slaney, LCpls Roy Messenger** and **'Killer' Parker**. We bid a sad farewell to **LCpl Taff Jones** and **Sig John Fisher** who are both leaving the Army in the near future. We wish them the best of luck in their new careers. Finally congratulations are due to **LCpl Percy Parkin** and **LCpl Snowy Snowdon** on their recent promotion and the Squadron's best wishes for recovery go to **Sgt Mick Jenkins** who is currently on a guided tour of local hospitals.

EX *LION SUN 2* — CYPRUS

April/May has been a busy time for the Squadron, with four weeks on Ex *Lion Sun 2* in Cyprus, followed 36 hours later by two weeks in BAOR on Ex *Summer Tide*.

The *Lion Sun* exercises enable UK units of Squadron size to deploy to Cyprus for a month to conduct military and adventurous training, working to a more intense, demanding and varied programme than would be possible in UK. The Squadron was based at Radio Sonde Camp in the Western Sovereign Base Area and together with about 30 people from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, was split into three Troops which spent four days each on military training, adventurous training, range work, and R&R. The whole culminated in a Cyprus Signals Units' sports day organised by ourselves, and a three day final exercise. Now for a Troop's eye view . . .

Sgt Tommy Burns running the abseiling in Happy Valley. Cpl 'Keo' Barker is the lemming about to go over the edge, or is he just trying to escape from the Cyrpiot Police? Sgt Rich Reed prepares the escape route

The range work was conducted by **SSM Al Gibbons** and his sidekick **Sgt Dave Edgecombe** (still sulking from his inability to get 'gissits' out of anybody).

'We had to move to Dhekelia for five days for the pleasure of firing guns. Whilst there we fired almost every weapon known to man — SMG, SLR, LMG, GPMG, Pistol. We even threw grenades and some of the luckier members of the Troop fired the SA80. The best part of the five days, apart from Ayia Napa and 262's Bitsa Bar, was the night shoot, 10 rounds from 50m. The SSM cracked a good one, 'At your targets in front, carry on'. 'What target sir?' came the reply. Even so **LCpl Jim 'I can see in the dark' Burgess** scored a maximum 10. The worst thing was the half mile hike to put the red flags out. We were also fortunate to have our Brigade Commander, **Brig P. E. Woolley OBE** visit us during the exercise. During his visit to the ranges he took part in a Falling Plate competition where, handicapped by the OC and SSM, he lost to the LCpl's Team of **Cossy Costello, Chippy Hill, Jim Burgess** and **Snowy Snowdon**. The funniest person we encountered was Old Joe, the range warden. Racing around on his 50cc bike selling us rolls and cake. He turned out to be more of a comedian than Freddy Starr.

210 hit the beach! LI giving the advice, Sgt Spiro Dennison taking the video

'The tactics phase started with a decidedly low morale as 1 Troop first encountered **Lt Waight LI** and his merry band of tactics instructors. The work began with instruction on patrol hides, weapon handling, map reading, fire and manoeuvre and night orienteering. Day two saw morale even lower as **Sgt Fred Smith LI** briefed the troops on the advance to contact followed by the occupation of a deserted village and night patrols. Day three and a long tab to the beach (not for sunbathing I might add) for a nice beach landing. Unfortunately the RCT got cold feet and called it off, so it was into the Bedicopter to another deserted village for Fibua and Dibua. A dawn attack by the DS brought a thankful Endex after three hard days. Peace was short lived though as we were whisked up to Dhekelia for live firing section attacks. The next day the beach landing materialised, everybody got soaked just getting on to the landing craft. The landing was spectacularly done, the only casualty being **Sgt Mick Dennison** from Bde HQ who was videoing the landing and was 'taken out' by a smoke grenade — the resultant video being worthy of 'News at Ten'.

After the beach landing. LCpl Jim Davidson, Cpl Steve Haresign hiding LCpl Fred Kirkpatrick and Lt Andy Duncan and the others await their turn to get into the wives' video

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The adventurous training was split into a day each of Top Roping/Abseiling, Canoeing, Sailing and Windsurfing. The water-sports were based on Ladies Mile Beach in Akrotiri, well suited to instruction with a shallow, sandy beach and the Arabs Clubhouse. Everybody had a chance to tackle whichever sport they liked and the most notable of these was **Cpl Steve Haresign** last seen heading in the direction of Israel on his sailboard. There were shouts of 'I'll get the hang of it if it kills me', until a friendly canoeist towed him back to shore. **LCpl Taff Mallaney** spent most of his days obsessed with catching squids, and patrolled up and down 'squid territory' in his canoe. The barbecue on the last day was an enormous success with **LCpls Mallaney** and **Si Wallis** playing the parts of slop jockeys. It was fairly hair raising to start off with, as flames and smoke billowed everywhere, but eventually cooking got underway and a good feeding frenzy was had by all. The remaining memorable event was the sand sculpture but that's another story'.

Who's got the knife to cut the intrepid SSM's safety rope? Is it Sig Dave Watson, the Commander, Sig Trev Ellis, LCpl Al Hanlon, Sig Steve Walton, Cpl Mark Stephens, OC Oscar, or LCpl Smudge Smith?

Cpl Tim Squire avoids getting his feet wet while showing the Commander how to windsurf. The SSM tucks into the Comd's death pack and Cpl Colin Dennis sizes up the Comd's potential as a canoeist

The R&R phase of the exercise was probably the most entertaining part. Day one was spent haggling for a 'rent-a-wreck' in Limassol. **LCpl Guptah Singh**, being a past master of the art, knocked it down to a reasonable price. Early the next morning **LCpls Al Hanlon, Si Wallis, Guptah Singh, Mick Dyer** and **Sig Bri Hyde** departed for Paphos and the following day we moved on to Limassol where we met some British tourists. The next day was a rest day because two of our merry band had to stag on at Radio Sonde. Our final day was spent at Ayia Napa, ogling on Nisi beach. It wasn't all fun and games and we did manage to see a lot of the island, its ancient ruins, and picturesque scenery on our travels.

2 Troop was less fortunate with its R&R, taking place as it did over the Easter weekend, which was colder and wetter than Easter in Catterick! We decided on a day in the Troodos Mountains; arriving in Cyprus with mainly summer clothing left us somewhat wanting with skiable snow still on the ground! Having frozen one day we decided to thaw out over the rest of the weekend, spending a day in Limassol and a day on the beach in Paphos. Paphos was most enjoyable with a Troop barbecue cooked most professionally by **Sig 'I should have joined the ACC rather than being a Liney' Queen.**

Needless to say all this training would have been impossible without the work done by the formation sun-bathing (Admin) team. Ably led by **SQMS Mick Campbell**, who asserted his authority as Brown Owl from the beginning by briefing the boys on the Do's and Dont's of the camp. Standing there with Keo in hand you could tell he was serious. By some miracle of surgery our Chief Clerk, **SSgt John O'Donnell** had been prised out of his office and brought out on exercise with the Squadron. He won the 'gissit of the year' award for obtaining a free car for his R&R. Catering was courtesy of **Sgt Dave Morris** and his team. The Laurel and Hardy pair of **Cpl Pen Penaluna** and **LCpl Geordie Conway** gave everyone endless hours of amusement. With **Sgt Mac McAlpine** back in UK planning our move to BAOR, the MT side of life was left to **Cpl Stu Kingdon**, who has never worked so hard in his life.

The Sports Day provided a good days relaxation and entertainment. Teams from 210, 254, 259, 262 Sig Sqns and 9 Sig Regt took part. The morning was spent playing Volleyball and Basketball in Episkopi Gym. 259 made a clean sweep, despite the ringer team of Canadian players fielded by 254. For the afternoon it was down to a windy Happy Valley, where the SQMS had set up a bar and bratty stand. Hockey and Football competitions were run, with 9 Sig Regt just beating 259 to win the hockey competition. With three events gone and still no glory for the Squadron the OC was beginning to wish he hadn't organised the day in the first place. Needless to say the Squadron football team rose to the occasion and won the competition quite convincingly, a suitable result for the Tommy Burns Testimonial. Special mention must be made of the 262 team, who only brought 10 sportsmen and one sportswoman in total. With a heavy dose of Dutch courage they managed to compete in every event, dashing from pitch to pitch and putting up fine performances all round. The sports completed it was back to Radio Sonde for a barbecue and singsong that continued long into the night.

We returned from *Lion Sun* to a suitably wet Catterick, freezing to death in shirtsleeve order, but determined to show off our hard won tans at all costs. Thirty six hours later the Squadron was on the move again . . .

EX *SUMMER TIDE*
A report by LCpl Roy Messenger

0700 hrs and the Troop is on parade ready for exercise. The boat doesn't leave until 1800 hrs and it's only a two hour drive from Catterick to Hull, but who are we to question the logic? The ferry (Ha!) looked more like the tug that was going to pull the ferry with the Div on board; it was quite a shock. It looked like something from a scrapyard, but there was no need to worry as the accommodation and service were excellent. The move to the exercise location went well apart from heading off towards Cologne instead of Dortmund. Nevertheless the Troop overcame that mishap and 20 minutes later we were heading in the right direction. The first location was a barn, much to the troops' liking, and when the staff arrived Command was assumed and everything went OK, well, except for being unable to obtain a picture on the TV to watch the FA Cup Final. Come the first move and that Lieutenant managed to miss a tac sign and turn in the wrong direction (yet again). So there is the Troop convoy lost, but being a flexible sort of Troop things were soon put right. The rest of the exercise passed without incident, and the boredom was relieved by the passing of Endex. This gave us the chance to sample the local beer that evening. The only event on the return was courtesy of **LCpl 'I bend Mercedes free' Hanlon**. So with my first exercise with the Squadron completed, what are my feelings? Well I look forward to Ex *Keystone* with much excitement, honestly!

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

CO	Lt Col A. E. G. Truluck
RSM	WO1 (RSM) Licence

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Its been a time of much coming and going. Since our last contribution we have said farewell to: our Asst Adjt **2Lt Debbie Jarline WRAC** who left us to marry **Capt Tony Rook** —our loss is his gain, and in her place we welcome **2Lt Caroline Colby.** We also lost our Supt Clk **WO1 Pete Campbell** who is now with 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt as Adjutant and in his place we have **WO1 John Crooks**. Our Tfc Offr **Capt Terry McLaughin** left to sample the delights of civil life and in his place we welcome **Capt Bob Badger. Maj Bob Brannigan** has now taken over the gapped OC's post in 3 Sqn, much to every-one's relief, where he has hands full controlling **2Lt Jeremy Hotchkiss** who is on attachment for eight months. Also on attachment is **Lt Andy White** who has teamed up with **2Lt Jeremy Hotchkiss** who Thankfully, changes in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess have not been so extensive but we have welcomed **WO2 McElreavey** as the new SSM of 206 Sig Sqn—he came on promotion from 202 Sig Sqn, a well known breeding place for potential 3 Armd Div Sig Regt RSMs and SSMs! Shortly before going to press we also welcomed **Lt James Morley-Kirk** who joined 206 Sig Sqn form Cyprus. Last, but by no means least, we bade a sad farewell to our much respected QM(A) **Maj Ken Solly** who leaves the Army this year after over 40 years' service and we will miss him and his wife **Barbara** very much. In his place we heartily welcome **Maj John Lauder A** and **SH** and wish him and his family a happy tour with the Corps.

COMMANDING OFFICERS EXERCISE

On the Training scene the theme for this past two month period has been Battlefield Survivability with the accent on defence of communications sites and first aid. The training period ended with separate Squadron Battle Camps followed by a Regimental Patrol Competition and these events are reported in the Squadron notes below. The culmination of the training theme period was a four day Commanding Officer's Exercise.

The regiment deployed as if for a normal CPX but having been briefed by the Commanding Officer to 'expect the unexpected'. In the following days, squadrons had to deal with 'Green Peace' demonstrators, treat simulated casualties, and deal with ambushes and attacks, resulting in key communications assets and personalities being locked out, leaving the '2nd XI' to engineer his way around the problems. By the end of Day 3 it seemed that no more surprises were possible but by 0600 hours the next morning the Squadrons had concentrated on Haltern Training Area where the CO issued orders for an advance to contact against a large enemy 'stay behind' party. A few hours later 3 Sqn set off on foot to clear the woods and secure a Start Line whilst 1 Sqn flew by helicopters to set up cut off ambushes behind the enemy position. Then 2 Sqn moved over the Start Line preceeded by RAF Harriers and Jaguars flying low overhead. The enemy stronghold was attacked very noisily and successfully and the few enemy who managed to escape soon ran into the equally successful 1 Sqn cut off ambush line. All very dramatic and a fitting climax to the exercise.

SPORTING SUCCESSES

Our regimental sailors, headed by **Capt Graham Lewis-Taylor** and **WO1 (FofS) David Ellis** carried off the Quadrangular Trophy at their first Corps-level meeting at Seaview and seem set to repeat last year's clean sweep of all sailing competitions in UK and BAOR. The regimental inter-Squadron Sailing Regatta was a great success, despite the weather, thanks to **Capt Fred Calvert's** hard work and preparation. The inter Squadron Swimming Competition took place on the same day and resulted in a convincing win by 204 Sig Sqn who went on to win the Divisional Minor Units Swimming Competition and in the same competition at Major Unit Level the Regimental team came fourth. The inter Squadron Athletics took place a few weeks earlier and at the time of writing the regimental team is training hard for the Morrison Cup Major Units Competition whilst 202 Sig Sqn, having won both the Regimental and Divisional competitions, have high hopes for the Morrison Cup Minor Units Competition.

REGIMENTAL PATROL COMPETITION

The Patrol competition was held over two days at Lavesum training area. Each squadron entered two teams to compete over the many and varied tasks.

Day one included: First Aid, MT Recovery, NBC, TOETS, Fieldcraft and a Defence Range Shoot.

When all these tasks had been surmounted the patrols 'basha'd up' in squadron patrol harbours. Later on in the night the patrols were crashed out to perform a recce patrol and collect stores, this patrol took most of the night as they were ambushed by the enemy throughout the night.

Day two was a very physically demanding day including a 10 mile forced march, ½ mile stretcher race and assault course. The competition ended with a barbecue and prizegiving by the commanding officer. After the two very demanding days the newly awarded Armitage trophy went to 1 Sqn which was the clear winner.

THE REST OF THE NEWS?

For details, let the squadrons speak for themselves . . .

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Joe O'Gorman Queen's Regiment**
CSM	**WO2 (SSM) Barry Camille Queen's Regiment**

The 'Queens Own' Squadron were extremely active during the OC's exercise when, ably led by **Maj Joe O'Gorman** they provided an enthusiastic and realistic enemy who played every role from rioting civilians to Soviet Special Forces. But pride of place in this squadron must go to **SSgt Ian James** of MT Tp who earned a BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. This honour was awarded for his outstanding contribution to the National Geographical Society, the Army and to 1 (BR) Corps Adventure Training for his caving exploits over the past seven years as secretary to the Army Caving Association.

The following is an account of his latest exploits in Peru:

EXERCISE PERUVIAN VENTURA

The aim of the expedition was to explore the hitherto unexplored limestone areas on Northern Peru.

The 19 member team departed BAOR on the 2 June 1987 on the 24 hour journey which was to take them to Lima the capital of Peru. After one night in the city, which was a great culture shock for many members, a bus was hired to take the expedition on its second leg, another 22 hour bus ride to Celandin the proposed base camp area of the team.

The Celandin area is at a height of 12,000ft above sea level, with small villages and homesteads scattered everywhere. Apart from the weather and the local mud huts one could be excused for believing that you were in fact in the Yorkshire Dales. Limestone valleys with rivers sinking and resurging were the main feature of the landscape.

Upon arrival in the area the expedition was split into teams, each team given an area to explore and map.

SSgt James was given the area to the North West, a high plateau known as La-Victoria. With no public roads the only way up onto the plateau was to hire mules for the two day ride in. With scenery which was breathtaking the two day journey was to say the least one of the more memorable parts of the whole exercise.

Once in La-Victoria area we were to learn that we were the first

white people ever to enter the area, which made everyone feel that we were in fact very far from civilisation as we know it, with the only form of transport out being on horse-back.

Exploring the area was our main aim, however, trying to explain to the locals that we had travelled many thousands of miles to enter holes in the ground was an almost impossible task.

Most caves in the area were at one time used for depositing the dead, and most caves and potholes entered were nothing more than small graves full of human bones.

Six days were spent exploring the La-Victoria area with over twenty sites of interest visited. Unfortunately all the cave entrances were blocked within 40m of the entrances and it was decided to return to base camp and inform **Major Jack Sheldon** the ex leader.

Many more areas of interest were visited, all unfortunately with the same result, the largest cave entered being a little over 400m in length.

All caving expeditions mounted world-wide must rely on geological maps of the areas visited. This expedition was no exception. However, Peruvian maps are to say the least not up to the standard of those of the western world. Many errors were found to exist, making our task a little more difficult. These errors have now been corrected and a full report and survey sent to the Royal Geographical Society, making the exercise a huge success from the geographical point of view.

1 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Harry Ross**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) 'Willie' Granitza**

THE STAFF COLLEGE DEMO

The Squadron provided the comms equipment stand as last year. Yankee Troop (TN 063) were the lucky ones picked for the job, backed up by most of the Squadron's Radio Relay assets. The task was fairly simple as we just had to drive into the ruts left by Whisky Troop last year. The only difference from last year, in fact, was the location of the Stand admin area. We were told it was being kept out of the way. Still, a forced march before meals does wonders for the appetite!

Quotes from the students: 'What's the diffence between SCRA and Ptarmigan!'

'So you just go out, set up and then you've got nothing to do?'

'Is SHF any good when you're mobile?'

It must be said, however that most people grasped the basics after the presentation by **Maj Ron Abbot.** He used the same script as last year. It's estimated that he has now given that talk about 100 times. Rumours are rife that the Regimental 2IC will now be replaced by a robot.

1 (AIRBORNE) SQUADRON

Ex Para **SSM 'Willie' Granitza** got bored with his feet on the ground so he organised a helicopter for a day. 'Fly Navy' was the cry as a Sea King over in BAOR for an exercise put us through our paces. Usual drills were the order of the day until the crew suggested some winching practise.

Eager volunteers dived into the icy water of the Salamanca quarry to be hauled out one by one. **Sig Paterson** was picked up on dry land and taken for a trip through the trees. **Lt David Bizley** thought that looked fun so he was next on the wire. This opportunity could not be missed, so the whole Squadron as one, motioned towards the quarry and he experienced a rescue in reverse. The winch man was kind enough to pull him up quickly after his dunking.

1 Sqn fly Navy

2 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj David Lyman MBE**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Frank McCormick**

THE STAFF COLLEGE DEMO—ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

Once again the Iron Division played host to Staff Colleges around the world as we deployed into the field for the Staff College Demo 1987.

One problem was that the Divisional HQ was normally sited in barns rather than cammed up in woods which made the job of showing a 'typical Div HQ in the field' a little harder.

However, 2 Sqn rolled out the red carpet (well, trackway) in glorious sunshine, only for it to be adjusted by **Capt Bruce Avison,** who then decided it was not such a good idea after all.

They soon settled in and erected signs describing the stand—obviously of interest to the foreign visitors posing next to them for a photo call! In anticipation of their needs **Sgt Dave Greaves** of the infamous Div HQ recce team scoured the training area for surplus Portaloos, often found in abundance at other stands!

Cpl 'Kip' Hearnes was busy exploring on his mountain bike, returning with the graffiti 'Sennelager, probably the worst lager in the world'. **Lt Andy White,** freshfaced and eager from Sandhurst couldn't believe the luxury of heated tents and power for lights and radios, whilst **Capts Bruce Avison** and **Fred Bancroft** agreed that anyone that freshfaced deserved neither lights nor heaters.

Soon the visitors were arriving and listening intently to the various presentations before commenting 'I thought this was an armoured HQ', 'where are the vehicles to transport all this kit?'

Meanwhile **SSgt Jenkins** was offering boating trips in the lake outside Diamond 1 as the Pioneers arrived to lay more trackway.

Once the last visitor had departed, the whole complex again became a beehive as another well rehearsed crash move was put into action to return for the weekend to sunny Soest.

2 SQUADRON ATHLETICS

This year's inter squadron athletics took place at the Jahn Stadium, Soest on 29 April, with a good day's athletics complemented by glorious sunshine.

It was soon apparent that 202 and 206 Sig Sqns were going to have a close run competition for first and second place with the remaining regimental squadrons jostling for third place. Indeed, team captains could be seen scrambling with their calculators whenever a result was announced as 1, 2 and 3 squadrons changed position frequently.

Two squadrons fortunes see-sawed back and fourth and as the competition neared the end points became crucial. A good 2nd place by the 4 x 100m relay team **(Sig Tom Gibbons, LCpl Rick Clatworthy, Sig 'Tommo' Thomson** and **LCpl Simon Stricland)** put 2 Sqn into third place overall with one event to go. Then the 4 x 400m relay team **(Cpls Don Donnelly** and **Andy Crabtree, LCpl Steph Newton** and **Sig 'Kaffir' Wilcock)** ran well, above all expectations, to gain third place for themselves and the squadron, pipping 3 Sqn by several points.

It is an indication of the good overall team performance by all members that the Sqn qualified for all the finals and that though they never won an event, gained good points in them all.

A special mention goes to the **SSM WO2 Frank McCormick** for his second place in the long jump and **Cpl 'Kip' Hearns** for his third place in the shot with a personal best throw.

P.S. The Squadron did win the Chain of Command race when the OC **Maj Dave Lynam MBE** romped home first having extended his 20 yard lead to 20 inches.

3 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Bob Brannigan**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Derek Coker**

'INS AND OUTS'

The past two months have seen a considerable number of postings, both in and out. We say welcome to **LCpl 'Idris' Brookes** from 30 Sig Regt, **LCpl Mark Dugan** from 1 Inf Bde, **Sig 'Hoppy' Hopkins** from 7 Sig Regt, and **Sig 'Flab' Flahaven** from 8 Sig Regt. Unfortunately the number of 'outs' has been much larger and we said farewell to **Sgt Dave Beggs** to School of Signals, **Cpl Stevie Lockwood** to Northern Ireland, **Cpl Shaun Barry** to 204 Sig Sqn, **Cpl 'Sooty' Sutcliffe** to 30 Sig Regt, **Cpl Mick Lambird** to 8 Sig Regt, **LCpl 'Tel' Fleet** to 2 Div(Fwd), **Sig Phil Green** to 5(AB) Bde Sig Sqn, **Sig 'Scottie' Scott** to 8 Sig Regt and **Sig 'Spike' Wright** to 28 Sig Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

All members of the Squadron wish to congratulate **LCpl Mike** and **Martina Phipps,** and **LCpl George** and **Pamela Paton** on the birth of their sons.

SQN BATTLE CAMP

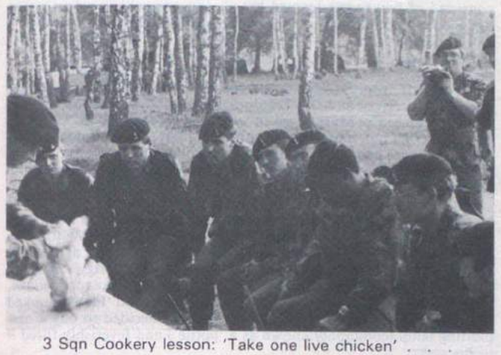
The Squadron held its annual Battle Camp from 25 to 29 May. This just happened to coincide with the annual hatching of the Haltern training area mosquito population.

We became good friends!

The camp was designed to give maximum variation and enjoyment whilst still covering all mandatory training subjects.

In the photograph, **WO2 (SSM) Derek Coker** can be seen doing unmentionable things to a distraught chicken. **Sig Harris** (you can't mistake him) looks decidedly pale!

The annual chicken cull (as the camp became known) proceeded smoothly until the sections on a night exercise opened their ration packs to find—yes you've guessed it—chicken and chips.



3 Sqn Cookery lesson: 'Take one live chicken' . . .

INTER SQUADRON SPORTS

3 Sqn is currently leading the Champion Squadron Shield competition with the Athletics, Sailing and Swimming comptitions completed. Accounts of our glorious victories to date follow:

ATHLETICS

The Squadron stormed to a worthy second place under the management of **2Lt Jeremy 'H' Hotchkiss** although the team list changed almost as frequently as the list of events. He wishes to congratulate **Cpl Al Keers** as the only man able to complete the triple jump in the correct order! Other noteable performances came from **Cpl 'Sandy' Beech, LCpls 'Speedie' Granger** and **Mal Pavier.**

SAILING

An overall second place was also achieved under the expert helm of **Cpl Martin Hayter.** The crews were **WO2 (SSM) Derek Coker** and **Maj Bob Brannigan,** and **Cpl Martin Hayter** with **LCpl 'Gaz' Duffy.**

SWIMMING

The best sporting performance to date came from the swimming team who 'stroked' their way into first place. The biggest incentive to swim fast was provided by particularly cold water which everyone was keen to get out of as soon as possible.

As usual the team list was subject to frequent changes, particularly when it was discovered that the nominee for the Back Stroke, **Sig 'Yorkie' Lawton,** could only swim underwater. Nonetheless **LCpl Mick Banting** set the team off to a flying start with an easy win in the 50m freestyle. From then on the Squadron had a steady flow of strong positions with **Sig John Elliott, LCpl Mal Pavier** and **Capt Andy James** (vice **Sig 'Yorkie' Lawton**) all putting in unexpectedly good performances. The name of **Capt Gary Smith,** who organised the team, could have been added to this list but for a poor showing in the last 10 metres!

3 ARMD DIV CANOEING LEAGUE

The Regiment entered its first team in a White Water race at Hohenlimburg. A 6km stretch of the River Lenne was paddled, with the first 500m being very bumpy. Two Regimental teams were entered led by **WO2 (SSM) Derek Coker** and drawn mainly from 3 Sqn. The team included **Capt Andy James, 2Lts Colin Hinsley** and **Jeremy Hotchkiss, LCpl Malcolm Pavier** and **Sig Geoff Howe.** This novice team did extremely well despite a couple of hiccups in the initial 500m eg **2Lt Hotchkiss** almost drowning. The Regiment has bought several new Slalom and WWR canoes and hopefully canoeing will go from strength to strength in the future.

Regimental canoeists
L to R: Capt Andy James, 2Lt Colin Hinsley, SSM Derek Coker, LCpl Mal Pavier, 2Lt Jez Hotchkiss, Sig Goeff Howe

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202 Sig Sqn (33 Armd Bde) BFPO 16

OC **Maj David Proctor**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) Budden**

Report by Lt N. A. W. Pope

The Squadron spent the latter half of March recovering from a busy series of exercises and looking forward to a slightly more relaxed time (or so we believed!) The first sign of trouble loomed over the horizon in early April with the advent of the Squadron Military Cadre Course which took place from 6-20 April. After 10 gruelling days of blisters, bedblocks, battle skills and bulling 20 out of the original 21 students passed off the square. The march-past was led by the course officer **Lt Mark Eaton**, after an inspection by the CO **Lt Col A. E. G. Truluck**. The CO presented **Sig 'Stew' Stewart** with the Best Student award and commended the course on its standard of drill.

The Students were kept busy throughout the course thanks to the tough discipline inflicted on them by the drill 'staff' **Cpls Greg Doughty, Dez Dolan** and **Chris Murray**. Early morning PT 'sessions' were conducted by **Cpl Kev Jarvis** who must be held responsible for causing at least 60% casaulties through his own particular brand of 'exercise'.

The Course proved a thoroughly worthwhile success, so much so that it will be repeated next year, but this time for the whole Squadron!

SITE GUARD

During the same period as the Squadron Cadre Course, a section of erstwhile infanteers were deployed to Berlebeck to protect the site from potential saboteurs.

Cpl Phil Annison and his merry men defended the site with honour, though they caused a few potential heart-attacks for the duty officer when they attempted to burn down the garage. At least we know that the fire safety precautions are adequate!

INSPECTION MANIA

Any thoughts of relexation have been dispelled by a positive 'cornucopia' of inspections in recent weeks. Block inspections. Six-monthly Tech inspections. Squadron Commanders inspections. Medical ARU's and the like have combined to give the troops the feeling of being victims of a witchhunt! The inspections have been beneficial however, in that they have outlined certain problematical areas, especially in the SSM's and YofS's fixation with dirt, and the removal of it from weapons. **Lts Pope** and **Eaton** now want to gain revenge by inspecting the cryptic room for 'dust on documents'.

SPORT
ATHLETICS

The season started on a promising note through the 'slaughter' of the other Regimental teams in the Inter-Squadron Athletics. Despite a 'slight misfortune' (another phrase for a dropped baton) in the 4 x 100m heats, the Squadron Team cruised home comfortably. Deserving special mention are **Cpl Kev Jarvis** (110m hurdles 1st, Discus 2nd, Triple Jump 1st), **Sig Mary Marvel** (400m hurdles 1st), **Sig Lee Stephenson** (High Jump 1st) and **LCpl Kev Young** (Long Jump 'just' managed to win the 800m and 1500m despite only being a Band 4 Tradesman and to the 2IC, **Capt Gary Mason** for completing the 5000m. After all Gary its not the winning, but the taking part that counts.

TUG 'O' WAR

This much underrated sport had achieved a certain prominence in the Squadron through the superhuman efforts of **Cpl Taff Leibe**. His training sessions have been renowned 'orgies of agony', but have produced a highly efficient, motivated team, who easily won the Inter-Squadron meeting and who are now confident of a good showing in the Morrison Cup. The team includes **Sgt John Webb, Cpls Taff Nelson, Greg Doughty, Graham Preece, Scouse Curtin** and **Geordi Tierney, LCpls Nige (249) Wilson** and **Terry Smith. Cfn Sean Yalland** and **Sig 'Mo' Morris.**

SHOOTING

Finally a word of praise to the Shooting Team of **Cpl Les Stimson, Cpl Chris Murray, LCpl Key Young, LCpl Nige Wilson** and **Sig 'Moff' Moffett** who came third in the recent Divisional SAAM, thereby qualifying for Bisley.

206 Sig Sqn (6 Airmob Bde) BFPO 106

OC **Maj Andy Grey**
SSM **WO2 (SSM) McAleer**

206 SIG SQN RALLY TEAM—*EXERCISE SPRING FOIL 1987*

Ex *Spring Foil* is a Landrover Rally covering 210.9 miles of main roads and arduous tracks held in the Minden Area. 206 Sig Sqn team consisted of two rovers teamed by:

Sgt Baker	REME	Navigator	Expert
Cpl Fletcher		Driver	Beginner
Cpl Murphy		Navigator	Beginner
Sig Murray		Driver	Beginner

We set off from Salamanca Barracks at 1430 hrs with **Sgt Baker** leading and arrived at 4 Div Transport Regt, who were hosts, at 1630 hrs where upon **Cpl Murphy** asked 'exactly where are we on this map'. Manoeuvering our way to the scrutineering bay **Cpl Murphy** and **Sig Murray**'s rover had a couple of minor repairs to be made to it before being passed fit for the course (its amazing what a bit of wire can be used for).

After booking in at the control desk both teams got down to plotting the different checkpoints on their maps, **Jeff Baker** mixing up his Northings and Eastings and **Hans Murphy** learning how to use a ROMER. **Jock Murray** looked on in bewilderment and at the end Hans was heard to comment 'the last grid was a bit dodgy'. With an hour to wait before being called forward to collect their road books, Jeff decided to busy himself re-checking his maps and **'Fletch'** looked in awe while **Jock Murray** fell asleep. **'Murph'** decided to buy a new plotting lamp (commonly known as a 'pottie') and feverishly fitted it to his rover.

1945 hours: Jeff Baker is called forward to collect his road book. Casually he picks it up and sits down and opens it up, he looks worried (I think this is the expression all experts get). **'Fletch'** helps **'Jeff'** by tracing the route they are to take so **'Jeff'** can plot them on his map, and if he follows the lines correctly **'Jeff' has promised to buy him a dot to dot book. 'Murph'** realises he has left his tracing paper back at camp and sends **'Jock'** out to borrow some tracing paper from you know where!

2035 hours: 'Murph' is called forward to get his road book and after six months of stopping smoking has started again. **'Murph'** and **'Jock'** start plotting their routes.

'Jeff' and **'Fletch'** are on their way at 2045 hrs. **'Murph'** and **'Jock'** are now running out of time and while **'Murph'** is busy plotting **Jock** starts gnawing at his fingers. **'Murph'** tells him to sharpen his pencil and use that like everybody else as his fingers make a mess on the maps.

'Murph' and **'Jock'** on their way at 2123 hrs.

'Jeff' and **'Fletch'** arrive at the halfway halts at 0108hrs here they have a rest of 1hr 15 mins so Jeff gets on with finishing off plotting his maps. **'Fletch'** enjoys the driving and says there are some very rough and hazardous roads, he also reckons that due to **'Jeffs'** map reading his reversing lamp has been on more than his headlamps.

At 0223 hrs **'Jeff'** and **'Fletch'** set off on the last stage. No sign of **'Murph'** and **'Jock'.**

Waiting at the finish **'Murph'** and **'Jock'** arrive at 0400 hrs after being recovered from a swamp between stage five and six totally dejected and with nothing else to do went to sleep.

0526 hrs, **'Jeff'** and **'Fletch'** arrive absolutely tired and relieved that its finished. **'Jeff'** and **'Fletch'** finished 13th overall out of a field of 56 and were very pleased with their efforts.

Eighteen failed to finish one being **'Murph'** and **'Jock'** but not to worry there is always Mini Magnum where they will try again. Well done to both Teams and good luck in future events.

206 SIG SQN GOLF—3 ARMD DIV GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

After the recent success of the Squadron at the Corps Meet it was decided to throw down the gauntlet, to the Division. So we trod boldly to Dortmund for two days of highly competitive golf.

LCpl Andy 'I'll use my one wood' Harriott claimed a well earned cut in his handicap and was just short of a prize in the high handicap competition. **Cpl Jimmy 'If only I could putt' Hanlon** was so near yet so far, (even with his putts) had a very promising two days, well done pard. **Cpl Nick 'I've got new grips' Hawley,** or is it **Nigel Hanlie,** played extremely well, however decided, to miss a two foot putt on the 18th to lose yet another ball to his team mates, which does please his partner, **Hamish 'I've run out of Christmas presents' Nigel.**

Cpl Steve 'I'm sick of the handicap cut', Martin excelled himself on the 17th hole, and only lost one ball as opposed to five last year in the pond, however, hit an overall underpar round, 'So Get Cut Bandit!' **Sgt Stu 'I only play on See-Saws' Read** had a satisfying three over par for the two days and yet again came away with no silver and less balls.

Which leads me sweetly into the 19th hole. **Cpl Hamish 'I've got another trophy' Hermiston** picked up the runners-up trophy with an outstanding nine under par, net 61.

So due to the successful achievements yet again by 206 Sig Sqn it was time to have a quiet drink, which led to a visit to the hospital, ('woops there's a see-saw'), two weeks on sick parade, rounded off what was a challenging two days competitive golf.

So keep swinging and any challenges from greens afar, please let us know.

See you on the Tee
Fore!

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4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

2 SQUADRON

The Squadron was heavily committed last month especially with Ex *Mainbrace* and *Saxon Warrior*. Ex *Mainbrace* was **Yeoman Brady's** last exercise with us before he goes to Sandhurst where he will no doubt influence the future of R Signals Officers who happen to play golf. A1 Troop was worked hard on Ex *Saxon Warrior* and the build up to Mainbrace which is why they never came to Squadron PT which is now a daily event. Perhaps not unrelated we say goodbye to **Sig Schofield, LCpls Catlin and Tipping** who have gone to Civvy Street. Postings out have been numerous, **Staff Duncan** is going to 30 Sig Regt to complete the Corps Squash team and to keep an eye on **Cpl (now Sgt) Brant** also posted to the School. **Sig Burgoyne** has gone to Minden, **Sig Groves** has gone to Berlin, **Cpl Hardwidge** to 22 Sig Regt and **Cpl Harris** to Wembley.

Lt Graham has taken the plunge, our best wishes to him and his wife **Gillian**, let's hope that she knows how to clean silver properly!

The A1 Troop barbecue was a great success including the raffle, however the balaclava the Squadron OC won was not quite finished.

The recent visit of **Mr and Mrs Green**, parents of **Sig Green** who died last year in the Falklands, has initiated an Annual Football competition which was hard fought for and won by A3 Troop. **Roy** and **Brenda Green** had a very good few days and thanks go to all who helped with the visit.

We would like to welcome **Staff Allison** who is heading the Squadron Technical Department, which at the moment consists of **Sgt Parker** and his Amstrad, and the new Yeoman, **Staff (YofS) Stoddard** who will be joining the 2IC in the think-tank. Other new members to the Squadron are **Lt Vingoe,** who sits in **Mr Munday**'s chair whilst he is away in Canada, and **Sig Cuthbertson, Thomas** and **Taylor** who have come straight from training. Welcome also to **LCpls Hurst** and **Roy** who have gone to A1 Troop.

3 SQUADRON

A2 TROOP

The footballing mad **Capt R. W. Lockwood** decided in his infinite wisdom that the Squadron was severely lacking in football experience. He decided that an all night sponsored Inter-Troop football competition in aid of the Imperial War Museum would be an excellent idea.

The task of organisation was passed to **2Lt Ben Alexander** who gladly accepted but not before checking his diary to ensure he was not available before, during or after the event. In a quick side step it was passed to **Sgt Porky Hawkins** (A Troop's newly promoted radio Sergeant) who was keen to impress but unable to think quickly enough yet said:

'Yes of course Sir'.

For the event each Troop entered two teams but guest appearances were given by the CO and RSM in the Officers/SNCO's team for this 12 hour marathon. In the end the result was very close and the overall winners were B Troop B team on goal difference from A2 Troop A team. There was some compensation for the runners up however, when **Cpl Andy Dick** was given the award for the highest goal scorer with 32 goals.

Many thanks must be given to all the members of the staff who helped in the organisation and running of the competition. Congratulations also to the players who not only worked a full working day after these activities, but also raised DM800 for the Imperial War Museum.

Finally fond farewells are given to **LCpl Cowboy Bruce** and **Sig Max Boyce** with congratulations on their promotion; **Cpl Eddy Goff** with congratulations on the birth of their son **Stephen**; and to **Sig Woffy Frazer** on his promotion to the ranks of 'civilian strasse'. The biggest congratulations go to **Sig Simon Donnelly** on his marriage and we would like to welcome **Alison** to the Troop.

BRAVO TROOP

Since our last report we have said 'hello' and 'goodbye' to the following people: 'Goodbye' to **LCpl Tony Hood** to 10 Sig Regt, **Sig 'Dusty' Miller** to 30 Sig Regt, and **Sig Steve Wilson** to civvy street.

We would like to wish them the very best in their next posting and thank them for their hard work and effort during their tour with the Troop.

'Hello' to **Cpl Fox**, and **LCpl Pickford**.

MUNSTER NORD SITE GUARD

A change in employment was offered (?) to the Troop early in the year, the chance to become an infantry platoon for a couple of weeks, doing lots of infantry-type training and finally the opportunity to Guard the Munster Nord Ammunition Site alongside our American allies. The chance to get dirty and smelly was too good to miss, especially to **SSgt Smith** who was appointed Team Coach! Under his fatherly eye we toiled to improve our various infantry skills. Everyone enjoyed themselves during the lead up to training and even **LCpl Smith** was seen to smile now and again.

The climax to the training was a 'mil-Skills' competition which involved running, NBC, battle drills and various other goodies. The Troop 'Supersquad' was led by **Cpl 'BATUS' Rooney** and included **LCpl Tony Hood, LCpl 'Ron' Greenwood, Dvr 'Spike' Parking** and **Sig Jimmy Torrance**.

All managed to get themselves lost during the 'tab' and blew our chances of winning. They did manage to shine during the other events, as did our other teams which included **Cpl 'Wally' Walters, Sig 'Dusty' Miller, Cpl Tam Murney** and **Sig Steve Wilson**, but in the end we had to be content with second best as a team from Alpha 'Division' won.

The guard itself proved to be somewhat of a rest after **Staff Smith**'s training and all who went and stayed the week came away with the conclusion that life in the Signals was not so bad after all.

There were, however, several key questions that arose from the guard. Was the OC Sqn really green and mouldy after a week in the bunker? Was our food put in a liquidiser between leaving the kitchens and arriving at the site? Was the frog pushed or did it jump from tower 3?

And finally is the OC, **Lt Graham Complin**'s next course called 'An Introduction to Paperwork and Desks?'

LINE TROOP

Since our last contribution many things have happened. T'was on the 25 February that I, your humble scribe, nervously poked my head around the door of Line Troop Office, to be confronted by OC Line, **2Lt Ben 'Lofty' Alexander**, and **Sgt 'Pete' Duffy**.

It's been a busy time with *Wintex, ORT Mainbrace, Spring Tide,* et al. But some privileged members of the Troop were able to take part in the yearly sports afternoon at 7 Sig Regt Gym. (Ours was full of *Wintex*). Yes, Wednesday 4 March will live long in the memory of the Troop. We played a gruelling game of 'kick the Regimental footballer' namely **LCpl 'Fully' Fulton**.

It was decided to have a happy hour one Friday and we felt we should invite the proposer, so, **WO1 RSM Harwood** came and duly brought (as requested) the Senior Major — **Maj Jim Blake** — to say goodbye to the finest Troop in the Regiment, much ale was quaffed and a good time was had by all.

Due to Regimental Sailing Courses we now have a few 'Popeyes' in the Troop namely **Sgt Pete Duffy, LCpl 'Russ' Martin, LCpl 'Billy' Atwell** and **Sig 'Rob' Sells** congratulations — can we now borrow the Corps Yacht?

EX *MAINBRACE*

All the Troop was involved in one way or another. Down in Hameln the crew led by **Cpls 'Chippy' Davies** and **Mac McGregor** were happily defeating all newcomers at trivial pursuit (don't tell the TOT but that includes his Techs!).

FINALLY CONGRATULATIONS AND HELLO'S/GOODBYE'S:

Congratulations to **Sig 'JP' Powell** and **Sussanne** on the birth of a daughter **Anje Maria** and **Sig Macka Niles** and **Linda** on the birth of a daughter **Sarah**.

Goodbye to **LCpl Stu Sells** and **Brenda** to 21 Sig Regt and **Sig Chaddy Chadwick** and **Michelle** to 2 Div (York).

Hello to **Cpl 'Chippy' Davies** and **Wendy** from 210 Sig Sqn and **Sig 'Acky' Atkinson** from the factory.

211 SIG SQN (11 ARMD BDE)

PERSONALITIES

OC	Maj John Macfarlane
2IC	Capt Brian Peel
2IC (des)	Capt Paul Hudson
OC A Tp	Lt Rob Salvoni
OC B Tp	Lt Iain Standen
SSM	WO2 Derek Boyd
YofS	WO2 Steve Whytock
FofS	SSgt Trevor Payne
SQMS	SSgt Mick Herbison
CC	Sgt Graham Pollard

EXERCISE *LOG POT '87*

Ex *Log Pot* is an RAOC bi-annual Patrol Competition for 1 Armd Div logistic units. This year the competition was run by 13 Ord Coy at Oberkirchen and in order to test the system a practice competition was arranged prior to the real event. The teams taking part in the practice were drawn from 4 Armd Div RAOC units and in order to make up the numbers the Squadron provided two further teams. In addition the Squadron also provided a number of detachments to help provide a control radio net for the organisers.

With all our usual commitments reducing the manpower available, two scratch teams were assembled two days before the competition and a day and a half of frantic training began. By the start of the competition heads were buzzing with first aid, NBC, weapon handling, AFV recognition and numerous other subjects.

The competition was spread over three days and two nights and involved 20 stands where a wide variety of military skills were tested. Some of the stands proved very difficult but both teams took everything in their stride and displayed previously hidden capabilities; **Cpls Mark Wareing** and **George Coffin** showed themselves expert when asked to kill and skin a chicken on the Combat Survival Stand. On the Vehicle Manoeuvring Stand **LCpl Tony Ellison** provided the B team with a great deal of amusement, but very few points, when he decided that knocking down the cones with his Rover was more fun than driving around them. The Watermanship Stand required the teams to cross a lake on an oil drum raft. Both teams managed to cross with only one casualty! On reaching the far side **Sgt Cook RAPC** in his hurry to leave a sinking ship succeeded in capsizing it, leaving **Lt Iain Standen** doing 'Man from Atlantis' impressions in the lake, much to the amusement of the rest of his team.

Having completed all the stands and arriving at Wittloge Ranges at the end of the March and Shoot, the final scores were calculated. The 'A' team were narrowly beaten into second place but won a special award for being the top non-RAOC team, while the 'B' team were not far behind in fifth place. All in all a good result after three hard but enjoyable days.

The teams:

A. **Lt Rob Salvoni, Cpl George Coffin, LCpl 'Smudge' Smith, Sig Brett Cowley, 'Diggers' Digweed, Kev Cooney** and **Steve Thomson**

B. **Lt Iain Standen, Sgt Steve Cook RAPC, Cpl Mark Wareing, LCpl Tony Ellison, Sig Dave Constable, Steve Lewis, Kev Crawford**, and **Dean Rawlings**

PTE COFFEY RPC

Pte Rick Coffey a member of the RPC serving with the Squadron, did himself and the unit proud by finishing runner up in the BAOR Individual Boxing Championships and going one better in the Army UK Championships by becoming The 1987 Feather-Weight Champion.

In a very hard and close fought match in the final of the BAOR Championships in which he got knocked down twice in the first round. He fought back only to lose by a majority decision. By virtue of being runner up he was selected for the Army UK Championships where, once again, he excelled himself in reaching the finals and in another hard and close fought match, the majority decision this time went his way.

Pte R. Coffey RPC—Army UK Feather Weight Boxing Champion 1987

GARRISON WINTER SPORTS

Despite a good all round effort in all events football, rugby, hocky and basketball Squadron teams failed to qualify for any of the finals.

In the Assault Course Competition the team led by **Lt Rob Salvoni** managed a commendable third place, but even this failed to help us make an impression on the final overall positions.

Cpls Chalmers and Kimber in the attack

The Assault Course teams set off

THE 4 ARMD DIV SAAM

The Divisional SAAM was held at Sennelager on the 7/8 May, where the Squadron was represented by a team of four in the Minor Units Competition. Having been pulled together only a week previously and with only three days practise the team performed very well and finished as runners up in the Minor Units Competition.

RESULTS:

Overall Minor Unit Competition 2nd		
SLR Team	2nd Minor Unit	
Pistol Team	1st Minor Unit	
Individual	**Lt I. Standen**	Pistol 2nd (Best B Class)
		SLR (Roberts Cup) 2nd (Best B Class)
		Div Top Twenty Medallist

THE TEAM:

Lt Iain Standen, Lt Rob Salvoni, Cpl Tony Slaney, Pte Ian Bastow (Res) **LCpl Smudge Smith.**

FINALLY

We say farewell to **Sgt 'Titch' Howitson** and family, and wish him good luck and all the best at Blandford. Also **LCpl Tony Ellison** who goes to 249 Sig Sqn where his expertise on skis will hold him in good stead. And As they leave we say welcome to **Capt Paul Hudson** and 21C (Des) and to **SSgt Kelly** the new 'B' Tp Staff Sgt.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn 4 Armd Div SAAM 1987
Lt I. G. Standen and Lt R. Salvoni
In front: Cpl A. Slaney and Pte I. Bastow

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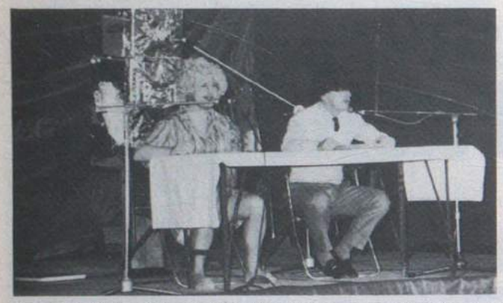
7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

REGIMENTAL SMOKER

On the evening of 23 April, 2 Sqn organised a very good Regimental Smoker. Squadrons and Departments of the Regiment provided sketches that depicted some element of Regimental life. As is usual in events of this kind none of the Regimental hierachy come away with their smallest idiosyncrasy still unknown. All the acts were good but 1 Sqn's Birthday Time and Sperm Bank were judged the best, closely followed by 3 Sqn's CO's 'O' Gp. 4 Sqn's attempt at alternative humour was too advanced for the audience but gave everyone a look at a star of the future, **Sig Lewis**. 2 Sqn's satirical look at the rank structure provided some startling insights into how signalmen see their role in life and in the Army. **Cpl Smith** did such a good impression of a Signalman that the RSM is now considering him for a permanent post in the role. Thanks must be given to **Sgt Middlecoate** and **Sgt Stachini** for their untiring efforts which ensured that the evening went smoothly and the stage did not fall down!



SSgt Strefford and YofS Chippy Wood 'Performing' birthday time

EXERCISE *FOURTH STRETCH*

During April the Regiment's main exercise commitment was Ex *Fourth Stretch*—aimed to test and prove the first system level modifications to Ptarmigan. Luckily the Regiment did not have to deploy far—the exercise took place on South Camp Square! The RSM, was seen weeping as 64 vehicles moved on to his square and spent a week dripping oil there! The exercise was extremely successful; one of the biggest successes being the interfacing of Ptarmigan with the Belgian Rita and German Autoko systems. The first call across the interface being taken by **Lt Col John Doody** from PWSST (Main). Our photograph shows Comd Comms 1(BR) Corps, **Brig Cowan**, talking across the Autoko interface to CO 7(GE) Fm Btl. The Ops Offr, **Maj Graham Leach** and the Tech Adjt, **Capt Alex Taylor** (who insists that he made it all possible) look on.

SPORTSMANS DINNER

The presentation of Sports Colours within the Regiment is a constant problem due to the large number awarded throughout the year.

It was felt that something different was needed to recognise the significant part sportsmen play in Regimental life, and a Sportsmans Dinner was deemed to be the ideal solution.

The first of these dinners was held in mid May to award colours to the Winter sports teams.

Sixty two sat down to dinner headed by the CO and RSM, with a wide diversity of sporting interests being represented, from the gentle art of Ten Pin Bowling to the rugged art of Rugby.

Colours were awarded to representatives of the following teams:

Rugby, Football, Nordic Skiing, Cross Country, Road Running, Ten Pin Bowling, Fishing, Canoeing, Squash, Basketball, Orienteering and Hockey.

A very successful night, especially enjoyed by the Sports Officer and no doubt the Summer Sportsmen will be looking forward to late September when the next dinner will be held.

Pre-Dinner 'Chit Chat' by a few of the Sportsmen

REGIMENTAL RUGBY

As a prelude of things to come the Regiment held an Inter Squadron Rugby Competition on Tuesday 31 March 1987. The turnout from the Regiment was excellent and the number of young officers risking not only their bodies but reputation as macho men was very encouraging.

The standard of play throughout the day was excellent and in a fitting climax the last game decided the eventual winners. 5 Sqn gained an impressive victory over HQ Sqn to become Inter Squadron champions. A lot of new talent was discovered and a squad of 25 was chosen to train for the end of season seven a side competition.

The first competition that the Regiment entered was the Divisional seven a side held at Bad Lippspringe. After a long hot day we reached both the main and plate finals. Both teams were beaten, the first team quite convincingly by the RRW. The second team put up a magnificent performance against 35 Engineer Regt A team but were denied victory in the final minutes.

After the long day at Bad Lippspringe both teams travelled to Lippstadt the following day to take part in the Corps Sevens. Again on a day more akin to that found in the desert both teams put up a tremendous performance reaching both the Main and Plate finals again. Unlike the previous day though both teams achieved notable victories, the B team beating 4 ADSR A team with a tremendous performance by **Cpl Phil Green** and the A team defeating 22 Sig Regt A team. Special mention has to be made of **Sig Taff Bowlen** who played superbly throughout the competition.

The final competition was the BAOR Sevens again held at Bad Lippspringe. Two teams from the Regiment qualified for the event but due to what can only be described as a strange draw the A and B team met in the quarter finals of the Main Competition with the A team coming out on top. The A team then met the Welsh Guards in the semi-finals and were unfortunate to lose late in the game.

All in all not a bad month's rugby. The team looks forward to next year with great enthusiasm.

Back Row: Cpl Kenny Anderson, Sig Taff Bowling, LCpl Nigel Roberts, Sig Martin Toombs
Front Row: Cpl Jamie Alleyne, Sig 'Cas' Cassidy, Sgt Bobby Snow, Cpls Ty Elliott, Archie Fulton

Standing: LCpl Andrews, Sig Bowling, Cpl Roberts and Sig Tombs
Kneeling: Cpl Alleyne, LCpl Cassidy, Sgt Snow, Cpls Elliot and Fulton

PAGE TROPHY

2 Sqn, last year's winners of the Page Trophy athletics, were determined to regain the coverted award. In spite of the loss of many of last year's 'stars' and several competitors to other sports the Squadron set off with high hopes to the stadium.

The Squadron got off to a great start in the first event, the 400m hurdles, taking 13 points out of a possible 14 with **LCpl 'Fozy' Foston** coming first in the A stream and **Sgt Ronny Brent** second in the B stream. As the day progressed it became a two horse race for the coveted award, HQ and 2 Sqn, with the final result depending upon the relay race at the end of the competition.

A nervous crowd saw both 4 x 100 relay teams get off to a flying start. 4 Sqn took and kept the lead. 2 Sqn needed to be positioned either one place in front or one behind HQ to take the trophy. On the last bend HQ was in front of 2 Sqn and no-one could come between them. Only a mishap could keep 2 Sqn from regaining the Page Trophy. In the end HQ had the mishap when their final runner fell 5 yards from the line, allowing 2 Sqn to come second and to regain the trophy by just eight points.

Special mention must go to the following:

LCpl Foster	1	400m H A String
	1	110m H A String
Sgt Ron Brent	1	110m H B String
	2	400m H B String
Sig Sykes	1	200m A String
Cpl Hawkins	2	400m B String
Cpl Owen	2	400m A String
WO2 (SSM) A. Melvile	2	Hammer A String
Sig Lunn	1	Long Jump B String

All in all though it was a great team performance that gave 2 Sqn victory, and we are looking forward to next year when we go for a hatrick of wins to enable us to keep the trophy for ever!

6 SQUADRON

A *WINTEX TALE*

by Hasselled of Herford

Twas a crisp clear and very cold March morning that 6 Sqn deployed on Ex *Wintex '87*. Perched on top of his Panzer, **SSgt (YofS) Lee 'Rommel' Pilling** observed the progress of A5 Troop to location. He smiled sadly to himself as he contemplated how his impending promotion to **WO2 (Big) YofS** would deprive him of his favourite pastime of terrorizing all road users with the feared armour of A5.

Meanwhile, not twenty leagues away the 'Big Daddy' **YofS WO2 Merv Foster** was also contemplating his impending promotion to WO1 'Grand Daddy'. 'Now perhaps I can get a tent with holes in the roof like this one when I go to my new post?' he mused to the Officer Commanding. The OC **Maj 'Colin of Arabia' Eastland** nodded from under his parka, continental quilt and sleeping bag as he considered how much an air conditioned tent like this would cost in Saudi.

Things were certainly a lot hotter at Radio Villiage 01 (nee Oscar). **Lt 'Roger the Dodger' Phillip's** golden *Snow Queen* suntan was proving invaluable in liaison work with the US Army Tacsat operator (female). Sadly he has been banished to work in a Rather Horrible Quod and his keen sense of humour will be missed, especially by **Cpl (now Sgt) Niel 'Wind-up' Coatsworth**, the man with a tatty car but an immaculately pressed NBC suit. The task of leading the A2 Tribe has fallen to **Lt Adam 'Sleeping Beauty' Hearn** who will take over the Troop as soon as he comes out of hibernation.

Yet another hotspot was to be found up with the jolly men of RRB C/S 22. **Cpl 'BCF' Coombs** made the mistake of asking **LCpl 'Toastie' Cook** for a piece of toast not thinking that he would light up the 9 × 9 to prepare it. Instant action by both crewmen prevented the 1 tonne from being 'Cooked'. There is no truth in the rumour that **Cpl Coombs** is transferring to the Trumpton Fire Brigade; he enjoys tobogganing in RRBs far too much to leave A3 Troop.

The new OC A1 Troop **2Lt Andy 'You can't arrest me I'm British' Cameron** arrived during the exercise to be met by persons who were not quite what they seemed to be. He managed to talk his way out of Bundeswehr jail when he was found in possession of a stolen German Army Mercedes jeep. Having had the Mercedes taken away from him he decided to steal the Corps Commander's Panzer for a drive. The battlehardened crew of **Cpl Don Boscoe** and **Sig Dave Woolley** were dismayed to see smoke billowing from all hatches as the intrepid young officer baled out cursing Blandford for not teaching him about 'brewing up' Panzers. Luckily no major damage was done and the Corps Commander will never know about the matter (unless he reads this!).

The Squadron prides itself on its high standard of driving. The Corps Commander was kept happy throughout the exercise by **Cpl 'Chopperman' Simcock** in his Lynx helicopter and **Sig (now LCpl) John Norman** in his 'Corcymobile'. **Sig Alan Priesley** scored a 'hole-in-one' by putting a D11 in a slit trench which the Bundeswehr had thoughtfully dug for A2 Troop. The Recce team of **Capt Jim Body** and **Cpl 'Eric the Ancient' Ball** managed eventually to catch three seemingly turbocharged German Radio Relay wagons after chasing them around RAF Gutersloh without hitting a single aircraft.

The award for the 'Det of the Ex' is awarded to the mixed crew of DCN039. The det commander **Cpl Richmond** (from 4ADSR) collected his crew from 656 Sig Troop, the vehicle from 16 Sig Regt and his crypto in kit form. With the able assistance of **SSgt (FofS) Stevie Jennings** and the 2IC Regt **Maj Mike Collins** (who was seen on several occasions *holding* a soldering iron), all was put together to work well. Close runner up for this award must go to **Cpl David Morton** and his D11 crew who managed to be working in green and receiving *the* message of the exercise when Comd 1 Sig Bde came to visit. Proof that there is still mileage left in the D11 if put into the right hands.

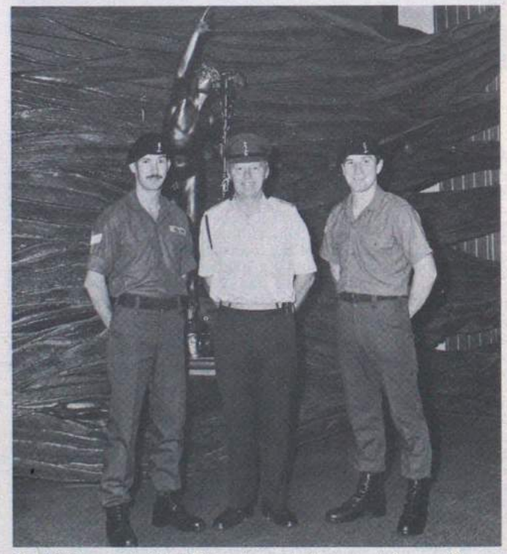
8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

'A' GRADING PRESENTATIONS Lt COL FINNEY PRESENTING 'A' GRADING AWARDS TO:

Cpl Scanlon . . .

. . . Cpl Gray . . .

. . . Cpl Kemp and . . .



Cpl Philips and Cpl Philips (no relations and from different courses!) with Lt Col Finney after receiving their 'A' Grading presentations

LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL PRESENTATION

In two ceremonies on 22 May **Brig R. F. Maynard MBE** presented eight Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, and one US equivalent, the Meritorious Conduct Medal.

Pictured in the Sergeants' Mess *(From L to R): Back row:* Sgt Mick Lawrence, John Godfrey, Col P. B. Webster, Sgm Bob Bush US Army, Sgt Dave Fuller and Peter Fox
Front row: Mrs Barbara Lawrence, Mrs Sheila Godfrey, Brig R. F. Maynard, Mrs Susan Bush and Mrs Kerry Fuller

Pictured in the Corporals' Mess *(From L to R): Back row:* Cpls Frank Moss, Terry Davis, Brig R. F. Maynard, Col P. B. Webster, Cpls Kev Hatcher and Mick Moseley
Front row: Cpl Davis's parents, his wife, his Grandmother and his parents-in-law, Mr and Mrs Mothersill

CLUBBING FOR CHARITY

On 3 June **SSgt Bob Stonier** and **Cpl Dick Bateman** went on a clubbing marathon—not night clubs but golf clubs. The two golf enthusiasts started at 0400 hrs on Whitburn golf course's 17th hole. Ten minutes later they had played the hole and were on their way to the next one at South Shields driven by **Cpl Pete Szeremeta.** By 1815 hrs they had played 36 holes over about 10,000 yards in 36 different golf courses in three different counties. They took 13 hours and 13 minutes to make a total of 361 strokes and, just for the record, **SSgt Stonier** beat **Cpl Bateman**. The £500 raised is to be presented to the North East office of MENCAP.

The cheque presentations. *From L to R:* Mr and Mrs Illman, Dr Rajagopal, Cpl Sexby, Mr and Mrs Partridge, Mrs Smith and Mrs Sexby

(From L to R) SSgt Bob Stonier, Cpl Dick Bateman and Cpl Pete Szeremeta finish their marathon on the 18th at Catterick

THE POSERS!
COMBAT POWERMAN BASIC COURSE CPO10B

Some time ago, as an initiative task, members of a Combat Powerman Driver upgrading course, CP46OU, were asked to design a slogan, unique to Powermen, to be reproduced on Tee Shirts. CPO10B together with **WO2 Pete Whitehouse** showed them off before going on the now famous Power Group Run.

The slogan reads:
We are:
Lip smackin, Power givin, love makin
Beer Swillin, Gene fixin, Battery Chargin
Veh timin, Song singin, field lightin
thigh slappin, side bustin, lorry drivin
Bar brawlin, Hair Raisen, Head slappin
earth toughin, Finger tinglen, manners teaching.
POWERMEN.

WO2 Whitehouse and the men of CPO10B

EXPENSIVE TO RUN?

On 20 March **Cpl Paul Sexby** started a sponsored run, aiming to run 200 miles over a weekend. Councillor **Jane Metcalfe**, Mayor of Richmond North Yorkshire set him off at 1500 hrs. **Paul** ran round a circuit in the Catterick Garrison area, for those who know the Garrison, between Colburn, Camp centre, Hipswell and Catterick Village—15 miles per lap, cheered on by supporters and other runners from units within the Garrison and from the local Swaledale Running Club; **Paul** completed his first marathon distance in two hours and 43 minutes. The weather conditions were awful with a bitingly cold north wind bringing occasional rain blizzards; nonetheless **Paul** persevered. Gradually, the weather and a worsening knee injury took their toll and he was forced to stop 45 miles short of his goal after completing an impressive 155 miles.

There being no rest for the wicked **Paul** then set off to collect his sponsorship money. This went well even though he is convinced he covered more miles collecting money than running. When all the money was in he had collected £1,423 which he split equally between two local charities. On 17 June cheques were presented to The Baby Day care centre for physically handicapped children and to the Hipswell Parish Church.

Paul is now fully recovered and already planning to have another go at the 200 miles next year. Mind you at £9.18 per mile it would be cheaper to run a car!

Cpl Paul Sexby and some of his fan club before the start

Cpl Sexby sets off on his run

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

TM TROOP

As the winter months recede it is appropriate that activities for the period be documented.

We won the five-a-side Football Tournament between teams from all elements of the Regiment and 33 SU, beating the favourites 33 SU by 2—1 in the final with a very controversial goal!

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EXPENSIVE TO RUN?

On 20 March **Cpl Paul Sexby** started a sponsored run, aiming to run 200 miles over a weekend. Councillor **Jane Metcalfe**, Mayor of Richmond North Yorkshire set him off at 1500 hrs. **Paul** ran round a circuit in the Catterick Garrison area, for those who know the Garrison, between Colburn, Camp centre, Hipswell and Catterick Village—15 miles per lap, cheered on by supporters and other runners from units within the Garrison and from the local Swaledale Running Club; **Paul** completed his first marathon distance in two hours and 43 minutes. The weather conditions were awful with a bitingly cold north wind bringing occasional rain blizzards; nonetheless **Paul** persevered. Gradually, the weather and a worsening knee injury took their toll and he was forced to stop 45 miles short of his goal after completing an impressive 155 miles.

There being no rest for the wicked **Paul** then set off to collect his sponsorship money. This went well even though he is convinced he covered more miles collecting money than running. When all the money was in he had collected £1,423 which he split equally between two local charities. On 17 June cheques were presented to The Baby Day care centre for physically handicapped children and to the Hipswell Parish Church.

Paul is now fully recovered and already planning to have another go at the 200 miles next year. Mind you at £9.18 per mile it would be cheaper to run a car!

Cpl Paul Sexby and some of his fan club before the start

Cpl Sexby sets off on his run

9 Sig Regt
BFPO 58

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11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

1 SQUADRON

Maj A. B. Hill assumed command of 1 Sqn on Monday 6 May. He and his wife **Pam** are warmly welcomed to 11 Sig Regt and to Catterick Garrison where it is hoped they will have an enjoyable tour.

5 TROOP REGULAR RECRUIT COURSE NO 8701
TROOP CADRE

Tp OC	**WO1 S. M. Jones**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Monk**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Conway**
	Cpl Goff
	Cpl Rideout
	Cpl Shirley
	Cpl Swan

The initial impression of course No 8701 was that the recruits were going to have to work extremely hard if they were to turn themselves from civilians into lean, mean fighting machines—well—Royal Signals trained soldiers at any rate—in nine weeks. The gauntlet had, however, been thrown down and 5 Troop accepted and took up that challenge.

Week one was the normal blur of events, with nurses injecting untold amounts of strange fluids into the recruits, dentists prodding their teeth as if they were prize horses and the RQMS pressing enormous quantities of green clothing upon them. However, worse was to come, as the recruits slowly came to grips with such rudimentary skills as washing, ironing, bed making and shaving *every* day.

The ensuing weeks of the course passed slowly and only after a great deal of work. At the end of the third week of training the recruits took their saluting test and after a 100% pass rate, which truly amazed the Troop cadre, were allowed a weekend of freedom in which to savour the delights of Richmond.

The course inevitably produced its own characters which included **Sig (I love jam sandwiches) Campbell, Sig (I've got the torch sir) Strudley, Sig (I can do ambushes in my sleep) Woods** and **Sig (I hope they have left-handed trimphones) Perryman**.

At the end of nine weeks, on Friday 10 April, twenty-three of the original twenty-six recruits Passed Off under the keen eye of the Reviewing Officer, **Col K. P. Burke**.

The Troop Cadre wish to pass on their best wishes to **Cpl Taff Rideout**, who has since been posted to 21 Sig Regt and to all the trained soldiers of Course 8701.

2 TROOP—TA DETACHMENT COMMANDERS WRAC COURSE NO 4
TROOP CADRE

Tp OC	**Lt C. A. Gow WRAC**
Tp Sgt	**Cpl Wood WRAC**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Bushby WRAC**
	Cpl Crawford
	Cpl Dixon

The final command task of the course was for each section to build a raft, traverse the river and return to the near bank with their

5 Troop. Regular Recruit Course No 8701 7 February-10 April 1987
Rear Rank: (L to R) Sig Eyes, Day, Martin, Mulcaire, Furphy, Noonan, Kelly, Proctor, Perryman, Hill
Centre Rank: (L to R) Cpl Swan, Sig Richardson, Holmes, Emmett, Claridge, Campbell, Quilter, White, Owens, Hobbs, Cpl Conway
Front Rank: (L to R) Sig Wood, Stroudley, Cpl Rideout, Sgt Monk, WO1 S. M. Jones, Lt C. A. Gow WRAC, WO2 (SSM) L. Collins, Cpl Shirley, Sigs Dickinson, Fisk

2 Troop—All aboard!

instructor aboard. The 'lads' went into action and produced three very different vessels which all had pretty low standards of sea worthiness.

Our picture shows all three sections at various stages of the race. On the near right of the photo is **Cpl Steve**, get the comfy chair, **Crawford** observing the rapidly disintegrating situation in a cool, calm and collected manner. **WLCpl Pearse** and **WLCpl Wood** look on speechless. Midstream is **Cpl 'Shrub' Bushby** holding on to an oil drum for dear life but don't worry, **Cpl Bushby, WLCpl Gould** is coming to your rescue. On the far bank is **Cpl Alan 'Whale' Dixon** bringing up the rear and, seemingly in the dryest position, although he didn't remain that way for long.

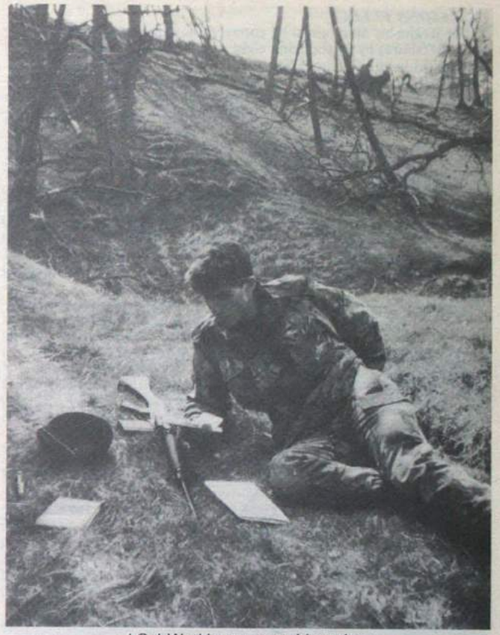
Everyone sampled the waters at some stage of the proceedings, including the Troop Sgt, **Cpl Chippy Wood** and the Troop Commander **Lt 'I'm not getting wet this afternoon' Gow WRAC**.

3 TROOP—TA DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE
TROOP CADRE

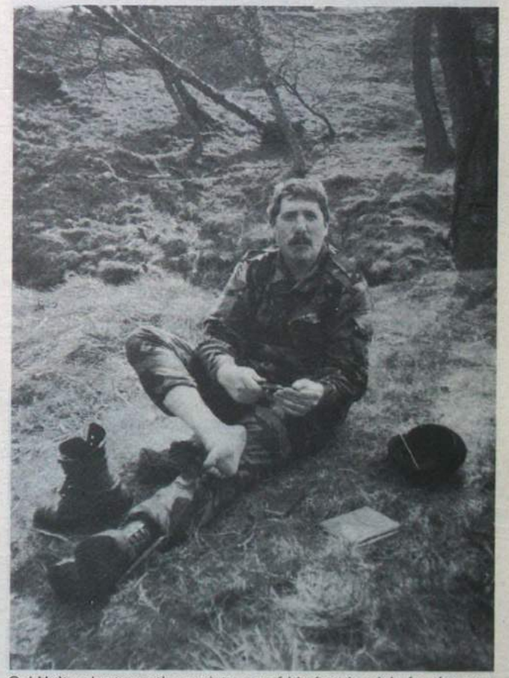
Tp OC	**Lt H. W. Wareham**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Turner**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Bates**
	Cpl Brine
	Cpl Holt
	Cpl Verdon

One bright Easter weekend 3 Troop took to the hills with RS(TA)DCC No 22. Whilst everybody else was busy hunting for Easter eggs we were enjoying the unbelievable sunshine out on Catterick Training Area. It was a good course and the students (afterwards) begrudgingly admitted that they had learnt a great deal. Our pictures show the Troops hard at work but enjoying the outdoor life.

LCpl Stevens alert on the LMG



LCpl Watkin prepares his orders



Cpl Holt volunteers the assistance of his feet in trials for the new respirator

EX *JASONS FLEECE*

The Regiment maintained its connections with the R Signals Yacht Club (offshore) by introducing eight Junior Soldiers to the pleasures and hardships of Offshore Sailing.

Sailing from Gosport on the Corps yacht 'Quicksilver', the adventurers visited Cowes, Poole, Cherbourg and Weymouth prior to returning to Gosport. There the complement of Junior Soldiers was changed and the yacht sailed once more; this time to Cowes, Lymington and Poole. The second week was enlivened by the fresh northerly winds of force 6 and 7 giving the opportunity for some challenging sailing.

In the first week engine failure necessitated entering Cowes marina under sail (rather neatly done too!). After rectifying the problem, only to have it occur in exactly the same place the second week, it led to some rumours that the Regiment are members of the Noise Abatement Society. Nevertheless there was much satisfaction gained by demonstrating some true seamanship to the blazer clad brigade ashore.

Altogether an excellent fortnight that hopefully put another eight soldiers on the way to becoming skippers in their own right.

Cherbourg bound

ATHLETICS

The Regiment has taken part in two Athletics Meets recently; the Training Group Athletics Meet at Harrogate and the Group 5 Zone E Athletics Meet here in Catterick. The Regiment competes as a minor unit being restricted to permanent members of staff when selecting a team.

In the Group 5 Meet the Regiment was competing against 24 Field Ambulance RAMC, The Duchess of Kent Military Hospital and AAC Harrogate. It was an exciting competition throughout and it was on the final race, the 4 x 400m Relay race, that the event placings were decided. The Regiment finished equal second on points but third overall.

Cpl Mick Shirley salutes the CO in his inimitable style after winning the 100m. The CO returns the compliment

EX *TREASURE HUNT*

There is an island off Scotland . . .

It started at a dinner night, as all the best plans do. No-one is quite sure who suggested the idea but the 2IC may have had some thing to do with it. The whole dastardly deed revolved around the Specialist Catering Officer who was leaving the Army. Prior to his departure he foolishly declared that he was to spend his terminal leave—with his girlfriend—on an uninhabited island nine miles off the West Coast of Scotland. The plan, such as it was at the time, required four officers to be there first!

On 15 May the covert expedition left Catterick on an adventurous training recce coincidentally aiming to visit exactly the same island at exactly the same time. After a traumatic overnight journey, 'punctuated' by several stops our young adventurers, (well three young and one considerably older) arrived at a beach and concluded that this indeed was the West Coast of Scotland. After unpacking and assembling their boat, the intrepid four set sail from the mainland towards the distant and foreboding silhouette of the island.

Some time later they arrived . . .

After ascertaining that their quarry was not on the island they proceeded to set up a covert camp and make some complicated preparations.

Later still, the Catering Officer (and companion) arrived and settled in. That night the sunset heralded an evening of peace and tranquility for the solitude seeking twosome. The still air was quiet and the peace of the night was disturbed only by the murmur of waves on the beach, the passing of seagulls and the howls of wolves behind the cottage! . . . (digital recording techniques are remarkably convincing nowadays). As the bell of the non existent church sounded thirteen at midnight the two occupants of the single abode settled down for a disturbed night's sleep contemplating the puzzling phenomenon of their toilet roll changing colour. Their new blue Andrex, they had installed only a few hours previously, was now less soft, strong or very long. What was more, it was now yellow!

The following morning the hermits arose, collected their fresh milk that had been left by the milkman(?) and started the day's exploring. With a packet of freeze dried salmon sandwiches they sallied forth to admire the abundant wildlife. Their distress can only be imagined when they returned to their hovel to find a warm, half eaten meal and a treasure map but no other signs of human presence.

Meanwhile, by midday, a somewhat bedraggled group of four returned to the mainland; wet and cold, but considerably amused by the events of the past two days.

The Catering Officer and friend had a busy period ahead of them. It was not until they followed the abandoned treasure map that they found an ammo box filled with bottles of champagne, a box of Milk Tray and a set of champagne glasses, all buried near a prominent feature. Also included was a card from the Officers of 11 Sig Regt.

Other stories could be told, about night time circumnavigations and assistance from the parents of a well known Royal personage but we'll dine out on those another day.

THIS IS A TRUE STORY!

Our intrepid heroes, heavily loaded, set off to wreak havoc!

A PROFILE OF ALPHA TROOP
1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

Tp Cdr	**WO2 (Supvr Radio) Forster**
Tp Supvr	**SSgt (Supvr Radio) Armstrong**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Butler**
	Sgt Muir
	Sgt Smith

In addition to this, there are about 16 other members of the Troop of whom there are normally four on detachment to various exotic locations such as the Falkland Islands or Belize.

There is naturally a fair turnover of personnel within the Troops and Alpha Troop is no exception. Recently we bade a fond farewell to several of our long serving Troop members. **Cpl Gaz Payne** and his wife **Jo** left us to join the newly formed 225 Sig Sqn. **Cpl Payne** will be sadly missed from the Regimental Hockey team as well as the Troop. **Cpl Mark 'Chaff' Finch** left us on posting to Blandford. (There will be a few German drivers happy about that one). **Cpl 'Chunky Watson'** was no sooner promoted then he was whisked off to Tech Aids in a transfer deal with **Cpl Andy Shepherd** who returns to the Troop. **Sig Des Carstairs** has departed recently for the wilderness of H Troop.

On the replacement side we have **Cpl Steve Kent** and his wife **Carol** (who are off to 3 Sqn soon—lucky lot). **Sig Taff 'Benny' Lenny** and his wife **Ellen** are also welcomed to the Troop.

Congratulations are in order to **Sgt Dave Smith** and **Julie** on the recent birth of their daughter **Joanne**.

Congratulations to **Cpl Steve Powell, LCpl Williams** (the Cat) **Wallace** and to **LCpl Jon Neville-Green** on their recent, well deserved promotions.

Birgelen, far from being the sleepy hollow many people imagine it to be, is quite a bustling place at this time of year and Alpha Troop has been very busy working and socialising on days off. In between Athletic Standards and fortifying the Regiment, quite a few activities have been fitted in.

There was the much vaunted rematch between the Jugendsiedlung Haus of Moenchengladbach and the Troop at football. The Haus is a school in nearby Moenchengladbach which caters for boys suffering from varying degrees of literacy problems such as dyslexia and reading/writing trouble. This football challenge match has now become a regular feature with the Troop and serves to cement excellent Anglo-German relations within the community.

A confident looking Alpha Troop Team prior to the match!

In the last match the Troop overdid the Anglo-German relations bit and lost by three goals to two in Moenchengladbach. For the records the winning goal was an own goal so really we scored more goals than the Germans . . . well this time was going to be different and the Troop was going to make amends . . .

The match took place on Friday 8 May on the Regimental football pitch. Our star goalkeeper, **William (the Cat) Wallace** was on detachment, but **Cpl Andy Shepherd** would have a go in the nets after being reassured by the team Captain **Sgt Gav Muir** that 'they won't even get a shot in'. Famous last words.

The match ended in a fine 4—2 victory for the Germans and it was off to the Sports Pavilion for the third half and a buffet laid on by the Troop. It's amazing how a glass of beer helps someone's German. The friendly camaraderie carried on off the pitch and at 2000 hrs the Germans set off for home. The day brought an invite for the Troop to participate in a seven-a-side competition the Haus is organising for June. The Troop as the only Service team was happy to accept the invitation and plans are already in the offing to get that elusive victory.

The Troop has just held a Knockout Darts Competition at a nearby hostelry, the idea was to get everyone including the wives involved. As well as singles and doubles a mixed doubles competition took place and the wives not only joined in—they showed up a few of the lads. No names, no pack drill, but special mention must go to **Tracie Howard** for showing the organiser how to hit the winning double. The event proved to be such a success that we hope it might turn into a regular event.

At the moment the social scene is dominated by the forthcoming Summer Ball due to be held on 15 July.

VOLLEYBALL

The very successful season has now come to an end, and, after a lot of hard work, players, both male and female can now look forward to a short break before training starts again. The sport has been played at all levels in the Regiment, with SHQ 1 Sqn winning the Inter-Troop competition. The semi-final of the Inter-Troop matches, between SHQ 1 Sqn and O Troop (1 Sqn) was a five set thriller, with both teams playing to a very high standard.

The Inter-Squadron competition was won by 1 Sqn, again after some very good volleyball. The competitions within the Regiment enabled the Regimental coach, **Cpl Maddock**, to select a very strong squad to tackle the RCZ League and Cup competitions. The list of honours sums up the Squads training, hard work and commitment:

RCZ League—Winners
RCZ Cup —Winners
BAOR Cup —Winners
Army Cup —Runners Up

In the Army final, which we lost to 2/2 Gurkha Rifles, **WPte Carol Booth** became the first, and last, woman to play in a mens' final.

All the Troop teams and the Regimental squad would like to pass on their thanks to **Maj Storey** (OIC Volleyball) and **WO1 Bird** for the organisation and administration involved.

The successful Regimental squad are: **WO1 Tony Bird, WO1 Trevor Taylor, WO2 Dave Kent, WO2 Dave Dolling, SSgt Les Robinson, Sgts Dougy Wright, Jock Morton, Cpls Andy Hamilton, Richie Maddock** (Capt/Coach), **WPte Carol Booth**.

The WRAC team from the Regiment continued the success story by winning the BAOR (WS) competition and now go to the UK to play in the Army Finals. The squad was: **SSgt Sally Cranwell-Child, Sgts Carol Robinson, Donna Wilson, Cpls Hazel Budden, Elaine Brady, LCpls King, Mattinson** and **WPte Carol Booth**.

The WRAC B Team also put in a fine performance. All in all, a season in which the Regiment became the holders of every title they could participate in, within BAOR.

SQUASH

The Regimental Squash team had a mixed season but still managed to attain joint second position in the RCZ League 3.

Due to the Regiment's routine of shift working it was difficult to field the same team for more than one game, which led to a total of 12 players representing the Regiment during the season.

The nucleus of the team was drawn from **Mr Martin Parr, Maj Chris Hewitt, Capt Les Rix** and **SSgt Mo Emmott**. New players that were blooded in the competitive spirit of league play and should give a good account of themselves next season include **LCpl 'Gaz' Shirley, LCpl 'NG' Neville-Green** and **LCpl Adrian Storey**.

HOCKEY

The 1986/87 season will be remembered for the bad weather and changes in security alert states which transformed our hockey pitch into a skating rink and car park respectively. Despite these setbacks, we managed to reach the final of the (BR) RCZ major units competition only to succumb to Rheindahlen Garrison for the second year running. In the (BR) RCZ league the team is in a respectable mid position.

This season has seen the departure of two stalwarts, **Cpl 'Gaz' Payne** who will be remembered for the goals he missed and **Cpl 'Jock' Milne** for the ones he let in! We wish them both good luck in their new units.

Naturally there have been some new arrivals and we welcome **WO2 Dave Kent** and **Sgt Chris Moye**. Both have already displayed their potential with **WO2 Kent** being selected for the BAOR Royal Signals Squad, along with **LCpl 'Ade' Storey** and **Sig 'Jock' Malone**. **Sig Malone** also represented (BR) RCZ in the Inter-Division tournament earlier this year.

The CO recently awarded Regimental colours to the following team members: **WO2 Dave Dolling, SSgt John Chapman, LCpl Ade Storey, Sig Jock Malone** and **Dave White**.

All are congratulated for their 'enthusiastic' contribution towards Regimental hockey.

And just to emphasise that we do do other things besides play sport . . .

COLOGNE INTERNATIONAL MARCH AND SHOOT

The Annual March and Shoot in Cologne attracted 56 international teams from Belgium and Holland as well as the UK. The event consisted of scoring on two practices with the German G3 and P1 followed by a patrol march for 10 km.

Our team came third from the Regular Army Units. The team was: **Lt Woods, Cpl Malia, Cpl Burdge, Sig Tidwell** and **Sig Liversidge**.

ANGLO-GERMAN SHOOTING

Two teams from 13 Sig Regt took part in the international shooting competition at Geilenkirchen on 16 May. From the forty odd teams taking part the WRAC took the Ladies plate and the mens' team the cup for second place.

The teams were: Ladies—**WCpl Penny Roberts, WLCpl Alison Semmens** and **WLCpl Alison Taylor**.

Men's team—**SSgt Ian Knight, Cpl Joseph Malia** and **Sig Les Tobbell**.

Team Manager—**WO2 John Chudleigh**.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

RHQ

BASKETBALL

The Army Major Unit Final was held at Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld on 15 April by kind permission of the CO **Lt Col D. J. Lowe**. It was the turn of the BAOR champions (16 Sig Regt) to host the final against the UK champions from Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, 39 Eng Regt, who were also last year's Army champions.

The match itself was a close fought affair, superbly refereed by **SSgt (SSI) C. Francis** from the Army School of PT and **Cpl Davis** from 3 RHA. The lead changed from one action packed minute to the next, with 16 Sig Regt taking almost two shots to 39 Engr Regt's one. Unfortunately, a lot of our shots were bouncing out and, as a result, frustration began to creep in. However, after a time-out from player coach **WO2 Tim Brown ACC**, a couple of three pointers from **Sgt Fred Tedby** and some excellent drives by **Cpl Eddie Williams**, ensured that 16 Sig Regt went in at half-time with a two point lead.

After a shaky start to the second half, 39 Engr Regt began to take advantage of their strength on the bench and opened up an 18 point lead, mainly through the efforts of **Sgt Frank Pask APTC, Sgt Mick Phillipps** and **LCpl Chalky White**. Although the Regiment fought back gallantly through top scorers **WO2 Tim Brown ACC** (27 points) **Sgt Fred Tedby** (18 points) and **Cpl Eddie Williams** (10 points) time ran out and 39 Engr Regt won 65 to 62, with **LCpl Chalky White, one** of the Sapper players, taking the man of the match trophy.

The whole event was superbly organised by **Capt Peter Robinson. The medals were presented by Maj Gen A. Yeoman**, Comd Comms BAOR.

Man of the match LCpl Chalky White shoots for basket over 16 Sig Regt Captain WO2 Tim Brown ACC, Sgt Fred Tedby and Sgt Nev Smikle keep out LCpl Vaughan of the Sappers under the watchful eye of referee SSgt Cec Francis

CANOEING

The Regiment started off this year well, with three of the team representing the Army in the Inter-Service White Water Championships on the River Nith, Sanguhar, Scotland, **Lt Alison Mann, Cpl Shane Wright** and **LCpl John Harris**. The team did very well coming a close second to the RAF. **Cpl Wright** and **LCpl Harris** were also members of the winning Canadian Team, and **Lt Mann** came third in the Ladies.

After a break (so that the Canoeing Officer could go skiing), **Lt Mann** and **Cpl Wright** returned to UK this time to the River Washburn at Harrogate, North Yorks for the English Regional Open as part of the Combined Services Team. It was a good end to the White Water season, but now time to turn to Slalom. Easter was spent at Augsburg on the 1972 Olympic Slalom course training for the BAOR Slalom Championships. Unfortunately, boats got broken and black eyes were dished out (but not by the Canoeing Officer). The next few weeks were spent mending boats and getting ready for the BAOR Slalom Championships. Luck was not with us as our star **Cpl Wright** had to go to hospital and **LCpl Julie Dormer** broke her nose training on the course at Hildesheim! The team, now down to five, put up a good performance against excellent competition, coming fifth overall with individual performances as follows:

Mens K1 Open: 17th—**Cpl Owen**.

Mens K1 Intermediate: 7th—**Sig Hatch**; 8th—**Cpl Johnstone**; 9th—**Cpl Collins**.

Ladies K1: 1st—**Lt Mann**.

The BAOR team is now going back to the Army Slalom Championships at Bala, North Wales to hopefully beat UKLF. We wish them luck.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY

Published by the Royal Signals Museum July 1987

CORPS GALLANTRY AWARDS

The Deputy Director of The Royal Signals Museum has recently completed a research project listing the names of those members of the Corps who have been decorated for gallantry since the formation of the Corps in 1920 until the present day.

The breakdown of the known awards is:

George Cross	1
DSO	13 + 1 Bar
MC	92 + 1 Bar
DCM	33
George Medal	4
MM	396 + 1 Bar
QGM	3
CBE (Operational)	1
OBE (Operational)	2
MBE (Operational)	6
BEM (Operational)	5
MSM (Operational)	6

A total of 565 awards.

It is intended shortly to produce Gallantry Award Boards for display at Blandford. Before doing so there is a final need to check the accuracy of the records compiled.

The Director of The Royal Signals Museum would be grateful if any member (or relative of any member) of the Corps, past or present, who has been the recipient of one of the above awards for gallantry would examine his entry in the records contained in this pamphlet. Any error or omission should be notified by 1 October 1987 to:

Maj (Retired) A. G. Harfield BEM, Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

In doing so, please provide details of:

Personal/Regimental Number, rank at the time of the award, full name, the area or theatre of operations in which the award was won and, if known, the date of publication of the award in the London Gazette.

A further research project will begin shortly to compile records of those who hold a foreign gallantry award and also of those who have been mentioned in despatches. Similar boards covering these will be produced in due course.

RANK	NAME AND INITIALS	AWARD	EVENT OR PLACE	LG No & DATE
Sig	Smith K.	GC	Conspicuous Gallantry	37311 19 October 1945
Lt Col	Penney W. R. C.	DSO	Waziristan 17 Jan-15 Sept 1937	7998 21 December 1937
Lt Col	Vulliamy C. H. H.	DSO	Waziristan 16 Sept-15 Dec 1937	5286 16 August 1938
Lt Col	White C. M. F.	DSO	Middle East Dec 1940-Feb 1941	3883 8 July 1941
Maj	Smijth-Windham W. R.	DSO	Middle East	3543 13 August 1942
Temp Col	Smyth D. M.	DSO	Middle East	965 25 February 1943
Maj	Gray F. P. L.	DSO	East Africa/Madagascar	3086 8 July 1943
Temp Brig	Cary R. T. O.	DSO	Middle East	3421 29 July 1943
Temp Col	Steward R. H. R.	DSO	Sicily	4661 21 October 1943
Temp Col	Steward R. H. R.	DSO (Bar)	Middle East	5173 25 November 1943
Lt Col	Hobson P. M. P.	DSO	Services Burma	36518 18 May 1944
Maj	Williamson R. B.	DSO		37302 11 October 1945
Maj Gen	Dimoline W. A.	DSO	Burma	37433 17 January 1946
Lt Col	Bradley P. E. M.	DSO	North West Europe	37442 24 January 1946
Lt Col	Deane-Drummond A. J.	DSO	Oman	41798 25 August 1959
Lt	Harrison L. C. C.	MC	Operations in Burma 12/1930-3/1932	8133 20 December 1932
Lt	Freeman A. F.	MC	Distinguished War Service	4262 11 July 1940
Lt	Wilkinson E. H.	MC	Distinguished War Service	4262 11 July 1940
Lt	Metson G. H.	MC	France/Flanders	7174 20 December 1940
Lt	Collins J. J.	MC	Gallant Conduct	7197 20 December 1940
Lt	Bell D. C. J.	MC	Gallant Conduct	7197 20 December 1940
Capt	Pickard H.	MC	Distinguished Service	2493 2 May 1941
Lt	Martin V. H.	MC	Middle East	4110 18 July 1941
2Lt	Rogers M. Y.	MC	Middle East	3544 13 August 1942
Lt	Lang C. W. N.	MC	Middle East	4154 24 September 1942
Lt	Dungeon P. L.	MC	Special Service Brigade	5437 15 December 1942
Lt	Askew W. G.	MC	Middle East	5665 31 December 1942
2Lt	Carruth J. B.	MC	Middle East	5665 31 December 1942
Lt	Knowles A. R.	MC	Middle East	863 18 February 1943
Lt	Grieg J. C. McN	MC	Middle East	965 25 February 1943
Lt	McKay J. D.	MC	Middle East	1996 4 May 1943
Lt	Field A. L.	MC	Middle East	2760 17 June 1943
Lt	Currie G. S.	MC	Middle East	3314 22 July 1943
Lt	Locke R. F.	MC	Middle East	3314 22 July 1943
Lt	Noble G. R.	MC	Distinguished Service	3317 22 July 1943
Capt	Morris W. J.	MC	North Africa	4545 14 October 1943
Capt	Fraser A.	MC	North Africa	4545 14 October 1943
Lt	Boys C. E.	MC	North Africa	4545 14 October 1943
Lt	Chambers T. G.	MC	North Africa	4545 14 October 1943
Lt	Main W. J.	MC	North Africa	4545 14 October 1953
Lt	Prendergast R.	MC	North Africa	4545 14 October 1943
Lt	Klosser A. J.	MC	North Africa	4545 14 October 1943
Lt	White D. S.	MC	Sicily	4662 21 October 1943
Lt	Wright F. A.	MC	Middle East	5173 25 November 1943
Capt	James C. V. J.	MC	Service in Italy	36327 13 January 1944
Maj	Franks B. F. M.	MC	Service in Italy	36349 27 January 1944
Capt	Pettit W. D.	MC	Service in Italy	36394 24 February 1944
Lt	Hooper G. J. M.	MC	Service in Sicily	36436 23 March 1944
Maj	Gordon W. H. L.	MC	Services in the field	36486 27 April 1944
Maj	Piddington J. R.	MC	Services in Burma	36518 18 May 1944
Capt	Stanley J. T.	MC		36637 3 August 1944
Lt	Ferguson J. Y.	MC		36668 24 August 1944
Lt	Tillyard H. F.	MC	North West Europe	36753 19 Ocotber 1944
Capt	Girotti J. J.	MC	North West Europe	36753 19 October 1944
Lt	Cox R. A.	MC	Italy	36850 21 December 1944
Maj	Johnson G. F.	MC		36917 1 February 1945
Lt	Collins S. R.	MC		36917 1 February 1945
Capt	Field A. L.	MC (Bar)	North West Europe	36961 1 March 1945
Maj	Thorpe F. D.	MC		36961 1 March 1945
Lt	Howard A. H.	MC		36961 1 March 1945
Lt	Scholes T.	MC		36961 1 March 1945
Capt	Marchant I.	MC	North West Europe	36961 1 March 1945
Capt	Henderson T. C. B.	MC	Italy	36972 8 March 1945
Lt	Drake J. E.	MC		37004 29 March 1945
Capt	Higgs E. C.	MC		37004 29 March 1945

Capt	Marsons G. K.	MC		37027	12	April 1945
Capt	Berry P. L.	MC	Italy	37039	19	April 1945
Capt	Park W. M.	MC	Burma	37051	26	April 1945
Capt	Williams R. O. M.	MC		37072	10	May 1945
Lt	Gamon H. W.	MC	Italy	37072	10	May 1945
Lt	Fullarton J. W.	MC	North West Europe	37091	24	May 1945
Maj	Bayliss G. F.	MC		37112	7	June 1945
Lt	Evans J. E.	MC		37138	21	June 1945
Lt	Jeeves J.	MC		37138	21	June 1945
Capt	Holifield A	MC	Burma	37151	28	June 1945
Capt	Morton G.	MC	Burma	37151	28	June 1945
Capt	Williams N. R.	MC	Burma	37151	28	June 1945
Lt	Phillips A. L.	MC	Burma	37151	28	June 1945
Capt	Day S. A.	MC	St Nazaire 27 March 1942	37162	5	July 1945
WOII	Tucker J. D.	MC	Burma	37172	12	July 1945
Maj	Holland A. C.	MC		37204	2	August 1945
Maj	Clive N.D.	MC		37204	2	August 1945
Lt	Barker C. A. H.	MC	Italy	37274	20	September 1945
Lt	Millet W.	MC	Calais 1940	37274	20	September 1945
Maj	Barron A. W.	MC	North West Europe	37302	11	October 1945
Maj	Dalrymple J. B.	MC	North West Europe	37302	11	October 1945
Capt	Hopkins G. E. D.	MC	North West Europe	37302	11	October 1945
Capt	Keates A. J.	MC	North West Europe	37302	11	October 1945
Capt	Sykes R. A.	MC	North West Europe	37302	11	October 1945
Lt	Ackroyd H. C.	MC	North West Europe	37302	11	October 1945
Lt	Cristie T. J.	MC	North West Europe	37302	11	October 1945
Lt	Snell P. S.	MC	North West Europe	37302	11	October 1945
2Lt	Biggar A.	MC		37302	11	October 1945
Capt	James J. G.	MC	Burma	37349	15	November 1945
Lt	Clapham P. S.	MC	Italy	37386	13	December 1945
Capt	Stubbs W.	MC	Malaya	37386	13	December 1945
Maj	Skelton P. H.	MC	Italy	37442	24	Janaury 1946
Maj	Hobart S. A.	MC	Italy	37442	24	January 1946
Capt	Joughin L.	MC	Italy	37442	24	January 1946
Capt	Patterson R.	MC	Italy	37442	24	January 1946
Capt	Phillips L. A.	MC	Italy	37442	24	January 1946
Lt	Evershed B. E. W.	MC	Italy	37442	24	January 1946
Lt	Armstrong R. G.	MC		37484	28	February 1946
Lt	Oldham G. F.	MC		37484	28	February 1946
Capt	Young D. W.	MC		37595	6	June 1946
Capt	Young G.	MC		37595	6	June 1946
Sgt	Wright E.	MC	Prior to 1945	38564	18	March 1949
Maj	Stewart W. J. T.	MC		38735	14	October 1949
WOI	Phillip P. W.	DCM	Distinguished War Service	4264	11	July 1940
WOII	Page W. W.	DCM	Distinguished War Service	4264	11	July 1940
CQMS	White C. F.	DCM	Distinguished War Service	4264	11	July 1940
Sgt	Dearlove W.	DCM	Distinguished War Service	4264	11	July 1940
Sgt	Stanley G. A.	DCM	Distinguished War Service	4264	11	July 1940
WOII	Lundie R. T.	DCM	Recent Operations	5076	20	August 1940
Sgt	Legge P. D.	DCM	Recent Operations	5076	20	August 1940
Sgt	Burke T.	DCM	Gallant Conduct	6115	22	October 1940
Sgt	Wells L. J.	DCM	Gallant Conduct	6115	22	October 1940
Sig	Wheelwright H.	DCM	Gallant Conduct	6115	22	October 1940
Sig	Herring D. W.	DCM	Distinguished Service	6802	29	November 1940
LSgt	Jones W.	DCM	Middle East	895	24	February 1942
Sgt	Romaines J. R.	DCM	Middle East	864	18	February 1943
LCpl	Wilkinson J.	DCM	North Africa	2720	15	June 1943
LSgt	Brand J. E.	DCM		36436	23	March 1944
LSgt	Phllips P. D.	DCM	Service in Italy	36477	20	April 1944
Sig	Stewart D.	DCM	Service in Italy	36477	20	April 1944
Sig	Stephenson L. N.	DCM		36605	13	July 1944
WOII	Brooke H.	DCM		36876	4	January 1945
Sgt	Robey K. D.	DCM		36876	4	January 1945
LSgt	Smith E. O.	DCM	Burma and East India	36928	8	February 1945
LCpl	Hoggett W.	DCM		36983	13	March 1945
Cpl	Monks C. E.	DCM	Burma	36994	22	March 1945
Sig	Rodriguez F. E.	DCM		37138	21	June 1945
WOII	Ryan W. M. P.	DCM		37204	2	August 1945
Sgt	Laybourne H. D.	DCM		37204	2	August 1945
CQMS	Chatterley C. A. A.	DCM		37213	9	August 1945
Sgt	Scott K. A. J.	DCM		37213	9	August 1945
LSgt	Gilhespie D. S. J.	DCM		37310	16	October 1945
Cpl	Greenhalgh J. S.	DCM		37321	25	October 1945
Sgt	Tracey A. H.	DCM		37368	29	November 1945
Sig	Cross J.	DCM		38079	25	September 1947
Sgt	Townsend M. K.	DCM	Oman	46919	12	June 1976
Sig	Tinto R. H.	GM	Gallantry	3019	27	May 1941
Lt	Hutley D. S. A.	GM	Conspicuous Gallantry	4825	6	November 1942
Lt	Cox R. A.	GM		37113	8	June 1945
Sgt	Hooper G.	GM		37113	8	June 1945
Sig	Barnett G.	MM	Burma—Bravery in the Field	8133	20	December 1932
Sig	Smith P. C.	MM	Mohmand—Bravery in the Field	7165	12	November 1935
LCpl	Hurst J. W.	MM	Waziristan 17/1-15/9/1937	7998	21	December 1937
Sig	Hooper M.	MM	Waziristan 17/1-15/9/1937	7998	21	December 1937
Sig	Downing G. H.	MM	North West Frontier	6500	18	October 1938
LCpl	Farry J.	MM	Recent Operations	6563	26	September 1939
Sig	Barr T.	MM	Recent Operations	7949	24	November 1939
Sig	Gregory A.	MM	Gallant and Distinguished Service	4072	5	July 1940
Sgt	Goldsmith T. W.	MM	Recent Operations	4265	11	July 1940
LSgt	Beevers H.	MM	Distinghished War Service	4265	11	July 1940
Cpl	Alexander A.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4265	11	July 1940
Cpl	Burnside L.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4265	11	July 1940
Cpl	Gilling E.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4265	11	July 1940
Cpl	Lawson G.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4265	11	July 1940
LCpl	Halford L.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4265	11	July 1940
Sig	Ashford A.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Baker L. A.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Bonsall E. J.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Shelmerdine F. L.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Coson A.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Dean G. E.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Fish A. R.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Haworth A.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Hough T. F.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Hussey F. G.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Latham J. T.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	MacAlister J. C.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Mullard J. H.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Thompson T.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Dvr	Watkinson L. H.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Wilson J. W.	MM	Distinguished War Service	4266	11	July 1940
Sig	Mammone L.	MM	Norway	4790	6	August 1940
Sgt	Turner C. A.	MM	Recent Operations	5077	20	August 1940
Cpl	Mitchell W.	MM	Recent Operations	5077	20	August 1940
Cpl	Taylor J.	MM	Recent Operations	5077	20	August 1940
LCpl	Costigane P.	MM	Recent Operations	5077	20	August 1940
Sig	Morris J. S.	MM	Recent Operations	5077	20	August 1940
Sig	Rowland-Jones I.	MM	Recent Operations	5077	20	August 1940
Cpl	Bennett J. H. (TA)	MM	Recent Operations	5203	27	August 1940
LCpl	Bennett E. Sup Reserve	MM	Recent Operations	5203	27	August 1940
LCpl	Hardy B. T. (TA)	MM	Recent Operations	5203	27	August 1940
LCpl	Burke D.	MM	Distinguished War Service	5327	3	September 1940
Sig	Cotton W.	MM	Distinguished War Service	5327	3	September 1940
LCpl	Lingwood R. L. (TA)	MM	Gallant Conduct	6116	22	October 1940
Sig	Cross J. A. Sup Reserve	MM	Gallant Conduct	6116	22	October 1940
Sig	Evans T. W. Sup Reserve	MM	Gallant Conduct	6116	22	October 1940
LCpl	Williams B. J.	MM	France/Flanders	7174	20	December 1940
Sig	Muckle W. A.	MM	France/Flanders	7174	20	December 1940
Sig	Evans J.	MM	Gallant Conduct	7199	20	December 1940
Sig	Gill W. B.	MM	Gallant Conduct	7200	20	December 1940
Sig	Mouncey A. J.	MM	Gallant Conduct	7200	20	December 1940

Sig	Pendleton G. R.	MM	Gallant Conduct	7200	20 December 1940
Cpl	Burr G.	MM	Distinguished Services	1349	7 March 1941
Sgt	Pape J. W.	MM	Middle East Aug 1939-Nov 1940	1869	1 April 1941
Sgt	Peacock A. L.	MM	Middle East Aug 1939-Nov 1940	1869	1 April 1941
Sig	Spreadbury A. E. P.	MM	Middle East Aug 1939-Nov 1940	1869	1 April 1941
Cpl	Flowers J. G.	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Sig	Anchell H.	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Sig	Bicker S. G.	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Sig	Morrison J.	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Sig	Robertson D. G.	MM	Middle East	2347	25 April 1941
Cpl	Lawrence B.	MM	Middle East Dec 1940-Feb 1941	3884	8 July 1941
LCpl	Briggs J. W.	MM	Middle East	4111	18 July 1941
Sig	MacDonald L.	MM	Middle East	6359	4 November 1941
Cpl	Hubbard F. L. V.	MM	Middle East	7337	30 December 1941
Sig	Turner B. E.	MM	Middle East	7337	30 December 1941
Sig	Allan J. H.	MM	Middle East	7337	30 December 1941
LCpl	Lenthall A.	MM	Middle East	704	12 February 1942
Sig	Glegg N. H.	MM	Middle East	704	12 February 1942
Sgt	White R. J.	MM	Middle East	897	24 February 1942
LSgt	Plant F. S.	MM	Middle East	897	24 February 1942
LCpl	Lobb S. H.	MM	Middle East	897	24 February 1942
Sgt	Howard N.	MM	Middle East	1965	16 April 1942
Cpl	Halley A.	MM	Middle East	1965	16 April 1942
Sgt	Allaway S. D.	MM	Middle East	3545	13 August 1942
LCpl	Howard G.	MM	Middle East	3545	13 August 1942
Sig	Evans R. M.	MM	Middle East	3545	13 August 1942
Sgt	Blair A. J.	MM	Middle East	3950	9 September 1942
Cpl	Bevan G. J.	MM	Middle East	3950	9 September 1942
LSgt	Finney J.	MM	Middle East	4156	24 September 1942
Cpl	Evan D. J. V.	MM	Middle East	4156	24 September 1942
LCpl	Taylor J.	MM	Middle East	4156	24 September 1942
Cpl	Tarves R. A.	MM	Middle East	4480	15 October 1942
Cpl	Randall S. C.	MM	Middle East	4480	15 October 1942
LCpl	Evans O.	MM	Middle East	4480	15 October 1942
Sig	Lewry R. W.	MM	Middle East	4480	15 October 1942
Cpl	Green G. A.	MM	Distinguished Services	4689	28 October 1942
Sig	Fromberg C.	MM	Middle East	4796	5 November 1942
Cpl	Langmaid R. R. F.	MM	Middle East	5142	26 November 1942
Sig	Brandreth S.	MM	Middle East	5142	26 November 1942
Cpl	Kerr L. C.	MM	Middle East	5666	31 December 1942
Sig	Thompson A.	MM	Middle East	5666	31 December 1942
Sig	Wilson E.	MM	Middle East	5666	31 December 1942
LSgt	Nelson C.	MM	Middle East	321	14 January 1943
Sig	Anstey L. E.	MM	Middle East	526	28 January 1943
Sig	Kennedy A.	MM	Middle East	526	28 January 1943
Sig	Lees J. S.	MM	Middle East	526	28 January 1943
Cpl	Bishton T. F. S.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Cpl	Dixton T.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Cpl	Lockyer R. I.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Cpl	Turrell F. C.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	Sherratt H. A.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
LCpl	Aldridge F. J.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	Caladine J.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	Cobley I. P. T.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	Eastel S. F.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	Ferguson RM	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Sig	Gibson A. C.	MM	Middle East	866	18 February 1943
Cpl	Arnold C.	MM	Middle East	966	25 February 1943
Cpl	Best R. H.	MM	Middle East	966	25 February 1943
Sig	Harrison R.	MM	Middle East	966	25 February 1943
Sig	Turnball J.	MM	Middle East	966	25 February 1943
Sig	Bennett R. W.	MM	Middle East	1299	18 March 1943
Cpl	Fuller A. F.	MM	North Africa	1846	22 April 1943
Sig	Buck L.	MM	North Africa	1846	22 April 1943
Sgt	Clarke E.	MM	Middle East	1996	4 May 1943
LSgt	Barratt C. G.	MM	Middle East	1996	4 May 1943
Cpl	Ames G. F.	MM	Middle East	1966	4 May 1943
Sgt	MacKenzie T.	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LSgt	Hebdon J. E.	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
Cpl	Robinson A. T.	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
Sig	Tottman W.	MMj	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LCpl	LLoyd R. C.	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LCpl	Mott F. T.	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LCpl	Raine J. J.	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
LCpl	Sales T. W.	MM	Middle East	2761	17 June 1943
Sig	Sutherland W.	MM	East Africa/Madagascar	3087	8 July 1943
LCpl	Plaster R.	MM	East Africa/Madagascar	3088	8 July 1943
Cpl	Coull W. W.	MM	Middle East	3314	22 July 1943
Sig	Hunter D.	MM	Middle East	3314	22 July 1943
Cpl	Goodchild M. T. R.	MM	Middle East	3723	19 August 1943
LCpl	Moore R. W.	MM	Middle East	3723	19 August 1943
Sig	Jones K.	MM	Middle East	3723	19 August 1943
LCpl	Howard R.	MM	Middle East	3819	26 August 1943
Sgt	Wilson H. M.	MM	North Africa	4219	23 September 1943
Cpl	Allison J.	MM	North Africa	4219	23 September 1943
Cpl	Kemp A. F.	MM	North Africa	4219	23 September 1943
Sig	Harriman J.	MM	North Africa	4219	23 September 1943
Cpl	Irons R.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	Law V.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
LSgt	Frampton H. F. J.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
LSgt	Pritchard S. J.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	Harding J. H.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	Moss H.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	Nicholls J.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	Shaw R. I.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	White M. P.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
Cpl	Wratten G. J. D.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
LCpl	MacDonald C. J.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
LCpl	Mayston R. B.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
Sig	Molloy H.	MM	North Africa	4547	14 October 1943
LSgt	Roy J.	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
LCpl	Crockett A.	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
Sig	Boyd T. P.	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
Sig	Horton P. J.	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
Sig	Searle S.	MM	Sicily	4663	21 October 1943
Cpl	Dowles E. A.	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
LCpl	Harris D. C. F.	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
LCpl	Harvey A. M.	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
LCpl	Morans J. McA.	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
LCpl	Occomore C. D.	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
Sig	Geeves W. C. A.	MM	Sicily	5063	18 November 1943
Sgt	Barnes E.	MM	Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
LSgt	Crowther W. M.	MM	Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
Cpl	Dawes E. H.	MM	Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
Sig	Hagan C.	MM	Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
LCpl	Woodcock H. J. C.	MM	Middle East	5174	25 November 1943
Sgt	Sherwood W. F.	MM	Distinguished Service Waziristan	5374	9 December 1943
Sig	MacIntyre P.	MM	Burma	5473	16 December 1943
Cpl	Wilson T. F.	MM	Sicily	5573	23 December 1943
LSgt	Lewis H. H.	MM	Service in Italy	36349	27 January 1944
WOI	Smith S.	MM		36358	3 February 1944
Sgt	Willmott L. R. D.	MM		36358	3 February 1944
Cpl	Jones R. C.	MM		36358	3 February 1944
Cpl	Whitby J. G.	MM		36358	3 February 1944
Sgt	Potterton C. V.	MM	Service in Italy	36371	10 February 1944
Sig	Lloyd F. S.	MM	Service in Italy	36371	10 February 1944
Sig	Glancy J.	MM	Distinguished Service in the Field	36382	17 February 1944
Cpl	Savage G. H. R.	MM	Service in Italy	36394	24 February 1944
Cpl	Mitchell H. L.	MM	Service in Italy	36394	24 February 1944
Cpl	Irles G. E.	MM	Service in Italy	36415	9 March 1944
LCpl	Bleakley H.	MM	Service in Sicily	36436	23 March 1944
Cpl	Willacy H. W.	MM	Service in Sicily	36436	23 March 1944

Sig	Eaglesfield R. W.	MM		Service in Sicily	36436	23 March 1944
Cpl	Morrison W. H.	MM			36436	23 March 1944
Sgt	Prowlin A.	MM		Service in Italy	36456	6 April 1944
Sig	Gill J. E.	MM			36486	27 April 1944
Sig	Markey J.	MM			36486	27 April 1944
Sgt	Ducker C. W. L.	MM		Services in Burma	36518	18 May 1944
LSgt	Liptrot H.	MM		Services in Burma	36518	18 May 1944
LCpl	Mawer H.	MM		Services in Burma	36518	18 May 1944
LSgt	Thornton J. F.	MM			36563	15 June 1944
LCpl	Hyslop F.	MM			36563	15 June 1944
Sig	Hudson B. W.	MM			36563	15 June 1944
WOII	Phillips A. L.	MM			36563	15 June 1944
Cpl	Lane J.	MM			36563	15 June 1944
Cpl	Hamilton G.	MM			36563	15 June 1944
Sig	Dale F.	MM			36563	15 June 1944
Sig	Evans J. E.	MM			36563	15 June 1944
LCpl	Smith G.	MM			36586	29 June 1944
Sig	Cooke E. O.	MM			36586	29 June 1944
Cpl	Sutherland G. P.	MM			36586	29 June 1944
Sgt	Brown L. O.	MM			36605	13 July 1944
LSgt	Kingsbury R. E.	MM			36605	13 July 1944
LSgt	Waterman J. R.	MM			36605	13 July 1944
Sig	Harkin P. J.	MM			36637	3 August 1944
Sig	McCallum J.	MM			36637	3 August 1944
Sig	O'Neil J. B.	MM			36637	3 August 1944
LSgt	Oldroyd F.	MM			36637	3 August 1944
LCpl	Walden H. R.	MM			36637	3 August 1944
Cpl	Dabner S. J.	MM			36668	24 August 1944
Sig	Ball T.	MM			36668	24 August 1944
Cpl	Eastham M. M.	MM			36668	24 August 1944
Sgt	Nation L. G.	MM			36668	24 August 1944
Sig	Warburton R.	MM			36668	24 August 1944
LCpl	Bennett R. W.	MM	(Bar)	Normandy	36670	31 August 1944
LSgt	Richards L. E.	MM		Normandy	36679	31 August 1944
Cpl	Hanlan J. L.	MM		Normandy	36679	31 August 1944
Cpl	Waters T.	MM		Normandy	36679	31 August 1944
LCpl	Bowstead D. A.	MM		Normandy	36679	31 August 1944
LCpl	Redshaw E. A.	MM		Normandy	36679	31 August 1944
Sig	Grimshaw L.	MM		Normandy	36679	31 August 1944
Sig	McGregor A. M.	MM		Normandy	36679	31 August 1944
Sig	Redden J.	MM		Burma	36679	31 August 1944
WOII	Hughes G. H.	MM			36699	14 September 1944
Sgt	Bell H. J.	MM			36699	14 September 1944
Cpl	Duncan J. D.	MM			36699	14 September 1944
Sig	Morris J.	MM			36699	14 September 1944
Sig	Sutton M. M.	MM			36730	5 October 1944
Sgt	Johnstone A.	MM			36730	5 October 1944
Sig	Lawson A.	MM			36730	5 October 1944
Cpl	Bulbuck F. W.	MM			36753	19 October 1944
Cpl	Devereux M.	MM			36753	19 October 1944
Cpl	Foster E. A.	MM			36753	19 October 1944
LCpl	White G. H.	MM			36753	19 October 1944
LCpl	Woolgar J.	MM			36753	19 October 1944
Sgt	Roberts F. T.	MM			36764	26 October 1944
LCpl	Causer J. A.	MM			36764	26 October 1944
Sig	Shackleton E.	MM			36764	26 October 1944
Sgt	Patterson J. I.	MM			36785	9 November 1944
Sig	Tolhurst E. G.	MM			36785	9 November 1944
Sgt	Court P. A. A.	MM			36785	9 November 1944
LCpl	Bagley R. H.	MM			36828	7 December 1944
Sig	Borden D. R.	MM			36828	7 December 1944
Sgt	Bullerwell T.	MM		Italy	36850	21 December 1944
LSgt	Lowe R.	MM		North West Europe	36850	21 December 1944
Cpl	Lucas H.	MM		North West Europe	36850	21 December 1944
Cpl	Ploughman E.	MM		North West Europe	36850	21 December 1944
Sgt	Elliott E. J.	MM		North West Europe	36850	21 December 1944

Sig	Charleston J. H.	MM	Burma	36876	4 January 1945
Sig	Ward A. E.	MM	Burma	36876	4 January 1945
Sgt	Weatherley A. W. G.	MM		36876	4 January 1945
LSgt	Richardson A.	MM		36917	1 February 1945
LSgt	Reed L. R.	MM		36917	1 February 1945
Sgt	Beautyman J. E.	MM	Burma and East India	36928	8 February 1945
Cpl	Priddle G. E.	MM	Burma and East India	36928	8 February 1945
LCpl	Thorpe A. B.	MM	Burma and East India	36928	8 February 1945
WOI	Gulliford D. A.	MM	Burma and East India	36928	8 February 1945
Cpl	Quy R. J.	MM	Burma and East India	36928	8 February 1945
Sig	Hammond F. P.	MM	Burma and East India	36928	8 February 1945
Sig	Sewell J. J.	MM	Burma and East India	36928	8 February 1945
CQMS	Wride R.	MM	Burma and East India	36928	8 February 1945
Sgt	Miles D.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
Sgt	Millar J.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
LSgt	Pattinson T. O.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
LSgt	Taylor H.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
Cpl	Stockdale R. D. B.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
LCpl	Donaldson G. S.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
LCpl	Speller F. J.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
Sig	Carmichael A.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
Sig	Dand J.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
Sig	Nowrse G.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
Sig	MacDonald A.	MM	North West Europe	36961	1 March 1945
LCpl	Frost J.	MM	Italy	36972	8 March 1945
LCpl	Holder J. M.	MM	Italy	36972	8 March 1945
CQMS	MacDonnell D. A.	MM		36983	13 March 1945
Cpl	Stevenson H. W.	MM		36983	13 March 1945
Sgt	Graveling J. J.	MM	North West Europe	36994	22 March 1945
LCpl	Christy G. N.	MM	North West Europe	36994	22 March 1945
Cpl	Danger D. L.	MM	North West Europe	37004	29 March 1945
Sig	Brice S. P.	MM	North West Europe	37004	29 March 1945
Sig	Etherington P. D.	MM	North West Europe	37004	29 March 1945
LCpl	Miles R. W.	MM		37027	12 April 1945
LSgt	McIntosh J.	MM		37039	19 April 1945
LSgt	Edwards L. J.	MM		37039	19 April 1945
Cpl	Goodman L. G.	MM		37039	19 April 1945
Cpl	Granger L.	MM		37039	19 April 1945
LCpl	Herd E.	MM		37039	19 April 1945
Sig	Arnold L. J.	MM		37039	19 April 1945
Sig	Laycock E. F.	MM		37051	26 April 1945
Sgt	Dodd H. C. V.	MM	Burma	37051	26 April 1945
Sgt	Andrewatha A. E.	MM	North West Europe	37061	3 May 1945
CQMS	Grattage S.	MM		37072	10 May 1945
LSgt	Smart J. B.	MM		37112	7 June 1945
Cpl	Lord A.	MM		37112	7 June 1945
LCpl	Oscroft W. R.	MM		37112	7 June 1945
Sig	Tebbett L. W.	MM		37112	7 June 1945
Cpl	Firth E.	MM	North West Europe	37138	21 June 1945
Cpl	Firth J. W.	MM	North West Europe	37138	21 June 1945
Sgt	Beeching T. J.	MM		37138	21 June 1945
Sgt	Ryder N.	MM		37138	21 June 1945
Cpl	Lawrence C . F.	MM	North West Europe	37138	21 June 1945
Cpl	Watson T.	MM	Italy	37138	21 June 1945
Cpl	Hadnett R. W. J.	MM	France/Flanders 1940	37138	21 June 1945
CQMS	Menzies J. S. S.	MM		37138	21 June 1945
Sgt	Sowden A. C. B.	MM		37138	21 June 1945
Sgt	Cottrell L.	MM	Burma	37151	28 June 1945
LSgt	Hunt F. F.	MM	Burma	37151	28 Junbe 1945
Cpl	Ferguson A. M.	MM	Burma	37151	28 June 1945
Cpl	Jones F.	MM	Burma	37151	28 June 1945
Cpl	Waite J. V.	MM		37151	28 June 1945
LCpl	Booth G. T.	MM		37151	28 June 1945
LCpl	Bussey B. T.	MM		37151	28 June 1945
LCpl	Flint A. R.	MM		37151	28 June 1945
Sig	Gardener G. W.	MM		37151	28 June 1945

Sig	Swire L.	MM		37151	28 June 1945
Sig	Ward H. R.	MM		37151	28 June 1945
Sgt	Sanger R. W.	MM	Burma	37151	28 June 1945
Cpl	Glassford J. S.	MM	North West Europe	37172	12 July 1945
Cpl	Landau E. J.	MM		37172	12 July 1945
LCpl	MacDougall A.	MM		37172	12 July 1945
Sig	Clarke D.	MM		37172	12 July 1945
Sig	Reilly M.	MM		37172	12 July 1945
Sig	Knight L.	MM		37194	26 July 1945
Sig	Thomas W.	MM		37194	26 July 1945
Cpl	MacLean P.	MM		37235	23 August 1945
Sig	Gregory S. A. E.	MM		37235	23 August 1945
Cpl	Mancock S.	MM		37274	20 September 1945
LCpl	Venables W. E.	MM		37274	20 September 1945
Sig	Nutbeam F. J.	MM		37274	20 September 1945
CQMS	Everitt E.	MM		37293	4 October 1945
Sgt	Pickering W. A.	MM		37293	4 October 1945
Sgt	Scott J. B.	MM		37293	4 October 1945
Cpl	Birch A. W.	MM		37293	4 October 1945
Cpl	McDougall J. Y.	MM		37293	4 October 1945
WOIII	Moonie J. H.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Sgt	Morrison D.	MM	North West Europe	37302	11 October 1945
Sgt	Todd A. S.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
LSgt	Blyth W.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
LSgt	Cairnie J.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
LSgt	Owens L. C.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Cpl	Duguid J.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Cpl	Elliott P.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Cpl	Ellis H. S.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Cpl	Hack J. G. W.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Cpl	Marshall A.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Cpl	Phillips D. G.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
LCpl	Bastabel W. C.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
LCpl	Firth E.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
LCpl	Hoy G. G.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
LCpl	Lassetter F. V.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Sig	Pendell W. F.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Sig	Stephen A.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
Dvr	Reekie D.	MM		37302	11 October 1945
LSgt	Hanson G. A.	MM		37310	16 October 1945
LSgt	Todd J. B. G. C.	MM	Italy	37310	16 October 1945
Sig	Clarke A. H.	MM		37321	25 October 1945
Sig	King R. J.	MM		37321	25 October 1945
Cpl	Jennings W. F.	MM	Italy	37386	13 December 1945
Cpl	Swingler R. C.	MM	Italy	37386	13 December 1945
Sig	Darbyshire H.	MM	Italy	37386	13 December 1945
LCpl	Roberts H. C.	MM	Burma	37433	17 January 1946
Cpl	Buchan C. M.	MM		37433	17 January 1946
LCpl	Hunter R. G.	MM		37433	17 January 1946
Sgt	Fraser A.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
Sgt	Urquart J.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
LSgt	Clyde A.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
Cpl	Handley H. A.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
Cpl	Harvey R. E.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
Cpl	Hehir J. S.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
Cpl	Hepton D. C.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
Cpl	Horle C. E.	MM	Italy	27442	24 January 1946
Cpl	Love A. J.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
Cpl	Parker W. J.	MM	Italy	37442	24 Janaury 1946
Cpl	Youens R. V. T.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
LCpl	Goldring A.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
LCpl	Oudot H. A.	MM	Italy	37442	24 Janaury 1946
Sig	Alliston K.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
Sig	Dilworth F. B.	MM	Italy	37442	24 Janaury 1946
Sig	Rimmer J.	MM	Italy	37442	24 Janaury 1946
Sig	Rowe F.	MM	Italy	37442	24 January 1946
Sgt	Everson R. H.	MM	Italy	37450	31 January 1946
Sig	Camplin L. E.	MM	Italy	37450	31 January 1946
LSgt	Lane F. I. H.	MM		37476	21 February 1946
Sgt	Coates C.	MM		37848	28 February 1946
Sgt	Page C. A.	MM	Hong Kong	37521	4 April 1946
Cpl	Scott J. B.	MM	Hong Kong	37521	4 April 1946
Sig	Oliver T.	MM		37536	18 April 1946
Sgt	Handley T. E.	MM	Prisoner of War	37536	18 April 1946
Sgt	Goodall F.	MM		37595	6 June 1946
Sig	Bremner J.	MM		37616	20 June 1946
CQMS	Taylor W. D.	MM		37671	1 August 1946
Sig	Morter D.	MM		38079	25 September 1947
Sig	Wagstaff F. A.	MM		38079	25 September 1947
LCpl	Baker M.	MM	Radfan area of Southern Arabia	43641	4 May 1965
Sgt	Mather J. G.	MM	Falkland Campaign	12851	8 October 1982
Cpl	Brookes T.	MM	Falkland Campaign	12851	8 October 1982
WOI	Tunmore D. T.	QGM	Northern Ireland	47643	18 September 1978
Cpl	Burrows G. R.	QGM	Northern Ireland	4957	12 April 1983
Cpl	Tough B. J.	QGM	Northern Ireland	239	7 January 1986

CBE OPERATIONAL

Col	Phillips L. G.	CBE	Waziristan	5281	16 August 1938

OBE OPERATIONAL

Maj	Penney W. R. C.	OBE	Shanghai Disturbances	8	2 January 1933
Lt	Hay N. M.	OBE	Waziristan	5282	16 August 1938

MBE OPERATIONAL

Lt	Goadby L. F. R.	MBE	Waziristan	4300	30 May 1924
Lt	Scott W. A.	MBE	Waziristan	4300	30 May 1924
CSM	Todd D.	MBE	North West Frontier	2958	6 May 1932
LSgt	Barry T.	MBE	North West Frontier	4222	3 July 1934
Lt	North J. P.	MBE	Waziristan	7996	21 December 1937
Capt	Penn H. A.	MBE	Distinguished Service	5326	3 September 1940

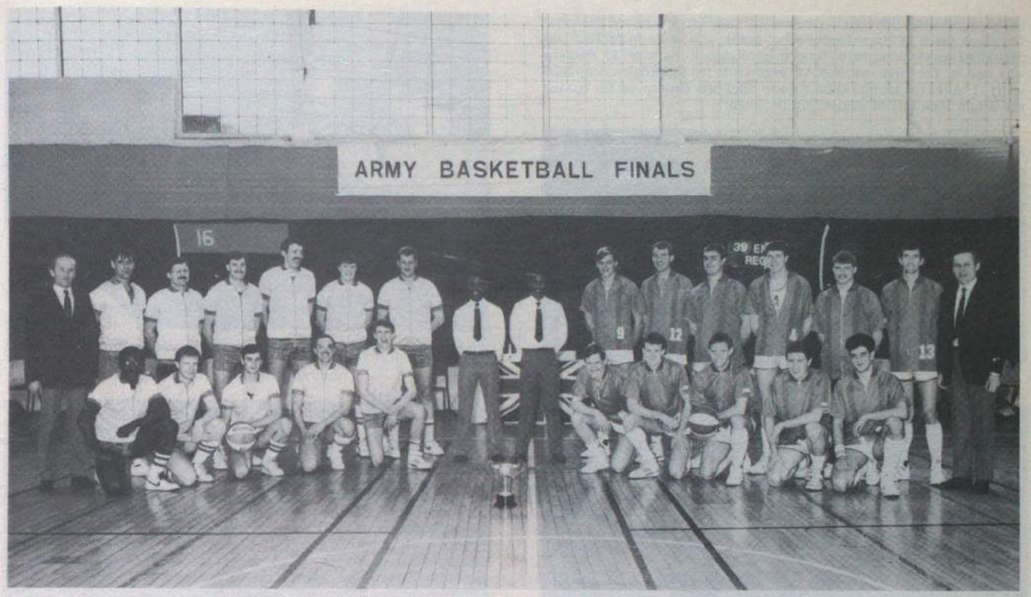
BEM OPERATIONAL

Sgt	Isaac R. R.	BEM	Waziristan	7734	10 December 1937
Sig	Graham G. H.	BEM	Palestine	4596	15 July 1938
Sig	Dodman R. B.	BEM	Palestine	4596	15 July 1938
LSgt	Morcom W. C.	BEM	Gallant Conduct	1428	11 March 1941
LCpl	Nelson R.	BEM	Gallant Conduct	4955	26 August 1941

MSM OPERATIONAL

Discontinued as an operational award after 1928

Sig	Cummings J. T.	MSM	Waziristan	3673	25 May 1923
Cpl	Chimes A. R.	MSM	Waziristan	4305	30 May 1924
Sig	Lister J. H.	MSM	Waziristan	4305	30 May 1924
Sig	Shilton E. D.	MSM	Waziristan	4305	30 May 1934
LSgt	Lambert N. V.	MSM	Waziristan	1769	13 March 1925
LCpl	Dickinson E. J.	MSM	Waziristan	1046	15 February 1927



16 Sig Regt and 39 Engr Regt Basketball Teams before the Army Final began

VISIT TO 40 FD REGT RA
By Pte Lisa Cook

Our day started early, most of us rising after only a few hours sleep (must have been the excitment). We eventually arrived at Hohne only thanks to **Pte Nikki Watson**, as they'd changed the roads at their end. We found the lads of 40 Fd Regt on exercise and firing their guns. After being greeted by **Lt Patrick Hickey** and armed with ear-defenders we were allocated a gun each. Not having been close to large guns before I think we were all quite impressed. All in all an interesting and enjoyable day was had by all. Best of luck in Canada and thanks to everyone who looked after us so well.

The Trainee Gunners of 4 Sqn, *From L to R:* Pte Donna McCullough, Pte Jackie Wood, LCpl Sue Peacock BSM, Pte Ruth Taylor, LCpl Rhianan Thomas, Pte Lisa Cook, Pte Nikki Watson, Pte Tracey Lissimore, Pte Mandy Stenner

2 SQUADRON
INTERNATIONAL MARCH AND SHOOT

On Saturday 9 May the Officers and SNCO's willingly volunteered to take part in an International March and Shoot competition at Stommelerbrusch.

Three teams were entered: The Hares, the Middle Team, and the Old and Bold led by **Maj Peter Jones**. The first part of the competition was the shoot. The weapons used for this were the German equivalents of the SLR and the Browning pistol, namely the G3 and P1 respectively. The SNCO's did not fare too well, but the officers, (led from the top) fared even worse. Then followed a 10km march under a scorching midday sun, which proved to be a gruelling test of stamina. At the end of the day there was the usual tally of blisters but no one could rival cuts to the cheek sustained in a fall by **Sgt Dave Burgess**. However, the pain was soon soothed away. The day was for the families too; they joined the weary competitors afterwards at a

barbecue. At the prize-giving ceremony the Hares received the prize for third place in the Allied Forces event, whilst **Lt Max Tait** was presented with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of the fact that she was one of the first two WRAC ever to enter this male-dominated sport. Thanks (or blame) should go to **SSgt Stu Thompson** for having the bright idea (!!) of suggesting the event.

Before . . . the pre-event photo call

Maj Peter Jones receiving a debrief on how to improve next time. SSgt Stu Thompson (rear) does not look too impressed with the Boss' performance

The successful 2 Sqn team: *(rear left-right)*SSgt Tony Singleton, Sgt John Hiorns, SSgt Chris Parry-Davies, *(front left-right)* Lt Neil Dewar and Lt John Williams

The cook boys: *(left-right)* Sgt Dave Burgess, Capt Eric Heritage, SSgt Stu Thompson and Lt Jon Williams

All because the CO loves . . . Campari. Waiter *(right)* Capt Eric Heritage

JULIET TROOP

After several office moves the last few months J Troop has started business as a part-time removal firm. In between changes the Troop collected a few more wooden spoons in the various Regimental competitions but fared better in the Rugby 7's by finishing as runners-up. The remainder of the time has been taken up with exercises. *Husky Fir* and *Handy Forge*, where it is rumoured **LCpl Clark 'Don't spoil my looks' Stanley-Jones** actually did some work. **Sgt Ivor 'I know everything about Ptarmigan' Bailey** is being recommended for a map reading course after his performance on Ex *Handy Forge*. Congratulations go to **LCpl John Cockburn** and **LCpl Steve 'Smoothie' Brownley** on their recent promotions.

J Troop successful Rugby 7's team:: *(rear left-right)* LCpl Kevin Bausor, Cpls John Phipps, Steve Dickson, LCpl Stanley-Jones, Cpl Mark Hudson *(Front left-right)* Sig Tony Jennings, LCpl Paul Arnold, Sig Dave Copley and Dave Goffin

A whirl in the air in a Gazelle and a look of satisfaction from *(left-right):* Cpl Angie Watts, LCpl Canovan, Pte Heather Hunter and, of course, the willing pilot

3 SQUADRON
F TROOP

Over the last few months the Troop has worked and played very hard, and everybody has shown great team spirit. The Radio Relay vehicles are breeding, thanks to 22 Sig Regt and the staff vehicles normally manned by DTG's are being signed over to SBO's. These too seem to be multiplying daily (the vehicles, not the girls!).

On the sporting scene we have excelled! The hockey team, captained by our Troop OC **Lt Julia Hands** won the L'Estrange Trophy, with good performances from **Sgt 'I'm an all-round sportswoman' Tedby, 'Chinney' Taylor, Cpl 'where's my beer' Murray, LCpl 'Bowsey' Bowes, Sig 'speedy' Richardson, Cpl 'I'm past it' Laws, Cpl 'Big Boy' Blair** and **Pte Tracie Smith**. The rugby and basketball competitions were not such success stories, but overall Foxtrot 'Battery' showed the Regiment what we're made of and the 1986/87 Leicester Trophy is ours! Thanks and congratulations must go to Troop OC **Lt Julia Hands** and **SSgt Bob Taylor** for their work over the last year and we wish them more 'fun and frolics' in their new postings.

Congratulations to **Cpl 'Grommet' Owen** on his recent marriage to **Sally**, and all the best to **Waggy** and **Debbie** for their forthcoming nuptials. Welcome to all the new members of the Troop, too numerous to mention personally . . . there really is more to F Troop than duties, area cleaning and inspections!

Left to Right Back row: LCpl Bowes, Sig Richardson, Sgt Tedby, Cpl Blair
Middle: Cpl Laws, Cpl Murray
In front: Pte Smith, Lt Hands, SSgt Taylor

ALPHA TROOP

Firstly welcome to **2Lt Clewlow, Cpls Simon Naylor, Gordon McKenzie, Andy Finch, Jeff (Zippy) Head, Bill Bunning, LCpl Colin (Stud) Guild** and **Sig Mark Reeves**. Also farewell to **YofS Paul Forryan** complete with kilt, **Sgt Chris Higgins, Cpl Bob McCall, LCpls 'Face' Russell, Martin Swiffen** and **Sig Garth Powell** and **'Gaz' Topping** now both Misters.

Congratulations to **Sig Tug Wilson** and **Tracey** on their recent wedding. Also to **LCpl Mick Leonard** on his recent promotion. Well done also to **Sgt Andy Campbell** on selection for his Yeoman's Course.

The Troop has been kept busy over the past few months with the moving to new garages, CO's Day and Inter Troop Sporting Events—the best result coming in the Basketball as runners up. Better luck next time lads.

The Troop also deployed two detachments to help out with the Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster—one to Emblem and one to the Port of Zeebrugge. It gave the Troop an opportunity to carry out, in operational circumstances, our role of providing communications to the Channel ports.

For some members of the Troop there was never a dull moment, with **Sgt Chris Higgins** and **Sig Tom Wiggen** spending two weeks sun bathing and driving in Sardinia. **Sig Grant Mather** and **Spike Smith** soon to depart to shoot at Bisley.

A family day out to Phantasialand was held which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to **Cpl Jeff (Zippy) Head** for putting it all together. Coming attractions in the Busy Troop Calendar include DCN 038 (again), a Port Exercise and Summer Camp.

4 SQUADRON

THE REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS MEETING
By Pte Natalie Defriend

Nobody likes getting up early, but there we were, 0700 hrs on a very wet and windy morning, on our way to Krefeld for our Regimental Athletics meeting. The team consisted of eight members of 4 Sqn, **Capt Ann Ford, Lt Janette Deans, WO2 (SSM) Liz Lawrence, LCpl Toni Sugden, Pte 'Cliffo' Clifton, Pte Lisa Cook, Pte Helen Davis** and **Pte Natalie Defriend**.

Once we had arrived at Krefeld, we collected our route card and found our way to Willich stadium. The rain, fortunately, had eased off slightly for the first event which was the long jump, and we gained our first win.

In the next event, **Pte 'Cliffo' Clifton** threw an outstanding 22m in the discus. The weather, by this time, had continued to clear up and the rain had stopped. Soon after this we got another first place from **Pte Lisa Cook** in the High Jump at 1.21m.

There were many spectators, all crowded around the control box to get away from the wind. Unfortunately the control box wasn't that big!

Onto the next two events which were the Hurdles and 800m where we gained yet another four points. The points were adding up and the competition was hotting up. By lunchtime 4 Sqn and HQ Sqn were both in the lead with 21 points.

After lunch the sun decided to put in an appearance whilst the 200m was being run. We scored another three points and then we gained another two first places as **SSM Lawrence** threw the Javelin 24m and **LCpl Sugden** won the 400m in a very fast race. No more than 10 minutes later and the next race was run. We gained another two points from the 100m.

HQ Sqn were still very close on our heels when at last it came to the Relay race. This was also a very fast race but we managed to edge out the opposition to finish the day with a total of 41 points.

As the 'Chain of Command race' was being run, the sun gave up on us and the rain came down in torrents. Because the weather got worse, it was decided to return to Bradbury Barracks Gymnasium for the presentation.

Our team Captain and Coach **LCpl Toni Sugden** was presented with the Leicester Cup by **Mrs Lowe** and brought it back to Bielefeld for the second year running.

Front row L to R: Pte 'Cliffo' Clifton, Capt Ann Ford, Pte Natalie Defriend, WO2 (SSM) Liz Lawrence
Second row L to R: Pte Lisa Cook, Lt Janette Deans

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

1 SQUADRON

SPORT

1 Sqn continues to sweep the board in all sporting activities. The Regimental seven-a-side rugby produced a keenly contested final against 3 Sqn. The 'all stars' of 3 Sqn met their 'Waterloo' when the 'old hands' staged a comeback in the second half and ran out convincing winners. **YofS Tom Hall** claims victory was down to his skilful off the ball play in taking out the SSM of 3 Sqn!

The Squadron continue to dominate in athletics with **Cpl Bill Bailey** and **Sig Renwick** sorting out the short and middle distance running. **LCpl Gus Galashan** and **YofS Tom Hall** appear to have the heavy field events well and truly sewn up.

Even cricket is not beyond us and **Cpl 'Squarehead' Renshaw** and his team, against all odds, convincingly won the Regimental six-a-side.

WINTEX

Although, now shrouded in the mists of time *Wintex 87* must not go unrecorded. Commcen Quebec entrenched itself in the Roetgen compound and produced the goods. Commcen Command was masterminded by **FofS Mal Allerton** who bolted himself in front of the intercom and the Bruin alarms to issue instructions/chastise technicians/attempt to charm the four DTg's, on loan (only because they were WRAC!). The running of the Commcen site was mastered by **Lt Donna Tognarelli** (she who must be obeyed).

Communications were good, boots fitted and the food was better than hotloks. What more could we ask for?

FAREWELL TO OUR SSM

WO2 (SSM) Jimmy Neil has been with the Squadron since the New Year. He leaves in late June on posting and promotion.

The 'poisoned dwarf' will be missed by all. His task has been made more difficult by having an OC who is blinkered by rugby and water polo and firmly believes that anyone who plays football is suffering from a genetic disorder!

The invasion of Hangar 7 by a 'flock of Tornados' from Laarbruch increased our FOD awareness to such an extent that berets are no longer worn in the hangar. **SSM Neil** when faced with this 'beret less' Squadron briefly considered cap badges tattooed on their foreheads! This appealed to the Linemen but was greeted with less enthusiasm by our 'delicate' technicians who claimed it would interfere with their sauna and solarium sessions since the body must be brown and beautiful and with no visible blemishes! At least that was **Cpl 'Tufty' Tushingham's** excuse!

SSM Neil is soon to be the RSM of 13 Sig Regt, which fills the 'criminal element' of the Squadron with despair . . . they were hoping he could be posted much further away from Wildenrath!

2 SQN (FW)

D TROOP

EXERCISE *HANDY FORGE*

D Troop deployed on the first Harrier exercise of the year in May—Ex *Handy Forge*. It started off as usual with 2 Sqn's assets deploying early because of a ban on road movement on 1 May. After a tiring four and a half hour journey we stopped for a meal provided by Little Chef Trunk Node 037 run by **Pte Paul Reid** and ably assisted by **LCpl Andy Sells**. We finally moved into location in the early hours of the morning and soon got bedded down in readiness to open the comms office the next morning.

However, it wasn't the cheerful chirping of birds that awoke us but something quite different. As the sound of pop music blasted out of a rather large ghetto blaster on wheels, heads poked out of tents to see what on earth was going on. As it was May Day a group of students, with beer crates in tow, had stumbled on us in search of a barbecue site. With the arrival of some pretty young ladies the lads weren't slow in getting to grips with Anglo-German relations. We'd like to think that the ladies gained a favourable impression of the British soldier.

Unfortunately for the crew of the switch things weren't looking so good. After nine months of unfailing service the switch had decided to give up the ghost and join the other switches in the sky. **Cpl 'Smudge' Smith** was in his normal position—40,000ft, rising and no sign of coming down. At one stage we were going for the record of how many techs you can fit into the back of a switch.

Cpl Rob Dunseith and **LCpl Kenny Kitchin** were heard to point out to the OC Squadron, over a cup of tea, that it was all above their heads, which accounted for the fact that they were lying on their beds! Once the switch was fixed or replaced they'd quite happily get comms back in. Two days and a lot of cups of tea later comms were established.

The rest of the exercise was quiet except for a minor disagreement on Radio Relay Delta. A good partnership had to be dissolved when 6ft 5in 16 stone **Sig Steve 'Boss' Hogg** took 5ft 6in 11 stone **Sig Tim Knowles** for free flying lessons. Fortunately for **Sig Tim Knowles** he landed on his head so no damage was done. He did spend the rest of the exercise at Flying Site 4 trying to pick up some tips on how the real pilots and planes do it.

WELCOME

The Troop would like to say welcome to **Cpl Derek Clifford** who joins us from 11 Sig Regt and also to **LCpl Andy Sells** who comes from 4 Div.

Finally welcome back to **Sig Brian 'Monty' Montague** who has returned from his four month's holiday in the south. So it's now lots of running and get your coveralls on as there are springs to be done.

3 SQN

H TROOP (RAF BRUGGEN)

BUSY FIVE MONTHS

The last five months have proved a very busy time for all in the troop. January, February and March was the period where RAF Bruggen, the operational airbase we support, was evaluated. This evaluation takes the form of three exercises in which every part of the station is tested by DS to prove whether or not the station can fulfill its entire role efficiently.

Not only does the massive ASM cable network and our varied communications systems come under close scrutiny, but all personnel are tested on their individual military skills including NBC. NBC suits are worn throughout the week long exercises with only short periods of respite where respirators are not used. These evaluations start with station personnel providing DS, the next test with personnel from other stations providing the DS and finally the full blown NATO Tactical evaluation team. We can report that, due to the hard work and long hours put in by all Troop personnel, the ground communications passed the evaluation with honours.

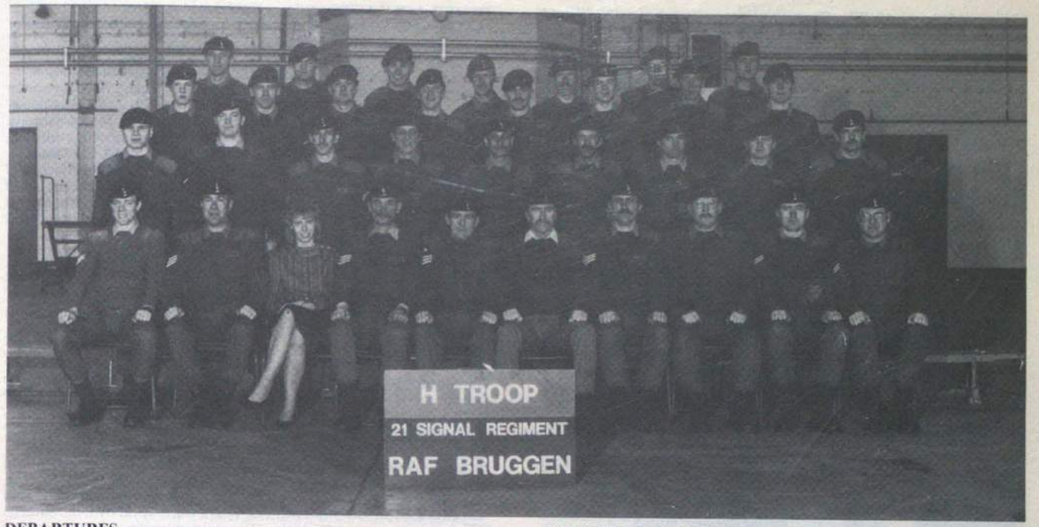
PROJECTS—FIBRE OPTIC SYSTEMS FIRST IN THE WORLD

At the same time as we prepared for the Taceval, our project team started to instal the communications required for a battle readiness computer system project. To date this project has required some 400 man days of work.

The project required civilian contractors to build a ducted system. The cable feeds on the airfield were fed by fibre optic cables. All terminals are fed from the multiplexer boxes on short haul fibre optic cables.

The main feeds installed have utilised a brand new system pioneered by British Telecom called 'Blown Fibre'. The system blows fibre bundles down tubes installed in the duct system by the use of compressed air. This method removes the dangers that are inherent in the conventional method of pulling cables through ducts. H Troop are the first to use this system either in the services or outside the UK.

This brand new technology required our trandesmen to attend courses and carry out on-the-job training. It is pleasing to see that the average telemech can easily cope with this Hi Tech work and in a limited time produce a better standard of work than the 'British Telecom experts' who visited us for quality control assistance. The above work has meant we have been the top of the visit list. It has been suggested by **Cpl Nigel Dix** that we are renamed Demonstration Troop. Whilst the above work was under way, the remainder of the troop was kept busy on other major projects, like SEMA SAMA. The maintenance team have also been actively employed maintaining some of our 200 plus miles of UG cabling.



DEPARTURES

This month it is time to say farewell to **WO2 (newly promoted) John Dent** and his wife **Marie** who leave us for 4 Div. Watch out 3 Sqn. Also **Cpl Neil Buckingham** and **Angie** to 28 Sig Regt, **LCpl Stu Nicholson and Susan** to NI and **Mrs Helen Snowdon** (ex Troop Clerk) who will always be remembered with affection by this Troop.

ARRIVALS

Hello this month to **SSgt Steve Hilton** (have canoe will travel) and his wife **Debbie, LCpl John Egan** and **Sue, LCpl 'Max Headroom' Maxwell, Sig Chris Alger** and **Lorraine, Jacko Jackson** and **Mrs Sue Pierce** (new Troop Clerk).

Welcome also to our detachment from the LAD, REME, Cfn **'Smudge' Smith**. Apparently our vehicles are in such a state that they may not make it to Wildenrath!

BOMB DAMAGE REPAIR (BDR)

As a reward for their dedication to duty (zzzzzz), endurance to physical inactivity and reaction to effective enemy cable damage the following people are awarded the BDR 1,000 hrs badge. **Cpl 'Jizzer' Gorman, LCpl 'Stookie' Nicolson, Sigs 'Paramedic' Miller, 'patient' Wareham** and **'Jizzbox' Rushworth**. This much coveted award is in the post (please note Mrs Cullis of ACPO).

UNIDENTIFIED FLOATING MASTS

Despite serious warnings given by **LCpl Maxwell** there is still a tendency to over-inflate the 40ft clark mast. According to **'Max'** there is a danger of the mast actually lifting off the ground and floating. He also stated that if the mast is tied down then it is prone to snapping in half.

Do not ignore this warning, it is the result of many years of experience. If you sight a UFM report it to Air Traffic Control immediately as it may prove to be a hazard to low flying aircraft.

SPORTS

The Troop football team is back on the road to success after a few impressive wins in recent friendly matches. Currently our Sunday league team is a joint concern with the RAF 'Siggies'. It is hoped that we can field a full H Troop team next season.

Will the OC Troop manage the team or is he going to try for another season in the major league (Regiment)?

N TROOP (RAF GUTERSLOH)

N TROOP

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Gary Mason BEM**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Nigel Grant**
IC Projects	**Sgt Steve Gerrish**
IC Maint	**Sgt Dave James**
IC Techs	**Sgt Rob Frape**
Tp Clerk	**Maria Wilkinson**

CAPT E. J. P. KELLETT

After a short tour as OC N Tp we say farewell to **Capt Eddie Kellett** and his wife **Ruby. Capt Kellett** leaves us on promotion. There is truth in the rumour that the fishing in and around his next spot is far superior to that of the Ems canal. Best wishes to you both from all troop members.

CAPT G. J. MASON BEM

On 23 April **Capt Gary Mason** arrived on Station to take up his new appointment as OC N Tp. He arrived in Gutersloh on commissioning having been formerly RSM 33 Sig Regt (V). All members of the Troop take this opportunity to wish the new OC and his wife **Pauline** an enjoyable and interesting tour with the Troop.

MOVEMENTS

April saw not only the return of **SSgt 'Tonka Toy' Grant** from the deep south, but the departure of **Sgt 'Action Man' James** back to MPA. He joins **Cpl 'Budgie' Parrett, LCpl 'Evo' Evans** and **Sig 'Jamo' Hartley**, 3 Troop members already well installed and acclimatised to the Antarctic winter.

ARRIVALS

Fresh from training N Troop ranks have been swelled with the arrival of **Sig 'Bho' Pradhan, 'Harty' Hart** and **'Skid' Ingram.**

DEPARTURES

Sig 'Richy' Rich having served his time as Troop storeman is now moving and with a well earned promotion to sunny Celle. Whereas **Sig 'Quasi' Meade** departs to the sunny climate of Central America on completing his B1 course in Catterick, accompanied by **Sig 'Baby' Longden.**

On the sporting scene, **Cpl 'Scouse' Sartorius** has been touring Germany in the recent RCZ and BAOR Rugby 7's giving sterling performances in both competitions in the Regimental team, but unfortunately being knocked out of the semi-finals in both events.

At Station level N Troop team up with EES for representation in the Station Commander's Cup.

On 20 April **Cpl 'Ernie' Wise, LCpl 'Roy' Gradwell** and **Sig 'Bho' Pradhan** assisted EES to a good result in the Cross Country event. The team now holds an overall third place in the competition with the next round of Hockey to be played on 20 May. **LCpl 'Roy' Gradwell, Sig 'Paddy' Keenan** and **'Lucky' Luckhurst** are the Troop's star players.

SPECIAL NOTICE

During a recent Station *Minival* Exercise a certain key installation was overrun by terrorists. (In fact it was the Officers' Mess manager.) The usual Exercise play followed with threats to blow up the building and to shoot the surviving Squadron Leader. Unbeknown to all, a highly deadly N Troop hit team lay undetected within the same building.

At H hour minus 3 minutes this team led by **Cpl 'Taff' Davies, Sig 'Fred' Ponting** and **Sig 'Bear' Cooke** went into action. With guns

blazing and shouts of 'Who Dares Wins', terrorists, hostages, di-staff and already declared dead players were wiped out. On the de-brief it was regretted that a Squadron Leader had to be 'wasted' and also **'Bear' Cooke** regrets shooting the hero of the day, **Sig 'Fred' Ponting**. The building survived.

L TROOP (RAF LAARBRUCH)

OPERATION BOLTHOLE

Anyone who has had the pleasure of a tour at RAF Laarbruch will be well aware of the constant aircraft noise that we live with. However, due to our runway being re-furbished and all our RAF Squadrons detached elsewhere, we are now in the enviable position of being a strike airfield with no aircraft except **Cpls D. C. Declancy** and **Cpl Steve Bullimore** in their Gliders which doesn't upset the quiet as Tornados do. These jets continually circle above the airfield monitoring all the hard work being carried out by **Sgt Tam Tulloch** and the remainder of the Troop below!

VISIT OF COMD RCZ BRIG P. I. PALMER OBE

We recently had a visit from Comd RCZ who, having been briefed on the role of the airfield, was able to visit the totally re-wired RIC, chatting to **Cpl Alfie Norrie** and **LCpl Andy Mattson** about their good work. He then visited **Sgt Jim Beecham's** crew who, as our picture shows, were laying a new cable to one of the Pan phones.

Sig John Brennan demonstrates Cable Jointing to Comd RCZ Brig P. I. Palmer. Sgt Jim Beecham and Capt Bill White watch enthusiastically while Sig Jambo Hartley terminates the telephone without even looking

Sgt Jim Beecham explains as Sig Nick Oliver demonstrates cable jointing. Cpl Paul Jennings watches whilst the RSM checks L Troop's areas in the background

OTHER ACTIVITIES

As the snow and ice left and the OC returned from his ski trips our spring sports season got under way.

Our first event was a day's trout fishing, organised by **Sig Kenny McQueen**, which everyone enjoyed. The winning team consisted of **Cpl Paul Jennings, Sig John Brennan** and **Sig Kenny McQueen** even though **Cpl Jennings** never caught a fish. The best catch of the day being made by **Sig John Brennan** closely followed by **LCpl Steve Brown** and **LCpl Touche Jeffries.** Another very successful event was a treasure hunt, organised by **Sgt Tony Conlan** and **LCpl 'Bonnie' Tyler.** They were both thinking about their careers when they declared the OC, **Capt Bill White** the outright winner. Mind you with the speed his wife **Rae** drives, no one else stood a chance. **Sgt Colin Brown** proved it's very hard to navigate with a plaster on your foot and was well and truly last.

Having got all the Troop children to wreck our old facilities at their Easter party **Cpl Jed Bridgeford** and his team have now almost finished the re-building of our new bar.

MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN RE-VISIT THEIR FRIENDS IN 21 SIG REGT (AS)

Twenty seven children of the Erich-Kastner-Schule for Mentally Handicapped Children near Koblenz made their second visit to the Station on 14 May 1987.

They arrived just after midday when they were welcomed by **WO1 (FofS) Brian Billsberry**. Their first port of call was the Sergeants' Mess where they met again some of the friends they had made in Bavaria at last year's Summer Camp and enjoyed an excellent lunch which had been prepared by **WO Hayden Dawn** and his staff.

After lunch, it was off to Alpha dispersal where **Sgt Bob Richards** and **JTech Dean Tilley** of Arm Eng Flight were stood by their Saracen and Scimitar armoured vehicles. The children really enjoyed climbing all over them and I'm sure the Headmaster of the school **Herr Kilean Schmitz** thought he had missed his vocation as a Tank Driver as soon as he got behind the controls of the Scimitar. Once the children had finished finding their way around them, **JTech Dean Tilley** gave an exciting demonstration when he put the Scimitar through its paces.

Next it was off to the Assault Course where the men of 4 Sqn under the watchful eye of **SI Alan Poulson**, gave a spectacular advance to contact display. Very impressive with plenty of bangs and smoke! After the display the soldiers mingled with the children, showing them the intricacies of camouflage, their weapons and webbing. The children in turn then showed them the right way to get over the rope swing! (Egged on by **QMSI Richard Wilson** and **Cpls Colin Philemon** and **Geordie Fagan**).

Next on the agenda was a Combat Net Radio demonstration where, under the guidance of **Cpl Alan Churchward** and his crew, the children were able to talk to each other 'over the air' and with the help of **Cpls Martin Kelman** and **Paul Lewis**, send messages to each other using the new Trend teleprinters. **Mrs Andria Ainsworth**'s excellent German was put to good use here!

The final event was yet another thoroughly enjoyable display by the Station RAF Police Dog handling team. This, as ever, is a great favourite with the children.

Finally it was back to the Sergeants' Mess for some bratties and chips and a much needed warm up!

In spite of the unusually cold weather for the time of year, the children had an excellent day here with their English friends. We are now all looking forward to meeting up again when we go down to the Mosel in July for our next Adventure Training Camp!

INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS

On 24 April at Royal Air Force Wildenrath a reunified and revitalised Regiment vigorously contested the Inter Squadron Athletics and Tug-of-War Championships. In glorious sunshine all five Squadrons competed with great enthusiasm. The fine individual performances of the athletes being matched only be the intense 'wheeling and dealing' of their Team Captains.

Although the battle for supremacy was a close one, the prowess of the 1 Sqn athletes carried the day. The runners up were 2 Sqn who also managed to steal the Tug-of-War from 1 Sqn in the finals. Congratulations to all the teams for a fine competition.

At the end of the meeting, the Team and Individual prizes were kindly presented by **Mrs Gloria Turner**, the CO's wife. **Lt Col Ian Turner** was amongst the winners after taking the 200m Veterans Dash from some very spirited opposition, notably OC 3 Sqn, **Maj Bob Bates** and former RSM, **WO1 Gerry Whelan.**

PS

The Regiments' athletes were once again on the winners rostrum when the athletes of 1 Sqn won the Station Battle of Britain Athletics meeting ably led by **Cpl Bill Bailey**, the Regiment's premier 'Racing Snake'. Well done 1 Sqn.

RUGBY
RHQ CHALLENGES RHQ 13 SIG REGT

Cpl Paul Storrs came up with the brilliant idea of challenging RHQ Troop, 13 Sig Regt to a friendly match to be held 'at home' on 8 April. 13 Regt accepted the challenge although their Chief Clerk, **WO2 (ORQMS) Pete Cuckow** and ORS, **Sgt Taff Roberts** were quick to pass the responsibility to **LCpl Jimmy Parks** to organise the team. The home team line up was as follows: Full Back—**Sig Nigel Ingram**, Outside Centre—**SSgt Dave Ryder**, Inside Centre—**Cpl Hank Hankin**, Outside Half—**Cpl Pual Storrs**, Scrum Half—**LCpl John Clarke**, Left Wing—**LCpl Chaz Gregory**, Right Wing—**LCpl Jimmy Tarbox**, No 8—**Capt Andy Kendall**, Flanker—**Cpl Daz Brook**, Flanker—**Cpl Dave Toulson**, Second Row—**Cpl 'Bullit' Fox**, Second Row—**Sgt Steve Baker**, Hooker—**Sig 'Griff' Griffiths**, Prop—**Cpl Bill Pritchard**, Prop—**WO2 Ray Smith**, Subs: Flanker—**Lt Col Ian Turner**, Prop—**Maj Christopher Donaghy**, Anywhere—**Sgt Steve Jones.**

The match was started by the Corps No 8, **Cpl Dai Treeby**, this time throwing his weight around as the referee. The first ten minutes were hard and gruesome, then the first break came from 13 Sig Regt which just left 21 standing, this happened on numerous occasions before the half time whistle.

The Pack
RHQ 21—anyone fancy a nice friendly (please!) game?

After a good team talk and a few changes we were all set for the second half. The subs soon proved themselves after the Adutant **Capt Andy Kendall** scored our first try with help from the new pack members, the CO and the 2IC. **Cpl Bill Pritchard** soon took command of the pack and motivated them well. This allowed **Sgt Steve Baker** to shine and take on the opposition with good support which soon resulted in another try.

A break by the opposition caught us off our guard and resulted in yet another try. Unfortunately one of the 13 Sig Regt players had to be taken off and **Sgt Steve Jones**, although waiting to play for us, came on as his sub which may in the long run prove a bad move for his career. The next casualty was our own **SSgt Dave Ryder** who engaged one of our own players in a tackle—result broken ankle. The team carried on but was unable to close the large gap in the scores before the final whistle went.

After the match both teams limped off to the Regimental Club 'The Train' where the final touches were added to a great afternoon's sport. 21 being just a little miffed, decided to throw down the gaunlet again, this time to a 21 v 13 football match.

KARTING
Report by BAOR 100 national champion 1986 Sgt Phil Hill.

The 1987 RAFG Karting season recently started and **Sgt Phil Hill** is currently leading the championship after the first round.

In early May the RAFG Kart Team took part in the Akrotiri Road Race. This is an annual event organised by Akrotiri Kart Club. Twenty two-man teams from RAFG, RAF UK, Cyprus and Kuwait, compete in the event.

The circuit is 1km long and uses the Station roads, quite different from normal tracks as kerbs drains and other hazards have to be negotiated. The average speed for leading drivers is 68mph. Each team completes four ten-lap heats, two per driver, the results of which determine the grid position for the 30 lap final.

Sgt Phil Hill teamed up with **JTech Steve Pauls** from 230 Sqn at Gutersloh, after four consistent heats of fifth, third, third and second position they were in second place on the grid for the final.

The final requires a driver change between lap 12 and 20. **Steve** came in after 12 laps in a strong third place, after a swift driver change **Phil** went out to complete the remaining 18. By lap 28 he had caught the leader and was pushing hard for the lead, however, he was unable to pass the current RAF champion and the Gutersloh drivers had to settle for second place.

Final positions were as follows:-

1st **Cpl Chris Owen** and **Cpl Vince Phillip** Akrotiri
2nd **Sgt Phil Hill** and **JTech Steve Pauls** Gutersloh
3rd **Cpl Baz McManus** and **Cpl Mike Manley** RAF UK

Trophies were presented by the Station Commander of RAF Akrotiri.

Royal Corps of Signals

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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

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

THE LONG ROAD TO L'ESTARTIT
By Capt T. M. Jackson RAMC

It's pitch black, claustrophobic and cold. We are at 20m depth, tentatively finning through a cave—the cave in which that big moray eel was spotted. I'm gulping my air as I think to myself—what on earth am I doing down here!

Yes, you've guessed it—I'm participating in *Medas Triangle*, 22 Sig Regt's sub-aqua expedition to the Medas Islands, L'Estartit, Costa Brava. After several months of arduous and intensive pool training supplemented by a series of mind-bending lectures, I and several others have made it down the long road to L'Estartit.

Expedition *Medas Triangle* was a sub-aqua expedition to the Medas Islands, L'Estartit. A series of small islands and rocks, its surrounding waters provide good dive sites. The area is protected as a marine nature reserve and has deservedly earned the reputation of providing some of the best dives in the Mediterranean. The aim of the expedition was for the participating BSAC novice divers to attain sufficient diving experience for the BSAC sports diver qualification and sports divers for the BSAC Dive Leader qualification.

Our party of twelve (three supervisors, four sports divers and five novice divers) set off in convoy at lunchtime on Friday 19 March, stopping overnight at the Canadian Air Force Base at Lahr. Under the guidance of our expedition leader and organiser extrordinaire, **WO1 Russ (I know of a petrol station) Davey**, we reached our camp site in L'Estartit, Spain at 2300 hrs on the Saturday night. Not bad for a 1,000 mile journey by landrover.

After spending the first two days on theory lessons and local administration (adverse sea-conditions, would you believe, kept our hired sea boat '*Calypso II*' moored in the harbour), we had our first open water dive. It was fantastic. The chuff factor rocketed and we beginners were truly hooked.

From then on we had two dives daily, morning and afternoon, between which we wedged as much sleep, theory lessons and food as possible. Competition for the best poser with greatest diver 'cred' and the 'fisherman's tales' was strong. In fact there were several strong candidates, who shall remain nameless, but no clear winner. However, whoever claimed that he saw a shark became a definite no-no.

We dived over the fortnight at many different sites seeing a great variety of fish-life from the exotically colourful to the big, bad and ugly. Underwater caves and tunnels were plentiful and so satisfied everyone's personal interest be it 'grubbing around' on the sea bed or exploring the darkest cavern. Without fear of contradiction everyone gained great experience and had tremendous fun.

Our only casualties were from sea sickness and so, as often happens as the going gets tough, the tough get throwing! In all we managed about twenty dives each and achieved the aims of the expedition.

Cpl Brian Clark 'Confidence training or just a pose'?

Team spirit had been marvellous throughout and in achieving the aims of further qualification the 'pupils' gained immeasurable confidence in general.

Shattered after a fortnight's diving we left L'Estartit with mixed feelings, pleased with what we had achieved but sad that such a good thing had come to an end.

Verdict—a well organised, relatively cheap adventurous training exercise that was strenuous, mentally demanding, character building and tremendous fun.

LCpl Craig Fryer, WO1 (FofS) Russ Davey, Sgt David Gill, Cpl Brian Clark, Cpl Trevor Bayfield

L-R: Capt Mike Jackson, Cpl Trevor Bayfield, Cpl Brian Clark, LCpl Craig Fryer, Sig Colin Frazer

L-R: Sgt Dave Gill, LCpl 'Geordie' Martin, SSgt Mike Duffin, WO1 (FofS) Russ Davey, LCpl Craig Fryer, Cpl Trevor Bayfield, Sig Colin Frazer, LCpl Simon Dyson
Front: Sig Peter McKendrick, Cpl Brian Clark

4 SQUADRON

Squadron Hierarchy

OC	**Maj Bob 'Wurzel' Carter**
2IC	**Capt Ian 'Gandhi' Dudding**
OC J Tp	**Capt David 'Shadow' Sullivan**
2IC J Tp	**2Lt March 'Chaff' Finch**
OC K Tp	**2Lt Roger 'Old Man' Cotterell**
OC L Tp	**2Lt Jim 'Who' Prior**
SSM	**WO2 John 'I'm always in *The Wire*' Davis**
YofS	**WO2 Gus 'UK Based Civilian' Colville**
FofS	**SSgt Mich 'Plastic Foreman' Uttley**

The past two months have been busy ones for 4 Sqn. The following stories are worthy of note.

RSM TREVOR JOHNSON'S BIRTHDAY

Monday 13 April was a special day for the RSM of the Regiment. **WO1 Trevor Johnson**, it was his 21st birthday, again! 4(Jacque) Sqn, doing something different as usual, paraded outside the RSM's office under command of **SSM John Davis** (not in *The Wire* again! . . .) to sing Happy Birthday and deliver a special little cake. Watch-out Jacque Sqn, the RSM will get his own back!

SSM John Davies

4 SQUADRON'S VISIT TO BREMEN

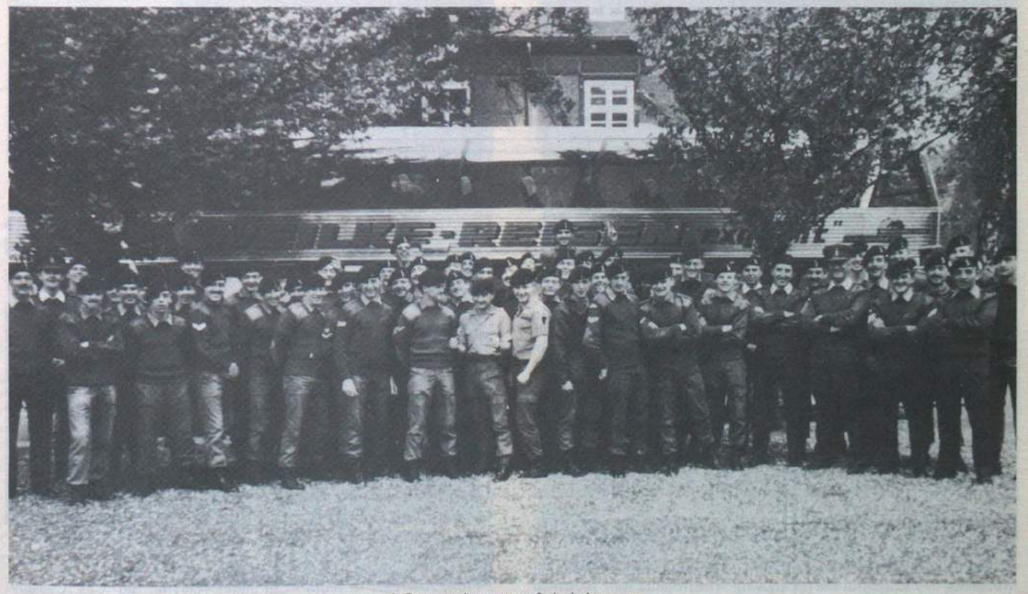
On Wednesday 13 May, 4 Sqn set off on a luxury coach for Bremen. To be more precise for the Mercedes Car Factory at Bremen and the Harbour of Bremerhaven.

The Squadron 2IC **Capt Ian 'Gandhi' Dudding** had arranged the trip earlier in the year. Once the Squadron had been briefed as to who was going to 'liberate' each piece of a Mercedes so that one could be assembled for the OC, we set off.

At the Mercedes factory we were met by **Frau Heide Frenzel**, our guide for the day. We were shown a film on the building of the new factory and the making of the 190 series Mercedes car. Then having been issued with radio commentary receivers we went on a 3km tour of the 190 series car factory. Unfortunately, Mercedes are even more security conscious than us and would not allow the Press Officer, **Capt 'Shadow' Sullivan** to take pictures inside the factory. At the Bremerhaven Harbour the other half of the Squadron was shown the cargo handling facilities, docks and Maritime Museum.

By 1800 hrs the parties were reunited and headed home to Lippstadt. The trip back was a little noisier than the outward journey. The lead singer and conducter was **Capt Ian Dudding**, he managed to keep everyone in a good mood all the way home . . . 'Nuff said!'.

Capt Ian Dudding with our guide Frau Heide Frenzel and a Chief Engineer



4 Sqn at the start of their journey

TUG 'O' WAR

By SSgt 'Bud' Abbott

The Regimental Inter-Squadron Tug 'o' War took place on 11 May with aggressive smiles and flexing of muscles. Teams lined up in anticipation of the effort that would be required to achieve victory.

1 Sqn fielded a heavy team under the watchful eye of **Sgt 'listen to me' Brown** and produced some unexpected results, especially against 3 Sqn, trained by **Sgt 'Darth Vader' Elstop**. The closest contest was between 1 Sqn and 3 Sqn which went to three ends, but the victory went to 1 Sqn who just managed to edge 3 Sqn over the line.

The Overall winner of the competition was 2 Sqn under the professional coaching of **SSgt 'Bud' Abbott** who also pulled. Without doubt, prior training produced a closely knit team, which within the Regimental sphere, could not be beaten. A marvellous competition and the next one will hopefully, bring the Morrison cup to its rightful place—22 Sig Regt!

SSgt Bud Abbott receiving the cup from Lt Col Barrett

Lt Col Richard Holmes presents the winners trophy to Sgt Bobby Snow, Captain of 7 Sig Regt's 'A' team

SSgt 'Q' Gilder makes a determined run with FofS Terry Waites in support

SSgt Nigel Samme (22 Sig Regt) breaks away in the final against 7 Sig Regt

LIPPSTADT HOSTS SIGNALS SEVENS

By Capt P. Stephenson

22 Sig Regt Lippstadt provided the venue for the annual Royal Signals Seven-a-side Rugby tournament in early May. A total of 24 teams from all over BAOR took part in this popular and well organised event.

Six teams in each of the four pools fought hard and played some exciting and inspiring rugby in the brilliant sunshine on the Lippstadt Sports Fields. The top two teams from each group qualified for the main competition, whilst thrid and forth place teams were eligible for the plate competition. As expected the major teams of 22 Sig Regt, 7 Sig Regt, 16 Sig Regt and 21 Sig Regt all qualified without too much difficulty. There were some spirited performances from the minor unit sides, especially 206 Sig Sqn who reached the semi-final of the main competition. Eventually the strength and depth of the Rugby Squad of 7 Sig Regt showed through. In the plate competition the 'B' team ran out as worthy winner after a shabby start against 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt 'A' team. A splendid performance from **Cpl Phil Green** eventually turned the game 7 Sig Regt's way. In the main final a tense hard fought game between 22 Sig Regt's 'A' and 7 Sig Regt's 'A' teams eventually went the Herford team's way as it edged home by the odd score to win 12 points to 8.

The large crowd in Lippstadt Garrison showed their appreciation for a fine day's rugby at the prize giving. The trophies were presented by **Lt Col Richard Holmes**, Chairman of Royal Signals Rugby.

The main competition winners—7 Sig Regt's 'A'
Back row Left to Right—Cpl Kenny Anderson, Sig Taff Bowlin, LCpl Nigel Roberts, Sig Martin Toombs
Front row Left to Right—Cpl Jamie Alleyne, Sig 'Cas' Cassidy, Sgt Bobby Snow, Cpls Ty Elliott, Archie Fulton

LANCASHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE VISIT TO THE REGIMENT

During the very hot ten days at the end of May, 22 Sig Regt was host to twelve members of the QLR ACF. This group was part of an ACF Visit to BAOR. Cadets from all over UK were hosted by their sponsor units in BAOR. 1QLR are in Northern Ireland on tour in Belfast so we were asked to occupy the 'Army Barmy' cadets for 10 days.

We had been warned that ACF cadets have lots of energy, we therefore arranged a busy programme for them. They were able to have a drive in many Army vehicles during a visit to 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn, at Paderborn, and during an MT day in Lippstadt. They also fired pistol, SMG, LMG and SLR during two range days, some of the cadets proved to be excellent shots.

During their second week these infantrymen from Lancashire were let loose on a Regimental Cadre Course as enemy. Most of their action took place at night and the cadets certainly gave the course a good exercise.

A few of the more popular items in the programme were, the BFT, the Akido, the driving and range work. During a visit to the Station guardroom one of the cadets pretended to be a soldier under sentence. **Sgt Mayne**, the RP Sergeant talked the cadets through the soldier's rights and duties. After this visit we had some very well behaved cadets. Overall the cadets and their two instructors had a very enjoyable and busy attachment, their 'minders' **LCpls Hyland** and **Morgan** had no trouble getting them to sleep at night, the cadets were so tired! They left with six of them seriously interested in a career in the Army, in fact, one of them is due to join the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate in June 1987.

A tired party of cadets with their two officer instructors at the end of their visit

Cdt Connelly during the canoe training on the Mohnesee

Cdt LCpl Carter

Cdt Davies warming himself in the sun after canoeing

Two of the cadets getting to grips with each other during the Aikido lesson

28 (BR) Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
BFPO 35

CONGRATULATORY

The Regiment would like to congratulate **WO2 (FofS) Paul Wilson** on his recent Award of the British Empire Medal. The Investiture was held at the residence of the British Ambassador in Bonn and the photograph shows **WO2 Wilson** and his wife **Uschi** with HBM Ambassador, His Excellency **Sir Julian Bullard GCMG**. The Foreman was awarded the BEM for his excellent work on Data communications while serving with 641 Troop (HQ 2ATAF) at Maastricht in the Netherlands.

RCZ MARCH AND SHOOT

The dreaded day Friday 15 May loomed ominously on the calendar for the RCZ March and Shoot. The call from RHQ came down, '**Lt Dobson**, get a team together, get them fit, make them shoot straight; you have a week!'

Volunteers clamoured to get into the team. Within no time at all we was ready, fit and shooting straight, albeit at 25m!

The challenge was to march eight miles within 1 hour 50 minutes, then fire 20 rounds, on an ETR range at Haltern. With rain falling steadily and the course getting muddier, we set off. After four miles we found the only hill of the course, and settled into a steady walk to its summit, from then on it was all downhill. At 1 hour 46 minutes we crossed the finish line and went on to the range. This was to be our failing as our previous shooting practices were not enough to give us the win we deserved. The Regiment managed to come second in the RCZ competition but, alas, no trophies were won. A wet and bedraggled team returned to barracks none the less elated by its performance. Thanks go to all the competitors who took part. 16 Sig Regt look out for us next year!

RUGBY TOUR

On the 10 April, the mighty St Tonis Tigers RFC set off on their way to Frankfurt for a weekend of games. The journey started at 0700 hrs in a 'luxury' white 39 seater military bus. A mere six hours later we were in Frankfurt, tired but 'happy'.

Saturday morning's training session was murderous; **SSgt Charlie Prouse**, our tame Engineer beasted the team into shape. The first match against Frankfurt Americans started quite well until **LCpl Alan Murphy** took out one of his own back row by half trampling him to death—**LCpl Eddie O'Kelly** was then carried off. Forty minutes later **LCpl Alan Murphy** struck again, this time breaking the nose of our No 8 **Cpl Mick Bond**. After the match, which we lost, a mere 52—0 **LCpl Murphy** was presented with a Frankfurt American's training top for being an asset to their team!

Next day the team travelled to Fulda, a short journey away. On arrival at the pitch we found the camp carpenter making the Rugby posts out of 4 x 2 (not flannelette) from then on we knew it was going to be one of those days. The only thing that stopped us winning this was the American referee who thought we were playing superbowl and constantly called 'Time Out'! During the game our top try scorer came to life, **Cpl Graham Weavers** scored a crashing one yard try to finish the game 16—9 to them!

Thanks go out to everyone concerned in the planning and preparation of this unforgettable tour.

ALPHA TROOP

After an arduous two weeks on Ex *Wintex '87* the Troop returned to Barracks to prepare for the Annual Regimental 'TUV' (The German equivalent of our MOT) of all our vehicles.

Whilst the MT and Power Section were tied up with this, the rest of the Troop was involved with the Squadron Stores check, prior to the handover/takeover of the SQMS.

During the weeks that followed the Troop saw a large turnover of personnel and we would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new arrivals and also to say goodbye to those who have left.

ARRIVALS

FofS 'Perky' Norman; SQMS Ian Steward; Cpl 'Oldman' Crossley; LCpls Martin Taylor, Craig Raine, Jeff Scott, Ian Leyland; Sig 'Scouse' Corrigan; 'Big John' Grime and **'Wayne' Coates.**

Another new arrival whom we must not forget to mention is **Simon Keogh**, son of **Sig 'Paddy' Keogh** and wife **Donna**; welcome and congratulations from all the Troop.

DEPARTURES

Q 'Mick' Knight, Cpls 'Herby' Herbert, 'Scouse' Creighton, 'Boz' Clements and **LCpl 'Sergeant Major Jonna' Jones.**

The next notable event which followed was the Squadron training week in which the members of the Troop were subjected to instruction in first aid, NBC, the MML, Soviet recognition, Batco and of course PT at 0630 hrs every morning! It was all a great success ending with a Squadron Smoker in which the Troop discovered it possessed more than its fair share of 'thespians'!

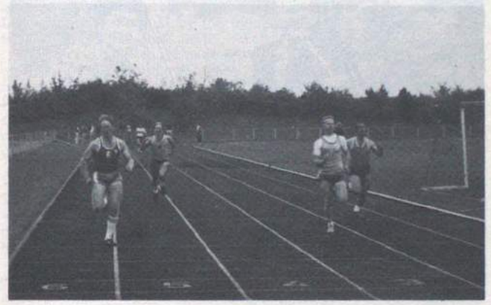
The Troop Beach Party on 9 May was an enjoyable event where everyone did the honourable thing by not partaking to excess since the cost of all drinks were covered by Troop funds.

Finally, what must be the most memorable event this year so far, was the Inter-Troop Athletics where the Troop's athletes subjected the 'Not so mighty Oscar Troop' to a substantial points defeat in true sportsmanlike spirit!

The afternoon began with second place positions in the 1500m by **Sig 'Brum' Ford** and whilst the race was on the Shotputt second and third places fell to **LCpl 'Jake' Jakins** and **LCpl 'Cheets' Cheetham. LCpl Jakins** also achieved second place in the Discus later in the afternoon.

Sig Nixon the Troop's High Jumper injured in practice was replaced by a novice to the event **LCpl 'Paul' Bridon** who came third despite tough opposition! **LCpl Bridon** who later won the 100m in the fastest time that day!

A third and fifth position in the 800m by **Sig 'Barty' Bartliff** and **Sig 'Brum' Ford** brought the Troop equal with Oscar Troop by mid afternoon. A lead was established over Oscar Troop by **Cpl 'Craig' Jones** who won both the Long and Triple Jumps and **LCpl 'Craig' Raine** achieved third in both events. A second place in the Chain of Command race developed a greater lead and after the win in the 4 x 100m Relay the Troop only needed to finish the 4 x 400m Relay to clinch the Winners Trophy, this they did achieving a comfortable fourth position.



1 SQN MT

Just a few words from the Squadron MT. March and April have been quite busy; at the beginning of March we were in the field for 10 days on Ex *Wintex*. When we got back into camp we had only two weeks to prepare all the vehicles for TUV. It meant a lot of night and weekend work for the lads, but they got stuck in and the result was a very good report.

With the TUV over you would think that it was time to relax, but no, then it was time to prepare for the dreaded bi-annual SHAPE MT survey. Again lots of hard work from all the MT lads and the result was, yet again, a very rewarding report from the SHAPE survey team.

Now everybody is looking forward to a relaxing time on summer camp! That is all for the time being.

FRAN SPRING '87

With the new training year upon us and Spring in the air, 1 Sqn decided to pull up roots and set up a training camp at Coesfeld Training Area. The camp was run by **Capt Gilchrist** under the watchful eye of **Maj Drake**, OC Sqn.

During the course of the week various training objectives were achieved including First Aid practical where simulated casualties were set up by the First Aid instructor **Sgt Paul Jennings** helped by **Sgts John Ferris, Alan Young** and **John Payne**, the latter surprised **LCpl Alan Murphy**, by issuing orders whilst unconsious.

WO2 (SSM) Jackson who had the ultra interesting subject of the Manual of Military Law decided to make the subject even more interesting by showing the lads some of the old methods of discipline. They were suitably impressed!

Following a social evening **Sgt Bob Cook** made sure that everyone attending the camp was fit to go the next morning by taking everyone on a short four mile run!

Unexpected training took place for the LAD crew, courtesy of **Sgt 'Digger' Downs** who managed to bog down the Landrover in the only marsh in the training area whilst setting the Orienteering Course. **Cpl Moodie** and **LCpl Dow** came to his rescue in a Unimog (supposedly an unboggable machine) only to find themselves in the same predicament. A local German Regiment came to the rescue and pulled both vehicles out. After this predicament, the overall winning pair of the Orienteering Competition were the two veterans, **Capt Gilchrist** and **SSgt John Jackson**, much to **Sgt Down**'s surprise!

The final event towards the Champion Section was a 'Smoker' held in the Mess tent during which each section proceeded to take the mickey out of everyone else. The Champion Section was 4 Platoon and their prizes were awared by **Maj Drake**.

1 SQUADRON
BRAVO TROOP

Bravo Troop would like to welcome the new arrivals to the Troop, **Sgt Paul** and **Lona Sixsmith, Cpl Phil** and **Marja Headland, Cpl Lawrence** and **Julie Jenkinson** and **Sig Karl** and **Birgit Hinde.**

The Troop sadly say goodbye to yet more Troop members, **Cpl Gaz** and **Gail Burton, Cpl Taff** and **Kerry Bryant** and **Sig Mac** and **Paula McCormack.** All will be missed and we wish them all the best in their new units.

BRAVO TROOP BABIES

Congratulations to **Cpl Phil** and **Marja Headland** on the birth of their son and to **Sig Johno** and **Sue Johnson** on the birth of their daughter.

2 SQUADRON
PAPA TROOP

Papa Troop was deployed on a one week Ex *Canary Caper* they maintained a high standard of communications at the Main War Headquarters. This exercise was a warm up and practice for the last and biggest exercise, Ex *Wintex*. Standards were kept very high. This was the first exercise for many of our new arrivals.

Back in camp the Troop was preparing all its vehicles for the Regiment's Annual TUV Inspection. There were also drill parades in preparation for the change of command parade.

Finally the Troop went on a four day Squadron military training exercise to enable everyone to do their annual military assessments. Apart from a call to the local fire brigade this went very well.

The Troop would like to say hello to the following new arrivals, **Cpls Breheney, Le Billon, Elliott, Sig Braund, Coulson**, and **Inglis** and we wish them and their families a happy tour.

We would also like to say the best of luck to **Cpl Everett, Coomber**, and **LCpl Williams** who are posted and to **LCpl (Mr) McKittrick** who departed to civvy street.

EX *WINTEX 1987*
From Cpl Andy Le Billon

Ex *Wintex 1987*, the first major staff exercise of the year got under way in the normal exercise way by being awakened at dark o'clock to be welcomed in the usual manner by the cooks at breakfast; then paraded, then line vehicles up, then paraded and eventually deployment to Dulmen.

The move out was uneventful apart from **Cpl 'Steps' Steppens** trying his best to alleviate the world's population growth by attempting to kill himself and eleven other up and coming members of the Royal Corps as well as members of the local population and still claiming that the 'brakes completely went'. Happily the brakes decided to return so everything turned out well in the end.

Once in location things started The admin area, Comms Keep and most importantly the sleeping accommodation were sorted out just in time for a shift change.

LCpl 'get your cam sorted' Dewhurst did his best to become 'Mr Popular' throughout the exercise by being bringer of bad news at all hours of the day or night whilst **Cpl Andy Le Billon** tried his hardest not to deliver any news at all.

Anyway after what seemed an eternity the location was changed and off we went in search of another sleeping area. Yet again, another uneventful move, apart from the timings getting a little behind and 'A' shift finally climbing into bed at 0400 hrs. The sight of the 'new home' in daylight was to say the least, revealing, to see members of different arms and armies marching like working ants between the huge admin area and the comms keep which was well covered and thus out of the cold and snowy conditions which we were encountering.

During the exercise quite a few VIPs visited the complex thus giving the boys plenty of opportunity to keep their vehicles in tip top condition. Talking of which, the interior of the message centre looks

better with the comfy chairs which suddenly appeared one dark and silent night!

A small fire was swiftly dealt with by **Cpl Bob Breheney** and **Cpl Ian Curtis**. After they had tried the extinguishers out on each other they decided they worked very effectively and used them on the fire. Anyway Endex was called and we all pulled the plugs and went home to be thanked by all concerned, on what was a very good exercise comms-wise, thus earning the Regiment four days stand-down courtesy of Comd NORTHAG to whom we are all grateful.

A lot of comical things happened during this exercise but, not wanting to offend, I'll leave it at that except to say that those concerned will, I'm sure, breathe a sigh of relief to find they remain anonymous.

OSCAR TROOP

After the high drama and hectic pace of Ex *Wintex*, life in Oscar Troop resumed its usual steady pace with few diversions to relieve the inaction of RCZ's finest fighting men, or so we thought, when April started with a 10 day break in order to prepare the 'men' for the rigours of Ex *Fran Helm Finale*, a four day excursion into the wilds of Arsbeck training area.

It was here that such cries as 'I can't emphasize enough the importance of decontamination' and 'Hit the target Clinton' were heard as rusty military skills were polished and the majority of the military training was completed for the year.

The weather wasn't the usual exercise downpour as the **SQMS Keith Bridger** got his demands right and we had brilliant sunshine throughout the whole period. Apart from the mandatory tests the final night was taken up with patrol bases, reccees and section attacks. The highlight (literally) came when a glow was seen in the woods followed by the wailing of the local fire brigade sirens as they arrived to extinguish a trip flare which had set fire to the woods around a patrol base. Luckily no-one was hurt but unluckily the night attacks continued, much to the disgust of many who hoped the fire would ensure a night's sleep, with the cancellation of this phase.

The exercise was the last for the Sqn OC, **Maj Helm** prior to his departure.

Once the Troop had said farewell to **Maj Helm** over a drink, life reverted to its normal tranquil pace until the Inter-Troop athletics! As people started disappearing during the morning for final training and selection we knew that it was being taken seriously and then **Sgt Ian 'I'm in charge around here, sometimes' Brereton** threatened the team with excommunication if Papa Troop beat them.

To cut a long story short after some magnificent efforts by **Sig Clinton Burke, Andy Faulds**, and **LCpl 'Spearchucker' Dave Smith** (Seb Coe and Fatima lookout) and a very large (gigantic in fact) margin we finished second to Alpha Troop (by a very small margin). Better luck next year and well done lads.

Having said goodbye to our OC **Maj Helm** who departed to summer climes in Cyprus we welcomed **Maj Bowering** as our new OC.

Posted are **Cpls Roberts** and **Marvin** both going to 7 Sig Regt.

Also about to leave are **Sig Imrie, West, Sobers, Greaves** and the old man of the Troop **Cpl Thomas** who has finally found his way out of the secure room. All the best to you all.

Good luck to **Cpl Geddes** on his T1 course.

Arrivals include **Sgt Dennis, Cpls Jowitt, Easter** and **Ward, Sig Bews, Thorp, Smith** and **McKay**. Don't worry the three years will soon pass!

REGIMENTAL FETE

On Saturday 30 May 28 (BR) Sig Regt held its annual Francisca Fete. The special guest invited to open it was the SSVC TV presenter **Allyson Rees** (of Birthday Time fame). Planning and preparation had been taking place for months in advance, all we needed was good weather.

On the morning of the fete dark clouds brought rain to dampen the occasion. By 1400 hrs the rain had cleared and the sun was bravely trying to break through the clouds. With the blast of a hooter the fete was duly opened, and festivities began. All manner of stalls had been prepared by individual troops, wives' clubs and others, The main attractions were the three helicopter displays and the ducking stool. The Regiment hierachy were in line to be ducked by anyone willing to spend a mark to qualify. It is not true that the most money came in when **Lt Col Chubb** and the RSM took their turn in line!

On offer we had Dog Shows, Human One Armed Bandits, Bottle Stalls, Wine Bars, Ice Cream Stalls and a host of other attractions. The highlight of the day was the draw for the grand prize, an Austin Metro. Well over 25,000 tickets had been sold throughout BFG. The winning ticket was held by one of our own Regiment, **Cpl Ian Curtis** who took home the new Metro.

We estimate 3,000 people attended the fete with a great number of local residents. All profits from the fete will be distributed to charity but as yet we have not finalised the account.

Needless to say the fete would have been nothing without all the willing workers, from all departments of the Regiment who gave up their free time to make it all a huge success. Thanks to everyone of you.

Grand prize winner 'Cpl Ian Curtis' being congratulated by Maj Drake and Allyson Rees (SSVC TV) Mrs Curtis and daughter share the occasion

NORTHAG SKILL-AT-ARMS COMPETITION

At the Annual NORTHAG SAA Competition the Regiment was represented by 2 Sqn, who managed to win both the team competitions and the overall winning team.

On the individual front all team members shot well being in the top 30 to go through to the second day shooting in both the SLR and the SMG. Most noticeable among the individuals was **WO2 Martin Roberts** who took four Bronze medals. Well done.

The team members were: **WO2 Martin Roberts, Cpls 'Audie Murphy' Crossley, 'Paul-Wade' Ward, LCpls 'Smudge' Smith, 'Deadeye' Andy Moore, Sig 'Fluff' Fullerton, Stevie Appleton.** Well done to all team members on an excellent result.

Cpl Crossley, Sig Appleton, Maj A. Bowering, WO2 (SSM) Roberts, Maj A. Helm, Sig Fullerton, WCpl Smith, Cpl Ward and LCpl Moore

BERLIN

29 Sig Regt
BFPO 45

1 SQUADRON REPORT

Before the Squadron vanished to all four corners of the Queen's Birthday Parade it played host to the bi-annual Allied Signal Exercise—Ex *Rondo*.

On this occasion tweleve tripartite teams and an Exercise Control Headquarters were deployed to the Grunewald for the week. After opening formalities the teams were briefed by **Capt Malcolm Llewellyn**, ably assisted by the interpreters **Sgt Garnot** and **Cond Sowen** from Allied Staff Berlin. (Well, **Capt Llewellyn** is Welsh!).

Any reserve between the nations was completely dispelled by a game of British football followed by a barbecue. A curious game then ensued which had its origins in both Rugby Union and American Football. The game was finally declared a draw when bad light stopped play. Fortunately the only injury was sustained by a non team member. **Capt Opitz**, US Signal Corps, was observed the following day wearing a very 'natty' surgical collar and a pained expression.

Serious training began with 16 hours of mobile communications. Teams were allocated tasks which took them to all parts of the three Sectors of West Berlin. **Cpl Pete Calvert** and his team eventually worked out how to fold their map, but then the technician in him got the better of the day and communications were completely lost when he decided that some field repairs were required!

Just when the teams were getting used to other nationalties' equivalent Land Rovers, all vehicles were removed and manpack sets and field rations were issued. During the next 48 hours the emphasis was on military training anywhere in the Grunewald—on foot. Teams were subjected to NBC, First Aid, firing national personal weapons and, finally laying line in the dark—uphill!

SSgt Dory and his team from 38 (Berlin) Fd Sqn RE provided the highlight of this phase of the exercise with an early morning move by Rigid Raider down the Havel. However most of the teams looked as though they had been on submarine escape drills by the time they arrived at the Ranges. Here it was proved that some individuals from all three sectors ought to permanently transfer for, they could fire other national weapons better than their own. However British honour was maintained by **Sig Smith** who was nominated as the best shot in the event.

True to form the weather broke in no uncertain terms on the final morning. This unfortunately meant that the planned helicopter move, courtesy of US Aviation, turned into the more usual four ton helicopter, courtesy of the MT, 1 Sqn 29 Sig Regt. The teams did not however allow this to affect their performance as they competed in a final gruelling test of endurance and courage on the Ruhleben assault course and confidence area. The GOC, **Maj Gen Brooking**, visited this phase and was able to direct **Sgt Leze**'s escape on one area of the confidence course. This phase of the exercise is traditionally a favourite and brings out the best in Tripartite cooperation with team members assisting and guiding each other over the obstacles. **Sig 'Amphibious' Byrne** proved that you do not need to use the stepping stones to cross water, whilst **Sig 'Spiderman' Scholes** demonstrated a new double somersault with half twist off the wall; much to the amazement of the directing staff: Artistic Ability 10—Technical Merit 0.

Tripartite team spirit on the Assault Course: Sig Byrne lends a 'helping hand'

After four days of demanding training the final result was close. Only 10 points out of a possible 2,000 separated the winning team from the runners up. It was their performance on the assault course that allowed **LCpl Hukin, PV2 Windsor** and **Trs Ducus** to win. **Col Guthrie**, Chief of Staff, Allied Staff Berlin kindly agreed to present the prizes in the rather appropriate location of the Kuppesaal. At this point terrorism and kidnapping affected even Ex *Rondo*. The lion mascot of **Sgt Leze** from the French Sector was held to ransom for a crate of beer!

Payment was made at the traditional *Rondo* lunch and after social refreshment the participants departed in cheerful, if somewhat weary, style.

GOC directs the escape of Sgt Leze on the confidence course

Best overall shot on three national weapons: Sig Smith being presented with his plaque by Col Guthrie

Ex *Rondo* XXXII winning team being presented with their prizes by Col Guthrie. (Team PV2 Windsor, LCpl Hukin, Trs Ducus)

30 Sig Regt
Blandford Camp

FAREWELL VISIT OF COMD 1 SIG GP—COL C. A. BROWN

The day broke fine and sunny, as befits a late March day in Dorset—well . . . no it didn't! A grey, drizzly day hung over Blandford as everyone was lamenting the imminent diaspora of 1 Sig Gp!

For many years, the Regiment had been under operational control of 1 Sig Gp based in Tidworth, the last two being under the ever watchful eye of **Col Colin Brown**. The day therefore marked not only the dissolution of 1 Sig Gp but also the farewell of its commander.

0900 hrs saw the CO, **Lt Col Keith Butler**, Adjt, **Capt Barry Keegan** and RSM, **WO1 Pete Sutherland** awaiting the arrival of **Col Brown** in the foyer of RHQ.

0915 hrs saw a slightly worried CO begin to query the accuracy of the visit programme timings!

0920 hrs witnessed the Adjutant rapidly phoning around for a 'locstat'.

0925 hrs revealed the 'impression' (of HQ 1 Sig Gp) that the Commander wasn't due until 1000 hrs!

0930 hrs the RSM disappears for a brew, closely followed by the CO and Adjutant.

0940 hrs **Col Brown** half-way up the stairs in RHQ wondering where the reception committee was! (The after-effects of the 'slapped-wrist' the CO received from **Col Brown** can clearly be seen in the photograph below.

'Loosely' adhering to the visit programme, the Commander spent the next two hours around the Regiment saying 'cheerio' and receiving any final handover points for 2 Sig Bde—our new operational masters.

'CO 30—you've got it wrong again. You cock your wrist up, not down!'

MEDAL PRESENTATION

The visit culminated in a medal presentation ceremony attended by the whole (well, all those not scattered to the four corners of the earth) Regiment outside RHQ. A wet weather programme, it was rumoured, did exist, but the 'roughty-toughty' Regimental hierarchy, led by **Col Brown** decided that a few specks (more like torrents!) of rain ought not to cause the proceedings to be transferred to the Gymnasium.

LS&GC were presented to: **WO1 (FofS) Ken Perry, WO2 (YofS) Garth Pickersgill, SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' Evans, Cpl Dave Amey (REME)** and **Cpl Trev Irving. GSM (NI): LCpl Andy Moore** and **Sig Danny Robertson.**

WO1 (FofS) Perry—LS&GC
A little deeper . . . yes sir! I think you've found the vein!!

WO2 (YofS) Pickersgill—LS&GC

SSgt (YofS) Evans—LS&GC—'Tell me Yeoman, why are you called LSG?'

'Smile Please'
Standing *L to R:* Cpl Trev Irving, WO1 (FofS) Ken Perry, Col Brown, Lt Col Butler, LCpl Andy Moore, Sig Danny Robertson, SSgt (YofS) Scouse Evans, Cpl Dave Amey, WO2 (YofS)) Garth Pickersgill
Sealted *L to R:* Mrs Veronica Evans, Miss Evans, Mrs Sarah-Jane Irving, Miss Kim Pickersgill, Mrs Maria Pickersgill

THE RETREAT TO THE OFFICERS' MESS

Anticipating that the Commander would be overwhelmed with emotion and clearly distressed at the thought of having to walk to the Officers' Mess, the services of the Regimental Ambulance complete with **Sgt 'Doc' Wyatt** were summoned. Opting for the air-conditioned two wheeled charabancs (wheelchair) instead of the ambulance, the Commander was gently and with great ceremony, 'bumped-out' of RHQ and into the waiting hands of OC 1 Sqn—**Maj John Grierson**, OC 2 Sqn—**Maj Bob Wannell** and 2IC 1 Sqn—**Capt Don Macauley**. Trying eagerly to impress for the last time the three draught horses (OC 1, OC 2 and 2IC 1) displayed more than customary effort in dispatching **Col Brown** from the Regiment pulling 'wheelies' round corners and trying to get some aerodynamic lift out of his umbrella—as can be seen on the photograph below.

Eventually, more by accident than design, he arrived (in one piece) at the Officers' Mess and proceeded to lunch with the officers. OC 2 Sqn meanwhile was left staggering around looking for an iron lung, but soon recovered sufficiently to join in the proceedings. Having said his farewells, **Col Brown** left the Regiment. We wish him every success in his new appointment at the Ministry of Defence.

Col Brown (travelling first Class) being delivered to Maj Bob Wannell, Maj John Grierson, Capt Don Macaulay by Sgt Wyatt and Capt Barry Keegan (who is holding the Live Body Receipt!)

Capt Don Macaulay and Maj John Grierson demonstrating that 1 Sqn are always in step whilst Col Brown shows what he is going to do to Maj Bob Wannell if he slows down much more!

EXERCISE *CYGNET TREK 9*

Report by Capt Sean Dexter

Ex *Cygnet Trek 9* was a joint communication and adventurous training exercise held in Snowdonia during the last two weeks in May. The exercise was based on Capel Curig Camp and for once the weather was kind which allowed everyone to have a thoroughly enjoyable time.

The communications part of the exercise was a 1 Sqn deployment to practise their new members in contingency rear links working SATCOM and HF into the Defence Communication Network via Cyrpus and Belize. This was a useful exercise which shook out a few cobwebs especially for one detachment commander, who shall remain nameless, who discovered that a VRC 322 does require the odd cable here and there in order to work!

Over the two week period 120 members of the Regiment participated in hillwalking, climbing, canoeing and windsurfing. Apart from the unusually fine weather, the success of this part of the exercise was due to the hard work of the admin staff especially **Cpl Harry Palmer** and his cooks, **Sgt Chris Kerrigan, Cpl Ian Campbell** and all the MT drivers, and of course **SSgt Pete Bradbury** for overseeing it all. On the adventurous training side thanks must go to **Lts Giles Henschel** and **Mike Griffiths, 2Lts Dave Robson** and **Finlay 'Filot-o-Fish' MacLennan; WO2 (SSM) Bernie Temmen, SSgt (YofS) Scouse Evans, Sgts Martin Lockyer** and **Dave Preston** and **Cpls 'Meach' Meachin** and **Mick Stanyer** for taking the lads up and down rockfaces, shaming others across Crib Goch and laughing heartily at the aquatic skills displayed.

The rock climbing disco dancing competition at 30ft was a close run event with **Cpl Adie Garner, LCpl 'E-B' Clarke-Brown** and **Sig 'Pick' Pickering** making a shaky start but the prize must go to **LCpl Steve Pope** whose performance in the Llanberis Pass was a heartstopper. **LCpl Nick Hinson** had to be told that 'Hard Men of Rock' don't use chalk-bags and was duly disqualified.

The hillwalking, always the 'most popular' pursuit, was 'spiced up' with a few traverses of Crib Goch on the Snowdon Horseshoe and steep descents of the Glyders, not to mention of course **SSgt (YofS) Scouse 'Hand Jam' Evans'** non-stop monologue of encouragement. 'Hand Jam' is now building a climbing wall (or is it frame) onto his house!

Llanberis Lake proved to be the ideal place for teaching canoeing. Among the budding canoeists were cries of 'Save me, save me!' as **Sig Robo Robson** got that sinking feeling . . . 'These canoes aren't designed to stay upright in water' was all the comfort received from **LCpl Scouse Johnson**. **Sgt Martin Lockyer** manfully withstood the cold water for hours on end trying to teach the likes of **Cpls Trev Irving, 'Ollie' Hollingsworth** and **Sig Scouse Ryding** the intricacies of boom forward and aft! Although from the photograph, did he get that far?

Finally in order to encourage everyone to return next year we are reliably informed that Gretta the Hun will still be playing pool at the Cobdens next May!

'Don't just lie there, catch me somebody!'

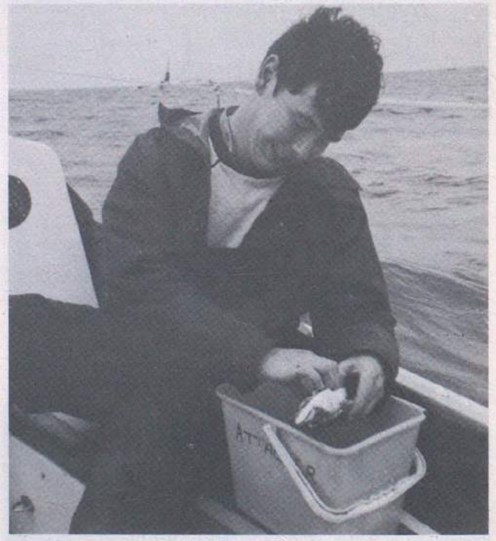
Cpl Meech Meachin points out the way ahead, while Cpl Sherwood tries to conquer the steering of his vehicle!

EXERCISE *CYGNET SAILOR 87*
by Capt Jon Marman

In many circles it is believed that Ex *Cygnet Sailor* was organised by **Capt Jon Marman** so that he could disappear for a month on holiday whilst his Squadron Commander was handing over to his successor. **Capt Marman** naturally denies this scurrilous assumption and maintains that the aim of the exercise was to give soldiers in the Regiment experience of offshore sailing under arduous conditions. It is not true that the admin instruction emphasised the need for participants to bring suntan lotion! The exercise was organised as four, roughly one week, courses intended to bring complete novices up to Competent Crew standard and to give those with offshore experience a wider knowledge of yacht handling.

On 6 June the first four volunteers (from the press gang?) arrived at the Joint Services Sailing Centre (JSSC) at Gosport to discover that contrary to their imagined information the yacht was not the modern equivalent of the *Cutiy Sark* but a 27ft *Halcyon* kindly loaned by JSSC. The cramped conditions were soon illustrated when the skipper, **'Capt Bligh' (Marman)**, demanded to know who was the smallest and **Sig 'Smudge' Smith** was shown his sleeping quarters for the next seven days. Now it may be that Dracula had slightly more spacious accommodation in his coffin but the design spec for the

LCpl Mick Clarkson attempts to get the yacht to a pub before closing time



Sig Pete Higgins tackling a Mackerel

Halcyon states that the starboard (right to you landlubbers) cockpit locker is a sleeping berth and as we point out to **'Smudge'** it could hardly be worse than the 'block' at Blandford and at least he had a room to himself.

The briefings, pre-sail checks and stowage of kit continued including hoisting the lightest member of the crew **'Smudge'**, inevitably, up the mast (and eventually down again). The *Halcyon* has an electrical system which looks as though it was designed by a kitten with a ball of wool (and not a particularly bright kitten at that!) and somewhere a 'short' had blown all the fuses. Two hours later the Royal Naval electricians had demonstrated their superior Anglo Saxon vocabulary and the yacht was ready to sail. At this stage the skipper introduced some nautical vocabulary of his own which naturally shared a certain commonality with the Navy's. However, references to kicking straps, topping lifts, halyards and sheets produced as much intelligent response as a short lecture on Quantum Physics so a 'pull that ****** rope with the blue flecks on' technique was adopted until, after a few days, the crew had learnt the difference between a binnacle and a barnacle!

The sailing programme included most of the harbours and anchorages in the Solent and for the first few days the weather was perfect. The only problem was that the wind had a habit of dying in the evening when the yacht was as far from any port as it could be. This resulted in a progressive number of mutinous comments from the crew as closing time approached, then passed. **LCpl 'Paddy' Henry** had his own ideas about how the yacht could be made to move faster. It was obvious: reduce the weight. After consuming three days Compo in the space of a few hours 'Paddy' felt dissatisfied with the results and decided that it was time to start jettisoning excess equipment (an un-natural reaction for a Tech Storeman!); the loss of the saucepan did not seriously hamper the working of the yacht until the first curry!

LCpl Mick Clarkson had his own ideas about improving the progress of yacht *Attacker*. He was convinced that the navigation was at fault and that the skipper was calculating the course by spinning an empty beer bottle! After a certain period of instruction in this 'black art' he was observed spinning several bottles, taking the average and then expressing satisfaction at the results:

The first crew try to keep as far from the water as possible. *L to R:* LCpl Paddy Henry, Sig Paul Pickering, LCpl Mick Clarkson, Sig Smudge Smith

Sig Paul Pickering demonstrated his enthusiasm for sailing and his utter contempt for the infernal combustion engine at an early stage. Whilst motoring along the picturesque scenic reaches of the Beaulieu river he discovered a new method of preventing engine noise disturbing his idyllic appreciation of the serenity of the surroundings. It was simple: turn the cooling water inlet sea-cock clockwise instead of anti-clockwise and the skipper would rapidly decide to use the sails instead. **Paul** has since been educated in the matter of left and right and associated subjects! As with all good things the first week came to an end.

The new crew unfortunately had the opportunity to discuss this sailing business with the previous bunch and something, possibly the fact that the latter were expressing profound appreciation at being back on terra firma, meant that the new skipper, **Maj John Grierson**, had some difficulty preventing a mass desertion in the Blandford direction. However, the new crew was persuaded to have another pint at the 'Jolly Sailor' and by then the minibus had gone.

The intention was that *Attacker* should go to the West Country. The Clerk of the Weather had other ideas. After departing from Swanage Bay and meeting waves with the same frequency and manner of cars on the M25 on a Friday afternoon the unanimous opinion was that *Attacker* should head back towards the Solent.

Sig 'Geordie' Officer was so affected by the passage back that he felt obliged to converse with the deep at frequent intervals over the leeward rail and by the time he had become used to the motion it was time to go ashore.

OCdt 'Bret' Appleby had no such problems. Working on the principle (undoubtedly learned at Sandhurst) that what the eye doesnt see the mind won't worry about he closed both eyes and soon established a considerable lead in the Golden Blanket Stakes!

Attacker did another circuit of the Solent including a night entry into the River Beaulieu. Eventually **Capt Jon Marman** (relegated to mate/navigator for the week) managed to put the yacht within easy commuting distance of Weymouth and the next crew embarked upon they knew not what.

OCdt 'Bret' Appleby who had slept through the more exciting moments of the previous week volunteered for another spell in order to clinch the 'Golden Blanket' (he succeeded!). **Sig Ginge Duncan** immediately showed his suitability as a purser by supplying the skipper, **'Capt M'** again, with digestive biscuits and by producing an endless supply of sausage sandwiches when needed.

Sig 'Al' Clinton proved to be invaluable when entering Bembridge at night. His 'left a bit, right a bit' as the unlit buoys marking the rather tortuous channel came into range ensured not only the safe arrival at St Helen's Quay but also the nervous well-being of the skipper and crew. **Sig Pete Higgins** had obviously been consulting with **Sig Paul Pickering** about the problems that a running engine causes. The failure to replace the oil dipstick cap produced a smoke-screen worthy of a WW2 destroyer; **Pete** apparently wanted to fish under sail!

The final crew had been reduced by 'the exigencies of the Service', so for the first time there were only three on board, a more comfortable situation. As the Needles lighthouse diappeared into the gloom and the yacht moved out into Christchurch Bay with visibility less than a mile **Cpl Keith Langton** decided that if anything nasty was going to happen he did not want to know about it until it was too late. Several hours later he was woken off Poole and was persuaded to play an active part in sailing the yacht now that it was almost upright and one could see the bright and welcoming lights of Sandbanks. **Keith** has since been heard to remark that the next adventure training he does will be in the Sahara, preferably well away from even oases!

Sig Kev Varley also developed reservations about this sailing business on the grounds of the skipper's unreasonable demands for large quantities of tea. This usually happened when the yacht was near horizontal and **Kev**'s endurance was finally exhausted whilst going through heavy seas off the Shingles Bank. Luckily there was enough water coming aboard to clean the decks but **Kev** decided that **Cpl Keith Langton** had the best idea and joined him below.

The yacht was eventually handed over to OC 1 Sqn, the Operations Officer and the Assistant Adjutant in Poole and their story will have to wait until another day.

EXERCISE *CYGNET GLOBE 1987*

2 Sqn's annual worldwide HF communications exercise took place this year from 6-10 April 1987. Two-man detachments from within the Regiment were flown off to Cyprus, Gibraltar, America, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Belize and Canada. In return the Regiment hosted liaison teams from America, Canada, Australia, Cyprus, New Zealand. One member of the Australian team was a **WO1 Colin Jerram**, late of the Corps. In all a total of 40 units participated in this unique exercise which improves in all aspects each time it is held.

Although primarily held to improve the skills of the Radio Telegraphists the exercise does allow other trades to participate as long as they are prepared to master new skills. This was the case with **SSgt Jim Keeping** who being offered a trip to Cyprus was only too keen to learn about sloping vees, rhombics, half-waves and whips (what a sadist!). Along with **Sig 'Dangerous' Davies** (a real operator!) he deployed to 262 Sig Sqn where they met up with **Sgt Jerry Johnson** and his team of radio telegraphists. After a typical Cyprus welcome, which presumably meant a couple of days acclimatisation on Ayia Napa beach with the odd barbecue thrown in, life became a little more serious when trying to establish communications with Blandford.

Unlike previous years it was decided to try planned inter group working which proved to be very successful. Communications between the UK, Belize, Australia, Canada and the USA worked well indeed. The link to New Zealand was not so successful but perhaps that was because **2Lt Finlay Maclennan** had his mind on other things—or was it other things on his mind? Along with his partner in arms, **Sig Nick 'Dozey Head' Basford**, they were hosted by 1 Task Force Sig Sqn in Papakura Camp, some 20km outside Auckland. This, of course, proved no obstacle to the two 'British Ambassadors' who eventually went to 'check it out', only to find everywhere shut. Still Christchurch, on the South Island, was more accommodating.

Two other lucky characters were **SSgt (YofS) Colin Luckham** and **Sig Nick Mowbray** who deployed to Canada. During their stay with the Canadian Forces School of Communication Engineering (CFSCED-B Sqn) in Kingston, apart from communicating exceptionally well using 17 year old equipment they also managed, courtesy of their hosts, to see Toronto, Ottawa and the Niagara Falls.

Thanks for the success of this exercise must go to the two main planners in the form of **WO2** (now WO1, I've got a sore head and no I'm not saying how it happened) **YofS Percy Beynon** and **SSgt** (soon to be WO2, I do leave the rugby field occasionally) **Martin Webb**. We wonder what might happen next year.

1 SQUADRON INTER-TROOP ATHLETICS
Report by Lt Giles Henschel

In preparation for this year's athletics season 1 Sqn decided to hold their own inter-troop athletics competition in the hope that they may win something when the Regimental Inter Squadron Athletics Match is held later this year.

Looking forward to an idle day lolling in the sun, the Squadron officers devolved the responsibility of running this affair to **SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' 'Keep on Running' Evans**. What a mistake! Come the day it was typical Blandford weather—horizontal rain and high winds that whipped the froth off the cups of NAAFI tea into our faces as we sat shivering on the grass bank overlooking the athletics track.

Nevertheless, undaunted by this turn in the weather, the troop teams launched into battle with A Troop rapidly gaining the upper hand and B Troop and SHQ fighting for second place.

The A Troop team's effort was boosted by their own tame 'Honey-monster' in the form of **LCpl 'Sammy' Sampson** who delights in hurling the hammer a good 40m in the right direction. This was not so for several other individuals, notably **WO2 (YofS) Garth Pickersgill** who tried his best to wipe out the eager spectators by throwing his discus over the top of the protective cage.

On the track **Sig Dougy Douglas**, A Troop, had a comfortable win in the 5,000m over **SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' 'You're getting too old' Evans. Sig 'Dusty' Millar**, B Troop, excelled in the 100m and **Sig Paul Eldridge**, B Troop, romped home to an easy win in the 200 m. **Cpl Bob Vowles** of Tech Troop won the 400m with his loping style somewhat akin to a disjointed antelope and **Cpl Ken Eaton**, also of Tech Troop, deserves a special mention for his peculiar high jump style which made him look like an arthritic frog, but earned him second place. First place in the high jump went to **Sgt Marty Fielding**, B Troop, who managed to clear an extra 2in just by removing his track suit which was holding too much water after the rain.

Sgt Dave Preston, SHQ Troop, surprised everyone by winning the triple jump having never done it before.

The chain-of-command race was won by B Troop ably led by **Lt Giles Henschel** who was disappointed to discover that there was no prize for this event. However, **SSgt (YofS) Evans** came to his rescue with a well earned ice cream.

At the end of the day, with only the 400 m relay to go, a single point separated the teams. All was dependent upon this last race; but where were the batons? Improvisation was the name of the game and using rolls of bandages raided from the ambulance the race got underway. With such excitement the competitors had great difficulty in running round the track which was now an obstacle course made up of anxious spectators urging them on. A narrow win for A Troop who collected the many cans of beer.

Overall an excellent day despite the weather and which allowed the Athletics Officer to see what talent was available for later in the season.

BLANDFORD TOWER RUN

Once again the Regiment was very much involved in the Blandford Tower Run both as competitors and in helping with the administration. This year's run was of particular importance to the Regiment as some of the proceeds raised by the event were to go to the **Signalman Vic Green Fund**.

We had our own TV star appearing in the race in the form of **SSgt (YofS) 'Scouse' (not him again) Evans** who had been televised, with elephant hat, the previous week participating in the London Marathon. He was obviously taking this run more seriously as, without the encumbrance of the 'hat', he was our first man home in a time of 1hour 35 minutes. Other notable performances came from **Sgt Brian Carling, Cpls Keith Weaver, Taff Childs, LCpl Woody Wood, Sig Rick Bollen** and **LCpl Kev Booth**.

The less experienced long distance runners felt the heat and pace of the race and the hot weather and were only too happy to see the Blandford Tower come into sight. This included **Sgt Tom Boddison** who was hauled in by one of **SSgt (YofS) Evans'** daughters, **Sharon**, in just over three hours.

OFFICERS V SENIORS

The competition for the coveted Rolling Pin prize, awarded for any game or pastime between officers and seniors, has been fought for with a vengeance over the last months. The officers having lost at basketball and cricket, notched up a notable win at skittles down in the Langton Arms. In order to enable the officers to win another event and therefore draw level with the seniors number of wins, a game had been thought of at which they should not lose. Having had a couple of aerobic sessions in place of morning PT anything was possible and so it was proved when the Asst Adjt came up with Lacrosse!

2Lt Sharon Walker being a school lacrosse player (her claim to fame!), and still a great fan, decided it was time the rest of the Regiment had the chance to share in her love for the game. Surely we were on a safe bet here. We would show the RSM and his men what we were really made of. Great fighting talk by the Assistant Adjutant which she was soon to regret.

The Tuesday before the match, **Maj Jack Amberton, Maj John Grierson, Capt Don Macaulay, Capt Sean Dexter, Lt Mike Griffiths** and **Capt Barry Keegan** were seen training hard for the match. Alongside them was the Assistant Adjutant who refused to give up heart even when the sticks were called bats, the balls were flung long distances with very little skill and the non contact sport began to resemble something **J. P. R. Williams** would be proud of!

The day arrived, the teams were ready for battle, the Rolling Pin was going to stay with the officers.

The match was action packed from the start; both teams meant business and the referee was going to have no effect on the 'tactics' of either side!

After extra time (45 mins altogether) the winning goal was scored for the RSMs team, how had it happened? The skill and talent had all been on our side, what had gone wrong? It was with great humility that the Rolling Pin was handed back by the officers to the RSM after only 24 hrs in possession when the officers won the skittles competition.

The Two Teams

Back Row (L to R): Lt Phil Davies, Capt Barry Keegan, WO2 (QMSI) 'The mask is an improvement' Terry Dolan, Maj John Grierson, Lt Col Keith Butler, Capt Don Macaulay, WO1 (RSM) Pete Sutherland, WO2 (YofS) Garth Pickersgill, Maj Jack Amberton, WO2 Ken Whillock

Front Row: 2Lt Sharon Walker, Capt Sean 'I'm a kid at heart' Dexter, Capt Colin Lawrence, WO2 Brian Mower, WO1 Percy Beynon—without a sore head!

REGIMENTAL FOOTBALL

After a very successful season it seemed only right that it should end with a win. The Regiment won the Salisbury Plain Services Football League Division 1 Championship by nine points, having played 14 games; none of which were lost.

All the members of the team are worthy of a mention but in particular **LCpl 'Scouse' Dunleavy**—Player of the Year, **Sgt Alan Coleman**—Garrison Player of the Year, **Sig Robbo Robinson**—Army Player, **Cpl Terry Smith** and **SSgt (YofS) Colin Luckham**.

In the SWDIST Cup we were less fortunate, and lost 3—2 to the RGJ in the semi finals.

Sadly we have to say goodbye to: **Cpl Chris Moye, LCpl Scouse Dunleavy, Sig Robbo Robinson, Sig Alan O'Hare**, and **Cpl 'Enoch' Powell** who are moving on to pastures new. A special Thank You and Goodbye to the Manager—**SSgt Micky Dunn**.

Back Row (L to R): SSgt Colin Luckham, Sgt Steve Hodgson, LCpl Dave Buckly, Sig 'Brugey' Bruce, Sgt Andy Sisk, SSgt Terry Inman, Cpl Jim Frew, LCpl John Hamper, SSgt Mick Dunn (Manager)
Dahlstrom, Scouse Dunleavy, SSgt Pete Bradbury, Sig Ian Pearson

REGIMENTAL HOCKEY—SWDIST LEAGUE WINNERS

Report by WO2 (RQMS) Brian Mower

The Regimental Hockey Team (Blandford Swans) ended a successful season on a high point, winning the Winter League Trophy.

Under the guidance of **WO2 (RQMS) Brian Mower** the team has played with a great deal of consistency. **SSgt (FofS) Terry Inman** having decided to retire from football (well almost) to concentrate on hockey, finished the season as top scorer with **Sgt Sam Street** close behind.

Highlights of the season were the defeat of the School of Signals 3—0 and wearing the new black and white strip to a 5—3 victory in an exciting match against 1 Devon and Dorsets, giving the final result of the season:

Played 20
Won 15
Drawn 2
Lost 3

The following people were chosen to play for the Corps during the season: **Capt Keegan, WO2 Mower, SSgt (FofS) Inman, Sgts Mahon, Street, Carlin, Cpls Souter, Sherwin, Swain, Ingleby, Sig Miles** with **WO2 Mower** and **Sgt Mahon** appointed as Manager and Coach to the Army U21 side.

The 'Swans' have high hopes on the Dorset Indoor League and the Army Cup. 'Volunteers' are welcome to join the Regiment in their bid for glory!

SWDist League Winners 86/86

Back Row: (L to R) Cpl Keith Licence (AHUA), Cpl Steve Swain, LCpls Caz Costello, Cpl Andy Roberts, Sgt Jim Logan, Maj Robin Ovenden, SSgt Pete Knight, Sgt Keith Turner-Howe
Front Row: (L to R) Sgt Brian Carlin, Cpl Tony Sherwin, Sgt Andy Mahon, Sgt Sam Street, WO2 (RQMS) Brian Mower, SSgt Terry Inaman, Capt Barry Keegan, Cpl Sooty Souter, Cpl Brian Ingleby
Absent on Duty: Capt Don Macaulay, Sgt Bob Hay, Cpl Eddie Callagham, Sig Smiler Miles
Posted: Sig Sparkie Sparkes

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

RHQ

With our bi-annual foray north to the delights of annual camp at STC Burniston Barracks Scarborough, now only days away, the past two months have seen many changes in our complement of Permanent Staff. Off to seek their fortune in civvi street have gone **WO1 (MTWO) Paddy Dickinson, SSgt Taff Flaherty** (PSI 83 Sqn) and **SSgt Goldie Peters** from 47 Sqn at Harrow, whilst **SSgt Alun Parry** has left us for 11 Sig Regt, after sterling work in our military training team, and with a well deserved promotion to come. Pleased with his posting is **SSgt Barry Wickett** (PSI LAD) who will be able to coninue his much loved hobby of sailing, having, somehow, engineered a posting to 17 Maritime Regt RCT at Marchwood on the Solent. His fellow yachtsmen in 31 Regt hope he will not forget them (hint, hint . . .)

From the arrivals lounge we have welcomed; **WO1 (MTWO) John Farrell**—from Comms and Sy Gp, **SSgt Eddie Gallacher** (PSI 83 Sqn)—from 241 Sig Sqn, **SSgt Harry Worth** (PSI 47 Sqn)—from 21 Sig Regt, **SSgt Taff Thomas** (Trg Team)—from AAC Harrogate (via the Falklands) and finally; **SSgt Allan Logan** (NRPS LAD)—from HQ REME at Bordon. We wish an enjoyable and successful tour of duty to them all.

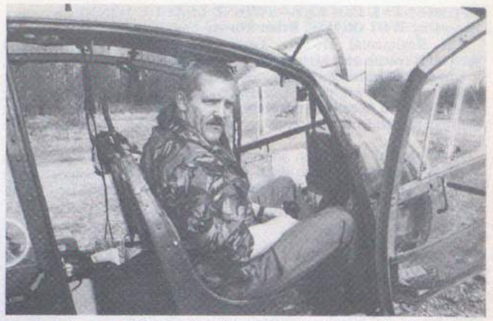
COTSWOLDS AND COWSHEDS

Determined to keep our venerable C70's firing on all valves/cats whiskers to the bitter end (our first Triffid has just emerged from COD Donnington) early April saw the Regiment deployed over a wide area of attractive real estate in the Cotswolds as part of the 11 Sig Bde (V) Ex *Vernal Maiden*. Switch India's not so attractive location was inside a huge barn shared with 60 noisy hairy monsters (no, not HQ Sqn) and, with the attendant aroma, NBC Black was almost a welcome relief. Two weeks later saw a further exercise for the Regiment, this time in Kent. Down at Switch India **Lt Steve Potter** decided to test the conference circuit and was promtly awarded the CO's prize for 'tipping on the telepronter' (guess who was on the other end); fortunately no hard feelings were held and, to prove it, OC B Troop is now **Capt Potter**. Meanwhile, over in the TRV the typing was of a far higher standard, with old hands **LCpl Karen Amey** and **Pte Donna Dawson** bearing the heat of the TG circuits, aided by some of our more recent recruits, **Ptes Jacqueline Kingston, Barbara Chittenden** and **Julie Keeffe**.

MAYOR-MAKING

Each year the senior officers of the Regiment host at dinner at RHQ Hammersmith the newly elected Mayors of the five London Boroughs in which we are located. This year, at our tenth such dinner in late May, we were especially pleased that the Signal Officer-in-Chief **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** and **Mrs Alexander** were able to join us, as well as an old friend of the Regiment, **Col G. S. P. Carden**, Chairman Greater London TAVRA.

Gone visiting—the CO Lt Col Colin Stenning with Comd 11 Sig Bde (V), Brig M. Marples



Gone flying—Cpl 'Dinger' Bell (HQ Sqn) tries out the Brigadiers' Gazelle for size

Gone knitting—LCpl Simon Loftus and Sig John O'Connor (47 Sqn) in trouble with an overhead line crossing

Gone rubbing—OC 47 Sqn Maj Chris Mote puts his civilian osteopathic skills to good effect on an ailing LCpl Andy Hutchins

Gone shopping—WO2 (FofS) George Johnston on a resupply run

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

PERMANENT STAFF MOVEMENTS

The Regiment has had quite a few movements of Permanent Staff in recent months.

The first was that of the RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Gary Mason BEM** and his wife **Pauline**, who after many 'Dining Out' occasions managed to tear themselves away on 14 April, on their way to 21 Sig Regt where **Gary** has been posted on commissioning. We wish them both all the very best of luck and happiness in their new surroundings.

Our new RSM, **WOI(RSM) Neil Brown** and his wife **Pat**, joined us on 27 March and have now settled in to the 'TA' way of life. We hope they enjoy their tour with us.

Another stalwart of the Regiment, **Sgt Ron Galpin**, who served with us as the PSI of HQ Squadron, left us on 19 April on his way to London as a recruiter. Before he left, however, he made sure he wasn't leaving empty handed, by marrying the delightful **Cathy**, who had served with him as the clerical officer in HQ Squadron. We wish them both happiness for the future.

Sgt Ian Collier has now replaced **Sgt Galpin** and is now firmly established as the 'professional' of HQ Squadron's administration.

EXERCISE *VERNAL MAIDEN*

Ex *Vernal Maiden* is our Annual Brigade FTX which took place between 24-26 April. The Regiment was deployed over a large area with elements as far South as Cannock Chase communicating back to Altcar, Swynnerton and Little Budworth in Cheshire.

During the exercise we were visited by our new Hon Col, **Col J. Greenhill TD**, this being his first visit to the Regiment, whilst on exercise, since his appointment in March. His visit was programmed over two days during which time he managed to visit every element of the exercise.

The Colonel is no stranger to our vigorous exercises as he has served as a Regimental officer in 31 Sig Regt (V) based in Hammersmith, as SO1 and subsequently as Deputy Bde Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) based in Liverpool. His last post before retiring, as a serving TA officer, was Deputy Comd Comms UKLF and Regimental Colonel TA.

Running parallel with the exercise was a recruit training weekend whereby recruits were introduced to various elements of military training and fieldcraft.

As can be seen from the photograph one recruit, **Pte Julie Ross**, had time to stop for a photograph during her initiation to the workings of the field telephone.

An NBC alert state was in force for a long period during the exercise, which let us practise the art of doing all those daily exercise functions hampered by respirator, rubber gloves and a feeling of claustrophobia. As shown (names not released) two members of the Regiment are engaged in the art of passing detailed instructions from one to the other through their respirator. Not a good time to be wearing ear defenders.

Ex *Vernal Maiden* also turned out to be a 'togetherness' exercise. **2Lt Andrew Payne** who has just transferred to 80 Sig Sqn from 35 Sig Regt (V) quickly jumped in to assist **Cpl Tom Jenkins** with cooking and serving up the culinary delights of Commcen X1 (no complaints either). We must use him more often!

The Honorary Colonel in discussion with OC HQ Sqn Maj Chris Reynolds-Jones, SSM HQ Sqn WO2 John Morrison and Sgt Mac McFarland during Ex *Vernal Maiden*

Pte Julie Ross being given the opportunity of using a field telephone for the first time during her recruit training on Ex *Vernal Maiden*

Togetherness. 2Lt Andrew Payne and Cpl Tom Jenkins working hard cooking the mid-day meal

Two members of the Regiment testing the delights of conferring in NBC suits (names supplied on request)

CITY OF LIVERPOOL PARADE

The Liverpool Parade took place on Saturday 6 June this year which coincided with the regimental move to Scarborough for our annual two week's in camp training.

However, in view of the tight time schedule, 59 Sig Sqn based in Edge Lane, Liverpool, took over the responsibility of representing the Regiment in the parade with a Line Detachment led by a real World War 2 Despatch Rider, complete with Battle Dress and all the trappings of that era, demonstrated by **Sgt Arthur Meakin** from HQ Squadron.

The rest of the team who made up the line detachment were: **Sgt John (Poser) Hough, LCpl Norman Crowe, Sig Steve Riley** and **Pte Sharon Goodwin**, who are to be congratulated on producing an excellent display.

Prior to parading through the centre of Liverpool the detachment was visited by **Brig M. Marples OBE**, Comd 11 Sig Bde (V) and Merseyside Garrison. Well done 59 and HQ Sqn.

Members of the 59 Sig Sqn Line Detachment parading through the City of Liverpool, Sgt Arthur Meakin leading in his Despatch Rider's outfit

BLANDFORD TOWER RUN

The Regiment entered a team for the Blandford Towner Run which was held on Sunday 31 May. The team did extremely well and consisted of **Maj Peter Edwards** RAPC, **2Lt Cathy McGrath WRAC, SSgt (YofS) Pete Jarvis,** PSI **Sgt Andy Foster, Cpl Eileen Halliday WRAC, Cpl Ralph Harwood RAPC** and **Sig Adrian Wallington.**

The Blandford Tower Run Team from *Left to right standing:* Cpl Ralph Harwood, Maj Peter Edwards, Sig Adrian Wallington, Cpl Eileen Halliday, 2Lt Cathy McGrath
Kneeling: SSgt (YofS) Peter Jarvis and Sgt Andy Foster

NEWS FROM 42 SIGNAL SQUADRON (V) MANCHESTER BEST RECRUIT AT CATTERICK

It was a proud moment for **Aron Moran** when he was nominated the best recruit at the end of his course at Catterick.

Aron who lives in Fallowfield, Manchester joined 42 Sig Sqn (V) based in Rusholme in April 1986 and during the last 10 months he has been training with other recruits in the Regiment in order to reach the high standard required. The training in military skills prepared him for his course at Catterick and although it was a test of endurance and other skills he had an enjoyable time and his award proved just how hard he had worked. Having now completed his recruit's training he will begin his trade training in Admin Troop. In civilian life **Aron** is a bus driver and he enjoys most sporting activities, especially athletics.

Sig Aron Moran receiving his Best Recruit Certificate from the CO, Lt Col R. F. Willsher

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V) Middlesbrough

It has always been a source of amazement to us that our Honorary Colonel, **Col Mike Stewart OBE TD DL**, manages to wear two hats, namely those of Hon Col of the Regiment and Chairman of the North of England TAVRA. He has now got a third, that of Representative Colonel Commandant TA for the Corps. The Regiment wishes him much success in this new appointment.

VISIT BY MAJ GEN P. D. ALEXANDER MBE

Brambles Farm was a veritable hive of activity in preparation for the SOinC's visit in March and it became quite dangerous to stand still for fear of being polished—or worse still—painted. The day arrived and the SOinC saw the great variety of training that is carried out on a normal Drill Night, from recruit and military training to band rehearsals and detachment maintenance. The evening culminated with medal presentations. One of these was a very special event. **Mrs Jean Barnett** received the TA Efficiency Medal on behalf of her late husband, **Jeff** in the presence of her family and his former colleagues and friends. The other presentations were GSM Clasp Dhofar **Cpl Paul Cooper**, TEM 1st Clasp, **WO2 (SSM) Ron Garrett**, TEM, **SSgt Martin James, SSgt Sue Pearson, SSgt Malcolm Wilson, Sgt Pete Grove, Sgt Dave Rowe, LCpl Bob Ray. WO2 (SSM) Stan Phillips** received his Warrant.

SSgt Malcolm Wilson is presented with his TEM after many attempts to acquire it on the 'QT'

The SOinC is met by the Trg Maj, Maj Alan Griffiths as the CO, Lt Col G. C. Mitchell, RSM, WO1 Len Rowland-Jones and the SVWO, WO1 Dave Sparks look on

The SOinC chats with Mrs Jean Barnett after presenting her with her late husband's Territorial Efficiency Medal

Cpl Paul Cooper receives his long awaited GSM Clasp Dhofar which he earned during his service as a regular soldier

The SOinC meets the Band SSM WO2 Mel McTominey during a brief interlude in practice

REGIMENTAL SAM

The Padre got it right yet again and the weather was perfect for the annual Skill-at-Arms meeting and thanks to the work put in by OIC Shooting **Capt Bert North** everything went like clockwork. Competition was fierce but in the end the best team trophy was carried off by 49 Sqn thanks to the skilled shooting of **Capt Steve Robson, SSgt Alan Vance, Cpl Tim Ellis, LCpl Janet Hardy, LCpl Janet Auty, LCpl Gary Robinson, Pte Ros Hay, Sig Steve Clark, Sig Tony Charlesworth, Sig 'Smudge' Smith, Sig Steve Falkinder** and **Sig Paul Turner.**

Standing left to right: WO1 (SVWO) Dave Sparks, Sig Stuart Pearson, Richard North, WO2 (RQMS) Dick Grainge, LCpl Brian Irving, Cfn Christopher Ravenscroft, Sgts Peter Grove, Peter Beckley, WO2 (SSM) Ron Garrett enjoying the sun and the limelight after collecting a few trophies on the Regimental SAM *Left to Right:* Maj Mary Nicholson, Cpl Gwen Tipton, LCpl Linda Grace and Pte Irene Millar

The CO presents Sgt Chrissie Meikle with her medal for Best WRAC Shot at the Regimental SAM

EXERCISE *HARD DRIVE 87*

This is a night navigation exercise for military vehicles and is the major event of its kind in the UK with 176 vehicles being entered this year. The training was carried out by the LAD under the watchful eye of its OC **Maj Jim Storey** and it certainly paid off. The regiment won the competition for the best Royal Signals Vehicle for the second year running thanks to **Sig Paul Hannon** and **Sig Simon Land**. Not to be outdone we also won best WRAC vehicle with **Sgt Ena Hall** and **Pte Ann Gregory** silencing all the comments about women drivers!

Sig Paul Hannon and Sig Simon Land share the honours for the Best Royal Signals Vehicle during Ex *Hard Drive 87*

VISIT BY BRIG T. H. WHEAWELL

Just to make the most of all the recent polishing, Comd 12 Sig Bde (V) paid us a visit. A regular visitor, this was to be his last before the commencement of the issue of Euromux and the end of an era. Brig Wheawell took the opportunity to see as much as he could while he was here.

PROMOTION NEWS

There was much cause for celebration in the MT with the promotion of the CO's driver **LCpl Ian Parker** to Corporal.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

Dear All

Awfully sorry that it has been so long since our last news. But you know how it is. We are hardly ever at home—and when we are, it's nothing but housework and patching up our collection of old bangers. And it's one new gadget after another cluttering up the place. It's something called Triffid now. Of course, the youngsters are a full time occupation nowadays, what with all that schooling and sport and so on. They're so boisterous. And the mud they bring back with them! Anyway, here's the news.

I don't think we told you about the military skills weekend at Nescliff Training Camp. Everyone had enormous fun and some nice people from the SAS showed us how to hang and kill a sheep. (Or was it kill and hang a sheep?). Then everyone was given their own chicken (or bunny) so that they could pull off all the feathers (or fur) and disembowel it. As you can see from the photos, the boys loved that and, with experience they soon learned which bit to hold and which bit to pull; if you see what I mean.

Sig Lee Haggan—before lunch

SSgt Derek Sharman, Sig Steve Bell and LCpl Steve Thomas making light work of the 8ft wall at Nesscliff

On the Sunday, we had a competition with an eight mile hike round the camp, followed by an assault course. All that wall climbing was very strenuous. It's amazing how hard it is to get a dead body over a wall. (Though why anyone would want to is beyond me. But boys will be boys).

Oh, and did you hear? We were on the tele. Central television had a studio discussion on: 'Should women carry weapons?' and because we're one of the few units in Western District with WRAC, we were invited to take part. By way of introduction, they filmed two groups doing the assault course and firing on the 30m range. It took three hours to film this part, although the assault course only takes 1.5 minutes. Since it drizzled constantly you can just imagine the mud by the time they'd finished! And that green stuff won't take a hot wash you know.

Anyway, the CO and four WRAC (**Lt Petra Meeson, OCdt Jane Nicholson, Cpl Jeanette Wheatley** and **LCpl Stella Howes**) went along to the Central studios to take part in the discussions. They also invited some WRAF, the RUC and the New York Police Department. **Gen Sir John Hackett** was there too.

Oh, and 58 Sqn from Newcastle Under Lyme is also going to have its moment of fame. They took part in a 'Its a Knockout' against representatives of the local Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service and others. Their success was almost embarrassing, as they won most of the events. As the winning team, it will be their job to coach four teams of celebrities, each headed by a 'Royal' (**HRH The Duke of York,** and the **Duchess of York, HRH The Prince Edward** and our **Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal**) for a charity event scheduled for late June. Watch out for it on National TV.

We are off to annual camp at Crickhowell on 13 June, where we shall be concentrating on military and trade training. The biennial UK camp gives us the opportunity, not available at any other time, to get together as a complete unit 'under one roof'.

48 Sqn fielded 30 people in the BRMB Walkathon, held on a cold and blowy Sunday 3 May. Together with another 30,000, they walked 26 miles round the picturesque outskirts of Birmingham, to raise money for local charities. With the aid of £400 sponsorship from Phillips Car Audio UK Limited the Squadron raised a very creditable £1,500, towards the staggering £412,000 total. Phillips Car Audio also provided gifts for the team to hand out to children on the way round. The team, led by **WO2 (SSM) Alan Evans**, finished in good heart, but perhaps less good sole (there's a joke in there somewhere), much assisted by the back-up team who provided refreshments, etc on route. Flushed with their success, the 48 Sqn team is planning to take part in a 26 mile charity canoe relay.

48 Sqn Walkathon Team

89 Sqn is celebrating its first anniversary in the new TA centre Seabrooke House, in Rugby. I expect that we told you that the previous TA centre fell down.

Lt Colin Meikle took some of the Squadron for a weekends parachuting at Topcliffe in Yorkshire. However, much to everyones dismay, the cloud level was too low to permit jumping. This really put paid to **LCpl Graham Back**'s war story. Having broken his foot during the training phase, he had been hoping to go back with a 'flying-through-the-air-accident' story. However, the party returned on the following weekend and, although the weather permitted jumping only on Sunday, there was some celebrating after the event. The Squadron sends its regards and thanks to 34 Sig Regt from Brambles Farm for the hospitality they received.

Some promotions: **SSgt Derek Sharman** becomes U Troop Staff Sergeant. **SSgt Dick Cox** becomes SQMS. **Paula Mason** and **Rich Harley** both gain their first stripes.

In the Officers' Mess, Saturday 14 March saw the dining out of two old friends, **Maj (TOT) John Wall**, who was retiring after many years loyal TA service and **Maj Errol Hunt**, who had completed his tour as Training Major and was shortly to retire from the regular army. **Maj Bill Bridgwood** also retired from the Regiment at the end of March, again, after many years' service with the TA. We shall miss all three and wish them well for the future. We welcome **Maj David Elson**, who joins us as the new Training Major and **Maj Ian Morris**, who is an ex-regular soldier.

Must stop or I'll miss the post. Bye for now. *Paul Renede.*

Majs John Wall and Bill Bridgwood preparing for civvi street 'You are the Traffic Officer—get me a taxi!'

Maj Errol Hunt *(left)* receives his retirement present from the CO

Don't be disappointed!

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

37 Sig Regt (V) Bristol

53 (WELSH) SIGNAL SQUADRON

First we say goodbye and congratulations to **Capt Malcolm Lott** on his promotion and move to RHQ in Bristol as the Regimental Traffic Officer. Goodbye also to **2Lt Tim Bardell-Cox**, who joined us from Cardiff OTC but decided that life as an accountant was not for him and that he wanted to be an Air Traffic Controller instead. Although it may be the wrong colour uniform, we wish **Tim** all the best for his career in the RAF.

Congratulations to **Cpls Linda Hardiman** and **Mark Roberts** on their promotion to the rank of Sergeant, and a special mention for **Ptes Esme Aviet, Charmaine Rees** and **Teresa Gravett** and to **Sig Dave Owens** who were all awarded 'Best Recruit' on their recent recruit courses.

The Squadron was recently honoured with a visit from **Brig J. A. P. Russell**, Comd 2 Sig Bde. Following a tour of the TA Centre the Brigadier presented efficiency medals to members of the Squadron. The presentations were followed by a curry supper in the bar when the Commander had the opportunity to meet and speak to members of the Squadron.

Sgts Selwyn Williams, John Clissold, Kathy Shields, Redvers Little and Dave Watkins proudly displaying their medals

67 (QOWWY) SIGNAL SQUADRON

On Thursday 14 May, the Squadron was honoured to welcome the Signal Officer-in-Chief **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** to Stratford. This was a nostalgic visit, as the SOinC has strong connections with the area and he was able to meet many Squadron members from his home town. The highlight of the evening was a parade at which medals and awards were presented to five long-serving members, followed by an informal buffet supper. The Territorial Efficiency Medal for 12 years' service was presented to **Sgt Malcolm Cooper, Sgt Michael Edwards** and **Cpl John Downie. Sgt Sid Hartshorn** was awarded the First Clasp to his Territorial Efficiency Medal for 18 year's service.

The General then presented the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for exceptional service to the Territorial Army to **Sgts Sid Hartshorn** and **Ken Harrington**.

Maj Gen Alexander with Sgt Sig Hartshorn *(left)* and Sgt Ken Harrington, displaying their Lord Lieutenant's Certificates

THE END OF AN ERA

Members and Honorary members of the Regimental Officers' Mess and their wives dined out both the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Mike Carson**, and the Honorary Colonel, **Sir John Wills**, at the same occasion. Although it may seem careless of us to lose the two Colonels at the same time, it was purely coincidental as **Col Mike** has sadly come to the end of his tour and has to move on. **Sir John**, who has been Honorary Colonel for the past 12 years, was presented with a silver Jimmy by the Regimental Officers as a gesture of appreciation of his service to the Regiment. However, we are not entirely Coloneless as at that same dinner we dined in our new Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman**. The entire evening was declared a great success thanks to the efforts of the Messing Officer **Capt Gill Jones**, the many volunteers from the Regiment, and of course the Royal Signals Band whose playing was, as always, outstanding.

Maj Norman Harvey presents the CO with his Farewell Gift

Col Sir John Wills receives a Jimmy from the CO

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

WELL DONE!

Congratulations are due to **Sig Andy Thwaites** (HQ Sqn), **Pte Julie Walsh** (64) and **Pte Karen Kavanagh** (46) for their 'best recruit' accolades on their recent recruit courses—their names are now duly inscribed on the Lloyds Rolls of Honour at RHQ. **Capt Mike Green** of 64 Sqn also earns commendation on his recent well deserved promotion.

CHANGES

The helm of 64 Sqn has been handed over by **Maj Terry Lea** to **Maj David Wing** who was Sqn Comd from 1981 to 1984. **Maj Ron Toft** has transferred to RHQ, and now occupies the chair of Projects Officer, in anticipation of re-equipment. **Maj Terry Lea** is now an Ops Officer with 87 Sqn.

OBITUARY

The Regiment was well represented at the recent funeral of **Capt (Retd) Marjorie Tindall** who died following a long illness. **Marjorie** was one of the founder WRAC officers of the Regiment and 87 Sqn. As an ex-regular WRAC WO1 she brought a wealth of much needed experience to the distaff side of the unit. Our thoughts are with her brother and the rest of her family—she will be sorely missed.

The CO, Lt Col Steve Coltman, briefs the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Frank Prince, on his recent visit to the unit. The 2IC, Lt Col Toby Seymour, looks on approvingly

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield gives some well rounded advice to 2Lt Wendy Watson and OCdt Kath Warhow (both of 64 Sqn) whilst WOI (RSM) McLennan, Maj Terry Lea (OC 64) and Maj Frank Kirkham (OC HQ Sqn) look on

Cpl Jill Cundy (HQ) receives her stripes following her promotion from the Honorary Colonel, Col Alan Hawksworth, at Scarborough

The Honorary Colonel discusses the day's menus with Sgt Roger Huckerby (HQ) and the abashed messing officer, Capt Bill Evans

Maj Ron Toft salutes after the presentation of his TD by Col Alan Hawksworth at Scarborough. Also in the group are Maj John Hunting (RMO), WO2 Gwen Stabler (RQMS) and Sgt 'Sam' Abdulhusain (64), the medal bearer

SSgt Mick Piechota, Capt John Turner and Sgt Andy Randall discuss the next phase of 87 Sqn's military training programme during the Squadron exercise

39 Sig Regt(SC) (V)
City of London

REGIMENTAL TRADE TRAINING CAMP—SCARBOROUGH STC

The week up to and including Easter saw elements of the Regiment gather at STC Scarborough for the annual Trade Training Camp (Annual Camp coming later in the year). Courses were held covering the complete spectrum of Trades employed by the Regiment, but more importantly, there were also Detachment Commanders, an all trades and ranks HGV 3, and Trend familiarization courses.

DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE

From the outset this year's Regimental Detachment Commanders course at Burniston Barracks promised to be no holiday by the sea. The usual two week's course was being crammed into nine days, taking advantage of the extra days provided by the Easter holiday. (This was an important point as, most of the course participants had to take only four days leave from work, thus keeping extra days in hand for the main annual camp later in the year).

The 15 course students (5 Royal Signals and 10 WRAC) were selected from the Regiment's HQ and 1 Sqn in London, and from 2 Sqn in Dundee. Day one of the course began in earnest with the first item on the programme being the BFT. As BFT's go, Scarborough provides quite a pleasant and stimulating run along the sea front. However on this occasion the wind was blowing a veritable gale, with the sea and rain lashing the promenade (and the students!). We had to keep running just to keep ourselves from being blown backwards!

Back Row: (Left to Right) Pte Martin, Sig Griffiths, LCpl Blackwell, Pte Clark, LCpl McMillan, Pte Burnett and LCpl De La Sierra
Centre Row: LCpl Frost, Ptes Murray, Leech, LCpl Hack, Pte Waite, Sigs Sene, Seaman and Gellatley
Front Row: WO2 Wilmot, WO2 (RQMS) Atherton, Maj (QM) Cowe, WO1 (RSM) Stone, Lt Col Grenville-Jones, Capt Bryan, Sgt Jones and Cpl Wells

Det Commanders Course: Practical First Aid—Never mind the casualty, watch the water!

From this rather energetic start the course developed rapidly—the remainder of the first day being taken up with an initial inspection and introductions to some of the many subjects to be covered during the following days. Day two, Sunday, was the first typical day and set the trend for the course up until the field exercise (more about that later). A normal day began with the inevitable PT at 0630 hrs followed at 0700 hrs by a fairly hasty breakfast, the tidying up of the living accommodation for room inspection at 0745 hrs. After which the course student for the day would lead us off to collect weapons and to form us up on the parade square for personal inspection at 0800 hrs. This was followed by drill instruction by **WO1 (RSM) J. C. Stone** who gave us considerable practice in projecting our voices across the parade square (the unfortunate after effect of which meant that by Day six most of us could only communicate in hoarse whispers!). After Drill the rest of the day would be taken up by various subjects; NBC, Weapon Training, Methods of Instruction, Military Law, Leadership, Stores Organisation, Vehicle Admin, First Aid, Fieldcraft and Tactics, Orders and Map Reading. The day would be suitably punctuated by morning NAAFI break, lunch and tea. Lessons continued up until 1930 hrs, but on occasions they would extend longer into the evening.

Lessons over, the evenings' activities usually centred around preparing kit (getting those tramlines out of our lightweights!), cleaning our rooms, some revision and then grabbing a quick pint at the NAAFI or at one of the local hostelries! Then at long last sleep, perchance to dream of the next day's onslaught!

One of the course highlights was the field exercise which in an anxious way we were all actually looking forward to. Despite the abominable weather on Day one, the weather steadily improved throughout the week and could not have been better for the field exercise. However this still did not prevent most of us from getting wet on the first six hour night tab, what with crossing rivers and leaping into muddy ditches etc. The next stage in the exercise involved getting to selected grid references (without too many unplanned detours!) and carrying out various command tasks and tests such as NBC, Fieldcraft and First Aid. The latter was simple enough in theory ie, getting a casualty (a fellow student) with a broken leg across a small stream improvising stretchers, bridges etc. Despite this the water crossing still managed to claim one or two victims for an early bath, as demonstrated in the photograph.

The next stage consisted of the long awaited section attacks where we managed to let off what steam we had remaining—each member of a section taking it in turns at leading his/her section into, and hopefully successfuly out of an ambush situation.

The final stage of the exercise, (although at the time most of us did not realise that this was indeed the final phase), was another night tab to an RV point to pick up extra rations and ammo. At the RV each section boarded a minibus and we were taken back to camp, supposedly to collect extra supplies. Upon our arrival to our surprise, shock (and relief), we heard the magic words 'Endex'!

The last day of the course had arrived. The morning was spent on a final BFT and end of course examinations, followed by practice for the afternoon's passing off parade. After lunch final preparations went into top gear, ironing kit, bulling boots and padding of aching and blistered feet!

The passing off parade was led by fellow student **Pte Karen Murray** (2 Sqn) under the eyes of the Regiment's CO, **Lt Col H. Grenville-Jones**, and the rest of the Regiment. Best WRAC student and best Royal Signals student awards were presented to **LCpl Lindsay Frost** (1 Sqn) and **Sig Mike Seaman** (1 Sqn) respectively.

The culmination of the course had been reached and on the Monday we returned to civilian life, at least until the training night the following day!

HGV 3 (OFFICIAL YORKIE BAR EATERS) COURSE

The HGV Drivers course was made up of all ranks and trades, with course personnel and instructors drawn from the whole Regiment, although the task of co-ordination fell to **Cpl Nancy Roy** (5 Sqn), the Chief Instructor. Generally students were paired off and allocated their own instructor for the 10 day period.

Apart from the scheduled classroom and practical periods, each crew was left to its own devices, which generally meant either practising on the area, or terrorising the local populace. Consequently each vehicle managed to average almost 200 miles a day, with trips to places as far afield as Hull, Middlesborough, Catterick, and the like. Amongst the highlights of these trips was negotiating such obstacles as Sutton Bank, and the road to Robin Hood Bay (both 1 in 4 hills).

One of the particular highlights of the course was the day spent at the cross-country and recovery area. Which brings us to the question

HGV Driving Course: Ooops—Practical FMT 3, or Recovery?

of how two stationary 4 ton MK's can collide with one another! or was it just another practical lesson on FMT3 filling in, and vehicle recovery? Well as the photo shows the two MK's are getting to know each other quite well. One having been put there on purpose, the other having rolled on to it. And yes the handbrake was on!, it just didn't work, and neither did the auxiliary/trailer brake (the pipe having split). Having got the vehicles into this position the instructors even managed to get them out without causing much more damage.

Although the main course was the HGV three, there were also a Unit Drivers Course, a Combat Drivers Upgrading Course, and a Civilian Car Drivers Course. Consequently, **Capt Nigel Keleher**, the MTO and QTO, had his work cut out when he came up over the Easter Weekend to undertake the tests, there being a total of 11 HGV, and two Civilian test candidates. All of whom passed, despite the holiday traffic around Scarborough (who said London drivers were maniacs?)

COURT AND SOCIAL: LONDON

Once again several engagements and marriages have occured since our last article in the *Wire*. **Capt Nigel Keleher** announced his engagement to **Miss Wendy McWilliam**, and **Lt Mark Bretten** married **Lt Leah Dougherty RAEC/WRAC** in York on 15 May. (Presumably he's now entitled to a Forces Railcard, and membership of the Wives Club?). Our best wishes go out to both couples for the forthcoming years.

On the departures scene, **LCpl Jenny Hall** bade farewell to everyone in London, **Jenny** who was a popular member of the Regiment is off to join the Metropolitan Police. We also said so-long to **Lt James Abell**, OC Alpha Troop (Commcen) who is off to Canada for the next couple of years in connection with his job; we hope that he enjoys his time across the Atlantic. We wish both all the best in their new appointments.

We would also like to welcome **Sgt George Webb** to the Regiment and hope he has a happy tour as PSI Tech 5 Sqn.

The final sad note farewell to **Sgt Tony Harrigan** who has donned his bowler after 22 years with the colours and now retires to civvy street. Good luck.

FOCUS ON HQ SQUADRON

OC	**Capt John Fletcher**
MTO	**Capt Nigel Keleher**
TOT	**Capt Tim Southall**
Paymaster	**Capt Neville Page RAPC**
Recruiting	**Capt Pam Hedgecoe WRAC**
Tp Offr	**2Lt Sam Luke**
SSM	**WO2 Baker WRAC**
FOS(TA)	**WO2 (FOS) Hunt**
FOS(PSI(	**SSgt (FOS) McCartney**
Tech PSI	**Sgt Agi Clarke**
MT PSI	**Sgt Dave Clark**

MILITARY TRAINING HQ AND 1 SQN

The first weekend in April saw both the London based Squadrons deploy together on an FTX in the Aldershot area, whilst HQ Sqn under the 'command' of **2Lt Sam Luke** deployed in support of the Commcen. 1 Sqn opted to break down its normal orbat in order to allow the newer members of A Troop (Commcen) to experience the rigours of being a member of B Troop (Field Troop).

With one Det from B Troop deployed with the Commcen, and the other deployed indepednently with its own message centre, we actually managed to pass traffic over a three mile distance (who said we were only long range specialists?). Meanwhile, whilst being friendly on the airways, things on the ground were completely different, with both locations pitted against each other. Each tasked to recce the others location, and then carry out a fighting patrol against it.

Whilst **LCpl Lindsay Frost** managed to 'suss out' the decoy put out by the field det and carry out a successful undiscovered recce, **Sig Jim Griffiths**, whilst receeing the commcen decided not to follow his DS's advice (**Capt John Fletcher**—OC HQ) and attempt to capture the Colonel, who just happened to be close by at the time, which was probably just as well as the Commcen had already located his patrol.

Having returned to their respective locations, the fighting patrols departed to carry out their respective tasks whilst the stay behind parties awaited the inevitable. Armed with the year's supply of blank, thunderflashes, smoke, schermulies, and all things nice, the fireworks were soon to fly.

The field det was the first to be hit, and as night turned into day the resulting explosions could be heard for miles around. Naturally the attacking forces claimed victory, despite the defenders claims that they hadn't been allowed to bug-out immediately, for fear of running someone over (shame!). Meanwhile, at the commcen, the attack went in under the noises coming from the field det. Indeed, they actually managed to get within 10ft of the commcen complex before being discovered. As all hell let loose **Cpl Mark Lawrence** decided to dispose of the DS first (**Capt John Fletcher**—again), with his first round (honest Sir, I slipped—what a story!). Anyway, fun was had by all, and the resulting war stories will keep us going for months.

And Finally . . .

Question: What do Regular Army RSM's do when serving on a two year tour with the TA? Answer: Carve the Sunday Roast! Our picture shows WO1 (RSM) J. C. Stone doing just that at our last Recruit Selection Weekend. Nice one Sir!
(In the background is Pte Hartwell from 5 (QOOH) Sqn)

40 Sig Regt (V) Belfast

PIED PIPER MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

A 10 man team from the Regiment took part in the annual Northern Ireland TA military skills competition which was held over the weekend of the 3-5 April at Magilligan Camp, Co Londonderry.

On the Saturday the team was vigorously tested on knowledge of NBC, first aid, training tests, ARV recognition, map reading, driving skills and they also had to complete a very wet command task. The competition finished on the Sunday with an 8km march and shoot event.

Nearly there, racing for the finish line on the march and shoot. Sig Irvine, LCpl Watson, 2Lt Brown, Sgt Hunter and LCpl Wood

Final prep, the teams make a final check of their kit prior to the final shoot

The team well on their way to the fastest time of the stretcher-carrying phase of the competition

The competition was extremely fierce with 14 teams entered from all the TA Regiments based in Northern Ireland. By the end of the first day the Regiment's team was lying well up the tables in fourth place having also won two trophies in the training tests and AFV recognition events—much to the displeasure of the infantry teams. So we had everything to play for on day two.

Nobody was looking forward to the march and shoot but the team gave a really great effort and finished the course in 54 minutes, and then obtained a high score on the shoot.

The final place for the team was fourth overall with only a few points separating the top places; we had thus obtained one of our best results in the competition.

The team had been trained by **SVWO (WO1) Dave Doherty** and **Sgt Tom Edgar** and the team members were: **2Lt David Brown, Sgt Tommy Hunter, Cpl Pip McNally, LCpls Andy Woods, David Weir, James Todd, Robert Watson, Sigs Derek Irvine, Tom Elliott, Raymond Farmer,** with **Sig George Barker** in reserve.

LCpl Todd, *centre*, gets a firm grip on the situation in the vehicle ambush incident

Sgt Skinner issues a late warning on the dangers of a negligent discharge

The aim is to relieve pain, not increase it, LCpl Todd

Sgt Skinner ensures his team is awarded maximum points in the inspection phase

Sig Irvine gently restrains two female shocked casualties by sitting on one while he gets to grips with the other

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to husband and wife team **Sgts Jim** and **Karen Murray** and **Sgt Barry Skinner** who received the GOC's commendation for their assistance and quick thinking at a fatal road accident in Scotland. During a weekend exercise they were first on the scene at a serious road accident. They rendered first aid to the injured party and controlled the resultant traffic congestion until the arrival of the civil police and ambulance.

Sgts Jim and Karen Murray on parade after receiving the GOC's commendation

NORTHERN IRELAND FIRST AID COMPETITION 1987

The Regiment once again entered a team for the Northern Ireland First Aid Competition 1987 (NIFAC 87) at Magilligan Training Centre, Saturday 9 May.

The competition was a thorough test of first aid skills in realistic casualty incidents, carried out under exacting physical conditions.'

The team, led by **Sgt Skinner**, put on an excellent performance finishing runners up in the Brig Sir Ian Fraser Trophy for TA units, scoring maximum points in the inspection and stretcher phases. The latter phase was completed in just 11 minutes—the fastest time of 28 teams.

The team which was trained by **WO1 (SVWO) Doherty** and **Cpl Lightfoot RAMC** consisted of: **Sgt Skinner** Team Captain, **LCpls Todd, Brown, Weir, Sig Barker, Paveley, Irvine, Reilly** and **Elliott** (Admin Member).

FAREWELLS

Fond farewells and best wishes to **Maj Robyn Wymbs** who leaves to take up a staff appointment at HQ Northern Ireland: To **Maj Brian Darrah** who retires and to **Capt Jimmy Simpson** who leaves on posting.

The CO receives perpetual trophy gift to the Regiment from Maj (TOT) Dave Baxter, while Maj Brian Darrah *(far right)* nods off

The CO receives a gift to the Officers' Mess from Capt Jimmy Simpson, while the TOT *(centre right)* asks 'why are you not clapping?

Maj Robyn Wymbs receives the gift of a candelabra from the Officers' Mess while Maj Brian Darrah gets the back of his head thumped by the CO

News from Squadrons

JCUFI
BFPO 655

PERSONALITIES:

OC	**Maj Tony Manders**
2IC	**Flt Lt Ken Adams**
USM	**WO2 (USM) Geoff Armstong**
Chief Clk	**Cpl Des Wheatley**

We are now (JCUFI) Joint Communication Unit Falkland Islands a fully operational Tri-Service unit. We the smallest section, 'Unit Headquarters' would like to say farewell to the first JCUFI OC and USM, **Maj Tim Mountford** and **WO2 (USM) Trev Jones** and we wish them well in their new posts at 8 Sig Regt and 35 Sig Regt (V) respectively. We welcome in their place **Maj Tony Manders** and **WO2 (USM) Geoff Armstrong**. Rumour has it the USM has been 'Argied' by four weeks, he went to complain but to no avail. Commiseration to **Maj Tony Manders** in the first six month tour as OC JCUFI (nobody's got that long).

SYSCON
by Cpl Dave Snowball

There I was, minding my own business, when I was 'specially selected' (Jiffed) to write *Wire* notes for MPA systems control by **FofS (lock yourself away) Mick Cooper**. Other members of Syscon include **Sgt Rick Hughes, Cpls Rab Benson, Dave Bradford, Robbie Hearn, Ako Atkinson** (Brain Donor), **Pete Messenger, Squeaky Moore, Bev Beverley** and **Denny Ball** (FNG).

A special thank you must go to **Sgt Chris Hartley** and **Cpls Tony Winter** and **Nick Wainwright** for their recent support, and who have now moved on to sunnier climes. Life revolves round 'Days to do' and 'Mail drops'; however, morale is always high even when the pressure is on.

This year's 'RAF Dirty Boot' competition was a great success and our congratulations go to **JT John Moore**, the winner. He is also working hard on the 'unpressed KF shirt' competition.

Systems involves hard work but is also quite rewarding and time, surprisingly, goes quickly. A hearty welcome awaits anybody shortly being posted here because then you will be our FNG's (Falklands New Guys)!

Airfield Line and Cable Section May 1987

Back Row: LCpl 'Stig' Richards, Sig 'Jamo' Hartley, LCpl 'Col' Usher, Sgt (Geoff) Gardner, Capt TOT Spearpoint, LCpl 'Matty' Mattson, Sig (Darren) Hilton and Cpl (Derek) Carman

Front Row: Cpl 'Muscles' Murphy, Sig 'Jacko' Jackson, LCpl 'Pie' Robertson, LCpl 'Stripe' Sullivan, Sig 'Ghandi' Simpson and LCpl 'Dobbo' Dobbins

Our man at Stanley: LCpl 'Johno' Johnson

Absent on Duty: 'Black Adder' Pickersgill

BRAVO TROOP (COMMCEN)

PERSONALITIES

OC TP(CDA)	**Capt Howard**
2IC	**WO (RS) Timmington BEM RN**
DSO 'A'	**RS Claridge RN**
DSO 'B'	**Sgt Scott**
DSO 'C'	**Sgt Roberts RAF**
CDA	**RS Ferguson RN**
	Sgt Lydon RAF

The move up to Mount Pleasant complex went very well, with everyone keen to start working in the new JOC commcen as well as looking forward to being accommodated in the new luxury dwellings.

The Joint Operations Centre Commcen is situated some way away from the Mount Pleasant complex and handles all the traffic leaving and arriving on the Island. In addition it is also responsible for providing operators to handle traffic passed to the Combat Operations Centre and manning the manual exchange, which deals with all calls to and from the United Kingdom and to and from the civilian exchange in Port Stanley.

The first two months in the new commcen were very busy with various people having conflicting ideas as to how the new Tri-Service commcen should be run. In the end we all came to a compromise and settled down to work as a very efficient 'outfit'.

Despite having enough members of each service to work Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy shifts, the men and women prefer to work mixed shifts and this system seems to work extremely well.

The CDA element of the troop is responsible for Island-wide crypto and is ably run by **RS Chris (Man Mountain) Ferguson** and **Sgt Paul (Biggles) Lydon**, under the watchful eye of **Capt Howard**.

As always in a unit with short tour personnel, the turnover has been rapid, so it would be unfair to single out anyone by name. Needless to say, everyone here has worked and played hard and many thanks must go to everyone, be they Army, Royal Air Force or Royal Navy.

FITS TEAM

With the fairly rapid turn around of personnel it is quite difficult to keep track of the personalities. However, the present team consists of **SSgt Mick Parsons, Sgt (Newly promoted) Mark Edwards, Cpls Bill Devitt, Paul Newholme, Al Gordon** and on our out sites **Cpl Phil Newman, Sgt (also newly promoted) Matt Nuttall**, and **Cpl 'Evs' Evans**.

Our life is always busy down here keeping the FITS on the road, with frequent helicopter trips to our unmanned sites scattered around the islands, for routine maintenance faults or just replen runs. All faulty equipment is brought back to MPA for 'specing' within our own test rig or back to UK for repair. With the changes at present in the pipeline, I believe we will be kept busy for the forseeable future as well.

POWER SECTION

Power section is but a small portion of JCUFI, but its role of supplying power to many comms sites is no less important than any other task on the island. We are seven men strong and very often spread all over the island carrying out repairs and maintenance at isolated generator sites.

The current members of power section are; **Sgt Moss 'Where is everybody?' Wright, Cpls George 'I'll do it' Fisk** and **Denny Allen, LCpls Andy Whitemore** and **Chris Atkins, Sig Andy 'I'll go anywhere' Marritt** and **Andy McNicholls.'**

I should also mention the recent departure of **Cpl Baggy 'Gizzit' Bagshaw**, who will be badly missed, along with most of the 'gizzits' that went with him! But we wish him all the best for the future.

After being stranded on an isolated site with **Sig Marritt** for three days, **Cpl George Fisk** was heard to say 'don't bother to bring me back, just send some more spares', naturally **George** was searched for undesirables on his return, none were found of course, and his intentions were very commendable.

Sadly **Cpl George Fisk** and **LCpl Chris Atkins** are soon to leave the Falklands after a very hard four months tour, and we would like to wish them both all the best for the future. We would also like to welcome their replacements **Cpl Eddy Callaghan** and **LCpl Gowland** into the fold, and wish them both a successful tour here.

S AND M WING OR UQMS JCUFI

Situated opposite Buffer and just east of OC A Flight can be found the UQMS department. Although the members of the UQMS department are allocated to the manning of SCAF (Supply Control Accounting Flight of RAF Mount Pleasant) it was decided by the powers that be, that after the demise of the QM department of 266 Sig Sqn, some form of accounting should be kept for FITS and other equipment required for the smooth running of JCUFI.

The initial phase undertaken by **Maj (QM) Joe Izzo, SSgt Sandy Sanderson, Cpl Steve Graham** and **LCpl 'Scouse' Hawkins** was the transfer of the majority of the equipment held by 266 Sig Sqn to the inventory holders of JCUFI. No mean feat considering none of the staff had worked with the RAF system before. The second phase was to establish an Inventory for the equipment required to supplement and maintain FITS. This was accomplished in quick time, and is now a smooth running operation controlled by **SSgt Sandy Sanderson** (UQMS) (Must be a Corps first) **LCpl 'Chappie' Chapman** (FITS NCO) and **LCpl Steve Crook** (C Troop and SWS NCO).

Although the department is the smallest within JCUFI all three members are in great demand to 'make up the numbers' for JCUFI HQs sports teams playing five-a-side football, volleyball and basketball. **LCpl Chapman** helping the unit basketball team reach the semi finals of the inter unit basketball, and **SSgt Sanderson** playing rugby for a scratch JCUFI team that beat the RAF in the run up to the inter services rugby competition.

Whilst **LCpl Chapman** and **Crook** are waiting patiently for their reliefs to be nominated **SSgt Sanderson** 'who is the last serving member of 266 Sig Sqn from lookout to leave the Falklands' can be seen wondering around muttering something like 'let me off the rock'.

Cpl Graham *(left)* and LCpl Roberts helping the QM Maj Izzo clear out his bunk

A very rare photograph for the Falklands—note trees in the background, a vehicle that isn't in workshops and the Quartermaster working

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. K. Ewbank**
2IC	**Capt A. J. Madsen**
Adjt	**Maj S. C. Firbank LI**
QM	**Maj H. A. C. Meekings**
Tfc Offr	**Capt R. C. Papworth**
OC A Tp	**Capt R. F. M. Cousins**
OC B Tp	**Lt I. Hooper**
OC C Tp	**SSgt K. R. Nulty**
TCO	**Capt G. A. Morgan RCT**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) G. C. Air**
FofS	**Wo1 (FofS) C. S. J. Phillips**
YofS 1	**WO2 (YofS) C. Newby**
YofS 2	**SSgt (YofS) B. Hayward**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) J. Clark**
Ch Clk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) S. R. Sharma**

A few changes have occurred in the Squadron line up recently. We say farewell to **SSgt Graham Manning**, off to PB11—'good man the Chief, always liked him . . .'. Welcome to the new Chief Clerk **SSgt Joe Sharma** and wife **Lorissa** from Hong Kong. Goodbye and congratulations to **Sgt Steve Meachin** who goes to 7 Sig Regt on promotion. The Squadron also says hello, and almost in the same breath goodbye, to **Lts John Perrett** and **John Stuart** soon to depart from their troop Commanders' course in Blandford.

SQUADRON ATHLETICS

Tuesday the 19 May saw the Squadron, well supported by wives and girlfriends, contest the annual athletics match. Ideal weather conditions and a well stocked refreshments tent ensured a very energetic afternoon for some and a very laid back one for others.

On the energetic side the inter-troop competition was hotly contested with C Troop gaining a narrow win at the end of the day. Outstanding individual performances were made by **Dvr Taff Roberts, LCpl Kev Biglin, LCpl John Lewis-Williams, Cpl 'Scouse' Read** and **Sig Pete Trant.**

The PT staff gained bonus points for diplomacy by declaring a dead heat in the Veterans 100m between **RSM 'Elbows' Air** and **Capt Gerry Morgan.**

EXERCISE *PENNINE AMBLE*

Ex *Pennine Amble* was a 10 day trek along the Pennine Way by 30 members of the Squadron. Walking from Hadrians Wall to Edale the party enjoyed excellent local hospitality and endured mist, high winds, torrential rain and the inevitable injuries.

Spirits unbroken 12 of the party succussfully completed the 200 miles. Well done. A special mention must go to **Pete 'the meat' Moon** who had more than his fair share to carry. Thanks go to **Capt Ray Papworth** whose brainchild it was, **Sgt Steve Meachin** and finally **WO1 John 'Papa Tech' Phillips** for all those superb photos . . .!

EXERCISE *KICKING STRAP*

Six members of the Sqn deployed on Ex *Kicking Strap*, an adventurous training sailing exercise conducted around the channel ports. **WO2 (YofS) Chris Newby**, being the Squadron Sailing Officer and organiser of the exercise, ensured he had a place on the enjoyable venture. Along with him were **Sgt Phil 'Fingers' Filder, Sigs Marty 'Sling' Rason, Stu 'Bergen' Bowskill, 'Terry the Boat Engine' Lancey** and **Dixie 'Bacon' Dean**.

Looking like a scene out of 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' the crew slipped Poole in the afternoon and sailed until early evening, in quite choppy waters, around the harbour. After another evening in Poole it was off for some serious sailing. Among the other ports visited during the ensuing six days were Cowes (IOW), Yarmouth (IOW), Southampton, Lymington and, finally Gosport—home of the Corps yachts, *Skywave* and *Quicksilver*.

The Duty Skipper, **LCpl 'Careless Colin' Murby** awarded the RYA Competent Crew Certificates to those who were successful on the final Sunday and the crew headed for home.

WO2 (YofS) Chris Newby and the crew would like to thank **LCpl Colin Murby** for his time, patience and an excellent week's sailing. Thanks **Colin**.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205 Sig Sqn) Aldershot

EXERCISE *LION SUN III*-CYPRUS

A late withdrawal from *Lion Sun* by The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regt gave the Squadron the opportunity for a month's training in Cyprus and a sun tan.

Rangework consisted of practices using a variety of weapons in day and night shoots. Instructors were: **SSgt Nielsen; Sgts Whitson** RPC, **Richards; Cpls Border, Cope** 23 PFA; **LCpls Cadby** 23 PFA, **Anderson** 23 PFA; **Ptes Ruth** 2 Para and **Millar** 2 Para.

In addition we practised combat first aid and this was followed by some instruction and practice in demolition and in dealing with improvised explosive devices. Instructors were:

LCpls McDonald 9 Para Sqn RE, **Allcock** 9 Para Sqn RE, **Fitzsimmons** 9 Para Sqn RE, **Barlow** 9 Para Sqn RE, **Cadby** 23 PFA, **Anderson** 23 PFA.

Tactics, fieldcraft, combat survival and watermanship also formed part of the training.

Sig Pilgrim demolishing the bayonet range

Cpl Chapman

Cpl Hammil and the LSW

The night shoot GPMG and IWS

The New York Police pistol shoot

Lt 'Cold Steel' Brammer

THE FINAL EXERCISE

The final exercise started with a bang 24 hours before it was supposed to! A day programmed for rest and personal administration quickly changed to a day of, at times, intensive activity.

The morning started at 0430 hrs with explosive charges detonating and automatic fire. Terrorists had attacked the camp, covertly taking out the barrier guard and attacking the guardroom with grenades and automatic weapons. On reaching the scene—carnage—blood, guts, broken bone, glass and empty cases liberally scattered everywhere, immediate first aid was given. An eight man QRF from 3rd Bn The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers arrived on the scene and secured the area. The Company was sent back to its billets to get changed into uniform and get together its equipment. The RMP arrived on the scene and set up an incident control point. The Company is issued weapons and BFA's (it's not for real) Sniffer and Tracker dogs arrive, closely followed by the scenes-of-crime officer. It's now 30 minutes since the attack and the Company has taken over from the RRF. The casualties have been lifted out by helicopter in casualty pods. The bill for the morning's attack: one man dead, two seriously wounded, three men and six SLRs missing. The OC is summoned to HQ Land Forces Cyprus, he returns one and a half hours later. A splinter branch of the PLO claim responsibility for the attack. They have the hostages. They demand the release of three terrorists held in Nicosia jail. The Company is given a warning order from the Commander Land Forces Cyprus to prepare for a possible amphibious operation on the suspected terrorist base. 1:20,000 maps of the area are issued down to section commander level. An hour long brief was given to the Company on the terrorists and their base area. We move in convoy down to Akotiri Mole to do rehearsals for a possible covert beach landing and also do Wessex 5 emplaning and deplaning drills. We're not sure how we're going to be extracted.

At last a full orders group. We leave that night by RCL to put OP's in to try and locate the hostages. We embark at 2100 hrs. A wet and tiring trip to a position half a mile off shore. The agents flash an alpha on a red torch—no enemy—come ashore. We board the Gemini's and creep ashore. It's pitch black and all we can see are the two Cylume light sticks. The Platoon Commanders are each met by an agent and a local guide. The agent is a girl!—We head inland, weighed down by ammunition and radios. Each Platoon has a number of OP's to put out. Platoon harbours are established and OP's deployed. Nothing to report—wait C/S E10A has just radioed in. He reports activity in the valley on which he has an OP—a possible terrorist training camp. C/S E10A again: the three hostages have just been brought in. They appear unharmed. It's now 1400 hrs. C/S E10A again. The terrorists are moving. It's now 1600 hrs, the three hostages have been split up and moved to new locations—we've got an OP in each location—lucky that!

It's now last light and the OP's move back into their Platoon Harbours. The OC gives radio orders. There will be a coordinated attack on each of the three hostage locations at 0510 hours the next morning.

The attacks go in—the terrorists don't stand a chance. We move quickly to a company harbour location. We've achieved the mission, it's now time to wreak some revenge on the terrorist training camp. H minus three, the OC calls in a Naval gunfire bombardment to soften up the enemy position. H hour—the attack goes in. The enemy put up stiff resistance but are no match for us. The Company reorganises and moves back down to the coast in some commandeered transport. An advance group is heli-lifted to a high point, to secure the route back down to the beach. The transport approaches the large feature dominating the withdrawal and is ambushed by a small fanatical pocket of terrorists. The Company debuses, deals with the ambush and moves up on to the feature closely followed by more of the enemy. The Company begins a withdrawal in contact down to the beach and the awaiting RCL. It's about 4km and by now the terrorists have deployed two armoured vehicles. Things are looking bad, but Naval gunfire support is brought down and contact is broken. By the time the enemy has regrouped, the Company has embarked and is away back to Bloodhound Camp and some well earned R&R.

RCL from 10 Port Sqn Regt at Akrotiri

OC Enemy—Walid Bin Blanket Stacker. Alias—Capt (QM) John Kirkman

LCpl Challice after the attack

The OC—Maj Gordon Shipley Controls Events. RSM—WO1 Jess Harper carries his kit!

An Alouette of 16 Flt AAC moving elements of the Squadron back to Melanda to form a defensive perimeter

Naval gunfire support is brought down prior to the final attack

SOME COMMENTS

Pte Paisley 2 Para—on watching **Cpl Udell** tear into the bayonet range 'What do you mean, he's a combat typist'.

On Ayia Napa—Please don't post me here—neither my wallet nor my liver could take it for more than a weekend!

Heard in the queue for weapons after the terrorist attack 'I suppose this means the run's cancelled'.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Davies**
2IC	**Capt Fraser Grant**
QM	**Capt (QM) Charles Homewood**
AO	**Capt Pauline Lucas WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt Fred Connor**
OC N Tp	**Lt Julian Bunce**
OC P Tp	**Lt Martin Prodger**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet**
MTWO	**WO1 Graham Jesty RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dougie Brisco**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Tom Ferry**
AQMS	**WO2 (AQMS) Paul Windsor REME**
CC	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Sandy Campbell**

INTRODUCTION

It is with great pleasure we welcome **Lt Martin Prodger**, fresh frm RMA Sandhurst who arrived in April. He has taken over Papa Troop and is proving a worthy successor to the former **OC Lt John Vlasto**.

PANTHERS FLAME CPX

There was much activity around the Training Wing: tables, chairs, radio remotes. Outside landrovers were being 'right dressed' on the grass and the shout 'Your mast's not straight' was heard echoing around the radio complex. Oscar Troop was preparing Bde HQ and Locon for the Bde CPX. Meanwhile in Friday Wood the battle group headquarters were deployed tactically.

War began on Wednesday 6 May, and continued for only 36 hours as 19 Bde had won, once again.

Concurrently November Troop were organising the Logame for the logistic elements of the brigade. A very bemused **SSgt Phil Jones** enjoyed playing the part of QM, ably assisted by **Cpl Brian Bell**. Pay to the higher rank was not, however, forthcoming.

EX *MAIN BRACE '87*

The Squadron left Colchester at 1900 hrs 17 May bound for BAOR again. DFDS ferries proved very reliable and safe. Twelve hours of hard driving followed, then a swift but tactical call in at echelon before both Troops were setting up in German farm grounds. The exercise ran very smoothly without any major incidents and by Friday 22 May we were packing up to return home.

4 Div HQ and Sig Regt kindly hosted us in their barracks while we sorted out the really important matter of duty free supplies and snatched a little sleep before heading back to the Hook of Holland. Another channel crossing then engines were revving hard for the trip from Harwich to Colchester. The MTO's rover had been towed off the ship and his trailer reallocated to the OC in an attempt to slow him down.

SSgt Tim Haynes, LCpl Kevin Laverick and Cpl John Ward deciding who's going to chapping first. (I thought they did the dominoes test before enlisting)

MILITARY TRAINING

After the exercise clean-up the Squadron began a period of military training in preparation for Ex *Panthers Trail*, at the Squadron training camp in Devon. The **Bunce/Prodger** double act proved to be very successful and much was learnt. Highlights included Section attack practice first on the Square and then in Friday Woods. Night Orienteering was also enjoyed (?) by all on the Middlewich range area. The real test comes in two weeks time . . .

Pte Mark Archer ready for anything

SQUADRON HOCKEY

The Hockey Team have had a good ending to the season. It all started on 29 April, fresh from the Easter break, we entered the Edist six-a-side competition.

We drew 45 Fd Regt RA in the first of three matches in our league and were well beaten. Was this the beginning of the end? Anyway, slightly disheartened, we prepared for the next encounter versus our old enemies, 19 Fd Amb. Suddenly we started to play, with **Cpl Andy Cummings** tearing down the wing, and causing their goalkeeper problems. It took the ageing skipper, **SSgt Tommy Wright**, to break the deadlock with some devastating stickwork to score two quick goals, and make the match safe, two points in the bag. We then played the 657 Sqn AAC, a strong side who held us to a 1—1 draw. **LCpl 'Sibbo' Sibley** had an outstanding game, with some 'Gordon Banks' type saves.

So we went into the last match needing one point to qualify for the quarter finals. Having watched 19 Fd Amb stumble their last game, we made a couple of changes to the team. **Sig 'Lucky' Landells** came on and scored a well worked goal from deep in our own half. 39 Eng Regt **'B'** seemed to crack, but even though we had all the play, the one goal was enough. So to the quarter finals. We had been drawn against Depot Queen's Division. This proved to be a very close match. **Cpl Bob Beaumont** played outstandingly well at the heart of the defence. Into extra time and still no score. The match was finally settled by a penalty shoot out. **LCpl 'Sibbo' Sibley** excelled himself, letting in only one of the five penalties. His opposite number was doing just as well. After three penalties each the score was 1—1 with **Pte Penman** scoring for 19 Bde. Up stepped **LCpl Ian Watson** and scored, **'Sibbo'** saved the next one and we were through to the semi-finals.

We played 1 Sqn RCT in the semi-final. After about five minutes **SSgt 'Tommy' Wright** scored from a penalty corner. Then 1 Sqn came back fighting and snatched an equaliser just before half time. At the start of the second half **LCpl Ian Watson**, was injured, a great blow to the team. He had to be replaced. We were not short of a defender. We held out till extra time. With some stern work from the skipper, we started extra time pressing for a goal. **Pte Penman** came close, **Cpl Andy Cummings** hit the woodwork, then came the final blow, 1 Sqn RCT broke away catching us on the break and scored a goal. And that was it.

Even though we were beaten in the semi-final the team played very well, bearing in mind that some regular players were away on exercise.

Who knows, next year we may get to the final.

A passing comment from near by the official tent 'Are **SSgt Wright** and **Capt Everton** on Beta Blockers'—who knows?

SUB AQUA

Several comments from the OC led to the formation of a Squadron Diving Club. This has recently expanded to become the Garrison Diving Club, under the leadership of the enthusiastic **Lt Martin Prodger**. As yet nothing more adventurous than the garrison swimming pool has been attempted, but diving has been incorporated into the Adventure Training on Ex *Panthers Trail*.

Likely stars include **Cpl Ian Flooks**, the qualified diving supervisor and his sidekick **LCpl Dave Cunliffe. WO2 (FofS) Davy Brisco** has the unenviable job of Treasurer.

Lt Martin Prodger is presently planning an expedition to warmer climates for January next. This explains the World Map and set of darts in the Papa Troop office.

SQUADRON ATHLETICS

Despite all the other concurrent events which have taken place over the last few months we were still able to enjoy the freedom of the athletic track. In swift succession we competed in two events, the first of which was the inter-troop competition which was held on 28 April at the Colchester Garrison Athletic track. The competitors for this event varied from the 'Regimental Gladiators' to the 'QM suede specials' but despite this yawning difference in talent a good sporting day was enjoyed by all.

In the competition which was enthusiastically fought out the combined team from SHQ/Q/P Troop managed to gain an advantage in the field events and were able to hold off the strong challenge of Oscar Troop track specialists. The final placings were:

First, SHQ/Q/P Troops; Second, Oscar Troop; Third, November Troop; Fourth, LAD/MT Troops.

The second competition was the Eastern District Minor units team championships on 3 June and as the inter-troop competition was still fresh in our mind the team selection was extremely easy. In this competition it was strictly 'Gladiators' only and although we did not manage to qualify for the Zone final it was an event which the whole team enjoyed. Quote of the championship meeting 'we may not have been the best athletic team but we were most certainly the happiest'.

Is it a bird? It is a plane?—Not it's Fozzie!

238 (London) Sig Sqn Chelsea Barracks

238 (London) Sig Sqn is one of the Corps newest independent squadrons, formed, or more correctly, re-formed on 1 June 1987.

The origins of the Squadron date back to November 1941 and the formation of the War Office Sig Regt. The role of that Regiment was to provide staff for the War Office Communication Centres, and its initial strength was 27 officers, 412 soldiers, increasing to 31 + 639 during 1942. After the war the defence reductions of 1952 scaled down the Regiment to Squadron size and on 1 September 1959 it was retitled 238 Sig Sqn. During the years 1947-59 the unit had moved from Eaton Square to Kingston Park camp then to Woolwich and finally to Hounslow. In 1964, 238 Sig Sqn was disbanded and reformed as 2 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt. The Squadron was colocated with RHQ 10 Sig Regt at Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow, until 1985 when 2 Sqn moved to its present location at Chelsea Barracks and the RHQ moved to Wilton.

LCpl Paul Wooding and Cpl Kay Gibson about to hoist the new Squadron Pennant alongside the Irish Guards flag at the entrance to Chelsea Barracks

SQUADRON PARADE

To mark the occasion of the formation of 238 (London) Sig Sqn the OC, **Maj Peter Dick-Peter,** decided that it was only right and fitting to show the Irish Guards how drill should be done.

After a number of rehearsals on the rather large parade square at Chelsea Barracks, carefully slotted in between the Guards rehearsals for the Beating of Retreat and Queen's Birthday Parade, the SSM, **WO2 Dave Simpson**, eventually found the combination of a male and female squad that managed to march in time and with a similar pace . . . not as easy as it may sound!

On the morning of 1 June 1987 the Squadron smartly stepped out for the parade to the strains of 'Monty Python's Flying Circus', courtesy of the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards (they also played 'Captain Pugwash' later on . . . was this a reflection on our standard of drill?).

The early morning parade rehearsals had obviously had some effect as several members of the Squadron were showing marked signs of improvement. **LCpl Andy 'Chip Pan' Fryer** almost had his arms straight, though it's not surprising his arms were tired having spent the previous month polishing his new Suzuki 500. **Sig Colin Geraghty** gave his all, though keen observers (and we had about 200 intrigued Irish Guardsmen watching us) will have spotted why he failed to get into the Scots Guards! The sight of 54 members of the Squadron marching past was just too irresistible for three-year-old **Clare** (daughter of **LCpl 'Tug'** and **Les Wilson**) who had to be restrained from leaving the sidelines and joining in! **Tug** could learn a point or two from her drill, and some were wondering whether his No 2 Dress had ever fitted him.

Having got the Squadron on to the square and into open order the SSM handed over to the 2IC, **Capt Therese Crook**, who, after waiting for a certain officer to arrive, fell in the officers. Once the OC had taken command of the parade there were mutterings of 'But where's the TOT?' **Capt Richard Howes** had unfortunately been diverted by 'technical commitments elsewhere', but raced back to be just in time to toast the success of the new Squadron.

The reviewing officer, **Lt Col Andrew Gale**, Comd Comms London District, was driven on to the square at 1100 hrs by **Pte Lynne 'Sats' Maddeys**, who had spent hours practising the art of saluting with one hand whilst opening the car door with the other, only to discover that the Colonel wished to leave the vehicle unassisted!

The inspection and march past went without mishap and afterwards the Squadron retired to the Bruno Club for lunchtime refreshment. The Irish Guards had had quite a few laughs at our early attempts at marching on the square, but the parade had gone surprisingly well, and the OC's day was made when the Irish Gurads RSM complimented the Squadron on their standard of drill, and even the SSM finally allowed himself a smile.

The evening's entertainment began with a disco and buffet at 8 pm, and Chocolate Frogs for dancing have subsequently been awarded to the following: **Mrs Tracey Butler**; husband **Dave** attributes her versatility to close study of Madonna videos. **Sig 'Runch' Runchman** (the John Travolta of 238); plenty of movement below the neck, 'though not always convincingly co-ordinated from above that point! **LCpl Jason Ballard**; the 'Barry Sheene of Buckingham Palace', **Jason** has earned the tag of 'Concorde' and not only due to his sound barrier attempts along the Mall!

Chocolate Frogs for diplomacy have also been awarded to **Pte Mandy Blackburn** and **Sig Jimmy Watson**, and neither have been able to deny convincingly that they are individually applying for selection for the Diplomatic Corps!

Comd Comms inspects LCpl 'Tug' Wilson's turnout. Also in the picture are *(L to R)*: Sqn Comd, WO2 (SSM) Dave Simpson, SSgt (SQMS) Gus Hales, Sgt Kev Moir, LCpl Paul Wooding, Sig 'Runch' Runchman and LCpl Dave Cutler

Comd Comms speaks to a cheerful Pte Anne-Marie Flynn. Flanking her are: LCpls Julie Penny *(left)* and Jo Inman

Lt Col Gale (Comd Comms London District) takes the salute as the newly formed 238 (London) Sig Sqn, led by their OC, Maj Dick-Peter, marches past in Chelsea Barracks

GOC NORTHERN IRELAND CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

On 7 May **SSgt (SQMS) Gus Hales** was presented with the GOC Northern Ireland's Certificate of Commendation by the GOC London District. **SSgt Hales** was nominated for the award for his sterling work whilst at 233 Sig Sqn during April 1984 to June 1986. After the short ceremony at Horse Guards the SQMS returned to the Squadron bar, accompanied by his wife **Gill** and **Capt John Nichols** (with whom he had served in Northern Ireland), in order that the Squadron could congratulate him in the traditional manner. Well done 'Q'.

SSgt (SQMS) Hales proudly displays his GOC Northern Ireland's Certificate of Commendation. With him are his wife, Jill and Capt John Nichols

ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND CONGRATULATORY

A number of new members have arrived over the last few months, particularly from Catterick. We welcome **SSgt Kate Woodcock** (Oscar Troop's new Tp SSgt) from Guildford, **LCpls Neil Turton** and **Janette Dallimore** from 16 Sig Regt, **Sig Grant McNee** from 28 Sig Regt, **Ptes Karen Taylor** and **Tracey Evans** from 16 Sig Regt and **Ptes Karen Herbert, Karen Ellams, Linda Strachan, Jane Cox, Lynn Buckle, Jo Petters** and **Simone Rouse**, all fresh from 8 Sig Regt.

Farewell and good luck to: **Sgt Karen Wooding** who recently departed for 233 Sig Sqn and will be sadly missed not only by the Squadron but also by the Irish Guards Sergeants' Mess (having been their first lady member!). **Sgt Paul** and **Sue Brabbins** after a very brief tour with the unit and who has been heard saying, 'I've done my time . . . I'm going, **Sgt Al** and **Catherine Rutherford** and **Cpl Carl Scaife** who have moved down the road to the new 251 Sig Sqn in Aldershot, **Cpl Keith Bates** who has just left for civvy street after 22 years in the Army, **LCpl George** and **Pat Walker** to 2 Div, **LCpl Chris King** and **Pte Erica Saxbee** to Hong Kong, **Cpl 'Arfur' Nichol, LCpl John Murray** and **Sig Dougie Brown** to civvy street, **Pte Shelley Brownsword** to 16 Sig Regt and **Pte Leslie Younger** to 29 Sig Regt.

Congratulations to the newly arrived **LCpl Turton** and **Pte Evans** on their recent marriage, and to **Cpl Taff Williams** on successful selection for YofS training (starting in October 1987).

Finally, congratulations to the MT section on their recent 'Baby Boom': **Cpl Andy** and **Monika Martin** on the birth of their second child, **Melanie**, and **Sig Paul** and **Maggie Meredith** on the birth of their first child, **Daniella**.

243 Sig Sqn
Wilton

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj I. D. Bingham**
2IC	**Capt M. C. Gilyeat**
Ops	**Capt (Tfc) J. T. Nichols QGM**
OC SWS Tp	**Maj (TOT) P. J. Steeples**
OC U Tp	**2Lt S. McLean WRAC**
OC S Tp	**Mr T. Coghlan**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Carmichael WRAC**
FofS	**SSgt (FofS) Plumb**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Bird**
Tech Stmn	**Sgt Johnson**

INTRODUCTION

Out of the ashes of 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF), disbanded on 31 May 87, has arisen 243 Sig Sqn. Whilst the reformation has meant little change (to date) to the personalities within the Squadron, it has created a considerable workload. Preparations included Boards of Officers, relocation of SHQ, the acceptance of increased administrative duties and the hassle over establishments as well as procuring the necessary stationery and publications. During this period maintenance on static communications within South West District and military training has continued. The following notes give a brief resumé of the Squadron's final days in the Regiment and its early days of independence.

EXERCISE *BRUNO BOUND*

As a finale to the Squadron's previous six months military training programme, the 2IC and FofS devised a small exercise on Salisbury Plain. As the deployment date drew closer rumours about 'Escape and Evasion', 'Long Tabs' and 'Lack of Sleep' grew stronger. The DS had given little away except that shifts would deploy for 24 hours on their day off.

The aim of the exercise was to practise individuals in their admin in the field and night navigation and this was certainly achieved.

Following a briefing in the field individuals set about building their homes for the night. The kind DS, which now included SSM, **Cpl 'Rambo' Hamaton, LCpl Bill MacInnes** and **Sig Thomo Thomas**, advised on some major modifications to assist in avoiding the elements and then it was time for the first, and for some the last, meal of the exercise. To all those too tired to bother, the DS say thank you. We enjoyed it.

SSgt (FofS) Gig Plumb with that hungry look

Evening meal completed it was time for the night navigation. Some quick reminders on which compass point was North and off they went. The SSM thanks **LCpl Clair Burns** and **Pte Louise Hodge** for leading her into every pot hole and the 2IC congratulates **Ptes Nicky Rennie** and **Di Stanton** for finding their way back (eventually). **LCpl Bill MacInnes**, the medical orderly thanks **LCpl Glynis Every** for being his one and only patient whilst **LCpl Cath James** thanks everyone for all the stories about slugs and for her lack of sleep. Although it wasn't said, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to similar treats, over a longer period, at the September Camp.

PS The Golden Blanket Award went to **Sig Thomo Thomas.** A most creditable and deserving performance.

Who says you can't build a Basha for six? This group certainly wouldn't agree. *L to R:* Ptes Katie Gifford, Taff Lewis, Laura Johnston, Ruth Wyman, LCpl Scouse Johnson and Pte Sherri 'Lovelace' Took

MARATHONS FOR FUN

As in many establishments Running for Fun has taken off in a big way. Squadron teams participated in the Fleet and Army Marathon, the Blandford Tower Run and are now recruiting for the WRAC Marathon. Whilst short of achieving national standards their stalwart performances are a credit and deserve a mention. **Pte Louise Hodge's** account of the Fleet and Army Marathon follows:

The morning broke early, as of course we had lost an hour on that particular day. Some of us were quiet, some talked more than usual, most trying to hide pre-run nerves. 1200 hrs the start time approached and there was a mass move to the starting points.

The six of us, **SSgt Milli Jeffery, SSgt (FofS) Gib Plumb, LCpl Clair Burns, LCpl Sharon Stinton, Ptes Leslie Bryan** and **Louise Hodge,** decided on a time of about two hours.

Sweatshirts off—watching the clock—'I wish I was still in bed'—'should have gone to the loo, again'—'there's the gun . . . we're off. Hundreds of heads and colours bobbing down the road like a wave.

It feels like it's getting colder and the wind's stronger, great it's snowing . . . Keep chatting and think of something other than the thirteen miles ahead. At last the end's in sight and the energy seems to be returning, keep smiling people are watching—sprint over the line—got to make it look good. Done it—finished, collect my medal.

Everyone finished in under two and a half hours, except one injury and even she managed 10 miles of the course.

Time to collapse into the Minibus and work out for next year how to run and drink at the same time . . .

PRESENTATION OF CinC's COMMENDATION

The weekend 16/17 May '87 saw the return of the Ten Tors competiton to Okehampton. It was that time one year ago that the achievements of two of the civilian staff in SWS Troop earned them the CinC's Commendation. In 1986 the competition was marred by heavy fog and extreme weather conditions, and the competition was curtailed but not before many competitors were on the moor. **Mr Colin Hutchings** and **Mr Ray Jones** assisted in the recovery of some children, and **Mr Ray Jones** carried one for three miles. This Commendation was truly deserved.

Presentation of the CinC's Commendation GOC SWDist. Maj Gen B. M. Lane presents the award to Mr Colin Hutchings *(Left)* and Mr Ray Jones (Right). OC SWS Tp and the CO, Lt Col Mike Thorne, look on

GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

Hails and farewells have continued throughout our transition to independence and this opportunity to mention the departures, in particular cannot be let slip. Our best wishes go to **Lt Melanie Ostrachinni** and **Sgt Steve Smedley** in their quests for second careers. We also bid farewell and congratulations to **Pte Leslie Bryan** who has departed, on promotion, for the sunnier climes of Cyprus. Also departed is **Cpl Julie McTague** and **LCpl 'BL' Leyland.** Goodbye also to the Sqn Clerk, **Bill Lovelock** who moves into the Support Unit on independence.

We welcome **2Lt Sionnadh McLean**, who takes over U Troop, and also **SSgt Colin Roberts** who is preparing to take over the Tech Wksps. **Sgt Melvyn Johnson** arrived on independence, as did **Capt (Tfc) J. T. Nichols**, and our civilian clerk, **Jane Slater**, all from 10 Sig Regt.

Welcomes are also extended to **Ptes Angela Murphy, Kim Graham, Paula Blanchard, Joanne Bunting, Susan Allsop** and **LCpl Maggie Milford**. We wish you all a pleasant tour in 243 Sig Sqn.

Hail and farewell also to **LCpl Jayne Dyer** who joined us in February only to leave in July. Was it something we said?

THE WAY FORWARD

With some creases already ironed out and others, no doubt, around the corner, the next few months would certainly appear to be a busy time. The mass move of all personnel to Bulford by late August would certainly support this view. Not all bleak, however, the light at the end of the tunnel is in sight. Furthermore, a canoeing expedition to Spain should certainly prove a warm reminder, for twelve of the Squadron, that life does exist outside the Commcen.

251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

On 1 June 1987 3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt became 251 Sig Sqn. An independence celebration was held in the 'Cats Whiskers' club at the Duchess of Kent barracks. The function was organised by **2Lt Tina Taylor WRAC** and our thanks go to her and the many helpers who put so much effort into producing such a first class event.

Such a happy occasion cannot hide some sadness at the demise of 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) and we hope that it will not be too long before the three newly formed Squadrons are able to arrange an event where old friendships are rekindled and new ones forged.

SHQ

The complexion of SHQ has not changed although there has been a lot of changing around of offices to accommodate a new tech stores and larger orderly room. Even the MT did not escape and was finally brought upstairs to live within SHQ's office area—they also did most of the work!

VISIT OF HRH THE PRINCESS AISHA OF JORDAN

On Monday 11 May, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Aisha of Jordan,** honoured us with a visit to the Duchess of Kent Barracks. Although 10 Coy WRAC were her hosts the **Princess Aisha** managed to find time to visit SHQ, the Aldershot Military Exchange and the Commcen.

Pte Helen Sainsbury and LCpl Diane Youd take a break from the rigours of punch-up to share a joke with the Princess

The Day Supervisor, Sgt Ken Mace, explains the Trend teleprinter to the Princess

Princess Aisha *(left)* makes her first Fastnet connection on Pte Kim Murphy's console while 2Lt Tina Taylor looks on

PRESENTATIONS

At the annual 10 Sig Regt Exchange Supervisors Conference held on 13 May **Col Mike Hales** Controller AFTS, HQ 2 Sig Bde, presented the Meritorious Service Medal to **Mrs Eileen Peart** (formerly **Thompson)** and to **Mrs Iris Harding. Eileen** was until recently, supervisor at the Arborfield exchange and **Iris** supervisor here in Aldershot. Congratulations to them both and may they enjoy a happy retirement.

The notes would not be complete without mentioning the efforts of Worthy Down exchange in being nominated for and being awarded the Bruno Cup for the best overall performance by a minor military exchange within the South of England.

Col Mike Hales sharing a happy moment with *(L-R)* Mr Eileen Peart and Mrs Iris Harding

The CO of 10 Sig Regt, Lt Col Mike Thorne, presents Mrs Cathy Graham (Worthy Down exchange) with the Bruno Cup and certificate

SPORT

The Squadron had two recent successes. Firstly we won the South East District (WS) Volleyball competition. This was held at St Omer Barracks on 21 May. The final was against our old rivals, 10 Coy WRAC with whom we share the Duchess of Kent Barracks. Whilst no one player was outstanding special mention should be made of the excellent skills of **Pte Roz Stanners** and the great effort of **Pte Sian Rickward.**

The other sporting event in which we did well was the South East District (West) (WS) Swimming.

This event was held at the RMA Sandhurst pool and our team came second overall but won the SE District (West) Trophy. **Cpl Krishna Lawton** won the breastroke for the second year running.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Capt 'Nick' Naylor** and **Barbara** on the birth of their first child and our first Squadron baby, **Matthew James Douglas** on 1 July 1987.

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

APHRODITES AMBLE
A brief resumé by LCpl Cascarino

As April rushed in upon us—the atmosphere within the Squadron lines was electric, everybody anticipating the pleasure of a scenic stroll around the gently undulating slopes of the Mount Troodos range. The exercise was to last three days split into three separate phases.

The first phase took place at Dhekelia Ranges and involved lots of fun activities including—NBC, first aid, map reading, command tasks, ranges and basic signalling skills stands, all of which went down well with the lads. After this compact 'How to be a Rambo' course, we were all honed to a razor's edge and ready to throw ourselves whole-heartedly into phase two—the hills! After a quick kit check at the ranges we were told of our mission—to boldly go where no man had been before—a nice 25 mile jaunt via various checkpoints along the way. The lads were ecstatic! At this point it must be stressed that it was through no fault of **Sgt Steve 'Pathfinder' Dobson** (who ran a very enlightening map reading stand on phase one) that half the sections managed to lose their way before even reaching checkpoint one. This phase brought a few casualties along the way, but on the whole the lads thoroughly enjoyed the chance to take in the local scenery and wild life (am I really writing this?). After marching all the way down to Evdimou beach area a barbecue was enjoyed by the sections as they arrived.

Basic Signalling Stand, *(L-R* Sig McPhee, Nelson and Cpl Fowkes

Weapons stand
How does this go again? *(L-R)* WO2 (SSM) Whitton, LCpls Baird, Hunt, SSgt Lauder and Sgt Tremblay

The last phase saw us enjoying a well earned rest on the beach taking part in various sporting activities. It must be said that **SSgt Brian 'I'm still at 11 Sigs aren't I Lauder**'s PT session was a real killer! Special mention must go to the following:

Section Delta, (Gung-ho nearly airborne) comprising myself, **MCpl Wayde (Tich) Peachman, Cpl Fred (Perry) Pike, Pvt Ben (Eskimo) Mitsuk, Sig John (I am 33 you know) Bower** and **LCpl Geordie (I am a hunk) Winship**, who ran out overall winners of the competition. Well done lads!

Footnote:

We all hope **SSM Angus (The Finger) Whitton** will be able to take part in the next AA (hopefully the bandages will be off by then).

NBC Stand
'What a gas', *(L-R)* Sig Nelson, McPhee, Meadowcroft, Ollington and Cpl Fowkes

Ex *Debrief*
WO2 (SSM) 'Keeping Kool' Whitton debriefs the Squadron prior to prize giving

RADIO MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

Hello 03C (SSM) This is 03B (2IC) What is your present location over?

03B (2IC) This is 03C (SSM) Up to the axles over.

'And just to prove the radio message was NODUF', (we do have mud in Cyprus)

COMMCEN TROOP

Oh dear *Wire* notes again.

PERSONALITIES

OC	**WO1 (YofS) Bob Waller**
SNCO	**Sgt Dave Hartshorne**
Day Cpl	**Cpl Paul Fowkes**
Shift Cpls	**Cpl Ritchie Cookson**
	Cpl Kenny Everett
	Cpl Brian Cable

Our role has not changed at all but our life style has just been completely turned upside down. Some two years ago a plan was devised to initiate, rewire and redecorate our sadly depleted Communications Centre. So, we are at present climbing over and around new trunking, old wiring, and Sappers. We have been assured that the work will be completed by the next issue and we will have a new, refurbished Commcen in line with the rest of the British Army.

VISITS

The most notable visit recently was the DCN team. After a tour of the Commcen the team left with a good impression of the conditions we work under. We wonder what changes might now be in store for us?

SPORTS—ATHLETICS

Two members of the Troop did very well indeed during the last Support Regiment Athletics competition. They were: **Sig Ashfield**: third, 800m; **Sig 'Scouse' Barton**: second, 500m.

Well done lads! Hope you enjoyed your sleep day!

EXERCISE *APHRODITES AMBLE*

The Troop was split up into sections for this Squadron Military training exercise. All sections were tested in basic signalling/military skills. **WO1 (YofS) Bob Waller** and **Sgt Dave Hartshorne** were used as DS while the rest of the Troop familiarized themselves with the contours of Cyprus.

SQUADRON FOOTBALL

The Squadron Football Team has recently been reformed to provide an opportunity for anyone with a love of the game to play and also a team to compete in UNFICYP Support Regiment Football Competition. From an initial entry of 36 Squadron members, who didn't want to attend Squadron PT parades, 13 were selected as our Squad. **Sgt Dave Hartshorne**, as Team Manager, quickly organised numerous practice sessions and friendly games. Results were as follows:

Friendly: Lost 3—2 Force Scout Car Squadron; Won 12—2 Workshops; Won 5—0 Canadian Contingent.

Squadron Football Team
Back row: LCpl Steve Hunt, WO1 Bob Waller, LCpls Steve Holdcroft, Geordie Winship, Sgt Dave Hartshorne, (Team Manager, Sgt Tony Speight, Cpl Guy Broom, Sig Craig Bird and Gaz Ollington
Front row: LCpls Skull Freeman, J. R. Bowring, Sig Jeff Armstrong, Cpl B. R. Cable and Sig Smudge Smith

SUPPORT REGIMENT COMPETITION

The team did well to qualify for the final of this competition, but sadly lost the Final 3—1 to the RCT. Notable performances were put in by **WO1 'Get stuck in' Bob Waller, LCpl 'Leave it' Skull Freemand**, and our outstanding goal scorers **LCpl's Steve Holdcroft** and **Geordie Winship**.

RADIO TROOP
FERRY DISASTER APPEAL—SPONSORED RUN

As dawn was edging itself over the rolling wind-swept plains of Nicosia International (now mostly deserted except for Radio Troop) Airport, twenty young, enthusiastic and, soon to be exhausted, lads from Radio Troop 254 Sig Sqn prepared themselves for the upcoming sponsored relay run. The relay run was in direct response to the appeal to the families hardest hit by the disaster at Zeebrugge in April 1987. Therefore when the call came, Radio Troop, under **Lt M. Burke**, feeling fit, full of energy and compassion, decided that they would run 75 miles from Nicosia to Limassol climbing 1700 metres in the process, raising funds for this worthy cause. During the run, held on 2 May the weather decided to play games with the runners. The Radio Troop runners were given sunshine, rain, snow, and finally a little more sunshine as the day ended. With a mean time of six minutes per mile per man, Radio Troop completed the 75 mile run in eight hours and 40 minutes. This just goes to show that the Troop is indeed fit and full of energy! Radio Troop was able to raise over £430 Sterling and thank all our sponsors for their generosity and support of this worthy cause.

Lt M. Burke; SSgt B. H. Lauder; Sgt J. C. Tremblay; MCpl W. Peachman; Cpls T. Scoins, M. Hunt, P. Pike; LCpls M. Donoghue, S. Hunt, P. A. Sheppard, C. Winship; Sig M. J. Smith, B. Hughes, V. Altieri, M. Foote, S. Breckinridge, O. D. Morris, D. Lee, R. M. Goldsmith, A. Baird.

Cpl Scoins relieving Sig Smith, with Sgt Tremblay, LCpl Donoghue and Pte Altieri looking on

Radio Troop cross the finish line in good heart

A DATE WITH THE FAMOUS

SSgt L	(Very Nicely) Good Morning Sir!
RSM	(Too Nicely) Good Morning Staff—much on next week?
SSgt	(Hopefully) Yes Sir! Quite a lot. My Troop is showing all CES kit
RSM	(Condescendingly) Nearly right Staff, fairly close in fact. Come and see me
SSgt L	(Apprehensively) Yes Sir, right away Sir!

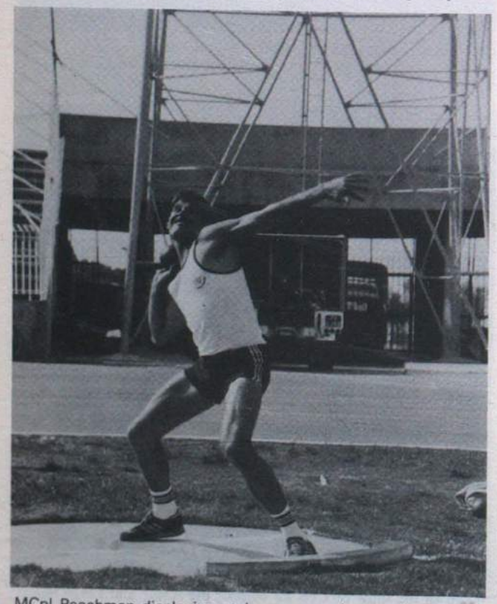
And so the show of CES kit became the 'Little and Large Show' with the support and administration masterminded by **SSgt B. Lauder** and 254 roadies, and on 23 March the RCT Hangar was transformed, the audience transfixed and **Brian** tranquilized. The evening was a

tremendous success, even though it was misadvertised as the 'Lauder and Large Show'—wonder who did that? Although 'too busy to get haircuts Sir, Honest' **Brian** and the roadies still managed to find time to pose with their co-stars as can be seen below.

As SSgt Brian Lauder listens intently

SUPPORT REGIMENT ATHLETICS—CO'S CUP

As the afternoon of 4 May slowly unfolded into one of the hottest days on record the Troop proudly marched into the Makarios Athletic Stadium, Nicosia Cyprus. The event was the Commanding Officer's Challenge Cup and the activity for the day—Athletics. Radio Troop, upholding its position of a fit, young and energetic Troop competed in the qualifying events. **Sig Smith** to track (200m), **Sig Hughes** to the Hammer throw, **LCpl Winship** to track (100m), and **MCpl Peachman** to Shot put. Throughout the rest of that blistering, sweltering afternoon, these fierce competitors wore down their opponents with grace, agility and strength. By the end of the day, **Sig Smith** in the 200m dash coasted to a fourth place finish. **MCpl Peachman** established himself as a powerhouse in the Shot Put by coming third, whilst **LCpl Winship** dominated the Men's 100m dash by coming first. With these tremendous efforts on the part of the Radio Troop, 254 Sig Sqn scored a first in the Athletics for the CO's Challenge Cup.



MCpl Peachman displaying style, grace and strength which he used to establish himself in the top three competitors of the Shot Put

THE DHEKELIA RAFT RACE

A report by Cpl Ray Edge

254 Sig Sqn was one of over 60 teams to enter the Cyprus Charity Raft Race. The raft we entered was manufactured out of two bath tubs, a rubber inner tube and an MFO Box. Constructed by the **'Taff Williams'** Enterprise Co Ltd, our man who was commissioned to build the raft as they say. Unfortunately as it turned out the construction programme did not allow for sea trials. (Mainly due to the lack of a suitable stretch of water), but assurances from **Cpl Taff Williams** that the raft was unsinkable were gullibly received by the team members **Cpls Ray Edge, Neil Cole, LCpls (Daz) Rodney Bailey** and **Mark Bullivant.**

So on the great day the raft was carefully packed into the 4 tonner and driven the 50 miles to Dhekelia, for the great launching.

Taking our position in the line up, a few nagging doubts began to creep in: Would the plugs hold? Is Araldite waterproof? Gosh those waves look a bit big, and where the hell is Taff?

Suddenly we were on our way and the team surged into the water, whereupon a minor floatation problem occurred. We were barely afloat!

Paddling furiously towards the enormus white water breakers we soon began taking in water. Paddling further out to sea soon put us in extreme difficulties as a huge wave overturned our 'unsinkable' raft.

Cpl Neil Cole cried out 'turn her over at the next wave, and the two lightest lads get in.' **(Cpl Cole** is 14 stones). The plan worked and I found myself back in the tub paddling with **Mark Bullivant**. We got under way with **Cpl Cole** and **LCpl Bailey** pushing in the water. Alas it was not to be as the sea responded with yet another massive wave which caused bits of the raft to fly off in all directions (including two paddles and a section of MFO box). So we abandoned ship and headed back to the shore. We were not the only ones as we discovered many rafts washed up on the beach, in similar condition.

Immediately upon our return, we began to consume the crate of beer donated by Squadron funds, by way of compensation.

And so at prize giving we were refreshed enough not to care about winners or losers but well done the winners all the same.

L to R: Cpl (Daz) Rodney) Bailey, LCpl Mark Bullivant, Cpl Neil Cole and Cpl Ray Edge

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

THE LONGEST TRY—THE RUGBY XV

Report by SSgt Keith Leighton

At 0630 hrs on a chilly Saturday 9 May, **Sgt Bob Witherstone** touched down in Happy Valley the scoring of the longest try in Cyprus.

The longest try had started some 10 hrs before with the ball being kicked off at Ayios Nikolaos, caught by **SSgt Billy Allen** (thankfully), then passed to **Cpl Dave Amos** who set off on the first leg of the journey through the ESBA, via Larnaca and Limassol to the WSBA to touch down in Happy Valley, the ball being passed, (carefully), between succeeding runners, the night passed quickly as did the 82 mile route, which was the only headache for the organiser **SSgt Keith Leighton.**

The purpose of the Longest Try, between the two furthest rugby venues on the island, was to raise money to go towards a specially equipped motor car for **Sig Vic Green** who was tragically paralysed in a Unit Rugby match in UK last October.

The run itself and associated events is likely to raise a sum of £C1.500 for this purpose, those taking part were: **Sigs Travis, John, Prutton, Jacobs, Howard; LCpls McCormick, Bazzard; Cpl Amos; Sgts Rose, Preston, Witherstone; SSgt Allen and Leighton.**

SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Danny McConnell**
2IC	**Capt Peter Cain**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Willoughby**
CC	**SSgt Clyde Atherley**
SNCO	**SSgt Les Allen**
Clk	**Cpl Ken Richards**

The Squadron Headquarters has recently lost two stalwart members in **SSgt Nick Round** and **SSgt Colin Thompson** both of whom leave for BAOR on promotion to WO2. We wish them and their families bon voyage and good fortune for the future. We welcome in replacement **SSgt Clyde Atherley** and wife **Jan** and **SSgt Les Allen** and wife **Chrissie.**

HEADQUARTERS TROOP
PERSONALITIES

QM	**Capt Tony Morgan**
SQMS	**SSgt Stu Mullen**
Mt Sgt	**Sgt Steve Owen**

HEADQUARTERS TROOP AND THE RAFT

Report by SSgt Stu Mullen

The annual Dhekelia raft race was held at Cessac bay in aid of 'the Friends of Cheyne Home' for spastic children.

We had only eight days to build our raft, so **Sgt Sam Coster** begged, borrowed and built our four berth sailing vessel. With spades as our paddles we were ready to take on the one mile course.

It was a windy day and the sea looked a little choppy. We were first on the grid and full of enthusiasm, as we launched ourselves into the water. After the first few waves we sat like true professionals and paddled hard towards the first buoy. Alas! only seconds later another team passed—walking?

'De-raft right' and we walked as well. We didn't actually make the first buoy or the second, but fought relentlessly to hold ground approximately 20-25m from the beach. 'The waves were massive!'

The bogey time of one hour passed and we eventually had to retire. A throughly enjoyable day was had by all the team which consisted of: Coach **SSgt Stu Mullen, Cpls Stan Staniford, Dave Welch; LCpls Steve Bailey, Terri Ingram WRAC** and **Sig Sean Marriott.**

A few 'mods' to the raft wouldn't go amiss even though it stayed together throughout the race. Over £100 was raised by the team.

MOUNTAIN TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Jan McKee**
FofS	**SSgt Cy Fawthrop**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Duncan Forteath**

The past two months has been a quiet spell for the Troop which has busied itself catching up on suntans after the winter. At a

The Longest Try—259 Sig Sqn Rugby XV
Back—Left to Right: Sgt Preston, LCpl Bazzard, Cpl Amos, LCpl McCormick, Sig Jacob, Travis and Prutton
Front—Left to Right: Sig Howard, Joh, SSgt Leighton, Sgt Rose and Witherstone

recent inter-troop cross-country event the Troop members were noticeably paler than their competitors.

To remedy this, the singlies are often to be found at the pool of the Forest Park Hotel, Platres. With the snow cleared, the morning PT sessions have resumed, with training in the capable hands of our new AIPT **Sig Kev Maidment**. Few have managed to escape unscathed, and the lucky ones are even sporting matching bandages like **LCpl Andy Roberts**.

Lt Jan McKee the new OC has been put through her paces and it didn't take her long to realise that running at 6,000 ft is somewhat different.

FAREWELL AND ARRIVALS

We bid farewell to **Sig Paul Anderson** on posting to 28 Sig Regt. We welcome **Cpl Sean MacFarlane** and **Sig Sean Marriott** from HQ Troop. We are sure you will enjoy it much better up here!

Congratulations to **Cpl Fergie RAF** who took the plunge on 27 April. All the best to you and **Anga** in your future married life.

EPISKOPI TROOP
PERSONALITIES

TOT	**Capt Ben Lawson**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Keith Leighton**
SWS	**SSgt Dougie Ward**
RR SSgt	**SSgt Roy Habergham**
Telemech SSgt	**SSgt Graham Hillhouse**

EXERCISE *SEAVENTURE II*
Report by Cpl Martin Harrison

SSgt Keith Leighton managed to book the Corps Yacht for a week of sailing around the island in May, and this opportunity to go to sea was quickly snapped up by **Cpl Steve Kemble, LCpl Luke Bazzard, Sig Andy Prutton** and myself.

The day arrived and we all piled into the mini-van with all the necessities for a week on board a yacht off Cyprus; food, sun-glasses, lotion and a few beers (those for emergencies only, of course).

Once we arrived at Larnaca Marine it didn't take us long to load and pack our kit on the *Parang* under the watchful eye of **Cpl Theodore Caderious Van Veen.**

I expected a few hours of being taught the 'do's and don'ts' of sailing there in the Marina, but **Theo** gave us a quick familiarisation of the yacht, and a crash course in sail raising, and then off we went to spend an enjoyable day dodging the moored ships in Larnaca bay.

Next day after a night battling the mozzies we set off on a voyage into the unknown along the coast towards Cape Greco, and in great style, we moored in Nissi Bay, just outside Ayia Napa, and casually swam ashore, trying our hardest to appear like the rich playboy types (that we really are!)

The next few days were spent travelling between Nissi and Figtree bay discovering the delights of cooking aboard ship in rough, choppy conditions (not easy I assure you).

As the wind conditions varied quite a lot we managed to spend a fair amount of time swimming. The pose factor of the yacht must have worked a bit because, with little persuasion, we managed to persuade two good looking girls to come aboard and join us for a beer! We must have behaved ourselves as we saw more of them on and off over the next few days. They brightened the place up but, unfortunately, for us kept well away from the galley, leaving us to concoct the all in compo stew meal.

We returned to Larnaca Marina on the Friday after a tiring but enjoyable week and boasting excellent suntans. Although I don't think we're quite ready for a single handed round the world trip just yet we managed to gain our Salty Sea Dog Class 3.

Many thanks go to **Theo** for his patience and understanding in the difficult task of teaching us to sail in *Parang*.

AIRFIELD TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Les Budworth**
FofS	**WO2 George Blythe**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Billy Allen**
Internal Maint	**Sgt 'Rocky' Hudson**
External Maint	**Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick/ Sgt Bob Witherstone**

The past month has been quite busy for the Troop, with a visit from seven members of 81 Sig Sqn (TA), who proved to be a great healp with the installation of the new 5 + 20 exchange in the Medical Centre and in repairing cables which have deteriorated. They also managed to squeeze in a few days R and R at Ayia Napa during their visit.

Meanwhile the remainder of the Troop carried on with military training, preparing for Royal visits, PREs, and maintenance, which is a never ending task—like painting the Forth Bridge.

On the sporting side, we had the last of the Hodgson Shield trophy events, which was Athletics, where we managed to come third and overall in the shield came second; well done lads.

We also had the Station Commanders Cup Hockey where we lost our first match (to the eventual winners) and won the plate.

The troop will miss **Sgt Bob Witherstone** and his wife **Jo** and family; we wish them all the best in Harrogate. Also goodbye to **Sig 'Cabbage' Gough** who is sure to come alive in Belize.

The troop welcomes **Sgts Sam Coster** and **Kev Fitzpatrick, LCpl Bob Leyland, Sig B. Durrand, Billy Lilburn, Mick Lawlor.**

81 Sig Sqn (TA)
Back Row—Left to Right: Sigs John Watson, Arthur Edwards, Martin Pringle, LCpl Dave McGovern and Sig John Jackson
Front Row—Left to Right: SSgt Charlie Ryan, (259 Personnel FofS George Blythe, Capt El Budworth, SSgt Billy Allen) and WO2 (SSM) Jim Rogers

Commander Comms—discussing the changes (when I was a lad!) in cable jointing with OC Airfield Troop and members of 81 Sqn (TA), SSM J. Rogers, SSgt C. Ryan, LCpl D. McGovern and Sig M. Pringle

Ex Tech OC Airfield Troop been shown how to map read his way around a cable pit by SSgt C. Ryan; looking on Commander Comms, WO2 (SSM) J. Rogers and Sig J. Watson

HQ Int & Sy Gp(G)
BFPO 140

For those readers who are not aware of this small unique posting a word of introduction. We are hidden away in the heart of the RCZ and decided it was time to blow our trumpet. We are located in the JHQ Compound which is suitably positioned next to local amenities (The Belgie Bar!) and provide technical support for the Intelligence Corps throughout Germany.

PERSONALITIES

FofS	**SSgt Gaz Wilson**
Techs	**Sgt Al Scott**
	Cpl Frank Roberts
	Cpl Kierron Connolly
Photo	**Sgt Dave Allison (Int)**
Lab	**YTS Chris Atkins**

DEPARTURES

The long and drawn out process of Handover/Takeover for the FofS is almost over. At the helm for the past two and a half years has been **SSgt Will Stockdale** who, it is rumoured, will be going—eventually! We wish **Will** luck in the future. Other recent departures from the Group were: **Sgt Paul Wilson** to 70 (Essex Yeomanry) Sig Sqn (V). The FofS is still suffering from his driving, and **Cpl Nick (I'd love to be airborne) Preston** who is now the proud owner of a red beret, for which he worked hard (not at Aldershot) persuading the FofS to give him the time off in order to acquire it. A message for him—'Come and clean them dirty Mess tins'.

ARRIVALS

The new FofS **SSgt Gaz Wilson** has joined us recently and may be the first of our members to enjoy the recent change of tour length from three to two years. **Cpl Frank Roberts** also recently joined the Group from Catterick and after missing his flight out was eventually located but has not been seen much since (something to do with the Port Lodge!)

CONGRATULATIONS

We must offer our warmest congratulations to **Sgt Al Scot** and his wife **Sally** on the birth of their son **Allister**. It is rumoured that **Al** will be returning from leave sometime! **Cpl Kierron Connolly** must also be congratulated for receiving the most money from the Pay Office presumably to pay for his Penthouse Suite.

NATO FSS
(Shetland)

FSS MOSSY HILL GOES MULTI-NATIONAL
Report by Sgt Barry Geddis

From 30 March until 12 April NATO FSS (Shetland) hosted an ACE High 'On the Job Training' course at Mossy Hill. Our aim was to update NATO allied technicians on the practical aspects of our equipment within the ACE High system. It also provided an excellent opportunity to meet and work with members of other NATO forces, particularly the French, whom we rarely meet. For the previous two years the course had been held in France and I was privileged in 1986 to be able to visit the station at Mt Aout in the Champagne region. **Sgt Tommy Tucker**, having been told he was attending the course was slightly less than impressed to discover that no travel documents were necessary!

The course consisted of six students, two from the UK, two Germans and two French. **Sgt Tommy Tucker** from Mossy Hill and **Sgt 'Gaz' Corrigan** from Maidstone were joined by **HFW Horst Friebe** and **FW George Reuland** from Lammersdorf in West Germany and by **SGC Yannick Le Gall** from Lyon and **SGC Bernard, Bennie** to his friends, **Dubois** from Rohrbach. The instructor, well known in ACE High circles, was **Mr Per Husdal**, a Norwegian who works at our Parent Control Centre in Lammersdorf. **Mr Husdal** has been involved in the ACE High network for an unbroken period of more than 25 years.

The two weeks of the course were spent at the station. Some classroom work was involved but the majority of the time the work was 'hands on' the equipment although by the end of the course the shift personnel wished that some people would keep their 'hands off'!

A small written examination was taken at the end of the course in which the two German students scored 94% and the two British scored 82%. Any allegations of collusion were strenuously denied by all parties concerned.

During their stay our visitors took the opportunity to visit the other two ACE High stations on Shetland, Saxa Vord and Collafirth Hill. Because of the distances involved and ferry timings the trip to Saxa Vord was short, however, it proved very interesting. Other visits included a tour of Sumburgh Lighthouse; all our visitors were surprised to discover that the lighthouse is driven by clockwork and requires winding every 30 minutes, and a visit to Jarlshof, regarded as one of the best examples of bronze and iron age settlements in Britain. The Saturday trip to Lerwick for souvenirs resulted in two nameless persons spending the afternoon in the Royal British Legion club watching England beat Scotland in the Home Nations Rugby.

The evenings were also spent in much social discourse—three visits to Lerwick nighspots, live music by 'Du Kens' included, proved almost too much for some, particularly **Bennie Dubois** who was able to offer assistance to some ladies about to take French 'O' level. The prowess of **Horst Friebe** as an American footballer while still holding down a job as an Alphajet pilot became legendary in only one night! A cocktail party in our own Maybury Club also proved a great success as did a traditional Scottish dinner in the Sumburgh Hotel on the final evening before departure, despite some alarm at the inclusion of oatmeal in the tomatoes and in the cream for dessert. All the students were able to attend the dinner since British Airways decided to leave **Sgt Gaz Corrigan** behind earlier that day, however, they did provide him with a taxi and accommodation for the night. The meal was followed by drinks at 'Chez Geddis' and **Yannick Le Gall** displayed his experience at opening champagne bottles. There followed a number of toasts and other types of merry-making before everyone gradually slipped off to bed.

The students and **Mr Husdal** departed on a fine Sunday morning totally underwhelmed by the thought of travelling on the same flight as the real Chas and Dave, perhaps certain aspects of Britain's culture have not yet reached the continent. They were also unimpressed that, because the flight was full, **Sgt Gaz Corrigan** would be sitting with the pilots.

So, after two short weeks we said our farewells, promising to renew acquaintances at some time in the future. We in Shetland hope our visitors enjoyed their stay and trust that they will remember us and the Shetland people for a long time to come.

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

The unit entered a team into a newly formed Southern FA indoor league consisting of seven local teams. After a somewhat shaky start, the Maybury was at the foot of the league table looking up (sorry, results not available). It must be pointed out, that caretaker manager **Sgt Barry Geddis** is in no way to blame for the lack of quality players at this time. A good, strong squad was eventually formed with new arrivals and people back from leave and **Sgt Ian Tepielow** took over the reins as manager. A good run of results finally left Maybury in overall third position in the league behind favourites, Sandwich, and Cunningsburgh A.

To finish the season, a knock-out competition took place on Saturday 21 March, played on the basis of two pools of four teams each with first and second in each pool progressing to the semi-finals. Maybury had a great start by beating the favourites Sandwick and finished top of their pool with maximum points. However, in the semi-finals, Maybury were beaten by a strong Cunningsburgh A team who eventually went on to win the competition.

Top goalscorers for the unit in league and cup competitions were **Sig 'Brummie' Ayers** (14), **Sgt Ian Tepielow** (12) and **Cpl Derek Jones ACC** (9) with just about all players getting on the score sheet including our keeper **LCpl Bob Pott ACC**.

A satisfactory first season for Maybury, then, with bags of effort and enjoyed by all who took part.

HELLO AND GOODBYE

We offer a traditional Shetland welcome in the hope that you will all enjoy your tour in this rather unusual but scenic island.

Our new OC **Capt Hails** and his wife **Rita**, from 21 Sig Regt. We hope that you can find someone with enough patience to accompany you on the golf course Sir! **Sgt Steve Jones** from Latina, **Cpl Robbo**

Robson from 8 Sig Regt, **Cpl John Davidson** from 30 Sig Regt, **LCpl Alan Northcott** from 16 Sig Regt and **Pte Steve Lusty ACC**.

Sadly for us we have said our fond farewells to **Sgt Barry** and **Wendy Geddis** to LCO Senden. **Cpl Bill** and **Liz Brash** to 1ADSR and **Sgt Ian** and **Debbie Tepielow** to 2 Div in York. They will all be sadly missed, particularly **Debbie**, who always kept the party going. Keep 2 Div laughing **Debs**.

BIRTHS

The island population has increased somewhat with the birth of a beautiful baby girl to **Sgt Mick** and **Marylin Campbell** and a baby boy to **Sgt Tom** and **Tina Tucker**. Congrats from us all.

DINING OUT CAPT T. GUEST

On Saturday 28 February 1987 the unit held a dinner to say farewell to our OC **Capt Tom Guest**, not only on the competion of his tour with NATO FSS (Shetland) but also on retiring after almost 32 years with the Corps.

The dinner held in the Maybury Club was attended by some 60 people, both military and civilian, and a good night was had by all.

The RSM, **WO1 Bob Baggaley** presented **Capt Guest** with a wall clock on behalf of the unit in the hope that it would remind him of his tour in Shetland, and also wished him and his wife **Ann** a happy retirement in the Wirral. **Capt Guest** in return presented a picture to the Maybury Club, 'Sunrise over Virkie Pool' which will mean nothing to our readers who have not had the pleasure of serving on the Islands. We were not disappointed either with his last after dinner joke which had become one of **Capt Guest's** treats; it was up to his usual standard and in good spirit he took the backlash. We wish him, **Ann** and **Everton** all the best in a long and happy retirement.

I hope the OC will buy a new battery with his gratuity
L-R: WO1 (RSM) Baggaley, new OC Capt Hails, Cpl Wood, LCpl Pott, Sgt Freeman, Cpl Baird, Sgt Millar and WO1 (FofS) Brown

PIU AND SST (FWD)
BFPO 32

THE PTARMIGAN INTRODUCTION UNIT DISBANDS 31 JULY 1987

After three and a half years, the Ptarmigan Introduction Unit formally disbands on 31 July 1987. The majority of that period has been spent training personnel of all Corps/Regiments on various aspects of Ptarmigan. The following numbers of Officers/Soldiers have been trained:

System Manager (Offrs, YofS, FofS, SSgt TE Tech)	352
DTg	352
TE Tech	352
RR Tech	176
RR Op	704
Cbt Pmn	250
Cbt Lmn	250
Tech Stmn	55
SCRA Terminal Operator	400
Staff Officer/Staff Clerk	200
Officer (Incl 4 Sig Gp Civilians) Intro Course	90

FORMATION OF THE PTARMIGAN INTRODUCTION UNIT (PIU)—THE HISTORY

The original manpower was provided by 3 Sqn 30 Sig Regt during 1981. This consisted of three officers and 60 men. At this time no equipment was available and trials exercises were conducted purely on paper. It was found that a 'working' unit was no place to conduct trials and therefore the manpower moved to form a Ptarmigan Trials Sqn (the 'first' Ptarmigan Sqn—1 Sqn 1 ADSR take note) in the School of Signals. At this stage the unit consisted of two Troops, Systems Troop and Radio Relay Troop.

In January 1984 a further re-organisation took place. It was at this stage that PIU was formed consisting of one officer and 40 men. The remainder, two officers and 20 men, formed what was then called Ptarmigan Trials Troop (PTT). The PTT is now PWSST Main and PWSST Fwd.

In September 1984, PIU together with PWSST Fwd moved to Sheil Bks in Verden. The actual training commenced in January 1985. The final day of training was on 8 May 1987. The unit then disposed of its assets throughout BAOR, the majority going into WMR. All personnel take up new jobs in August 1985. *Alto Relievo.*

Back Row: LCpl Cureton, Cpl Anderson, LCpls Collins, Allan, Sig Blake, LCpl Whatley, Cpls Garman and Heppleston
Second Row: Sig Snelle, Cpl Dick, LCpl Marshall, Sig Beveridge, Cpl Housley, LCpl Howe, Sig Cooney, Cpls Hoyle, Yates and Cassidy
Third Row: LCpl Ledamun, Sgts Wilkinson, Gemmell, SSgts Warhurst, Graham, Walker, Handibode, Armstrong, Sgts Smith, Snaith, Thomas and LCpl Riley
Front Row: SSgt (FofS) Boxhall, WO2 (FofS) Oakes, WO1 (FofS) West, Capt Butler, WO1 (YofS) Jepson, WO2 (YofS) Allan, SSgt Kirkpatrick and Mrs Elliot
Absent: SSgt (SQMS) Pounder and Cpl East

PWSST (Fwd)
BPFO 107

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This is a rather turbulent period for PWSST (Fwd) and at the end of June we will be saying farewell to **Sgt Alan Wilson, George** to his friends, and his wife **Ann** who are returning to the UK for a more sedate life in Civvy Street. Also we are saying farewell to **Sgt Ted Edwards** and his wife **Julia**, who are posted to Blandford where he will join a Foremans course, or so we are led to believe. His replacement **Sgt Scotty Steven** and his wife **Donna** have not travelled far, from just across the road in fact as they were in 22 Sig Regt. So he just didn't quite make the escape from Lippstadt. Anyway we wish them all well and good luck in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are again due to **Cpl Scouse Horabin** on his promotion to corporal and getting his feet wet on a one week course of sailing and obtaining his Dinghy sailing certificate. Congratulations to **Mr Ron Tatchell** of the Plessey Company and his wife **Helga** on their recent marriage, which he kept very quiet until after the event and congratulations to **Sgt Ted** and **Julia Edwards** on the birth of their daughter **Samantha**.

EXERCISES

After our last submission the exercise season hasn't been quite so hectic with just two exercises *Fourth Stretch* and *Summer Tide*. Some of our members managed a quick trip to Darmstadt on an SCRA frequency trial, roughing it in hotels and having to use a hired vehicle. In addition to this we recently had the chance to see Ptarmigan, Rita and Autoko connected together which proved to be both interesting and successful.

Mr Steven Thomas of the Plessey Company and SSgt (FofS) Terry Waites proving that life was not unbearable on Ex *Summer Tide* as they abandoned their Landrover for a helicoper in pursuit of Switch Archives

WO2 (FofS) Randerson and Phil Tait 'Roughing it' on a SCRA frequency trial at Darmstadt

OTHER EVENTS

Sgt Max Steele escaped for a few weeks, having to go into hospital for surgery and there discovered how to lose 21lbs in one week! Simply, don't eat or drink! He is now happily back with us and like **Capt Suzy Reed** has given up smoking! The first proper PWSST dinner was held in the Sergeants' Mess, with a maximum attendance, to say farewell to members of the team who were departing. This social extravaganza closely followed the Mess games night, where the PWSST team proved that their shooting was of a high standard, well it ought to be, with the ex Captain of the Corps shooting team **Maj Andrew Symmons** as a member! **Capt Suzy Reed's** shot at darts was definitely shaky, she managed two darts in the wall and one in the rubber mat! Other members of the team requested flak jackets.

Maj Andrew Symmons reverting to a uniform of his earlier days!

640 Sig Tp (EW)
Blandford

PERSONALITIES	
OC	**Capt A. A. Goff**
2IC	**WO2 D. Green**
Admin Sgt	**Sgt D. Taylor (The fisherman's friend)**
Chief Technician	**Sgt S. Hayward**
Trade Instructors	**Sgt G. Miles (RTg)**
	Sgt G. Street (STg)
	LCpl Camplin
Stores NCO	**LCpl Camplin**
MT NCO	**LCpl Benham**

Presentation by Capt John Terrington to WO2 (Q) Green on his departure

Since our last notes there has been a change at Command level. **Capt John Terrington** departed, on posting, in April after two and a half years with the Troop and he was replaced by **Capt Andy Goff**, who arrived from AAC Harrogate. Once **Capt Terrington** has completed his course he will be posted to Catterick to assume the appointment of Adjutant, 11 Sig Regt. We wish him and his wife, **Heather**, the very best wishes for the future. At his farewell function **Capt Terrington** was presented with a crystal decanter and set of glasses and he, in turn, presented an original pen and ink drawing of our newest vehicle and its equipment—which he drew during the many nights when he was not studying.

Capt Goff has now been in the chair since the middle of April and has already been out of the office more than in with frequent meetings to attend and many hand-shakes to make. He has introduced some of his own ideas to the Troop and certainly knows how to keep the Troop occupied. Welcomes are extended to his wife, **Debbie**, and young son **Christopher**. We hope their tour will be enjoyable.

Other new arrivals include **LCpls Beaumont, Gemmell** and **Greene, Sig Bishop, Campbell, Logan** and **Mundy**. We say farewell to **Cpls Ray** and **Shaw** who will not be returning to us after roulement tours to Cyrpus and the Falklands respectively.

After a busy spell during the hand-over/take-over of Troop Commanders we have been involved with Troop training and a few demonstrations. These demos have taken on a new format and involve Troop elements deployed in the field with full camouflage. It shows the Troop in a way that it would operate in the field and gives a far better picture of its role and capabilities. After a two-day visit to Tidworth, for 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, the Troop presented a briefing and demonstration for the Communications and Security Group (UK) in Leicestershire. Both trips proved to be successful, and well-received, and at least more people are now familiar with our existence.

During the next two months we have the opportunity to catch up with military training as the new OC becomes more familiar with his command and members and our role as an operational unit.

Presently three members of the Troop are deploying, with 30 Sig Regt, to the Caribbean. The majority of the rest will have to make do with Salisbury Plain on a forthcoming exercise as we prepare for our next major deployment.

Socially we have held a welcoming party, in the form of a skittles night, for our new OC and his wife and soon we will be holding our first major function—our Summer Party.

Troop elements deployed at CSG (UK), Loughborough—May 1987

Finally, a photograph of our new Troop plaque is featured. Anyone interested in either a plaque or a copy of the photograph is asked to enquire through the Troop 2IC.

Troop plaque

Association News

Aldershot Branch

The annual dinner of the Branch was held on 9 May with **Maj Gen** and **Mrs Alexander** and **Brig** and **Mrs Russell** as our principal guests. **Brig P. M. P. Hobson DSO**, presiding, paid a special tribute to our greatly respected late President, **Col G. D. T. Harris OBE** who died on 2 March.

Our Secretary, **SSgt Gordon Pickard** proposed a toast to the Corps and the Association. **Lt Col Ron Murray** highlighted the annual Reunions at Blandford and Catterick and thanked the Signal Officer-in-Chief for mounting these superb annual events. He also thanked Commander 2 Sig Bde for the administrative support provided to the Branch over the years. In proposing the toast to our guests, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Winchester, West London and Reading Branches and concluded by paying tribute to the ability and work of our Secretary **SSgt Gordon Pickard** whose retirement is imminent. (**Capt Jane Knight** to succeed). **Gen Alexander**'s response which covered the commitments and achievements of the Serving Corps was received with enthusiastic applause. The traditional 'draw', conducted with the assistance of **Mrs Alexander** and **Mrs Russell** brought a memorable evening to its conclusion.

SOinC with two of our elder statesmen who both started their service with the Corps in 1921! Mr A. H. Green *(left)* and Brig C. G. Moore OBE *(right)*

602 Signal Troop (SC) Association Reunion

By Maj W. G. Lidster

'From little acorns giant oak trees grow'. Our little acorn was **Mrs Angie Tivenan** who suggested to her husband **Mike**, on his retirement from the Corps, that it may be a good idea to have a couple of 'ex 602 boys' around for a drink. One thing led to another; **Pat Grattan** and **Ken Pernell** were recruited as organisers, **Dave Hay** 'volunteered' as fixer, and ably supported by their wives, little cogs started to turn. The 'old boy net' was activated; the result being the first ever reunion of the 602 Sig Tp (SC) Association of friends meeting at the Wellington Hotel, Gloucester on 25 April—and what a party it was!

'The Troop' holds a special place in all our lives, and an indication of this was the excellent response to the call to the flag (or the 'Welly'). Some 50 souls attended the reunion, ranging from the Brecon days in the '50s, in the guise of the not so old guard of **Sam Kennard, Derek Walley, Bill Gray** and wives, to the present day Troop Commander. The reunion started with a RV in the Wellington Bar (quite upmarket now). For some reason the licensing hours were unofficially extended during the afternoon when old friends were reunited, and much talk could be heard of Kenya, Nassau, Aden, Borneo, Guyana etc, a litany of battle honours echoing through the past. The group had travelled from many parts of the country and included a large contingent from Yorkshire.

The highlight of the evening was an excellent dinner in the hotel, a very happy and ebullient atmosphere; it reminded me of a children's Christmas party such was the excitement and the cacophony of joviality.

The only person missing was Santa, although one or two 'old boys' having increased in weight and stature would have little problem filling the red suit. The inevitable speeches were made, an Association committee was elected, by coincidence, the existing organising committee was chosen, (why change a good thing?), funds were voted, and I was deeply honoured to be elected as the first President of the Association.

In the true tradition of the Troop we withdrew to the bar after dinner and the night raced away into the early hours of the next morn. In a rash and probably inebriated moment, the Hay's invited 'a few people' around for Sunday lunch; needless to say there was a massive response and it was fortunate that the **Hay** residence, situated in the shadow of Robinswood Hill, had a large garden.

I cannot list everyone who attended, but I can thank everyone who contributed to such an outstanding weekend. A special thanks must got to **Pat Grattan, Ken Pernell, Dave Hay, Mick Tiv** and their wives for planting the Acorn and nurturing the sapling. Now the tree must grow bigger and bigger. There are many, many 602 boys and girls out there who have not heard about their Association, so spread the word and let us have a bigger get together at the next event. This event will take the form of a Barbecue in late August, held in the Bisley area, and all the family are welcome. To register your name and address into the Associations 'Database' contact, or write to:

Pat Grattan, 3 Herbert Grove, Southend on Sea, Essex SS1 2AT. Tel: 0702 66602, or

Ken Pernell, 31 Skelton Road, Langthorpe, Boroughbridge, N Yorks. Tel: 09012 3407.

Remember Walley and Kennard

Back to the top of Robinswood Hill

SQUASH

REPORT 1986/1987 SEASON
By Capt John Newman—Corps Secretary

The Corps Squash Championships for 1986 were held once again at the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate with the Inter-Corps Championships following immediately after at Waverley Squash Club, Farnham, Surrey.

ROYAL SIGNAL INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Open. Again we had an excellent turn out for the seasons Championships. There were 56 entries and some very high standard squash played. For the first time there were no upsets in the early rounds with all eight seeded players reaching the quarter finals. This was due to Units releasing players early to enable them to train and to be coached for a week prior to the Championships. The number one seed **Cpl Tom Pollard** as expected was the winner of the Open going one better than last year by defeating the number two seed, **WO2 Bill Hutton**, in three straight games, 9—0, 9—0, 9—0.

Three Man Inter Unit Team Competition. For the first time a three man Inter Unit Team Competition named the 'Davies Stewart Cup' was introduced to try and encourage more Units to release players. Over all it was a great success with 13 teams entering. Entries were received from NI, BAOR and the Outer Hebrides and as well as the length and breadth of mainland UK. After four days of fierce competition, the favourites, the AA College, Harrogate, ran out worthy winners. The only team member to lose all his matches was **Maj Ken Davies-Stewart!** It is to be hoped that more Units will enter this excellent event this year.

Plate. First and second round losers are entered for this competition and **Capt J Newman**, the favourite, after his shock defeat in the first round of the Open ran out eventual winner, beating **Cpl Rouse** in the final in three straight sets.

Over 35's Competition. A popular competition, which produces the best matches and most competitive games. Once again the King of the Over 35's was **WO2 Dave Higginson** beating **WO2 Bill Hutton** in the final by three sets to two.

Veterans. This year saw the return of some of the old and bold players notably **SSgt Jim McGovern** who in the past has represented the Corps on many occasions. He ran out the eventual winner, beating **WO2 Inglis** in the final in three straight sets.

Gibraltar Tour—1987
Back page L to R: Sig Dave Gallagher, WO2 Bill Hutton, Capt John Newman
Front page L to R: WO2 Dave Higginson, Cpl Tom Polland, Sgt Nick Ranier

Sight seeing in Gibraltar
Back L to R: Sig Dave Gallagher, Sgt Nick Ranier, Capt John Newman, Cpl Tom Pollard
Front L to R: WO2 Bill Hutton, WO2 Dave Higginson

OVERSEAS SQUASH TOUR

A Corps Squash team ended an excellent season on a high note with a self sponsored six day tour to Gibraltar kindly hosted by **WO1 (FoS) Jim Hanifin** of 642 Signal Troop form 21 April to 28 April 1987. The six man team consisting of **Capt John Newman**, Corps Secretary; **WO2 Bill Hutton** and **Sig Dave Gallagher**, 22 Sig Reg; **WO2 Dick Higginson**, UOTC Exeter; **Sgt Nick Ranier**, 13 Sig Reg and **Cpl Tom Pollard**, AA College Harrogate played four matches winning three and drawing one.

The opening match was against the Combined Services side where the Corps proved to be too strong winning 6—0. The second, against a Gibraltarian select, proved to be the hardest match of the tour ending in a three all draw. The final match on the rock against a Combined Rock Side saw the Corps players winning 4—2.

On the Sunday, the team hired a car and travelled into Spain to Malaga where they beat the Spanish Club, Lemonar 4—1. This match was marked by **Tom Pollard's** victory over **Kas Smith** one of the top players on the Costa.

In addition to these matches the Corps Team held a coaching clinic over three days which was extremely popular and well supported by no fewer than 35 players of all standards.

As a conclusion to our visit, 642 Signal Troop kindly organised a sightseeing tour of the rock during which new and old friendships were made and cemented.

The whole squad thanks 642 Signal Troop and especially **WO1 (FofS) Jim Hanifin**, for their kindness and hospitality.

ASRA INTER CORPS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1986

Eighteen teams and some 100 teams members once again assembled for this years Championships at the Waverley Squash Club over the weekend 21-23 November 1986. The Competition is run on the three divisional basis. The Corps team is in Division One together with: APTC, RAOC, REME, RCT, AMC (Newly Promoted).

The players who represented the Corps in the 25 games played were: **WO2 W Hutton, WO2 D Higginson, Sgts N Ranier** and **N Mabbot** and **Cpl T Pollard.**

R Signals v APTC. Our opening match was against the very strong APTC. This year we went one better than last and the match could have gone either way. Wins by **Cpl Pollard** and **WO2 Higginson** levelled the score at two all and the overall result depended on the game between **Sgt Ranier** and **SSgt Hawkesworth. SSgt Hawkesworth** eventually winning 9—7, 9—7, 10—9. Result lost 2—3.

R Signals v REME. A match we expected to win. However, the eventual victory was slightly tarnished with the unexpected defeats of **Sgt Ranier** and **WO2 Hutton.** Result win 3—2.

R Signals v RAOC. A very disppointing result. We expected to pick up at least one victory, possibly two after our game with the APTC. Only **Cpl Pollard** was able to put up any sort of resistance, eventually losing 3—1 to **Capt Robinson** the current army number one. Result lost 5—0.

R Signals v AMC. A good result in this match would once again secure our third position within the league. Again our players produced the goods and ran out comfortable winners. Result win 4—1.

Final Position Division One. Winners: RAOC, APTC, R Signals, RCT, AMC and REME (Relegated this year).

The summary of results for Royal Signals was:

Played five, won three, lost two.

This was a good result. Praise to all players for their spirited efforts and superb sportsmanship on court. Once again the Corps was highly praised for turnout and leading the Army in dress on and off court. With the young players coming through and continued support from CO's, the aim is to win the Inter Corps Championships within the next three years. Finally our special thanks to **Maj Davies-Stewart** for all the hard ground work he has put in over the past three years as Corps Squash Secretary.

FRIENDLY FIXTURES

In addition, the Corps played two more matches against RAEC and REME. The match against RMAS was cancelled as it was felt that the Corps team was too strong. We hope to play them again early in 1988.

Royal Signals v REME. An excellent result with the Corps winning 5—0. Next year we hope to blood some of our young players in the return match in preparation for the Inter Corps Championships.

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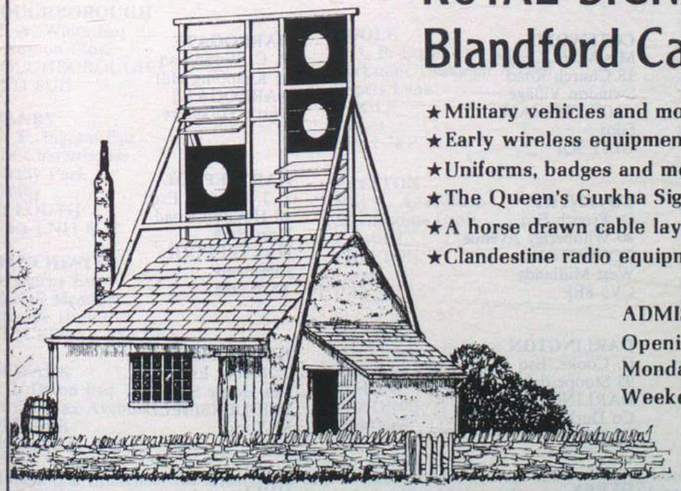

Artist's impression of the early 19th Century Admiralty shutter telegraph relay station built on the site of Blandford Camp 1806-1825

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Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to London District (STD (01) 930 4466) Ext 8245.

	Overseas £	UK £
'Jimmy' in bronze. Height 11½" including plinth. Produced by Peter Hicks for the Association	39.00	43.70
'Jimmy' in solid bronze. Height 6½" including plinth in presentation box	28.75	32.70
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)	20.00	23.00
Corps table mat (large) 15" by 11½"	6.30	7.15
Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	6.50	7.40
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	9.00	10.00
Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	4.60	5.00
Framed, illuminated Corps badge 4½" × 4½"	1.85	2.00
Blazer badge	5.10	5.85
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, metal disc with enamelled Corps badge, leather tag	1.25	1.40
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
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Blazer buttons—large	1.20	1.40
small	1.15	1.30
Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only)	0.40	0.45
Vinyl 'coasters' with Corps Crest (set of six)	1.45	1.55
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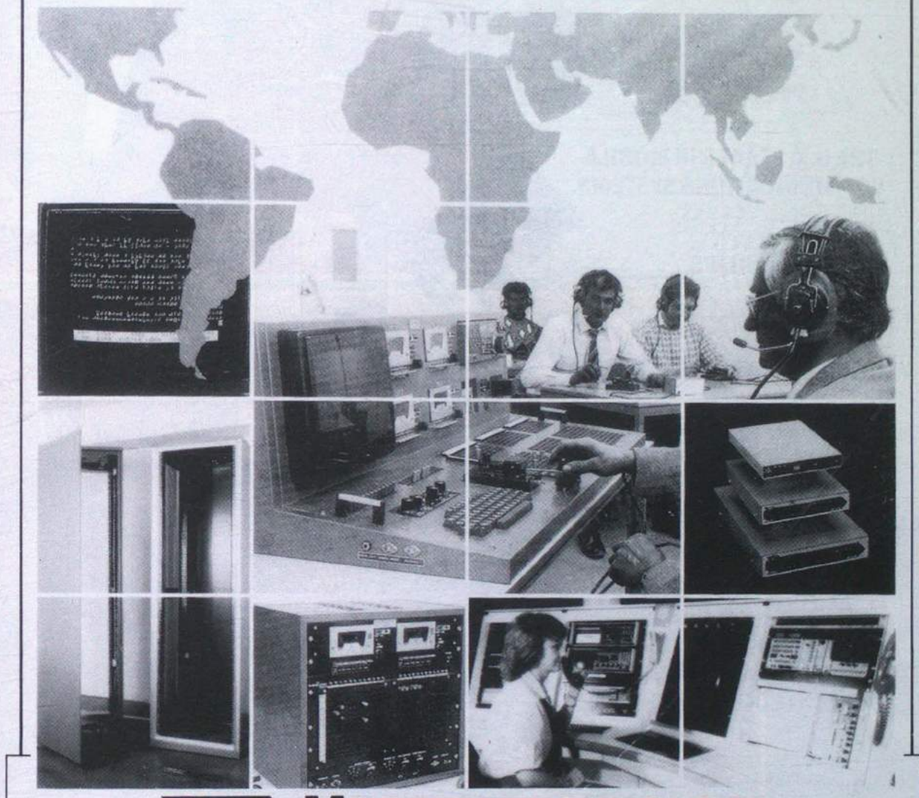

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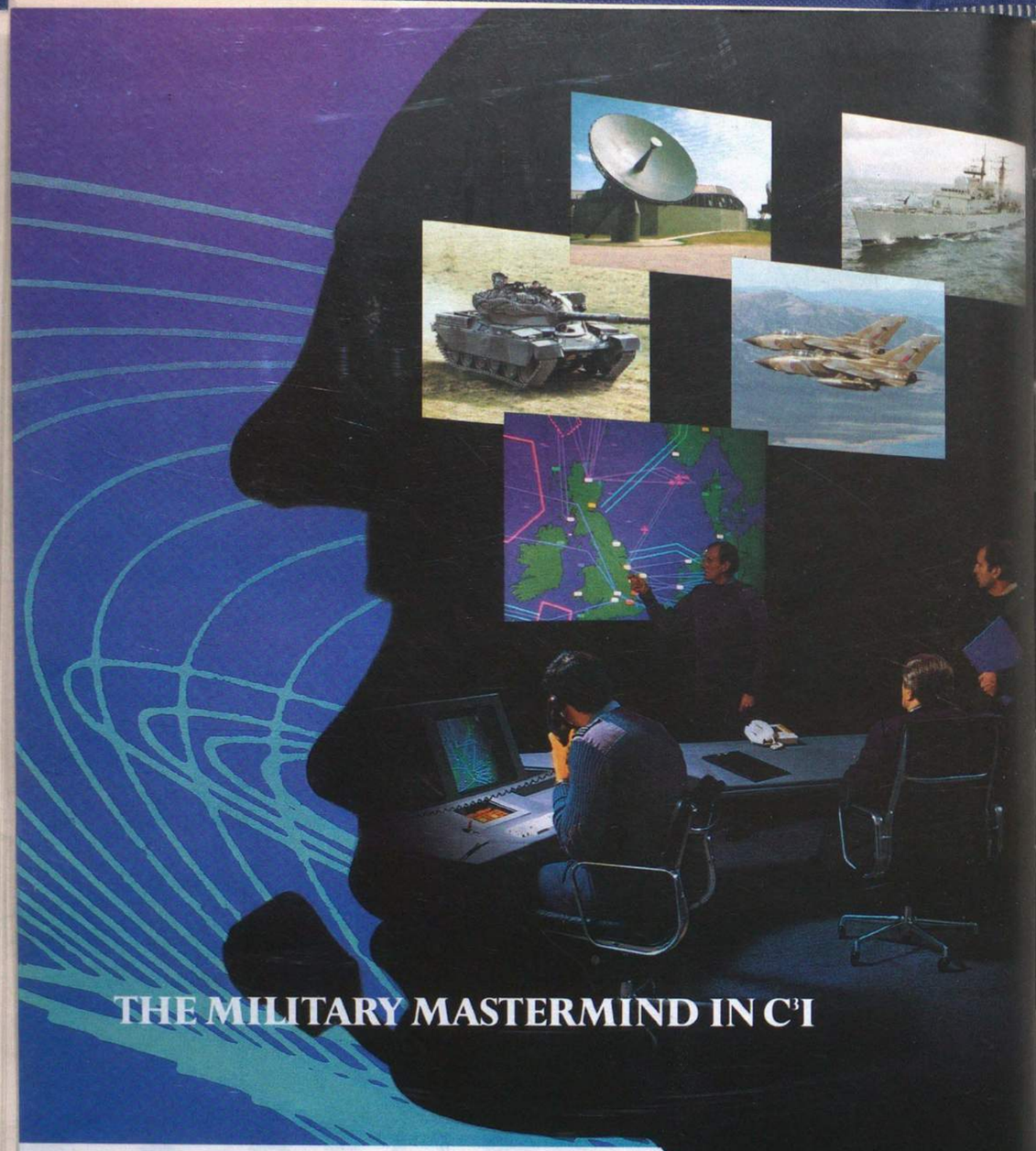
The Royal Signals Magazine

September 1987



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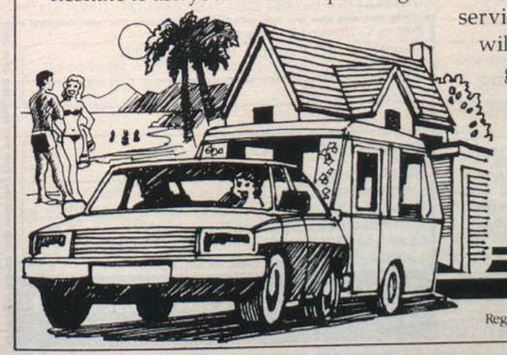

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The Wire

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EDITOR'S NOTES

MEMORIAL TO LIEUTENANT J. A. BARRY ROYAL SIGNALS

A short private service of dedication was held within the Recruit Accommodation Block of 11 Signal Regiment, prior to the Retreat and Sunset Ceremony on the Royal Signals Association Reunion Weekend, in Catterick on Saturday 27 June 1987.

The Service was in memory of **Lieutenant James Barry** Royal Signals who was killed in the Falkland Islands Campaign on 28 May 1982 during the Battle for Goose Green.

During the Service at which his parents, **Lieutenant Colonel** and **Mrs D. A. Barry** were present, the Master of Signals, **Major General J. M. W. Badcock CBE MBE DL** gave an address of tribute to **Lieutenant Barry** after which he unveiled the Barry Memorial. The Senior Chaplain the **Reverend A. C. Carruthers CF** who conducted the Service, then consecrated the Memorial.

The Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Major General P. D. Alexander MBE, Major General A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE, Major General J. H. Hild MBE** and Commander Training Group, **Brigadier R. F. Maynard MBE** were also present.

At the conclusion of the Service, **Lieutenant Colonel** and **Mrs D. Barry** were presented with a replica of the memorial centre piece.

From L to R: Master of Signals, Lt Col and Mrs Barry, SOinC

The Master of Signals wishes to thank all retired officers who replied to his letter regarding officer recruiting. The response has been exceptional and the Master of Signals will be replying to all letters in due course.

OUR COVER PICTURES

Top: Two Chelsea In-Pensioners at the buffet supper in 8 Sig Regt WOs' and Sergeants' Mess
Centre: Members on their way to the Reunion Church Service led by three of the 'old and bold'
Bottom: Col L. W. Wright TD DL (OC Old Comrades Squadron) marches past the reviewing officer, Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL (The Master of Signals). Also on the dais is the Chairman Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB who hands over to Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE in November 1987
On the Back Cover: A recent picture of Vimy Lines, Catterick Camp

RENEWING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION? THE FORM IS ON PAGE 485

VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF TO 71 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

The long absence of the Regiment from the *Wire* was not the result of a lack of organisation or enthusiasm. The main reason was the preparation for the visit of the **Colonel-in-Chief Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO** to the Regiment on Saturday 30 May. During this first visit to the Regiment the Colonel-in-Chief opened the rebuilt Territorial Army Centre at Bexleyheath, which now houses RHQ, HQ Sqn, 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn and a CCF and ACF contingent.

The Colonel-in-Chief spent virtually the whole day with the Regiment, a feat in itself! The visit started with a parade, all soldiers being in No 1 Dress. This was followed by medal presentations, visits to Squadron and CCF training, the opening of the RHQ building and a display by the Regiment's thriving LAD. (The LAD was recently awarded the Gardiner Trophy for the most improved TA REME unit).

The Colonel-in-Chief was then a guest at the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Luncheon, where many of the Mess members and their husbands and wives were present. Afterwards, Her Royal Highness moved to the second element of the visit, a display of regimental training at Hall Place. Hall Place is a building and grounds with a long history and provided a picturesque setting for the afternoon. The photographs speak for themselves, but to avoid confusion the stands were:

Reserve Demoliton—348 (IC&CY) Sig Sqn (HSF) (**Maj R. P. G. Duxbury**).
Recruit Selection—70 (EY) Sig Sqn (**Sgt R. C. Jones**).
Recruit Training (First Aid)—68 (IC&CY) Sig Sqn (**Lt J. Fern**).
Recruit Training (Fieldcraft)—68 (IC&CY) Sig Sqn (**Lt R. S. H. Sawyer**).
Detachment Drills—70 (EY) Sig Sqn (**Lt M. Evans**).
AFHQ Display—94 (BY) Sig Sqn (**Lt A. F. M. Stenning**).
Weapon Training—94 (BY) Sig Sqn (**Lt G. S. Hornsby**).

The displays were followed by a tea party in the Hall Place Rose Garden, where Her Royal Highness met over 64 members of the Regiment and their wives and husbands.

Between 1600 hrs and 1900 hrs, there was a slight respite before the Colonel-in-Chief dined with the Officers and their Ladies at Drapers Hall. The evening was a splendid occasion, made even more enjoyable by the efficiency of the Regimental chefs, stewards and waitresses.

Royal Guard—Bexleyheath TAC
Sig Hamilton of 265 (KCLY) Sig Sqn discusses the advantages of shoulder guards with HRH, whilst Guard Commander Capt D. Hannam looks on

Royal Guard—Bexleyheath TAC
HRH, escorted by ADC Lt V. A. Baynard, talks with soldiers of the Berkshire Yeomanry

Medal Presentation—Bexleyheath TAC
Capt G. Payne being presented with the Efficiency Decoration by HRH

Medal Presentation—Bexleyheath TAC
WO2 'RQMS' D. W. Sparkes receives his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from HRH

Recruit Selection Stand—Hall Place
Escorted by the CO and Sgt R. Jones, HRH discusses the intricacies of command tasks with soldiers of the Essex Yeomanry

First Aid Stand—Hall Place
LCpl Griffiths, Sig Spackman, LCpl Marshall, Sig Thrower-McRae and Sig Lane of the Inns of Court and City yeomanry, converse with HRH on the standardisation of uniform

Officers' Mess Dinner—Drapers' Hall
Mess stewards and waitresses are presented to HRH, with Capt Jewell escorting

– From our "In" Tray –

THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF THE 2ND DIVISION MEMORIAL—24 JUNE 1987

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother graciously agreed to unveil the newly commissioned 2nd Division Memorial in the Dean's Park of York Minster on Wednesday 24 June. The Memorial is dedicated to all members, past and present, of the 2nd Division with Kohima, the major Divisional battle of World War 2, taking pride of place as the central feature of the Memorial.

The Queen Mother arrived in York by Royal train and after meeting a group of civil dignitaries was introduced to the Garrison Commander, **Brig G. S. Hollands** and the Commanding Officer, **Lt Col R. H. G. Elford MBE**. Following a brief discussion the Queen Mother then inspected the Guard of Honour provided by the Regiment with the Corps Band resplendent in support. Many hours of patient preparation, drill and 'bulling' paid off with the execution of a crisp 'Royal Salute'—The Queen Mother was accompanied during her inspection by the Adjutant, **Capt Mark Campbell**, supported by **2Lt Jim Richardson**. During the inspection, Her Majesty remarked favourably upon the high standard of drill and turnout of the Guard.

The Service of Dedication was attended by over 600 veterans of the Division and was held on the Dean's Park lawn to the north of the Minster building. Stands had been erected for the occasion by **WO2 (SSM) 'Crinkly' Harrison, SSgt Gordon Macrorie** and the chaps of 2 Sqn. Many past members of the Regiment attended, including five former Commanding Officers,—**Brig C. C. Fairweather CB, CBE, TD, DL, Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE, Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB, Col P. S. Davis MBE** and **Lt Col M. G. Taylor MBE**. The dedication was followed by a Garden Party held in the Deanery Gardens during which **Cpl Brian Owen** and his wife **Susan** were presented to the Queen Mother.

The day concluded with a march past, taken by Her Majesty, of past and present members of the Division. The Corps Band led the way with the Regimental contingent commanded by **Maj David Hargreaves**. The Regiment was followed by contingents from the Territorial Army and from the Old Comrades themselves. This was the finale of a most enjoyable day and one which all participating members of the Regiment, both past and present will remember for a long time to come.

The Queen Mother completes the inspection of the Guard of Honour and turns to the Adjutant, Capt Mark Campbell, to compliment them on their turnout. Lt Jim Richardson remains firmly 'eyes front', the CO, Lt Col Hugh Elford is on the left

The Kohima Memorial in the Dean's Park, unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on 24 June 1987

A speck of dust! The RSM, WO1 Todd O'Brien on his final inspection of the parade

CELLE HONOURS 14 SIGNAL REGIMENT (ELECTRONIC WARFARE)

Friday 10 July was a day to remember for members of 14 Sig Regt (Electronic Warfare) when the Regiment was granted the Freedom of Celle.

The Regiment was formed in Hildesheim on 1 July 1977 and has just celebrated its 10th Anniversary. It was formed from 225 and 226 Sig Sqns (Radio and the EW Tp from 30 Sig Regt to provide 1 (BR) Corps with EW support. At that time the new Regiment consisted of three squadrons: HQ based in Hildesheim, 1 Sqn at Langeleben and 2 Sqn at Wesendorf.

The CO at the time of the formation, **Lt Col I. O. G. Sprackling** (now DMSI) went in search of a barracks to house the Regiment, eventually finding Ironside Barracks at Scheuen, 5km north of Celle. The Regiment 'evacuated' Hildesheim completely and the advance party moved to Scheuen taking over from 7 and 11 Ord Fd Pks who were being restructured as 1 Armd Div Ord Coy in Soltau. The main body, HQ Sqn and 2 Sqn moved in April 1978 to Ironside which left 1 Sqn at Langeleben and elements of 2 Sqn (non comms) and RHQ (Ops, Trg and Tech Wksps) at Wesendorf. The Regiment finally moved in January 1985 to the centre of Celle, taking over Taunton Barracks from 94 Loc Regt RA. It has settled down and has become fully integrated into the town community. A thriving Anglo-German relationship has been built up over the past 10 years and is now very strong.

At 1050 hrs on 10 July the troops filed off white buses into the centre of Celle and formed up to march through the streets of the town. The Corps band was entertaining the crowd in the gardens of the Schloss.

The parade awaited further orders and at precisely 1130 hrs the ceremony began. The Oberburgermeister, **Dr H. Severin**, Oberstadtdirektor, **Dr U von Witten, Maj Gen I. O. G. Sprackling OBE** and the CO, **Lt Col J. D. Stokoe MBE** appeared from the Rathaus.

14 Sig Regt on parade

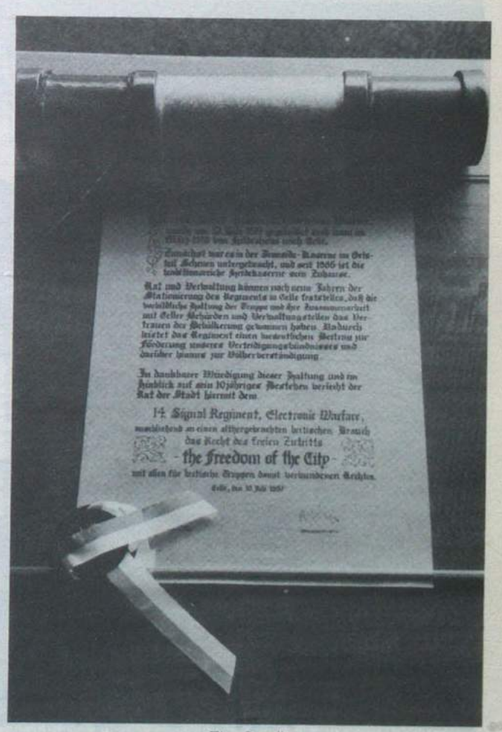
The Scroll Bearer receiving the scroll from the CO

The troops were inspected by **Maj Gen Sprackling** and the town dignitaries. **Dr H. Severin** the Oberburgermeister, presented the CO **Lt Col J. D. Stokoe** with the Deed of Conferment in a leather-bound case. As a memento of the occasion, the CO presented the Oberburgermeister with a silver statuette of Mercury, suitably inscribed and contained in a leather display case.

The scroll bearer, **2Lt John Botterill** and the four escorts, the Regiments' four SSMs: **WO2 Byrne, WO2 Haywood, WO2 Logan** and **WO2 Tomlinson**, collected the scroll from the CO in preparation for displaying our new honour to the town.

After the presentation ceremony, the Regiment exercised its newly-won right to march through the streets of Celle with 'swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing'. Crowds lined the parade route as the Regiment, led by the Corps Band, especially brought over from Blandford for this great occasion, threaded its way through the beautiful streets of the town. The march-past consisted of the Band, the scroll bearer and escorts and two squadrons led by **Maj Eddie Kellett** and **Maj Roger Clague**. The Salute was taken by the Oberburgermeister, supported by the Oberstadtdirektor and **Maj Gen Sprackling OBE**. Among those who watched the ceremony were **Maj Gen Mullins OBE** (GOC 1 Armd Div) and **Brig Cowan OBE** (Comd 1 Sig Bde) and there were also several officers from the local Bundeswehr Regiments.

Afterwards, members of the Regiment were entertained by the Stadt at a reception in the Rathaus. To celebrate the day, all junior ranks and their families were given lunch, courtesy of NAAFI. In the evening the Regiment entertained the local dignitaries at a cocktail party given to thank the Stadt for bestowing the honour on the Regiment.



The Scroll

227 SIGNAL SQUADRON EXERCISE *LONG STRIDE*

This was a relay race from Maastricht (H) to Zeebrugge (B) to raise funds for the Ferry Disaster Appeal. After much discussion a route was chosen and various associations/firms approached for support and sponsorship. The relay team came from within the British Section of 227 Sig Sqn and consisted of:

WO2 (SSM) Taff Williams, WO2 (now WO1) Mick Donnelly RE, SSgt (SQMS) Dave Forsyth, Sgts Andy O'Shea, Andy Pagdin (RAPC), Cpls John Bryant, Chris Chapman (RE), Dave Tuck, LCpl Ivan Gibson, Sig Dave Tulleth and Sig Smoothy Freeman (Reserve).

The mammoth task of promoting the event was in full swing by early April. Route recces had been carried out, clearance from local authorities of the route obtained and all BFPO addresses informed. **Mick Donnelly** obtained handy assistance from AMRO Bank Holland and Giro Bank UK to account for the donations to the fund. Eventually everything fell into place. The idea came from **Sgt Andy O'Shea** with much support from **WO2 (SSM) Taff Williams** and **WO2 Mick Donnelly RE**. The run took place on 1-2 May 1987.

The start point was Maastricht town market square where we were set off by **Maj Etheridge**, OC Sqn at 1400 hrs on 1 May with the words 'off you go then'. Setting off, as a team, to the outskirts of Maastricht, the relay started with each member running for 30 minutes (3-5 miles), depending on the weather and terrain. (There is no truth in the remour that **Sgt Andy O'Shea** gave the SSM all the hills to tackle).

We must not forget the support team of **Sgt Ken 'The Pen' Hughes** and his men who provided hot drinks, snacks, and rest areas on route, which they set up for each stage of the journey.

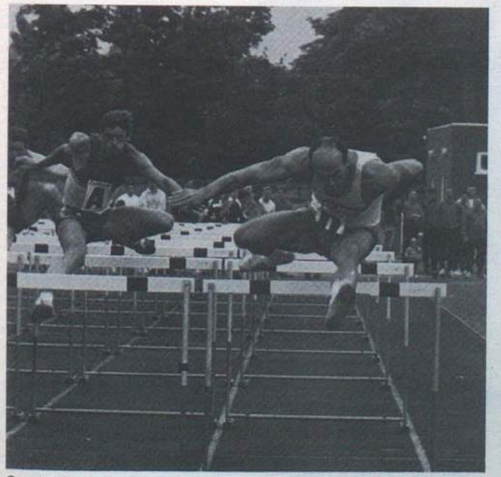
By nightfall the team was well on its way to approaching the centre of Brussels. Some members thought they were running through Paris because of the way the traffic carved them up. By breakfast 'The Pen' had set up the last rest point outside Brugge where a full English breakfast was enjoyed before the final 'push' to Zeebrugge. At 1400 hrs on Saturday we could see the high buildings/cranes of Zeebrugge docks where the entire team disembarked and ran into the Townsend Thoresen terminal at 1500 hrs, after completing a 239km run. We were met by the Terminal manager, **Mr Martin** and the Belgian national press who escorted us to a reception party. Washed and showered, we left for home. Later on, the SSM **WO2 Taff Williams** told the team that they would be attending a function that evening in the Anchor Inn (back at barracks). One week later on Saturday 9 May 1987, another function was organised to celebrate the team's achievements and to auction the many gifts donated by local firms in support of the appeal. A total of DG 2,200 was raised by auctioning **SSgt (SQMS) Dave Forsyth's** shirt (that is, the one on his back that night) and a good evening was enjoyed by everyone.

By June the fund had exceeded our expectations. 30 June saw the appeal fund closed and a formal presentation of the money at Dover Town Hall. This took place at 1100 hrs Friday 31 July, when a cheque for £6,525 and DM 205.00 was formally handed over by the team to **Mr J. Moir**, Chief Executive of Dover Council and Chairman of the Trustees Fund Appeal. Our thanks go to **Mr Martin** of Townsend Thoresen for assisting the team to UK and to all Corps and attached other arms throughout the world for all their support and generous donations.

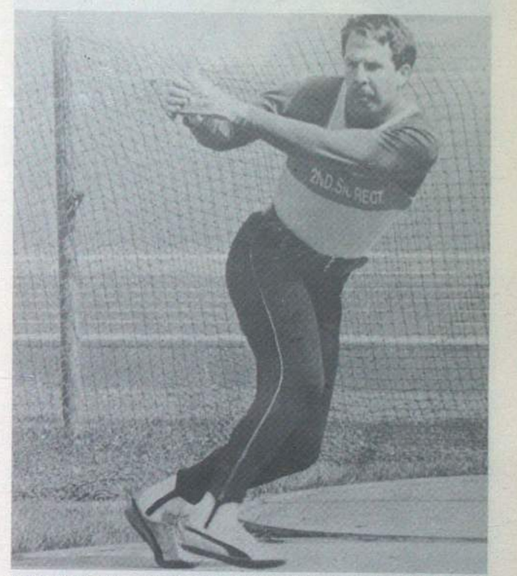
Cheque for £6525 presented to Mr J. Moir Chief Executive of Dover District Council and Chairman of the Trustees of the Ferry Disaster Fund at Dover Town Hall on 31 July
L to R : holding pennant Sgt Andy Pagdin RAPC, Cpl Dave Tuck and Cpl Chris Chapman RE
L to R: Sig Dave Tulleth, Mr Geoff Seymour (Press Officer Girobank), LCpl Ivan Gibson, Sgt Andy O'Shea, Mr J. Moir (Chairman Disaster Fund), SSgt (SQMS) Dave Forsyth, WO2 (SSM) Taff Williams and WO2 (now WO1) Mick Donnelly RE

2 INF DIV HQ AND SIG REGT—WINNERS OF THE ARMY ATHLETICS INTER-UNIT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD AT ALDERSHOT ON 15 JULY 1987

Sgt Killen receives the Army Athletics Shield from Brig P. E. Wooley. The last Signal Regiment to hold the shield was 21 Sig Regt in 1977. Sgt Neil Killen must be congratulated on his successful training of the Regimental Team



Catch him if you can—Sgt Neil Killen wins the 110m hurdles at the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships where he also came first in the pole vault with a vault of 4.00m. His personal best for the 110m hurdles this season is 14.8 secs



LCpl Bob Harvey gained second place at the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships with a throw of 37m. His personal best this season to date is 59m thrown at the Zone B Championships

Cpl Steve Rodders Lawrence (No 7) and Sig Mark Speight leading the 3,000m steeple chase together at the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships at Aldershot. Cpl Steve Lawrence achieved his personal best of 9.38 min at the Army Individual Championships held on 10 June. Sig Mark Speight's speciality in the 800m. He achieved his personal best for this season in 53.8 min which he gained whilst running for the Army against Hampshire and Surrey.

Sig Mac McSween clearing 1.45m in the high jump with ease at the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships held on 15 July at Aldershot were he achieved a personal best of 1.96m gaining him third place

LCpl Vince Key driving out of the blocks at the start of the 4 × 100m relay race. His main events are the 400m and 400m hurdles

Sgt Neil Killen takes the baton from LCpl Eric Francis during the 4 × 100m relay race at the Army Inter-Unit Team Championships, Aldershot. The team of LCpl Key, Sig Ling, LCpl Francis and Sgt Killen set a new Army record of 3.20.6 min for the 4 × 100m relay

The Winning Combination—2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt's Athletics

From L to R: RSM O'Brien, Lt Col Elford, Lt Richardson, Col Tinsley, LCpl Vile, Cpl Dobson, Sig Perry, LCpl Harvey, LCpl Key, LCpl Solomons, Sig Baldwin, Sig Milne, QMSI Harburn, Maj Oldfield
Sig Ling, Sig Curtis, Cpl McCormick, Sig Lamby
Sig Bartliff, LCpl Henry, Sig Austen, Sig McSween, Sgt Killen
LCpl Freeman, Cpl Garbett, LCpl Gallender, Sgt Newell, LCpl Francis, Cpl Smith, Cpl Lawrence

QUEEN'S GURKHA SIGNALS SET NEW RECORD AT BISLEY

Report by Lt Col H. M. Adams

The Queen's Gurkha Signals shooting team achieved a new level of distinction at Bisley this year by winning the Major Units Machine Gun Match for the second year running, this time with a record breaking score. The fact that they shot with 1945 pattern Bren Guns against the infantry battalions equipped with General Purpose Machine Guns and the Army's new SA 80 Light Support Weapon, complete with optical sight, makes it even more significant. Last year's result hardly raised an eyebrow amongst the shooting fraternity at Bisley, but this year the team proved beyond doubt that it was no fluke.

Things began badly for the team when the first of the gun pairs failed to qualify at 600m and were penalised 20 points. They scored far less than they had done in practice and the other two pairs knew that they had a real challenge on their hands. They were not to be disappointed. The B Class team (**Sig Yamkumar Gurung** and **Nirmalkumar Gurung**) shot well enough to be placed second overall, easily winning the Queen's Own Highlander's Cup as the Army's best Class B pair. **Capt Lilbahadur Gurung** and **Sgt Krishna Gurung** won the event outright with a record score. So good was their second stage, that the range came to a standstill whilst the entire butt party examjned their target. Only 2 of the 40 shots were placed outside the bull. **Capt Lilbahadur** and **Sgt Krishna** won the Worcestershire Cup and the team had captured the Eastern Command Cup for the second consecutive year.

1987 has been an exceptional year for the team. In Hong Kong, despite winning the rifle match, they were narrowly beaten by 1/2 GR, a position that was to be reversed at Bisley. They went on to win every match at the Royal Signals SAM except the Falling Plate—well done 16 Sig Regt. At Bisley they were placed fourth overall, winning the Brooke Bond Trophy as the best non-infantry major unit and the Royal Anglian Cup (Moving Target) to add to their machine gun trophies. Five of the team made the Army 100 (rifle) and **Capt Lilbahadur** and **Sgt Krishna** shot for the Army in the Inter Services SMG. The team went on to win the National Rifle Association Sub Machine Gun and LMG trophies and helped the Royal Signals team to win the Woolwich Bowl in the Methuen Cup.

Such results are not without penalty, as I discovered after the event when **Capt Lilbahadur** asked me to obtain 128kgs of excess baggage for the team to take their silver back to Hong Kong—thanks RCT—same again next year please!

The Corps Shooting Team, with the Master of Signals and Signal Officer-in-Chief, together with their Army and NRA Trophies
From L to R: Sgt Krishna Gurung, WO2 Nation, SOinC Capt Lilbauadur Gurung, The Master of Signals Lt Chaubahadur Gurung and Cpl Navindrabikram Gurung

The Queens Gurkha Signals Shooting Team on the Century Range at Bisley with their Army Shooting Trophies.
Back Row From L to R: Sig Ramkumar Gurung, Gangaram Rai, Narhang Rai, Sig Anjang Gurung, Nirmalkumar Gurung, Yamkumar Gurung
Front Row From L to R: Sgt Krishna Gurung, Capt Lilbahadur Gurung, Lt Chaubahadur Gurung, Cpl Navindrabikram Gurung

EXERCISE *PADDINGTON DIAMOND*

Exercise *Paddington Diamond* was a joint service during expedition to Lake Titicaca in Bolivia.

Reported by WO2 (SSM) Mike Duffin 3 Sqn 7 Sig Regt.

The team consisted of the following:-

Capt Marc Moddy RAOC	Expedition Leader
Capt Mal Strickland REME (OC LAD 7 Sig Regt)	Diving Officer
Capt David Morgan-Jones RAMC	Medical and Records officer
WO1 Frank Walker RAOC	Training Officer
WO2 Mike Duffin	Stores Officer
Cpl Dave Laut RTR	U/W PR Photographer
Cpl Jon Beaty REME	Equipment Officer
Cpl Kick Wilde ACC	Catering Officer
Gdsmn Mike Vince	Asst Admin Officer
The Rev Alf Hayes RAChD	Admin Officer) Advance Party
Cpl Al Goodwin	Boats Officer)
Mr Keith Harrison British Museum	Biologist
Mr Bob Dally BSAC Harlowe Essex	Asst Equipment Officer
Herr Walter Keusen Zurich University	Technical Advisor
Dr Phillipe Rheiner Zurich University	Medical Advisor
Miss Ennie Jean-Alexis Zurich University	Nurse

Lake Titicaca lies 3,840m above sea level and covers an area of 8,100sq km. It has a length of 190km and a width of 50km. In the main lake which is situated in the North, depths of 272m have been measured, the southern part of the lake is connected with the main lake by the narrow Tiquna straits running between the pennisulas of Copacabana and Huata.

The annual fluctuations of the water level of the lake amounts to 2m. (high water marks in June, low water marks in October)

The border between Bolivia and Peru runs through the middle of the lake and across the Copacabana Pennisula. 60km east of the lake in a high valley lies La-Paz, the capital of Bolivia at a height of 3,500m.

The expedition had three aims, archaeological, biological and physiological

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Even today on the shores of Lake Titicaca there are many imposing architectural remains constructed from heavy blocks of stone and fitted together with such exactness that the blade of a knife cannot be inserted between them.

The bed of the lake has not been explored and it is likely that many very ancient artefacts are laying in the mud of these cold waters. It was therefore decided to do a search of the lake bed recording any finds of archaeological significance. None was found however!

BIOLOGICAL

In 1937 the Percy Sladen Expedition collected about 40,000 amphipods from the main lake. Preliminary studies of this collection revealed a rich group, or 'flock' of closely related species most of which were new to science.

The Zoology department of the British Museum (Natural History) was very interested in our expedition and decided to send a representative with us. His aim with our co-operation as underwater collectors was to assess whether the introduction of Brown Trout (which happened since 1937) had affected the amphpod species flock, and secondly to carry out preparatory work prior to the BM (NH) expedition proposed for 1989.

PHYSIOLOGICAL

As the lake is over 3500m above sea level the problems and hazards of diving at this altitude are many. To date no one has attempted free diving at this altitude for long periods. Cousteau's expedition of 1970 was done in a pressurised submersible and any free diving that took place was carried out only in the shallow waters of the lakeside.

Prolonged diving at this altitude has not been fully researched and therefore dive tables are theoretical. The leading world authority on altitude diving is the Department of Medicine of the University of Zurich headed by **Prof A. A. Buehlmann**, who was extremely interested in our project. **Prof Buehlmann** produced a dive table specifically for Lake Titicaca, additionally Uwatec of Switzerland has developed a micro dive computer named Aladdin which has been programmed to work up to 400m above sea level using the Buehlmann table.

The physiological aim therefore was to carry out a comprehensive research programme under strict medical supervision in order to test in 'field' conditions the computer projected tables. The results are still being analysed at the Museum in Zurich. Apart from the adventure training aspects of the expedition all finance had to be found by team members, additionaly the failure to obtain RAF support at the eleventh hour caused some concern in obtaining commercial flights at reasonable costs. Flights between UK and BAOR were through normal trooping flights as CNFP. Individuals were encouraged to seek personal sponsorship to offset their outlay of £900. Many including myself were successful.

On arrival in La Paz on the 2 May we were met by the advance party of **Father A. J. Hayes** and **Cpl Alan Goodwin** who had arrived the previous week. For the first couple of days we were to have stayed in a hotel until we moved out on Tuesday 5 May to the Bolivian Navy base at Tequina. **Father Hayes** had made contact with a Roman Catholic mission in La Paz who offered accommodation for all of us and the use of a Ford one ton truck for the duration of our stay. This help proved to be invaluable, and the two priests **Father Bob Mennes** and **Father Danny Stretch**, really made us welcome, solved our accommodation problem during the exercise and made visits to La Paz for supplies etc all possible. We also stayed there for the last five days of the exercise once we had returned from the camp site that we shared with the Bolivian Navy divers.

The first three days were used to acclimatise to the new altitude and for the purchase of stores and rations that we required during our stay. The freight had already been delivered to the mission and that had to be unpacked and checked. Personal documents and money not required at the camp site was deposited at the British Embassy for safe keeping. On Tuesday 5 May half of us departed for the strait of Tiquina with our stores and equipment.

On arrival we were met by the Bolivian Navy ferry called the *General Belgrano*. This ferry took the truck across the Straits of Liguina to the Bolivian Navy Base. We were given a breakfast of steak, egg and onions.

The stores were unloaded into Bolivian Navy transport and the truck we had borrowed returned to La Paz for the remainder of the team and equipment, while the first half set off for the camp site. The truck then arrived back at the Naval base at 1800 hrs and carried on its journey to join the remainder.

The Bolivians had done a splendid job at the camp site, two large tents, one for sleeping and one for eating and cooking were already erected. The sleeping tent had real beds with mattresses and pillows and both tents even had electric lights powered by a small trailer mounted generator.

The Bolivian officers and the Bolivian guards were accommodated in other smaller tents. A jeep fitted for radio was also there so that contact could be maintained with the Naval base which was almost an hour's drive away.

The following day was the start of the diving but before we started the two doctors did some tests on us after a ten minute warm up playing football and recorded our pulse rate, blood pressure and breathing rate.

The first dive was for the usual equipment check and buoyancy check. I became ill after this dive and was bedded down until Sunday 10 May and, in fact, I did not dive again, due to illness, in this location. The others, however, carried on completing their dives with no startling results.

On Friday 8 May the Tiquina Naval Base Commander paid us a visit and he said that, in order to see more of the lake, we should move to the Island of the Sun and plans were made to move on 14 May. During a stay at this site we were able to make a visit to the ancient ruins at Tiwanaku, courtesy of the Bolivian Navy, who provided two launches to ferry us across the lake.

It was a four hour trip. We landed at Guaqui and were taken by bus to the ruins after which we returned to Guaqui for a meal, before leaving on our return journey, arriving back at the camp at 2200 hrs.

The following day was a non diving day so that we could prepare for our move to the Island of the Sun. On Thursday 14 May, at 0700 hrs two launches arrived at convey us to the island. After loading we set off at 0830 hrs stopping on the way at Tiquina for supplies and reaching the island at 1330 hrs. On arrival we found that again two large tents had been set up as before with electricity etc. The remainder of the day was spent unloading and setting out the camp for the diving to start the following day.

Saturday 16 May, **Father Hayes** and **Cpl Dave Lout** left in the morning to go to La Paz to collect the PR team which consisted of journalists and BFBS cameramen. **Mike Allen** who was making a film to be shown on 'Scene Here' on BFBS was with them. No diving was done today in order to give everyone a rest before the more serious diving started next day. I, **Cpl Alan Goodwin** and the Bolivian Navy communications Sergeant went for a walk on the island. The walk took four and a half hours during which we were able to see the four extremities of the island.

Sunday 17 May, the PR team was busy filming us during the various stages of a dive and we also staged an in-water rescue for the cameras. I was feeling better now and was able to make two dives.

Monday 18 May, an early start for me today as I went to Copacabana on the launch to meet the British Ambassador **Mr A. White CMG OBE**, and the Swiss Chargé d'Affaires together with their wives. We invited them back to our camp site for a visit. While we were there, the British Ambassador presented the LS and GC medals to our catering officer **Cpl Dick Wilde**. Later on during the evening just as we were settling down for the night we heard a distress call from the launch. She had slipped her moorings and was floundering on the beach.

The order was given 'all divers into their dry suits' which was met with a rapid response. We managed to push the boat back into the water and under her own steam set off for deeper water where she was able to reanchor successfully. It was a particularly bad night, exceptionally strong winds and very heavy rainfall.

Tueday 21 May was a day off from diving and a planned shopping trip to Copacabana went very well. Lots of souvenirs were purchased and we all had the local fish for lunch, before returning to the camp. Later on in the afternoon, **Father Hayes, Cpl Jon Beaty** and I took a trip into Peru in the truck to see if we could purchase some diesel. We tried several garages and when we eventually found one that sold diesel it had sold out! So we returned to Copacabana, met the remainder of our party and then set off in the launch for our camp site.

Author transcribing a signal received from Tiquina Naval Base assisted by Bolivian Naval Radio Op and Interpreter. Snow capped Andfil Mountains in background

Diving continued over the next few days. Various sites were dived and included a day diving off the Island of the Moon, where we dived on the wreck of a sand carrying boat which had been down quite a number of years. The afternoon dive off the Island of the Moon was cancelled due to bad weather but before we headed back to our camp, we all went ashore to explore some Inca ruins.

27 May, a sad day for us as it was our last diving day. The site chosen was the Island of Coa, about two hours away by launch. This site offered caves and rocky formations to explore, this was the divers most favoured site of all those used during the expedition. For the afternoon the divers were given the option to do their own thing. Several including myself went for a last dive under the Inca ruin site on the east coast of the Island of the Sun. No treasures were found though. A barbecue was held in the evening as a thank you to our Bolivian hosts. **Capt Marc Moody** made several presentations on our behalf to our hosts as a token of our appreciation of their friendship and assistance during our stay.

Thursday 28 May was the day that we broke camp. All our diving stores had been packed and compressors prepared for transit the previous day. At approximately 0800 hrs the faithful *General Belgrano* appeared and all the heavy freight, tents and communication vehicle were loaded. Four of the team travelled with it, the remainder set off in the launch. The *General Belgrano* headed directly to Tiquina while the launch took us to Copacabana to collect the truck which was then driven over the mountains by me to Tiquina.

Once we had all arrived at Tiquina we were all invited into the Officers' Mess for a reception with the Bolivian Navy Admiral during which several presentations took place, one of which was the presentation of a Cup to our Bolivian hosts for winning the Frog Competition. This competition was held earlier on in the week and the winner was the one who brought up the heaviest frog. Lunch followed this reception after which we all set off for our base in La Paz, some of us in our borrowed truck and the remainder on a Bolivian navy truck.

The following two days were set aside for a jungle trip. We all set off on the truck for a five hour trip. Our route took us through La Cumbre, Undauvi-sta-Rosa and Puente Villa before we reached our final destination, Chulumani. We stayed over night in a motel, 10km from Chulumani. The whole trip was thoroughly enjoyable and was a good way to wind down from the strict diving programme that we had become accustomed to.

Sunday 31 May saw us take a trip to Chacaltaya. We went by bus to the ski slope, and on arrival those that wanted to ski hired their equipment whilst the remainder, went for a walk around the mountains, **Capt Mal Strickland** and I set off to back back to La Paz, with the idea of getting a lift and then rejoining our hired bus when the remainder of the team returned. After approximately 15 miles a taxi stopped and picked us up and we were dropped quite near to our base in La Paz. The remainder returned a couple of hours later.

This is me in my 'Tensing' gear just before setting off to walk back to La-Paz. Andfil mountains are in the background. Photograph was taken at Chacko-Tire where we went for a days skiing

Monday 1 June was our last full day in Bolivia and was also the day when all our freight had to be taken to the airport. As I was the stores officer I ensured that the boxes were packed and labelled correctly, before I took them to the airport in the afternoon (the freight was flown to Hanover the following day where it remained until 8 June when **Capt Mal Strickland** went to collect it. He delivered it to Herford where it was unpacked and returned to loan stores).

The remainder of the day was spent packing personal kit and doing last minute shopping. The evening was particularly enjoyable. We invited our two hosts in La Paz **Father Bob Mennes** and **Father Danny Stretch** out for dinner at the Plaza hotel, as a mark of our appreciation for all they had done for us. Their friendship and help greatly contributed to the success of the expedition.

The following morning after our farewells we were taken to the airport for our check in at 1200 hrs. Take off was 1400 hrs and our route back to Heathrow included stops at Santa-Cruz, San Paulo and Rio-De-Janero.

On arrival at Heathrow at 1400 hrs the team split up making their own way back to their respective destinations. **Mr Bob Dally** invited **Capt Marc Moody, Capt Mal Strickland, Father Alf Hayes, Cpls Jon Beaty,** and **Dick Wilde** and I to his pub for the night. We all enjoyed the evening during which we paid a visit to the Harlowe Sub Aqua Club where **Bob** introduced us to several fellow members. We all returned to our respective places of duty on the following day.

ACHIEVEMENTS

All the aims were achieved and in particular the training of the Bolivian Naval Officers proved to be a tremendous PR exercise and did much to improve the relationship between our two countries.

The technical reports on all aspects of the exercise are still in the process of being written and as the results are so important it has been decided to produce a printed report complete with photographs.

CONCLUSION

Adventure training in Bolivia has plenty to offer, relationships were good and the people were friendly, however away from the capital of La-Paz communications and roads were poor and quick medical evacuation in an emergency would have been virtually impossible. The chances of minor illness such as stomach upsets were considered to be a certainty for at least 80% of the time,

IT'S A KNOCKOUT—35 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V) HELPS OUT

It was in late March this year when our PSI, **SSgt 'Mal' Metcalfe**, received a surprising telephone call from the BBC. 'Would he be able to provide a Demonstration Team for the Royal 'It's a Knockout' at Alton Towers in June'? they asked. Pulling himself together smartly he accepted the invitation immediately.

The CO of course, agreed immediately and that set us off on the start of what has been the biggest event in which 58 (Staffordshire) Sig Sqn (V) has been involved to date.

The requirement was for a team of 13, fit, young, enthusiastic people to test the games dreamed up by the designer, act as the teams for camera rehearsals and then provide a full demonstration for the Royal Teams. It sounded simple—that is until we examined the details!

However, at 0900 hrs sharp on 12 June the team arrived at Alton Towers raring to go and armed with plenty of spare kit, cameras, brew-kit (of course) and wearing the brand new tracksuits and sports kit provided by the Regiment.

We were welcomed by **Alan Wright** the Assistant Producer who despite many other pressures soon had us fixed up with changing facilities (tumble dryer and all) and had introduced us to the producer and games designer for whom we were to work.

To anyone who saw the end product on the television it will not be difficult to imagine the fun and games we had. If we tried some games once we tried them many more times—understandably they had to be perfect!—and despite the pre-planning the assistant team manager—**WO2 Simpson** was soon juggling the team around to provide as many people as he could for the marathon game over the 'swimming pool'.

It was during the Saturday trials that the producer, quite rightly, decided that some measure of safety was necessary for all those who were falling into the pool during both the Marathon and the Lovers' Games. 'Had we bought a diver'? he asked. Of course, was the quick reply. In fact we had three trained drivers with us but **Cpl Scott** was also our 'first aider' so he was soon dressed in his frogman's suit and spent most of the remaining time in the water. His comment at the end was that he had never helped so many distressed damsels in his life and could he please come again!

The most difficult task for the Chief Coach, **Sgt Geoff Harriman** was the selection of team members for each game which he did with great success as few changes were made.

The games were:

'Call out the guard'—this required a team of four to run from the Castle, one to take a rope and attach it to a cannon and the other three to wind in the cannon with a capstan. The team of **LCpl Bagguley, SSgt 'Skip' Whalley, Sgt Keith Robinson** and **Sig 'Winker' Watson** soon had this mastered even though the costumes made them feel rather padded and not a little out of breath.

'The Ghost of Alton Towers'—was a real test of stamina. Our ghost **Sig Andy Metcalf** was dressed to kill in a large costume with his head under his arm and big big boots. He had to race, out of the Castle again, and try to catch the maiden—excellently portrayed by **Pte Wheat**—who had to hop down the arena collecting flowers on her way. She had to hop—her shoes were glued to a small base board! (You could say that she was hopping made when she was caught!)

For 'Knock a Knight' a large ball was suspended from a mobile crane and our defending knight **LCpl Alen** had to knock over dummy knights. Simplicity! No, not quite, he was wearing a head mask and so completely blind and had to be guided by shouted instructions from **Pte Pedley**. They were adamant. It was *not* as easy as it looked.

'The Lovers' was a game requiring stamina and a good sense of balance. Our damsel **Pte Wood** had to stand on a balcony in the tower some 10ft above the level of a paved area. **Sgt Geoff Harriman** seeing the need to lead by example put himself down for the job of the Lover. (We wondered why he fancied the job—did he need the practise?). All he had to do was to jump on to some stepping stones in the 'moat' and climb up a rope to give his damsel a rose and then get back on to the paved area—*six times*. The damsel then climbed down the rope with the roses and joined him. The catch was that the stepping stones were floating and tipped easily—say no more.

We all marvelled at his efforts and amazingly he managed to keep dry—not so the damsel— she had to be rescued by him from the moat. If you think it's easy try climbing down a wet rope with six roses in your mouth . . . try it!

By the time we came to the next game 'King of the Castle', plans had changed slightly. Originally we were to produce two of the team but we ended up with eight.

Each team member had to wear a very large figure of a King and then race down the arena and get through a gap in the castle wall as quickly as possible. Tactics soon became evident when it was realised that the last two would be eliminated and the others would have to run again, but as **Sig Mark Stewart** put it 'If you want to lose weight, try running around in a King's suit'.

Game 6 was 'Cooks and Vegetables'—three cooks and three vegetables, an onion, a leek and a potato. The vegetables had to be caught by the cooks and put into a large cooking pot—not an easy task when the pot is 8ft from brim to floor level. This was the most difficult game and brought quite a few comments from the cooks **LCpl Capel, Ptes Allen** and **Makinia** about the weight of some of the vegetables—we leave you, the reader, to guess the words

It was left to **LCpl Forrester** to 'star' in the only 'individual' game—'The Uninvited Guest'. Once again this was played against the clock and required him to wear a magnificent but bulky costume in which to negotiate some tables and reach the bottom of the steps to the patio. Again you might think it easy but with four other team members causing the patio stones to move back and forth and with size 40 shoes on your feet—think again! We all agreed that he was the fittest 'drunk' that we had ever seen.

The Finale—'The Joust' was one of the easiest we had to trial or so it looked. **LCpl Allen** sat astride a magnificent wooden horse pulled by **LCpl Bagguley** and **Sgt Robinson** had to knock down targets as he was towed past, collect another damsel **Pte Pedley** and then be towed to the finish line. Not easy when the off centre wheels are sending you up and down.

Pte 'Crusty' Wheat flees from the Ghost

LCpl 'Merve for Swerv' Allen shows how it's done. Sgt Keith Robinson and LCpl Mick Bugguley provide the power

By Sunday the 14th, everyone was treating Alton Towers as their own and looking forward to the arrival of members of the Royal Family and the celebrities. The day passed all too quickly—but what a day!

LCpl Bugguley found himself acting as advisor to the Duke of York, **Pte Nikki Metcalf** and **LCpl Bradbury** had great fun swapping jokes with **Les Dawson** and **Su Pollard** in between 'takes' and all the team raced about getting as many autographs as possible.

Naturally we all had an excellent view of the filming during the final day having acted as guides and marshals, on behalf of Alton Towers, to see that the spectators were correctly seated. However, despite one or two minor problems, all went according to plan and in the words of **Alan Wright** of the BBC, in a letter to the Squadron, we were 'one of the best Demo Teams that the Knockout Production Team has had the pleasure of working with and felt that memories of the 58th would be with them for some time to come'.

Sadly, we left the Knockout area, it was all over. However the memories linger on and one day, maybe, the 'phone will ring again . . .

Cpl Gary Scott, LCpl Sharon Capel and Pte Rebecca Pedley bring Sig 'Leek' Metcalf back to the cooking pot. Sig 'Potato' Watson awaits his fate. The Production Staff take cover

The Team on the set

11 SIG REGT WIVES GO INTO BATTLE

EXERCISE *MAIDENS FOLLY* 1/87

Wearing 'T' shirts emblazoned with 'Never Understimate The Power Of A Woman' and trainers marked left and right, 21 wives and Regimental personalities arrived at Helles Barracks to add power to that age old adage, behind every soldier lies a successful woman, and to prove once and for all that they really are the better half.

With children safely deposited in the creche, kindly run by **Mrs Diana Vella** and friends, they quickly donned their combat kit, provided for the occasion by 'Our man at Q & M'. Much arguing ensued as to whether of not it fitted the parts other uniforms can't reach, before they were sorted into teams and called to order by **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** who introduced them to that most hallowed piece of real estate, 'The Drill Square'. Some trying to impersonate spotty dog soon realised that their right arms were on different sides from their left feet.

With newly acquired skills, they marched to the first stand run by **Capt Peter Whitehead, SSgts 'Taff' George** and **Stan Stanford**. Here a trail through the woods tested their powers of observation with objects concealed left and right. These duly noted, and with 60 seconds to commit to memory 20 more items spread on a poncho, they set off at a ladylike trot for 400m before putting pen to paper and realising that the exercise wasn't as easy as it first looked.

Naafi break time, even an introduction to the ubiquitous urn of cookhouse tea failed to dampen spirits as they set off for the grenade throwing stand run by **Lt Jim Dodds, Sgt Keith Fisher** and **Cpl Chris Carling**. EOD provided an authentic explosion as the first grenade landed inside the target area, much to the consternation of the girls still to throw as they wondered just what type of grenades they had in their pouches.

After a demonstration of field rations and hexi cookers by **Cpl Bob Holmes**, they set about cooking their lunch. The general consensus of opinion was 'I don't know what my husband complains about'. However after being told they had just consumed about 3,000 calories each, eyes dropped guiltily to waistlines.

Lt Hugh Wareham and the cadre of 3 Troop opened the afternoon with the minesweeping stand. Not knowing quite what to expect after the grenades, they swept to and fro with the detectors, and with bayonets probed very gently indeed for the hidden mess tins. No explosions this time, as they safely negotiated the lanes. With their ears ringing from the distinctive tones of the equipment, they were off to the indoor training theatre for a simple, but well designed shooting competition organised by **Sgt Chippy Monk**. Surprisingly, this turned out to be the most humorous stand of the day, as they quietly (well quietly for ladies) discussed which part of the targets' anatomy the .22 rounds had penetrated.

Laughter soon dissipated however as they made their way to the final phase of the afternoon, 'The Dreaded Assault Course'. After a demonstration by **SI Andy Chappel** and his staff, and a quick practice run, they showed what they were made of by clocking extremely good times over this most arduous activity, much to the amazement of both themselves and the onlookers.

A most successful and enjoyable day, for both the organisers and the ladies, was brought to a close by the CO, **Lt Col David Collyer** who presented the prizes to the winning teams.

Although not quite ready to swap places with their husbands yet, they proved quite conclusively that we should never underestimate the power of a woman, and they now look forward to viewing the video of the day's events and of course Ex *'Maidens Folly 2'*.

The Overall Winning Team
L to R: Pam Hill, Kneesh Fish, Tracy Wood, Carol Dodds, Tracy Dodds
Foreground: Mandy Clark
Looking on from the rear: Cpl Neil Clegg

FOCUS ON THE APPRENTICES' COLLEGE CHAPLAIN—THE REV D. E. WILKES

Every effort is made in the College to provide for the spiritual and moral needs of the staff and students. In Harrogate the onus of this duty falls upon **Padre David Wilkes** and has done since July 1985 on his arrival from Berlin. There his ministry encompassed two Infantry Battalions, (Royal Hampshire and Devon and Dorset), the British Military Hospital, and of course their associated dependants. In contrast, the College must seem a cushy posting!

David, his wife **Dianne** and their three children live in quarters approximately half a mile from the church.

Perhaps the remainder of his story is best told in the words of the man himself.

Q. '**David**, I know that you have two consuming interests outside the church—rugby and fishing. Do you find that these pursuits help you in your ministry?'

A. 'First of all, I must come clean and admit that whilst I really enjoy fishing I am singularly inept at catching fish. I can only hope that I am more successful as a fisher of men!

As regards rugby—I've been associated with the game almost as long as I can remember. Initially as a player, then latterly, after many injuries and a warning from the MO, as a referee. I enjoy the people and the activity very much and if I perhaps manage to keep the air above the scrum from turning blue, so much the better.

I also feel that my participation makes the boys see me in a more "normal", less threatening light and increases my circle of acquaintances.'

Q. 'You mention "normal". Padres aren't born into the ministry, which presupposes at least a short period of leading a layman's life. How did you become a minister and thence an Army Chaplain?'

A. 'I was raised in a Christian family, but I wasn't always a committed Christian—there was a period in my teens when I went through a spell of indifference. I would say that I became a committed Christian at about the age of 19 after a gradual process of the awareness of God. Prior to attending my theological course, I attempted a few other things. I left school at 16, had a short period at Art College and an abortive attempt to be a graphic designer. I then worked as a newsagent in my parents' business for two years, moving on to be a trainee manager in W.H.Smith for three years. I enjoyed that period but the salary was pretty poor, and as a newly married man with responsibilities I went in search of my fortune. This search led me to selling insurance in an agency, and for three years I was your man from the Pru. During this last period of employment, I was fundamentally adjusting my thinking. I wanted to serve the community in some practical way as an extension of my Christian faith. Initially I thought about missionary work, then training as a doctor or a teacher. A friend suggested that I was good material for the ministry and so, after discussions with **Dianne**, I applied for a candidature in the Methodist Ministry on, as it turned out, the last day on which nominations were accepted, in 1969. They say that I was trained in the jam factory as I attended Hartley Victoria College, Manchester—an organisation enjoying the patronage of Hartley's the jam people.

Joining the Army was really a series of coincidences beginning during the time when I was a minister in Worsley with three churches to look after. I met an Anglican minister, who was also a Captain in the TA. He introduced me socially to a Senior Army Chaplain who somehow got me to sign a paper and off I went out on exercise with the TA six weeks later! A TA Course in Bagshot Park saw me persuaded to "sign on" in the regular Army in 1980'.

Q. 'Some soldiers are uneasy with religion and a padre's job often seems an uphill struggle. Do you see yourself as an evangelical, converting, missionary type of Christian or rather more as a pastor for the already committed?'

A. 'I believe most soldiers have a faith of sorts in God. My view therefore is that I am working with people who have a faith but who possibly are unable to articulate it. My task is to make them aware of this inner man and try to centralise their beliefs around care, compassion and a spirtual life. It really works you know—it is possible to have a happy and fulfilling life without being obsessed with self! In that sense, and finally to answer your question, you could say that I have the crusading, evangelical zeal.'

Q. 'The majority of your day to day contact with the boys is through periods of padre's hour. In a nutshell, how often, what goes on, and why?'

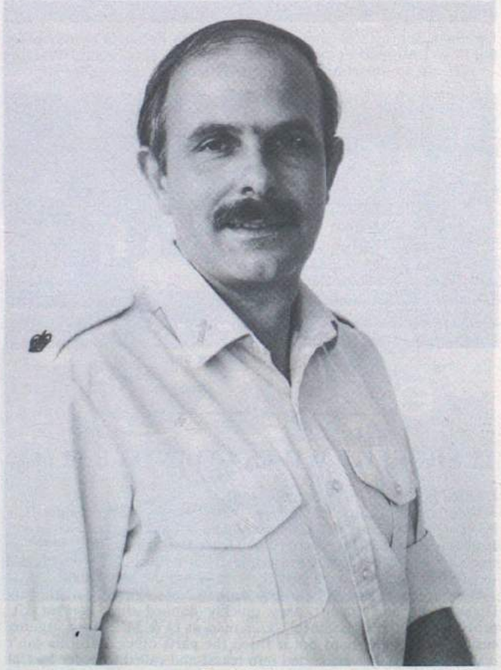
A. 'Right; a tall order. Firstly, the boys attend, (other than RCs who make their own arrangements), on a weekly basis for two thirds of their time here. I couldn't possibly handle the numbers, so I am assisted by three local officiating chaplains.

Secondly, we aim during their time here to try to make them aware of the need for spiritual development in a healthy life. This is done by examining character and personality and looking at aspects of commitment, loyalty, honesty and the moral dimension of soldiering. We have lots of lively discussions and we don't neglect the moral problems inherent in relationships, sexual behaviour, evil and nuclear war for example.

Finally, and I suppose this is my answer to your, "why" we examine religion—what is belief and where does it come from, are covered in depth and related to the attitude a person has to such diverse subjects as marriage, death and bereavement.'

Q. 'Finally **David**, do you find yourself in a dilemma as a Methodist ministering to a largely Church of England flock with a substantial minority of other persuasions?'

A. 'Not really. I see myself as a bit of a hybrid who has a broadly based spiritual home. I believe strongly that the whole Christian family can usefully learn from one another and I am very fortunate that to a large extent, the Army allows me a greater scope than a conventional parish normally would.'



David Wilkes
Chaplain to the Forces

249 SIG SQN (AMF(L))—NATO CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

For many in the Squadron, the climax of Ex *Aurora Express*, was the winning of the Nato Challenge Cup. This cup has been bitterly fought for between the various nations and units in the AMF(L) over the years, 249 have to date won it four times in six competitions.

The Biathlon takes place during every AMF(L) FTX, be it on skis in Norway or, as was the case this year, in 35°C heat and 6,000ft above sea level in Turkey. Due to heavy comms commitments, we could only field our second team, which included 17 year old **Sig 'Trigger' Kent** and his 'Dad', 35 year old **WO2 (YofS) 'Mad 'Arry' Elkan**. Our thanks also go to **Cpl Lee Kelly** of 244 Sig Sqn who helped make up our numbers!

The course was relatively flat, and was run over tracks and across-country, culminating on the ranges. In the face of stiff competition the team pulled together to produce an excellent run. With a few minutes to recuperate before the shoot, we felt we had a good opportunity of attaining high results. With the team averaging three hits out of a possible five per man, we soon felt our confidence justified.

The final result showed the Squadron team to be a full 10 minutes ahead of the team placed second in the non-infantry competition, and two minutes ahead of the German Paratroopers in the Infantry competition. A very professional result!

The day was concluded with the Awards ceremony, at which all the team members were presented with Winners' Medals by the Force Commander, **Maj Gen Angioni**. There was also an excellent barbecue with much needed liquid refreshment, and the concensus of opinion was the that next time, in Denmark, we will make it a fifth win!

NATO CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

Commander AMF(L), Maj Gen Angioni congratulates Lt Nigel Godbolt on bring his Team to victory in the NATO Challenge Cup

Maj Gen Angioni presents Cpl Waters with his team medal

A SOLDIER IN 4 ARMD DIV EXPLAINS ARMY LIFE

Dear Mum,

Well here I am in Germany at the centre of the communications world, near 7 Sig Regt. As soon as I got here we had *Active Edge*—that means everyone goes bonkers and runs around wearing webbing. But by midnight everything had gone quiet so we went to bed, this was because we'd changed from P to R—it must be great near V or W. That first week was really hot and the sun shone every day, but it was still winter according to orders, so we all had our jumpers on, then suddenly it was summer—on orders, so we all took our jumpers off. Strange though the sun had gone in and it was raining, it rained twice—once for two days and once for three days. So we put our jumpers back on, and then the sun came out again. My first Exercise was *Saxon Warrior*— it was so confusing—we had shots, SASMC, SCRA, BIDS, COAX and lots of other LTA's. But armed with a thick pad of paper, a pencil (sharpened at both ends) and a clip board I managed to get the gist of it all. At the end of the week we all sat cross legged in the Gym while the Colonel told us how much we'd learnt and then he gave out mugs to the lads who had written the most. Then the RSM—he's a very important man—told us to watch out for strange looking packages—so no more food parcels please. Then all of a sudden everyone disappeared off to Hemeln. That's where Ex *Mainbrace* was, we set up all the vehicles and then sat in the canteen for a week. Then we packed it all up and came home. We must have been a long way from home because the General had to fly in every day in his helicopter. Some of the lads however were having a rough time—they were players because they were on the field. That's what happens when you get into a node.

The food here is very good, there is always a big choice of main meals and the cooks are always very pleasant, but we have to fry our own eggs—that's really good fun. Most mornings we have a late breakfast, which means we have to get up really early and go for a run with the SSM—he's not as important as the RSM—but he's still very important and can run very fast. Then after breakfast we have a parade and everyone gets told where to go—then we go there. At about half past nine we set off for the Squadron Bar where we have a Naafi break. That means we eat pies and drink coke, then just before lunch we go back to the garages to lock up.

In the afternoon the troop Staffy—(he's not as important as the SSM but can still tell people what to do)—takes us out on essential military training like camnet maintenance or water skiing and then we knock off. Which means we can put our civvies on. (Civvies means jeans). In the evenings we have to go to the town with the flat NCO (who is not very important—but tells me what to do) so that we can carry him back to the Barracks and then we watch a video in **Taff's** room (that's not his real name, it's short for **Evans**).

I'm trying to get into a Regimental Sports team, then I can visit lots of different towns all over Germany. The swimming team has just done really well at Hameln but the three days intensive training before hand has made their skin go all wrinkly and their eyes all bloodshot so I won't join that team, and I don't think I'm old enough for the tug-of-war squad. We use a different clock here as well—instead of having 12 hours we've got 24. Yesterday my Land Rover broke down and the MT Sgt (who says he's more important than the troop Staffy—but I don't think he is) said to go to the LAD and 1045 it. I was there until 11 o'clock but nobody turned up; now I've got to go somewhere at 2.52, all very confusing. I'm going to have to buy a digital watch.

Battle camp is coming soon, this means we stop being signalmen and become soldiers for a week. The troop OC (I don't know how important he is because the troop Staffy tells him what to do) told us that we've got to pack everything in our webbing—and it's not to rattle. But my camp bed has always rattled and the washing up bowl doesn't fit in my large pack. We are also being taught about section attacks and live firing, and running with webbing on. It's going to be awful on battle camp when we have to put something in it.

After Battle Camp it will be summer and we are going adventure training in the Harz mountains, **Jock** (that's short for **Campbell**)said I've got to get my drinking head on. That might be why the SSM, called me Wurzel. Then I've got leave, that means holiday and I'll be able to come and visit you.

Anyway I really must go now. I'm on guard tonight and I've got to sew the pleats into my combat jacket yet and paint my boots.

Love
Paul

LS&GC PRESENTATION

WO2 (YofS) M. J. Boxall is serving with Electronics Branch REME at Malvern in Worcestershire as a member of the Electronic Equipment Installation Advisory Team (previously known as CIAT).

Yeoman Boxall joined Electronics Branch from 1 Armd Div and HQ Signal Regt having previously served in BAOR, NI and Belize. He has taken part in mountaineering expeditions in Italy and was involved in Operation Drake in Papua New Guinea.

Having been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal the presentation was made on 28 July 1987 by the DGEME, **Maj Gen J Boyne CB MBE.**

THE AREA RECRUITING SCHEME

The Royal Signals Area Recruiting Scheme has recently been enhanced to make it effective for the Regular and TA Corps, and is now likely to be useful to the Old Comrades Association.

The change has been promulgated as Edition 6 of the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army)'s Policy Directive on Recruiting, which details the chain of command for Royal Signals recruiting and public relations activities.

The old 'Area Scheme' has been retained in that most BAOR units, 2 Div HQ and Sig Regt and 30 Sig Regt are affiliated to UK districts for recruiting, and soldiers are posted initially, if possible, to the unit affiliated to their home area. Commitments such as KAPE are met by the unit affiliated to the district in which the activity is to be mounted.

The major enhancement is that responsibility for UK districts has been allocated to the brigadiers with Royal Signals commands:-

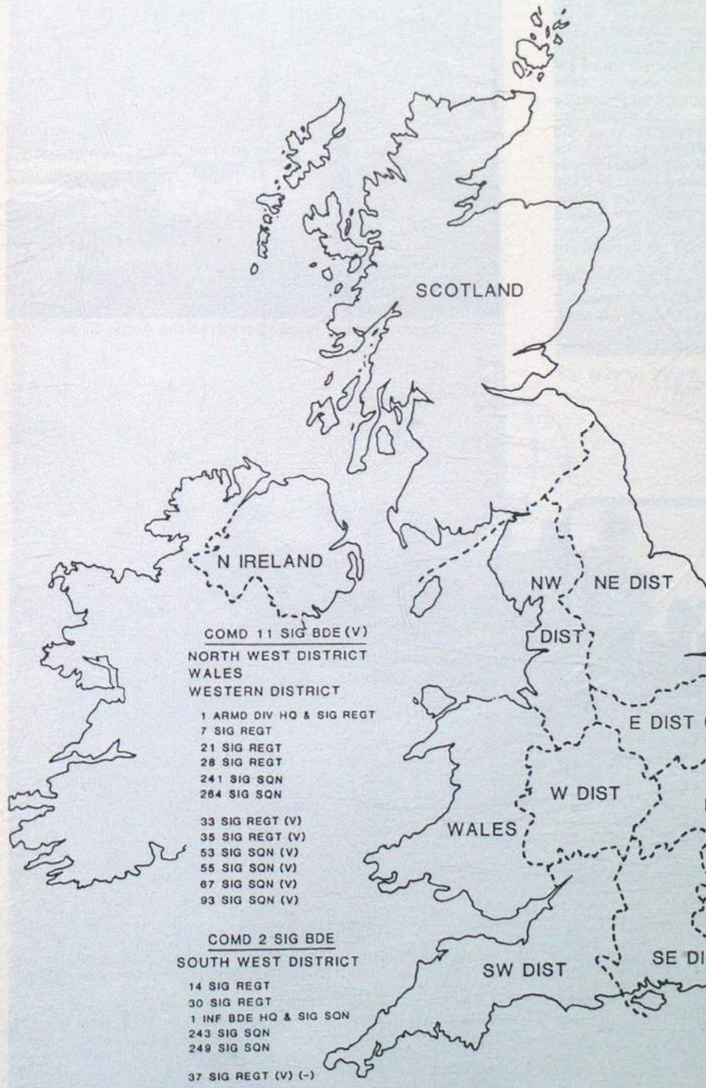
Comd 2 Sig Bde—SW District
Comd School of Signals—SE District
Comd Training Group—Scotland, NE District and E District (N)
Comd 11 Sig Bde (V)—Wales, NW and W Districts
Comd 12 Sig Bde (V)—London, E District (S) and N Ireland

The Area Brigadiers' resources, for recruiting and publicity purposes only, consist of the BAOR affiliated units and the Regular Army and Volunteer Royal Signals units down to squadron level located in the districts concerned. These are detailed in PD2 and shown in the map opposite.

The new Scheme sets out a chain of command which draws together the resources of the Regular and the TA Corps. It provides relatively local centres of information and assistance, and a much improved means of coordinating Royal Signals responses to local situations. While it does not correspond to the Old Comrades Association zones, branches should be aware of the brigadier responsible for Corps activities in their areas.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

AREA RECRUITING SCHEME



COMD TRG GP
NORTH EAST DISTRICT
SCOTLAND
EASTERN DISTRICT (NORTH)

TRG GP R SIGNALS
2 INF DIV HQ & SIG REGT
4 ARMD DIV HQ & SIG REGT
22 SIG REGT
240 SIG SQN
242 SIG SQN

32 SIG REGT (V) (-)
34 SIG REGT (V) (-)
38 SIG REGT (V) (-)
2 SIG SQN (V)

COMD 12 SIG BDE (V)
LONDON DISTRICT
EASTERN DISTRICT (SOUTH)
NORTHERN IRELAND

16 SIG REGT
8 BDE HQ & SIG SQN
19 BDE HQ & SIG SQN
39 BDE HQ & SIG SQN
233 SIG SQN
238 SIG SQN
239 SIG SQN
COMD COMMS LONDIST
COMD COMMS NI

31 SIG REGT (V) (-)
36 SIG REGT (V) (-)
39 SIG REGT (V) (-)
40 SIG REGT (V)
71 SIG REGT (V) (-)
69 SIG SQN (V)

COMD 11 SIG BDE (V)
NORTH WEST DISTRICT
WALES
WESTERN DISTRICT

1 ARMD DIV HQ & SIG REGT
7 SIG REGT
21 SIG REGT
28 SIG REGT
241 SIG SQN
264 SIG SQN

33 SIG REGT (V)
35 SIG REGT (V)
53 SIG SQN (V)
55 SIG SQN (V)
67 SIG SQN (V)
93 SIG SQN (V)

COMD SCHOOL OF SIGNALS
SOUTH EAST DISTRICT

SCHOOL OF SIGNALS
3 ARMD DIV HQ & SIG REGT
5 AB BDE HQ & SIG SQN
244 SIG SQN
251 SIG SQN

3 SIG SQN (V)
5 SIG SQN (V)
41 SIG SQN (V)
44 SIG SQN (V)
56 SIG SQN (V)
63 SIG SQN (V)
94 SIG SQN (V)
265 SIG SQN (V)

COMD 2 SIG BDE
SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

14 SIG REGT
30 SIG REGT
1 INF BDE HQ & SIG SQN
243 SIG SQN
249 SIG SQN

37 SIG REGT (V) (-)

244 SIGNAL SQUADRON IN NORWAY

EXERCISE *TACOMMEX 6/87 NORWAY*
Report by Lt G. Neal

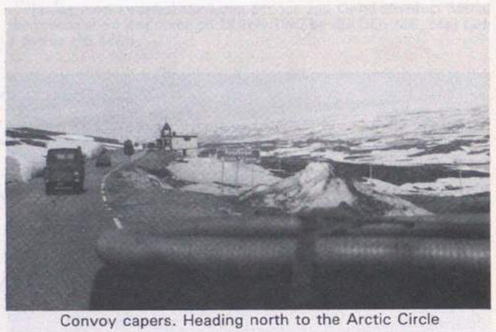
In June members of the Squadron departed for the land of the midnight sun—Norway. This involved a road journey of approximately 1730kms from Bergen, through the Arctic Circle to Hegllia Barracks at Bardufoss. Although a daunting drive only two casualties occurred. The first was **LCpl Goodliff**, whose vehicle took and instant dislike to Norwegian Hills and suffered gearbox failure. **LCpl Goodliff** and his detachment were then forced to sit out the remainder of the exercise at a Civilian Camp Site in Lom doing an excellent job of middle man for the remainder of the Communication Exercise. The second casualty was **LCpl Imrie** who came off 'second best' during a football match against a detachment of Royal Marines, and spent the remainder of the exercise hobbing around on crutches.

Once in the Bardufoss area the Squadron practised HF and VHF Communications over very difficult terrain, with some excellent results, proving the OC's theory that VHF Communications can be channelled and bounced around corners along the deep valleys. The exercise took place in conjunction with the Norwegian Army and involved some swapping of our own soldiers with theirs, to sample life on exercise, Norwegian Style. During the Communications exercise with the Norwegians there was only one casualty—that of **LCpl Ostashuk's** detachment who managed to fall foul of the marshy ground. After recruiting the help of a local farmer and tractor (bogged in) and a Norwegian Wrecker (bogged in) he returned to camp a great deal wiser. Full marks to **Sgt Duddell,** whose map reading and site selection astounded all who were subjected to it!

Full marks too, to **SSgt Little** in his role in testing the VHF-UHF Rebro Station—he had to drive up and down the E6 in his landrover 'pretending he was a Jaguar Aircraft'. A Jaguar, no, but a mole, maybe.

Aside from the merriment there was plenty of time for the non serious business of R & R taken in Tromso, where Norwegian shops were stripped of Trolls to be taken home to loved ones. Also various adventure training activities took place along with the odd nature ramble to the nearest, large, mountain, organised by the OC.

At the same time as all this a Rear Link was maintained between Bardufoss, Stavanger and Brize Norton. **Cpl Harrison** would like to thank all 'volunteers' who entered the hallowed canvas of the Rear Link Bardufoss. The general consensus of the Squadron was 'Roll on Tacommex 6/88'!



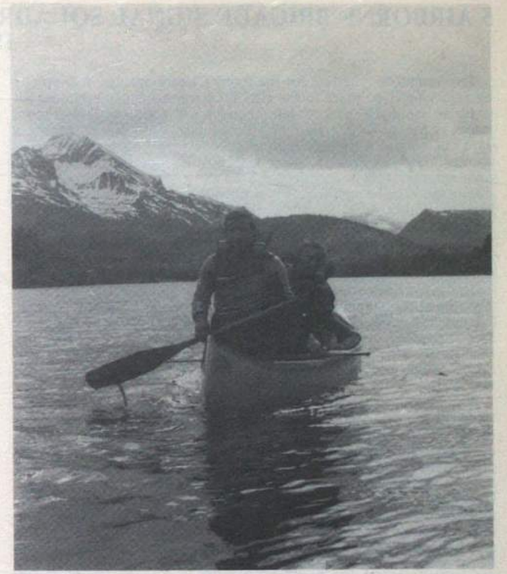
Convoy capers. Heading north to the Arctic Circle

244 Sig Sqn—Tacommex 6

Well now, Where to put the 'T'. *L to R:* LCpl Tonks, SAC Raynor, Sig Moloney and Cpl Elkington

Sgt Phil Duddel. This can't be the hill!

Views quite breath taking—until you have to climb the view!



Sig Maybin (*Front*) with Cpl Reynolds REME—Messrs 'Fixit and Son'—anytime, anyplace, anyhow

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5 AIRBORNE BRIGADE SIGNAL SQUADRON—ARMY ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONS 1987

The Squadron qualified for the Army Championships in Germany by achieving third place in the UKLF Championships despite a visit to three countries by our late replacement **Cpl Jim Holt**. Team selection for the three free flights to Germany was initially fierce but as is the way in 5 Brigade natural selection soon took its toll. Our mentor **Maj Nick Fresson** had to withdraw with more back problems than usual and team morale dived as the chances of collecting any silverware seemed unlikely. Even the 2IC momentarily thought of jacking—unheard of in these parts! However, with personnel, administration and pay problems left in little piles all over Montgomery Lines, the G1 from the Headquarters **Capt Mark Rusby**, the 2IC **Capt Nick Bateson** and the Pay Sergeant **Colin Withey** jetted out from Luton Airport.

The event took the form of a three man relay, each competitor covering approximately 8km. For those unfamiliar with orienteering, not much of a spectator sport unless you like damp forests, there was a vantage point crossed by all runners about ten minutes from the end of each leg. This did add to the excitement of the competition as well as giving the next man a chance to remove his tracksuit before the handover.

Still anxious to lay the ghost of Stanford Training Area and to re-establish some credibility with a map and compass our team was led off by the 2IC **Capt Nick Bateson**. Obviously a better performer when not navigating for the Brigade Headquarters he returned in second place in the minor units standings in a time of 66 min and handed over to **Capt Mark Rusby**. **Bateson** and **Withey** were delighted to see **Capt Rusby** looking like a day release from a sheep dog trial returning in third place. Our last runner **Sgt Colin Withey** set off about four minutes behind the two leading runners from Comms and Sy Gp UK and 5 Armd Wksps. With the reputation of Airborne Forces and the Royal Army Pay Corps at stake **Sgt Withey** had a duty not to fail. He didn't disappoint us and overhauled both runners in the forest to return home in just over the hour and for us to win by a 15 min margin over the second placed team!

Unfortunately, the Prize Giving was held before the minor units results had been verified and we were a little disappointed as the Brigadier had left before our victory was announced. A small and secluded celebration was staged in the auspicious setting of the Queensway, Rheindahlen. Whoever invited all those people?

A worried Capt Nick Bateson about to lead off the victorious 5 AB Bde orienteering team in the Army finals in Germany. The other members of the team were Capt Mark Rusby and Sgt Colin Whithey

The victorious 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn Army Orienteering Champions 1987 pictured at the UKLF qualifying round: Maj Bob Hill, Cpl Jim Holt, Capt Nick Bateson, Sgt Colin Withey, Maj Nick Freeson, Capt Mark Rusby

The Commandant of the School, Brig Tony Boyle congratulates the 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn team on its victory in the Blandford Tower Run—31 May 1987 Capt Nick Bateson, Capt Sergio Miller, Cpl Ric Buation and Cpl Rod Cowan

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SIGNALMAN GREEN FUND

The CO, 30 Sig Regt, **Lt Col W. K. Butler** writes

Although I have written personally to those of you who have donated so generously to the Signalman Green Fund, I wish to express my thanks to everyone through the pages of the *Wire*.

The response to my begging letter has been excellent especially as there are several other units who have similar cases to cater for. At present the fund has reached well over £8,000 with the promise of much more to come later this year through the fetes and functions. The money donated so far has enabled us to purchase much needed equipment to make life a great deal more comfortable for the whole Green family and I can assure you that they are all deeply grateful for your efforts.

The latest fund raising event within the Regiment was initiated by our very loyal, hard working and dedicated female Civil Servants who raised over £800 in sponsorship money for completing the assault course. Not only did they complete the course individually but they then ran through as a team in a very commendable time, the culmination of several weeks of hard training under the PT Staff. All of them still bear the scars and bruises to prove it!

Before the event, looking rather apprehensive about it all are: *L to R:* 2Lt Sharon Walker (Asst Adjt), Angie Brockway (Ops Room), Sut Dickinson (Typist), Charlotte Stark (Movs), Vivienne Field (Movs) and Terri Fenn (Docs)

Glad it's all over and minus hats that fell off at the 12ft wall. *L to R:* Angie Brockway, Sue Dickinson, Sharon Walker, Charlotte Stark, Terri Fenn and Lindy Anderson (QM Dept)

CORPS COLOURS AWARDS—WINTER SEASON 1986/87

We warmly congratulate those named below, who have been awarded their Corps Colours during the Winter Season of 1986/87.

Hockey	**Cpl G. Cottrell**, 204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn.
Orienteering	**Capt J. C. Payne WRAC(V)**, 33 Sig Regt (Volunteers).
Rugby	**SSgt (FofS) C. R. Plumb**, 243 Sig Sqn.
	Cpl P. W. Collins, 30 Sig Regt.
Skiing	**LCpl D. Crawford**, 22 Sig Regt.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Many of you renew your subscription by making a payment each year by cheque or postal order. If you are in this category, will you please return the counterfoil below, with your payment, by 31 December 1987. We require to define our printing commitment for the January issue by this date and your co-operation in meeting this request will be most helpful.

The Editor
The Wire
Royal Signals Association
56 Regency Street
LONDON SW1P 4AD

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* Delete as appropriate.

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LETTERS

From: Alan Copestake

Dear Sir,

Through the pages of the 'Wire' may I express my sincere appreciation to all those friends who so kindly sent their congratulations and best wishes on my award of BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

It was an added pleasure also to have as guests in the Yeoman Wardens Club on the night on which I actually received the medal, the company of the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Badcock**, **Maj Gen Anderson, Brig Wheawell, Col Francis** and my old shootin' partner **Dave Greenbrook** as well as many old friends among the ex-Royal Signals In-Pensioners from the Royal Hospital who, like us, enjoyed the evening immensely.

I would also like to thank all those who sent so many flowers and Get Well wishes to my wife, **Joan**, in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital following a stroke which she suffered on the day after the event. I am happy to report that **Joan** is now out of hospital and getting stronger daily.

And now on leaving the Tower after 20 very eventful years to retirement in Sussex, the county of my origin, may I with **Joan** wish all our many dear friends farewell but not goodbye.

Yours faithfully
Alan Copestake

Chief Yeoman Wardens Office
North Byward Tower
HM Tower of London
London EC3N 4AB

From: ex Sgt T. F. Sanford

Dear Sir,

In 1980 I retired from the Corps as a Sergeant after 22 years' service. At the time, I never thought that I would ever be connected with the Corps again except as a life member of the Association. However, a year ago, my eldest daughter **Dawn** joined the Royal Signals TA with 46 Sig Sqn in Derby, thus continuing the family connection.

I have purchased a small hotel in Bournemouth and **Heather** and I will be pleased to welcome Corps members who may be thinking of taking holidays in this area.

With best wishes,

Yours faithfully
'Sandy' Sanford

'Chine Cote'
Private Hotel, 25 Studland Road
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— Movements —

Officers

AUGUST 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Maj R. Adamson	R Sig Manning and Record Office
Capt B. P. Avison	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt (TOT) C. R. Bachelor	262 Sig Sqn
Maj D. R. Bannister	34 Sig Regt (V)
Capt J. Bonnett	Army Personnel Selection Centre
Maj I. R. C. Brown	HQ SEDist
Capt C. N. Burtenshaw	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt M. Butler	30 Sig Regt
Maj E. Butterworth	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Capt (QM) G. Clark	28 Sig Regt (NORTHAG)
Capt M. R. Complin	HQ 22 Armd Bde
Capt (TOT) H. E. Connor	School of Signals
Capt P. J. Costello	HQ SWDist
Maj K. G. Danby	HS Service Attaché Rome
Capt K. J. Durward	HS 11 Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Griffiths	11 Sig Regt
Capt (QM) S. Hargreaves	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt G. G. Haughie	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (QM) A. D. Hewitt	21 Sig Regt
Maj C. D. McK Kemp	22 Sig Regt
Capt P. B. Knobel	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt Col M. J. Macklin	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt C. D. McGrory	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Capt (TOT) N. Patton	HQLF Cyprus
Capt T. J. Peacocke	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt P. V. Pople	7 Sig Regt
Lt K. W. G. Purkiss	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt G. J. T. Rafferty	22 Sig Regt
Capt S. J. Richardson	21 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) W. Ritchie	HS 21 Sig Regt
Capt J. Rowley	HQ British Forces Belize
Capt (QM) A. Russell	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt Col R. B. Smith	SHAPE ACE COMMSEC
Col M. C. Spence	SANGCOM
Capt D. P. Spencer	School of Signals
Capt D. A. Sullivan	AA College
Lt T. J. Suteliffe	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt J. A. Terrington	11 Sig Regt
Maj A. J. Ward	16 Sig Regt
Capt J. P. Wilson	71 Sig Regt (V)

SEPTEMBER

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt F. A. Bancroft	Army Pers Selection Gp
Lt D. J. M. Bizley	RMCS Shirvenham
Lt R. G. G. Bewsher	AA Col Harrogate
Maj I. D. Bingham	RSRE (PE) (AE)
Capt H. T. Bradley	HS School of Signals
Lt J. S. Brammer	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt M. C. Burke	HS RMAS
Maj F. B. Campbell	32 Sig Regt (V)
Lt L. L. Carr	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt R. N. Cary	7 Sig Regt
Lt J. S. Charnock	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj A. S. Cheal	8 Sig Regt
Brig S. Cowan	DPR(A)
Capt N. R. Davies	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Lt N. I. R. Dewar	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt M. B. Dunn	School of Signals
Maj P. N. Ellis	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt L. G. Favager	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt M. J. Fenson	11 Sig Regt
Capt P. R. Ford	238 (London) Sig Sqn
2Lt R. J. Freeman	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt A. Gavillet	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Col S. G. M. Gordon	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Capt S. C. Green	HS School of Signals
Capt J. E. Hall	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt Col I. J. Hamilton	HQ AFNorth (BAE)
Capt J. Hands	PIUSST
Lt M. G. Hanson	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt N. P. Harrison	HS School of Signals
Capt S. J. Heath	HS School of Signals
2Lt C. J. Hinsley	RMCS Shrivenham
2Lt J. M. Hodges	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt J. E. Hogan	HS School of Signals
Capt J. W. Hornby	UKLF
2LT I. N. Hunter	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt A. W. James	School of Signals
2Lt T. M. Jones	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt N. Keen	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) W. P. Kent	30 Sig Regt
Capt D. W. Larkam	HS 8 Sig Regt
Capt C. R. Lawrence	HS School of Signals
2Lt F. G. S. Maclennan	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj M. L. Martin	MOD (Sigs 36)
2Lt A. K. Munday	RMCS Shrivenham
Maj (QM) P. A. Noble	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) R. Offord	SANGCOM
Capt C. R. Owen	School of Signals
Capt A. L. Pearce	HS School of Signals
Capt B. R. Peel	28 (BR) Sig Regt
Capt K. Pritchard	School of Signals
Capt S. K. Reed	35 Sig Regt (V)
Capt G. Smith	ACDS OR (Land)
Lt J. R. Tod	RMCS Shrivenham
Lt T. C. Wadey	22 Sig Regt
Brig T. I. M. Waugh	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Lt J. C. Williams	RMCS Shrivenham
Capt (QM) B. Young	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

WOs and SNCOs

JULY 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
ASgt D. G. Hopcroft	School of Signals

AUGUST 1987

WO1 (YofS) D. H. Jepson	21 Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) A. Robertson	HQ LF Cyprus
AWO1 (FofS) C. Dowie	P WSST
AWO1 (FofS) P. A. Martin	8 Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) C. Ramsay	Q. G. Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) P. Tharme	7 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) R. G. Allan	16 Sig Regt
WO2 G. Armstrong	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) W. S. Brown	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) M. McDonald	632 Sig Tp
WO2 (FofS) J. W. Oakes	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) T. I. Sharp	28 Sig Regt
WO2 (FofS) R. M. Thomas	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) A. F. Crilly	RMAS
AWO2 R. T. Fairfield	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) P. A. Forryan	32 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 (YofS) B. J. Hayward	School of Signals
AWO2 J. M. Kirkpatrick	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) J. M. P. Leggate	63 Sig Sqn
AWO2 (YofS) D. A. Prince	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 D. Sunley	Cardiff UOTC
AWO2 S. M. Taylor	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) J. R. Tyreman	SHAPE Sig Gp
SSgt A. Armstrong	8 Sig Regt
SSgt (FofS) D. J. H. Boxhall	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt G. Butler	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt S. Croot	251 Sig Sqn
SSgt I. M. Duncan	30 Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) G. M. Evans	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt P. Eyre	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
SSgt (FofS) P. G. Gaffney	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
SSgt A. Garvie	40 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt S. A. Graham	8 Sig Regt
SSgt P. Handibode	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
SSgt L. J. Hodds	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt M. A. Jeffrey	16 Sig Regt
SSgt D. C. Kerr	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
SSgt D. A. Knell	38 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt T. K. Loughton	35 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt D. Mann	37 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt A. McIver	31 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt G. A. MacKenzie	School of Signals
SSgt G. C. Walker	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
SSgt P. Warhurst	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt M. R. Widdicombe	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
SSgt A. C. Williams	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt R. Woodger	12 Int and Sy Coy
ASSgt I. W. Brereton	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt P. Griffen	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt P. Jackson	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt R. Patrickson	21 Sig Regt
ASSgt R. J. Spencer	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt P. Williams	Comms and Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt N. Allan	21 Sig Regt
Sgt D. Armstrong	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
Sgt G. M. Backhouse	14 Sig Regt
Sgt R. J. B. Bayly	25 Sig Sqn
Sgt B. M. Bingham	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt K. Bolam	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt I. R. Booth	241 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. R. Buchan	242 Sig Sqn (Balado Bridge)
Sgt P. J. Cornes	16 Sig Regt
Sgt D. J. Cox	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Donaldson	8 Sig Regt
Sgt D. H. Fraser	QG Sig Regt
Sgt C. A. Gemmell	8 Sig Regt
Sgt R. R. Hayes	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt D. G. Hughes	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt C. W. Ibberson	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Kenny	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt L. W. King	21 Sig Regt
Sgt S. Larkin	16 Sig Regt
Sgt P. T. Laycock	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
Sgt G. L. Lewis	Scarborough Trg Centre
Sgt S. G. Layton	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. F. Meachin	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
Sgt P. H. Newman	PIU
Sgt S. A. Read	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt K. E. Sheppard	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt A. M. Snaith	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt C. B. Strefford	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
Sgt H. Swift	COD Donnington
Sgt T. A. A. Terry	SHAPE Ace Commsec
Sgt R. E. G. Thomas	242 Sig Sqn ROCCHAN (Balado Bridge)
Sgt N. C. Yarwood	14 Sig Regt
ASgt G. Anderson	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
ASgt P. Engering	Army School of Mechanical Transport
ASgt G. R. Grey	11 Sig Regt
ASgt J. S. Harris	586 RLD
ASgt T. Oakes	Army Apprentices' College
ASgt P. S. Sutton	8 Sig Regt
ASgt S. R. Talbot	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt

SEPTEMBER 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 T. K. Muir	8 Sig Regt
WO1 O. G. McArdle	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
AWO1 D. Boyd	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 R. S. Keen	Birmingham UOTC
AWO1 T. McGinnis	AFSouth
AWO1 D. Simpson	19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO1 (YofS) D. T. Wilson	QG Sig Regt
WO2 F. Byrne	13 Sig Regt
WO2 M. A. Granitza	Queens UOTC Belfast
WO2 T. W. Hughes	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
WO2 T. A. Jinman	30 Sig Regt
WO2 M. O'Hare	Exeter UOTC
WO2 F. S. Payet	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
AWO2 (FofS) S. G. Bibby	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) B. D. Colvin	29 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) R. P. Dean	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
AWO2 M. G. Eady	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 A. Middleton	HQ NI
AWO2 F. J. Share	11 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) K. A. Townsend	QG Sig Regt
SSgt C. Charlton	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt G. E. Cook	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) P. M. DIgnam	16 Sig Regt
SSgt R. Farmer	225 Sig Sqn
SSgt G. W. Furber	11 Sig Regt Depot
SSgt (FofS) C. A. Plumb	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt (YofS) W. P. Ruthven	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
SSgt R. E. Smith	14 Sig Regt
SSgt S. M. Steele	11 Sig Regt Depot
ASSgt J. A. Burgess	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt G. C. Guy	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt D. G. Ikin	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt J. C. Pickles	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt J. M. Standen	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt P. Williams	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt S. Anderson	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
Sgt R. W. Boxall	School of Signals
Sgt S. Desmond	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt N. Dixon	49 Fd Regt
Sgt D. Downie	ACIO Canterbury
Sgt M. J. Drake	School of Signals (FofS Course)
Sgt D. J. Dummett	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt D. M. Forteath	21 Sig Regt (Air Sp)
Sgt R. M. Frape	AFSouth
Sgt A. D. Fullwood	259 Sig Sqn
Sgt C. Geelan	244 Sig Sqn (Tac Air Sp)
Sgt D. Griffen	34 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt I. S. Horton	30 Sig Regt
Sgt B. Johnston	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
Sgt J. P. Johnston	JCUFI
Sgt M. Jones	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt N. R. S. Mabbutt	School of Signals
Sgt A. Mann	262 Sig Sqn
Sgt N. March	NORTHAG HQ
Sgt D. O. Morley	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt I. R. Moss	8 Sig Regt
Sgt G. Muir	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)
Sgt J. J. Newsome	School of Signals
Sgt R. Nicol	8 Sig Regt
Sgt M. Nuttall	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Old	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. B. Parkinson	3 Armd Div HQ and Siq Regt
Sgt N. D. Parry	7 Sig Regt (Corps Main)
Sgt R. Partington	1 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt R. R. Petrie	30 Sig Regt
Sgt P. J. Plant	School of Signals
Sgt I. C. Rowe	30 Sig Regt
Sgt C. H. Smithson	School of Signals (FofS Course)
Sgt N. Thomas	29 Sig Regt
Sgt P. S. West	3Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt W. M. R. Whitehead	School of Signals (FofS Course)
Sgt S. A. Wilks	School of Signals
Sgt I. M. Wylie	QG Sig Regt
ASgt J. M. M. Brebner	40 Fd Regt
ASgt K. J. Bywater	563 RLD
ASgt S. Cheslett	8 Sig Regt
ASgt P. A. Ellis	19 Fd Regt
ASgt S. Gallimore	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt S. J. Johnson	8 Sig Regt
ASgt P. A. Lovett	596 RLD
ASgt J. R. Hearns	575 RLD
ASgt B. E. Reid	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt K. Singh	8 Sig Regt
ASgt S. N. Wratten	30 Sig Regt

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Welfare

SOME OF OUR RECENT CASES

The widow of a WO2 who served with the Corps for 22 years suffers from angina and a peptic ulcer had to go to hospital for tests for a by-pass operation. The Committee was able to make a grant for clothing. We received the following letter by return. 'I am writing to thank you for the cheque which arrived today. Words cannot express my gratitude for all the help and care given to me by the Royal Signals, which has made my life so much easier. I have bought some much needed clothing to go into hospital with in two weeks time. Once again thank you so much'.

The 74 year old widow of an ex-signalman who served for nine years and before being medically discharged needed assistance with lighter bedding as she could no longer cope with heavy blankets. The Corps was able to assist by making a grant towards a continental quilt.

An 81 year old ex-sergeant who lives alone and who has no relatives, and with all his friends living some distance away, was only able to walk with the aid of two sticks for a very short time. The Corps was able to make a grant to cover the cost of the installation of a telephone to enable him to obtain help more quickly in the case of an emergency.

A grant was made to an ex-staff sergeant with 22 years service in the Corps who suffers from a severe hearing disability. Since the recent death of his wife he is in need of extra aids which enable him to continue an independent life.

JUNE 1987

Number of cases assisted financially:	48
Amount spent:	£7,443.02

JULY 1987

Number of cases assisted financially:	55
Amount spent:	£7,080.92

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

The following donations were gratefully received during July 1987

In memory of ex Cpl W. H. Ferris from his family	£ 50.00
Certa Cito Lodge	£ 50.00
P. Gorman	£ 10.00
In memory of Mr George Buzby	£ 5.00
Maj (Retd) T. W. Catt	£ 5.00
Miscellaneous	£ 3.68
	£123.68

The following donations were gratefully received during the month of August 1987

M & G Limited, in memory of Graham Saunders	£250.00
H. R. W. Marsh	£ 25.00
F. E. Foulds	£ 4.00
Miscellaneous	£ 63.00
	£342.00

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FINANCIAL PROTECTION	—against the effects of possessions lost or damaged
FINANCIAL SECURITY	—for present or future dependants
HOUSE PURCHASE	—immediately or in the future
EDUCATION EXPENSES	—for present or future children
COMFORTABLE RETIREMENT	—based on an adequate continuing income backed up by an adequate capital reserve
TRANSFER OF ASSETS	—to the next generation

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GOOD INFORMATION is the basis of sound planning. The more clients take us into their confidence the better we can assist them. Please let us have full details of existing resources, your ability to save, and any expectations. Please also tell us all you can about commitments with which you expect to have to cope. We, of course, treat all such information as confidential.

AN EARLY START helps, and we will be pleased to assist you however modest your resources may be now. If you have existing arrangements which may need developing, the sooner you refer them to us, the more help we are likely to be able to give you.

OUR ADVICE is free and does not commit you to any action: we only ask that any arrangements you decide to make be made through us. It is based on over 39 years of examining clients' problems, analysing them and advising on them. It is not delivered by persuasive salesmen, but is given in writing for you to study at your leisure.

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NOTICES

DEATHS

Abbott—ex SSgt W. J. Abbott—served 1924-47—died 2 July 1987.
Anthony—Mrs P. H. Anthony—widow of **Lt Col H. H. Anthony**—died 23 July 1987.
Bailey—ex WO2 W. F. Bailey—served 1928-56—died 15 April 1987.
Barston—ex Sgt G. Barston—died 12 June 1987.
Busby—ex SSgt G. T. Busby—died 24 June 1987.
Collins—ex SSgt I. Collins—served 1958-80—died 22 June 1987.
Crossley—WO1 N. Crossley—served 1945-67—died 20 May 1987.
Denton—ex Sgt A. T. Denton—died 27 April 1987.
Duerden—ex Sgt F. R. Duerden—served 1963-77—died 2 May 1987.
Fountain—Maj P. W. Fountain MBE—died 7 July 1987.
Fraser—ex WO2 I. M. Fraser—died 21 April 1987.
Hayes—ex LSgt R. P. Hayes—served 1931-45—died 10 May 1987.
Henson—ex Sgt R. W. Henson—served 1948-67—died 8 July 1987.
House—ex Sgt D. W. House—served 1950-72—died 11 April 1987.
Howe—ex Sgt J. G. Howe—served 1948-70—died 18 May 1987.
Jenkin—Lt Col E. B. Jenkin—died 8 April 1987.
Joy—ex Cpl J. H. Joy—died 30 March 1987.
Keating—ex WO2 J. Keating—served 1931-65—died 9 July 1987.
Kitson—ex WO J. A. Kitson—died 8 July 1987.
Lloyd—ex Pte J. H. Lloyd—died 20 March 1987.
Matthews—ex WO2 J. B. Matthews—died 9 July 1987.
McKee—ex WO2 S. McKee—died 25 March 1987.
McVeigh—ex WO1 L. E. McVeigh—died 29 April 1987.
Mitchell—Maj W. G. Mitchell—died 3 June 1987.
Napier—ex Sgt R. C. Napier—died 31 March 1987.
O'Neeve—ex WO2 F. J. O'Neeve—died 11 June 1987.
Ovenall—Capt E. H. Ovenall—died 28 April 1987.
Pearce—Maj J. H. Pearce—died 17 April 1987.
Ramsay-Matthews—ex SSgt E. Ramsay-Matthews—died 19 April 1987.
Robinson—ex Cpl G. T. Robinson—died 2 May 1987.
Rodber—ex SSgt L. G. Rodber—served 1943-47—died 15 August 1987.
Rose—Maj M. A. W. Rose TD—served 1939-63—died 18 September 1987.
Roy—ex Cpl J. H. Roy—died 30 March 1987.
Sadler—ex Sig W. P. Sadler—died 14 May 1987.
Summers—ex Sig W. V. Summers—died 5 May 1987.
Smith—ex SSgt W. Smith—died 21 May 1987.
Swatton—Maj J. M. Swatton—died 20 February 1987.
Williams—ex Sgt G. R. Williams—died 9 January 1987.
Willis—ex Cpl L. Willis—died 25 April 1987.
Willis—ex Sgt W. A. R. Willis—27 May 1987.

OBITUARIES

Chitticks—Mr Wilfred Donald Chitticks. Died in his sleep after a long illness on 13 July 1987 at Rochford Hospital, Southend, Essex. He leaves behind his wife **Cath** who supported him with true devotion, and his son **Chris** and daughter **Sandy**.

Cooke—Sig Bradford Charles Cooke. It is with deep regret that 21 Sig Regt report the tragid death of **Bradford (Bear) Cooke** as a result of a traffic accident when serving in the Falkland Islands on 18 July 1987. **'Bear'** enlisted into the Corps in August 1980 and completed training as a Tele Mech and was then posted to 30 Sig Regt. In October 1984 he was posted to 21 Sig Regt and served with N Tp at RAF Gutersloh. He had already completed one four month tour in the Falkland Islands during 1985/86 and had volunteered for this, his second tour. **'Bear'** was an excellent soldier and tradesman, very much a troop character, well liked by all including his many Royal Air Force friends.

He will be greatly missed by all his friends in the Corps and we extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

McDonald—Ex-CQMS R. W. 'Mac' McDonald BEM enlisted 1939 in No 1 Coy 43 (Wessex) Div Sigs, posted to 45 (Westcountry) Div Sig, volunteered for Beach Sigs and joined B7 Beach Sigs in 1942. He took part in the Anzio Landings, where his lucky star must have been shining as an 88mm shell embedded itself in the set he was operating in a wireless truck, and failed to explode. He joined 5 (London) Corps Sigs in 1944 and served with them until 1946. Post war he was a founder member of 15 Wireless Sqn, and later served with 43 (Wessex) Sig Sqn. He was awarded the BEM, and was twice mentioned in dispatches. **Mac** was a popular member of Plymouth Branch who will be sorely missed by his many friends.

Rose—ex WO1 (RSM) S. A. Rose MSM. It is with regret that we report the death of one of our 'old soldiers' peacefully at his home on 6 August 1987, aged 89 years. **WO1 Rose** served in the Corps from 1921 to 1946. We offer our condolences to his widow **Mary** and the family.

ROYAL SIGNALS PUBLICITY DIARY NOTES

(Key:	BC	Blandford Camp	RSBD	Dance Band
	BH	Blue Helmets	RSBM	Marching Band
	CG	Catterick Garrison	RSBO	Orchestra
	HA	Harrogate	SM	Sergeant's Mess
	MDT	Display Team	WH	White House
	OM	Officers' Mess	*	To be confirmed)
	RSBC	Concert Band		

As all these dates are subject to alteration, it is suggested that you check with 01-930-4466, Ext 8444 (London District Mil).

OCTOBER

1-17	BAOR	RSBM: Tour
1-20	SW Dist	KAPE: 14 Sig Regt
18-21	Berlin	RSBM: Tour
23	HA	RSBM: Pass Off Parade

NOVEMBER

4	Brecon	Wales Careers Convention: Lecture
7	Salisbury	RSBC: Cathedral Concert
8	Richmond	RSMB: Remembrance Parade
20-22	CG	UOTC Training Weekend
25-27	CG	RSMB: Pass Off Parade

DECEMBER

5	HA	RSBM: Graduation Parade, AA Coll
12	London	RSBC: Festival Hall: Trumpets
16	CG	RSBM: Pass Off Parade
18	HA	RSBM: Graduation Parade, AA Coll

CORPS DATES

The Royal Signals Institution London Lecture will take place at the International Press Centre, Shoe Lane EC4 at 6.00 pm on 26 November 1987. The lecturer is **Mr Jonathon Porritt**, Director of Friends of the Earth and his subject is **'Battle for the Planet: A Challenge to Us All'.**

Application forms for tickets will be distributed with the Summer Issue of the Journal of the Royal Signals Institution at the end of August. Wives are very welcome to attend.

Corps Dinner 1988—Tuesday 10 May.
Corps Lunch 1988—Saturday 18 June.

REUNIONS

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT'S DINNER 28 NOVEMBER 1987

This OWA President's Dinner will be held at Welbeck on Saturday 28 November 1987. Anyone wishing to attend should contact: **Capt A. C. C. Walker**, Welbeck College, Workshop. Notts S80 3LN Telephone 0909 476326 Ext 30 by 14 November 1987.

Dress will be Mess Kit for serving officers and Dinner Jackets for retired officers.

The cost will be approximately £10 per head for OWA members and £12 per head for non OWA members. A cash bar will be available after the meal.

Limited accommodation is available on request.

OLD WELBEXIAN ASSOCATION
CURRY LUNCH 29 NOVEMBER 1987

A curry lunch is to be held at Welbeck on the day after the President's Dinner at which **Mrs Kay Rickards** is most generously presenting the college with the late Headmaster's CBE. All OW's and their wives are welcome; however, priority will be given to Welbexians who were at the college during his time as Headmaster. The dress will be suits. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Adjutant by 14 November 1987.

A Message for All Cassino Veterans, Families, and Cassino Widows

From: **The Hon Secretary: J. Clarke**

There is to be a World and Commonwealth gathering in Cassino in May 1989 to mark the 45th Anniversary of the Battles of Monte Cassino. It is expected that this event will take place between 13 May and 20 May, it will be the largest gathering of world veterans ever held.

The installation ceremony by the Pope, of, seven stained glass windows in the Chapel of St Martin of Tours which lies within the Monastery close to where the Monks sheltered during the destruction of the Monastery in February 1944. It is the wish of the benedictine monks that this chapel be dedicated to world peace and re-conciliation. The Dean of Bristol Cathedral **The Very Reverend A. H. Dammers,** a Cassino veteran, has undertaken to design and supply the seven windows, and is chairing a committee to this end. **Mr Douglas Lyne MA (Oxon)** has been appointed the organiser.

There will be the event of the famous festival of San Angelo which takes place every year and which attracts people from all over the world.

A new University is to be built in Cassino for the purpose of teaching English, this University will have strong ties with our senior British Universities. During this week's events a foundation stone will be laid by a famous European.

There will be a world trade fair in which we hope British manufacturers will participate.

Above all there will be the opportunity to visit the war graves in the British, Polish and Commonwealth cemeteries, and to walk the old battlefields, and to meet old comrades.

Our association has undertaken to locate and register all those who are part of the Cassino story and who would like to join us on this momentous trip. We feel the best and most comfortable way to journey to Cassino will be by train, with this in view we are in contact with the national railways seeking the best terms possible. We are also in constant contact with the people of Cassino through our member there, and although the hotels in Cassino are mainly commercial we shall be able to book the best. All travel arrangements will be undertaken by our own Travel Agent.

If you are interested in this trip, please write to the Hon Sec with all your details, we do not think this event will be suitable for children under 14 years of age. We would be grateful for SAE.

Please inform your branches and regular units.

Hon Secretary: J Clarke The Black Watch (RHR)
41 Aldermary Road, Manchester M21 2QW
Telephone 061-881-4594

ADVERTISING

Notices and advertisements, other than those related to a business interest, will be published free of charge to serving members of the Corps, and to those retired members who subscribe to *The Wire*. All matters for publication must reach the Editor by the 12th of the month preceding publication. All other advertisements should be forwarded to our advertisement managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

56 DIVISION (CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS) OCA BRANCH

The annual dinner will take place on Friday 27 November, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm, cost £13 per head. It will again be held at the Cheshire Cheese. We look forward to seeing as many as possible but because the cellars only hold 40-45 people early booking is advised. It would be appreciated if those unable to be present would let us know. Applications to **Roy Hughes**, 40 Egremont Road, Bearstead, Maidstone, Kent ME15 8LX. Cheques should be made payable to '56 Div OCA R Signals Association' or pay 'Lee' on the night.

56 DIVISION (CITY OF LONDON SIGNALS) OCA BRANCH LADIES NIGHT

Ladies night will be held this year at the 'Bridge House', Reigate Hill on Friday 11 December, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm, cost £16.40 per head. It is hoped for a good response with 'Christmas Spirit' abounding. Cheques made payable to '56 Div OCA R SIgnals Association' together with application form to **Roy Hughes**, 40 Egremont Road, Bearstead, Maidstone, Kent ME14 8LX or pay on the night.

235 SIGNAL SQUADRON

If former members of 235 Sig Sqn in Malta are interested in forming a reunion club **SSgt I. G. Underhill** would be pleased to hear from you. If there is sufficient response it is proposed to hold a reunion in the summer 1988. Please write to him c/o 17 Calver Crescent, Sapcote, Leicestershire.

FOR SALE

10 Signal Regiment Ties—As a result of the demise of 10 Sig Regt the 'Bruno' ties are fast becoming collectors items. It is proposed to dispose of the remaining few on a first come first served basis.

Anyone wishing to buy one of these sought after items should send £3.00 (cheques payable to Central Bank HQ UKLF) for each tie, to: **Capt K. L. Scott WRAC**, Admin Officer, HQ UKLF Support Unit, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury.

SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR A RETIRED OFFICER GRADE 3 IN HEADQUARTERS LONDON DISTRICT, HORSE GUARDS, WHITEHALL

A vacancy exists 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.

VACANCIES FOR TWO NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) SERGEANTS (MOULD CONTROLLERS)

With effect from 1 April 1988 there will be vacancies for two NRPS Sergeant MOULD Controllers, based at Grantham and Colchester. The terms and conditions for NRPS are set out in TA Regulations Chapter 6. Daily rates of pay are £26.93.

Applicants should have served in HM Forces as Warrant Officers or Senior NCOs. The appointment will involve the following:—

Day to Day management of Regional MOULD networks including liaison with contractors.

Training and advice on MOULD to a variety of users.

Liaison with civil Home Defence agencies.

Duties with other communication systems controlled by SO Comms HQ Eastern District and 239 Sig Sqn.

A detailed job specification is available on request.

Applications, with a CV and two references should be sent to: HQ

OPPORTUNITY FOR MARRIED COUPLE

Two bedroom, modernised cottage in village near Maidstone, Kent, rent and rate free.

Husband would be required to help part time, some knowledge of gardening an advantage, his wife to work weekday mornings in the house for wages.

Present couple a former Royal Signals NCO and wife are retiring after 11 years.

Further details from **Col M. H. Seys-Philips TD DL**, The Malt House, Mereworth, Nr Maidstone, Kent ME18 5LU. Tel: Maidstone (0622) 812617.

RETIRED OFFICER VACANCY AT REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

A vacancy exists for an RO3 at RHQ Royal Signals, 56 Regency Street, London SW1. The duties cover the whole range of regimental, domestic affairs which include welfare and benevolence, financial management, acting as secretary to a variety of committees and as staff officer to the Colonels Commandant.

Candidates must be officers to the rank of major or above, serving or retired, this includes late entry officers with office administration background. Retired officers must not have left regular service for more than five years and must be under 60 years of age.

Applications should be addressed to: **Brig F. R. Maynard**, DSOinC(A), Ministry of Defence (Army), Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB.

WANTED

RECORDS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Army Birdwatching Society wishes to collect records of observation of birds in the Falkland Islands (including South Georgia) and the sea around them for a future publication. Particularly required are records from the period 1982-1987.

It is probable that there are a number of military ornithologists with notes made during their time of duty who are unaware of the ABWS interest, or too modest to submit their records. But, every piece of the jigsaw has value, and can contribute to the picture.

So please send in your records, and/or the names of others you know who watched birds there. It is asked only that you should be self-critical, and say if you are uncertain about an observation or identification. Please send your information to: **Lt Col (Ret'd) W. Stanford**, Editor, ABWS Journal, Soviet Studies Research Centre, RMA Sandhurst, Camberley GU15 4PQ.

VACANCY FOR A PERMANENT STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (TA)

A vacancy for a Permanent Staff Administrative Officer (PSAO) will occur in 3 Sqn 39 (City of London) Sig Rgt (Special Communications) (Volunteers) based at Tunbridge Wells, Kent from 15 August 1988.

Terms and conditions of service are given in TA Regs 1978 Chapter 6 Part 3. The upper age limit for appointment is 56 and the normal retiring age is 60.

The post carries the rank of Captain (TA) with an annual salary of £12,574 rising by six annual increments to £14,603.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army as an Officer or Warrant Officer Class I and have experience of G1 and G4 duties. A sound knowledge of service fund accounting is essential.

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 sent to the Commanding Officer, 39 Sig Regt (SC) (V), 79-85 Worship Street, London EC2A 2BP. The closing date for applications is 31 October 1987.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (ARMY DEPARTMENT)

There is a constant requirement in the London area for Government Telephonists and Telecommunication Operators.

Telephonists Applicants who are not Service, GPO or British Telecom trained will be required to sit an aptitude test.

Telecommunication Operators Trained Data Telegraphists and Radio Telegraphists have previously proved acceptable.

Pay The annual rates of pay are:

Telephonists £3,218 at age 16 rising to £5,796.

Telecommunication Operators £3,588 at age 16 rising to £7,821.

These rates do not include London Weighting of either £1,465 (Inner), £840 (Intermediate) or £615 (Outer).

Annual Leave in addition to public and privilege holidays which total 10½ days, you will be entitled to 22 days (4 weeks 2 days) annual leave.

Hours 5 day week of 42 hours (Telephonist) or 41 hrs (Telecom Op), inclusive of lunch breaks, unless employed on shift work.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunities employer.

Further information and application forms are available from: Civilian Personnel Officer, 238 (London) Sig Sqn, Chelsea Barracks, Chelsea Bridge Road, London SW1 8RF. Tel: 01 930 4466. Ext 4539 Chelsea Military.

Remembrance Day is on Sunday, 8th November.

BOOK REVIEW

The Duke of York's Royal Military School 1801-1986

In 1801 that most able and caring administrator, the Grand Old Duke of York, laid the foundation stone of the establishment which continues to this day, as his living memorial, The Duke of York's Royal Military School.

Nowadays we have become accustomed to taking welfare for granted. A soldier's life in 1801 was hard, and the life of a soldier's family even harder. The Wars of Empire resulted in large numbers of orphans, and destitute mothers and children. **Frederick** Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, was moved to create this refuge for children of soldiers of the Regular Army. The boys and girls were cared for in a healthy and disciplined environment, and in due course were placed in suitable employment.

During the Golden Years of the School, to the end of the Second World War, most of the boys enlisted into the army, often into their father's old regiment. The School developed a tradition of excellence in providing soldiers of very high quality, many of whom became officers. Army bands also were the recipients of musicians of the highest quality, many of these becoming Bandmasters and Directors of Music.

The author, himself a Dukie, and a product of this system, enlisted in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, later serving in the Royal Air Force. He has compiled an interesting and exciting volume of information which covers the story of the School to the present day. Also included are notes on two similar establishments. The Royal Hibernian Military School, which was founded privately in Ireland in 1765, taken over by the War Office in 1806, and finally incorporated into the Duke of York's School, in 1924. The Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, founded in 1902 as a Scottish memorial to **Queen Victoria**, and to the Scots soldiers of the South African War.

The story is brought up to date, with a description of the changes in attitude and purpose, wrought by the social and economic changes in the country as a whole. The former military traditions have been largely eroded, to give way to an educational system more in line with that of a State boarding school. The boys are still the sons of soldiers of the Regular Army, they attend a school which is lavishly equipped and lacks for nothing in the material sense.

This book should appeal not only to all 'Old Dukies', and those who have at any time had connection with the School, but to all those persons with military and sociological interests.

Copies of this book are obtainable from, **A. P. Sadler**, Birnham, 1 Bushy Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 9SX.

All Cheques, Money Orders, Bankers Drafts, etc, should be made payable to, D.Y.R.M.S., O.B.A. and in the case of overseas purchases, must be in STERLING.

The cost of each copy is £9.50, plus £1 postage and packing. Total £10.50

'MEN OF ALAMEIN' by **Col C. P. S. Denholm-Young OBE, FICS** is being published in October by Spa Books Ltd., PO Box 47, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG2 8UH, price £10 approx: It is the story of the Commanding Officer of 51 Div Sigs in all the seven battles from Alemein to Tripoli. The account of these happenings was first published in 1943. All members of the Corps should find this a fascinating story of the events of those exciting three months.

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

The Royal Signals Games Club provides assistance to Corps glider and hang glider pilots with financial aid towards meetings 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 1986 to November 1987 to:- **Maj S. G. Falla Royal Signals**, School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8RH.

Claims should arrive not later than 1 November 1987.

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 1987.
- Results of competitions, or badge attempts.
- Competition expenses.
- Qualifications held (if any)
- Details of claimants UK bank, account number and address where 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.

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

CLF's VISIT

CLF, **Maj Gen R. J. Hodges OBE**, visited the Squadron on Wednesday 17 June. After being briefed on the operational role of the Squadron he was shown round the various departments. He was clearly impressed by the wide variety of tasks that we undertake and not a little surprised by how cheerful everyone was. Try as he might he didn't find the 'disgruntled minority'. When he asked the LAD if there was a shortage of girls **Cpl Parkes** assured him that there were 'plenty to go round'!

The General demonstrated that he is a real live Action Man. He quite upset the Brigade Commander by volunteering to climb the mast outside the Commander's Office. He also drove the 'Pink Panther' APV, after promising to get a replacement clutch if he burnt it out. We get our vehicles repainted free in Londonderry. All you have to do is park below a high rise flat.

After lunch he flew to a remote hill top site to be shown how the infantry radios actually work. He also met **LCpl McNaught** for the third time; so we had to admit that we were still working during his visit and all the other riggers were working. **LCpl McCarthy** made sure that we were all safe by securing the site with an ad-hoc section formed at short notice for the task.

SHOOTING

The Squadron Shooting Team entered the Corps SAAM which was held at Bulford and Perham Down ranges 14-19 June 1987.

After arriving at the venue and meeting old friends and shooting enemies the competition got off to a flying start for the team which won the first shoot, the Roupell Cup. Morale now went sky high and the team set about trying to keep the standard high. However the team's ego took a nose dive after the moving target ranges as the teams combined score of 51 left us trailing in that competition to say the least. The team needed to catch up quickly; this they did by winning the Whitehead Cup and coming second in the Association Match, and although this brought us back up in the overall standing, it was not enough to win the Rifle Match which we lost by all of one point.

Not to be deterred we now had the scent of victory and the team managed to finish at least third in the remaining team shoots. These results were enough to secure the Minor Unit Team Championship, and although this was something of a surprise to some of the teams in the competition, it was not to us.

The team was very proud to receive their trophies from the Signal Officer-in-Chief on the final afternoon.

The Corps SAAM was a superb meeting with some stiff opposition. The team's results for the competition are listed below:-

Roupell Cup	Winners
Whitehead Cup	Winners
Association	Runners-Up
LMG Pairs	Runners-Up
Section Match	Third
Team Snap Shooting	Runners-Up
Rifle Match	Runners-Up
SMG Team match	Third
Minor Unit Team Championship	Winners

REGULAR ARMY SKILL AT ARMS MEETING 1987

After gale conditions at the Northern Ireland Skill at Arms Meeting, the Squadron Shooting Team qualified for the RASAM 1987 by coming a creditable second in the Minor Units team event. The Squadron has a very young team of varying skills and much relied on the shooting abilities of **Sgt Martin Leighfield** and **LCpl Billy Dodd RPC**.

Training started straight away with **WO1 (RSM) Keith Hudson** and **SSgt Benny Bennett** making the weekly labourious trips to Magilligan and Eglinton ranges.

The weather at Bisley was a complete reversal of our normal competition and training weather, sunny, hot and bright, a very

Squadron Shooting Team
Back: Cpl Hornby, Sgt Leighfield
Front: LCpl Dodd, Sig Scott, Cpl Shaw

welcome change. This years competition incorporated the use of the SA80 with both iron and SUSAT sights, a tough challenge for the SLR. Nevertheless we were ready and eager to learn as much as possible in preparation for next years competition.

The SLR Stage one shooting ended with the Squadron in the bottom half of the Minor Units competition but by no means disgracing itself. **LCpl Billy Dodd** shot particularly well and achieved 161 in the individual SLR competition and qualified for Stage two. He shot exceptionally well in Stage two, missing the Army 100 by one shot, eventually finishing 108. A splendid individual effort. **LCpl Dodd** again featured in the LMG competition, with **Sgt Martin Leighfield** and again qualified for Stage two. They finished 37 from 120 unit teams, an outstanding effort, shooting against other LMG, GPMG and LSW gun teams from both Major and Minor units.

We left Bisley a much wiser and more experienced team and using this years experience we will fuel next years efforts. I am sure and very hopeful that we will see individual and team medals during next year's shooting season.

The team consisted of:- **RSM WO1 Keith Hudson—Trainer, SSgt Benny Bennett, Sgt Martin Leighfield, Cpl Scouse Hornby, LCpl Billy Dodd RPC** and **Sig Scotty Scott**.

OPEN DAY

After several of the Squadron's wives had mentioned to the OC and his wife that they had no idea where their husbands worked or even what they did, the Officer Commanding decided that an Open Day would be a good idea.

You can come to Londonderry for two months and acquire two children and a family pet!

Friday 3 July was the date selected and the AO and RSM delegated to run it. The Squadron put on several displays of our operational work such as Heli-tele, the Rover Group and the 'Linies' at work climbing the headquarters mast and several offices and areas were opened up for guided tours.

To keep the kids amused, all departments ran one or two side shows with sweets for prizes which went down very well. The mums may not agree, dirty clothes and overeating!

Our visiting young officer **Lt Alan Blackwell** was given the best 'jif' job of the day.

To finish off the visit the cooks laid on a barbecue in the Squadron Club. Everybody, except **Lt B** seemed to enjoy themselves and most families were able to attend. Rumour has it that once everyone had gone and the RSM had counted the weapons and the AO the cash, those two retired for the rest of the day to recuperate.

MT TROOP

Report by Sgt Steve Walker

MTWO	**WO2 Ian Mitchell**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Steve Walker**
LAD Sgt	**Sgt Norrie Penman**
MT Detail	**Cpl Woody Woods**

ARRIVALS

We would like to welcome the following to the Troop: **LCpl Jock Duncan** and family, and **Sig Barnie Barnett**. We hope they have a safe and happy tour with us.

DEPARTURES

Sadly with arrivals you must have departures. We would like to say farewell to the following: **Sig Terry Alderson** and family—**Terry** has gone to drive in Civvy Street. **LCpl Ian Donald** on promotion to Cpl and posted to 22 Sig Regt, **Dvr Nigel Braun** soon to become a policeman in Kent and last but not least **LCpl Steve Leach** who has gone to 5 Airborne Bde Log Bn in Aldershot. Our best wishes to you all.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to **LCpl Scotty Scott** and his wife who have just had a baby girl. Also to **Cpl Jim Parkes** on his engagement to **Cpl Jinder Kaur WRAC**.

TROOP NEWS

The Troop consists of 27 men with three different cap badges which are RCT, Royal Signals and REME. Between us we cover from 86,000 miles to 100,000 miles per month and as a result are kept quite busy. A driver can start work at five in the morning and finish at two o'clock the next morning having driven all over the Province.

The drivers get plenty of opportunity to test drive different types of cars since all MT vehicles are civilian, which is great if you are thinking of buying a car. The REME lads enjoy working on the cars too because this is also good practice for them and makes a change from four Tonners! The trouble is they don't get the civilian overtime to go with it.

Although we are kept fairly busy we do find time to relax. A couple of weeks ago we had a Troop BBQ. **LCpl Dave Ellitson** found time to look after the kids again, the singlies decided to take on the wives at Volley Ball and promptly lost, a good day was had by all thanks to the superb cooking of **Sgt Norrie Penman REME** who proved he could be an asset to the ACC. At the moment there is a Troop Snooker Competition going on, **LCpl 'Nobby' Clarke** being 100/1 to win. We are convinced that **Sig 'Honest Howie' Martin** is pulling our legs—100/1 indeed! More like 500/1.

Sig 'Kev' Whitbread organised a games night against Clooney Park South Community Centre. The Troop came a close second but watch out on the return match. Congratulations to the MT Football Team who keep beating Mike Troop with the help of **LCpl 'Big Stu' Nicholson**, even though he has got two left feet.

From all the lads to **Dvr Paul Moore**—Hope you had a nice time on the Isle of Man while attached to 26 Sqn RCT D Troop. Also we hope that **LCpl Dave Davenport** had a nice time with the school children on the Summer Camp at Magilligan.

OPERATIONAL STOP PRESS

The MTWO and **LCpl Leitch** discovered graphically why GSMs are still awarded in Northern Ireland on Saturday 6 June when a 300lb van bomb exploded 40m in front of their vehicle.

When interviewed after the incident, the MTWO came up with a classic British understatement. 'On hearing the bomb explode **LCpl Leitch** changed down into third gear and accelerated through the blast area before the debris came back down.'

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OPERATIONS

During the last couple of months there has been a large turn around in the Roulement Battalions in the Brigade.

We have said farewell to 1 R Hamps in South Armagh and welcome to 1 Queens, their successors. At the time of writing 1 QLR are packing, ready to return to BAOR being replaced by 2 LI. 42 Commando RM has a short holiday in Armagh before being ousted by 1 RGJ. All these changes have meant more briefings than usual, together with on the spot assistance from Comms Tp.

The highlights of the summer have included as ever the Annual Orange Marches which required the Brigade to assist the RUC. Whilst the 2IC **Capt Gordon 'The Lounge Lizard' Rafferty** was away briefing the Gren Guards on the mainland **Capt Simon 'I love the smell of napalm' Renfrey** was producing a ten page CEI for the commcen to send around the Brigade. The talkthrough system and a Brigade Forward Tactical HQ manned by Comms Tp was set up in Portadown by TM Tp.

For 13 July march the Brigade Tac HQ set up at Castlereagh and was visited by **Mr Tom King PC MP**—The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

SHQ

Once again the line-up in SHQ has changed, we say farewell to **Capt Gordon Rafferty** to 22 Sig Regt and **Capt Pete Humphreys** to Engineer Branch, HQ BAOR. We wish to offer a warm welcome to **Capt Nigel Wood**, the new 2IC and **Capt Ivan Patrick** the new Administration Officer.

The line up in SHQ now looks like this:

OC—Maj Hugh Hancock, 2IC—Capt Nigel Wood, AO—Capt Ivan Patrick, RSM—WO1 Mal Boor, CC—SSgt Alan Fiddes, Clks—Cpl 'Nobby' Clarke, LCpl Paul Wicks, Sig Phil 'Almost a Civvy' Timmins and Sig 'Geordie' Jones on attachment from 19 Inf Bde Sig Sqn, and our typist—**Annette**.

COMMS TROOP IN SOUTH ARMAGH (AGAIN)

Comms Troop yet again provided teams to patrol with 1 Queens in South Armagh. Their job was to confirm that the multiple bricks on the border had adequate radio coverage. The Queens said they hadn't and we proved that they had.

The coverage teams comprised of **Lt Steve Vickery, Cpls John Mitchell, Cal Hewitt, Bob Booth** and **LCpl Matt Dyson. Lt Steve Vickery** (on holiday from Shrivenham) was overcome with joy to be able to patrol with the new MK6 Helmet and SA80. **Cpl Bob Booth** won the Golden Blanket Award for his services to mankind.

On the whole the work was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved and 1 Queens were grateful for the expert help and guidance we provided.

JULY MARCHES—BDE TACTICAL HQs

As part of any operation in support of the RUC, the Signal Squadron is often required to establish a Brigade Tactical HQ. This year Comms Tp manned both of these at Portadown and Castlereagh on successive weekends. The first weekend at Portadown the Tac HQ was manned by **LCpl Kev 'No Neck' Jones** and **Sig 'Dickie' Bird** obviously in search of a chance to see some action. A week later **Cpl Bob Booth** and **Cpl Cal Hewitt** were at RUC Castlereagh when they were visited by **Mr Tom King PC MP**.

BANGOR 1km ROAD RACE

The prestigious event was held in the Holywood district of East Belfast with three members of the troop taking part. **Sig Paul Goldie** set off with a quick start placing him in the lead from the word 'Go'. He was hotly pursued by **Cpl 'Seb' Sands** who settled into a fast blistering pace although this never really compensated for his slow start.

Sig 'Baldrick' Colquitt missed the start completely but by driving hard managed to close with **Cpl Seb Sands** towards the finish of the race. A good hard race was run by all concerned and we are still waiting for **Sig Goldie** to collect his prize.

RADIO SECTION

Heli tele has once again been very active, providing support for the Bde Comd, the RUC, and anyone else who wanted to watch the test match.

The first occasion the vehicle was deployed was for an operation mounted in Portadown in support of the RUC. A crew consisting of **Lt Jeremy Tod, Cpl Dave Whitaker** and **LCpl 'Moshe' Dyson**. The day proved to be very hot, leaving everyones' INIBA jacket in a state to patrol out on its own. **Lt Tod** received plenty of practice in putting up (and taking down) a PU12M mast. The day passed off with only minor aggro, which is the name of the game.

A week later, the same crew deployed to Portadown again, this time to provide HTV Sp for CO 11 UDR. An escort was provided by **Cpl Steve Ferris, Sig 'Spike' Harding, Paul Goldie** and **'Titch' Colquitt**. The large number of troops deployed and the public's general good nature kept things quiet. A good time was had by all, especially those who managed to score some good hits with bricks on heli-tele, and an ice cream van that happened to be in the way.

ROVER GROUP

It has been a fairly routine, if busy time for the Group. The usual trips into West Belfast have been spiced up by 12 July marches. There was no trouble at all, much to the disappointment of 'Rambo' Swift, although **Dvr Nick Baker** tried his hand at juggling bottles at Ballynahinch (although he did use his head).

At Portadown, the glorious weather enabled **LCpls Frank Williams, 'Petal' Clark** and **Pte 'Katz' Beckett** to soak up some sunshine and enjoy watching **LCpl Guy Burton** practising his chatting up lines on a six year old admirer!

Congratulations must go to **LCpls Steve Baird** and **'Molly' Molyneaux** for passing the RCT promotion board. Also, a warm welcome to **LCpls 'Daz' Wardmand** and **Tony Pronger** on their promotion to the Group from MT Tp.

Finally, has anyone seen **Cpl Tony 'Ten Bellies' Mellett**? He has been missing now for a month.

SYSCON/COMCEN/CRYPTO

No contribution from 39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn would be complete without a report from the nerve centre, consisting of Syscon, Commcen and the Crypto Office where as usual, we are overworked and undermanned (which, by the way, does not apply to the Crypto Office who are of course overmanned and underworked). If you cannot find a cryptonite, the chances are that **Sgt Jimmy (Bogbreath) Johnston** is trapseing around the golf course followed by **Cpls Keith (Nice Curls) Emmerson, Paul (anything left from the rations, boys?) Carr** and **Danny (Crypto-wit) Locker**.

The Commcen is meandering along in its usual fashion and the new air of apathy that has been introduced by our new supervisor, **Cpl Phil (Gonzo) Fluck** is going down quite well with the likes of **Sig Dicky (This lampost looks as good as any) Bird** and **Neil (Morcombe Jack) Chilvers**.

Syscon, of course has its finger on the pulse, (pity the heart's stopped), and keeps an ever vigilant watch over the smooth running of the Cougarnet System. Indeed the only real threats to comms these days are **Capt Simon Renfrey** and his faithful Lieutenant, **Mr Jeremy (Look Simon, I know what I'm doing, OK?) Tod** As mentioned before, manning has gone so far down hill, what with EOD commitments and courses, that **Cpl Bob (Where are my TSB shares) Booth** has had to dust off his battle dress (yes, he's been out of uniform that long) and put in a few night shifts with the boys. Cheers **Bob**, you will never know how much we appreciate it.

SSgt (YofS) Dai (More ducks than your average poultry farm) Jones has ordered—sorry—requested that I put something in about his cricket team which is currently sitting quite comfortably on the top of the Northern Ireland Minor Units Cricket League. Consequently they look all set to stomp all over the opposition and take the league championships (again).

The team has a couple of new faces in the form of **Lts Steve (Will I get a medal?) Vickery** and **Alistair (Wot's a D11?) Beard**. **Sig Chris (Sleeping Bag) Swithenbank** is finding it increasingly difficult to stay awake whilst fielding these days (yes **Chris**, we know that you have just come off nights and had your leave cancelled to boot, but please pay attention or we'll set **Sig Taff (where's Wendy?) Pattison**'s cricket kit on you).

Finally, a big thank you goes out from the Troop to **LCpl Kev (Red Kev) Jones** for funding a good night's quaffing of ale and he would just like to add that he is now taking bets for the next General Election.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES IN COMMS TP

Quite a turbulent time as far as Troop manning is concerned. Possibly the most significant change is the detachment of **Sig George Green** to 321 (EOD) Coy RAOC. This will become a regular event for members of the Troop. Other losses to the Troop are **LCpl 'Bimbo' Jones** on his posting to Civ Div along with **Cpl Dave Richardson**, whose way was smoothed by an affectionate kissogram girl. **Sig Sid Willgress** has also left to return to his wife in Hong Kong. **LCpl Jim 'Porridge' Rice** has been posted to 16 Sig Regt. Best of luck to you all.

Arrivals have included the new Tp 21C, **Lt Alistair Beard** who is rapidly getting weighed down by all the jobs passed on by **Lt Jeremy Tod**.

Lt Steve Vickery has also arrived for a five week attachment. He is putting his time to good use, spending it patrolling with the infantry as well as learning about the Cougarnet System. **Cpl Phil Fluck** has arrived from 2 Div and is now working in Syscon. Finally, congratulations must go to a spate of well deserved promotions. Those enjoying their new rank are **Cpl Steve Ferris, LCpls 'Taff' Donne** and **'Prof' Skeels. Cpl Keith Emmerson** has also come up on the Corporals to Sergeants Board. Well Done!

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The Team to Trust

TM TROOP

The Troop continues on its merry way having seen its way through a quiet 12 July. The Squadron anticipated any problem areas with a mass deployment of talkthroughs at Portadown.

Racal has sent over an inspection team to spec test Cougar province-wide, and it still works!

There has been the normal round of VIP visits which has seen the workshop floor being polished to perfection. The FofS was highly impressed.

Congratulations to **Sgt John Howell-Walsmley** on going native and getting married in St Lucia. He was ably (or dis-ably) assisted by his best (or worst) man **Cpl Dave Evans** who supplied his own local tourist guide **Claudette**.

FAREWELLS

Farewells go to **Cpl Chris Cadman** and **Teresa—Chris** is going to look after Mould in Scotland. **Cpl Paul Gardner** and **Julie**—all the best on your T1 at Catterick. **Sig Gary 'Gregory' Rushworth** and **Diane**—on promotion to 21 Sig Regt.

ARRIVALS

A warm welcome goes to **LCpl Jim McGowan.**

SPORTS

The troop yet again manages to make a firm impression on the sporting scene:-

Cricket:

Sgt John Hagger and **Cpl Vince Connolly** have assisted the Squadron team in reaching the NI Minor Units Cup Final and also top of the NI Minor Units League.

Tug of War:

The team came runners-up in the NI Outdoor Championships and qualified for the UK Championships, but fortunately couldn't make it yet again.

Sailing:

Sgt Simon Tatman—on a three week jaunt to Gib on the first leg of a trip to Australia. Is he ever at work? No, came the reply.

Rock Climbing:

Sgt John Howell-Walmsley and **Cpl Dave Evans** fitted in the rock leaders course and are now fully qualified to teach people how to fall off rock faces.

Canoeing:

Sgt 'Paddles' Tatman had finally qualified as an instructor, so the troop will see even less of him! Ah well lads, stag-on!

RQMS's DEPARTMENT

During the last month the RQMS's Department had gone through a few minor personality changes—**LCpl Simon Sloman** has left reluctantly for 16 Sig Regt to be replaced by newly promoted **LCpl Billy Smith** from 9 Sig Regt—the Department wishes them both well in their posts.

Sig Neil Frank, having now set the date for his wedding, is busy trying to con the **RQMS Terry Hughes** out of as much leave as he can fit in before he leaves for Cyprus in October.

Sgt Pete Laing the RAOC FATSO Sgt has now set his date for leaving the Province for sunny Bicester and has amazed all and sundry by being granted three weeks disembarkation leave (he claims that the RAOC Manning and Records look after their own).

Sgt John Brown spends his time with **Cpl Jim Morton** checking accommodation stores or chasing up mess bills in the Sergeants Mess, when he has time he carries out his liaison work with the Bns.

LCpl 'Mad' Ackers now in the throes of rewriting the new unit equipment with the RQMS is settling in well and not missing BAOR at all.

As in all stores departments the work progresses slowly but surely and at last the Cougarnet radio system items have settled to a workable level.

WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes is now preparing for his handover in September but continues to crack the whip and burn the midnight oil, but has now found the incentive to take up his neglected running again.

HORSESHOE CLUB

The completely refurbished Club continues to thrive with families lunches and barbecues (yes the sun has been shining here recently) and Troop functions. The outgoing PEC—**Cpl Paul Carr** (many thanks again) has now handed over to **Cpl Hewitt** after a very successful few months in the chair.

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233 Sig Sqn (NI)
BFPO 801

CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 19 June **Maj Charles Kemp** handed over command of the Squadron to **Maj Peter Parfitt** after a busy week. **Maj Kemp** is to take up the post of 2IC 22 Sig Regt in BAOR, and the Squadron wishes both him and his wife **Paddy** the very best for the future. In the same breath we should take the opportunity to welcome **Maj Parfitt** and his wife **Amanda**, and wish them both an enjoyable tour with the Squadron.

LS & GC PRESENTATION

The Garrison Sergeants' Mess saw a presentation ceremony recently that gathered together over a 100 years of service. On Monday 27 July the GOC Northern Ireland **Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe KCB, MBE**, presented three members of the Garrison with the LS & GC and another with the BEM. The two members of 233 Sig Sqn who received their medals were **WO2 Edwards**, and **WO2 (FofS) Martin**.

Cpl Beck LS & GC (22 PCU), WO2 Edwards LS & GC (233 Sig Sqn) GOC, WO2 (FofS) Martin LS & GC (233 Sig Sqn), WO2 Donnaghy BEM (A & SH)

THE SQUADRON SUMMER FETE 1987

The great day had arrived at last; after months of planning, preparation and hard work, the 233 Sig Sqn Fete 1987 was opened at 1300 hrs on Saturday 6 June. Predictably in NI the weather had given us grave cause for concern in the final days leading up to the fete and in fact during the erecting of the site, hurried lessons were learned on how to control a marquee in hurricane conditions! The suspect weather did in fact take a hand in affecting our programme, as low cloud forced us on the day to cancel the planned display by the 'Blue Helmets', who had agreed to travel over from Aldershot, but luckily it didn't spoil the general atmosphere. A few showers during the morning only slightly hindered the final preparations, which showed off all the stalls at their very best and by 1300 hrs, a real family and fun atmosphere had already begun to prevail, helped enormously by the fancy dress efforts of most of the stall-holders, in particular **Capt 'Robin Hood' David Wills**, and his E Tp Merry Men. The OC Sqn, **Maj C. D. McK Kemp** pondered long and hard on the prize winners for the 'Best Stall' competition, and he eventually decided on three runners-up prizes to **SSgt Gilbert**'s MT Section with their Irish Coffee stall, **SSgt Paddy McMahon** and the V Tp Beer and Bratties and **Capt 'Merlin' Connor** and the Tech Tp Activity Centre, but first prize went quite deservedly to the Chief Clerk, **SSgt Coleman** and his crew, who had already raised over £1,000 towards our chosen charities on his grand raffle stall. The 2IC, **Capt Ian Westerman** opened the fete for us and continued to keep us abreast of the days happenings and 'amused' us with his impersonation of Mike Smith on the PA system. The Gods actually smiled on us as we had the only sunny spot in the whole of the Province, which brought crowds of families to enjoy the fun of the side-shows, from paying £1 to have a go at the OC or the YofS in the stocks, to 'bouncing' on the dragon, or paying 50p to watch three girls from W Tp act as a one armed bandit. The crowds were royally entertained by a marching display from the Corps Band and the slap-stick fun of **Sgt Bennett**'s 'It's a Knock-Out' and queues formed in an attempt to win the traditional gold fish at the R Tp 'Treasure Hunt'. The day was quickly over and when the last brattie had been eaten, the last Irish coffee drunk and the last cuddly teddy won, the superb efforts of all the stall-holders had managed to amass a tremendous sum of £2,850 to be divided amongst charities chosen by the Troops which ranged from the Marie Curie Cancer Nursing Care, to Leukemia Research, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, several local charities and a special sum donated to the **Sig Green Fund**. A fantastic day was had by all, crowds and stall-holders alike and we eagerly await 1988!

WO1 (YofS) John Haycock meets his match in the stocks—his wife

Pte Pinder presents a cheque to the Marie Curie Cancer Nursing Home after the fete

WHISKY TROOP

Wednesday July 8 was a momentous day for the Troop when the new system was opened by the GOC. With the Troop reorganisations virtually complete and all SOP's etc written it seemed to bring to a close a very hectic but enjoyable year. In a brief 15 minutes the GOC managed to chat to every soldier and there was obvious pride in being part of such a major task. The climax of the visit was the unveiling of a new plaque which now resides below the plaque commemorating the original system back in 1976. On the Sunday we held our own celebration to mark the event with a softball match and barbecue for all the members of the Troop and their families. Despite the holiday atmosphere and a feeling of finality about the day, work resumed as normal with a system crash a few hours later!

This will sadly be the last from Whisky Troop as on 1 September 1987 the Troop is disbanded (along with Victor Troop) and, from the ashes, India Troop is born!

OFFICIAL OPENING OF BRINTON

On Wednesday 8 July the GOC Northern Ireland, **Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe, KCB, MBE** officially opened Brinton. This opening was the culmination of many thousands of man-hours of hard work over the last year. It was, however, only the beginning of what will eventually be not only a replacement for Erastos but a complete bearer network for many communications systems in the province. Brinton II is only just around the corner.

The GOC meets some of the Brinton Team. *From R to L*, Sgts Abbott, Bickerstaff and Perkins

EXERCISE *ROMAN WAY*

Back in April MT Section, under the guidance of **SSgt Dave Gilbert** decided that they would spend a few days on the mainland walking the length of Hadrian's Wall for charity. After much planning and preparation the team of nine set off in high spirits on Sunday 19 July arriving at Newcastle that night for their first overnight stop.

Walking in full kit, and completely self-sufficient they completed the 73 miles in three and a half days. Resting for the final day in Bowness the team were allowed to pitch their bivouacs in a residents garden. To show their gratitude they spent the final day restoring the driveway to the house, which proved to be extremely popular not only with the occupant, but with the locals in general.

All in all it was a very successful week which tested many of the team in map reading, endurance and self-motivation. It also raised just over £500 for Arthritis Care the nominated charity. Well done to the team which comprised: **Cpls 'Jonah' Jones, Tony Cryer, LCpl Tom Sloan, Sig 'Taff' Dilling, Paul Brain, Ian Speight, 'Polly' Pollard** and **Sig Pete Starrs**.

VICTOR TROOP

These notes contain an element of sadness, for in them we must say farewell to several people who have contributed a great deal to the troop. In addition these are the last notes that will ever be written for Victor Troop; on 1 September we amalgamate with Whisky Troop to form the new India Troop, 233 Sig Sqn.

SSgt (YofS) Andy McIver leaves us very shortly on posting to 31 Sig Regt (V) in Hammersmith. He has made a deep and lasting contribution to both Troop and Squadron at work and on the sports field. He leaves behind many friends and takes with him our best wishes for the future.

We have recently said goodbye to the last of our technicians who have gone to work for the TOT in Tech troop. We have not seen the last of them, for our technical problems did not disappear with our technicians, but their leaving has left a huge gap in the troop. Many thanks to **Sgt 'Callous' Callum Downie, Cpls 'Mac' McLaren** and **Dave Symonds** for their work and friendship.

On a happier note, congratulations are due to **Sig 'Beef'** and **Mrs Cyndi Berger** who were recently married.

To mark the end of an era Victor Troop held its final barbecue and disco on Saturday 8 August. In view of the fact that this was our last ever social function an extra special effort was made on the preparation and presentation of the food and drink. The result was a very successful evening which was enjoyed by guests and hosts alike. Much credit for this success must go to **SSgt Bob McMahon** and his band of helpers.

RADIO SECTION CQB(U) RANGE PROJECT BALLYKINLER

Section NCO IC	**Sgt Woolaston**
	Cpl Hizzett
	Cpl Francis
	Cpl Ovenden
	Cpl Sanderson
	LCpl Jolly
	LCpl Threadgold
Problem	A small wiring job
Q	Does it have a printer at each end?
A	No
Solution	Give it to a radio section

The project started for us back in February, as 'a three week job laying cables'. Five months (and several kms of cable) later, we are now qualified builders, linemen, carpenters and most things that bear no resemblance whatsoever to radios.

'Tin City' is hard to describe, but some memorable moments did occur. The two days we saw the sun were recorded in the section's diary under 'freaks of nature' as almost every time we set foot on the range the heavens opened.

We are all still wondering why **Cpl 'Merve' Ovenden** took the fast way to the ground floor of a house (via a large hole in the ceiling which he made on the way) and how **Sgt Tony Woolaston** somehow managed to bury a Kango hammer bit so far into a wall that it took root and refused to come out ever again.

The quickest exit of all must have been when **Cpl 'Sandy' Sanderson** was trying to drill a hole twenty feet above the floor, and an unsuspecting infantry officer asked if he was a target. The question would normally have been met with a hail of abuse but as they were using live rounds his descent can only be described as somewhat rapid . . .

I think both thanks and condolences are due to everyone involved in the project, especially **Cpl Andy Dick** who came over from 4 ADSR for two months 'active service' and got lumbered with staying at Ballykinler for his tour.

Now a short glossary of new technical terms that were developed for the project:-

Full Duplex	Argument net
Headsets	Anneka Rice's
Next Week	Another month
Three Weeks	Five months
Short Cut	Fell through

Finally after many adventures the Northern Ireland Training Establishment now has a mock village with a modern microprocessor controlled range which simulates urban conditions for patrols working in a city environment. Complete with street sounds, riots (not radio section), disco's and even dummies which answer back. After getting our operators to trial the system we couldn't decide which to keep, the operators or the dummies, on the toss of a coin the dummy won, it moved!

The installation team at the entrance to 'Tin City'

SUMMER CAMP

Dramatis Personae:

Capt Flint	OC Summer Camp, Weeks one and two
Capt Ledwards	OC Summer Camp, Week three
WO2 (SSM) Doherty	Hill Walking, Good Conduct and Military Discipline
SSgt Vince	Hill Walking
SSgt McMahon	Hill Walking
Sgt Szczesiak	Administration
Cpl Jones	Canoeing and speaking to the locals
LCpl O'Brien	Climbing and impromptu cabaret
LCpl MacNamara	Climbing

Not for us the boring sunshine of Cyprus or Kenya, not for us the monotonous snows of Norway! We shun the gaudy alehouses of the Rhine and Mosel and turn our backs on the wooded slopes of the Alps. When the men and women of 233 Sig Sqn seek excitement and adventure we go to the wild and woolly wastes of Capel Curig in North Wales.

The camp comprised three courses each of a week's duration providing canoeing, climbing and hill walking, and catering for about 20 people at a time.

It went very much as summer camps go: the canoeists usually got wet, the climbers sometimes got frightened, and the hill walkers generally got both wet and frightened and hungry as well—but that is what it is all about, isn't it?

Here are some of the lessons learned from the camp:-

Avoid confiscated beer misery by bluffing your way through Belfast Harbour security check point. (Which we conspicuously failed to do, twice).

Avoid considerable hardship and inconvenience by pretending that you do not even know what UEL stands for, never mind hold the qualification.

Avoid getting wet by:-

Not going to Wales (OC Sqn),
Going to Wales and coming straight back again (2IC Sqn).
Going to Wales but never going out **(Capt Ledwards)**.
Going to Wales but never getting out of bed **(Capt Flint)**.

Break your wrists, then you won't have to write the Wire Notes. (I thought of this too late this year!)

On top of the world—SSM Pete Doherty and his band of followers on Summer Camp

Can you provide a helping hand with those difficult forms?

ARE VOLUNTEERS READY TO ENLIST?

With demand for help increasing by over 20% last year, the FORCES HELP SOCIETY and the SOLDIERS' SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION have combined to support Service and ex-Service men, women and their families.

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Army Apprentices' College Harrogate

BRADLEY SQUADRON

The Spring Term of 1987 closed on a 'The King is dead, long live the King' note as **Maj Mike Fisher** (late Communication Projects Division) assumed command vice **Maj Rollo Rumford** of the Junior Leader (Bradley) Squadron.

This simply necessitated emptying the OC's office of bundles of maps, protractors, orienteering for the use of, to make way for Hi Tech 'state of the art gadgets', cricket memorabilia and a quiver or two of arrows. **OC Bradley**'s phone can now be heard throughout the building—if you haven't heard it yet, don't worry, you will. All Squadron files, returns and orbats fit neatly into a Desk Top Computer 'thing' and get 'transported' via FASTNET. Is Harrogate ready for this we asked? **Maj (TOT) Roy Lund** back here for his third tour in 35 years thinks so, he has already purchased his own. Who said Luddites come from Yorkshire?

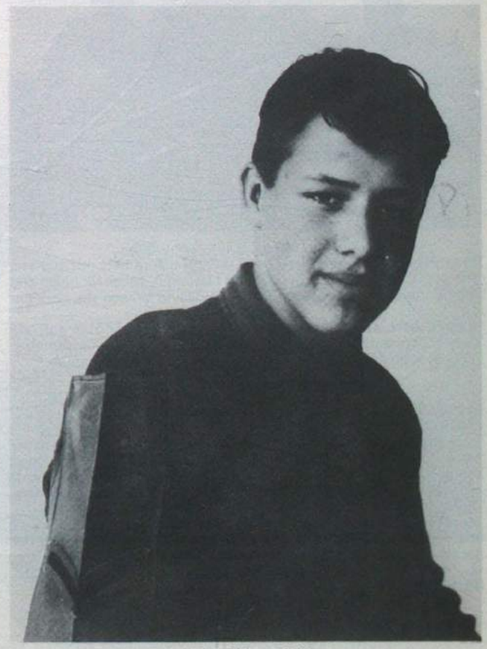
Bradley Squadron said farewell to Quadrant Troop, the old vanguard in early June. These 36 young men came to Bradley Squadron from all corners of the College on the formation of the new style Junior Leaders Squadron in late 1986. In this respect many high ranking eyes were upon them to monitor development of this policy decision. The Powerhouse was not disappointed. These young men, a year junior to serving apprentices went from strength to strength early in the year, the final accolade being instrumental in bringing the Champion Squadron trophy to the Junior Leader centre of excellence for the Summer Term.

At the Graduation Ceremony in early June, **JCpl Michael Vaughan** was presented with the Master of Signals Award for the best all round Junior Leader of his intake. He is now at 8 Sig Regt.

JLCpl Paul Chipperfield was awarded the Director of Army Training Prize for the best individual military performance. **Paul** is now undergoing training to become a Radio Telegraphist at Catterick.

'The Glory of Young Men is their Strength': Proverbs
'WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS AGAIN'
Lt Joe Cooper, OC Rapier Tp; Junior Leader Carl Parry (or is it Keith?); Junior Leader Keith Parry (or is it Carl?); Lt Jerry Bradshaw, OC Whitespear Tp (Sport)

JCpl Vaughan



JLCpl Chipperfield

SUMMER FETE 1987

June 1987 was said to be one of the wettest in living memory. Of course we weren't to know that in March when it was decided to hold a Summer Fete and 20 June was chosen to coincide with the visit of the Franciscan Mission. The Commandant made **Maj Norman Ladds** an offer he couldn't refuse and the plot was hatched. The aim: to provide an afternoon of entertainment on a self help basis at the same time as lightening the punters' wallets in aid of charity and College welfare. Well it rained and rained for what seemed like 40 days and nights. Those said to be wise in such matters forecast doom and disaster. All the QM's tentage and the Sergeants' Mess bar would be lost forever in the quagmire that would be the Fete site.

They say the sun shines on the righteous and as **Padre David Wilkes** greeted our three Franciscan Brothers the weather changed and 20 June dawned clear and hot. To a fanfare of trumpets **'Miss Knaresborough'** performed the opening ceremony and we were off on three hours of fun in the sun.

In the arena the band displayed their talents, fancily dressed kiddies paraded, others ran and lost but got a prize anyway. Apprentices of Penney Squadron showed that they could take a Landrover to pieces and make off with it quicker than anyone else which seemed to bear out what the remainder of the College suspected all along. **Maj Steve Halligan**'s judo squad did sadistic things to each other in Japanese while energetic teams of young men in PT kit demonstrated the ever popular art of throwing logs at each other.

Peripheral activities included archery, the throwing of wellies, the kicking of footballs and the telling of fortunes. Five sharks were seen running General Training Wing's human one arm bandit and queues of vengeful ATs waited gleefully to throw a disgusting substance at the less popular members of staff locked in Rawson Squadron's stocks. The bar had to be restocked, 600 hotdogs were devoured before tea and the ice cream man wore a satisfied smile. The punters got sunburnt, over £1,800 was raised and we all had fun. A recruit with all of one week's service under his belt seemed somewhat disappointed however when told we don't have one every Saturday—roll on 1988.

Friars get fell in to the Army habit
Three Fanciscan Friars have been having a frantic if not frenetic time at the College recently. Brothers Bejamin, Mark Nicholas and Donald were invited to the College by David Wilkes the resident padre
Pictured here at the Summer Fete trying their hand at golf are Garry Clapham, Roger Trewinnard, Brother Mark Nicholas, Brother Donald, Chris Brigdale and Brother Benjamin

Realism in Training for War—'Defence by Deception'
EXERCISE *BRAVE LION*

Ex *Brave Lion* was held in May 1987 and was designed to test the Army Apprentice College's Home Defence role, during a period of rising tension. The College was ordered to defend four North Yorkshire Key Points near Catterick: Shaiba Camp, Gandale Camp, Hudswell Grange and Cordilleras Grange.

Bradley Squadron was allocated Hudswell Grange, and in his briefing to the Squadron, the Sqn Cdr **Maj Mike Fisher**, warned that the main threat was from a radical West Yorkshire oganisation known as 'Fed Up Farmers Fighting for Freedom At All Costs'. (FUFFFFAAC).

The Squadron Commander formulated his plan and issued his orders to his troop commanders; the strategy was to be one of covert and overt operations—a strategy of 'Defence By Deception'.

To implement this strategy, Whitespear and Rapier Troops deployed covertly around Hudswell Grange while Quadrant and Lighting Troops carefully moved into the key point itself.

The plan quickly proved successful; in trying to penetrate the key point on the first night, an armed four-man insurgent patrol was intercepted by the covert troops leaving them scratching their heads and wondering 'how did you know we were coming'?

During the week, the weather got worse and the enemy stepped up their actions. The rain and intense cold, civil disturbance and attempted armed assault took their toll. An air of tiredness and tension became apparent at Hudswell Grange as the Junior Leaders attempted to snatch 'forty winks' whenever possible. But the Squadron remained alert, vigilance was not relaxed.

On the third night, an enemy sabotage patrol was detected over a mile away and tracked. Moving carefully through dead ground, they did not expect to find a carefully concealed triangular ambush lying in wait. The enemy were very surprised, and left very, dead!

By the end of the exercise, the Chief Umpire was to declare that Hudswell Grange was the only key point not to have been penetrated by the enemy; the deception strategy had been successful.

Ex *Brave Lion*
JLCpl Kaczur establishes the credentials of the Commandant, Col Conrad Garton, at his visit to a brick wall during Exercise *Brave Lion*

Realism in Training—Defence by Deception
OC Maj Mike Fisher and CIVAD Archie Miles take time out between riots on Exercise *Brave Lion*

COLLEGE CRICKET 87

It has been a season of mixed fortunes for College Cricket this year. The Apprentices/Junior Leaders side suffered a surprising blow in the Army Junior Cup going out to JIB Ouston in the first round, having been Army Champions for the last two years. JIB put on a respectable 79 with **AT Barry Pickles** taking 4 for 21 and **AT LCpl Dave Coleman** taking 3 for 18, but a mid order collapse by the College batsmen saw them all out for 77 with only **AT LCpl Lane Malin** showing form, hitting 32.

The Triangular Games provided two very contrasting matches over the weekend of the 11/12 July. On the Saturday, on a wet, drying pitch, the College batsmen were devastated by the Arborfield seam bowlers; bowled out for 50 with only **AT Jason Rossiter** reaching double figures. The Harrogate wind ensured a different wicket in the afternoon and despite a creditable fielding performance, Arborfield knocked off the winning runs for the loss of only two wickets.

Chepstow having beaten Arborfield a week earlier, the whole competition hinged on the Harrogate, Chepstow fixture on the Sunday.

Although put in to bat first, again on a damp wicket, a good opening partnership between **AT LCpl Nick Jones** (19) and **AT LCpl Lance Martin** set the foundations for **AT Jason Rossiter** and **AT Barry Pickles** (21) to push the run rate along; all out for 94 the College then set out to rip the Chepstow batsmen apart, bowling them all out for 38 with **AT Barry Pickles** taking 6 for 16 and **AT Dave Coleman** taking 3 for 22, this left the Triangular Games series all square for the third year in succession!

On the representative front the College was proud to see young **AT LCpl Jones**, not yet 18, selected for Corps, NE Dist, Army U-25, and the full Army XI playing against Essex 2nd XI, in which **Nick** took two fine catches and put on a first wicket stand of 20 with one of the Army's more established players. Certainly a player to watch for the future. Another exciting prospect also emerged this year in **AT Barry Pickles**, an extremely competent all-rounder who was selected to represent North East District on serval occasions, most notably in North East District's defeat of the Corps side with young **Barry** taking 2 for 29.

The PS side, last year's Minor Units finalists, met with stiff opposition from Kings Div in the North East District area final, having comfortably dispatched 15 Sqn RCT and 15 Fd Wksp in the earlier rounds. 15 Fd were bowled out for 60 with **Capt Dave Luckett** taking 4 for 6, and **WO2 (RQMS) Dave Taylor** 3 for 23. **Col Conrad Garton** set the College on its way to victory with a stout 21. and **Capt Dave Bornstein** (17) and **WO2 (FofS) Bayley** (12) carried us to our winning total.

The loss of one of our primary bowlers **Cpl 'Taff' Morgan** due to injury came as a blow to the side just before the area final. Batting first the College wickets tumbled but a solid innings from **WO2 Dave Taylor** (29) and **Sgt Geoff Watts** (18) saw the College claw a total of 87 runs. But all was not lost and some fine bowling and fielding pegged down Kings Div. However a fine innings of 48 runs by **Lt A. Preston**, an Army U-25 player, saw King's Div take the trophy with eight overs to spare. **Dave Taylor** returned magnificent figures of 4 for 7 and if the College had been at full strength the outcome could well have been very different.

In the local league the weather has taken its toll but with just a few games remaining it looks as if the College could gain promotion this season. Notable performances have come from, the skipper of the side, **Capt Dave Luckett** with a score of 63 against Sicklinghall and bowling figures which include 6 for 4, 19 for 6, and 9 for 3; **WO2 Dave Taylor** who took 11 for 5 in one game which included a hat trick; **Col Conrad Garton** who carried his bat with an unbeaten 51 against Harrogate Amateurs and perhaps the bowling find of the season, **Lt Lawrence McCourt** who could top the bowling averages with performances which include 13 for 4, 17 for 3, 8 for 3 and 24 for 5.

Army Apprentices College Harrogate
Ist XI Summer 1987

Comms & Sy Gp (UK)

Since our last conbribution we have seen some changes within the Group, notably a new RSM. A succession of VIP visitors have kept us on our toes and added to the daily pressures of life within a busy training environment. Our accommodation problems have, in the main been resolved, with some alterations to existing bricks and mortar receiving attention as we go to press. Good news for the Officers too, re-instatement of the Officers' Mess which suffered extensive fire damage in December 1984, commences in August 1987 and the projected date for completion is October 1988.

Radio Wing has recently had a major facelift. Installation of new equipments has stimulated fresh incentives and ADP is now the 'buzz' word in the Wing corridors. Our soldiers continue to wear a smile in spite of the lack of sunshine; they have been instructed not to hold their breath in anticipation of a late summer. It's time we caught up on events past and present.

GROUP HEADQUARTERS

A change over of RSM took place on 9 January 1987. **WO1 (RSM) John Farrell** handed over the 'reins' of office to **WO1 (RSM) Steve Kent** who joined the Group from 22 Sig Regt. **WO1 John Farrell** moved to Catterick to occupy a temporary post prior to a permanent position with 39 Sig Regt (V).

SERGEANTS' MESS NEWS

The highlight of a busy post-Christmas period was the Dining Out of **WO1 (RSM) John Farrell** on 9 January 1987. In appreciation of his endeavours during his tenure with the mess, the members arranged for him to receive a 'Surprise Kissogram'. For once in his life, **RSM John Farrell** was lost for words! Following the dinner, **WO1 (Supvr R) Bob White**, on behalf of the members, presented him with a farewell gift; a silver wine bucket. The RSM reciprocated by presenting the mess with his Pace Stick, which now occupies a prominent position in the bar and is suitably inscribed with the names of all previous Group RSMs.

With **RSM Steve Kent** firmly in the chair, the mess has embarked on a full summer social calender. A notable result was gained in the Mess v Officers' Mess Cricket Match with some fine batting from the PMC, **WO2 Jerry Nation** and **Sgt Chris Sinnett**, the RSM being caught on the boundary by the TOT whilst just getting his eye in!

An 'April Fool' was sprung on the mess in the form of a 'Mess BFT' a good turnout with most of the seniors through, 'Nice one Sir'.

The mess has recently gone through a major refurbishment plan thanks to the unstinting efforts of the RQ's staff, **RQMS Iain Urquhart** and **SSgt Cliff Lowe**, backed by PSA. A major transformation has taken place.

The Mess Summer Ball was held on 11 July (a week later than its theme '4 July') and was a resounding success due entirely to the efforts of the Ball committe, in particular, **WO2 Pete Lang** and **SSgt Steve Grimwade BEM (APTC)**.

WO1 (Supvr R) Bob White presenting gift from the Mess to WO1 (RSM) John Farrell

WO1 (RSM) John Farrell (R) hands over to WO1 (RSM) Steve Kent

SUPERVISOR RADIO COURSE

The Supervisor Radio Course No 18 commenced 15 February and finished on 15 May 1987.

On 15 May, the final day of the course, **Col Peter Goldney**, addressed the course and chaired the course debrief. He presented the students with their course certificates and the 'Top Student', **Sgt 'Chels' Facer**, with the Royal Signals Institution prize, a cheque for £45.

To mark the occasion, the students invited **Col Goldney**, the CO and heads of departments, including those of other agencies who contributed to the course syllabus, to a luncheon in the WOs and Sergeants' Mess.

Back row (l-r): Sgt Denton, SSgt Bellion, Sgts Page, Bermingham and Coleman
Centre row (l-r): Sgts Fracer, Dewar, SSgt Morrison, Sgts Young, Marshall and SSgt Richardson
Front row (l-r): WO1 (Supvr R) White, CO Lt Col Eccles, Col Goldney, Maj (Tfc) Cooper and WO2 (YofS) Tosh

GROUP TRAINING WEEKEND

After a normal week of supervising trainees, approximately half the permanent staff exchanged shiny Barrack dress trousers for combats, and on Friday evening in May, set off to Beckingham training area for the biannual Group Military Training Weekend, to get the normally static unit into a tactical setting and practise various techniques, other than the mandatory subjects covered in the course of normal military training throughout the year.

Following a series of lectures and briefings covering subjects such as 'The Geneva Convention and the Threat', and a basic map reading refresher, the players were deployed in sections to the training area to 'basha up' for the night. The weather was kind—not a drop of rain to mar the 'fun'.

At sparrow . . . very early Saturday morning, the red-eyed brigade moved to exercise control for a detailed briefing on the very full day ahead. The sections then moved around the training area to five separate stands—bayonet fighting, grenade throwing, an introduction to the SA 80 and LSW, live GPMG firing and survival training. The majority of instructors were drawn from personnel serving with Comms & Sy Gp (UK), but valuable assistance was given by **Lt Clover RRF** and **Sgts Roll** and **Small** from the Queen's Division Depot, in the main, instructing on weapons and on the grenade range.

The day culminated in a superb night GPMG shoot, with everyone blasting away from 300m using 1:1 tracer. The night sky was illuminated for miles, and there was strong rumour that someone had hit a target. Not over yet . . . The sections gathered for the next phase of the exercise, which involved each section 'going tac', and disarming a trip flare (having first found one), RV-ing with other sections and adopting a 'platoon in defence' posture. Needless to say, the 'enemy' force, under **SSgt Bob Smith**, took every opportunity (and great pleasure) in 'brassing up' the sections whenever possible. The result—not much sleep.

The exercise moved into its final phase on Sunday morning, with a march and shoot and an assault course competition. As luck would have it, a freak heatwave hit the area, the temperature soared as the weary sections force marched a gruelling course, heaving themselves over the assault course and finally, getting into the prone position for a 'falling-plate' contest. **Sgt Keith Breen**'s section won overall. However, it was a close run contest. The CO, **Lt Col Robin Eccles**, congratulated all participants.

Training Weekend

EXERCISE *NIGHTBIRD*
THE WIVES VIEW

On Friday 19 June the wives decided if the men could do an exercise, so could they. We all met at the guardroom at 1730 hrs and climbed into the back of a four tonner. Destination—Beckingham Ranges.

We were split up into two sections. **Jan Urquhart** was IC of the 'A' Team and **Liz Kennedy** was IC of the 'B' Team. The next item on the agenda was map reading. The four tonner took both teams to their drop-off points, destination—the Pub. There were no problems finding that, and after a few bevvies, it was back to camp for a quick pyrotechnic demonstration, then came the bit we had all been waiting for—Guard! **Chris Kent** and **Syd Farquhar** volunteered for the first stint— but they didn't know that the DS was waiting for them. **Sgt Chris 'I'm a doctor' Sinnett** and **Sgt Gavin Lawson 'I'm his assistant' Russell. Chris Kent** and **Syd Farquhar** didn't realise they could run so fast after hearing strange noises in the woods. The DS just managed to get back to camp before them. The rest of the night passed peacefully.

All up bright and early Saturday morning (0530 hrs). The **RSM Steve Kent** thought his luck would be in with all the ladies and was expecting breakfast in bed. All he got was a shock when his wife **Chris** walked in armed with camera and flash.

It was soon time to pack up camp and move back to Barracks for the Assault Course, then home to shower, change and perfume ourselves before the barbecue prepared for us by our husbands.

The wives who attended were: **Mrs Birch, Mrs Brock, Mrs Carr, Mrs Duggan, Mrs Farquhar, Mrs Greenhalgh, Mrs Grimwade, Mrs Heath, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Kent, Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Pickup, Mrs Russell, Mrs Urquhart.**

Our thanks go to the DS: **WO1 (RSM) Kent, WO2 Manger, Sgts Sinnett, Russell, Cpl Williams, WPte Goulter.**

THE 'ARTHUR BRITTON' TROPHY

It has been a long time since the 'Arthur Britton' Trophy has been awarded to a student who has completed STg training; to be precise, two years and ten months. The award is only given for overall excellence and in June this year, the recipient of this coveted award was **Sig Robert Thomson.**

In the presence of staff and students of 3 Coy (Trg), the CO, **Lt Col Robin Eccles**, presented the trophy, a silver cup and certificate to **Sig Thomson**, congratulating him for his endeavours and the example of high standards he achieved.

Sig Robert Thomson receiving the 'Arthur Britton Trophy' from the CO Lt Col Robin Eccles

ATHLETICS 1987

The Athletics Team has been training since April in preparation for the 'Eastern District Championships' which were held in Colchester. Of the 14 events in the programme, the unit team achieved seven firsts and overall victory on the day. As a result of our success, the team was selected to represent Colchester Garrison v Chelmsford AC, Ipswich Harriers AC and Colchester Burrow AC.

The team then progressed to the 'Zone A' final held at Aldershot on 24 June 1987 in a strong contest throughout the day with PCD Mill Hill. **Cpl Robinson** achieved a personal best in the long jump, 6.5m, and **Sgt Foster** set a personal best in the 400m hurdles with a time of 55 seconds. Battling all the way to gain top position, the deciding event was the final one on the programme, the 4 × 100m relay. In a close finish, we were runners up to the winners PCD. However, this gave the team a place in the Army Finals which were held in Aldershot on 15 July 1987.

The Army Final proved to be a closely contested Championship

Cpl Williams receiving the cup from GOC Eastern District Maj Gen P. W. Graham

between the rivals, PCD Mill Hill and Dulmen. **Cpl Robinson** improved in the long jump achieving a new personal best of 6.56m and won this event.

At the end of the day, we were placed third and only four points separated the top three teams; quite an achievement for our team.

Saturday, 25 July at Middlesborough, the team took part in the Morrison Cup (UK) for the first time, and returned with the Morrison Cup, setting five records in the 200m, 400m, high jump, shot, and 4 × 400m relay. A nice climax to the Athletics season.

SWIMMING AND WATER POLO

Once again the Group Swimming Team has had a most successful year. Training under **SSgt Dick Pickup** started in February and due to a lack of available pool time it consisted of three one hour sessions per week in three separate pools! However, the enthusiasm and commitment of team members made light of this small problem.

Our first event again was the Eastern District Championships at Colchester on 9 June. An added attraction this year was our first attempt at the Water Polo Competition in the morning, and due mainly to **Cpl Paul Noble** and **SSI Steve Grimwade** we came away as easy winners of the Minor Unit Water Polo Championships. This boosted our morale for the Swimming Championships that afternoon which we won very easily, scoring 46 out of a possible 48 points. Highlights of the event were **Sig Jack Hawkins** in the backstoke, **LCpl Mark Wilkinson** winning the 100m freestyle by over ten seconds and both our relay teams winning by over a length.

Our next event was the UKLF Water Polo semi-final at Minley on the 30 June. Unfortunately due to the loss of two experienced players—**Cpls Rutherford** and **Bailey**—we had a depleted squad and were outclassed by the major units but finished fourth. The following day saw us at the RMA Sandhurst for the Zone A Swimming Championships. Again we had an easy win losing only one race, and the best performance was from **LCpl 'Grob' Fleming** who came from behind to win the breaststroke.

Wednesday 22 July saw us returning to Sandhurst for the Army Swimming Championships. The morning consisted of the Single Event Relays in which we performed well—winning one and being runners up in the other two relays. So to the afternoon and the major event of the year the Army Minor Unit Swimming Championships. We knew the competition from BAOR would be strong with 29 Sig Regt, as ever, the probable favourites. We started off well with **LCpl Mark Wilkinson** winning the 66 2/3yd free-style in an impressive time

Standing Left to Right: WO1 (RSM) Kent, Sig Hanlon, LCpl Fee, Sgt Willard, WO2 Lang, LCpl's Jones, Davies, McGaughey, Paxton, Sig Leonard, Cpl Chilcot, SSI Grimwade and Maj Fender
Kneeling Left to Right: Sig Shipsey, Cpls Williams, Robinson, Sig Eastwood, Cpl Williams, Sgt Foster, SSgt Douglas, Sig Leggett

of 34.27 seconds. Our other three individual swimmers all came second in their races, and going into the final two races, the relays, we found ourselves level on points with 29 Sig Regt. However, glory was not to be ours, we were beaten narrowly in both relays by the Berlin team. The final placings were:-

Winners	29 Sig Regt (Berlin)	45 pts
Runners Up	Comms & Sy Gp (UK)	41 pts
Third	204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn	27 pts

1987 HONOURS

Winners E Dist Swimming Championships
Winners E Dist Water Polo Championships
Winners Zone A Swimming Championships
Runners Up Army Swimming Championships

1987 TEAM MEMBERS

SSgt Dick Pickup, SSI Steve Grimwade, Sgt Mark Jackson, Cpls Paul Noble, Ian Williams, Steve Bailey, 'Fud' Rutherford, Sean Nayler, Guy Roberts, LCpls Mark Wilkinson, 'Grob' Fleming, John Watts, Ken Jones and **Sig Jack Hawkins**.

UNIT ROAD RUNNING

Road running continues to be a 'growth sport' within Comms & Sy Gp (UK) and we have had several notable times recorded this year. As a warm up to the London Marathon, **WO2 Bob Hodges, SSgt (SuprvR) 'Jock' Douglas** and **SSgt (SSI) Steve Grimwade** entered the gruelling Rutland Water Mini-Marathon, 17 miles of undulating country roads around the pictureque Water. **SSI Steve Grimwade** achieved a very commendable 1 hr 35 min which to you non-runners, is an average five a half minutes per mile!

In May, the unit was fortunate to have three runners entered in the London Marathon—**WO2 Bob Hodges, Sgt 'Jock' Dengate** and **Cpl Clive Ward**. **Sgt 'Jock' Dengate**, who raised £250 for Cystic Fibrosis managed a notable 3hrs 29min, thereby breaking one of distance runnings big 'barriers', the dreaded three and a half hour mark. **Cpl Clive Ward**, not far behind, finished in 3hrs 42min and a slightly more pedestrian **WO2 Bob Hodges** managed 4hrs 13min, however, through his endeavour, he raised £460 for the British Heart Foundation.

Since then, the unit has entered runners in a variety of races—half marathons, ten miles and ten kilometres mainly in the East Midlands area. Stalwarts of the running club have including **LCpl Steve Fee** and **Sig Andy Halliday, Jack Hawkins** and **Bob Richards**.

SHOOTING TEAM

The team, comprising **WO2 Jerry Nation, SSgt Bob Smith, Sgts Chris Sinnett, Mike Laybourn, Cpl 'Bert' Robinson** and **Sig Colin Geekie**, entered the first of this years competitions, EDSAM. Competing for a place at Bisley, we achieved third place. Depot Queens Div (SA 80) and MCTC who were first and second respectively. Whilst at Colchester, we entered the District Skill at Arms competition with a reduced team. Notable successes were—Pistol, **WO2 Nation** second, and **SSgt Smith** fourth.

The team competed at the Royal Signals SAM and as newcomers, achieved a reasonable result, third place. However, we won the Minor Units Section Match and the SMG match. **WO2 Nation** was first overall in the Henry Whitehead Match.

WO2 Nation, winning an individual place to compete at Bisley, did well to be placed second in the Moving Target Match (48), was amongst the top 50 in the SMG and was selected to represent Royal Signals at the NRA Competition following RASAM.

GROUP CRICKET—1987 SEASON

This season has not been as successful as the 1986 season, when we won the E Dist Minor Units League. This year, we lost two of the regional league matches, which left 657 Sqn AAC to go through to the final at Colchester by virtue of the fact they won four of their matches.

Two of our cricketers **Sig Mark Atkinson** and **Sig Brian Lord** were selected to play for the District in the Army Inter-District Festival in Aldershot. Some of the cricketing talent which appeared this season shows promise. **Sig Keith Barber** and **Pte Stewart Buxton** have appeared as budding batsmen with **Stewart Buxton** proving a mean bowler; as two members of Depot Queens Div will vouch. **Cpls Ivor Moore** and **John Sullivan** also joined our team and will provide it with two all-rounders of high quality.

The future of the Group's cricket seems in good hands for next season, when we will hopefully, hit the Trophy trail once more.

SOCCER

Under the guidance of **Capt Clive Honor** and **WO2 Iain Urquhart** the Unit completed the season in a mid table position in the Lincolnshire Services League, against some extremely strong RAF competition and the final placing reflects the high standard of football being played at the Unit.

A 4—0 defeat by a powerful 4 ADSR in the Cup Final does not detract from a fine season which saw **Sig Craig Shrives** earn his Corps colours.

Sgt Jeff Newsome has recently left us for Blandford and his energetic leadership will be sorely missed. Recent acquisitions to the squad include **Sgt Eddie Small** and **Cpl John Sullivan**. As the new season approaches we are hoping for even greater success.

2 COY—OPERATIONS PLATOON

Life is as hectic as ever at the 'sharp end'. Our gallant leader—**Capt (Tfc) Clive Honor**, ably assisted by the Ops WO, **WO1 (Supvr R) Mick Ford**, continues to crack the whip and wear a perpetual smile! Arrivals and departures have been many; indeeded too many to list here. Due to move in the near future is **WO1 Ford**, good luck **Mike**. His successor, **WO2 (SupvrR) Peter Forster** will join us (the fishing is good, so bring your rod).

The Company was well represented when the Unit won the E Dist Minor Squash Championship. The following were members of the team:- **WO2 (Supvr R) Brian Inglis** (now Mr), **SSgt Wyn Gordon** (SPA), **Sgts 'Jock' Dengate, 'Stitch' Woollard, Cpl Steve Goring** (now Mr) and **Cpl Nige Watton**.

MEDAL PRESENTATION

On 5 August 1987 we were honoured by a visit from the Colonel Commandant Intelligence Corps **Maj Gen C. R. L. Guthrie LVO, OBE**. Following a tour of the Unit and an opportunity to speak to many students in their training environment, **Gen Guthrie**, at a formal ceremony presented medals and awards to the following personnel:-

Sgt Terry Welsh	MSM (27 years' service)
WO2 Martin Foster Int Corps	LS & GC
WO2 Pete Manger	LS & GC
Cpl Leo McDermott ACC	LS & GC
Cpl Melvyn Barkworth	LS & GC
Sgt Keith Breen	GOC NI Commendation

Congratulations to all recipients.

The White Helmets

VOLUNTEER NOW for a 3 year tour with this world famous Display Team

If necessary we will teach you to ride.

Applications are particularly welcome from soldiers with gymnastic ability to assist in developing new acts.

Next Selection Course: 6-22 Nov 1987

Apply NOW through your unit to Royal Signals Manning & Record Office and send a copy of your Application to - OC White Helmets
Royal Signals Demonstration Team
Catterick Garrison
North Yorkshire.

Signal Training Centre Scarborough

Well now, what has happened since STC last made an appearance in the Wire? Indeed have we ever been in the Wire? Dusting off ancient history volumes, found buried beneath paperwork on the CO's desk, we find that the Signal Training Centre has indeed made an appearance although two world wars have broken out since then!

Situated in Burniston barracks, Scarborough, Queen of Yorkshire's sunshine gold coast (some ad man's idea of a sick joke, we are all on our second set of waterproofs here) we are well known to members of the TA Signal Units and to many others as well. Since February there have been many changes in the millitary staff. **Lt Col (QM) Brian Cleaver** has departed with his wife **Pam** to 13 Sig Regt. **WO2 (now WO1) (RQMS) Geoff Budd** and family have been sent to London for their sins. They will all be sorely missed for their hard work at STC and in the local community for their efforts towards local charities. To replace these losses **Lt Col (QM) Tom Cran** has been posted into the boss's chair at a very difficult time for STC, with many cutbacks in the offing; he has well and truly been dropped in at the deep end.

WO2 (RQMS) Pete 'Mines a half' Reynolds has arrived on promotion from 36 Sig Regt (V) and has settled in very quickly. Mystery question 'Has anyone seen the RQ?' 'No, although he could be windsurfing, motor cycling, trying to play football or cricket, on a course, on leave . . . then again he could be at work'.

The five military and ten civilian permanent staff workers have a wide variety of tasks to perform inside and outside of barracks. Burniston barracks being an important part of the local community economically and socially as well as supporting the local branches of the RSA and the British Korean Veteran's plus football and badminton clubs.

One of the more pleasant duties undertaken was to take a party of seven handicapped children from Seamer Mount Hostel on a day trip to Flamingo Land.

Sgt Les 'Mayfair' Hair our resident collector of memorabilia was left in charge of the barracks as the rest of the military staff were run ragged by the children at the fun part. Being taken on big dippers, swinging Viking ships and other devilish whirling, looping, twisting rides proved a very tough character test after the consumption of several hamburgers and ice creams.

Special mention must go to the CO who did an excellent job looking after **Paul**, and **SSgt (SQMS) Norman 'the storeman' Crossley** who looked after a little terror called **Simon**, whose limits of energy and fun proved endless. After several hilarious moments mainly involving **Simon** and a sweating breathless SQMS, a surprisingly tiring but very enjoyable day came to an end.

A vote of thanks must go to **Norman Crossley** for wearing his false teeth for the day enabling all present to understand him. Surely without them he would have emptied the fun park on the first smile.

Many things are due to happen at STC in the near future. Building refurbishment is constantly under way, a re-equipment programme is in the offering to include Triffid, Trend and possibly Euromux. The constant comings and goings of a wide variety of visiting units, from R Signals to ACF makes STC an interesting place to be and not quite the little sleepy hollow some people would have you believe.

School of Signals Blandford Camp Dorset

1 SQN SCHOOL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS

The School held its Annual Athletics Competition on a day in July when the weather was more suited to testing the water and wind repelling qualities of both Barbour jackets and large umbrellas: Notwithstanding the terrible weather, all departments of the School took part and with some judicial jiggery pokery balanced with historical precedence, four teams were formed.

1 Sqn (TS) were on top form having already won (for the first time ever) the athletics standard competition and sights were firmly fixed on the double.

The competition began well for 1 Sqn with **Sgt Kev Truby** winning the high jump with a new record leap of 1.69m beating the previous 1984 record by 5cms.

There were many other notable individual performances from Squadron competitiors: **Sig Mark Taylor** won the 200m and came a very close second in the 100m, **Sgt Stu Little** ran an excellent tactical race to win the 5,000m but it was a hard won victory and as it had taken a lot out of him he had to settle for second place in the 1,500m.

The 4 × 100m relay team of **Sgt Dave Beggs**, **Cpl Pete Gillespie**, **Sig Chippy Wood** and **Sig Mark Taylor** had not run as a team before, yet were just beaten into second place.

As the Competition drew to a close the overall result was still wide open and with just the final 4 × 400m relay remaining 1 Sqn led the field from HQ Sqn by a mere three points. The Sqn team of **Sgt Mal Thomas**, **Sgt Ian Dobson**, **Cpl Dave Ruane** and **LCpl Martin Swiffin** had to finish no lower than one placed behind HQ Sqn to win the competition. The announcer, **Maj Peter Treseder** gave the race a grandstand build-up and there was no doubt that competition was going to be fierce.

Cpl Dave Ruane ran the first leg and managed a good hand over to **LCpl Martin Swiffin** in second place behind HQ Sqn. **Martin** ran a good circuit but was overtaken by a veritable greyhound from 1 Wing, he nevertheless handed over in close third place to **Sgt Mal Thomas**. **Mal** fought his way back into contention by catching and overtaking the HQ Sqn runner, he then handed over in second place to **Sgt Ian Dobson**. **Ian** ran the vital last leg needing only to finish where he was in second place to ensure 1 Sqn would win and take the Trophy for the first time in ten years. This he did and 1 Sqn was declared the winner. It was a splendid team effort made more remarkable by the quality of competition in very bad weather.

The spectators also deserve a round of applause for standing out in the sometime torrential rain and encouraging the athletes to a great 1 Sqn victory.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM

The Corps Museum is now firmly established on the tourist map of Southern England and the number of visitors attending the Museum has increased greatly and continues to do so.

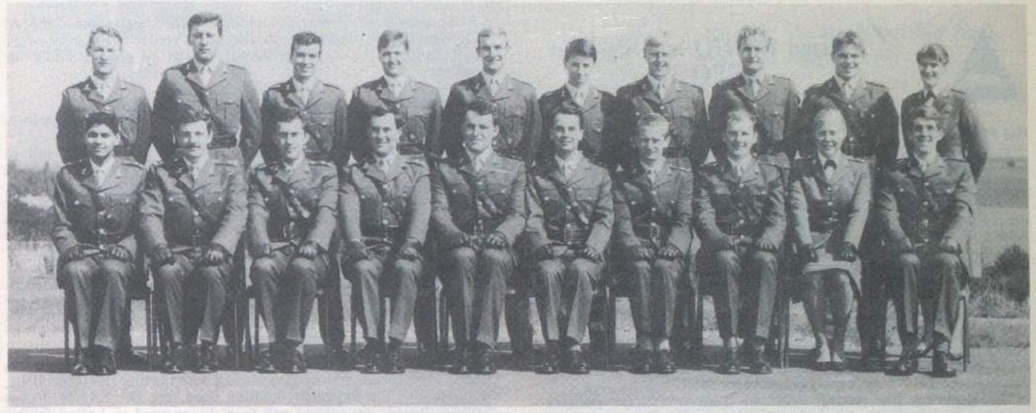
Unfortunately the Museum has insufficient staff to open at weekends which means that many would-be visitors are turned away. To help overcome this problem it is hoped to establish a voluntary society, 'Friends of the Royal Signals Museum', whose members might agree to man the Museum shop and supervise visitors during weekends.

Once the society has been established it is hoped to expand its role into research, cataloguing, preservation and assisting with displays. Assistance is also needed from volunteers who would be prepared to help renovate and maintain the historic uniform collection.

Any reader, resident sufficiently close to Blandford who is interested in helping the Corps Museum is asked to contact: **Maj (Retd) L. J. Taylor MBE**, Secretary, Friends of the Royal Signals Museum, c/o The Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset DT11 8RH.

TROOP COMMANDERS

Young officers leave the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for a short attachment to a Regiment/Squadron before coming to the School of Signals for their Troop Commanders Course. The latest course to arrive is Number ten.



No 10 Royal Signals Troop Commanders Course 13 July—13 November 1987

Back Row: L to R: Lt A. R. Blackwell (Alan), 2Lt K. W. Bowers (Kevin), 2Lt R. F. W. Chapman (Rupert), 2Lt A. Clark (Tony), 2Lt P. S. Cubbin (Pete), 2Lt W. D. Fathers (Bill), Lt M. J. Finch (Mark), Lt D. B. Hudson (Dave), 2Lt G. Inglis (Graham), Lt S. J. MacLeod (Shelagh) *Front Row: L to R:* Lt V. V. K. Pandya (Vinay), Lt J. Perrett (John), Lt M. J. Prodger (Martin), Lt A. H. Rogers (Alasdair), Lt N. P. R. Selby (Neil), Lt A. J. Stringer (Alan), Lt J. S. Stuart (John), Lt I. P. F. Vingoe (Paul), Lt D. J. Wheatley Price (Debbie), Lt A. M. White (Andy)

SHAPE BFPO 26

HANDOVER/TAKEOVER OF RSMS

March 1987 is a date that **WO1 (RSM) Don Holmes** won't forget. After taking over from **RSM Davies** his first offical function was to meet and escort **HRH The Prince of Wales** who was on an official visit to SHAPE.

WO1 (RSM) Mick Davies hands over to WO1 (RSM) Don Holmes

LIVE OAK (Sometimes known as DEAD ELM) VIGNETTES

'When he is here he is good, but when he is not' well he is probably playing golf with the General. **FofS McDonald** continues to make his mark on balls of many sizes, mainly because he wants to be sure he gets them back after the game. His team in the LIVE OAK bowling league is struggling at the moment but he leads them with style and more than makes up for the minor setback with his golfing prowess. We believe that there is a golf course on Benbecula but we doubt the existence of a bowling alley. (OC 632 Sig Tp be warned-do not make promises to investigate any request for works services in a weak moment. **FofS McDonald** reports for duty in the Outer Hebrides in August and will be replaced at LIVE OAK by **FofS Robinson** from 204 Sig Sqn.

After months of upset in the Commcen and Tech workshops area we are now the proud owners of an Argus 700 message switch which 'speaks' ACP 127 and JANAP 128. The upset was witnessed with impish delight by the SOinC when he visited earlier this year. Please come back soon Sir, and enjoy the sterile calm of the 21st Century Commcen. (All this without soldiers),

Sgt Ken Mitchell who is fairly new here has recently developed a penchant for barter. Nothing under the general heading of 'militaria' remains exempt from an offer for very long. Nothing, that is except items of a transient nature and insubstantial value such as long johns, leather bootlaces, boot brushes stamped 23592922 and so on. Button sticks, housewives, Bundeswehr gas masks and Martini Henry rifles brought down from Radfan 1961/63 all catch his eye. The currency? 'Well Sir, these genuine articles commence . . . '.

The Belgian winter had gone, come again, gone and has given way in mid June to a wet front (back and sides). SHAPE has a unique position in the world of meteorology, to the South East and West lie the Ardennes which dump their rain on it, to the North and West lies the Manche which clouds it in mist, to the North and East lies Siberia. Underfoot are old coal workings and above? well the wet front does show signs of passing.

The weather no longer affects **SSgt Jim Shiels'** knee. With the wire and pins removed he can move freely and without hindrance to and fro in the building. Perhaps the fourth football pool can take place now that he is back to organise it. He won the first and came dangerously close to winning the third with a relatively unknown scoring team like Rangers. 'Maybe Australian teams will give the rest of us a better than evens chance', writes Sheffield Wednesday, 'At eleven goal or bust other factors such as remaining length of tour, have to be taken into account before joining the pool'.

UK *Prattle*, an 'underground' newspaper inspired by the UK Commcen, adds a measure of levity to the conduct of our military affairs. However we have a firm promise from the editorial staff that in the interests of international relations competition section posers like, 'arrange into a well known saying or phrase AFRTS (American Forces Radio and Television Service), will not appear in future issues.

The live oak in front of LIVE OAK thrive (they love the d....d weather). The six acorns imported to UK by the SCO now thrive in his garden in Herefordshire (only six asks Cpl X—foolish boy). We press on to technological pastures new. Quercus Borealis Rules OK!

We welcome **Maj John Stuart, WO1 (RSM) Don Holmes, WO2 (FofS) Pete Grist, Cpls Pete Allen, Gordon Fleming, Bill Jones, 'Enoch' Powell** and **Martin Richards**. We say farewell to **WO1 (RSM) Mick Davies, WO2 (FofS) Colin Ramsay** on promotion to WO1 and posted to Queen's Gurkha Signals. **Sgt Andy Hill** to 'civvy' street, **Sgt John Lockart** to 5 Airborne Bde, **Sgt Dusty Miller** to FI (Fantasy Island) **Maj Manders** also to FI **Cpl Brian Hayles** (on promotion) to 210 Sig Sqn. **Cpl Jock Brash** to Queen's Gurkha Signals and **Cpl Ossie Bulter** to 8 Sig Regt on his T1.

1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 32

HQ SQUADRON

TM Tp has been its usual busy self over the past few months with the seemingly never ending list of vehicle inspections and paperwork to be done. We have however managed to fit in some technical work as well and one or two pieces of equipment have left albeit reluctantly, the confines of the R&T shelf and rumour has it that we now have 3 ATE's up and running, 061 stand by you're next.

Radio tels has been and gone for another year, so quiet we almost missed it, who says you have to spend months preparing for it? Playing it off the cuff is much better, and you get better results anyway?

After several false starts, and a gap of several years since the last one, the Regiment was ORT'd but, unlike the last one, this one went quite smoothly. Despite all the mutterings and complaints, the Troop managed to load everything and convey it into the field. (Who said that a Radio ERV wasn't designed to carry cable?)

The Regiment has recently returned from two weeks military training at Vogelsang where everybody in the Troop enjoyed themselves and can't wait to return next year, maybe it has something to do with being only one week next year. **Sgts Dil Roberts** and **Derek Sexton** did particularly well during the camp, as Patrol Commander and Sergeant of the Best Platoon (something to do with having the best organised union).

The Troop has also had its fair share of visitors over the past few months. We tried to convince the SOinC that one or two things were slightly wrong with the system and what steps could be taken to remedy them. The new CO, **Lt Col Farrimond**, has been around, several times, to meet the Troop and find out what we all do. We have also had a farewell visit from the GOC.

Finally we would like to offer a warm welcome to **FofS Chris Platts** and his wife, **Anne**, who join us from 21 Sig Regt. We bid a fond farewell to **FofS Alan Hooley** and his wife and family as he takes up his appointment as TOT of 233 Sig Sqn. We wish them all the best.

SC TROOP

Vogelsang again was the setting for this year's annual Battle Camp. The majority of the Troop was recruited from the Squadron's three Platoons, Eagle, Hawk and Falcon. The residue, under the watchful eye of **WO2 (SSM) O'Hara**, was SCTs contribution to the Regimental DS complete with 570 mil sticks.

After eight days of supervising live section and platoon attacks, 84mm and 66mm (sub-cal) firing and grenade throwing, **SSgt (SQMS) Don Bruce** found it impossible to sleep. **WO2 (FofS(Ron Kirkwood** could not answer technical questions on the nightly games of Trivial Pursuit and **WO2 (SSM) Bob O'Hara** just went grey overnight.

The Battle Camp was going well for OC Sqn, **Maj Barton-Ancliffe**, until he decided it was time to try out his new Series 90 Land Rover cross country. His driver, **Cpl Geordie (Headcase) Headford**, drove the vehicle into a water-filled hole which forced the OC to leave the cab at great speed. **Cpl Headford** eventually managed to get the vehicle out of the lake. The OC was heard to say 'I think we'll stay clear of puddles from now on Cpl H'.

SC Troop welcome the recent arrival of **Sig Zack Topping** from 8 Sig Regt, we wish him the best of luck and hope he has a good sense of humour.

Stop Press: **Sgt Churcher** 'What costs three-quarters of a million pounds, is green and black and falls down pits?
SSgt (SQMS) Bruce 'An Eagle Tp 4 Tonner'.

1 SQUADRON
EAGLE TROOP
ARRIVALS

A warm welcome to **SSgt Warhurst** (known as 'Crazy Horse') posted in from the remote outpost of PIU.

EXERCISE *JUNE DIAMOND*

The Troop spent 10 days climbing in the Berchtesgaden Alps. Unfortunately, the Tp OC, **Lt Martin Ramshaw**, decided he preferred sky diving, injuring himself in the process. In general, the weather was awful and the 'whingeing' even worse. **LCpl 'My Boots are Killing Me' Kenworthy** and **Cpl 'What's The Point' Chairns**, being the main culprits.

The climbs however were demanding, and although some of the 'A' 'Whingeing' Team never want to stray from Verden again, most of the Troop enjoyed the 10 days. Anway it was all good training for Vogelsang.

FALCON TROOP

Once again the Troop entered a 'quiet period'. Time for those most elusive of beasts, leave and courses.

SSgt Dave Toleman had the 'pleasure', if thats the correct word, of taking 50 of the Regiment to assist RAMC TAVR on annual camp, Exercise *Folding Bed*. After many hours wait, the promised transport, a comfortable coach, failed to arrive, but three GS Bedfords did. We eventually arrived five hours late and promptly went to bed, only to be dragged out at various hours of the night to be 'made up' and casevac-ed out. This exercise resulted in so many 'Golden Blanket' Awards that it will take the Squadron the rest of the year to catch-up.

July saw the deployment of the Squadron on Exercise *Check Forge*. We deployed well in advance of everyone else and sneaked down the back lanes of Germany on a Saturday afternoon and into location (a wood). Our apologies to our old OC, **Maj Wright**, but it was the only high spot on Hohne Ranges that was not being shelled.

Sgt Graham Reith has had his usual eventful year. After his RSSSC, he proceeded to involve himself with the unit fire inspections, training with the Regiment shooting team, the Div SAAM, Corps SAAM, Bisley, leave again and then disappeared to Latina for his ACE High Course, in fact almost a repeat of last year. It is rumoured that he may have fitted in an exercise, but we cannot confirm this.

The Troop had a very successful Battle Camp, unfortunately it was always the bridesmaid, never the bride, being pipped at the post in all the competitions.

We would like to say farewell to **Capt 'Flags' Owen** to the School of Signals via Assistant Adjutant, and **Cpl 'Herfy' Openshaw** to TM Tp.

Welcome to **Capt McPhee** the new Captain Canada and Troop OC and to **LCpl Neil Whatley** and wife **Wendy**.

Congratulations to **SSgt Tom Patterson** and **Rita** on the arrival of their baby son and to **Cpl Jeff Jones** on his promotion to Sub Corporal.

HAWK TROOP
ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

Welcome to **LCpl McGoldrick** who joins us from Harrogate after turning up at 7 Sig Regt thinking that he was posted there! He spent the weekend in Herford with nobody wanting anything to do with him before being sent to us at Verden.

We say boodbye and good luck to **Sig (Pops) Popovic** who leaves us for civvie street, **Sig (Ginger Nija) Kavanagh** and **Sig (Spike) Williamson** who are posted to 21 Sig Regt.

EXERCISE *CHECK FORGE*

This was a 'static' exercise that involved only one move for Trunk Node 061! This was also the last exercise for the Troop OC, **Lt Roberts**. He was called upon to visit the Radio Relay dets and decided while he was up there to take a mud bath just to celebrate not having any more exercises with 061.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following:

SSgt Davey and wife **Linda** on the birth of **Michael James**.
Sgt Cox and wife **Wendy** on the birth of **James Derek Wayne**.
Cpl Rickard who has passed on the promotion board and will be leaving us shortly as a Sergeant.

2 SQUADRON
DEPARTURES

Fast and furious. Goodbye to **Sgt Mick Gaylard** and **Sgt Pete Jackson**—both off on promotion. **SSgt 'Wee Scouse' McAveety** is off in September to push chaps about as SSM in Soltau; **Sgt 'Worzel' Rixon** celebrated his coming promotion the other day by rugby tackling a very vulgar Porsche with his tasteful BMW. The Squadron 2IC, **Capt Ian Cameron-Mowat**, is also waving his posting order, but at least they're not promoting him—yet!

WINDSURFING

Lt 'Bon's' Mather, OC Papa Tp, led a Regimental team to glory in the 1 Armd Div Boardsailing Championships. The team—which also included **Capt Richard Giles, WO2 (SSM) Steve Bailes, Cpl Barry Raine** and **Cpl Andy Stevens**—made 11 other units eat dust and

Cpl Barry Raine, WO2 (SSM) Steve Bailes, Cpl Andy Stevens ACC with their trophies after the 1 Armd Div Boardsailing Championships (Runners up)

finished in second place. **Lt Mather** says that if **Capt Giles** hadn't been injured, they would have won. I want to know why they don't call it windsurfing, like it used to be?

BATTLE CAMP

Sunny Vogelsang again! It chucked it down for two solid weeks and the hills get steeper every year. 8 Platoon from 2 Sqn romped home winners in the Patrol Competition and the Squadron generally covered itself in mud and glory. Lots of background activities—stress positions, NBC assault courses and a Field General Court Martial—helped to keep spirits up as did the new game of throwing grenades at officers. Perhaps the hero of it all was Wilf, the 8 Platoon mascot, who ran a CFT, did the assault course, completed his NBC training and was presented at the end of camp with his lots of spinach and good carrots medal.

3 SQUADRON
WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The Squadron has had a few changes over the last two months. However, the changes have been significant, and are as follows:

We say farewell and all the best to:

WO2 (SSM) 'Ben' Britton, wife **Beryl** and family, to 11 Sig Regt on promotion to RSM, (Staffies Beware).
SSgt Dobson, wife **Sue** and family to 3 Armd Div Sig Regt, on promotion to WO2 (SSM).
Cpl 'Taff' Williams, Sig 'Tommo' Thompson and **'Woz' Warren**.

And welcome the following new arrivals:

WO2 (SSM) Ian Kirkpatrick, wife and family.
Cpl 'Sid' Perks, wife and family.
LCpl 'Jonah' Jones, wife and family.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for **Maj** and **Mrs Scott-Morton** on the birth of their son **John**. Sgt Ray and **Sue Bray** on the birth of their second son, **Jason William**. **Sgt Dave** and **Jo Harmen** on the birth of the son, **Christopher**.

Also, **Cpl 'Ed' Perry** and **Cpl 'Al Eley** on promotion to Sergeant.

GOC FAREWELL

3 Sqn had the privilege of providing a simulated Divisional Main Headquarters as one of the displays during the GOC's farewell. In addition, the Squadron toasted the General's farewell in traditional style. We now look forward to welcoming **Maj Gen Swinburn** as GOC 1 Armd Div.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OTC

The Squadron Commander, **Maj Brian Scott-Morton** had the task of entertaining the Cambridge OTC throughout their visit to Verden. A lengthy programme was produced to include all aspects of Regimental Life. **Lt 'Harriet' Makepeace** was enlisted as entertainments officer, a task he grasped firmly in both hands. **Sgt Ray Bray** and **Cpl Phil Parker** instructed OTC students in APC familiarisation, a harrowing experience for both of them.

BATTLE CAMP

Battle Camp this year took place at Vogelsang. The programme consisted of intense range work accompanied by basic soldiering skills, culminating in a Patrol Competition over 24 hours, covering a distance of approximately 40 kms, acquiring points at various stands along the route.

201 (22 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 30

NEW ARRIVALS

The Squadron, having been stable for sometime, decided to up-turn tables and introduce a number of new faces. We welcome our new 2IC, **Capt Bob Sharp, Sgt Cook RAOC, Sgt Breen RPC, Cpls Montomery, Pollitt, Sig Goodman, McKindland** and **Turnbull**. We hope they enjoy their tours with 201 Sig Sqn.

DEPARTURES

For those who have served their sentence here in Hohne and finally managed to escape, we say goodbye and wish them all the best in their new postings. **Capt Turnbull** is off to 11 Sig Regt where he intends to look after his new family addition, having neglected them in the line of duty as he swanned off to Norway on his JSMEL course. **Sgt Lynch** departs with his Irish coffee stall along with **Sgt Parsons, Cpl Lambe, Sig Lloyd** and **Dewar**. The latter is off to 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn.

ATTACHMENT

Straight from Sandhurst, **2Lt A. Clark** arrived at the 'sharp end' to do a three month attachment before attending his YO's course at Blandford. He found himself being gainfully employed on exercise, instructing in adventure training, and organising an athletics team, while also learning the ropes of the responsibilities of a Troop Commander. A keen sportsman, **2Lt Clark** found himself playing in every Squadron team while he was here. We wish him well for his new career in the Royal Corps of Signals and his Troop Commanders course at the School of Signals.

EXERCISES

On exercise the Squadron has been occupied with Exercise *Yellow Prairie*—1 Welsh Guards and 1 RTR BGT exercise in preparation for BATUS. Apart from providing the actual HQ, the Squadron provided

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three sections to be attached to 1 WG enemy for two weeks. Although the initial feeling was one of 'this is madness', the sections were soon integrated into the infantry way of life and all who participated enjoyed themselves whilst also gaining a better understanding of mechanised infantry tactics. The Squadron was also involved in Exercise *Check Forge*, a test exercise in preparation for Exercise *Reforger* in September. During this exercise, we were visited by the CinC BAOR **Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB**, SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** and GOC 3 Armd Div, **Maj Gen C. E. W. Jones CBE**. An exercise highlight on the final night was **Cpl K. P. Wright**'s surprise 21st birthday party!

ADVENTURE TRAINING

At the end of May, the two Staff Sergeants, **SSgt Tepielow** and **Stemmer** took two separate groups of married soldiers with wives and children to Bavaria. This was the first time that this type of Adventure Training had been organised within the Squadron. And all were wondering if 24 families could get on for a week. Well, there was no need to worry—it was a great success and all enjoyed themselves. It is hoped to make this an annual occurence within the Squadron. Also, **SSgt Smith** managed to take a group sailing at Keil. Most hadn't even seen a boat at close range, but all came back far the wiser.

SHOOTING TEAM

Having done very well in the Regimental and Div SAAMs, great hopes were being placed on the team as they crossed the channel for the Royal Signals SAAM and Bisley. The luck broke and the team returned virtually empty handed. **LCpl Basford** received a bronze medal for the moving target shoot at Bisley.

TRI-NATION WEEK

During one week in June, our local town of Bergen held an international festival involving Dutch, German and British. This event consisted of various teams both military and civilian competing in various sports. The Squadron organized the sporting participation for all British units and sent teams in for the marches, volleyball and .22 shooting which we organized. All participants enjoyed themselves and the Squadron received a few prizes.

SPORT

The Squadron's sporting achievements are almost too many to mention. The highlight was of course the Inter Troop cricket match. In the final it was between A and B Tp, SHQ and Offrs and SNCOs having been knocked out. It was a closely contested match and an unusual final innings by **Sig Goodman** lost A Tp the match.

The rugby season, almost over, the Squadron sent two teams to the Hamburg Rugby 7s meeting. Perhaps outclassed by the civilian teams, it was good experience for all and a nice round-up to a good season. Many thanks to **Cpls Lambe** and **Hartland** for their efforts. The football team has also been kept busy, just returning from Paderborn in defeat. However, the team won the 'Internationals' against Bergen. We cannot forget athletics where everyone made a valiant effort, **Capt Sharp** coming second in the Morrison Cup at the high jump, having only arrived in the Squadron the day before. The swimming team, under the watchful eye of **SSgt Donovan REME**, came second in the Regimental Swimming meet.

VISIT OXFORD UOTC

Finally, but not least of all, 27 male and female cadets from Oxford University OTC arrived for a two week attachment to the Squadron. A varied and interesting programme has been arranged for them and the SNCOs, JNCOs and soldiers involved in looking after them are enjoying this 'new look' towards military training.

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

207 (7 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 37

ATHLETICS

The Athletics team has had a highly successful season. Under the watchful eye of **Lt Steve Felton** and **Sgt Dave 'I'm not running the 5,000 again' Forbes**, the team has gone from strength to strength. Having won the 7 Armd Bde Minor Units competition, the intrepid gladiators moved on to the Divisional Finals in Verden on 12 June. To everyone's surprise they managed to come second, beating several much larger units en route. Next came the BAOR Finals on 27 June and the team pulled out all the stops to achieve third place and qualified for the Army Finals in Aldershot on 15 July. We wish them all the best on the big day.

The triumphant relay team (*left to right*)
Cpl Dave 'Black Flash' Clarke, Sig Steve 'Airborne' Hope, Cpl Les North and LCpl Vince McNaught

GAMES NIGHT—13 JUNE 1987

During his intensive athletics training, **LCpl Vince 'Wendy' McNaught** found time off to issue a challenge to 3 Sqn 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt to attend a Games Night in Soltau. The events started calmly enough until the master of ceremonies decided to speed things up. **LCpl Geordie Whitehead** is not a man to upset on a rugby field, especially when it's the size of a squadron bar. A very successful evening, we wait in anticipation for the rematch.

SUMMER CAMP

SSgt Bob Wright being the good technician that he is, found time to slope off to Eckernforde under the cover of adventure training. The lads did their best to make a go of canoeing, windsurfing and the other traditional summer camp activities, but not even a Radio Tech can demand good weather!

OPEN DAY—4 JULY

A ducking stool, a giant crane and a display of armoured fighting vehicles were just some of the attractions when the Squadron opened its gates to the public during the Soltau Station Open Day on 4 July.

The Barracks display consisted of stalls and demonstrations from many different units in 7 Armd Bde. In addition, local shops and businesses were well represented. The Soltau Feuerwehr's way of rescuing someone from a crushed and flaming car proved very popular with the crowds.

On the other side of camp, **SSgt Kevin Lodge** and **Cpl Chris Kidd** were busy hoisting unsuspecting 'celebrities' onto the Bravo Tp ducking stool. For some reason the volume of takings increased when the Squadron Commander **Maj James Shaw** and **SSM Steve Bailes** were on the stool.

A favourite with the children was Thomas the Tank Engine. The engine driver on this occasion was 7 Bde's answer to Casey Jones—**Driver Ray Newton**. It was not only the children who were fascinated by Thomas, **Sgt 'Gene Bay Joe' Marsh** was seen making several trips on board.

The afternoon complete, we now turned our attention to the Anglo German Disco. **Capt Charles Turner** decided it was up to him to lead the dancing, much to the enjoyment of his partners. The disco was well supported and produced a fitting climax to a highly successful day.

212 (12 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 36

DATELINE 24 JULY 1987

***WIRE* NOTES PRODUCTION TEAM GO ON STRIKE!**

They demand a mention before they type anymore! **LCpl John (I've had my docs inspection) Barclay** and **Pte Leanne (How do you spell that?) Myford WRAC.**

DATELINE 24 JULY 1987

HUNDREDS DESERT SQUADRON PRIOR TO AUTUMN EXERCISE SEASON!

The Squadron bade a fond farewell to the following over the past two months: **LCpl Paul Goodhall** (off to HQ Trg Gp, whatever that is), **2Lt Neil Selby** (who distinguished himself just before departure by playing squash for 24 hrs to raise money for the **Sig Green** appeal), he's now off to his Troop Commanders Course to learn how not to do it). **LCpl Tim Hopkins** (thanks for the engraved calculator), **Cpl Dinger Bell, Sig 'Dogs' Bohanna** (off to 5 AB Bde at last), **Cpl Nigel Dunnet REME** and **LCpl 'Fergie' Ferguson.**

Those newly arrived to fill the empty places include: **Cpl Tim Dunne REME, Pte Lee Gerrard ACC, Cpl Patrick Simpson RPC, LCpl Maz Warrington, Lt Andy Hill** (from Troop Commanders, not to put all that horse-riding training into practice) and **LCpl Anthony Brook.**

DATELINE 17 JUNE 1987

REGIMENTAL DINNER NIGHT—THE FIRST LOYAL TOAST by WO2 (SSM) R. Brown

The Squadron broke with tradition on 17 June. Instead of all the SNCOs making the long trek to Verden to dine in the newly arrived CO, an invitation was sent to come to Osnabruck to be dined in (a twist on the mountain and Mahomet line) and this was accepted.

The evening was a very relaxed 'formal' dinner with all available Squadron WOs, Officers and their wives welcoming **Lt Col** and **Mrs Farrimond** and also meeting **WO1 (RSM) McCardle** and his wife **Lin**, at last.

The dinner was brought to close by **Sgt Mark Leigh** (Mr Vice), now entrenched in the Fireside Fusiliers, with his last (and some say his first) act in the Army. He was it is believed, the first to give the loyal toast to our Colonel-in-Chief as the Princess Royal. The toast was timed at 2234 hrs (BAOR time), if you can beat this first by the normally 1st Division, let us know.

DATELINE 5 JULY 1987

THE SQUADRON DEPLOYS ON EXERCISE *CHECK FORGE*

For this exercise the majority of the Squadron was based in Blanchard Barracks, Nienburg. Most of them deployed a couple of days early to set everything up. Unfortunately the bus didn't arrive to take them from Osnabruck to meet up with the AFVs at Nienburg. They had known that things were going too well when the early breakfast had been served on time, But for the good of the Squadron, and for the travel claims money, a few volunteered to take their private cars. So the Squadron mounted up in its AFV Mazdas, AFV Ford Escorts etc, raised whip antennas and tuned into BFBS.

The convoy moved so quickly it even passed **Sgt Holden** with the ERV and line packet who seemed to be discussing their attempt at the world land speed record with the German Civil police.

The exercise was soon underway, with numerous visits from VIPs. The comms went well, but unfortunately the takings from the ERV tuck shop were down on last year. But with this practice exercise under its belt, the Squadron is on the edge of its seat awaiting the real one in September.

TM TROOP GO TO WAR!

Exercise *Certain Strike* got off to a Grand Prix start with **FofS (Legs) Hugill** and **Sgt (Spike) Holden** leading in pole position when suddenly the ERV, G sleeps and Line Rover picked up an impromtu speed certificate from the German Civil Police. During the exercise the Line Rover broke a lap record and picked up yet another. Bedford/Rover are now winning the manufacturer championship.

The Troop's financial problems were a matter of great concern, so suddenly overnight the 'Cafe de la ERV' appeared. Trade was brisk and highly profitable, mainly due to the efforts of the travelling salesman (FofS) who sold to staff officers things they did not really want to buy.

TM Tp Star Buys:
1 × Combine Harvester—**LCpl (My dad's got two and a Merc) Pattenden.**
1 × Opel Kadett 1.2s—**LCpl Strachan (Requires a little attention) Honest!**
1 × 436 Wavell Processor with full Tank-Price. 1 × Handbag either way.

Congratulations also to **Cpls Freemand** and **Howard** on their recent promotions. Welcome to the outfit (or is it outcasts) **Sig (Noddy) Werner** and **Sig (Sammy) Caughey**. We would also like to congratulate **Gill** and **Sammy** on their recent marriage.

DATELINE 5 JULY 1987

NIJMEGEN TEAM HEAD SOUTH FOR TRAINING WEEK!

The team was based for a week in the 1 ADSR adventure training hut at Moosbach to get in some alpine work—good preparation for a week's walking in Holland, thought the team. On day one **Cpl Steve 'Mountain Goat' Clarke** led the way up the south face of the 'Grunten'. This was followed by a more enthusiastic 10km walk to the bar.

Day two was planned to be more restful. 'Just 12 miles, lads, then we'll lounge by the lake all day', said **Dvr Mark 'Muscle Buster' Rowe**. Unfortunately the sun failed to show. Day three included a brief walk around the quaint town of Obersdorf (very brief for **Cpl Wayne 'More beer, less walking' Freeman** who headed stright for the bar). This was followed by a walk alongside a forced waterfall.

Day four brought out the tourists in the team as **Lt Billy 'I wanna go to Munich' Butlin** was dragged off to Dachau by **LCpl Rocky 'Death on the Roads' Ferrer** and some other wierdo's. Meanwhile **Sig Paul 'Ive gotta passport' Morgan** and **Cpl Errol 'Ive gotta camera' Bekret** headed for Switzerland with **Sgt Rob 'I'm their leader, which way did they go?' Taylor** and **Cpl Steve 'I'm sick of Driving' Clarke.**

Day five was Fellhorn day and 2,037m up it all seemed worthwhile, especially to **Sig Jock 'roll in the snow' Dougan**. The work over, the team dashed to get to the barbecue—prepared by **Pte Lee 'Wide Boy' Gerrard** and **SSgt Wyn 'God, it's rough here' Neish**. The hard week's training over, the team could face Nijmegen confident, fit and suntanned.

DATELINE 12 JULY 1987

SUMMER CAMP WEEK TWO COMMENCES

A party consisting of 25 members of the Squadron under the watchful eye of **SSgt (I am the Camp SSM) Neish**, left for the 1 ADSR Ski Hut in Moosbach Bavaria with the intention of doing some hectic adventure training, consisting of hill climbing, led by our intrepid leader, **Lt 'Hector' 'Can we find a bigger hill' Hunter**, trekking led by **Sgt 'Taff' 'I'm sure that we should have gone that way' Brooks RAOC**. Finally windsurfing by **Sgt 'Do I really have to get up' Holden.**

The week started off by us being split up into our respective groups, for training over the next three days. After the three days it was decided to have an inter section orienteering morning, on which all bets not to complete the course were firmly fixed on the old and bold members of the party, which consisted of **SSgt 'I hope there is a guest house at the top' Hardy, SSgt 'What a waste of time' Loughton** and finally, not to be left out, the oldest member of the section **Sgt 'Has anyone seen my stick' Docherty**. However, all bets were proved right and after 8 of the 12 clues correct our intrepid orienteerers took a wrong turn and failed to complete the course. Only the intervention of **SSgt 'Big Wyn' Neish**, stopped our adventurers from ending up in Munich. However they were all presented as top failures with a stick of Falmouth Rock.

The next day after a hearty breakfast saw the party break up to do various visits to Dachau and Munich. The remainder ended up windsurfing again with **Sgt 'Latex' Holden**. Later that evening the groups were treated to a barbecue.

LCpl 'Ally' Strachan decided that it would be advantageous to his health to sell his car to the scrappies rather than break down on the return to Osnabruck. Selling Price? 5DM.

Friday morning saw a tearful departure back to Osnabruck after an excellent week of adventure training.

DATELINE 14 JULY 1987

COMD COMMS MAKES FARWELL VISIT TO SQUADRON!

On arrival, **Brig Sam Cowan**, had the usual chat over coffee with the OC Sqn. But what was there to show him afterwards? Half the Squadron were away on Summer Camp in Bavaria, the other half were unloading AFVs at the railhead following Exercise *Check Forge*. Bravely the SSM **Bob Brown**, and OC Oscar Tp, **Richard Butlin** stepped in to take him on a tour of the garages. After walking around the same 436 five times he was beginning to suspect something, but luckily **Sgt Kev Jones** and **Cpl Paul Wickham** appeared from behind a panzer on cue:

Comd Comms asks Cpl Paul Wickham why his hands are so clean if he's working on his panzer

After this excitement the Brigadier was taken for lunch to the Squadron club where luckily a few more soldiers were produced for him to meet.

The OC Maj Jon Henderson discusses his six weeks leave application, with Comd Comms—The SSM WO2 Bob Brown is not impressed

After lunch Comd Comms just had time to give a farewell speech to the Squadron as this was his last visit to us before leaving his appointment.

DATELINE 19 JULY 1987

NIJMEGEN TEAM HEAD WEST

On Sunday 19 July the 12 Armd Bde Sig Sqn team set off for Nijmegen. The previous six weeks had been spent in rigorous training for the forthcoming event. On arrival at the tented paradise **Sig Steve 'fat boy' Preece** immediately assumed his horizontal tent orderly position in the semi detached penthouse.

The whole team was then subjected to the ordeal of semi-living Dutch meals with the sandwich fillings regularly doing a runner off the bread.

On day one the team set off with a look of apprehension on their faces, none more than **Sgt Rob Taylor** who on walking the length of the tent asked: 'Are we half way yet?' On day two **Daz 'dance on my face please' Williamson** fell by the wayside, the first and only casualty. On day three **Eddie 'the Spam' Raine** provided the entertainment with his repertoire of such hits as Go Left, Capt Jack etc and all the other famous American songs with backing by **Mark 'where's the camera' Rowe**. Day four saw the culmination of all our efforts and the sight of the finishing line where the team managed a last burst and ran in.

The evening was spent improving relations between British and Dutch and all members were back in time for the transport home. All in all a good time was had by all and the team returned in good spirits with medals. So much so that **Sgt Rob Taylor** is even considering the Belgian Death March, not bad for a Pay Sergeant.

DATELINE 23 JULY 1987

MT FINISH *WIRE* NOTES ON TIME!

The MT is still in a state of expectation as it awaits the arrival of the new MT Sergeant. The old one **Sgt Mark (I've had enough) Leigh** decided to throw in the towel and start a new life in civvy street. We wish him all the best in his new life. Meanwhile the MT is under the eagle eye of **Sgt Doc (I wanna tell ya a story) Docherty**.

The Bundespost have now admitted that the new MT building does exist and have actually installed the phone some four months late. The backlog of details has to be seen to be believed.

FAREWELLS ALSO GO TO:

Cpl Sammy James on his posting to 14 Sig Regt and also to **SSgt Trev Loughton** on his posting back to the TA with 35 Sig Regt (V). We wish both of them and their wives good luck in their new units.

DATELINE 24 JULY 1987

SQMS *WIRE* ENTRY DELAYED BY POSTAL STRIKE!

Very little to report on the sport and social scene. Once again its been 'noses to the grindstone' for the boys in the 'Horn of Plenty Dept!

Congratulations go to **Cpl 'Dinga' Bell** and his wife **Iris** on the birth of their daughter **Anna Marie**, and we wish them all well in their new posting in 249 Sig Sqn.

We welcome to our happy team, **LCpl 'Maz' Warrington**—now back in civilisation after spending a couple of years in Shetland.

LCpl 'Archie' Brown who has joined us from the delights of 1 ADSR, and finally to **Sig 'Smudge' Smith**—keep trucking on **Smudge** and you are sure to get that 'Mojo' licence soon!

Maj Jon Henderson presents a Squadron Plaque to 2Lt Neil Selby in an endeavour to persuade him to leave for Blandford

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

EXERCISE *BRITTANY BOUND*

In a lull between storms, Phase I of Ex *Brittany Bound* set out from Gosport on *Skywave*, a Rival 32, painted in Corps colours, a very distinictive light blue and green strip on a dark blue hull. The crew consisted of **Maj Tony Wildgoose, Lt Ruth Littlejohns, YofS Derek McClelland, SSgt Keith Essam, LCpl Mus Hashem** and **Sig Rick Keeble** otherwise known as the 'young un'. Once on board and settled in, it was off to France on the morning tide under power. After a few hours it was 'Fair stood the wind for France' so we hoisted sail. Unfortunately the wind was light and gave us a slow crossing of 14 hours, however, it did give **Lt Ruth Littlejohns** time to practise her navigation under the watchful eye of **Maj Tony Wildgoose**. To the crew's relief we both came up with the same answer—they do say fools never differ—but we did hit the right bit of France before nightfall!

On the way over, the crew experienced the art of cooking at sea—a technique requiring finely tuned balance and no conscience at all about picking up your accidents off the cabin sole, washing them and trying again! Gourmets should note that ripe avacado does not come out quite the same the second time round. Once in Cherbourg we did a quick trawl of the town coming back with French bread and 'duty frees'. By this time, we had realised the foul tea was not the cook's fault but the water as 'off' so it was operation 'water baby' flushing out the tanks and refilling them. After a mass water test the water was declared drinkable and the standard of tea improved instantly.

The next leg of the trip was to Alderney where we practised anchoring and discovered the dinghy outboard could not be made to work despite the attention of two technicians. After some trial and error **Sig Rick Keeble** finally got the dinghy going in vaguely the right direction—as opposed to round and round like a demented water beetle. The run ashore to Alderney was highlighted by the local jazz band and the spectacle of **Sig Rick Keeble** and **LCpl Mus Hashem** chatting up the local talent.

Time was pressing, so it was back to England with an eventful crossing going from spinnaker (the pretty balloon-like sail) to bare poles (no sails) within four hours and back up to full sail again one the squalls were over. Once back in Poole Harbour, **Maj Tony Wildgoose** jumped ship and headed back to the Army Apprentice's College, Harrogate to greet the HMIS (Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools). We pottered round Poole for the day and headed back into the Solent and to Portsmouth via Beaulieu River and the 'Master Builder' hotel where **Sig Keeble** managed to fall overboard while tied alongside. This earned him the water baby prize.

Back in Gosport the boat was cleaned up and made ready for Phase II. **SSgt Keith Essam** and **Lt Ruth Littlejohns** made an epic trip to the supermarket and spent lots of money on food and goodies for the next week—bang goes the diet! Phase II was skippered by **Brig J. A. P. Russell** and crewed by **Lt Ruth Littlejohns, SSgt Kevin Wilson, Sig Steven Fasey, Pte Diane Berwick** and **Pte John O'Neil**. Sadly the weather was far from favourable so we set out for Lymington on the Solent to break in the crew gently. The next day it was off to France on a very bumpy ride which soon had all the crew involuntarily feeding the fish and looking green. At one point the immortal line 'to think we volunteered for this' was heard from the corner of the cockpit. We arrived in Cherbourg at last and after a midnight feast rolled into our bunks, relieved that life was no longer at 45°. Tides being what they are, we had an early start for Alderney although not before a trip to the hypermarket, where we found the biggest strawberry flan you've ever seen! It soon disappeared at dinner that night. The high point of the visit to Alderney was a bath—at a pound a head, it must be one of the most expensive baths ever taken.

All too soon it was back across the Channel leaving Alderney in thick fog which fortunately cleared mid-Channel giving us a brilliantly sunny day and sunburn—no need for the red port lights. Once into the Solent we had a very relaxed dinner on the move while watching the sun go down. We were finally alongside Cowes at midnight and were cleared by customs at one o'clock. **Pte Diane Berwick** wins the golden blanket award for sleeping through the customs clearance. After a quick trawl around Cowes where post cards were finally written and posted we set off for Langstone Marina. Our final run ashore was to South Sea Holiday Camp—it might be a nice place on a sunny day but on a cold wet June night it had little to recommend it. Happily, the last day dawned bright and dry for a change and we sailed into Gosport without wearing oilskins for the first time that week. Our thanks must go to **Brig J. A. P. Russell** and **Maj Tony Wildgoose** without whose expertise we could not have gone 'Foreign'. Overall, it was a most memorable exercise for all concerned.

1 SQUADRON BATTLE CAMP 1987
by SSgt Jim Graley

On Monday 8 June, 1 Sqn deployed to Cameron Barracks, Inverness for their yearly stint of military training. Ahead were seven days honing of basic soldiering skills to a fine edge. The programme was planned by **Capt Tim Watts** and **SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose**. The most surprising thing was the amount of flexibility which can be fitted into one week's training.

Days one and five were spent removing the cobwebs and re-introducing the sections to the wonders of NBC, weapon training etc. The highlight of this phase was **SSgt Dennis Jevons** completing almost four minutes of his gas chamber lesson before realising he had no cannister on his respirator!

Sgt Peter McCormick (left) and Lt Ian Birleson (right) with a section on one of the three mile runs

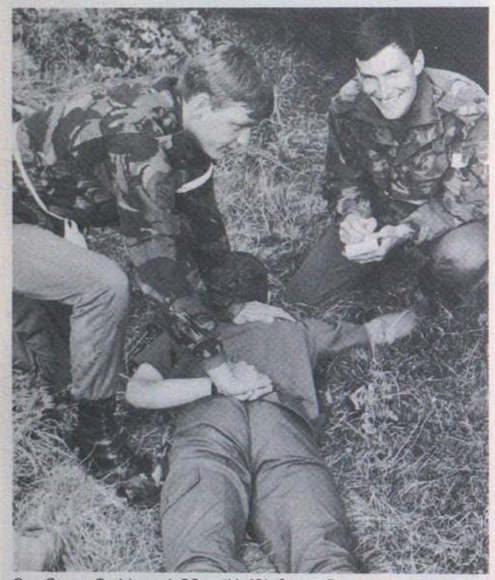
The Comfortable Check Point: Capt Tim Watts and WO2 (SSM) Sandy McLean enjoy reading the blue magazine they have just confiscated from SSgt Jim Graley. Sig Pete Haw (left) has read it before!

Sig 'Pig Pen' Garth and Sid Paddy Keenan in deep discussion en route. They agree it 'was never like this in the Falklands'

Sunday 14 June was the day of the section competition, organised by **Sgt Martin Bain** ably assised by **Cpl J. J. Johnson**. Eight stands worthy of note was a three mile run in full kit organised by **Lt Ian Birleson** and **Sgt Peter McCormick**.

The general knowledge test provided a few 'different' answers to cover up ignorance:-

NRSA (Nightly Rate of Subsistence Allowance)
Nurses Right Sexy Association
Not Received Say Again
National Round Seamens Association
TEWT (Tactical Exercise Without Troops)
Team Evaluation of Wasted Tents
JEWT (Jungle Exercise Without Trees)
Jewist Expedition Within Thailand
Jesus 'E Was There
NITAT (Northern Ireland Training Advisory Team)
Not in the Army's Time
Nights In That's all Tripe

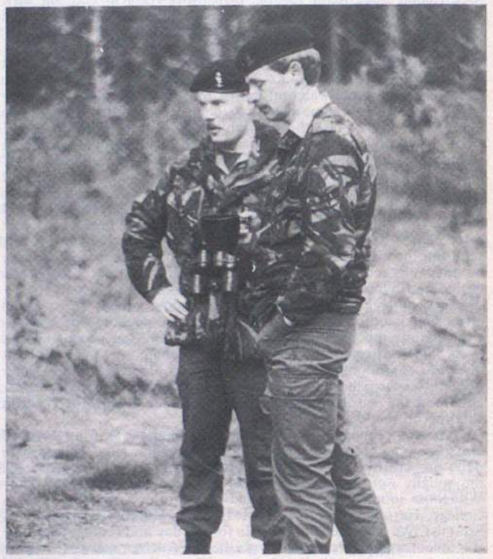


Sgt Steve Smith and SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose interrogate LCpl Colin Richardson

The Winning Section; Left to Right (Rear)—Sig Tony Welsh, Sig Bill Butler, Sig Dick Robinson. Left to Right (Front)—LCpl Billy Smart, LCpl Wilf Sneddon, LCpl Chinky Sloan, LCpl Rob Sear

Monday 15 June, the last training day, was a section map-reading exercise. The sections had to move through enemy territory collecting information from friendly agents and at the same time avoid capture by hostile forces. The sections were given the grid reference of their first check point and if they reached this successfully were then given the grid reference of the next one and so on.

Capt Paul Towers and **WO2 (FofS) Mick Kidd** had devised a wonderful scoring system which took into account the number of checkpoints reached, information gathered and how many times the section was captured. The winner on the day was the section led by **Cpl Andy Lowe** which ran a good deal of the way to produce the fastest time. The week came to a very successful conclusion and was enjoyed by almost all the squadron.



Maj David Hargreaves, a proper officer, realises that as usual he had no small change to pay for his tea. Sgt Mick Alcock looks away to avoid embarrassment!

NIJMEGEN MARCHES 1987
by SSgt Jim Graley

The Team: **SSgt Jim Graley**
Sgt Pete McCormick
Cpl Dave Jubb
Sig Gilly Gillanders
Sig Howgli Wahid
Sig Wobby Warburton
Sig Mick Storey
Sig Hutch Hutchings (Cycle orderly)
Sgt Jean Darragh (6 UDR)
Pte Clare Mawhinney (6 UDR)
Cpl Joe Hennessy (208 Gen Hosp RAMC Liverpool)

Due to injuries, the Regiment was not able to send a full marching team to Nijmegen and the numbers were made up from 6 UDR and a medic from Liverpool TA. Never having met our additional marchers before arriving at Nijmegen, I wondered about their marching abilities. All doubts were soon to be proved completely unnecessary and the three newcomers slotted into the team with no problems at all. Well almost no problems—**Pte Claire Mawhinney** soon earned the name 'Skippy' as she tried desperately to keep in step.

For the first timers, the 'Nijmegen experience' is quite remarkable and all embarrassment at singing lustily in public was soon forgotten. The first day was taken gently to get into the swing of things, but after that the pace warmed up. Although the marches are not a race, on the last day there is always an element of competition and we were pleased to be the eighth British Army team to finish the course.

All in all it was a very successful and enjoyable week without a single sense of humour failure. The team returned triumphant complete with blisters and a team medal which is a considerable achievement in view of the problems we had getting a team together.

CCX

210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

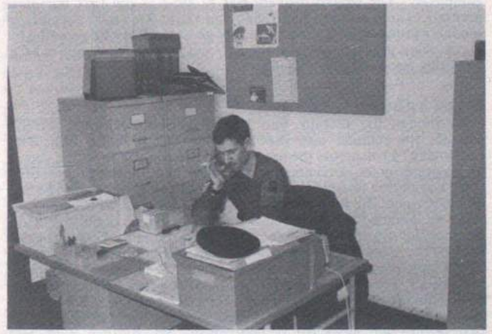
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paddy Crowley**
21C	**Capt David Burden**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC O Tp	**Lt Andy Duncan**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Andrew Fletcher**
SSM	**WO2 Al Gibbons**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie McTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Mick Campbell**
CC	**SSgt John O'Donnell**

POSTINGS

Farewells go to **Cpl Frank Jolley** who leaves on promotion, **LCpl Taff Jones** who returns to civvy street, **Cpl Al Holyoak** off to 633 Sig Tp, **LCpl John Clifford** to Cyprus, and **LCpl Geordie 'Boo-Boo' Conway** to the AAC. Also going is **Sgt Lance Gardiner RAOC** leaving us on promotion, and who has the doubtful privilege of being posted to 15 Fd Wkshp, 100m away!

Welcomes go to **Sgt Terry Gigg, Cpls Terry Cole, Gas Lee, Dan Thornton, Stuart Zeeman, Al Pilcher,** and **LCpls Nigel Donahue** and **Dave Hebden.**



Sgt (now SSgt Gardiner) who leaves us on promotion, and to go all the way to 15 Fd Wkshp

Our video star team of clerks (seen the latest TACT video?) of Cpl Bob Hindhaugh and LCpl Steve Blunsden keep on complaining about lack of mention. So here's a library picture of LCpl Blunsden Recce Team, on exercise in Germany. I'll have the Chief Clerk complaining next . . .

After the rigours of Cyprus, BAOR, and a weeks leave the Squadron has had a fairly peaceful 'summer'. The Troops got away to Fremington for a spot of adventurous training under their Troop Commander and the shooting team went off to RSSAAM. A visit by about 25 Officer Cadets (mostly female) proved a suitable excuse to dust the cobwebs off the complex, and for selected Lance Corporals to show just how good they really are at baffling brains. The main concerns of the summer though were Ex *Gryphons Gambit 2*, a Brigade Support Helicopter and FTX, and OSEX 14, a 1 Group RAF Offensive Support exercise.

EXERCISE *GRYPHONS GAMBIT 2*

Anyone who has travelled along the A68 will know that it is not a particularly pleasurable experience. Imagine how Oscar Tp felt following a SAS/MC with a Fiat Panda engine up the many 1:10 hills. Our destination was a quarry in the Kielder Forest, just north of the new reservoir (I am led to believe that a visiting signal squadron did not have the reservoir marked on their maps). Soon after our arrival the Bde HQ was beginning to take shape and the rain began to fall. Setting up the complex proved easier said than done, mainly because **LCpl Taff Mallaney**, the only one who knows where all the remotes go, was on a chopper at the time. Some of the squadron were beginning to enjoy a brew when the Commander decided to move the complex. So it was all hands to the pumps; even the Foreman was rumoured to be working, but it's only a rumour.

The midge bites were abundant by the time the complex was in place again. The job of communicating then began, amongst other things. **LCpl 'Chopper' Church** was used as the one man QRF, and the SAS/MC was relatively quiet with no one to talk to, much to **LCpl 'Guppy' Singh**'s pleasure after a long spell away. The one thing that did help was **Cpl Les 'It's chips for tea' Penaluna** feeding us. Yes folks you read correctly, chips for tea. The cooks with the help of an old oil drum and **Sgt Taff Davis** on the blow torch drummed-up a deep fat frier, so it's chips every day from now on. Once the battle had been fought and won it was time to pack up and go. It was a pleasure to get away from the midges and the mud. The bites took a little longer to get ride of than the dirt.

Whilst Oscar Tp was communicating, Papa Tp was playing enemy. Arriving about about 2000 hrs we began settling down for the night. Unfortunately 633 Mosquito Sqn decided to put an end to this, **Sig Manitou Fuller** fought valiantly against overwhelming odds, and lost. Ops began at 0430 hrs the next day with a 24 hour deathpack breakfast (yum-yum). We moved to the HLS where first blood was given to us. After a one man assault party in the guise of **Cpl 'ssh!' Dennis** we were ordered to retire in good order, but as we were all running away no one heard the order.

A 'suicide squad' consisting of **Sgt Jim Pattison, Cpls Tommo Thompson BEM, Tommo Thompson RR,** and **Ray Cowburn, LCpls Fitzgerald** and **Sig Manitou Fuller**, was then ordered out to locate a battle group HQ. These orders were carried out to the letter. On rounding a corner a camnet was seen to the front. **Sgt Pattison** ordered everyone to debus. **Cpl Thompson** and **LCpl Cossy Costello** being the first ones out said 'Oh gosh, there's a bigger camnet behind us' (or words to that effect), whereupon we realised that we had found what we were looking for. The blue forces took offence at our red armbands and the BG HQ opened fire. Everyone jumped back into the armoured plated rover, except **LCpl Costello** who decided he'd rather run back but being outnumbered he changed his mind. The squad then departed at 100mph, straight through the BG HQ.

Windswept Emblehope Moor in Kielder. The Squadron deployed a Tac HQ forward in support of 3 RRF and 1 PWO. The rest of the Squadron joined by road

For the next two days we abandoned our vehicles and kit, very reluctantly. We were to RV with them again later, when we did we found **LCpl Eddy Edwards** and **Sig 'Tetse' Bird** in their normal positions—horizontal. That put the rest of us in fine fettle, and just to top things off there was a cry of 'Oh gosh, no water'! **Sgt Pattison** asked **LCpl Edwards** to run along like a good chap and get some. He went off for the water leaving **Sig Bird** behind, who was by now up and about, however he did take **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** with him, who had nagged **2Lt Fletcher** all day long about having a pain in his belly. **Sgt Pattison** then decided to despatch four of his hardened fighting troops down to a fire break to form an advance guard for the water replen. As this team of **Sig Fuller, 'Mongo' King, Bob Queen** and **'Tetse' Bird** reached the RV the rover arrived with the water. They made a quick brew, and only then did they realise that a battalion of RRF were trying to surround them. As they didn't have the wagons to form a circle they decided to beat a hasty retreat, only to return half an hour later to find that the RRF were still there! After trying to shoot their way out they decided to stop as soon as they were confronted by a Fox. They did say they were sorry but the disgruntled RRF were not very happy about trogging around after us. After being thrown in storm ditches filled with mud and water (more mud than water) they were told to stop laughing and reveal their plans; when they had done so they were told to leave!

When the rest of the Red Forces reached the final hill top position they were very unhappy that it didn't take much for the RRF to take the position. **Lt Fletcher** and the rest of the men were glad once Endex was called to get off the hill, after spending a wind swept night without any maggots. All returned to camp very hungry and also very tired.

OSEX 14

RAF Operational Support Exercises are usually the province of 244 Sig Sqn. For a change this time it was decided to bring in the Squadron to provide the Bde HQ and the target parties. The exercise consisted of some 100 sorties a day being flown against inflated targets. Papa Tp deployed on the Sunday morning leaving Gaza Bks at 0920 hrs and arriving in Dumfrieshire at 1400 hrs. We then proceeded to set up camp. It was quite a nice view considering we were stuck on top of a hill in the middle of nowhere. The idea was to deploy simulated tanks all over South West Scotland so that the RAF and our cousins from across the water ('spams' for short) could practise strafing tanks.

Day 1 started off with eight tanks being deployed and a force of Jaguars, Harriers and A10s screaming overhead. This continued in the same vein for the three days. **LCpl Si Wallis** and **Sig Ian Martin** were being worked hard at the Bde HQ as the BALOs crew, often running the missions on their own. **WO2 (YofS) Douggie McTaggart** was getting into the swing of things as well, and is now after an FACs course. the target teams got their 0600 hrs starts, especially as the sun insisted on shining gloriously all week. The surprise came when a sunbathing **Cpl 'Chippy' Wood** saw a helicopter descend from the sky, the Officer Commanding get out and stolled over to him to tell him he had just been selected for promotion to Sergeant. The Officer Commanding returned to the helicopter and flew off, and **Cpl Wood** was left wondering whether it was all a dream.

The last day consisted of every tank and APC being inflated, and it looked as if 3 Shock Army had been deployed. We also had a trick up our sleeves, we decided that when the aircraft came overhead we would make some of the APCs look as though they were moving. This was achieved by putting two of the guys inside the tanks and running along. This looked very realistic and rumour has it that it was commented on as being a good idea. The order to deflate came at 1200 hrs but unfortunately for us this is when most of the aircraft decided to do a flyover of both the targets and the Bde HQ. We returned to base, packed everything away and returned to barracks on the Friday evening.

INTER TROOP CRICKET

The Inter Troop Cricket competition took place on a very unusual day as the sun was shining in Catterick. The day started with Papa Tp vs HQ Tp. HQ looked very strong and also most of the team had their own whites. They won comfortably and looked formidable opponents. In the afternoon it was the turn of Oscar Tp to show just how the game was played. Team captain **Sgt Terry Gigg** put Papa into bat after having a carefully inspecting the wicket. He then carefully deployed his fielders. His tactics proved right with Papa Tp all out with a score not worth mentioning. There was some very good bowling by **Sgt Gigg, LCpls Roy Messenger** and **Percy Parkin**, and **Sig Ian Martin** and **'Scouse' Hartley**. It took only 30 minutes to square Papa's score and put the second game under Oscar's belt.

The decider was against HQ Tp. Oscar Tp was put into bat and reached a formidable score with the help of excellent batting by **Sgt Gigg** (again!), **Cpl Any Munro, LCpls Messenger, Parkin, Jim Davidson,** and **Sig Martin** and **Hartley**. HQ went in with quite a task on its hands. As the game progressed the bowling was as ever perfect and the wickets began to fall. There were some good stands made by **Capts Mick Besant** and **David Burden,** and **LCpl Scotty Scott**. Nevertheless the wickets were taken and soon HQ were down to their last man. **WO2 (SSM) Al Gibbons** checked his pad and marched to the wicket to face the ferocity of the Oscar bowlers. **Sgt Gigg** tried, but in vain, for the scalp of **SSM Gibbons.** After some thought by the team captain he threw the ball to **Cpl Andy 'Sidebottom' Munro. Cpl Munro** thundered towards the wicket and let loose one of the slowest balls I have ever seen. This caught the SSM by surprise and he missed completely. The second delivery was as slow as the first but more accurate. The bails were sent flying and Oscar Tp was the winner of the Inter Troop Cricket. Special thanks go to **Sgt Dave Edgecombe** for his excellent organisation of the event, and to his fellow umpire **LCpl Si Wallis** for some great umpiring.

INTER TROOP BATTLE RUN

As though the Brigade Fun Run and Half Marathon weren't enough, the summer also saw the Inter Troop Battle Run. This consisted of a run across the moors, a further mile or so with a couple of telegraph poles, a command task, and finally the assault course, still carrying the telegraph pole (which made a change from the Sqn athletics where the relay was done with a 12m mast as a baton).

As we rounded the corner into Rabbit Wood we could see in the distance the two telegraph poles, long, brown and looking extremely heavy. The troop halted in front of **Sgt 'Grand-dad' Edgecombe**. 'Right lads, pick up a log', said Grand-dad. We looked at each other in disbelief. Then a voice came from **LCpl Jim (the Brig said I don't have to do this) Davidson.** 'We will have to wait for the others.' 'No!' says **Lt Navigator' Duncan**, 'we are five minutes ahead of HQ Tp, the first section will move off straight away'. So off they went, two minutes later the rest of the troop arrived. We then proceeded to attempt to catch up with the first section. Suddenly someone shouted 'Look out! The navigator's done it again!' We were going in the wrong direction! We quickly corrected our course and with great speed and determination made it to the finishing point, only to find that not only had we lost our five minute lead, but we were also one and a half minutes behind. A very disappointing result.

After completing the Battle Run the troop was split into two teams, one led by **LCpl Rab Arthur**, the other by **Sig Wayne Peach**. The objective was to cross a makeshift minefield using three planks, some hemp and four pre-positioned barrels. Team one set off and after some trail and error throught that they had cracked the problem. That was until **LCpl Al Hanlon** jumped short of safe land. he was then classed as dead, and was promptly used as a stepping stone. Since time was running out **Sig Pat Kenny**, not famous for his balancing abilities, decided to run across the plank. This set the whole shooting match bouncing about and he fell off, knocking the planks off along with **Cpl Steve Haresign** who used a barrel for a cushion! This attempt however was the most successful of the two efforts. **LCpl Si Wallis** and **Sig Mark Jones** after various circus balancing acts had lost two of the three planks, rendering the task impossible. Although a few minor cuts and bruises were suffered by some, a good laugh was had by all.

Next came the assault course. The judge and jury for the event was **LCpl Smudge Smith**. After much stipulation and general whingeing Oscar Tp put in the fastest time. This balanced everything up as HQ Tp had won the Command Task, and Papa Tp had won the run. So the Battle Run resulted in equal points all round, and the Pot Shot Trophy Competition remained a neck an neck affair.

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3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

1 SQN

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj H. A. Ross**
2IC	**Capt G. M. Lewis-Taylor**
OC W Tp	**Lt K. L. Evans**
OC X Tp	**Lt P. Smith**
OC Y Tp	**Lt D. J. M. Bizley**
SSM	**WO2 M. A. Granitza**
FofS	**WO2 A. M. Sulivan**
YofS	**SSgt C. Heels**
SQMS	**SSgt R. I. S. Hope**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We thought we had better publish the Squadron heirachy as by the next issue nealy all except the OC **Maj Harry 'I was a Pukka Sahib' Ross** will have departed. Soon to go is the SSM, **WO2 'Mick Goose Green' Granitza** who is off to a UOTC to attract potential Officers to the Paras?; wrong Royal Signals. Hot on his heels is **SSgt (YofS) Chris Heeles** who finally escapes from the OSC only to end up in a Corps MAN. This is what happens when you become too well known in Ptarmigan, never mind, BATUS next time! To replace them 'soon to be WO2', **SSgt Geordie Dobson** and 'staight out of the egg' **SSgt (YofS) Steve Potterton.**

Down with the Troops, welcome to **Lt Lyndon Campbell-Black** (not another sailor) who takes over Y Troop from **Lt David 'Tweedle Dee' Bizley**, who is off to Shrivenham. **SSgt 'Honey Bear' Hodds** departed for another Trunk Note in 2 Div Sig Regt. There is no truth in the rumour that he is trade reallocating from Dtg to RR Op. **SSgt Ian Brereton** takes over the helm in X Troop. Finally a belated welcome to **Sgt 'Ike' Turner** the new W Troop Recce Sergeant.

MOHNEFEST 1987

In case it's not mentioned in the Regimental notes, 1 Sqn organised the annual Mohnefest on Saturday 18 July 1987. Formally opened by **Mr Bob Jones** of BFBS Bielefeld, the whole day was blessed by good luck, especially with the weather and it was all a great success. The only people to get wet were the Regiment's officers on the ducking stool, except the Sqn OC who escaped through injury (fell off his bike).

Mentioned in dispatches for their services to the Mohnefest were **SSgt 'Proper Charlie' Fleming** who co-ordinated the arena display and **SSgt Steve 'I was a DJ' Gillham** for his smooth performance in the commentary box. Last but not least all the 'Lads of the Squadron' who put it all up and took it all down under the combat proven leadership of **SSM 'Green light go' Granitza.** At the end of the day just over DM6,000 was raised for charity. It's all yours next year 2 Sqn.

INTER-SQN SMALLBORE COMPETITION

As you can see it hasn't been a very busy summer, except for lots of Troop Adventure Training. However as the Squadron won, just for a change, our intrepid marksmen deserve a mention for their success in the Regimental Small Bore Competition. There is no truth in the rumour that the other Squadrons failed to enter the final. Led by the example of our OC **Maj 'Dirty Harry' Ross** who was 'Best A Shot' and 'Best Overall Shot', **LCpl Tony Manklelow** was 'Best B Shot'. The remainder of the team were:

A CLASS	**B CLASS**
WO2 (FofS) Marcus Wellies' Sulivan	**Lt David Bizley**
	LCpl John Driver
SSgt Steven Gillham	**Sig Paddy Beatie**
Sgt Rick Griffiths	**Sig Steve Kinsey**
Sgt John Skelton	

2 SQN

OC	**Maj David Lynam MBE**
SSM	**WO2 Frank McCormick**
OC 'O' Tp	**2Lt Tim Allen**
OC 'R' Tp	**2Lt Simion Spiers**
OC 'T' Tp	**Lt Keith Whitehead**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Joe Murray**
SQMS	**SSgt John Bell**

EX *OSCARS OUTING*

Report by Oscar

Oscar Troop, having spent the past few months on 436 servicing, inspections, exercises and so on, made a move towards the Eastern Bloc recently and spent a week in the shadow of the Brochen, training adventurously.

20 members of the troop were briefed late on a Thursday evening, following Ex *Red Tricorn II*, and packed their kit for the coming week. Some heated debate ensued over who was to windsurf, canoe, rockclimb or walk, with rather a heavy following in the 'why can't we just drink?' group! However, once settled into our five star hotel, the Sonnenburg Hut just north of St Andreasburg, the groups divided under the various leaderships of **Capt Bruce Avison, 2Lt Colin Hinsley, LCpl Tim Jones** and **Sgt Mac McKinnon.**

The windsurfers, walkers and climbers all had an enjoyable period of training, and the canoeists enjoyed day one, paddling sedately around the Okerstausee. However, on day two, **Lt Hinsley** determined to take advantage of the fast water running through the Oker Gorge, and promptly provided all the canoeists with injuries of various shapes and sizes! **Capt Avison** decided, at this stage, not to follow down the gorge on his windsurfer!

The extra mural activities in the evenings provided welcome relief for all, with visits to the local swimming pool, gaststattes and Country Club— snooker!

Awards made during the week:

Most stamina	**Sig Ian Wellfare**
Best 'sewing machines'	**Cpl Titch Anderson**
Best stoker	**LCpl Ken Potts**
Golden Blanket	**Sig Fred 'Teenbert' Gee**
Most Duckings	**Cpl Alexi Sale**
Worst Hat	**Sig Scotty Scott**

EX *TANGO TRIP*

Report by LCpl 'Tim' Jones

Ex **Tango Trip** was the name given to the second phase of the Squadron's Summer Camp held in the Harz Mountains. Members of 'Radio' and 'Tango' Troop took part in the exercise and arrived in location, a field with a stream running through it (lush surroundings with running water) raring to go. It was decided that instead of the usual, one day one activity syndrome—personel would choose their activity at the beginning of the week and stick with it to the end.

Activities consisted of canoeing led by **2Lt Colin Hinsley**, climbing by **LCpl Tim Jones** and windsurfing by **Sgt Dave Greaves**. There was of course a fourth activity that of cycling led by **Cpl Rose** who didn't realise before he chose the activity that the Harz consisted of such large hills.

In all the training proved a great success and the participants progressed as the week went on. On the climbing side **Sig 'Rundy' Randall** became slightly over confident and believing himself to be a commando nearly embedded himself in the ground on one of the abseils; needless to day it didn't help having **Sig 'Piggy' Palmer** belaying? The canoeing produced three proficient canoeists with **Sig 'Ian' Botham** and **Sig Flynn** believing it easier to travel the river upside down, it beats emptying the canoe out every time. Finally on the windsurfing with no wind around **Sgt Dave Greaves** showed us how to do the perfect landing without even trying.

The White Helmets

'SPORTS TEAM 1987'

'Get the men off the park for a day every once in a while' were the words uttered by the OC **Maj 'David' Lynam** and so the contest of 'Sportsteam 1987' was dreamed up by the 2IC **Capt 'Fred' Bancroft.** He was going to call it 'Superstars 1987' but the remainder of the Regiment would only think we were being big headed again if we did that.

Tug 'O' Truck
LCpl Chris Bentley, Sig Scouse Simcock and LCpl Steve Williams

Similar to Superstars, the contest consisted of five disciplines, Gym Tests, Tug-o-Truck, Cycling, .22 Shooting and Cross Country. Gym Tests at the beginning of the competition was just the thing to get it rolling with some fine individual performances, the star being **LCpl 'Titch' Maidment**. There were also a lot of white faces around and a lot of grumbling with **2Lt Tim Allen** saying the minute duration for each test was aimed at him. The remainder of the disciplines went just as well with the team and individual positions changing with each event leaving with a fine performance by **Sig Terry Blakely** coming in first well ahead of the others.

Final positions for the day were as follows;

Winning Team	'Oscar 1'	**2Lt Tim Allen, Sig 'Fred' Gee Sig 'Toya' Wilcox, Sig 'Tootsie' Cunningham**
Individuals	1st	**Sig 'Rodey' Wilcock**
	2nd	**LCpl 'Titch' Maidment**
	3rd	**LCpl Tim Jones**

Cycling
Cpl Bob Furnell, Sig Rodney Wilcock and LCpl Rick Clatworthy

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

During the past month we have said goodbye to most of the hierarchy, with **Capt Bruce Avison** to 1 Inf Bde Tidworth, **Capt Fred Bancroft** to ASPC Sutton Coldfield, **SSgt John Hatch** resettlement courses for his last six months, **SSgt (YofS) Sam McElreavey** PWSST Lippstadt, **Sgt Derek Payne** 30 Sig Regt Blandford and finally **Sgt 'Kip' Hearns** 'congratulations and goodbye' to 39 Bde NI. We wish them and their families all the best for the future and thanks for your help here.

We welcome **Lt Keith Whitehead** and his wife **Debbie, 2Lt Tim Allen** and **SSgt (YofS) Joe Murray** and his wife **Shelog** and hope that their stay with us will be enjoyable.

3 SQN	
OC	**Maj 'Bob' Brannigan**
SSM	**WO2 (Derek) Coker**
OC	**Capt 'Simon'Lowe**
OC	**Capt 'Garry' Smith**
OC	**Capt 'Andy' James**
YOS	**SSgt 'Chris' Pugh**

EXERCISE *VALKYRIE TRIANGLE*

During the week 22-27 June the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Bad Lippsprings witnessed the attempts of a number of would be parachutists to survive the rigorous course. A party of 14 members of 3 Sqn embarked on a week long adventurous training exercise with the aim of surviving a number of exists from a 'perfectly serviceable aircraft'. Unfortunately, greater powers of survival were required on the ground. Sleep deprivation and water torture both had to be endured due to the appalling weather and inconveniently placed holes in the canvas under which the party attempted to sleep. However, having successfully completed phase one of the exercise the soggy trainees moved on to ground training. A full day of jumping from mock-up aircraft and rolling on a not-too forgiving floor resulted in not only a number of bruises but also our first injury. **LCpl Paddy Leitch**, despite his AIPT status, finished the day with his arm in a sling. Fortunately his pride was damaged more than his arm and he recovered to continue training later in the week.

Due to high winds, it was not possible to put our training into practice until the next day. To avoid wasting time, the staff at JSPC decided to teach us to pack our own parachutes. The outstanding degree of concentration and effort shown during this instruction was hardly surprising since we would complete our first 'line' jump on parachutes not packed by an anonymous 'expert', but by our own trembling fingers.

Despite the weather we were finally able to jump. The range of nervous grins, twitches and involuntary body movements displayed in the aircraft during the ascent to 2500ft was quite an education. The descent under canopy was also an edu¢ation, particularly since each departure from the aircraft was captured on video. We saw pirouettes, swallow dives and belly flops. We also saw the occasional foot assisted exit from the more reluctant participants. Nonetheless the euphoria experienced on feeling the reassuring tug as the canopy opened was matched only by that of walking away in one piece from a variety of unorthodox landings. At last the group had a cause to celebrate and in the bar that evening the flow of beer was well matched by the torrent of (perhaps slightly imaginative) tales of daring.

Having survived the first jump, the rest of the week was spent either training, jumping or cursing the weather; unfortunately, mostly the latter.

It would appear that the exercise photographer suffered from particularly shaky hands since none of the intrepid skydivers were captured on film. Had that not been the case, the photographs would have shown that the party comprised, in no particular order of enthusiasm: **Capt Andy James, LCpl 'Paddy Leitch, LCps 'Jonah' Jones** and **Sig Mark Cheney, Bob Jubb, Kenny Kendrick, Andy Peel, Ian Crookes, Dave Tivey, Paul McNay, 'H' Harris, John Harris, Nat Chambers** and **'PC' Carpenter**.

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn BFPO 16

Report by Lt N. A. W. Pope

Yet again, the bi-monthly event of composing *Wire* notes presents one with the opportunity to add to the Corps annals of literary history. It has been another busy period for the Squadron, and we have undertaken a variety of activities.

Firstly, very many congratulations to **WO2 (YofS) Jeff Hattersley, Sgt John Cluett REME** and **Cpl Phil Annison** who were presented with their Long Service and Good Conduct medals by Commander 33 Armoured Brigade and Paberborn Garrison, **Brig A. G. H. Harley OBE**, at a parade on Tuesday 30 June. All their families attended and, unlike the remainder of the summer, it was a scorching hot day. The parade was extended by at least five minutes by the Yeoman of Signals citation which read like a Thomson's travel guide. To prolong the torture we then moved off for a hats on, hats off Squadron photograph.

RHINE ARMY SUMMER SHOW

'The greatest social event of the year', the programme promises. That's true at least for the rest of BAOR, who enjoy the luxury of a long weekend. For the Squadron, RASS was the culmination of three weeks hard work by the techs, led by **SSgt (FofS) Jim Martin** and **SSgt Dave Gaffney**, who supplied all the PA for the show. They were ably supported by the line det, with **Cpl Geordie Tierney** and his crew laying inordinate lengths of quad over the showground. For the show itself, the Squadron deployed as programme salesmen and car park attendants. It says much for the effort of all concerned that over DM230,000 was collected over the three days.

EXERCISE *MOMBASA TRIANGLE*

This was the name chosen for Rhine Tp's expedition in the Mosel Valley. The original aim of the expedition was to canoe and walk in six daily stages from Trier to Koblenz. Though the weather and inexperience of the canoeists quickly dictated a reduction of the objective, all agreed that it was both enjoyable and worthwhile, and ideas for next year's troop expedition are flowing in thick and fast. Thanks to **Cpl Kev Jarvis** for blistering route marches and **Cpl Greg Doughty** for doing all that an admin NCO should (almost!)

BORDER PATROL

From 17-19 June, **Lt Nick Pope** and 17 members of Rhine Tp and the Sqn Pioneer section sallied forth to defend the 3 Armd Div sector of the Inner German Border. Pitted against us were some 20,000 members of the crack East German Border Unit. Only two members of 'the other side' however dared to venture close enough to us so that we could take pictures of them taking pictures of us. Was it the fear we inspired in them? More likely it was the severely inclement weather, which inspired the British Frontier Service advisor, **Mr Ray Webster** to comment at one particularly wet moment (somewhat sarcastically I thought!) 'Well, we may as well go and get soaked at some other viewing point!' On the plus side however, the patrol members got an excellent overview of the IGB history, as well as seeing how to construct a 6 roper Dannert wire defensive system!

EXERCISE *CHECK FORGE*

From 4-11 July the Squadron deployed on Ex *Check Forge*, designed to test the umpire C3 requirements for Ex *Certain Strike*. The Squadron was responsible for the manning and administration of an area controll cell (ACC), and for the umpiring of 4 (NL) Div. Once the ACC was established, sufficient time existed for the SSM, **WO2 Phil Budden**, and **Sgt Chris Warnes** to go off and lose an abundance of golf balls.

Lt Mark Eaton was not so lucky, having to do 20 hours-a-day shifts in Comms Ops (or so he says). It is rumoured that the Sqn 21C, **Capt Gary Mason**, will join him for the main exercise. However after his map-reading prowess on *Check Forge*, it is doubtful whether he'll be able even to find Comms Ops!

Rhine Tp (Fighting Fwd) had a much more eventful time. Fully cammed up, they were joined in the field by 4 (NL) Div HQ—a single box-body! The Chief of Staff **Maj Robert Baxter** tested the technical adaptability of **Cpls Greg Doughty** and **Des Dolan** by re-designing the communications interior of the complex during a slack period. **Driver Paddy O'Leary** ran a 'Stickies' bar, making vast profit for the Squadron from our Dutch colleagues. Meanwhile **Lt Nick Pope** learned the meaning of 'under pressure' when the GOC's helicopter couldn't find the prepared HLS.

SPORTS BOARD

ATHLETICS

by Sgt I. J. Foster

The 3 Armd Div Championships were held at Sennelager on 20-21 May. With a bit of squad training behind us the team set of to compete in a competition which in recent times has been dominated by 3 Ord Bn and 6 Armd Wksps. After excellent results by **Bdr Gary Young** (4th—500m), **Lt Nick Pope** (3rd—Javelin), **Sig Tom Wilkinson** (1st—Shot), **Sig Lee Stephenson** (3rd—High Jump), **Cpl Jimmy Rock** (1st—200m), **LCpl Ian Stringer** (2nd—400m),**Cpl Ken Jarvis** (1st—Triple Jump), **Sig Nigel Medford** (2nd—Discus), **LCpl Kev Young** (2nd—100m), **Sig Marv Marvel** (1st—400m H), **Sgt Charlie Foster** (1st—800m) and with the 4 × 400m relay team winning by over 50m, the team easily won by 15 points.

The BAOR Individual Athletics Championships were held on 26 and 27 May 1987 at Sennelager. Only two of the Squadron entered. **Sgt Charlie Foster** taking 3rd in the 800m and **LCpl Ian Stringer** a good 5th in the 400m.

June saw the arrival of the Morrison Cup Competition at Verden and after the disappointments of the previous year we were anticipating better results this year. However the standard of all the minor units was equal to, if not higher in some events, than the Major units. So no slip-ups could be tolerated to win the cup.

From day one it was touch and go between ourselves, 200 Sig Sqn and 206 Sig Sqn. However the consistency of 200 Sig Sqn proved too much for us on the second day and in one of the closest finishes for years, we were narrowly beaten into third place by 200 Sig Sqn and 206 Sig Sqn. Although a disappointment, the competition was an excellent lesson in sportsmanship and team spirit. Congratulations to 200 Sig Sqn—see you next year.

The team then had two days rest and it was off to the BAOR Minor Units Team Championships which were held at Sennelager on 27 June in excellent conditions. The team, as with the other two Royal Signals teams was a little tired from the Morrison Cup. All the team performed well, some even producing personal bests, but could not match the prowess of the RAOC units (who incidently have over 100 more men to chose from) and came in fifth. To our credit we beat 200 Sig Sqn (Morrison Cup Winners) but 207 Sig Sqn had a few stars who were not at the Morrison Cup and came in third.

That was it for the team, a season which started in April and continued virtually non-stop until the end of June. The team had an excellent season; a list of achievements is below:-

Inter Troop Winners	Rhine Troop
3 Armd Div HQ & Sig Regt Inter-Sqn	Winners
3 Armd Div Minor Units	Winners
Morrison Cup (Minor Units)	3rd place
BAOR Minor Units	5th place

A special mention must be made of our team captain, **WO2 (YofS) Jeff Hattersley** who did all the leg work and organisation behind the scenes and helped with the 1 Armd Div Sgts Mess bar profits!

CRICKET

It was obvious from the hockey pitch and squash courts that we had enough people in the Squadron who could hit small balls. Anyway, the Commander plays cricket and every Squadron Commander knows knows the rules. Practice started early in the Alanbrooke gym where there are excellent indoor nets. Fortunately **Cpl Jasper Parrott**, BOWO's clerk, had his run up shortened by the gym's length, otherwise there would have been more bruises.

We bowled off the first game in the Divisional knockout cup against 3 Armd Div Fd Amb. They scored only 60 with **LCpl Paul Dean** taking 3 for 2 and a fine 37 from our RAOC Corps player **Cpl Jasper Parrott** clinched the game by 6 wickets. The semi final was against 206 Sig Sqn, winners for the last two years. On a very hot day at Paderborn. Again **Jasper** starred with a fine 4 for 8 but the real Botham of the day was **Lt Mark Eaton** with 5 for 1 run. The target set was only 50, 12 of which had been extras much to our wicket keeper **LCpl Diddy Didcock**'s displeasure. At 11 for 2 we thought we were going the same way as 206, until a fine cross bat session by **Dvr Cleg Clenaghan** produced an excellent 31 before he was caught.

The final against 5 Armd Wksp was played at Korbecke on a pitch the size of a postage stamp and an outfield as fast as an ice rink. The Workshop scored a massive 186 off 30 overs. As we had never batted all the way through our order we were looking forward to what we could achieve. In typical fashion the recognised batsmen **Proctor, Parrott, Clenaghan**, shone and the Commander blew it.

Fortunately the unknowns also shone, **Lt Mark Eaton** scored 18 before running himself out, **Cpl Kev Jarvis** knocked an impressive 46 and looked unstoppable until he also ran himself out, and **WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden** assisted with an impressive 14 before shutting his eyes to a straight ball. With only 130 on the board we ran out of overs!

(PS There are no photographs because our photographer was 12th man and therefore scoring but the following played: **Brig A. Harley, Maj David Proctor, Lt Mark Eaton, WO1 Rick Delamont, WO2 (SSM) Phil Budden, Cpls Jasper Parrott, Kev Jarvis**, and **Les Stimson, LCpls Paul Dean** and **Diddy Didcock, Pte Steve Cheetham, Dvr Cleg Clenaghan** and **Sig Paul Stewart.**)

TENNIS

Having just beaten last year's BAOR Minor unit champions, 6 Armd Wksps, the Squadron tennis team is now well poised to become this year's champions **Capt Gary Mason, Cpl Simmons, LCpl Webb** and **Sig Gray** make up what is (according to **Capt Mason**!) an unbeatable side.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

A tearful farewell to **SSgt (SQMS) Ron Woodger, SSgt Dave Gaffney, Sgt Kerphal Singh** and **Sgt Ian Davies** who have reached the end of their tours. We wish them godspeed and good luck in their new postings.

Also a quick hello to **SSgt (SQMS) Nigel Sloane**. We hope you and your wife **June** have a happy tour. Pity you are not a hockey player but we can soon put that right!

204 (4 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 17

L.S. & GC PRESENTATIONS

On Tuesday 5 May the Brigade Commander **Brig W. J. Courage** MBE presented LS and GC metals to four members of the Squadron in the Garrison Sergeants Mess. The recipients were **WO2 (SSM) 'Clive' Young, WO2 (YofS) 'Nick' Hammett, SSgt (FofS) 'Phil' Robinson** and **SSgt 'Brian' Tanner**. After presenting the medals **Brig Courage** met the wives of the recipients and also presented them with flowers.

BATTLE CAMP EXERCISE *HARD RAT II* 6-10 APRIL

In early April the Squadron deployed on Ex *Hard Rat II* to Haltern Training Area. The first and second days were used to hone up on military skills including patrolling, NBC, First Aid and helicopter handling drills. By mid week with the weather remaining good we carried out live helicopter emplaning and deplaning with roping drills nervously but deftly carried out by all. The heli phase was completed with a full heliborne assault on defensive positions and was much enjoyed by all.

On Wednesday evening and Thursday morning night patrolling continued with a little help or hindrance from **WO2 (SSM) Clive Young** and **Lt 'Neil' Griffiths**. The final phase of the exercise was a full blown attack under the command of **Cpl Cooper**, an attack which proved a great success leaving 'Youngs marauders' licking their wounds and wondering what had hit them. An excellent exercise of benefit to all.

FOOTBALL
COMMANDER (COMMS) 1 (BR) CORPS CHALLENGE CUP 1987

The above competition was held over the period 16-17 July, at Bad Lipspringe. In all, six teams entered the competition which was split into two leagues of three teams.

204 Sig Sqn was drawn with 202 Sig Sqn (Holders of the trophy) and 201 Sig Sqn. On the 16 July 204 Sig Sqn played its only match against 201 Sig Sqn and in a hard fought match we won by five goals to two after going one down.

On 17 July we were scheduled to play two further games if we reached the final, and this we did by beating the holders of the trophy by two goals to one, once again after going one goal down.

The final was played at 1400 hrs on 17 July against 211 Sig Sqn and in this match we managed to take the lead in the first ten minutes with a goal from **Sgt Graham Cottrell**. The team had a number of near misses in the first half and looked like going to half time with one goal to nil lead. However a couple of minutes before the break, against the run of play, 211 Sig Sqn scored an equalizer. In the second half of the game we again dominated the play and after twenty minutes of the half a move down the right hand side of the pitch resulted in a fine goal from **LCpl Jim Stillie**.

After this second goal '211' threw everything at us and we were forced to absorb the pressure that they were putting on us, at this time an equalizer for '211' looked likely, however some fine defensive work and good goal keeping by **Cpl Rab Marshall** prevented an equalizer.

Five minutes before the end of the game we broke out of defence and **Sig Scott Whittaker** thumped the ball into the 211 net to the relief of the whole team and put the game beyond doubt which made the final result 204 Sig Sqn three, 211 Sig Sqn One.

The whole team is to be congratulated on a fine performance and winning despite starting as the underdogs.

Left to Right: SSgt Brian Tanner, SSgt (FofS) Phil Robinson, WO2 (YofS) Nick Hammett and Wo2 (SSM) Brian Young
Mrs Ase Tanner, Mrs Pam Robinson, Brig W. J. Courage, Mrs Sue Hammett and Mrs Linda Young

Back Row: Left to Right: LCpl Stu Metcalfe, Sig Mac McCauley, LCpl Rob Prince, Cpl Rob Marshall, LCpl Jim Stillie, Sgt Graham Cotterill, Cpl Bill Wilson, Sig Bill Perrie, LCpl Bill Patterson
Front Row: Left to Right: Dvr Stevie Stephens, Cfn Paul Beckett, Sig T. J. Hooker, Dixie Dean, Scott Whittaker, Cpl Mark Potter

206 (6 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

MORRISON CUP 1987

This year saw an excellent effort by the Squadron athletics team which was placed runners-up in the Morrison Cup. The team worked well in preparation for the event and maximum effort was given by all. Special mention must go to **SSgt (FofS) 'Paul' Gaffney** who surprised us all by winning the High Jump despite his continous quotes of how he can jump much higher than that. Also in the field events **LCpl Keith Chinn** proved his worth coming a notable second in the Shot-Putt Competition.

On the track **LCpl 'Moses' Edwards** was first across the line in the 400m Hurdles and **Cpl Tony Howard** proved a great success in the 200m winning by a comfortable margin.

The Tug-of-War team was made up of an amazing clan of talent coached and cajoled by the illustrious leader **Sig 'John Pussy' Murray**. Although well prepared the team always lost the toss and ended up at the wrong end, at least that's their excuse and they do say they look good in the strips!

Morrison Cup Athletics Team

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

REGIMENTAL SQUASH TEAMS—1986/87 SEASON
Report by Capt (QM) R. I. Buckley—4 Armd Div

The Squash teams are formed by members of the Divisional Headquarters, Signal Regiment and attached personnel. Although at first glance it appears that a large selection area is covered, trying to keep the teams organised and functioning is a different story. However, thanks to the bullying tactics of the squash officer, **Capt (QM) Ian Buckley** and the sterling efforts of the fixtures secretary, **SSgt Ian Duncan**, a success tale is about to be unfolded.

Excellent results have been achieved by both teams and individuals during the season. The highlight came when the 'A' team pipped the Army Champions 4 Armd Wkps REME, in winning the 4th Armoured Division League Championships.

Details of the achievements gained during the season are as follows:

4th Armoured Division Individual Championships

Winner—Under 25	**Sig Sean Humphries**
Winner—Veterans	**Maj Rod Hill ACC**
Runner Up—Plate	**Sig Sean Humphries**

Royal Signals BAOR Championships

Winner—Under 25	**Sig Sean Humphries**
Winner—Plate	**Cpl Mick O'Connell**
Runner Up—Plate	**SSgt Ian Duncan**

Individual Achievements and Corps players

Combined Service Womens Champion	**SSgt Cathy Johnson**
BAOR Womens Individual Champion	**SSgt Cathy Johnson**
Army Catering Corps	**Maj Rod Hill**
Royal Signals	**Sig Sean Humphries**
Royal Army Ordnance Corps	**Sgt Ian Sharpe**

Team Achievements
'A' Team Winners 4th Armd Div League—Division 1

Player	Games Won	Games Lost
Sgt Ian Sharpe	8	2
Sig Sean Humphries		82
Maj Rod Hill	8	2
Capt Ian Buckley	7	2
SSgt Ian Duncan	6	2
WO1 Dave Taylor	2	2
SSgt Cathy Johnson	2	0

'B' Team—Runners Up 4th Armd Div League—Division III
—Promoted to Division II 1987/88 Season

Player	Games Won	Games Lost
Cpl Mick O'Connell	7	5
SSgt Ian Duncan	9	1
Mr Brian Williams	8	2
Lt Col A. J. Schuler	6	1
Cpl Spud Murphy	5	2
Sgt Eric Ridley	4	1

211 (11 ARMOURED BRIGADE) SIGNAL SQUADRON

EXERCISES *HALBERD HONE/SECOND GEAR/MAINBRACE*

The latter half of May saw the Squadron deploy to the field for a series of short Exercises.

The first, Ex *Halberd Hone* was a Squadron warm up exercise, to get everyone back into the swing of things after a long period in barracks. The pace was fairly rapid as 'set up' and 'tear down' procedures were practised until perfect. Everyone was in high spirits even Bravo Troop's panzer crews who spent most of the first night driving some 100km around the countryside, a trip that included **Lt Standen**'s window shopping tour of Lohne.

After a short break and a reorganisation Ex *Second Gear*, a Brigade CPX, began. Elements of Bravo Troop deployed to a factory at Marienau to help man the exercise *Hicon/Locon* CPX, began. Elements of Bravo Troop deployed to a factory at Marienau to help man the exercise *Hicon/Locon* while the remainder of the Squadron welcomed the arrival of the Commander and his Staff, and played the exercise.

Finally having practised at Squadron and Brigade level it was time to take part in Ex *Mainbrace* a Divisional CPX. In the exercise the Division was to play a Soviet Tank Regiment. In order to do this another reorganisation was required and gave the Yeoman, **WO2 Steve Whytock** many headaches as he tried to juggle kit to provide the numerous radio nets required. Having reconfigured the Squadron drove around the exercise area in a Command column, as per the Warsaw Pact, with the Staff, much to everyone's amusement, trying to run the battle from inside the very bumpy and noisy panzers.

Sgt Paul Gladwin caught handing out his cigarettes to Cpls Anderson and Udall, and Sig Watson and Clark

R SIGNALS SAAM

Following the success of the Squadron Shooting Team at the 4th Armd Div SAAM it was decided to send a team to the R Signals SAAM at Bulford. After some frantic preparations and a trip to the UK by LSL the team assembled at Bulford to start shooting.

Although not as successful as the Div SAAM the team put up a good show and came away with some commendabe results.

Team: **Lt Standen, Sig Sanders, Digweed, Watson, Pte Bastow.**

Minor Units Championships	8th
Minor Units SMG Match	2nd
Pistol Match	**Lt Standen** 1st
	Sig Digweed 4th
Best Young R Signals Officer	**Lt Standen**

ATHLETICS

Throughout June and July the Squadron Athletics team, under the leadership of **Lt Rob Salvoni** and **SSgt Billy Kelly** were training hard for the summer's athletics meetings.

In the 4 Armd Div Athletics meeting a good all round performance produced a very good third place.

Later in June was the Morrison Cup where the team managed an overall fourth place. Notable individual performances where put in by **LCpl 'Titch' Udall** who won the 100m, **Cpl 'Sooty' Sutcliffe** first in the javelin and **Sgt 'Boz' Shead** second in both long and triple jump.

COMMANDER COMMS FOOTBALL COMPETITION

The Football team again took part in the Commander Comms Cup and for the third year running reached the final. However the form shown in the semi-final could not be repeated, and again had to come away as runners up.

Team selected from: **Sgt Shead, Cpls Laverick, Roberts, Chambers, Sutcliffe, Kinsey, Chalmers, LCpls Bayley, Stevenson, Sig Hogg, Constable, Thomas** and **Cfn Mesure**.

SWIMMING
by Cpl Pete Fowler

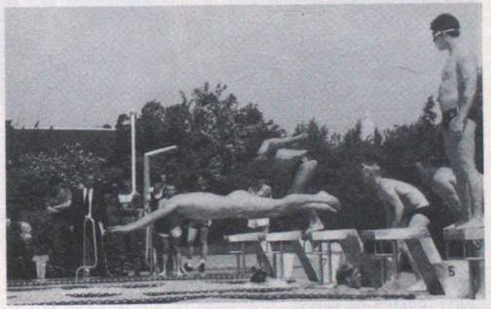
The Squadron Swimming Team put in a priority demand for the sun to shine on the 3 June this year and lo and behold it turned out to be one of the few nice days we have had. We left Minden at 0700 hrs en route for Hameln and the Major and Minor Units Team Swimming Championships. We had very high hopes of reaching the BAOR stage of this competition as we were runners up last year. On arrival we found we were competing against another five teams which made life more difficult than the year before, as then there were only two other teams. We had trained hard every morning in the Melitta Bad in Minden and now all that training was really going to be put to the test.

At roughly 1015 hrs the gun fired for the first race in the Minor Units competition; this was the 50m freestyle. Our representative was **Sig (who needs the training?) Kev Crawford** He swam a great race and was beaten only by what we reckon was an itchy stopwatch finger, however, it was a good point and we were on our way. The next three individual races provided us with equally good points, these being the 50m breaststroke swum by **Sig 'Willie' (our own whaling fleet decoy) Rushton** second place, **Cpl Mark (do I really have to swim that far) Wareing** in the 100m freestyle, fourth place and **Cpl Pete (surely I'm too old to do this now) Fowler** 50m backstroke second place.

At this stage we were in second place overall and with just two relays to come we new we had to pull out all the stops. The late arrival of our swimming officer, **Lt Rob (are you sure everyone can see me posing?) Salvoni** must have really spurred us on because our performances in the relays were very good. The first one was the 4 × 50m medley relay swum by **Cpl Pete Fowler** (backstroke) **Cpl Paul (I wish I had turbos fitted now) Saunders** (breaststroke), **Sig Willie Rushton** and **Cpl Mark Wareing**. This resulted in a second place which left us only three points behind the leading team.

The last race, the 4 × 50m freestyle resulted in joy beyond our wildest dreams. The swimmers were **LCpl Tyke (I'm posted in December) Stevenson, Sig Kev (how the hell do I breath in water?) Cooney, Cpl 'Scouse' (we're going to kick some backsides) Oliver** and **Sig Kev Crawford**. These boys thrashed all the opposition, and as the team holding first position before the race could only manage fourth place it meant that after a few nerve racking moments we had actually won the Championships by three clear points.

Our thanks to the Squadron members who turned up regularly for morning training sessions, it wasn't easy. These were **Cpls (we'll accept the medals anyway) 'Scooty' Sutcliffe, 'Baz' Roberts, 'Geordie' Laverick**, and **LCpl 'Slug' (I can only swim in full combat) Morrice**.



Cpl Wareing at full stretch

FINALLY

During June and July, the Squadron said farewell to **Cpls Rab McCombe, Geogre Coffin**, and **Mark Wareing, LCpls Taff Skey, Neil Starkey** and **Sig Kev Cooney** and **Brett Cowley**; and we wish them all the best in the future.

EXERCISE *BLISTER QUADRANT*
THE TEAM

Lt Duncan (Contour) Spencer, Lt Tony (Hop over) Burgin, Cpls Chalky (Grings) White, Pete (Catwheezle) Edge, LCpls Norrie (Errol Flynn) Crook, Stu (Chris) Garrett, Chappie (Mountain Goat) Chapman, Bruce (Hot Foot), Ian (Scuffer) Cade, Sig Moose (Rammit) Moakes, Kenny (Duke) Kennedy and **Gaz (Cloggie) Currie**

In a moment of insanity, induced by a few beers, it was agreed that a hike across the high level route of the French Pyrenees, coast to coast, would be an attractive proposition. The CO agreed and then there was no turning back.

Not content with the walk alone it was decided that no vehicular support would be taken and all equipment was to be carried the whole distance. A four tonner was selected and painted fluorescent blue to comply with regulations. All leapt aboard for the 36 hours drive to Biarritz. It was after 20 hours of travelling in very cramped conditions that the order was given. 'Off the four tonner, tempers are getting frayed.'

A slip of the tongue in a moment of tiredness but he was not allowed to forget it for the rest of the exercise! The expedition finally waved goodbye to the four tonner on the Idan with the knowledge that now there was no turning back.

The exercise proved to be very demanding right from the start. The weather was very hot and sunny. Each man was carrying 50-60lb. Tiredness and dehydration were problems to be endured. After three days the weight made progress slow and typical comments of 'Lescargot' came from the French that saw us.

It took ten days to walk the foothills to the first real peak of Mount Montognon d'Iseye 7243ft. During this time it became apparent that food could be bought only in the large villages which became a major constraint when planning the route. After this mountain it was realisd that heavy rucksacks caused muscle strains and made a dangerous situation worse when on a mountain slope. To keep the expedition adventurous major peaks had to be attempted. Base camps were decided upon so that day sacks would be used on the climbs.

From this point on the expedition continued on its march eastwards but on two occasions took time off to establish a base camp. This was done in Gavornie and St Beat. It was at this time that we were introduced to the French rural transport system. On roads crumbling in to gorges a 16 seater bus with bald typres carried 20 people and 24 rucksacks. Not only that but the rucksacks were not lashed down and the driver kept taking his hands off the wheel to wave to his friends. On the whole an unnerving experience.

Later that same day **Lt Duncan Spencer, Lt Tony Burgin** and **Cpl Chalky White** caused the heads of some Lourdes pilgrims to turn. An outrageous French accent had become fashionable with them after standing in a hailstorm in the town centre with large see through plastic macs on. Mad dogs and a Squaddie on a day's R and R.

While in Gavornie the team was introduced to a new 'sport' by **LCpl Chappie Chapman** and **Sig 'Gaz' Currie**. This involved throwing yourself bodily down a snow slope and achieving as much speed as possible. The sport was refined by **LCpls Stu Garrett** and **Bruce Pearce** who used racing slick waterproofs to reduce the friction. Somehow we don't think it will get to be in the next Olympics.

We finally caught the train to Perpignan and arrived at midnight. The expedition marched out of the city on a compass bearing to find itself just 13km from the coast. The sense of achievement felt by all as they threw themselves into the sea at 0300 hrs, after virtually running for Perpignan, cannot be described. The four days R and R on the beaches of Southern France went too quickly and all too soon it was time to take the four tonner home.

The expedition was an immense success. Although only part of the aim was achieved, an inexperienced team managed to hike a total of 400km carrying heavy rucksacks; climbed upwards for a total of 16,585m or ten and a half miles (twice the height of Everest) conquered ten peaks over 1700m; in only 29 days and over some of the most difficult terrain in Europe. A great deal was learnt about mountaincraft, team work, and ourselves.

On the Way Up Mount Pimere. A stop for a rest. *Left to Right:* Lt Duncan Spencer, Cpl Pete Edge, LCpls Stu Garrett and Bruce Pearce

Lunch Breack at 8,350ft on a knife edge leading to the summit of Mount Pimere.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS

It was a humble start to the athletics season with OIC Athletics **Capt Davis** and his **2IC WO2 (SSM) Melville** both being unavoidably absent for much of the build up. It seemed that only personal invitations from the RSM could persuade people to attend training but gradually under **Sgt 'Sandy' Dos Martyres**, the nucleus of a team began to appear.

The squad inevitably included a few 'old faithfuls' from previous years. **Cpl 'Andy' Andrews** concentrated on his kangaroo impressions in the long jump pit, while **Cpl 'Jock' Milne** and **LCpl 'Stu' Leadbeater** risked package and limb over the hurdles. The 'two Taffs', **Cpls James** and **Roberts** continued their training for the longer distance events, and **LCpl Braisdell** sprinted his way to a colloquial German course which kept him our of the Army Championships. **Cpl 'Shaky' Shakespeare** as usual hurled himself over the high jump along with **LCpl Warmington**, but not at the same time.

It was good to see a few newcomers in the Squad this season. **Sgt 'Mick' Helliwell, LCpl Jaques** and **Sig Smith** gave the pole vault event some unexpected depth, while runners such as **Cpl 'Ginge' Lawler, Sig 'Willy' Wilsea** and **Sig 'JP' Pullen** came into their own in the middle distances.

Unfortunately, Squadron Summer Camps, STIs and Regimental stand-downs took their toll on training sessions and the team went into the 4 Armoured Divisional Championships well served on the track, but a little weaker in some of the field events. After a good first day we were neck and neck with 3 Royal Anglians, but it soon became apparent that they were much the stronger team and we achieved a creditable second place, just ahead of 4 ADSR.

This qualified us for the BAOR championships, but before that we travelled up to Verden for this year's Morrison Cup on 23 and 24 June. The team was largely uncharged with the exception of **Cpl 'Jamie' Alleyne** who turned up for the sprint events. The main competition clearly came from 21 Sig Regt who eventually proved too strong in the field events and deservedly beat us, while yet again 4 ADSR gave us a scare, but we held on to second place!

Three days later we were back in Sennelager for the BAOR Championships. With teams like 50 Msl Regt and 3 Royal Anglians competing we weren't expecting miracles and concentrated on enjoying the day. This 'laid back' approach produced just the desired results with a few excellent ones from **Cpl Oakley** in the Hammer, **LCpl 'Stu' Leadbeater** in the 110m Hurdles and **Sgt Helliwell** in the Pole Vault.

After a dramatic 4 × 400m relay, we managed to secure third position ahead of 39 Hy Regt RA, and so qualified for the Army Championships on 15 July. We went into this competition with a talented team, but the Regiment's commitment to Ex *Check Forge* gave little opportunity for training and we finished in sixth position. To have achieved this after such humble beginnings speaks volumes for the talent of the athletes and we look forward to next year—after we've recovered from the ferry journey back to the UK, that is.

My thanks especially to the two 'wedges' that helped us out, **Sapper Powell** and **Sapper 'what do I do with the ball?' Douherty**.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Mess Life has been very hectic of late with functions having to be fitted in around exercises/summer camps and block leave, yes one does get leave these days in 7 Sig Regt.

One dinner worthy of a special mention was one for **Frau Inge Schroeder** who has worked in the mess for 25 years. It all came as a surprise to her and when she was presented with a gold watch, her face would have graced any art gallery.

Life in the mess has also had its sad moments due to the departure of many stalwart members. To name a few **WO1 Bill Ritchie** and **WO1 Lenny Carr** who both leave on commissioning, **WO2 Chas Dowie** and **WO2 Eric Titmarsh** both on promotion and **SSgt Alan James** and **Gordon Hughes** who start new lives in civilian street.

The mess held two summer balls ensuring everyone was able to attend at least one. **WO2 (SSM) Jim Reeves** insisted he attended both so as he could look after the interests of his men of course!

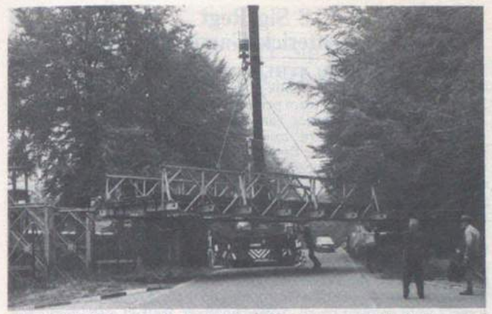
The mess garden was entered for the Herford in bloom competition by **Sgt Andy Anderson** and it is rumoured his OC is writing his confidential on his prowess as a gardener and not a technician.

Life for the singlies goes on as normal except for **Sgt Bob Christie** who has been sacked as fishing member since all the fish have died.

The mess now looks forward to a quiet period over Ex *Reforger* during which the QMSI will plan the Christmas Ball and the new committee come to terms with the news that they have to organise a dinner night for 350 people to mark the occasion of the disbandment of 3 Sqn.

Around the Regiment
'There's a clown on the end of this stick'.
WO1 (RSM) Andy Hickling was 'stuck for words' on his Monday morning parade. Cpl Peter Watson raised in excess of 1200 DM for charity after carrying out a dare to appear on the RSM's parade as a clown

Long Service and Good Conduct Presentations
After being presented with their long service and good conduct medals by Maj Gen G. R. Oehlers the receipients with their wives outside the Sergeants Mess
Left to Right: SSgt Terry, SSgt Masson, SSgt (now WO2) Smythe, SSgt Jeffries and SSgt (YofS) Pilling



The original Barnes Bridge linking South camp with North camp was finally dismantled in May 1987 and an aluminium one was put into service July 1987

Regimental CFT Day
For all those lucky to be under forty, QM(A) excepted, a special Regimental CFT was kindly arranged for all the Officers, Warrant Officers and SNCO's by RSM Andy Hickling
The course was duly run and all passed. It was followed up by drinks and a barbecue in the Sergeant's Mess
The Unit Families Officer was unable to make the CFT as he was committed to a family visit!

1 SQUADRON

This year's Squadron Summer Camp combined an Escape and Evasion exercise during the first week, with a variety of adventure training and R and R pursuits on the second week.

Prior to the Squadrons' deployment on the E and E Exercise we suffered our first casualty with **Sig 'Dog Food' Rayner** who failed to convince himself that a dog is man's best friend. Apart from the blood stains, the dog demonstration went quite well! Coupled with that **Cpl 'Pathfinder' Finches** five hour marathon around a two hour night navigation course showed that the Squadron was mentally and physically prepared for the ordeal ahead.

Teams of four men were unceremoniously searched and dumped around the Sauerland with the task of making it to RVs for further instructions. The threat of dogs and even worse, of **Lt Pat Evans** and **Capt Ian Bucklow** made capture an unfavourable option. Many runners were forced to seek shelter with the locals and special mention must go to **Cpl 'Dirty Mac' Sayer** and his pet, and to **Cpl 'Smoothie' Weaver** who spent his exercise in the comfort and company of a local huntsman. He hasn't been the same since!

The exercise was voted as being similar to 'banging your head against a brick wall'—nice when you stopped. The only question remaining is just where did **Cpl 'Giblets' Peacock** hide his cigarettes?

Phase two of the camp was based near the Dummersee. Many thought the E and E exercise hadn't finished when they arrived at the site of a disused range, but it was only to be a base for the water sports arranged by **Lt Nick Caleb** and **YofS Chippy Wood. LCpl 'Al' Gregory** won the prize for how to make friends and influence people with his early morning PT and exercises.

A day trip to Phantasieland reintroduced many of the lads to civilisation, while the inclement weather made charades a convenient pastime. The 'Vegetables' led by **Cpl 'King Cabbage' Robertson** pitted their wits against the Officers and SNCOs. Guess who won?

5 SQUADRON
Reported by 2Lt 'Tiny' Coleman
PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj Tim Bryning**
2IC	**Capt Charles King**
OC Man Tp	**Lt Neil Hogarth**
OC Sp Tp	**2Lt 'Tiny' Coleman**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) 'Dixie' Deam**
YOS	**WO2 (YofS) Mick McCarthy**
FOS	**SSgt (FofS) Bob Morris**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Fairbeam**

ARRIVALS—DEPARTURES

During this period the Squadron said goodbye to its two leading figures. **Maj Bob Turnbill** moves down the road to Bielefeld whilst **Capt Peter Costello** goes to UK on promotion to Major. The Squadron wishes them and their families all the best for the future.

Maj Tim Bryning takes over the helm, with his new right hand man **Capt Charles King**. They moved straight into the thick of things with Ex *Check Forge*.

INTER SQN RUGBY (31 MARCH)

On 31 March the Regiment held an inter-sqn 15-a-side Rugby day. Each game was eight-minutes each way and all seven Signal Squadrons competed. The competition was decided on a league basis with each team playing a gruelling six matches. At the end of the day of Rugby, the match to decide the winner was between HQ Sqn and 5 Sqn.

The tilte was settled in 5 Sqn's favour with a brilliant individual try from **Cpl Jamie 'lighting' Alleyne**. The team photo shows all those who took part.

EXERCISE *Durst Quadrant*

Exercise *Durst Quadrant* was to be 5 Sqn adventure training camp for 1987, the only problem being that it coincided with the West German monsoon season. Although the weather proved apalling for most of the two weeks, the majority of the planned activities were able to go ahead. Sections alternatively hill walked, canoed, windsurfed or climbed rocks. When the weather proved too bad the local swimming pool, with wave machine and 100m tube, was thought to be adventurous enough.

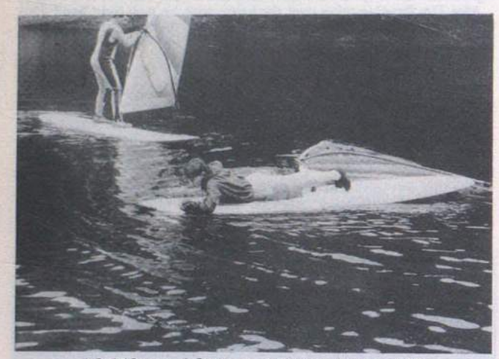
Osterode in the Harz Mountains was the base camp, which provided activities and was well stocked.

Cpl 'Jake' Jacobs with pupil on the white water

The climbing activities were carried out in the Oker Valley, along with the white water canoeing. Unfortunately it was 'turned off' later in the day. Windsurfing was taught by **Lt Neil Hogarth**, near Bad Lauterburg at a lake popular with German fishermen. Small parties of hill walkers could be seen anywhere from St Andreasburg toboggan run to Osterode ice-cream parlour.

The base camp was run by **Sam** ('I only get 5DM a day to feed you, you know') **Fairburn**. Inspite of this everybody are heartily. This included the highlight of the camp, the big eating competition. **Cpls 'I love stollen cake' O'Rouke** and **'Pass another bratti' Baxter** have mammouth appetites. After three chops, three brattis, three beefburgers, three steaks and one very large cake each **Cpl O'Rourke** was declared the winner.

Considering the damp, wet, muddy conditions the camp went very well. Most activities were attempted by everybody, if not completed. The two weeks proved a useful guide for further adventure training.



LCpl 'Sammy' Samosa exploring the pond life

Cpl 'Cliff' Booth slapping for survival

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

MORRISON CUP (UK) ATHLETIC MEETING 1987

The Morrison Cup (UK) took place at Middlesbrough on Saturday 25 July. The Regimental team performed well, finishing in third place. A noteworthy performance came from **Capt Tony Clayton**, who proved that the 'Old guard' can sometimes still teach the youngsters how to do things. He came first in the Shot and second in the Javelin. Other notable performances came for the 4 × 100m Relay Team of **Capt Lunn, Cpls Griffin, Quinn** and **Sig Barry**, who finished second. Well done to the team, all members performed well to acheive third place in the face of strong opposition.

CO'S WALK

On Thursday 16 July, the Regimental Officers and Warrant Officers took to the Cleveland Hills for the CO's walk. Despite the summer so far, the weather was kind and a good route and excellent scenery were enjoyed by all. Some, however, walked a touch further than others. Having tackled the more adventurous hilly route, a small group consisting of the Adjutant, **Capt Simon Lunn,** 21C 1 Sqn **Capt David Crawford**, OC Schemes Tp **Capt Kevan Thornber**, and OC B Tp **2Lt Sarah Bagguley** decided to recce the afternoon route, (at least that was 21C 1 Sqn's excuse, believed by nobody!). Their delayed arrival produced the pre-lunch entertainment—lunch itself was an excellent meal which appeared to inspire civilian hill-walkers in the area to join in! Praise must go to all concerned with the catering arrangements. It really was a first class day in the hills and hearty thanks are due to **Mr Geoff Blenkinsop** for all his efforts in organising the event.

The men of RY360 gather round LCpl Innes after the presentation of his A grading student award.

Lt Col Finney congratulates Cpl Soward (son of Lt Col (TOT) Soward) on attaining his A grading

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

FREEDOM OF RICHMOND PARADE

On Friday 26 June 1987, the Training Group Royal Signals exercised the right of the Corps, to march through Richmond with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, accompanied by the Corps band.

The parade was commanded by **Lt Col D. F. M. Collyer**, with elements of 8 Sig Regt, the Army Apprentices' College, Iron Troop 11 Sig Regt, and some 40 members of the Royal Signals Association who were in Catterick for the annual Reunion.

The freedom scroll was carried by **Lt H. M. Wareham**, escorted by **SSgt MacLean** and **Sgt Waddingham**.

The Mayor took the salute in Richmond Market Place before moving into the castle grounds to hear the Retreat Ceremony played by the Corps Band.

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt P. W. J. Whitehead**
INF ADV	**Capt I. G. Harper, RRW**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) O'Hare**
QMSI	**WO2 (QMSI) Hanlon**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Webber**

OUR JOB

For the unitiated, we in NCO Training Wing are responsible for the organisation and the smooth running of the RSSSC (SSgts Course) and the RSDCC (Det Comds Course).

THE 'TEAMS'

There are basically two 'teams' of instructors. The RSSSC team is headed by **WO2 Mick Hanlon** and he is backed up by a wealth of instructional 'know how' in the guise of **SSgt Jim MacLean, SSgt Nick Nicolson** and **Sgt Stu Johnston**. The RSDCC instructors are **Sgts 'Taff' George, Paul Mellish** and **Stan Stanford**, and the Troop Commander, **WO2 Mick O'Hare**. Both 'teams' are ably supported by an admin staff consisting of **SSgt Barry Webber, Cpl John 'Jedi' Wardley** and **Cpl Jock Burns**. The PT Staff are also members of the Wing and **Sgt Andy Chapple** APTC and his AI's regularly put the courses through their paces.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Mostly goings, unfortunately. Departing for pastures new are **Sgt Nigel Sloane** to 3 Div on promotion, **Sgt Spike Milligan** APTC to Brecon on promotion and **Sgt Geoff Jones** to 21 Sig Regt. We hope they, and their families, enjoy their new postings. The new arrivals are all in the PT Staff and we welcome **Sgt Andy Chapple** APTC and his wife **Ricky, Sig Sean Brennan** and his wife **Sandra,** and **LCpl Pete O'Brien** to the fold.

CONGRATULATIONS

This is a good year for promotions in the Wing. Our congratulations to **SSgts Jim MacLean** and **Nick Nicolson** on their recent promotions and also to **WO2 Mick Hanlon** who has been selected for promotion to WO1. **Cpl Gary Tock** from the gymnasium has only just learned of his selection for promotion to sergeant. Well Done!

RSSSC (TA) No 38

A slight change in the routine of the Staff-Sergeants Courses occurred in June when we had a break from the normal five week 'Staffies' and conducted an RS(TA)SSC. This was a short, sharp, intense course of two weeks duration comprising 20 TA Sergeants from all over the UK. Our thanks go to the five students from 40 Sig Regt (V) who, through their terrific drive and sense of humour, kept the remainder of the students, and to a large extent the DS, motoring over in top gear. Special mention to an outstanding effort by **Sgt B. Skinner**, 40 Sig Regt (V), who deservedly became top student on the course. We must not leave out **Sgt S. Lee,** 40 Sig Regt (V) who may not be Montgomery when it comes to tactical ability but is certainly a 'Frank Carson' when it comes to raising morale.

RSSSC TA No 38
Top Student — **Sgt Skinner** 40 Sig Regt (V)

RSSSC (TA) No 38
Back: Sgts Skinner, Edgar, French, Naylor, Gandhi, McMurray, Young, Lodge
Centre: Sgts White, Lee, Fairbrother, Joyce, Pieper, Williams, Linton
Front: SSgt Nicolson, SSgt Maclean, WO2 (SSM) M. O'Hare, Capt P. W. J. Whitehead, WO2 (QMSI) M. Hanlon, SSgt Webber, Sgt Spiers and Sgt Johnstone

RSDCC No 218
Top Student **LCpl Dickson** 10 Sig Regt

RSDCC No 218
Back: LCpls Love, Corlett, Rouse, Brooker, Fairbairn, Cpl Taylor, LCpls Ginty, Inglis, Lee, Bird, Rose, Mountain
Third: LCpls Farmer, Steele, Rice, Tyler, Hancock, Watterson, Smith (208), Malvern, Oldman, Smith (211), Westmoreland, Cooley, King
Second: LCpls Pegg, Laird, Ashworth, Adams, Best, Davies, Williams, Riggall, Vaughan, Brown, Lavery, Dickson
Front: Cpl Snell, SSgt (SQMS) Webber, WO2 (SSM) M. O'Hare, Capt P. W. J. Whitehead, Sgt Johnston, Cpl Wardley

ULSTER TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Troop OC	**Lt Paul A. Hodgkiss**
Troop Sgt	**Sgt Colin Tough**
Troop Cpl	**Cpl Chris Martin**
Troop Cpl	**Cpl Andy Evans**
Troop Cpl	**Cpl John Avery**
Troop Cpl	**Cpl Stephen (Taff) Webb**

On 16 July the first Ulster Troop passed off the square. It had been a long and hard six months starting with drill in the snow and finishing with Battle Camp in soaring temperatures. Throughout, the catch phrase was 'you earn everything you get' and with this in mind the boys put in a splended performance on the pass-off parade. The young 'sprogs' who had joined the army in early January had been transformed by the Troop permanent staff under the eagle eye of **Sgt Colin Tough** into a smart, well disciplined team.

Within that team, Londonderry section under the dedicated and professional guidance of **Cpl Taff Webb** proved to have the edge and pipped the other three sections to take the champion section prize.

It must be said, however, that **Cpl Andy Evans'** section certainly shone on Battle Camp but, not to be outdone, **Cpl Chris Martin** put his 'drill head' on and proceeded to sweep the board with Down section to win the Inter Section Drill Competition. It was all go for the full six months and there in the thick of it at all times was the indomitable **Cpl John Avery**, always willing to give his best and lead by example, indeed a popular (if that's possible for the permanent staff in a training Regiment!) and important figure in the troop.

Ulster Troop Pass Off 16 July 1987
Fourth: JSig Pope, Virgo, Reed, Young, Northcott, King, Robertson, Corbett, Raybould, Gutteridge, Patterson-Turner, Grassick, Wales
Third: JSig Jeffery, Howarth, Osbourne, Brown, Salter, Pollit, Humphreys, Bradley, Chapman, Turner, Butterfield, Gray, Haycroft
Second: JCpl Yelland, JSig Aimes, Ariss, Whittaker, Tarr, Sawnders, Bentley, Bickerstaff, Walsh, Priestley, Everett, Conlan, Appleton, JLCpl Saldy
First: JCpl Hall, JCpl Toye, Cpls Evans, Wegg, SSM Duggan, Maj Bell RAEC, Lt Hodgkiss, Sgt Tough, Cpls Avery, Martin, JCpl Knowles

Congratulations are extended, also, on his recent selection for promotion to Sergeant.

The training varied enormously from river crossings to gliding, from block jobs to adventure training. Throughout, however, the morale and spirit was always there (and no more so than on the CFT) and **Lt Paul Hodgkiss** wishes all members of the troop the very best for the future.

JSig (Nasher) Robertson leading the way, preferring to bury the log rather than carrying it, behind him JSig Chapman and JSig Young

Cpl Avery, (I am too old for this), brings home the stragglers to his left JSig 'I moan a lot' Pollit, behind JSig Brown.

MEDAL PRESENTATION

On Thursday 16 July 1987, during the Pass Off Parade, the reviewing officer, **Col John Francis** presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to **SSgt Mick Scull**.

SSgt Mike Shull being presented with his LS & GC Medal by Col John Francis. Cpl Martin is the cushion bearer

PRIZEWINNERS

Best Junior Recruit	**JSig Reed**
Best Shot	**JSig Salter**
Champion Section	**Londonderry**
Orientation for Service	**JSig Reed**
Military Calculations	**JSig Walsh**
Map Reading	**JSig Graddick**
Best Overall in Military Studies	**JSig Aimes**
Comms Skills	**JSig Gutteridge**

CHARITY RUN

On 31 May twelve volunteers from Ulster Troop took part in the Hospital Aid Charity Fun Run held at St John of God Hospital near Catterick. After a 'strenuous' six and a half miles (what's that in kilometres?) they had raised the princely sum of £245 and all taking part said they enjoyed it but please could the SSM go faster next time. (No! SSM).

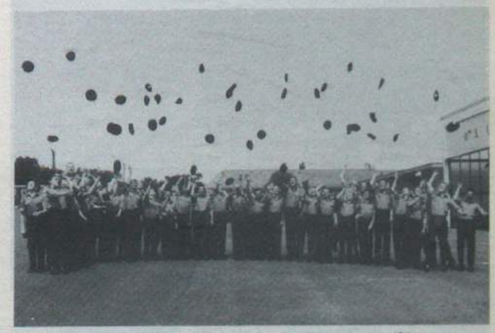
Back Row L to R: WO2 (SSM) Duggan, JCpl Toye, JSig Priestly, Walsh, JLCpl Yelland, JSig Whittaker, Appleton, Cpl Martin
Front Row L to R: JSig Osbourne, JCpl Knowles, JSig Young, Corbett, JCpl Hall, JSig Raybould

KOHIMA TROOP

Troop OC	**Lt Bob 'I'm windsurfing' Parry-Jones**
Troop Sgt	**Sgt Tom 'Of course you don't have to swim in caves' Benson**
Troop Cpl	**Cpl Dave 'It's OK I'll run home' King**
Troop Cpl	**Cpl Tony 'I can't I'm on EPC' Gaston**
Troop Cpl	**Cpl Dave 'Smudge' Smith**

The Troop formed on 1 June 1987, 51 fresh eager young faces, all smiling and happy . . . and all all with long hair. The first night was an initial brief, haircuts and an introduction to the troop permanent staff, the smiling faces were now very bewildered and some looked quite sad . . . so this is the Army.

The first three weeks passed in a blur and it was time for Ex *First Try*, two quiet nights (well almost quiet) in the woods of scenic Gandale and an introduction to living in the field, thunderflashes and those immortal words 'Bug Out'.



'Oh no! . . . which one is mine corporal?'
The saluting test is over for Kohima Troop

Week four saw a sadly missed trip to the Dolphinarium in Darlington so we decided Milling would be more fun . . . **JSig 'Bung' Reynolds** used the old 'I can't see without my glasses' excuse, but we know he was really aiming for **Cpl Tock** of the PT Staff.

By the end of week five, 48 smart junior recruits had received their cap badges, having passed their saluting test. The first major hurdle was cleared.

A week of ELT and a week of leave followed, and so it is on with the remaining 3,427 hurdles before Pass Off on 27 November 1987.

EXERCISE *Pronto Chase*

Dawn broke one dreary June day in the Yorkshire Dales to see the hill sides being scoured by red-bereted 'Scotian' (Orangeland) patrols leaving no stone, or bush unturned. Lonely figures, looking more like tramps than members of 11 Sig Regt permanent staff, dodged along walls and crawled along the becks to evade capture while trying, sometimes in vain, to reach an RV with a friendly local Partisan.

This was the culmination of several days survival and escape and evasion training for members of 11 Sig Regt Cadre. The course began in the rural surroundings of Ripon Parks with instruction that included the various delights of earth-worm omelettes and ex-battery chicken a-la-old tin can. The local rabbit population had got wind of the threat to their liberty and took great delight in studiously ignoring all endeavours to trap them. The local angling club can also rest assured that no fish managed inadvertently to jump out of the water and into the hands of any of the course.

Then events took a more serious turn as out of the mist emerged 'Scotian Special Forces' who dragged the would-be Robinson Crusoes off to a PW camp somewhere on the Catterick Moors. Liberation finally, and thankfully, came. The subsequent days saw a classic contest of cat-and-mouse over the Yorkshire Dales. The hunter force scored an over 80% capture rate and, under the skilful direction of **Sgt Steve Talbot**, even planted 'Scotian Spies' amongst the escapees to great effect.

Same time, same channel next year boys?

'Your Turn Now'
Cpl Geordie Crane Samples the delights of 'la earthworm' while Lt Huw Wareham and LCpl Cole look on amused

Endex
Back Row L to R: Cpl Andy Evans, Sig Simon Hulley, Cpl Andy Strudwick, LCpls Cole, Pellet
Front Row L to R: Cpls Storey, Geordie Crane, Chris Carling, Steve Webb

EXERCISE *DALES TRAIN*

As the sun rose over Catterick Garrison ten WRAC/QARANC servicewomen gathered at the guardroom of 11 Sig Regt ready to head into the Yorkshire Dales for a week's adventure training. The weather forecast was poor and on that first morning one or two of the smiles seemed a little stiff.

The little band of women, gathered from several units in the Garrison plus one from each of York and Aldershot Garrisons, arrived at the Regiment's adventure training centre at Whernside, near Dent, and were immediately kitted out for caving. The drizzling rain had meant an immediate change of programme and we set off after lunch to a cave described as 'sporting when wet'! Wet was an understatement and the experience included wading through 3ft deep underwater streams and climbing up waterfalls.

On day two we awoke to the sound of heavy rain. When the sun finally emerged we were able to sortie out to a viaduct where **WPte Gail Hepburn** soon showed us there was a right and a wrong way to go down an abseil. Later, we were able to practise climbing and everybody managed to reach the top—even if they initially required a little help on the 'bottom'.

Wednesday was the first day of our expedition. We spent the morning learning how to pack our rucksacks before heading off to the Lake District where the rovers were parked up beside an enormous mountain. At first our by now merry band thought that this was another joke by the instructors—we surely weren't going to have to carry our heavy packs up *that* mountain? A very hot couple of hours later we had climbed two thirds of Jake's Rake, Pavey Ark and reached a tarn beside which we were to camp for the night. After pitching our tents the next task was to reach the top of the mountain—by the most difficult path of course.

Once on top the views were magnificent and the valley below seemed a very long way away. The following morning we retraced our steps back down hill to the vehicles. The rest of the day was spent abseiling and swimming in an extremely cold quarry lake and we finally returned to the centre in the late afternoon for a very delicious barbeque.

Our last day, Friday, was watersports day and we each chose one of the following; caving, canoeing or windsurfing. It was a gloriously hot day and an excellent ending to a week which had combined a lot of hard work learning new skills with a great deal of fun and enjoyment.

'Do I kick a hole here for the seat, staff?'
JSig Holland, Brayford, Brown, Sammy, and Craven

Back Row L to R: WPte Sue Thomas, SSgt Boon, WPte Sue Jackson (hiding), Sgt Steveson, WPte Gail Hepburn
Middle Row L to R: Cpl North, Lt Ruth Prictoe, WCpl Kay Chambers, WLCpl Sharon Mallice, WPte (Woody) Lorna Wood, WLCpl Fiona Hunt
In Front: WLCpl Jenny Pethers

SPORTING POST SCRIPT

GOLF

On Tuesday 16 July we held our first, for some years, Regimental Golf Tournament at the Catterick Garrison Course. Attended by over 20 players it was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Results in the morning individual competition were: A Div 0 to 14 Handicap: 1st **Mr Keith Brookes** with 37 points. B Div 15 to 28 Handicap: **Maj 'Tez' Fish** 38 points and our overall champion. After lunch in the Four Ball Better Ball the Winners with 42 points **WO1 Ken Clarke** and **Keith Brookes** again, and runners up **Maj John Ient** and **Maj 'Tez' Fish** with 41 points.

This will now be an annual outing so 'Rabbits', get swinging!

In the Oliphant Cup, which is the AGA Inter Unit Championship, the Regiment has qualified for the NE District Zone final having had wins over 8 Sig Regt, 15 to Nil and 16 AD Regt RA 23 to Nil. We hope to emulate 8 Regt by representing the Corps at the Army Finals in October.

WO2 Chris Carveth continues to carry our play with distinction having represented the British Army in a recent International in Marseilles.

Maj John Ient gained selection to the Corps Team at Wentworth in April against the Staff College and in the AOGS Egypt Cup at Birkdale in May. A further trip in August versus the REME is programmed.

With only half the season gone results are good, and the forecast better. We look forward to recording greater triumphs.

THE MORRISON CUP 1987

This year's Morrison Cup UK was held at the Cleveland County Stadium in Middlesborough on 25 July.

The Regimental Team performed admirably against some excellent competition gaining a fourth place overall with the following notable successes:- **Cpl Shirley** in the long jump, **SSgt Crossland** in the 5,000m, **Sig Shipsey** in the high jump and a good second place in the 4 × 400m by **Cpls Carr, Tock, Shirley** and **Pte Clement** ACC.

Three 'proper' golfers modelling proper headwear at Catterick Golf Course on the 1st Tee: Majors Tez Fish (21C), John Ient (QM and organiser), and Freddie Stewart (Retd)

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13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

2 SQUADRON

During May a team from the Regiment, under the leadership of **Lt Wreford** (2 Sqn), took part in the annual RCZ Skill-at-Arms Competition held at ATA Haltern. Credit and congratulations go to **Sgt Knighton** (1 Sqn) and **Cpl Carvell** (2 Sqn) who paired on the gun team to win the LMG shoot. Well done to both and better luck to the rest of the team for next year.

Early June saw the introduction of Squadron Administrative Inspections. A series of checks to ensure that each Squadron performed its administration effectively was carried out by RHQ. Barrack guards, accommodation and office procedures were all subject to close scrutiny whilst the WRAC provided live firing on the 25 metre range to show their versatility as non-combatants.

The Harz Mountain Marathon was held on 11 and 12 July with **Cpl Peak, LCpls Beckett** and **Friskney** (all 2 Sqn) taking part. An arduous first day of 42 miles proved too much in the time permitted (13 hours) so the tired and weary trio were disqualified, having taken 13½ hours. Nevertheless a good effort from these young hopefuls and better luck next time. Of the 42 teams that started only nine completed both days.

The highlight of the period occurred on 18 and 19 July and was organised by **WO2 Naismith** (2 Sqn). Intelligence Corps weekend produced a hustle and bustle of activity involving Corps personnel from all over BAOR. Saturday commenced with a six-a-side football competition which was ultimately won by our own **WO2 McNulty's** Marauders (2 Sqn Team) ensuring the first 'Int Germany six-a-side Champions' Trophy stayed in the Regiment. Concurrent activity included Volleyball, Softball and a barbecue. The day ended with a Disco and 'Shipwreck' Party with **Lt Col** and **Mrs Roberts** the principal guests. Whole roast pig provided the centre piece for the excellent buffet and a good time was had by all.

Sunday saw the Church Service during which the infant **Jonathon Glyn**, son of **Cpl** and **Mrs Tilley** was baptised (2 Sqn). This was followed by a 'Raz-m-taz' barbecue during the afternoon to round off a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. Our thanks go to **WO2 Naismith** and his Committee for the organisation and hard work put in which made this weekend such a success.

WOS AND SERGEANTS' MESS

The social life of the WOs' and Sergeants Mess has continued unabated and the highlights have been the dining out of **WO1 (RSM) Phil Welch**, the dining in of **WO1 (RSM) Jim Neil**, and the annual Summer Ball.

WO1 (RSM) Phil Welch and his wife **Pauline** were dined out of the Mess on 19 June and it was a very good evening. All members wish **Phil** and **Pauline** an enjoyable posting to Glasgow with Manning and Records.

Next came the dining in of **WO1 (RSM) Jim Neil** on 3 July, and another superb meal. We wish the RSM and **Mrs Neil** a happy tour with the Regiment.

WO1 (RSM) P. Welch hands over to WO1 (RSM) J. Neal

The mess summer ball took place on Friday 12 June and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The Committee, headed by **WO1 (YofS) Trevor Taylor,** transformed the gymnasium with the theme 'Days of the Raj', and they must be congratulated for organising a truly memorable evening.

On Tuesday 14 July the Mess was honoured with a farewell visit from Comd Comms BAOR, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman CB,** during which he presented **WO2 (RQMS) Bob McSeveny** with his LS and GC medal.

The turnover in the mess in recent months can be seen from the following departures: **WO2 Black, SSgt Callaghan, SSgts John, McDougall, Sgts McDermid, Mitchell, Pewsey, Snowden** and **Vezey.**

The undermentioned have arrived and we welcome them to the Mess: **WO2 Livesley, WO2 McCormick, WO2 Morrall, SSgts Bone, Dewar, Sgts Bridgewater, Denton, Ellis, Grant, Harding, Lamb, Moye, Naylor** and **Parvin.**

SPORT

ATHLETICS—1987 SEASON

Management Team: **Maj (TDO) A. D. C. Stevenson, WO1 (YofS) T. J. Taylor, WO2 (Supvr R) D. Dolling.**

It must be a sign of age, but football seasons seem to be getting longer, athletic seasons shorter and the rain wetter, and this season was no exception. It commenced in early May with the Inter Squadron Athletics Standards Competition, where 1.25 metre tall Majors try to jump 1.30 high jump bars etc, all in good fun. This year's competition between the Squadrons proved to be very close with 1 Squadron just beating 2 Sqn. There were some very good individual performances from **Sgt Chris Skelton** (HQ), **Sig Kevin Fogg** (1), **WCpl Jeanette Jenson** (2) and **Wpte Carol Booth** (1). This year we were very lucky to be able to hold the Regimental meeting on the cinder track at RAF Wildenrath. After the usual panics about the weather, the rain still pouring down, the morning of Friday 22 May dawned bright and only a few showers troubled us during the day. Masterminded by **WO1 Taylor,** the meeting was a great success and resulted in a close run victory for 1 Sqn from HQ Sqn.

On to the (BR) RCZ Championships in early June, where much to our delight, we were placed second, beating all the other Corps Regiments in the RCZ, with the exception of the winners, 21 Sig Regt. Fine individual performances came from **Sgt Chris Skelton** winning the shot putt and **Sgt Chris Moye** winning the 110m hurdles and being placed second in the 400m hurdles.

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The season culminated with the annual Morrison Cup competition at the end of June hosted by 1st Division at Verden, where very good athletic facilities including a tartan track, are available.

It was unfortunate that the team for this event was weakened by the loss of some star performers through injuries sustained during a Regimental Battle Camp held just prior to the meeting. After two days of close competition, the Regiment was placed sixth overall, a good result for a small squad.

Individual winners were **Sgt Chris Moye** (110m hurdles), and **Sgt Chris Skelton** (shot) with very good places being achieved by **WO1 Keith Hall** (pole vault) and **Sgt Nick Ranier** (high jump).

Although Regimental athletics are all about team efforts, I cannot close without a couple of tributes to individuals; first of all my personal thanks to **WO1 Trevor Taylor** and **WO2 Dave Dolling** for all their efforts throughout the season and secondly to our Estate Warden, **WO1 John O'Kell RAOC,** who at the ripe old age of 54, represented the Regiment yet again in the hammer event, his eigth Morrison Cup in succession, a record I wonder if any R Signals athletes, or indeed anyone else can match?

The Athletics Team with the CO after the RCZ meeting

GOLF

When the 1987 Raffles Golf Classic team hit the circuit, they certainly did it in style, as visitors to the RAF Germany golf course at Bruggen confirmed.

In fact, the whole of Bruggen was swinging as the players in the 1987 Classic Competition teed off alongside professionals **Noel Hunt** and Irish Ryder Cup team coach **John Garner,** who were both playing exhibition matches and holding their own special roadshows.

One person who will never forget this weekend is **SSgt Ian Knight,** who battled against more then 180 players to win an all expenses paid trip for two to compete in the Raffles Classic at the Belfry course in the West Midlands, this September. **SSgt Ian Knight** and his guest will be flown to England, stay in a luxury hotel and join celebrity golfers in this prestigious tournament. And if he is successful, he could win up to one hundred pounds worth of golfing equipment and the coveted Raffles Silver Rosebowl trophy.

SSgt Ian Knight receives his invitation for two at the Belfry and the Raffles silver trophy from Mr Charles Cornell

14 Sig Regt (EW)
BFPO 23

The last few months, as always, have been very active ones for the Regiment. The middle of May saw the departure of the CO, **Lt Col M. P. S. Shaw,** who leaves us for 'bigger and better things' on promotion to Col LSOR 7 at MOD. We welcome the new CO, **Lt Col J. D. Stokoe MBE** who joins us from SO1 DS at Staff College.

A handover/takeover parade was held for the changeover of COs, on 14 May 1987. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to us and the clouds opened and the rain poured and we all got wet!

The month of June was quiet except for elements of the Regiment attending a demo for the NATO Symposium in Brussels.

4 July, as well as being Independence Day for Amercia, was the Regimental Open Day. The gates of the barracks were opened to the people of Celle. On display were various pieces of military equipment and the Regiment put on stalls and side shows to raise money for local charities. There was a main arena with various activities, the Cannonball Parachute Display Team was the main attraction and there was also a tug-of-war competition between local teams, 14 Sig Regt coming out the winner.

July was a month to remember with the granting of the Freedom of Celle Parade for the Regiment on 10 July 1987. That was certainly a great honour and an excellent day was had by all.

Handover/takeover parade of Lt Col Shaw to Lt Col Stokoe

HQ SQUADRON

With the recent departure of some familiar faces from the Squadron, the hierarchy has had a small change around:

OC	**Maj Eddie Kellett**
2IC	**Capt Brian Dearman**
QM (G)	**Maj Nick Nicoll**
QM (T)	**Capt Gordon Platts**
TOT	**Capt John MacDonald**
SSM	**WO2 Bob MacKenzie**
MTWO	**WO2 Rod Pylee**
WO IC FSL	**WO1 Neil Mapp**
Sqn Clk	**Mrs Linda Clarke**

We say farewell to **Maj Peter Todd BEM** and his wife **Jenny, Capt (QM) Malcolm Robinson** and **Charmian** and **WO1 Steve May** and **Ann.** We welcome all new arrivals and wish those arriving and those departing the best of luck in their new postings.

QM (G) DEPARTMENT

PERSONALITIES

QM	**Maj (QM) J. R. Nicoll**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Thompson**
SQMS (A)	**SSgt D. Witchell**

THE DEPARTMENT—BY THE RQMS

The department has had an exceptionally busy period throughout the last 18 months, with the handover of Blk21 (the new Ops Bureau), the normal support for all exercises, a complete internal re-organisation, the various handover/takeovers that have taken place, the enhancement of the largest single brick building in Europe, hygiene inspections, fire inspections, the increase in accommodation stores to enhance the single accommodation, various contracts that are taking place and over 2,500 2109's (Request for Repairs). These are but a few of the tasks undertaken by a small hard pressed but very efficient department!

This band of very merry men and women are currently led by the Old Wise Owl (Operator Wireless and Line) himself **Maj (QM) J. R. Nicoll** (alias Arthur Daley) he is ably assisted by the RQMS **WO2 J. R. McKenzie,** who is to take over as SSM HQ Sqn at the beginning of Sep (look-out HQ). The SQMS (A) **SSgt Witchell** (alias the roadrunner) has been very busy running here and running there, and still has found ample time to fit in his leave to Crete which he won at the Sergeants' Mess draw.

Mr Doug Marshall (alias chirpy cheep cheep) joined us last October and assists in the running of the accommodation account and being ex-RAMC he is a handy man to have around the department, especially when our two tailoressess **Jill** and **Gaby** have everyone in stitches.

Mr Gale has been here since the days of Julius Ceasar and has assured us the Ration Account was much easier then, as they always got their figures correct.

We have said a fond farewell to **Sgt Pete Dawson** (Fix-it) who is now employed under the wing of the OC PRI, also to **Miss Julia Byrne** (YTS).

We also say farewell and thanks to **Irene** our loyal clerk who leaves us for Bielefeld, to all three, thank you again.

We say a hearty welcome to our two new members of staff—**Mr John Aston** and **Sharon Powell**—we hope you have an enjoyable tour with 14 Sig Regt.

Finally there is no truth in the following rumours:-

That the QM does wear a wig.
That the SQMS is going to leave again.
That the Clothing Store is open.
That **Mr Marshall** eats trill for breakfast.
That **Cpl Edwards** cannot wear his webbing as it trails on the ground.
That the SQMS offered to take the QM on his free holiday.
That the QM is going to win the moped at the next Christmas Draw.

QM (T) DEPT

After the trials and tribulations of a new equipment table, new establishment, forming of new troops, splits of other troops, introduction of new equipments and the other too numerous things to mention, the department is now considered to be back to a state of normality (which is hectic instead of chaotic!)

Two members of the department took time off to enter the London Marathon: **Cpl Stu Taylor** finished in a time of 3 hrs 21 mins and **LCpl Jock Castle** in 3 hrs 17 mins. It was a good time for both, especially **Jock,** if you consider the previous weekend he ran the Berlin 25km in 1 hr 36 mins and later that week came second in the Regimental Cross-Country Competition.

Other members of the department like a more relaxed form of sport: **WO2 (RQMS) Tony Lunney** still manages to get away fishing when 'The Boss', **Capt (QM) Gordon Platts,** will let him! **Sgt Brian Donegan** (Dad to his fellow blockies) is often seen packing his car with his golf clubs to go and inflict more damage on the German countryside; **Cpl Steve Howard,** who recently married, keeps forgetting to ask 'the wife' for permission to do sport so he has to make do with ten-pin bowling. He has also just passed his HGV 3 so beware BFG road users! **LCpl Murray (recent) Walker** has recently been promoted, passed his HGV 3 and attended his B1 Upgrading—we hope he can now settle down to do some work! **LCpl Ian Aspinall** is away in Belize for six months—we hope all is rosy in the garden for him; **LCpl Colin Rich,** another one recently promoted, has not been with us long enough to make his presence felt but I feel sure it is only a matter of time before he is as wacky as the rest of us! Our only Signalman, **Ian Bain,** is busy planning his forthcoming marriage so he has no time for anything apart from his drawings.

We are about to embark on a series of Regimental exercises, adventure training, summer camps and battle camp so 'Farewell Hectic, Hello chaos'!

FIELD STATION LANGELEBEN

PERSONALITIES

WO IC FSL	**WO1 Neil Mapp**
2IC	**WO2 Geoff Howe**
SQMS	**SSgt Geoff Andrews**
Crypto NCO	**Cpl Geoff Clover**
Cook	**Pte Wayne Christian**

Field Station Lageleben saw a hard and prolonged winter during the first quarter of 1987, which was eventually seen off by the warmth engendered during the farewell dinner of **Maj Peter Todd BEM** on the last day of March. We wish him well in his new post.

During the second quarter we have been busy reconfiguring our operations area. Our visitors have been too numerous to mention by name but included the Senior Management course in May led by **Maj Alf Cooper**, the Danish Zeeland Coy in June and the 2 Radio Btn US Marine Corps in July.

The Senior Management Course led by Maj Alf Cooper (ex 2IC 1 Sqn) visit Field Station Langeleben

We are shortly to lose **WO2 Geoff Howe** on posting. Much to his relief (and ours!) he is returning to his wife **Jean** and family who are in the UK. We wish him luck in the future.

We have presented ourselves well so far this year on the international shooting scene. Our team, led by **WO2 Neil Mapp**, managed second place in the Military Cup at Langwedel near Verden in March and in April the whole team were presented commemorative medallions at Lord Mayor's breakfast in Braunschweig's town hall.

A2 ON FOXHEAD

Who wants to take over HQ Sqn and a week later take A2 Ech into the field? Whether he wanted to or not, that's what **Maj Eddie Kellett** did. Newly arrived from N Tp, 21 Sig Regt (Gutersloh), he had the unenviable task of taking A2 out on the new Colonel's first exercise!

Things didn't start too well for him when the first packet arrived minus the SQMS stores vehicle. **SSgt (SQMS) 'honest' Dave Hughes** and **LCpl Steve Upfold** arrived one and a half hours behind everyone else and thats only thanks to **Sgt Fritz O'Neill** (LAD) who helped to change a Bedford wheel after the SQMS's jack had sunk into the tarmac! English roads would have taken the weight.

Everything sorted itself out, though **WO2 (RQMS) Bob McKenzie** was seen wandering round the complex wondering if he'd been just a bit too rash in accepting the job of SSM HQ. Meanwhile, **WO2 (SSM) Frank Byrne** was observed doing the same wandering but with a smile on his face, obviously thinking of his hand over.

The moving of A2 is always a weighty problem, and more than ever on the night move. Taking the 22 ton 'wrecker' over a 16 ton limit bridge was one problem that had been overlooked. That apart, the move went well until **Cpl 'Brummie' Little** and **Sig Mark Mills** put the TCV within inches of TM complex. **Capt (TOT) John MacDonald** wasn't too happy about it, but seemed to work off his dislike by putting TM on 'stand to' half an hour before everyone else.

The return to camp was plotted by **SSgt Mal Barker** and **Sgt Tally Talbot** in conjunction with RCP, but there's no truth in the rumour that by the time they arrived back at A2 we'd already got the amendments.

LCpl 'Strathclyde' Lothian decided to re-design the front of his FRT Rover, while his fellow tech, **Cpl 'Basher' Bates** was heard to ask **Sgt Fritz O'Neill** how fast he should go—mind you, this was when he was on the wrong end of a straight bar tow! this was after the REME had noticed that the given grid was 37km out!

The LAD have at least two people who seem to charm the local populace, one of whom is their OC, **Capt Keith Leslie**, who was 'chatted up' by a local lady with the line 'Hello, you Ingleesh, I love you, 1, 2, 3.' We believe he was put off by her spluttering and dribbling after him! **Cfn 'CJ' Blyth** was convinced that he'd been head butted by a wild boar, and was soon to scour the area around his cam net for proof. He was mildly put out to find that **Cfn 'Geordie' Meek** was considering taking up animal impressions.

With the OC just starting his tour with A2, a few people were hoping that this would prove to be their last exercise:

WO2 (SSM) Frank Byrne—off to Berlin as SSM 3 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt.
SSgt (SQMS) Dave Hughes—going to 30 Sig Regt.
SSgt (MT) Mal Barker—taking over an SQMS post in 16 Sig Regt.
Sgt Barry (Dutch) Holland ACC—moving to ASMT Leconsfield on promotion to Staff Sergeant.

For those that are left it would appear that one or two changes are to be made, so life at A2 might never be the same again.

3 SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj R. A. Clague**
2IC	**Lt G. Hearn**
OC Def EW	**Capt (Tfc) G. W. Bartliff**
OC V Tp	**Capt (Tfc) D. G. Weston**
OC O Tp	**Capt M. Perry**
OC P Tp	**Lt S. J. Ardagh-Walter**
SSM	**WO2 Logan**
SQMS	**SSgt Leyland**
O Tp SSgt	**SSgt Wise**
P Tp SSgt	**SSgt Meehan**
MT SNCO	**SSgt Blacklow**
Line Sgt	**Sgt Salter**

The past few months have been fairly quiet within the Squadron although there has been a substantial turnover of squadron personalities.

Due to the relative inactivity on the exercise front the Squadron has concentrated its efforts on adventure training. In the past two months we have mounted three expeditions, a sailing week and provided admin and comms support for the R Signals Regatta. **Lt Garry Hearn** took a party of six men from the Squadron to Southern Germany where they walked across the Austrian Alps into Italy. It was probably the closest the Austrian people will ever come to seeing the 'Beastie Boys' in the form of **Sig Jock Graham! Lt Steven Ardagh-Walter** took 10 members of the Squadron on a memorable trip around the bandit country of Sardinia and **Capt Mark Perry** took 10 men on some dubious airlines to Ecuador. It is hoped that by the time the Squadron deploys on the next exercise they will have returned to wearing olive green ponchos. Def EW decided to be different and took to the seas with **Capt Glen Bartliff** at the helm whilst the remainder of the Troop took to their hammocks.

The Squadron has managed to make the most of its quiet period and now we look forward to the delights of Ex *Reforger* and battle camp at that well known holiday camp in the Eiffel Region—Hi-de-hi!

REGIMENTAL TUG-O'-WAR

The call went out around the barracks for volunteers to pull in the Tug-O'-War team—people could be seen desperately scurrying into their hideaways and the excuses were coming in fast! However, we managed to commence training some two weeks before our first major competition, the Morrison Cup. The chosen few who completed the strenuous build-up were:

Sgt (Brummy) Bowlby
Sgt (Danny) Warwick
Sgt (Pete) Gilbert
Cpl (Lenny the Fish) Fairclough
Cpl (Psycho) Jagger
Cpl (Jock) Carty—not the son of WO1 Carty—or is he?
LCpl (Mark) Ewart
LCpl (Wrecker) Parkin
Mr (Feel No Pain) Chadwick

They were coached by **WO2 (The Beast) Bob McKenzie**.

The day of the Morrison Cup dawned and after careful planning and preparation the PRI minibus gave up all hope and the team were seen doing their last minute training pushing it around the barracks!

When we eventually arrived in Verden, we were drawn into Pool B against 201 Sig Sqn, 22 Sig Regt, 1 ADSR, 7 Sig Regt and 16 Sig Regt.

Our first pull was against a much stronger 22 Sig Regt, which we lost. The remainder of the results of our pool were:

against 7 Sig Regt we won 3—0
201 Sig Sqn we won 3—0
1 ADSR we won 3—0
16 Sig Regt we lost 3—0

Overall it was a great success considering we did not win one end during last year's Morrison Cup. Training will now continue on a regular basis.

Finally, the following people must be thanked:

Maj Kellett, our President, for obtaining our first ever Tug-O'-War strip

Sgt Pete Dawson for arranging collection time for Morrison Cup

RQMS Grenadier Guards for the Ammo Boots all sizes 11 and 12

Sgt Pete Gilbert who invited Tug-O'-War

Our coach, **WO2 Bob McKenzie** for—just one more time—honestly!

RUGBY

After a frustrating season during which the Regimental 'Stallions' had mixed success in Cup and local competitions, we bade farewell to the 3 Bn RGJ with a 64—0 win at our Marienwerder ground and the cup defeat against 21 Engr Regt was forgotten. Our attention turned to the short tour to Hamburg for the sevens. With a team 'cobbled together' at the eleventh hour, we stamped our mark on the competition losing only twice to Oslo RUFC 12—10, who were narrowly defeated in the final, and RAF Gatow who won the plate competition. An influx of new players bodes ill for next season's opposition and we retain some of our more 'colourful' members (we still can't find a posting for **Cpl Rich Angove**!

Rugby Team
Back row left to right: LCpl Poulton, Sig Pool, LCpl Shrives, Cpls Proctor, Angove, Foster and LCpl Ackland-Snow
Front row left to right: Cpls Bellfield, Forbes, LCpl Davies, Sgt Garfield, Cpl Fanning

EXERCISE *ROCKY DIAMOND CONCEPT*

Ten members of Whisky Tp 1 Squadron 14 Sig Regt spent four weeks hiking and climbing in the Canadian Rockies. The expedition was broken into four phases:

Phase 1—Saddle Pass, Sentinel Pass, Desolation Valley and Wenkchemna Pass (8,500ft)

L to R:(Wenkchemna Pass 8,500ft)
Cpl Armstrong (hidden) Capt Perks, Sgt Cable, Cpls Bates, Turner and LCpl Ackland-Snow

Phase 2—Citadel Pass, Mt Assiniboinc (the Canadian Matterhorn), Wander Pass
Phase 3—Mt Robson (12,500ft) trial, Robson Glacier and ascent of Tithana Peak (9,300ft)
Phase 4—Skyline Trail from Maligne Lake to Jasper.

COMPOSITION

Capt J. P. Perks	**Expedition Leader**
SSgt 'Manny' Calland	**Expedition 2IC/Accountant**
Sgt Nick Cable	**Expedition QM**
Cpl Brian Armstrong	**Expedition Asst QM**
Cpl Ian Foster	**Catering NCO**
Cpl Nick Turner	**MT NCO**
Cpl John McDermott (now Sergeant)	**Photographer**
Cpl Harry Butland	**Medic/Diarist**
LCpl Ackland-Snow	**Medic/PTI**
Cpl 'Basher' Bates	

THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

The views of snowy-capped mountain ranges, aquamarine glacial-fed lakes and hanging glaciers were breathtaking. Getting into some of these remote locations was often a struggle but the expedition was always rewarded with outstanding views. The local Canadians were excpetionally friendly and helpful and gave **Cpl Harry Butland** timely advice such as 'only fools and tourists would try and forecast the weather'!

HIGHLIGHTS

It was difficult to say which were the most impressive views on the expedition but possibly Mt Robson (12,500ft) with icebergs floating in Beg Lake was the winner. The expedition climbed the Robson glacier up to Snowbird Pass before the final ascent up to Titkana Peak (9,300ft).

PTARMIGAN—ALIVE AND WELL

Among the wildlife seen (grizzly bears, brown bears, hiary marmots, elk and deer) were a number of ptarmigan and their young! **Capt Perks** got very excited at seeing Ptarmigan **actually working**! Indeed Titkana Peak is an Indian word meaning Ptarmigan Peak so the Royal Signals members were impressed. **Cpl Nick Turner** and **SSgt Manny Calland** has a very close encounter with a brown bear but lived to tell the tale! **Cpl Ian Foster** is convinced that there is more than one trout in Pyramid Lake! **Sgt Nick Cable, Cpl 'Basher' Bates** and **LCpl Ackland-Snow** all competed to eat for Britain. The expedition's final piece of PR was to take on the Banff football team and draw 3—3—a very diplomatic move!

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Services. 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 engagement.

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 situtated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Job Centres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Corps, Regimental and Service Associations; Post Offices; Job Centres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1986-31 March 1987 the Association assisted 11,499 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,970 in employment. Of those placed 2,314 were men and women from the Army and 207 were from your Corps.

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

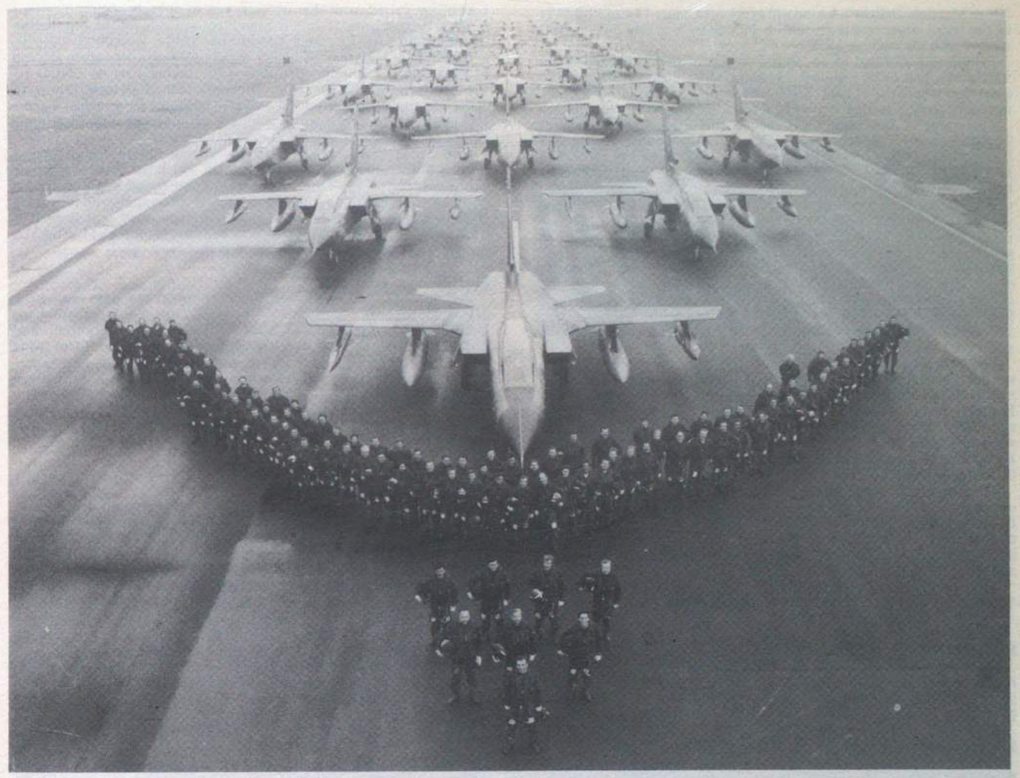
THE £784 'MEAN MACHINE'

On Sunday 29 March 1987 the *Sunday Express* published a photograph of RAF Bruggen's £784M mean machine—the largest Tornado Wing in the world, and although H Tp (the resident airfield signal troop) were very impressed with the 'deadly warlike array' of the wing they felt that they also had a lot to offer to help keep Europe enjoying the longest span of peace in its recent history. So without further ado the OC **Capt Keith Russell** and Troop Staff Sergeant, **SSgt Steve Hilton**, lined up all of the troops' resources and had a photograph of their £784 mean machine taken. After a little pressure on the Editor, the two photographs were then published side by side in the Bruggen Circuit (RAF Bruggen's Magazine), and peace was no more at Bruggen!

There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that **SSgt Steve Hilton**'s recent posting to the Falkland Islands has anything to do with the publishing of the two photographs but it has been noted that the OC Tp does look a bit worried lately, awaiting his turn! Seriously though, the RAF took it in good part and apart from their problem with straight lines saw the funny side of it all.

I think we all know who is getting better value for money though!

On Left: Sig D. D. Parks, Jacko Jackson, Benny Bennett, Dusty Miller, Graham Fitt, LCpls Griff Griffiths, Jim Wainwright, Cpls Craig Hughes, Neil Buckingham, Sgts Steve Jackson, Bill Stadius and SSgt Steve Hilton
On Right: Sig Geordie Maughan, Mac Macpherson, Al Price, Andy Rushworth, Billy Wareham, LCpls Mick Mottram, Stu Nicholson, Cpls Pete Atkinson, Jizzer Gorman, Bob Shotton, Geordie Brown, Scotty McLay, Sgts Rod Hicks, Dick Taylor and Mrs Sue Pierce
In Front: Capt Keith Russell



NEW STATION COMMANDER VISITS

On 28 July the new Station Commander **Gp Capt A. McKay RAF** paid his initial visit to the Regiment. After visiting all elements based at RAF Wildenrath and lunching with the officers, **Gp Capt McKay** presented LS and GC medals to no less than nine recipients.

What Does an Airfield Troop Do?
Our photograph shows Gp Capt McKay watching LCpls Pearce and 'Stig' Richards identifying pairs whilst being briefed by Cpl 'Jed' Bridgeford (members of L Troop at RAF Laarbruch, 'imported' especially for the visit!

HQ SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP—EXERCISE *PEMBROKE BACKSTOP*

Our Summer Camp this year was based on the Mosel at a civilian campsite near Winningen. The advance party soon established an olive drab military presence in the middle of an ocean of brightly coloured civilian tents. Great interest was shown by the civilian campers who marvelled at our organisation and ability to establish things rapidly.

The author of this report was allocated to one of three training syndicates who were to receive canoe training, cycle orienteering and windsurfing instruction over a period of one week. Also during the week a day was to be devoted to our adopted school in near by Koblenz. Here is his report:

Syndicate 3's first activity was canoeing, expertly taught by **Sig Bopper (oh dear, I'm going skiing again for another five months) Bromley** from 22 Sig Regt. The morning consisted of capsize drills, T rescues and some peculiar confidence building games which usually ended up with everybody upside down.

An unfortunate incident for **Cpl Rob (continental landmass) Gosling** was when he bravely tried to do an Eskimo Roll and found that he may well be able to do one, however his £60 sunglasses definitely can not.

In the afternoon we set off on a 7km trip down the Mosel. All of a sudden we realised we were obvious targets for speedboats, pleasure trippers, and industrial barges. One particular speed boat whose owner obviously had watched Miami Vice (and was apparently trying to jump as many canoes as possible) must have had to reach for a change of underwear as he realised rudders do not work in mid-air, thus causing great amusement to us.

The sight of land brought relief to the faces of **Cpl 'Lasagne' McCluskey** and **LCpl Rob 'Haircut' Chivers** as they had canoed most of the journey sideways.

Cycle orienteering saw the 'Biff of the week' award go to **LCpl Rob 'Best det I've ever seen' Chivers** who misunderstood one of the clues and asked a somewhat bemused and very confused publican for a

'Dean Martin's Delight'. A kind old gentlemen caused **LCpl Phil 'Age of the train' Alger** to somersault his bicycle by pointing out his bent spokes with his walking stick.

Syndicate 3 also had to do 'shifts' on one of the more aged cycles which even had to be pedalled downhill. The course finished with a quiet beer where the CO and RSM were waiting for us. However they were seen to do a tactical withdrawal when the bill eventually arrived.

The whole of Wednesday was spent at the Erich Kastner School. The Erich Kastner School for mentally retarded children in Koblenz is our adopted school. A slight hiccup occurred on the way when **Cpl Marty (UEL instructor) Abraham** lost his way in the lead vehicle and bluffed his way out by saying it was a scenic detour. A lot of the children recognised various members of the Squadron from previous visits and wasted no time in starting up a game of football. Some people had not visited the school before and some of the teachers gave a quick guided tour. The school has excellent facilities including specialist woodwork, metalwork and cookery classrooms. There is also a special swimming pool and gymnasium to cope with the children's special needs. Lunch was an excellent barbecue cooked by **SSgt Hadge (who's laid back?) Watkins**. A colourful salad was provided by **Cpl 'Bunny' Thompson**. The rest of the afternoon was spent with the children.

The next day was spent windsurfing. It turned out to be quite a spectacle with **Cpl Marty Abraham** actually getting wet as he dived in to save **Cpl Mark 'Gravity Rush' Farmer**'s birthday crate from floating down stream. **LCpl Rob 'Green' Chivers** provided the syndicate with a constant source of amusement as he attempted windsurfing for the first time. He quickly mastered getting the sail up and getting underway, but he just failed to grasp that you can't come back the way you go out.

To finish off the week, on the last night we all went to a wine tasting evening at the Richard Weyh vineyards. It was an interesting and informative evening starting with lower quality wines and building up to some top class wines. After that had finished, most people went into Winningen to hold an all night dignified social gathering in a few of the local hostelries.

All in all an excellent Summer Camp, many thanks to **SSgt Hadge Watkins** for organising it all, let's hope next year's camp is as good.

RHQ TROOP

RHQ Tp report on their second sporting battle with RHQ Tp of neighbouring 13 Sig Regt. **Cpl Paul Storrs** sends us this report of their latest attempt to beat 13, this time at Football (will they ever beat RHQ 13 at anything?)

RHQ TROOP 21 v RHQ TROOP 13

The venue was Birgelen and the 21 team consisted of: **LCpl 'Chewy' Gumm** (Goalkeeper), **Cpl Bill Britchard** (Right back), **Cpl Dave Toulson** (Left back), 2IC **Maj Christopher Donaghy** (Centre back), **Sgt Billy Wilkes RAPC** (Midfield), **Cpl 'Daz' Brook RAPC** (Midfield), **LCpl John Hunt** (Midfield), **Cpl** (now sergeant) **Ian Trask** (Right wing), **Cpl 'Hank' Hankin RAPC** (Left wing), **Cpl Paul Storrs** (Forward), **Sig 'Griff' Griffiths** (Forward).

The match started off well with both teams giving their all. The lack of experience and superstars allowed 13 Sig Regt to take the lead. After many breaks and off sides we battled on to no avail. 5—0 down at half time and no subs, just the change of goalkeepers. **Cpl Ian Trask**, although not a goalkeeper, took on the task of trying to stop the 13 Sig Regt forwards. **LCpl 'Chewy' Gumm** was now able to spend more time in front of the net.

The second half started well for 21 Sig Regt showing more pace up front with excellent balls played by **Sgt Billy Wilkes** but unfortunately the finishing was poor and 13 Sig Regt demolished our defence scoring three more goals, but this time **Cpl 'Dirty' Dave Toulson** was getting quite tired and bruised. We thought we would never score until **Cpl Paul Storrs** took a shot from the half way line and put 21 Sig Regt on the score board. **Sig 'Griff' Griffiths** scored the second and final goal for 21 Sig Regt, the final score being 9—2 in 13 Sig Regt's favour.

3 SQUADRON
H TROOP (RAF BRUGGEN)
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt Keith Russell**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Stephen Hilton**
Maint Sgt	**Sgt Dick Taylor**
Project Sgt	**Sgt Rod Hicks**
NCO IC Techs	**Sgt Bill Stadius**
MT Cpl	**Cpl 'Geordie' Brown**
Q Troop	**Sig 'Dusty' Miller**

WORK

The Troop is pleased to report the completion of two major communications projects. Whilst the project team accounts for only part of the varied work that we carry out to provide communications at RAF Bruggen, the team has been busy working on the installation of the Comms for BRAMIS and SEMA/SAMA Computer Systems.

Cpl 'Where is my pay of higher rank?' Atkinson was given the job of installing the Bramis circuits and for taking over as SNCO IC Project team. Whilst **Sgt 'Rod' Hicks** was detached to K Troop, to cover for personnel requiring leave or who were detached to the Falklands. The Bramis work involved both copper and fibre optic cables and has taken some 300 man-days work.

Cpl 'Jizzer' Gorman in between writing spoof Troop orders controlled the SEMA/SAMA works team which for most of the time was provided from L Troop and we were impressed by the standard of work completed by the two attached personnel who were **Sig Hathaway** and **Aitchison**, we can only assume they sent their best tradesmen. (The H and L Tp rivalry continues!) the SEMA/SAMA project accounting for a further 300 man-days work.

SPORT

Recently the task of organising Troop sports days has been delegated to Lance Corporal's in the Troop. So far these have included the normal events such as Five a Side Football and Basketball. But the most exotic and best organised was **LCpl 'Max Headroom' Maxwell**'s Clay Pigeon Shoot. Throughout, newcomers and experienced shooters alike received expert advice from **Max**. Even **Cpl 'Scottie' McLay**, who cannot see very far, managed to hit a few clays. So when **LCpl Maxwell**'s turn arrived to shoot the Troop waited with excited anticipation and we can now report the score: for style—ten out of ten. For clays hit: zero out of 20, he has not been allowed to forget this fact.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Let us continue this journalistic epic by welcoming all new arrivals to H Troop. We start with the OC's family which has set up home in Elmpt recently so ending a year of a monastic existence for **Capt Keith Russell** and saving his old Vauxhall the equivalent of a Le Mans 24 hour race to the South of England and back. To his wife **Joan** and his daughter **Dawn** we extend a warm welcome.

H Troop now has a new driver in the shape of **Sig Edge**, who arrived from the Regiment after spending a while with 2 Sqn. He has now taken over his secondary duties as the Troop First Aid man and can often be seen in bandages or testing a new pair of crutches. He is also quite adept at rearranging the structure of the 'Train Bar' garden gate back at RAF Wildenrath—cost DM 50.

Moving right along, it is also time to bid farewell and bon voyage to two of the Troop members.

Cpl Craig Hughes and his wife **'Grizelda'** are leaving 21 to move to the gallant 22. **Craig**, who has only been with the Regiment since October 1986 has had a good tour at H Troop, always on the go and a man who in the spirit of **Paul Revere** always quotes 'Give me fitness or give me death.' Enjoy yourself at 22!

Sig 'Geordie' Maughan and family move up the road to the 28 at St Tonis. **'Geordie'**, who has just finished his BI has been with H Troop since May 1984. A wizard on the football field and always at home with his goalies jersey on, he astounded everyone with his magnificent showing at a recent golf match. **'Geordie'** also has a reputation as the Arthur Daley of North West Europe, specialising in genuine one owner cars. We wish him all the best for the future.

DETACHMENTS

In order to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life here at 21, detachments have been arranged for the selected few. Those down in the Falklands at the moment are **SSgt Steve Hilton (SQMS), LCpls Maxwell, Mottram** and **Sig Gathercole**. Have a Merry Christmas!

Those just back from detachment are **LCpl Jim Wainwright** who drew the short straw and had to spend four months on Ascension. He really enjoyed his tour and has now adopted the old saying 'If you want to get ahead, get a hat'. I wonder if he got burned.

Cpl Derek Carmen has been down South with JCUFI, whilst we here at H Troop have been making improvements to our Troop Bar 'The Frog and Radiator', **Derek** will be pleased to know that he has been immortalised in the very centre of the mural. Stunningly done in monochrome by that expert at art nouveau **Sig Billy Wareham**.

H Troop also welcomes back the not so long ago promoted **LCpl Jonno Johnson**. He went down on the same flight as **LCpl Wainwright** but had to stay on the plane all the way down to FI. He's glad to be back so he can get his car in for its first service.

To all those away from the Troop. Hurry home we need you!

CONGRATULATIONS

All members of the Troop would like to congratulate **LCpl 'Rabbs' Rabbetts** on his recent marriage to **Liana** which took place on 30 July, at Echt in Holland, We wish them all every happiness for the future.

Whilst handing out congratulations, they go also to **Cpl Pete Atkinson** on passing the board promotion to Sergeant. The only thing we must add is that due to recent celebrations by **Pete** we have now fitted stabilisers to his bike.

STOP PRESS

There were many long faces in this Troop when it was realised that the Goose that **Sig Graham Fitt** was going to was not FI, but in Canada. He is off with 17 Sqn where he will be doing as much as possible to keep them high (who mentioned flying?).

3 SQUADRON INTER TROOP GOLF

On 17 June seven H Troop members set off for RAF Laarbruch to take on the remainder of 3 Sqn in the Inter Troop Golf competition. Despite being promised good weather by OC L Troop it started off very wet and windy but cleared up later to produce ideal conditions for good golf.

After a 27 hole Stableford competition H Troop emerged as convincing winners with the prize for the individual winner and longest drive going to **Cpl Shotton**. The only prize H Troop failed to secure was the 'nearest the pin' which was won by **SSgt Casburn** of G Troop.

A very good day's golf was had by all and we extend our thanks to OC L Troop and his staff for an extremely well organised competition.

THE TRIUMPHANT H TROOP TEAM
Cpl Shotton, Capt Russell, Sgt Stadius, Cpl Atkinson, Sgt Frazer, SSgt Hilton and Sig Maughan

LS&GC Presentation
The Station Commander, RAF Wildenrath, Gp Capt A. McKay RAF pictured with from *left to right (front row):* SSgt Mick Denny, WO2 (AWMS) Alan Everingham, SSgt Des Faherty and Sgt Alex Campbell
Left to right (back row): Cpls Terry Smith, Bob Walton, Toulson, Bob Shotton and Terry Smith

4 SQUADRON (SH)
EXERCISE *CHOPPER TREK*

4 Sqn's first Battle Camp, since its formation this year, was held at Haltern ATA between 29 June and 4 July. The main aim of the exercise was to test Squadron personnel in section drills and live firing of Small Arms, Grenade and 66mm LAW, both sub-calibre and HEAT.

The advance party left on 26 June, under command of **Capt Bob Lockwood**, to take over the bivouac area and to set up tentage ready for the arrival of the main party on the Monday. The intention was to airlift the six ten-man sections by Chinook straight into the training area. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, only one flight was possible which airlifted the first three sections to Haltern ATA. This was deemed disastrous by **LCpl Sean Hendley**, as being a member of section two, he had to board the aircraft under threat of various punishments by **WO2 (YofS) Clive Copestake** and spent the flight with eyes closed and all body parts crossed, praying for a safe return to earth. Meanwhile the YofS travelled by road, with the remaining three sections.

Once in location all sections began the week's training working through the day and into the night. The main activities were concentrated around the CQB and Section in Defence ranges, together with preparation for grenade throwing and 66mm LAW.

The week's training was co-ordinated by SSM 4 Sqn **WO2 (SSM) Brian Dalton**, assisted by **WO2 (SSM) Pete Underwood** on loan from 3 Sqn, and **Sgt Colin Riddell** on the ranges and the staff of the Regimental Training Wing, **SSgt Willie Ireland, Cpls Andy Murray, Dai Treeby** and **Paul Watts**. Many thanks to you all for the hard work put in which was reflected by the overall result of the week's activities. In addition, each section had one of the Squadron's SNCOs appointed as DS/Fieldcraft Instructor.

The grenade range proved to be one of the 'highlights' of the weeks-training. The overall prize of 'who could throw the grenade the shortest distance' was won hands down by **Sig Frank Dike** with a throw of some 37in. The SSM, in the throwing bay at the time was completely overawed at the superb application of skills applied by **Sig Dike** and even allowed him a second throw. This time, however **Sig Dike** was unable to improve on his first throw and get the grenade even closer.

The weeks training finished with a section march and shoot competition, organised by the OC, **Maj Gen Gordon Trevis** and the 2IC **Capt Bob Lockwood**. The winning sections (joint first) were led by **Cpls Steve Webb** and **Paul Hanlon**. Each section was presented with a crate of 20 'trophies' each.

DS Solution 1—SSgt (SQMS) Phil Clifford

DS Solution 2—WO2 (SSM) Pete Underwood

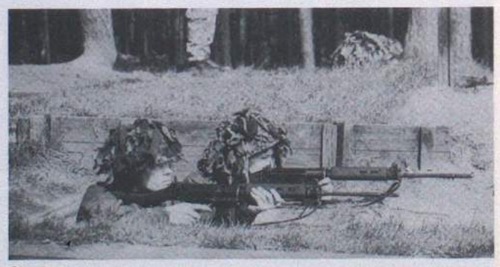
The final activity of the week was a barbecue during which the cook, **LCpl Pete Wright**, on loan from 13 Sig Regt, was amply rewarded for his week's work by being 'court-martialled' for 'trying to disguise himself as a chef and boiling his socks in the dixies' and was found guilty by **'Judge' Kev Rowe** on all counts.

The Squadron returned to Wildenrath on 4 July ready to deploy on exercise on the Sunday.

(Photographs by kind permission of **Capt Adrian Pearce** —4 Sqn's own Lord Lichfield.)

DS Solution 3—WO2 (YofS) Clive Copestake

DS Solution 4—SSgt (FofS) Dave Stewart



Sig Paul Durham and Simon Staddon on the Section-in-Defence Range

NEW ARRIVALS

The Squadron welcomes the following new arrivals: **Cpls Hanlon, Davison, McCombe, Monro, LCpls Blenkhorn, Currie, Downing, Warren, Sig Brabyn, Cooney, Ruddin, Monger** and **Warren. Capt Bob Lockwood** 2IC and **Capt Steve Richardson** OC 1 Tp. We wish them and all their families an enjoyable tour with 4 Sqn.

FAREWELLS

Sadly, it is also time to say farewell to some staunch members of the Squadron. We wish them and their families all the best in their new postings:- **Capt John Hogan, Capt Adrian Pearce, Cpls Jake Birchenough** (on promotion), **Jim Moody** (on promotion), **Alan Churchward, Rick South, LCpl Dave Cryer, Cpl Phil Horne, Sig Earl Jones, Darren Frost, Ian Mutch**, and **Paul Banerjee**.

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

It is some time since the Regimental rugby team appeared in the *Wire* and there have been several changes in personnel since our last appearance. We now have a very good blend of experience and youth in the team and have just completed another successful season.

All have been 'quietly' cajoled into many arduous training sessions by our boss **Capt 'Geordie' Gainford** who still plays the occasional game. He assures us there is no truth in the rumour that he only puts 14 names on orders so that he can get a game.

The team has played 21 games, won 15, drawn two, lost four and is well skippered by **Cpl Dave Wood** whose experience has contributed much to the team's success. One of the highlights of the season was our notable victory in the Army Cup against our friendly neighbours 49 Regt RA. The forwards were well led by **SSgt Terry Waites** and were able to provide the backs with good possession, allowing the experienced **SSgts Gilder** and **Bacon** to create chances for our fast, up and coming wingers **Cpl Matt Hughes** and **LCpl Ginge Bartliff** (now 2 Inf Div). Other notable 'scalps' included RAF Gutersloh and Wildenrath.

The latter end of the season saw the sevens competitions. Twenty-six teams took part in the Corps Sevens, an excellent response which will hopefully continue. 22 Sig Regt, this years hosts, were the eventual runners-up in the competition. The likes of **Cpls Phil Price, Kev Winkles, Doz Day** and **Jai Tully** not having much experience of playing sevens acquitted themselves admirably. The 3 Div sevens once again saw us runners-up, this time to 12 AD Regt by 18 points to 10. However, we were able to reverse this when we met them again in the BAOR sevens, where we were the Plate Competition winners.

The season culminated in a couple of charity games which were watched by a large crowd despite the inclement weather. The Ladies team, which was mainly player's wives played against the Regimental football team. The backs, ably led by **Brenda Gainford** and **June Wood**, fought tirelessly to find ways through the opposition's defence! Even the pouring rain couldn't dampen the spirts of the Ladies. What a find the Regimental team may have discovered in **Karen Deans**, wife of our second row **2Lt Graham Deans**. Her tackling was straight out of the manual, Regimental team please note! The Ladies eventually won by 12 points to nil. The Ladies were followed by the 'Golden Oldies' taking on the Regimental team. This is the fourth time in recent years this nostalgic game has been played. A total of 21 'Oldies' appeared—most of whom had been entertained the previous evening in the Sergeants' Mess by the RSM, **WO1 Trev Johnson**, and were therefore a little the worse for wear!

Back Row Left to Right: Anne Brown, Alex Johnson, Karen Deans, Elaine Day, Gaby Gillespie, Jackie Johnson, Team 'Nurse' 2Lt Roger Cotterell, Di Samms, Doreen Bacon, Laura Kennedy, Jo Briant
Front Row Left to Right: Deb Winkles, Sharon Gilder, June Wood, Birgitt Price, Lee Richardson, Brenda Gainford, Cilla Clare

Back Row Left to Right: Capt Geordie Gainford, Cpl Mick Johnson, SSgt Hill, Cpl Paul Clare, Cpl Kev Winkles, Sig Colin Heniker, Capt Peter Stephenson, Lt John Charnock, Cpl Matt Hughes, Cpl Blue Lloyd, SSgt Terry Waites, LCpl Tank Sherman, Capt Mark Edwards, Sig Dai Evans and Sgt Andy Wilkes
Front Row Left to Right: Cpl John Killoran, LCpl Ginge Bartliff, LCpl Tosh McIntosh, Cpl Dave Wood, SSgt Kue Gilder, SSgt Wally Bacon and Lt Lawrence McCourt

All 21 Oldies took some part in the game and the team was skippered by **SSgt Allan James**, who was playing his last game before retiring from the Army. The first half was evenly matched with both sides getting the measure of each other despite the difference in years! It was sad to see **Capt Stu Gray-Cowan** leave the field early on with a strained back (the result of sitting at a desk all day long!). Despite many flashes of brilliance from people like **Maj Chris Wright, Mr Mel Wilson, Capt Frank Worrall** and **WO2 Dave Rudd**, it was not enough and the Regiment led four points to nil at half time. Both sides settled quickly in the second half, but despite the promptings of **Capt Geordie Gainford, SSgt Allan Jones, SSgt Wally Brown** and **WO1's (RSM) Andy Hickling** and **Glen Harwood** the Oldies were unable to make much headway and the Regiment eventually won 18 points to 6.
It was nice to see the likes of **WO2 Jim Tunney, Capt Les Rix, Mr Ray Randall, SSgt Dougie Ellis, Mr Roy Cameron** and **Mr Frank Madden** taking the time to come along, and a particular thanks to **Mel Wilson** who flew out specially from UK for the occasion.

The day ended with a buffet and disco in the Regimental Restaurant which was attended by the CO and **Mrs Barrett**. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in making it such a good day and to all those who contributed to the sponsorship. We were able to donate a sizeable sum to the 'Sig Green Fund', so once again many thanks.

Back Row Left to Right: WO1 (RSM) Trev Johnson, WO1 (RSM) Glen McCardle, Mr Mel Wilson, WO2 Dave Rudd, WO1 (RSM) Andy Hickling, Capt Les Rix, WO2 Jim Tunney, Capt Frank Worrall, Maj Chris Wright, Cpl Mick Johnson, Mr Roy Cameron
Front Row Left to Right: Capt Stu Gray-Cowan, SSgt Kue Gilder, SSgt Dougie Ellis, SSgt Wally Bacon, SSgt Alex Kennedy, SSgt Allan James, Maj Bob Binham, Capt Geordie Gainford, Mr Ray Randall, WO1 (RSM) Glen Harwood (absent from photo)

Lineout contest between Cpl Blu Lloyd and WO1 Andy Hickling

ATHLETICS—INTER SQUADRON ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The highlight of this year's athletics season took place at Sennelager on 28 May when the inter-squadron athletics tournament was staged.

The battle for the top honours appeared likely, from a very early stage to be between 4 'Jacques' Sqn and 3 Sqn. The competition was closely fought throughout the day with 4 Sqn extending its lead in the afternoon when the majority of the track events were under way.

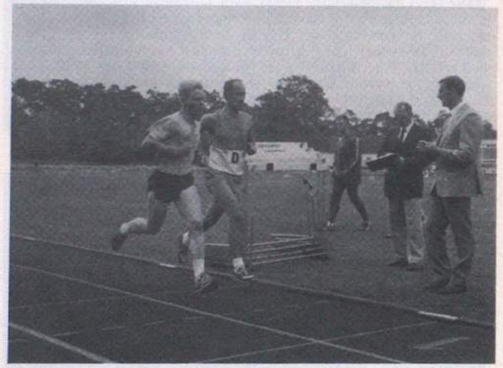
While 4 Sqn dominated both the track and field events, the battle for second place remained competitive until the last race. To be certain of overall second place 3 Sqn had to do well in the relay events.

At the end of the day 4 Sqn won with 83 points while 3 Sqn finished second accummulating 67 points, after their impressive victory in the 4 × 100m relay.

The competition saw some outstanding performances from members of the Regiment. Perhaps the most exciting and closely fought individual race of the day was the 3,000m steeplechase won by **Sig Gemmell**, closely followed by **Cpl Keane**. **RQMS 'Les' Wood** came out of retirement for the first time this year to win the 5,000m and ran a storming race in the 1,500m.

Outstanding, if expected, performances were given by **Cpl Day** in the sprints, **WO2 Harkin** in the throws and **Cpl Brown** in the high jump and hurdles. However, perhaps the most notable performances came from those young members of the Regiment who were in their first competition.

Despite the outright victory of 4 Sqn all the Squadrons gave their best to produce a memorable competition. In the end the competition was thoroughly enjoyed by all including the victorious chain-of-command race winners, 1 Sqn.



Youth Keeping up with Experience
WO2 (RQMS) Les Wood and LCpl Steve Burbe in the 5,000m

Sgt Darell skimming in full flight but looking worried about landing

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS TEAM

Having set the sporting standards for the rest of the Corps in a host of sports too numerous to list, 22 Sig Regt is awakening to its short-coming in the field of athletics. This year we took a team of over 30 people to Verden for the two days of the Morrison Cup and came fourth.

Outstanding performances were given by **Cpl Day** winning the 200m and second in the triple jump and 100m. **Cpl Andy Brown** won the high jump and came third in the 110m hurdles. **LCpl Gallagher** managed second place in the javelin, **WO2 (RQMS) Les Wood** also come second in the 1,500m.

Brig Sam Cowan presenting SSgt Samm with his medal for his part in winning the 4 × 100m relay, other team members are (*foreground*) Capt Day, Cpl Brown and SSgt 'Q' Gilder (*far right*)

Our performance was encouraging to us and has served to convince the team that with plenty of hard training next year we will be challenging the leaders. The team was trained and led by **Lt Mike Dunn** and **WO2 (RQMS) Les Wood**. A good combination of youth and experience in athletics competitions.

KAPE TOUR

Following a rigorous training and preparation programme 14 members of the Regiment departed from Lippstadt on 12 June for a KAPE Tour of Leeds, Sheffield, Lincoln and Nottingham.

The team consisted of **Lt 'Poser' Longley (OIC), SSgt 'Bud-bud-ding-ding' Abbott (2IC), Cpl Steve Nickerson (Admin), LCpls Ian 'Water baby' Hodgson, Dave 'Bailey' Lyon, Bob 'Rambo' Roberts, Sig Chaz 'Schlamper' Base, Nick 'Hernia' Lait, Tam 'I love you' Shearer, Olly 'Wheremecasegone' Olliver, Bob 'Bumper car' Passant, John 'Purp' Pope, Mick 'Durby' Wood** and **Cfn 'Rag-on' Caudwell**. All but one of the team earned the nick names. **Cpl Steve Nickerson**'s were too many to mention. The KAPE Team travelled via Antwerp where we embarked on HMS *Bedivere*. A swift 22 hours later the ship docked at Marchwood and the convoy of two landrovers, two Triffid and one Tactical interface vehicles travelled on to Blandford for collection of stores and POL. After Blandford the route was North to Leeds and our first accommodation at 65 Ordnance Coy (V), where **Lt Longley** and **Cpl Nickerson** met us having 'steamed ahead' to organise the accommodation. The main convoy of vehicles arrived soon after midnight (Saturday) and received a welcome from members of 49 Sig Sqn (V). The following day (Sunday) saw a late start and final preparation of stores and vehicles prior to the onset of the following hectic but very enjoyable programme.

Venue: Cookridge street car park, Leeds.

This, as a first venue, was ideal. A steady flow of various age groups all day with just enough for all to become acquainted with the KAPE theme. Best comment of the day, considering we were the first (or only) KAPE Team in Leeds City for five years, came from **Sig 'Hernia' Lait**: 'Are these 9 × 9 poles ours?'

Venue: Keighley Park Leisure Centre.

This was a venue that reduced the attendance figures through being some distance from the main part of the town. The Tuesday and Wednesday were quiet but on Thursday a vast improvement occured as the display was set up at Oakbank Grammar School for the lunch break. This proved to be a good run-up to the weekend at Rotherham.

Friday was a movement and maintenance day, for which we were all grateful due to the hectic weekend ahead at the Rotherham Tattoo. The White Helmets Display Team was also present and a competition soon began to see who could place a sticker on the most people (and animals).

From Sheffield and Rotherham onto Lincoln for the Lincoln Argricultural Show. Our accommodation at Rapier Barracks, 16 Air Defence Regt RA in Kirton Lindsey saw a much needed rest and maintenance period.

Lincoln Show.

The Agricultural Theme at the Lincoln Show was emphasized by the need for wellington boots and waterproofs as it rained for the whole two days.

Mansfield Carnival.

Having dried out and with the pattern previously developed, an early start saw the team en route to set up at the Mansfield Leisure and Community Centre for the carnival display. A request from the sponsors for assistance was eagerly accepted by the team. 'Could one of your four ton vehicles pull out our bus?' Here followed an impromptu display of adaptability with tow chains and a 'straight bar' to recover their single decker 'chad' bus from boggy ground. Applause! Good deed number two came during the parade of carnival floats through the town of Mansfield. Our FFR cammed up, with Rambo's **SSgt 'Bud' Abbott, LCpls Ian Hodgson, Dave Lyon, Bob Roberts** and **Sig Chaz Base**, joined in much to the delight of the majority of Mansfield's populus including Traffic Wardens. The infallible 'Chad' model 'T' Ford overheated and the driver hitched a lift in our FFR 'Rambomobile'. **LCpl Bob Roberts** achieved an excellent response from three bakery shop assistants after he had successfully 'attacked' the counter.

Bakery assistants 'The till's open'! (with hands up). **LCpl Roberts** (brandishing water pistol) 'close it then!' The third good deed, came when their PA system was successfully repaired by **Cfn Tony Caudwell**. Not a good day for some but an excellent PR day for the KAPE Team, and, by far, one of the most enjoyable.

Even after such a successful tour so far, the Team had another, much needed, rest and maintenance day while the final venue in Nottingham was recce'd by **SSgt 'Bud' Abbott**.

Nottingham Main Square (with pigeons).

The 'Old Market Square' in the heart of Nottingham was an ideal way to finish the KAPE Tour.

Two excellent days, both for weather and a lot of genuine interest. Our main crowd attraction was, as always, the Self Defence Demonstration performed by several members of the team. Not only here, but at the first weekend at Rotherham, was where **Lt 'Poser' Longley** was suitably christened. Whenever the crowds were thin the pigeons made their presence known one way or another. An additional day in Nottingham meant several members of the KAPE Team were able to bestow the coveted gift of a 22 Sig Regt pen upon many unsuspecting potential recruits. The late arrival of these 'Gizzit' pens enabled the team volunteers to bid a fond farewell prior to the long journey back to Lippstadt. The return journey in itself being not only a reversal of the initial one but also a unique moment in the history of motoring when the complete convoy of five vehicles commanded the attention of all motorists by dominating a roundabout circumnavigating it six times while looking for the exit marked 'Marchwood'. In summary, despite navigational flaws and vehicle mechanical problems, the 22 Sig Regt KAPE Team had a most successful tour and promoted the Royal Signals recruiting drive with enthusiasm.

2 SQUADRON US SIGNAL CORPS VISIT

Maj Paul Gorford our OC Sqn, realising the potential benefits to his Squadron or perhaps just with an eye on a new American camp bed, volunteered 2 Sqn to act as hosts in the Anglo-American Exchange with 17 Sig Bn (V Corps). As can be seen from the photo **Lt Michelle Brumley** (centre, OC US Party) with **Sgt Knight** (right entered into the spirit of things from an early stage.

They spent the next three days at the AMTC Silberhutte following a 'Typical' weekly training programme of orienteering, abseiling, horse riding and swimming.

Lt Michelle Brumley (*centre*) with Sgt Bob Night to her right. You may notice SSgt Malcolm, in the background, engrossed in clandestine negotiations about—you've guessed it—camp beds

On Ex *Summer Tide*, in which they participated for three days, they were suitably impressed with Ptarmigan and left with plenty of 'Buy Ptarmingan' stickers.

2 SQUADRON NOTICE BOARD

A sad note is the departure to civvy street of **Sgt Jimmy Kingswell** after 23 years service—good luck to him. **SSgts Abbot** and **Dawson** gained promotion and **SSgt Abbot** celebrated by leading our 2 Sqn Tug-of-War team to our victory in the recent inter Squadron competition. Oh—congratulations to **LCpl Rose** for his outstanding performance in the recent inter Squadron athletics competiton, and welcome aboard **2Lt Urwin**.

EXERCISE *MONTAGNE TRIANGLE*

Five members of 22 Sig Regt went mountaineering in the Mont Blanc Massiv early this summer. The party consisted of two experienced Alpinists, **Maj Paul Gorford** and **Sgt Jim Perry**, and three novices, **Cpl Geordie Houghton, LCpls David Saville** and **Chris Batt**. A variety of mountaineering and climbing techniques were practised including ice climbing. Climbing took place both in the valley around Chamonix and at high altitude.

An extract from the expedition diary gives a flavour of the training: '0600 hrs. An early start, after a small snack breakfast and a hot drink we set off from the Tre te tete hut. Ahead of us a climb from 4,500ft to the Conscripts Refuge at just short of 10,000ft. The weather was cloudy and overcast and too warm for the ascent. We were carrying supplies for three days in the mountains and soon started to sweat. Once we passed the snow line we reached the foot of the Glacier Tre te tete—the time 0830 hrs. We had been delayed by dangerous scree slopes. Once on the Glacier the ice appeared well defined, the numerous crevasses were clearly visible. Our route was on the left of the Glacier climbing steadily for a kilometre. At this point we left the glacier and ascended the steep ridge. This was covered with fresh heavy snow making the going hard. Until this time visibility had been good. In five or so seconds, the time it takes to look down at a map and look up again for a feature, white mist swirled around us. The mountain ahead of us disappeared as did the Glacier below, visibility was down to 30ft.

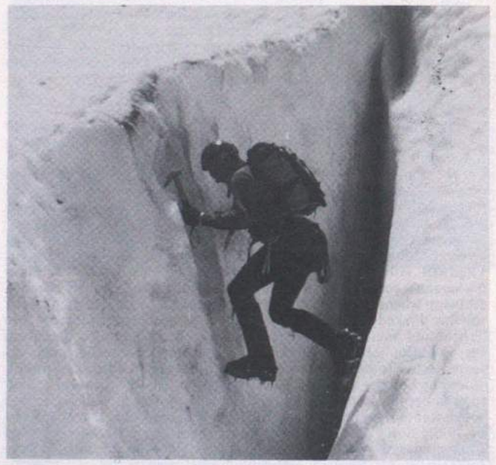
Navigation ceased to be a pleasure and became deadly serious. Progress was slow as each advance had to be checked against a compass bearing. We were quickly getting very exhausted. The breaking of steps in the lead became so difficult that it was necessary to change the front man every 50 paces. After each 50 steps the leader would step aside exhausted. This slow progress went on for a further kilometre. On our right unseen were dangerous gullies and steep slopes falling to the glacier hundreds of feet below. On our left large snow fields leading up to the ridge line.

Comparing notes afterwards both alpinists were on the point of suggesting we establish an emergency bivvy to sit out the white out. This meant five in a lightweight two man tent! Suddenly the mists cleared as the strong mountain winds exposed blue sky and the shape of crags on our left.

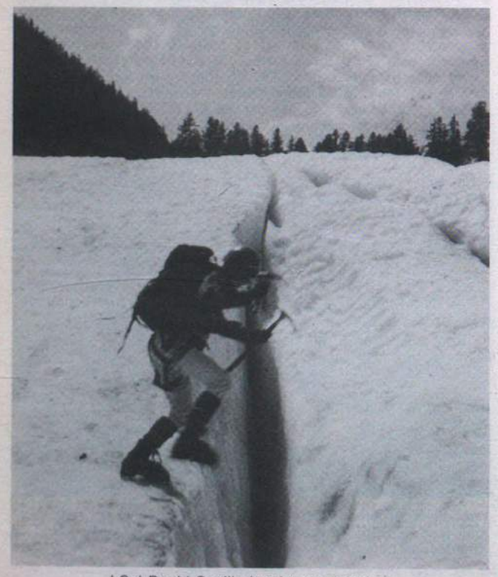
Only four or five hundred feet ahead we could see a cairn and a large marker pole red and white against the snow. This we thought must mark the hut but no hut was visible.

We were soaking wet, chilled by the wind and tired in the thin air. If it was not the hut we would need to rest before going on. Our compasses indicated the pole marked the site of the Refuge Conscripts. In the mountains always believe your compass.

We got down to the marker and saw below it, from the glacier side, a wooden door burried in snow 12ft deep on three sides. The pole extended from the roof of the refuge. It had taken us seven hours to cover the four miles as an Alpine Chough flies. We were to spend two days and nights in this unmanned shelter and were very glad of its simple hospitality.



Sgt Jim Perry finds a bigger hole



LCpl David Saville leaping a crevasse

Taking a break on the mountain *left to right:* Maj Paul Gorford, LCpl David Saville, Cpl Geordie Houghton and LCpl Chris Batt standing

30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

EXERCISE *NICKEL MERCURY*

The Regimental Globetrotters, 1 Sqn, fresh from their latest exploits in the Bahamas and Grand Cayman were inevitably a 'soft target' for some *Wire* notes. Thus an edict was sent out by RHQ 'No notes—no leave'— always a spur to an erstwhile author.

Ex *Nickel Mercury* was a contingency communications exercise involving 30 Sig Regt and Tactical Communications Wing RAF Brize Norton. The main areas used were Andros Island in the Bahamas and the island of Grand Cayman. The airfield at Andros could only accept C130 aircraft and therefore the main body led by **Capt 'Spielberg' Macaulay** flew out by VC10 to Patrick Airbase in the States, transferred to C130 and flew on eventually to Andros. The journey was eventful itself and we all wondered how **2Lt Debbie Wheatley Price** would cope with sunbathing when she lost all her luggage at Dulles Airport!

After a brief drive to the accommodation everyone settled in to be greeted with the news that **WO2 Dolan** our nearly tame QMSI would lead everyone in community singing/PT at 0600 hrs the following morning. PT (and singing) over it was a mad rush to the American mess hall to see who would win the daily 'Eat as much as you can' competion. True to form a good effort was put in by everyone but no one could quite keep up with **LCpl Sammy Sampson**.

With the arrival of the last C130 the exercise got under way. The shifts, under **Sgt 'Blackman' Fielding, Sgt 'jenks' Jenkins** and **Sgt 'Greendeath' MacDonald** of 3 Cdo Bde got settled into their routine—establish comms in the morning, bail out the storm water in the afternoon and fight off the mosquitoes in the evening. While the communications centre was finally established under **WO2 'Garth' Pickersgill** and **WO2 'Steve' Manders** all that could be found of **SSgt 'Jacques Cousteau' Charlton** was a stream of bubbles from a brialliantly clear ocean. Most participants in the exercise had the opportunity to experience the delights of the sub aqua life on the coral reef. A more experienced party under the guidance of a local diver had the chance to 'dive the wall'. It was on this trip that **LCpl 'City Gent' Clarke Brown** nearly volunteered for another roulement tour in Belize.

'4 July Celebrations'—Cpls Cable and Clarke Brown during a lull in Ex *Nickel Mercury*

The 4 July celebrations gradually crept up on us and the sight of grass skirted **Cpls Cable** and **Clarke Brown** was definitely not for sore eyes and the semi-synchronised dancing of **Sig Dusty Millar** and **Jacko Jackson** accompanied by **Cpl Vowles** and friends provided considerable entertainment.

While we in Andros battled with flood water, poor propagation and an excess of food our opposite numbers in Grand Cayman under **Lt 'I've got a windsurfer and a moustache' Henschel** and aided by **SSgt 'the Arab' Evans** were also struggling with flood water, lightning strikes and overwhelming hospitality. During their off shift time a number of them were able to take advantage of a trip on a submarine into the underwater nature reserves around Grand Cayman. In the words of **LCpl 'Cor it ain't half hot' Simpson** this was an experience 'never to be forgotten'.

All too soon our time in the sun had come to an end. It was an exercise that brought the satisfaction of knowing we had improved our skills together and an opportunity of seeing something of the dazzling underwater life of the Caribbean.

Afternote: It is rumoured that **Capt Macaulay** is going to release a 30 Sig Regt recruiting film based on his exploits.

EXERCISE *CYGNET PEAK*

2 Sqn was again given the task of running the control communications for the Three Peaks Yacht Race, a competition of sailing between and running up the three highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales. Since the Regiment won the event in 1982 it has grown enormously in popularity and is now regarded as a highly professional international event which this year included a team from Australia.

This exercise gave **Maj Frank Riley**, who took over the reins of 2 Sqn from **Maj Bob Wannell** at the beginning of June, the chance to see his detachments in operation. Those who drew the short straws, such as **Cpl 'Zippy' Trask** and **Sig Cherry**, a new arrival straight from training, spent four very uncomfortable and breezy days up on the peaks. The more fortunate detachments down at sea level made the most of the sun, sand, local beer and whatever else took their fancy—all part of 'Keeping the Army in the Public Eye' as **LCpl 'I can do a nice deal' Johnson** proved only too well.

In visiting his detachments **Maj Frank Riley** with his driver **Cpl Andy 'Chappati Chops' Craig** took the unprecedented risk of arranging to pick up his SSM, **WO2 Bernie 'The Terrible' Temmen** from Junction 26 on the M6 in the knowledge that such an arrangement earlier this year was not successful (as reported previously). Fortunately this time it worked—well done Sergeant Major!

Up in Scotland **2Lt Finlay Maclennan** tried in vain to educate **Cpls Trev Irving** and **'Nigel Mansell' Allen** in the ways of the Scotsman, giving up when neither could tell the difference between a kilt and a skirt. Have they got problems! Nevertheless, as a communications exercise things went exceptionally well and the Squadron was yet again congratulated on providing a first class service.

REGIMENTAL SHOOTING TEAM

Report by Capt Colin Lawrence

Team training began in March when the squad of possibles and hopefuls, under the watchful eyes of **Capt 'Do I have to do the Para Cup?' Lawrence** and **SSgt 'I nearly made the Roberts Cup' Underhill**, made a 10 day visit to Tregantle in Cornwall. Despite the constraints of having to fire down a 1 in 5 incline and battling against the elements, which ranged from brilliant sunshine to 6in of snow, the basis of our team was established. This initial training period although rather arduous was nevertheless interspersed with an enjoyable bowling night at HMS *Raleigh* followed by a days sea fishing. This latter activity reminded us very much of our shooting when having got times, tides and bait all wrong we failed to hit the target and achieved a nil catch.

Our first competition was in the South West District SAM and our two 5 man teams achieved some encouraging results, although we failed to qualify for Bisley. Nevertheless it was good practice for the forthcoming Corps Skill at Arms Meeting. Practice time on the ranges was very limited but after much wheeling and dealing, with 94 Locating Regiment RA, we were able to obtain the necessary range time. Practising the different shoots proved to be somewhat arduous and after rehearsing for the Para Cup, **Cpl 'Blackeye' Frew** was heard to comment that golf was more enjoyable and much less strenuous! **Cpl 'I resign' Sherwin** however, offered to lead the way by resigning many times, particularly after any run of more than 100m.

In the Royal Signals SAM the team shot very well gaining second place in the Association Cup, the Roupell Cup and the LMG matches, and coming third overall. The most commendable performance was achieved by **Sig 'I'm sorry I'm late' Basford** who won the Gurkha Signals Trophy for the best Royal Signals individual. A superb effort which earned him a place in the Corps Shooting Team at Bisley.

Promising results were also achieved by **Cpl 'Do I have to take a trailer?' Drake, LCpl 'Why do my targets move?' Crossing** and **Sig 'I've got plenty of time to change magazines' Bedborough**. Less notable but, nevertheless, worthy performances were achieved by **Lt 'I'll meet you in the Rising Sun' Davies** and **Sgt 'France is more fun' Mahon**.

Training for these competitions took its toll in injuries but all eventually recovered in time to shoot. Perhaps the most embarrassing injury was to the CO who in supporting the 16 Sig Regt Team in the final of the Falling Plate Competition against the Gunners (the Regimental Team having lost to them in the semi-finals), fell over when running behind them and fractured one of his fingers.

WELSH 1000

The Regiment entered three teams in this years Welsh 1000, a gruelling race that starts at sea level and ends up 32km later at the top of Mount Snowdon (we think its in Wales—or so we're told). One team, The Pathfinders, was entered in the military event ably led as ever by **SSgt (YofS) Evans**. The other two teams The Flyers and The Trotters were entered in the Mountaineering class.

The following is a report by **SSgt (YofS) Scouse Evans** on the outcome of the day:

0430 hrs: Reveille. Because it was Wales, it was raining.
0500 hrs: Breakfast. A hearty meal with murmurings of 'It's all fuel' being spluttered between each mouthful as we headed to the start.
0700 hrs: Still raining. Competitors huddled together for warmth. Rumours that the event may be cancelled.
0730 hrs: Start postponed for 30 minutes due to gale force winds. Morale went up as we prepared to seek shelter and warmth in the buses.
0800 hrs: Team leaders called for a briefing. Race to go ahead but with some high spots being routed out due to adverse conditions.
0810 hrs: Military Section Race started.
0840 hrs: Mountaineering Class Race started.
0915 hrs: Sunshine! But going very difficult with deep marshes and swollen streams to contend with.
1000 hrs (Approx): After wading through waist deep marshes arrive at foot of Snowdon ready for final 'sprint' to the summit. Unknown to competitors the course had been shortened yet again and finished at Pen-y-Pass Youth Hostel much to our bemusement.
1021 hrs: Winning team finishes.
10.40 hrs: Pathfinders team finishes 19 minutes behind the winners.
1145 hrs: The Flyers finish.
12.40 hrs: The Trotters finish.

A good result in which the only real winner was the weather—but who would want to live in Wales anyway? The teams were:

Pathfinders: SSgt (YofS) Scouse Evans, Cpl Mitch 'Helly Hansen' Stanyer, Cpl Bob Vowles, LCpl Nick 'Gunner' Wood and **Sig 'Smudge' Smith.**

Flyers: Cpl Steve Bason, LCpl Kev Booth, Sig 'Ski' Moczulski and **Sig Rick Bollen.**

Trotters: Sgt Tom Mackay, Cpl Andy 'Barbour' Allan, Sig 'Mobes' Mowbray and **Sig Lewis.**

DYERS VISIT AND CYGNET DINNER

This year's Cygnet Dinner was held on 12 June 1987. The principal guests from The Worshipful Company of Dyers were the Prime Warden, **Richard Stilbeck**, with his wife **Janet** and the Clerk of the Court, **James Chambers** and his wife, **Fizzy**. The four of them arrived in the Regiment early in the afternoon and after a quick briefing they visited an equipment display provided by all the squadrons. Rainclouds loomed large for this part of the visit and the AAdjt, **2Lt Sharon Walker** found her niche as official waterproof and umbrella carrier, which in the end were not required. The equipment display enabled the Dyers to see what the Regiment uses and also gave them an opportunity to talk to many of our solderis.

At the end of the equipment display the CO with the Regiment paraded formally to thank the Worshipful Company of Dyers for the continued interest and support they give to the Regiment and presented the Prime Warden with a copy of the San Carlos Water print. In return the Prime Warden thanked the soldiers for putting on such an excellent demonstration.

The formalities over our guests went to the 30m range where **Capt Andy Keenan** and **SSgt Pete Bradbury** had arranged a 'Fun Shoot'. **Mrs Stilbeck** declined the offer, but **Mrs Chambers** had a go but after two shots which cleared the butt wall and disappeared towards the DADPTC buildings she too, fully supported by **SSgt Bradbury**, thought it time to stop! The competition between the Prime Warden and the Clerk was expected to be an easy win for the latter who spends

Sig Basford receives his Certificate of Commendation for his relief work in El Salvador from the Prime Warden of the Dyers Company watched by the CO, and the Clerk of the Court

The Prime Warden, Richard Stilbeck, under the instruction of Sig Creighton enthusiastically drills for oil on the square (The RSM was not present when this took place)

most weekends shooting on the moors. Not so, as the Prime Warden remembering his days as a Northumberland Fusilier with the old .45 revolver proved to be more than a match with a 9mm pistol!

The next stop was the Sergeants' Mess where the group had a drink and a chat with the RSM, **WO1 Pete Sutherland** and several of the Mess members. Tea was served in the Corps Room and everyone seemed ready for it.

The Cygnet Dinner welcomed **Brig Ian Rose** and his wife **Brenda, Col Richard Gilbertson** and **Mrs Beryl Roper**, former Commanding Officers and wives of the Regiment. Nevertheless it was the usual lively and entertaining function and also a farewell dinner for **Capt Andy Keenan** and his wife **Joyce** who have gone to pastures new in civilian life. This evening also saw an impromptu auction sale, initiated by **Andy Keenan**, which raised £200 for the Signalman Green Fund.

The next morning saw an early morning breakfast for the Dyers, before paying a visit to the Corps Museum and bidding us farewell until next year.

3 SQUADRON—THE SADDLE CLUB

When we heard that **Cpl Mike Tomison** was posted to 30 Sig Regt, it seemed a perfect opportunity to found a saddle club in Blandford Camp. Regular readers of *The Wire* will know of **Cpl Tomison**'s abilities on horseback: the Corps is actively encouraging him and his steed 'Ozzielation' in their efforts in qualifying as Army level and national standard competitors in equestrian events.

Cpl Tomison immediately visited riding schools in the area, on his arrival, to identify the most suitable venue for novice riders. The Fir Tree Equestrian Centre near Fordingbridge which is run by a couple who have recently retired from international eventing, proved to be friendly and encouraging for our venture. Accordingly the first minibus load (courtesy of the PRI) departed for a Wednesday afternoon ride early in May.

The experience turned out to be so enjoyable that a dedicated nucleus of riders has developed in 30 Sig Regt. Some, like **SSgt Lew Oehme**, who did the basic course at Warminster, have previous experience: others, like **Sig 'Mac' Mackenzie** and **Viv Field** (from the Movements Office) gave riding a try, and discovered a natural aptitude.

Over the weeks, the Regimental Saddle Club has developed from a 'good idea' into a promising reality. As well as the weekly lessons, the riders have already taken their BHS Progressive Tests part 1 and 2 in horsemanship and care of horses. They have already attended an evening event and barbecue at Fordingbridge, as well as going on a 'Pub Ride' to celebrate the first tests results.

Meanwhile, **Cpl Tomison** manages regular participation in events in the South of England as well as his duties in 3 Sqn TM workshops and as the Saddle Club factotum. His latest contribution is contact man with the Blandford branch of 'Riding for the Disabled Association' in which the Regiment takes an interest.

Our next goal is to develop the Saddle Club into a facility for the whole of Blandford Garrison. Although these are early days yet, the Camp has enormous potential with plenty of open fields, not to mention the talent among personnel of 30 Sig Regt, the School of Signals, DADPTC, and their families. In a few years the frequently expressed dream of a stable in Blandford Camp may eventually become a reality!

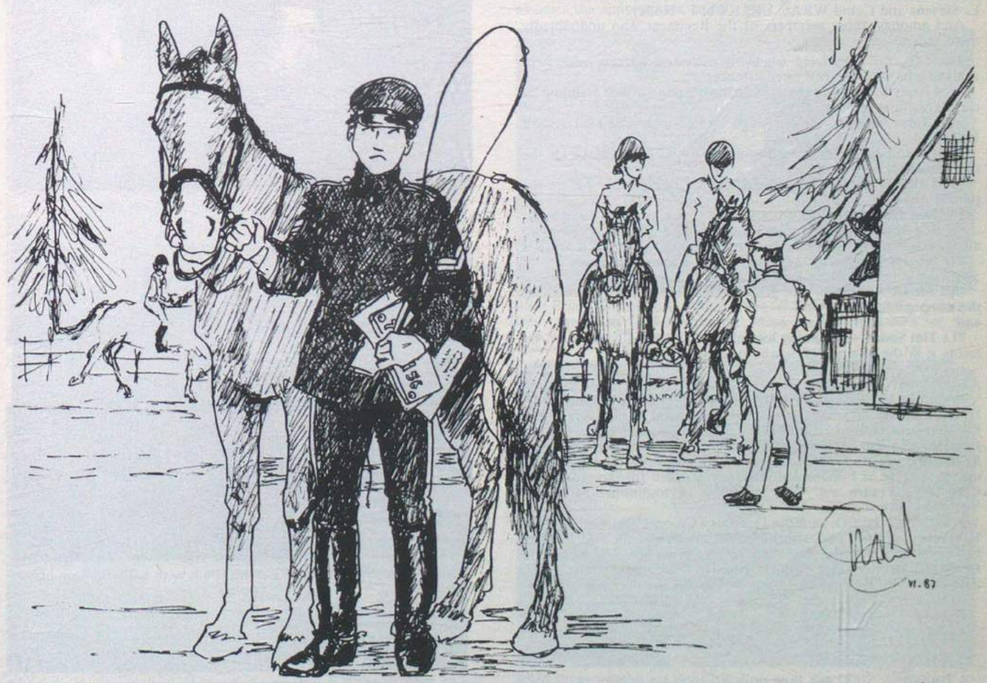
FAREWELL

The Regiment has said farewell to four of its officers, two of whom have retired completely from Service life.

Maj (Retd) John Williams an ex-Blues and Royals man but a staunch supporter of our Corps, having served as our Paymaster for the past nine years, has finally called it a day and is retiring to his new home in Bridgwater. He will be sorely missed by everyone and especially the soldiers whom he got to know exceptionally well in his daily dealings with them. We wish him and his wife **Mary** a very happy retirement.

As mentioned in the Dyers Visit report above, **Capt Andy Keenan** our Training Officer for four years has decided to seek employment in civilian life and we wish him and his wife **Joyce** success in the venture in the 'Rag Trade'.

We have also said farewell to **Maj Bob Wannell** who has disappeared (yet again) up the road to Warminster to do a staff job there. Our other farewell has been to **Capt (Tfc) John Isherwood** our Assistant Ops Officer who is now in London with the newly formed 238 Sig Sqn. The Ops Officer laments the demise of his social team but is working hard on the new incumbent.



Maj Sheehan as OC Equitation takes the easy option and delegates his post to Cpl Tomison leaving him to carry out the instruction, co-ordination and accounts. Ozzielation, like his owner, is not impressed

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

RHQ

The spate of postings continues unabated and we have said farewell to our Adjutant **Capt Andy Russell** who was last heard of counting blankets under instruction at RAOC Deepcut prior to a QM posting in Northern Ireland. In his stead we welcome **Capt Frank Dempster** from MOD, and additionally **2Lt Fraser Skirrow** to 47 Sqn on transfer from 5 Queens (V) and **2Lt Richard Wyatt**, attached to 41 Sqn from Oxford UOTC.

In the Training Team **SSgt (YofS) Andy McIver** joins us, succeeding **SSgt (YofS) John Arkley** who has gone to swot arabic prior to his posting to SANGCOM, whilst on the MT front **Sig Sammy Hay** is a welcome addition from 238 (London) Sig Sqn to help maintain our generators. At M Troop **SSgt (FofS) Dean Allen** has left us on posting to 1 Div being succeeded by **WO2 (FofS) Graham Wood**.

Finally, on a historical note. RHQ is now strangely quiet with the recent departure of J Troop to Coulsdon, to bring 41 Sqn under one roof (still leaking slightly) for the first time ever. M Troop will move into the vacated rooms once the necessary wiring is done.

ANNUAL CAMP

Held at STC Burniston Barracks, annual camp saw almost 250 officers and soldiers hard at work learning or relearning trade and military skills against a background of monsoon type weather (usually at parade rehearsal time) the odd (sometimes very odd) social functions, and the eagerly awaited arrival of more of our new (yes, really new) Triffid vehicles.

Among the many visitors we were particularly pleased to welcome the Master of Signals **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock** our Hon Col, **Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave**, Comd 11 Sig Bde **Brig M. Marples**, Secretary Greater London TAVRA **Brig P. C. Bowser**, TA Col Londist **Col D. E. Stevens** and Comd WRAC UKLF **Col F. Hutley**.

And amongst those members of the Regiment who undoubtedly merit a mention

The CO—for sang froid when his treasured walking stick kept vanishing in the oddest of circumstances

Capt Andy Russell—for bravery following unprovoked maiming by the 2IC's filing cabinet

SSgt John Mackins—Scarborough Camp Golden Blanket Award 1987

Capt Jim Adam—for accepting the CO's invite to drinks (at the third attempt)

WO1 (RSM) Barry Gibbons—for not losing his voice before the parade was over

Lt Hans Geuenich—for 'dropping by' to see us (from Germany)

Sig Rog Seaward—who forgot his kit, broke a window, sprained an ankle, was charged for being late on guard (and got his RR Op B3)

Pte 'Saucy' Lamb—for being carried *to* a Squadron Party
and, finally, on the move back home;

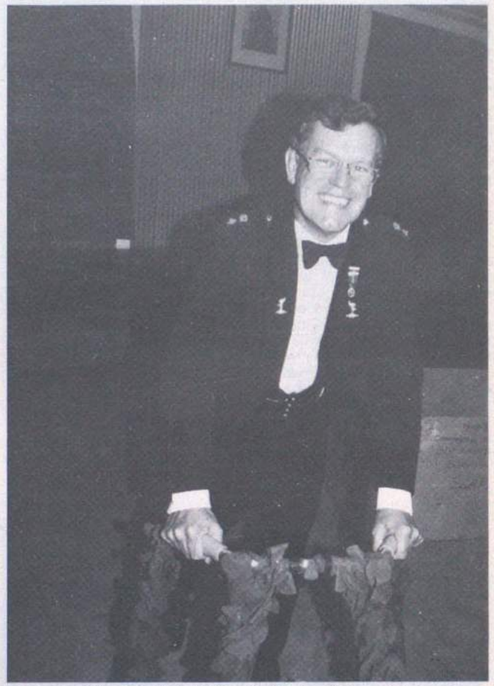
Cpl 'Smiler' Chapman—for getting a puncture before even reaching the camp gate
and

2Lt Tim Smith—for getting his packet off to a really hot start, by losing it in the grounds of Scarborough Crematorium . . .

AT THE INNHOLDERS

Reflecting our developing links with the Worshipful Company of Innholders, the Annual Cocktail Party was held in late July in the splendid surroundings of Innholders Hall in the heart of the City of London. The hall dates from 1670 and complementing a display of Regimental silver was a collection of the Company's own plate, pre-dating the Fire of London and carefully guarded for the evening by **Cpls Steve Prance** and **Gary Cheshire** in traditional Middlesex Yeomanry attire.

Welcomed by the CO, and the Honorary Colonel **Maj Gen Sir Roy Redgrave** the many guests included the mayors of the five London boroughs in which the Regiment serves, Brigadier TA, **Brig Paul Orchard-Lisle** and the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander** who had visited 47 Sqn at Harrow the previous evening.

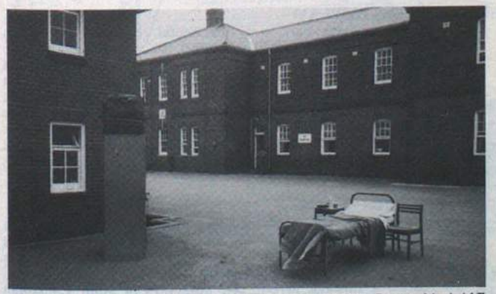


The CO trials his DP 'in lieu' walking stick

Sgt Brian Penny and SSgt Graham Brain with a Triffid conversion course

Sig Dave Brown (83 Sqn) and Sig Sammy Hay (238 Sqn) nurse an Onan back to life

First aid or DIY?—Pte (now (LCpl) Tanya Warf treats an unusually wounded LCpl Simon Loftus



Evicted—the bedspace of newly promoted Sgt Dave Abel (47 Sqn) outside the Cpls' quarters

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

The Dining-Out of **WO1 (RSM) Brian Wilson** took place at Cultybraggan Training Camp on Saturday, 25 April 1987. This was also an opportunity to say farewell to **SSgt Pete Dolan** (REME) who is embarking on yet another tour (his fourth) in Cyprus. The RSM was presented with a silver canteen of cutlery from all mess members; in turn he presented the mess with a silver Port bell. **Cpl Sharon Dowell** WRAC made a special presentation of two 'Daisy Mays' to the RSM. Both he and **Cpl Dowell** were stuck for words (I don't believe it!) so she got a peck (no cameras please) in return.

Guests at the dinner were **Lt Col Paddy Hughes** (CO), **Maj Liz Campbell** WRAC, who is sadly leaving the Regiment, and the **'old' . . . RQMS Alan Brooks** up from 8 Sig Regt. After the dinner, the Hee-Haw Cup, awarded to the best story/joke teller, was hotly copeted for by **SSgt Joyce Michie, Sgt John Taylor** and **WO2 (SSM) John Muirhead**, the latter winning by a short head.

Dinner over, all guests and members of the top table retired to the Mess, whilst the remainder were entertained by Madam Vice **Sgt Biff Williamson** WRAC. Once all mess members were assembled, the RSM did a re-run of 'This is Your Life'. **SSgt Tom 'Eamonn Andrews' Padden** arrived with his famous Red Book and the show got under way. The RSM's 'Mother' **(Sgt Nigel Stafford)** was the first star turn, followed by **Sgt Phil (It's only make-up) Skene, Sgt Neil (Watch your back) Parkinson** and **SSgt Chris Calow**, propped up by **Sgt Stewart (I'm the lawyer) Gilmour**. Rumour control has it that more tears were shed during the show than after a 10 mile run.

All mess members wish the RSM and **Gloria** all the best, and hope he enjoys his next posting (a Royal Signals RSM going to REME at Arborfield) in June 1987.

Also a big welcome to **WO1 (RSM) Steve May**, and wife **Ann**. He assumes the appointment in July 1987.

RSM Brian Wilson (left) makes a presentation to SSgt Pete Dolan from the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess on his departure for his fourth tour in Cyprus

RSM Brian Wilson on right handing over the 'duty' Glengarry to RSM Steve may

FOCUS ON 52 (LOWLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Allan Lapsley**
PSAO	**Capt Nick Nicholas**
210 & OC RX Tp	**Capt Ann Sweeney**
OC Mould Tp	**Capt David Harvey**
OC TX Tp	**Lt Fiona Farquharson**
SSM	**WO2 Bill McNamara**
PSI	**SSgt Chris Calow**
SQMS	**SSgt Tom Padden**

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Capt Alasdair MacGillivray** on his promotion to Major and appointment to OC HQ Squadron. The Squadron bids him a fond farewell and wish him every happiness down the corridor in his tastefully decorated executive office complete with interesting acoustics.

Congratulations also to the following who have been promoted to Lance Corporal: **LCpls John Callaghan, Garry Garland (Judy), Ricky MacGillivray, Jean Thomson** and **LCpl Diane Woods.**

MARRIAGES

LCpl Ricky MacGillivray to **Janice**; all best wishes to you both.

POSTING IN

Welcome to **Sgt 'Hutch' Hutchinson** who will, hopefully, get used to the idea that a warm weekend in Cultybraggan is one when the temperature rises slightly above freezing point. Perhaps our warm Scottish spirit (or is it spirits?) will make up for our cold climate.

SQUADRON ACTIVITIES

Over the past few months 52 Squadron has had a varied programme including two visits to STC Scarborough in November and March for intensive re-training in Home Defence Communications in anticipation of the arrival of our long promised new equipment.

In January, Aviemore was the venue for a weekend on the Piste with many of the Squadron members demonstrating some of the lesser known techniques of skiing. Après ski consisted of a visit to the ice rink and swimming pool. The latter location provided the venue for a competition instigated by **Lt Fiona (yes, she's got her name in the**

Pte Yvonne Newlands struggling to her feet on a recent skiing weekend

LCpl Jean Thomson and Pte Pauline Porteous trade training at Scarborogh

Wire again) Farquharson, which involved the Squadron trying to sink the larger floating mats in the pool. It must be noted that the said officer retired to the poolside to watch the ensuing difficulties with great amusement. Altogether a most enjoyable weekend.

RECRUITING DISPLAY

The Squadron took part in a Regimental recruiting display in Brechin during April, to recruit personnel for a new Signal Troop which is to be formed in Brechin. The display team consisted of—**Lt Fiona Farquharson, SSgt Chris Calow, Sgt Fiona Smith, LCpl Jean Thomson** and **LCpl Jamie Wright**. The discovery of the weekend was that **LCpl Jean Thomason** was capable of keeping a straight face whilst convincing members of the public of our superiority over other TA units and actually bragging that we have 'bigger radios than those on display, one we call the BIG D11 which has hundreds and hundreds of knobs and switches'.

FINAL WORDS

Maj Alasdair MacGillivray's personal Publicity Officer has been instructed to dispel the rumour that although **Maj MacGillivray** has been affectionally named 'Uncle' by the members of Line Troop, he is in no way related to a certain Lineman of the same surname.

To redress a mistake in our last notes—**LCpl John Callaghan** wishes it to be known that his nickname was quoted incorrectly and he wishes to be known as **'Clint'** and not **'Cling' Callaghan.**

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Assembled guests and members at the Dining-Out of WO1 (RSM) Brian Wilson at Cultybraggan Training Camp

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
Blandford Camp, Dorset

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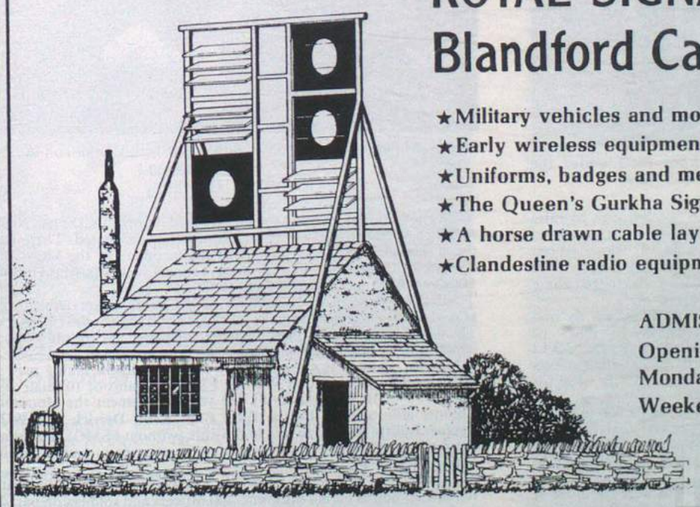


Artist's impression of the early 19th Century Admiralty shutter telegraph relay station built on the site of Blandford Camp 1806-1825

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

PERMANENT STAFF MOVEMENTS

It was with mixed feelings that the Regiment bade farewell to our popular Adjutant, **Capt (Uncle Ted) Butterworth** who left us 29 July on posting and promotion to Major to serve with HQ 2 Sig Bde as G1/G4.

Ted has served the Regiment as Adjutant since December 1984 and will be sorely missed by all ranks and especially the Recruiting Team for whom he had done so much in training a very efficient ahd happy organisation.

We wish both **Ted** and his wife **Enid** all the very best of good fortune in the futre and hope they have enjoyed their stay with us.

Our new Adjutant, **Capt Dave Poole** and his wife **Ann** have now joined us and we hope they enjoy their experience of serving with the TA.

We have also said farewell to **SSgt Nigel Graham** REME and his wife **Christine. Nigel** has served with us as the SSI LAD REME.

We wish them both good luck for the future in their new surroundings with 2 R Hampshire LAD.

Sgt Chris Smithson and his wife **Hazel** left us on posting to the School of Signals where **Chris** starts his Foreman of Signals course in September. Good luck with the course **Chris** and your future posting.

We welcome **SSgt Colin Couper** REME and his wife **Joan** who join us from the 16/5 Queen's Royal Lancers.

SUMMER CAMP 87

Wednesday 3 June 1987 saw the Quartermaster's Department headed by **Maj (QM) Len Jeffery**, take to the road as the Advance Party for our Annual 15 day Camp at Scarborough.

Their task was to take over Burniston Barracks and prepare the reception arrangements for the Main Party which was due to arrive on Saturday 6 June.

Also taking to the road on a different form of transport to Scarborough were three likely lads of HQ Squadron, based at Huyton, **Cpl (Robby) Robertson** and **LCpls David Fleming** and **Frank Hale**.

The cycling advance party moves off from RHQ under the watchful eyes of the Adjutant and RSM

All three decided to cycle the 160 miles to Scarborough to raise funds for the local Multiple Sclerosis Appeal. The ride was sponsored by the Regiment and to make sure that each mile was witnessed (no hanging on the back of vehicles up the steep hills) the cyclists were accompanied by further members of HQ Squadron who tagged along in the comparative luxury of an escort landrover.

The lads were eventually passed by the whole Regiment by mid afternoon of Saturday when they were within 15 miles of Scarborough. On reaching Scarborough they were met by the CO **Lt Col R. F. Willsher** on the square in Burniston Barracks. Their efforts were a credit to the Regiment and they eventually collected £800 for the Appeal. Well done lads.

The movement to camp went extremely well thanks to **WO1 (RMTO) Dickie Davies**, who, on occasions, wished that he had a helicopter to get a 'bird's eye' view of what was going on at both ends of the convoy which was spread out over an area of approximately 20 miles.

Once the 'settling in' phase was over, 'O' Groups were the order of the day and training began in earnest on the Sunday morning.

During the first week the programme included basic training in all trades for other ranks and for the first time officer training, which although eyed with suspicion initially proved to be very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all officers who took part.

Lt Col C. A. Marriott WRAC discusses culinary arts with LCpl Doreen Stringer (42 Sqn)

Our busy visitors programme this year was spearheaded by the Comd WRAC NE/NW Districts, **Lt Col C. A. Marriott** WRAC who visited the Regiment on Tuesday 9 June 1987. Her programme included visits to both OR Trade Training and Officer Training in Langdale Forest where she ended her visit with an outdoor lunch with the officers on training.

On 11 June 1987 **Col W. M. Elder** TD, TA Colonel NW District arrived and toured both the Trade Training complex, Military Training stands and Officer Training.

The Bde Comd, **Brig M. Marples OBE** and our Honorary Colonel, **Col J. Greenhill** TD arrived on Saturday 13 June 1987.

The Bde Comd visited elements of training during the Saturday both in barracks and in field locations including range and NBC training.

Brig M. Marples sharing a joke with WO2 Tom Watkinson during a break in NBC training

On the Saturday evening the Officers' Mess held its Dinner Night to which both the Bde Comd and Hon Col were invited. There was much 'speech making' in honour of the members of the Mess who were being 'Dined Out' namely, **Maj Adrian Leech TD, Maj Gordon Harrison TD** and **Capt Ted Butterworth**.

Sunday afternoon saw the finals of the sports events which had played their preliminary rounds, during the evenings of the first week. The Honorary Colonel presented the prizes to the overall winner which was 42 Sig Sqn from Manchester.

Monday 16 June saw the majority of the Regiment taking part in a 10 mile walk competition with full FSMO in teams of 10 (male and female). Not to be outdone by the younger element the Honorary Colonel ably assisted by the PRO **Capt Keith Derrick** and **WO2 (Snaps) Jolliffe** decided to join in the walk (without FSMO) and found the pace tough going. However, the staff car came in handy for the odd dash here and there.

Tuesday (had we been at camp only 11 days?) was parade day, with the sun shining to herald the event. 400 officers and soldiers on parade is always a spectacle worth watching, and this was no exception. The Inspecting Officer was the Honorary Colonel and at the end of the parade made the following presentations:

Clasp to the Efficiency Medal

WO2 P. P. Seddon 2nd Clasp HQ Sqn (LAD), **SSgt N. H. Watkins**

The Honorary Colonel hands over the coveted Football Trophy to the Captain of the winning team—59 Sqn

2nd Clasp HQ Sqn, **SSgt J. Forbes** 59 Sqn, **Sgt J. Hough** 59 Sqn and **Sgt R. A. McHugh** 59 Sqn.

Efficiency Medal

SSgt D. Galvin HQ Sqn, **Sgt L. R. Cunningham** HQ Sqn, **SSgt S. Donoghue** 59 Sqn, **Sgt J. B. Taggart** 59 Sqn, Sgt W. J. Thornley 59 Sqn, **Sgt W. J. Weir** 59 Sqn, **Sgt M. E. Mahoney** 80 Sqn and **Sgt D. P. Penfold** 80 Sqn.

On the conclusion of the Parade we said farewell to our Honorary Colonel who was whisked away to catch his plane back to the Isle of Man where hopefully he would get a well earned rest.

The remainder of the week was taken up with Ex *Yorkshire Relish* which practised the skills of setting up and running an Area Comms Network.

The CO and OC 59 Sqn sharing a job with Maj Bob Craick during his visit to the Regiment

One Wednesday 17 June **Maj R. R. Craik** OBE TD JP DL Chairman of TAVRA for the NW of England and Isle of Man visited elements of the Regiment in their field locations, some of which were not as firm on the ground as one would have wished. It was definitely 'wellie boot' order. However, as can be seen from the photograph there was still plenty to laugh about in spite of the weather.

Our last visitor was **Maj Gen C. T. Shortis** CBE GOC NW District who was visiting the unit to carry out our ARU.

The General escorted by the CO and the RSM visited all elements of the Regiment by helicopter which definitely tested the camouflage standards. Happily all was in order and we passed with flying colours.

The Regiment returned to TA centres on Saturday 20 June having had a hard but enjoyable 15 days camp and looking forward to the delights of having that first bath at home.

NEWS FROM SQUADRONS

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON HUYTON

EXERCISE *YORKSHIRE RELISH*

Wednesday 17 June 1987 saw the start of the exercise phase for members of Headquarter Squadron 'A' Echelon codenamed *Yorkshire Relish*. It was an exercise most of the members of 'A' Echelon will not forget for one reason or another. Thanks to somebody switching our tac signs around, our fleet of Bedford CLs once again proved that they are not cut out to travel over anything softer than concrete.

LCpl Pete English gave an impeccable performance of a rotavator, as his Bedford dug itself in up to its wheel hubs on its way into location.

That near disaster rectified, and the vehicles re-routed, it was the turn of the SQMS's (**Dave 'who's he' Cain**) wagon, yet another CL, to slide itself into location and jam itself against the side of a tree.

Once correctly sited, 'A' Echelon, under the watchful eyes of OC Sqn. **Maj Reynolds-Jones** and **SSM John Morrison** prepared for the visit of the GOC **Maj Gen C. T. Shortis** CBE.

Thursday morning began at 0545 hrs with a stand to. Enter Peter Pan (alias **Sgt John Hardy**) who upon hearing the SSM's whistle tried to fly from the back of his wagon, and ended up in hospital with a broken foot. The GOC arrived at lunch time, and with the help of **Sig Dave 'Woodentop' Moore** and **Pte Warren 'Bunny' Green**, his helicopter was brought to rest within metres of our command post, where it took all hands to stop the helicopter's rotors blowing the command post onto its next location. The GOC quizzical as ever, spoke to most members of 'A' Echelon and after sampling the culinary delights from **Cpl Alan Johnson**'s new mobile chippy, he was off once again on his flyabout.

Our next location was only home for a few hours, and after tea we were off once again to tax the field prowess of the Bedford CLs.

Our final location saw HQ Sqn's 'A' Echelon at their most professional in both work and play. Vehicles and trailers that were bogged in were manhandled out and once sited were quickly cammed up. 1900 hrs came the stand down we were all waiting for. Compo sausages and tea were swapped for barbecued steak and canned ale.

42 SQUADRON MACHESTER

EXERCISE *HOT BED*

Ex *Hot Bed* was intended to be a normal comms exercise for Switch X, however, during the course of the weekend members of 42 Sqn were called upon to perform a good deed for the public.

During the early morning of Sunday 12 July, disaster struck the Mermaid Public House which is situated on the Leek moors. The pipe carrying water from the stream to the pub developed a leak and drained all the water from the supply tank. Faced with the prospect of no water the landlord of the Mermaid called upon Switch X to help with the problem. Like gallant soldiers, members of 42 Sqn transported water from Leek Training Camp to the Mermaid where they were able to refill the tank and thus save the day.

Members of 42 Sqn (Manchester) led by WO2 (SSM) Byrne during their 'life saving' venture for the Mermaid pub at Leek

59 SQUADRON LIVERPOOL

VISIT OF SO-IN-C

59 Sqn in Liverpool was privileged on 16 July to be included in the visit to the Regiment by the Signal Officer-in-Chief, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**.

The SOinC was met by the Squadron Commander, **Maj Mervyn Deighton TD** and toured drill night training.

First stop was the Squadron Office where the SOinC met **Capt Ron Meyer**, our PSAO, **Cpl Diane Winrow**, the Pay Clerk, **Sgt Marjorie Heatley**, the Squadron Clerk, and the PSI, **Sgt Andy Foster**.

After a brief stop to look in on a practical first aid lesson, the SOinC spent some time chatting with the Data Telegraphists under the watchful eye of **Capt Dave Griffiths**, the Squadron Traffic Officer.

Then followed a 'shoot-out' on the Miniature Range between the SOinC, the CO, **Lt Col Roger Willsher** and the OC under the guidance of **2Lt Cathy McGrath WRAC** and **Sgt Lenny Young**, fresh from his Staff Sergeant's course at Catterick.

After meeting the NRPS SQMS, **SSgt Alan Proudlove** in his 'Aladdin's Cave', the SOinC visited the Sergeants Club to meet the remainder of the Squadron SNCOs and Regiment's PSIs before departing.

The SOinC and CO discussing DTg training with Cpl Eileen Halliday, LCpl Taggart, WRAC during his visit to 59 Sig Liverpool Sig Heap in background

80 SQUADRON CHESTER

SALTNEY FESTIVAL

A small group from 80 Sqn demonstrated their signalling skills at the Saltney Festival Chester on Saturday 4 July. Two radio relay detachments established a radio path carrying voice and telegraph circuits. With the two vehicles only 200m apart, no excuses were accepted for not establishing comms first time! Two detachments from the HF troop also established communication across the field using their Clansman radios but kept two tins and a piece of string in reserve.

The display was intended to illustrate the work which the Squadron does in its war role and also to advertise the Territorial Army in general. The crowd showed considerable interest in the vehicles and equipment but many of our potential recruits will have to wait to join up: most were 6-12 years old. The Queen's Own Yeomanry arrived with a Fox AFV which was rapidly transformed into an adventure playgroud. We claimed no connection with them.

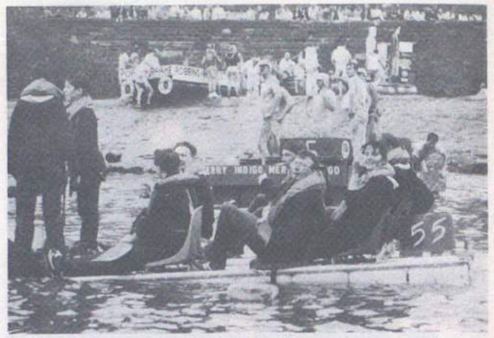
Overall, it was an enjoyable day and was a good example of 'showing the flag' which is something we need to do to keep up our recruiting.

RAFT RACE

Our fame is spreading up the river!

80 Sqn was challenged by the Rotary Club to a regatta on the River Dee on 12 July 1987 in aid of Polio Plus. All members of the Squadron employed by Camell Laird Shipbuilders were summoned to make the raft.

The crew, made up of four men and four women, viz: **SSgt Hawkins, Sgt Doyle, LCpl Taylor, Sig Bartrop. Pte Bartrop, Cpl Reddy, Pte Bland** and finally **Sig Dixon** had a practice launch three days before the venue. Alas, it sank! The raft was dragged out of the river, its name changed from *Titanic II* to *Jimmy One* and endless modifications made. No time for another launch, we had to have it right on the day.



Members of 80 Sqn Chester showing their 'Dinghy skills on the River Dee'. *L to R:* Pte Bartrop, Cpl Reddy, SSgt Hawkins, Sig Dixon, Bartrop, Sgt Doyle, LCpl Taylor and Pte Bland

Sunday morning came and off we set to do battle.

Medal!—Medal!—Medal! was our war cry. We were ready but was *Jimmy One* we wondered as thousands of people crowded round our gallant crew. 'Oh! **Karen** it floats, it floats!' shouted **Pte Bartrop** and all the men cried with delight. The race began and the strain on the crews' faces could be seen. We were told to play fair and the only ammunition we had were balloons filled with water! We were pelted with bad eggs, tomatoes, potatoes, soot, porridge—in fact everything. We were just like lambs to the slaughter. Still, we paddled on relentlessly to the bitter end and managed to come fourth. The happy news was that we raised £145 for the Countess of Chester Hospital. Well done all!

THE CLASS OF '67

This year sees the TAVR celebrating its 20th birthday since it reformed, and pictured outside 80 Sig Sqn TAC Gilwern are **SSgt (Bill) Smith, Sgt (Dick) Rogers** and **Cpl (Les) Bowers**. These three are the remaining members of the TAVR who joined in 1967.

SSgt (Young Bill) Smith's army service has spanned 30 years. His service started in 1957 with national service in the grenadier Guards and he served in Cyprus during the EOKA uprising. After he was demobilised in 1959 he joined the AER (Army Emergency Reserve); this lasted until February 1960 when he transferred to 86 Sig Regt based at Chester and Blandford. Upon the reforming of the TA in 1967 he was moved to 80 Sig Sqn (V) as a technician.

Bill has received the General Service Medal (Cyprus) and TAVR Efficiency Medal with two bars. They say **Bill** has been in service so long that he still has the ram rod for his musket.

Sgt R. Rogers (known as Dicky) joined the TA in October 1964. He joined 126 Bedington Field Ambulance, transferred to 304 Sig Sqn Chester in November 1965, and finally in 1967 to 80 Sig Sqn (V).

Cpl (Les) Bowers' service started in 1964 with the 4th Cheshire Regiment HQ Chester then transferred to the Squadron in April 1967.

Between them they have a total of 76 years service, four medals, four bars and 3 litres of Grecian 2000.

The three long serving veterans of 80 Sqn Chester. *L to R* SSgt Bill Smith, Cpl Les Bowers and Sgt Dickie Rogers

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

EUROMUX SUMMER

Following the year of the Triffic, 1987 has seen the next phase in the re-equipment of 12 Sig Bde. This entails the replacement of the rather elderly 1 + 4 and 4/12 multiplex equipment with the brand new software-based system Euromux. The first issue is to the Brigade so the introduction has to be on a learn-as-you-go basis with no previous regular experience to draw on. The first equipments became available in May, the last in August, and we have to have the whole system working in BAOR on Ex *Plain Sailing* 87 in September. With the need to test, trial and generally de-bug the system in between times, the pace throughout the summer has been frenetic at times. The activities involved have included collection of equipments from Donnington, trials at the School of Signals, modifications, conferences and a Brigade exercise. Inevitably the Regular Permanent Staff have had to do almost all of it and some of them must now know every bump in the road between Middlesbrough and Blandford! There were times when even to keep track of where everyone was was virtually a full-time job. But everyone came back in the end and we now have the kit, the first software modifications have been installed and the volunteers have made their first acquaintance with it. **WO2 (FofS) Phil Berry, WO2 (YofS) Kevin Townsend, Sgt John Hughes, SSgt John Pritchard, Sgt Derek Thurley, Cpl Steve Williams**, the technicians, **WO2 Gill Campbell** WRAC and **SSgt Guy Richards**, the DTg PSIs, and all the others who have been involved in this work, may never want to go through it again but it looks as if their efforts have been worthwhile. The volunteers were somewhat left out except for **WO1 (FofS) John Latham** and **SSgt (FofS) Carl Butler** whose 'civilian' jobs at the TTS in Catterick required them to get involved too.

EXERCISE *MAIDEN VOYAGE*

In mid July, when enough of the Euromux system had been issued to make a full-scale trial worthwhile, the Brigade held an exercise 'somewhere in the Midlands'. For many of the volunteers it was their first chance to see the new equipment as some of the vehicles had only been issued a week—or less—previously.

It was a most useful learning experience for all and all things considered was a great success. During the weekend we were visited by the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander** MBE, the Chief of Staff BAOR, **Maj Gen E. H. A. Beckett** MBE and by **Brig M. R. Topple** whose branch of the MOD bought us our new kit.

SOCIAL

In between training and collecting kit the usual summertime social events have taken place. In June the annual curry lunch in aid of SSAFA was held in Darlington. The curry was better than ever, thanks to **Sgt Cliff Jones** ACC who has recently transferred to us from 2 Bn Yorkshire Volunteers and who is obviously a curry expert. The CO presented the Chairman of the Darlington Branch of SSAFA with a cheque for £370.

The Officers' Summer Ball was held at the end of June, again in Darlington. A record number of guests attended and it was particularly good to see many former members of the Regiment, including **Col** and **Mrs Bill Illingworth, Maj** and **Mrs Peter Sutherland, Maj Mervyn Jenkins, Capt Judy Walker** WRAC and **Lt Gillian Cable** WRAC.

In July the WOs and Sergeants' Mess held their Summer Ball in Middlesbrough, well attended as usual. A highlight of the evening was the draw for a raffle, organised by the RSM, **WO1 Lenny Rowland-Jones**, in aid of the Mandy Lee Fund. This fund was set up several months ago to raise money for **Cpl Mandy Lee** of HQ Sqadron who is sadly paralysed from the chest down following a motor cycle accident while en route to the TA Centre. The fund has been boosted by all manner of activities, ranging from sponsored swims to sponsored slims (for the ladies of RHQ—it would be ungentlemanly to say much more, but the Adjt, **Capt Grace Harrison**, did raise a fair sum!), and including the raffle already mentioned and an all-ranks dance and bottle draw organised by **WO2 Alan Parker** RAPC. To date the fund, which was the idea of **SSgt George Wright**, has raised £2,000, and money is still coming in. **Mandy** is now able to come home for weekends and is becoming a very proficient wheelchair driver.

WELCOME

To **Maj David Bannister**, our new Training Major, who has joined us from the Army Apprentices' College and to **SSgt (YofS) Pat Halfpenny**, straight from his Yeoman's Course. We hope that both of them will enjoy their time with us. It is surely only a quirk of the posting system which has resulted in a double change in the Training Office. The third member of the team, **Sgt Jane Riley** WRAC, is confident that she can indoctrinate her new colleagues into the ways of the Volunteers!

FAREWELL AND THANKS

To the outgoing Training Major and the Yeoman, **Maj Alan Griffiths** and **WO2 (YofS) Kevin Townsend. Maj Griffiths** leaves after two years to become OC of the Junior Squadron in 11 Sig Regt and **Yeoman Townsend** is off to the Queen's Gurkha Signals in Hong Kong. We thank them both for all they have done during their time with us and wish them well.

To **SSgt Sid Hayward** and **Cpl Mac McDonald** who have spent their last six months with A Tp in Hull. We wish them luck in their new lives as civilians.

To **Capt Angus Turner** 2IC of 49 Sqn who is leaving the Regiment after 13 years to devote more time to his job and his family. We wish him and his wife **Rosemary**, a former officer in the Regiment, all the best and hope to see them often in the future.

Goodbye also to **Sgt Albert Carter** of HQ Squadron, the Regiment's Rations Storeman. **Sgt Carter** has served with the Regiment since its formation in 1967, always in HQ Squadron. And finally goodbye to **Sgts Gaynor Vance** and **Margaret Baxendale** of 49 Squadron. We thank them all and wish them well.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Col Bill Illingworth**, formerly CO and more recently Deputy Commander 12 Bde on his appointment as Commandant Cleveland ACF.

To **WO2 (YofS) Kevin Townsend**, to **WO2 (AQMS) Don Hall** REME and **SSgt John Pritchard** on their promotions. They all leave us soon.

To **WO2 Des Dixon** ACC on his well-deserved promotion.

To **WO2 Jeff Davison** on his promotion to WO2 in charge of Recruit Selection.

To **SSgt Ken Jackson** on his appointment as Foreman of Signals. We have been waiting a long time for this.

To **Sgts Paul Cooper** and **Jan McCoy** of A Tp, **Sgt Ena Hall** of E Tp and **Sgt Kevin Appleby** of G Tp on their promotion.

To **Cpl Alan Thompson** lately with 34 but now serving with 7 Regt, on his recent marriage to **Cpl Jackie Tuffs** WRAC. We wish them both a very happy future together and are delighted that **Cpl Thompson** (nee **Tuffs**) will be able to join us at Annual Camp in Germany in September.

To **Sgt Tim Cowan** on passing his Staff Sergeants Course.

To **SSgt George Wright**, SQMS (NRPS) in HQ Squadron and his wife **Donnella** on the birth of their daughter Rachel . . . and, as a stop-press item, to the recently retired civilian senior storeman at Darlington, **Mr Brian Reed**, on his award of the Imperial Service Medal.

36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

ESSEX SIGNALLERS ARE ON THE MOVE!
(In more ways than one)

It seems that 45 (Essex) Sig Sqn (V) has been on the go since last July when we were 'Triffidised' and given the green light by 12 Sig Bde (V). After a strenuous camp (trying not to break too many things) we returned to Colchester for the winter training period.

This for us comprised a number of Trade Training Modules spread over five winter months, where we upgrade the trade ratings of as many soldiers as possible. However, with the imminent arrival of EUROMUX, the poor old switchboard operators have all been looking to other trades as this equipment may well leave them redundant. EUROMUX will represent a massive leap forward in our comms capability and enable us to work in BAOR even more effectively in the future.

People have been moving around, and all of our soldiers from Ilford are now relocated at the new centre at Warley. This was opened in November with a full parade, sad to say this was the last parade that **Maj Douglas McLay** was to take as OC, for he has now moved on to the heights of Brigade HQ. The new OC is **Maj Roger Buston**, who has quickly found his feet and has got the Squadron moving along.

SSgt Alan Sparkes, has moved to Warley with his wife, **Cpl Helen Sparkes** though not in the same Troops, replacing **SSgt Sparkes** at Colchester is our first WRAC **SSgt Pat Baker**.

Recruits are coming in fast and furious, rumour has it that we may even benefit from the ACF, which shares the centre here in Colchester, with some more Junior Signallers (the girls love them).

As well as winter Trade Training there are the obvious exercise commitments and highlighting recently **SSM Peter Minshall's** harassing experience when his aircraft caught fire on landing. The words he used are unprintable I am afraid, needless to say he drove back!

It takes longer to grow than potatoes

LONDON DISTRICT RIFLE MEETING

The Regimental Shooting Team went to Pirbright for the London District Rifle Meeting on 26/27 April to qualify for a place at Bisley this year.

We were at a slight disadvantage because of the lack of time that we have had to practise due to the Regiment being issued with new equipment and the amount of extra training needed, but we were determined to do our best and have a good weekend into the bargain.

We had a good weekend but were very disappointed not to qualify. However we will start practising as soon as we return from annual camp later this year and next year we will be back at London District to show the Paras how to shoot(!) and we shall go on to Bisley.

REGIMENTAL SKILL AT ARMS

The 1987 Regimental Skill at Arms Meeting was held at Hythe and Lydd Ranges on the weekend of 3/4/5 July. The Regiment assembled on the Friday evening at Napier Barracks, Sandgate, ready for an early start on the Saturday morning.

The competitions on the Saturday involved mixed teams of eight, firing the SLR, SMG, and the pistol and on the Sunday morning the LMG's. All those not in the LMG competition were at Lydd Range

Capt Sharon Barklay (left) and The Regimental Shooting Team

throwing hand grenades under the expert guidance of **WO2 (QMSI) Derek Howell**, ably assisted by three very nervous safety supervisors, **WO1 (RSM) Tom Taylor, WO2 (SSM) Pete Minshall** and **SSgt Steve Swinfield**.

The weather was extremely kind to us and nearly everyone (except the console operators) went home a little browner (or redder) than when they came.

The competition finsished with the falling plate, the teams being cheered on by the whole Regiment, and the prizes were presented by the 2IC **Maj Mike Sexton** TD to the following:

Best individual SLR: **Cpl Brown** of 44 Sqn
Best individual SMG: **Sig Woodward** of 54 Sqn
Best individual pistol: **LCpl Daniels** of the LAD
Best WRAC shot: **Pte Miller** of 54 Sqn

The LMG pairs and the best squadron team prizes were both taken by the LAD captained by **Sgt Carl Basey**.

Congratulations to all those who won prizes, commiserations to those who didn't and thanks to all those who are involved in the organisation and administration of what was a very good weekend.

A mention for Techs! We congratulate **FofS Colin Hooper** on being promoted to WO1 and **Sgt Trevor Saint** and **Sgt Mary Evans** WRAC who spent three weeks in Penguin Land recently, on the first R Signals TA liaison visit to 266 Squadron before it was disbanded.

2IC Maj Mike Sexton presenting 'Best WRAC Shot' prize to Pte Norma Miller

FAREWELLS AND WELCOMES

Early in June, we had the pleasure of welcoming our Honorary Colonel, **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman CB** on the occasion of the Regimental Cocktail Party, held as usual at the TA Centre, Horfield Common in Bristol, the home of RHQ, 57 and HQ Sqns.

The following week the CO handed over command of the Regiment to **Lt Col Jonathan Cox**. Our new CO's reputation as an orienteer and fitness enthusiast preceeded him and we were not disappointed when on the annual CO's Exercise, *Summer Solstice*, **Lt Col Cox** toured the route on foot!

EXERCISE *SUMMER SOLSTICE* 3

The Regiment participated in the CO's annual Military Skills Exercise, and once again Salisbury Plain was the venue. This year 10 man sections from each Squadron made their way around a course on which a wide range of military skills were tested. As usual the exercise was run as a competition and the result this year was a win for 67 (QOWWY) Sig Sqn (U). CMHQ Tp (Stourbridge) won the section competition.

SHOOTING

Following success at the South West District SAAM, the Regimental Shooting Team prepared for the annual TA SAAM at Bisley. The results were excellent

Team	
Mercury Cup	1st (retained for a second year)
North Irish Militia Trophy	2nd (the best non infantry team)
Dragon Trophy	7th (Beating 15 TA Infantry Battalions)
Match	
Volongdis (GPMG)	3rd
Highland Volunteers Cup	8th
Yorkshire Volunteers Trophy	10th
Chine Cup	10th
SMG Team	13th
Daily Telegraph Cup	13th
ARA Cup	14th
Mullens Trophy	15th
Pistol Match	15th
Individual results included:	
Sgt John Burns	2nd Moving Target (SLR)
Sgt Bonzo Head and **Cpl Porter**	3rd LMG Match
Sgt Head	8th
Sgt Burns	18th TA Rifle Association 50 (TA equivalent to Regular Army 100)

Prize giving—Sgt Head, Cpl Porter

37 Sig Regt (V)
Bristol

Back L to R: 'Geordie', Sgt Burns, Maj Ken Goulding, Sgt Head, Cpl Newton
Front L to R: Sig Gibson, SSgt Campbell, Commanding Officer, Cpls Keating, Porter

INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO

The Regiment has had an involvement with the IAT for many years. Following IAT's move from Greenham Common to RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, the biannual air show was an opportunity for the Regiment to do some public relations and recruiting work in its own 'territory'.

Led by Regimental Ops Officer **Maj Ian Thomson**, a detachment established itself on a site at the end of the airfield and for two weeks assisted IAT with the complex task of providing communications for the biggest military air show in Europe. Led by **Lt Ian Strachan**, Line Tp laid miles of cable across the airfield and through ducting under the runway itself: **Capt Keigh Knowles** co-ordinated the extensive telephone network and **Capt Anne Baird** provided a new facility to IAT—a message centre, handling problems, questions and information for IAT staff and the public.

A recruiting display was mounted on the days of the show and the Regiment was able to do some unexpected advertising when **Maj Andy Flint** and **Lt Dinah Hughes** allowed DJ David Hamiliton to interview them on local radio GWR.

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

87 SQUADRON

Wedding bells continue to ring for members of the Squadron. **Sgt Terry Jno-Baptiste** our pay clerk recently married **Simon Freeman** and **Sgt Jo Pigula** made it a strictly Corps affair by marrying **SSgt Jim Knight** who once served with the Squadron as a PSI Tech but is now with 8 Sig Regt.

We entered a team in the Regimental Half Marathon Championship and although they didn't win they acquitted themselves well.

Sgt Jo Pigula and SSgt Jim Knight

93 SQUADRON

There have been some important changes since our last 'action packed' copy, they are as follows:

Capt Roger Davenport has been appointed 2IC, he has also taken over from **Lt Alan Whittle** as OC B Tp, our Manchester Det. And to make it a truly eventful period he has also taken charge of a new baby—**Simon**, a soldier or a sailor?

Capt Ted Hall, our PSAO must be putting something in the Officers' Mess water for we have three Squadron Officers, **Lts Alan Whittle, Ross Parsell** and **Sue Ridler** all of whom are actively planning and preparing for their weddings within the next few weeks.

We congratulate them and wish them all well.

SSgt Di Feest winning the women's championship

We have said farewell to **SSM Jack Naylor** after 15 years loyal service; all will remember him for his early morning renditions of the Crystal Chandelier! **WO2 Jeff Dolan** has been appointed SSM—not so tuneful but he can run a mean marathon!

On 30 May last, the unit held its very first Superstar Contest. Twenty-six members (half male half WRAC) took part. The venues were the TAC and two local parks in the area, the actual events were:- Badminton, Shooting, Obstacle Course, Football, Basket Ball, Gym Tests and a three mile run! It started at 0800 hrs with Badminton and finished at 1600 hrs with the Run—the overall comments were—exceptionally well run—(thanks to **Cpl Barry Crewdson** who masterminded the show). When will the next one be?

It was a hard but enjoyable contest which was well organised and run, helped by the Squadron Seniors. The day was rounded off with a social at which the prize giving took place, individual trophies for each event, the clear winners were **Sig Garry Lomas** and **Pte Anne Delruy**—this year's Squadron Superstars!

CADETSHIPS AND COMMISSIONS

Congratulations to **OCdts Mary Hall, Karen Caunter** and **Richard Taylor** who now start their arduous treks towards those coveted pips. Well done to **2Lts Peter Baker** and **Nick Greenan** who have recently completed their own trials to the 'pip accolade'.

REGIMENTAL HALF MARATHON

Congratulations to the following for their success in the recently run Half Marathon Championship:

SSgt Di Feest (93 Sqn) (WRAC) First female
Cpl Barry Crewdson (93 Sqn) First male.

46 Sqn carried off the first Squadron team place and the first male team place whilst 93 Sqn took the first female team place.

46 Sqn's winning team

Sig Rick Burton, Paul Stewart, Frank Kemp, LCpl Fred Merritt

Ptes Sharon Simons, Maxine Gough, Lorraine Oliver, LCpl Carolyn Ryan and Pte Carol Wellbourne of 46 Sqn pause for a brew-up

Sgt Buddy Batchelor instructs Sig Mark Cliff, Robert Steward, Steven Frost, Richard Alton and LCpl Martin Oratt all of 46 Sqn in the art of pistol cleaning

Maj Bob Barnes with Lt Alan Whittle, WO2 Dave Warburton and Sgt Sam Abdulhusein review the candidates at a recent Recruit Selection Weekend

Some of the candidates at the recent Recruit Selection Weekend

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

66 (CITY OF BELFAST) SQUADRON
SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Dave Baxter**
2IC	**Capt Nigel Beacom**
Comms Officer	**Lt Ray Scott**
SSM	**WO2 'Artie' Cahoon**
SQMS	**SSgt 'Starry' Stanley**
ALFA (RR) Tp OC	**Lt Davy Given**
Tp Officer	**2Lt Hilary Bustard**
BRAVO (DTg) Tp OC	**2Lt Shelley Hardie**
CHARLIE (RR) Tp OC	**Lt Kieran Lavery**
Tp Officer	**2Lt Lorraine Jordon**

Late Spring saw a lot of changes in the Squadron; in the first instance with a change of OC. **Maj Adrian Scott** retired from the TA in May after a successful career in which he commanded the Squadron twice and served as Regimental 2IC. His quiet humour and experience will be a sad loss to the Squadron. **Maj Scott** is succeeded by **Maj Dave Baxter**, fresh from commanding the Regimental Training Squadron. Hopefully the Squadron is in for an easier time than the recruits had!

The change of command also incorporated a loss in another way: after a long and glorious history which could be traced back to the formation of Territorial Army Signal units in the province, the Squadron's HF Troop was disbanded. This was necessary due to the loss of the Regiment's HF commitments. However while the Squadron may have lost a Troop, it has certainly not lost the enthusiasm and loyalty of the 'old' Bravo Troop soldiers: for they are now completing retraining as radio relay operators so that they can take their place in the forthcoming Continental Camp.

Finally, **Capt Rosa Blake** has passed on to lofty heights of OC Training Squadron. We wish her all the best and hope she doesn't stay away too long.

EXERCISE *SCOTCH MIST I*

Was it Scottish Mist or Scotch Mist? We all wondered; or at least until after the Squadron Party and Buffet when it was decided that Scotch Mist was definitely more appropriate! Visiting the Squadron in Scotland from 19-21 June was the CO—**Lt Col Chris Shuker** and one eagle-eyed RSM—**WO1 Graham Campbell** who proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that he could spot a tin of beer at 10yds, even through landrovers doors. Apart from an unfortunate incident with ADA vouchers (no names) the weekend went well with most landrover crews on this navigational exercise getting the chance to see plenty of highland scenery. The highlights of the weekend? Perhaps the Oscar awards by **FofS 'NBC' Nesbitt-Clarke**, or even the culinary expertise which **Cpl 'Squeezer' Lemon** brought to the kitchens. Indeed the Squadron was so impressed with **Cpl Lemon**'s charming and courteous service that there was talk of purchasing a copy of Dale Carnegie's 'How to win friends and influence people' for him!

In the final analysis, the weekend went very well; especially for the 2IC **Capt Nigel Beacon**, whose explanation of 'You take the high road' for the benefit of the CO must improve his Confidential Report no end!

Ex Scotch Mist—Tell the CO that Fiona doesn't live here anymore! Lt Col Chris Shuker smiles, Capt Nigel Beacom turns his back and Lt Ray Scott grimaces

POTTED SPORTS COMPETITION

During the Winter months an inter Squadron potted sports competition was held on a monthly basis within the TAC, with Volleyball, Shinty and Basketball being the main events. The final was held on Tuesday 7 July 1987 and won by 85 Sqn. The Perpetual Trophy donated to the Regiment by our ex TOT **Maj Dave Baxter**, was presented by him to the Sqn OC **Maj Gerry Fleming** after the finals.

Potted Sports Winners—The winning team from 85 Sqn

Maj Gerry Fleming, OC 85 Sqn receives the Baxter Trophy from Ex TOT Maj David Baxter

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Combat Powerman PSI **Sgt Martin Harrow** on being awarded the LS & GC. The medal was presented in the Sergeants' Mess on Tuesday 11 June by the Commander TA N Ireland, **Brig Clive Wilkinson**.

FAREWELLS

The last four months saw the departure of three of the Regiment's stalwarts, **Maj Adrian Scott** and **Capt Bill Malone** on retirement and last but certainly not least, our long-suffering Adjutant **Capt Tom Pengelley** on posting to RHQ Royal Signals. A fond farewell to all of them and best wishes in the future.

The CO accepts a gift to the Officer's Mess from the Adjutant, Capt Tom Pengelley

VISIT OF COMMANDER TA N IRELAND

The Regiment had the pleasure of welcoming the Commander TA Northern Ireland, **Brig C. A. Wilkinson CBE**, on his first formal visit to the TAC at Clonaver Park.

The visit took place on a normal Drill Night on Tuesday 16 June 1987. He arrived at 2000 hrs and after discussions with the CO, he toured the TAC visiting the various training activities. Prior to supper with the Officers and SNCOs he presented the LS & GC medal to the Combat Powerman PSI **Sgt Martin Harrow**.

Combat powerman PSI Sgt Martin Harrow receives his LS & GC from the Commander TA Northern Ireland, Brig Clive Wilkinson

News from Squadrons

JCUFI
BFPO 655

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Tony Manders**
2IC	**Flt Lt George Gatherer**
USM	**WO2 (USM) Mick Dunn**
Chief Clk	**Cpl Jim Peat**

WO2 (USM) Geoff Armstrong has departed to dear old Blighty, we wish him all the best in his post at York. Even though he was 'Argied' by four weeks. Last seen crawling away from his dining out.

OC **Maj Tony Manders** feeling a lot better now he has completed two months of his time, only four to do; and all that time is devoted to taking photographs and running the Photograph Club. Our Chief Clerk, **Cpl Jim Peat**, with a helping hand from one of the locals, is about to get involved in Clay Pigeon shooting? Or is it Upland Geese!

In UHQ we also have our Supply personnel (SCAF) both Royal Signals, **Sgt Ian McAlroy** and **LCpl Chappie Chapman**. Very interesting watching them use the RAF Supply System. The old QM's would have nightmares if they had to work with their supply system.

The USM **WO2 Mick Dunn** now settled down from 5,000ft has taken up the role of JCUFI USM. This is his second tour in the Falkland Islands, the first as SQMS 266 Sig Sqn, definitely different at MPA?

The 2IC **Flt Lt George Gatherer** and **USM Mick Dunn** attempted to visit Mount Adam, with the PSA Team, to improve the condition for the Det. The Eric (Helicopter) has the task of moving equipment and personnel around the Islands the scenic route takes about four hours. After three attempts to get in, Eric gave up, and landed at the bottom of the mountain.

PSA were not too impressed when the USM suggested a wee walk up the hill, reassuring them that it would do wonders for their circulation? their reply was 'we haven't the time to spare'. We had to leave the slab at the bottom (refreshments for the det). Definitely no problems about keeping it cool!

SYSCON

Head Honcho	**FofS Bob West**
Daisies	**Cpl Den 'No Nickname' Ball**
	Cpl Snowy 'Day to do' Snowball
Monarch Techs	**Cpl Rab 'The Knife' Benson**
	Cpl John 'Overworked' Linck
Shifties	**Cpl Jeff 'Squeaky' Moore**
	Cpl Trev 'I hate cats' Bandey
	Cpl Dave 'I've been 'ere before Chaps' Marritt
	Cpl Al 'Teetotaller' Toner
	Cpl Pete 'Sticky' Messender
	Cpl Ako 'Can I borrow a Chinook' Atkinson

To catch up with the last report, nothing much has happened here since then although the long hours put in by **Rab Benson** (and **John Linck**) in sorting out the new Hillside Exchange should not go without mention. For those not in the know, the previous Military Exchange, at Canache was sheduled to close and its replacement at Hillside was supposed to come on line at the same time. Needless to say it wasn't as easy as that and the experience of the boys was put to good use.

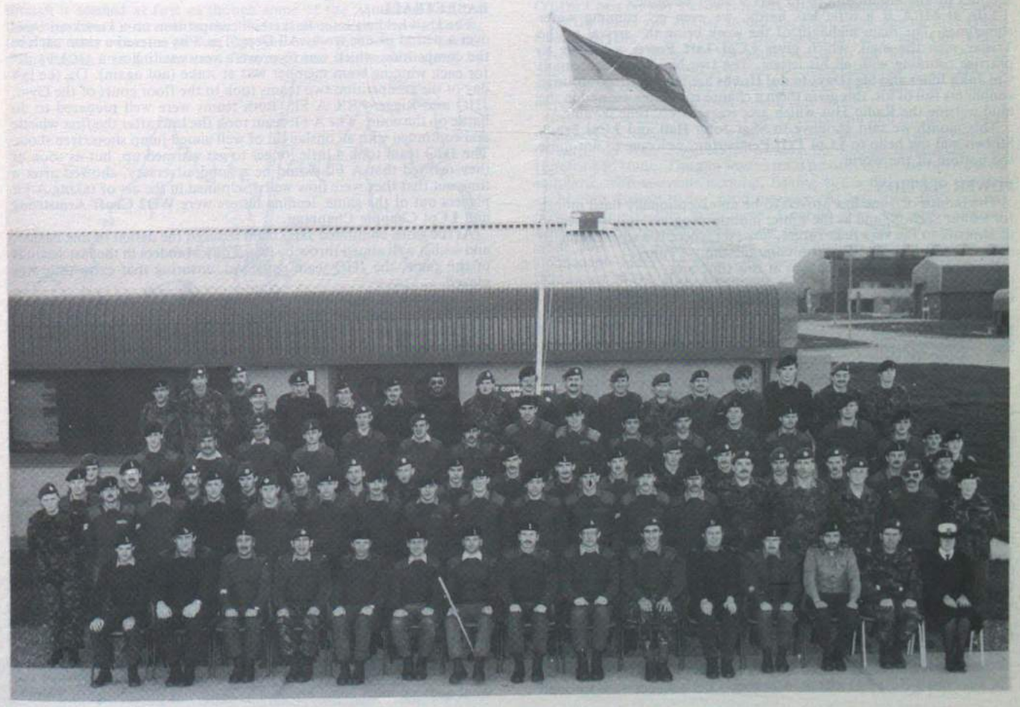
Of FNG's we have a handful . . . **FofS Bob West, Al Toner, Trev Bandey** and **Dave Marritt**. Sadly we also have had to say goodbye to the following **FofS Mick Cooper, Sgt Rick Hughes, Cpl Dave Bradford** and **Cpl Rob Hearn**.

For the moment the snow has at last stopped (for the time) and any rumours that the FOS is busy trying to change everything in sight to a new and better system are entirely true.

FITS TEAM

PERSONALITIES

SSgt Mick Parsons
Sgts Mark Edwards
Mat Nuttall
Phil Newman



Cpls Pete Scanlon
Bod McDonald
Steve Swithenbank
Pete Lee

Only three of our FITs sites are manned (**Sgt Mat Nuttell**—Mt Alice, **Sgt Phil Newman**—Bryon Heights and **Cpl Bob McDonald**—Mt Kent) therefore the maintenance of the remaining sites keeps the rest of the team very busy.

With the return of the winter and consequently the bad weather a routine journey to a fault on an outsite could mean being stuck up on the hills for two or perhaps three days instead of just an overnight stop, waiting for the weather to clear so that the chopper can get in.

To overcome some of these problems out illustrious leader came up with the bright idea of alternative landing sites, the closest being a mile and the furthest being nearly ten miles away. That's what we like to see, our leaders looking after their lads!

AIRFIELD CABLE CONTROL
CHARLIE TROOP

The changeover of troop personnel continues. The latest to receive the coveted Tristar boarding pass are **Sgt Geoff Gardner, Sig 'Jammo' Hartley** and **Sig 'Jacko' Jackson**. Their replacements being **Sgt 'Where's my tea?' Moore** and **Sig 'Honey Monster' Meyers**.

Work continues at the same frantic pace, a situation not helped by **Sig 'Slaphead' Hilton** who thinks the faults vehicle is amphibious. Many thanks to **LCpl Gaz Sullivan** for the quick recovery.

The Canache changeover took place with only minor hitches (all the MPA trunks and BMH extensions U/S) rumour has it that **LCpls 'Johno' Johnson** and **'Old man' Mottram** may get a day off soon.

Finally, we wish all our replacements a good flight down and can assure them of a warm greeting even if it is whilst passing on the tarmac!

TAC RADIO SECTION

We are now entering the later part of June and the winter weather is looming fast. Our main priorities now are to keep the Rebros at Mount Adam and Campito resupplied.

With Erics (Bristow helicopters) and Wokkas not wanting to fly through dense cloud and end up bouncing off the side of the mountains, its down to a bergan and a trusty Radio Op to carry the supplies up the mountain, 'Who says it can't be done'.

Life at MPA is a little less hardy, we even get running water sometimes. The main highlight of the week being the arrival of the Tristar with the mail, which gives **LCpl Taff Power** a chance to practise counting with all his letters. The two Normans (Storeman) **Cpl John Innes** and **Sig (Days to do) Hobbs** are busy sorting out three containers full of kit, this gives them a chance to wallow around in the mud outside the Radio Hut which gets worse every time it rains.

This month we said goodbye to **SSgt John Hall** and **LCpl Frank Strawn** and say hello to **LCpl Taff Pemberton**, welcome to not quite the bottom of the world.

POWER SECTION

The month of June has proved to be an exceptionally hard month for Power Section, and as the winter months progress, it not expected to improve in the very near future, however, there is a silver lining to every cloud not least the warm comradeship we enjoy.

Personalities in Power Section at this time are,

Sgt **Moss Wright**
Cpls **Eddie Callaghan (Wild Bill Hickock)**
Denny Allen
LCpls **Phil Gowland**
Sig **Andy Marritt**
Andy McNicholls

The latter two enjoying life on Mount Adam and Campito.

A hearty welcome to new arrivals **Cpl 'Wild Bill Hickock' Eddie Callaghan** and **LCpl Phil Gowland**, and a fond farewell to **Cpl Denny Allen** who is leaving for a sunnier spot after having spent a few days R & R on Ascension Island and returning with a tan that Michael Jackson would be proud of.

SPORTS ROUND UP
by Cpl Jim Peat

HOCKEY TEAM
Team players:
Capt **Brian Billsberry**
Cpl **Steve Swithenbank (Captain)**
Cpls **John (The Head) Linck** and
Dave Marritt
LCpls **Andy Mattson** and
Roy (Of the Rovers) Gradwell

The Unit team played in two leagues to qualify for the semi finals. The first was a close run match, where only the winners went through and which to their surprise they won. The end result of the first league was between JCUFI and JSSU, JCUFI going through on points difference.

The second league comprised the five MPA league winners in which the top three teams went through with the Stanley league winners to make the four semi finalists. Once again the JCUFI team came top of their league, ensuring a place in the semi finals.

So to the semi finals the team with much confidence battled on the gym floor against the Sappers. With a very hard fought game the Sappers came out top with the final score 3—2.

Although the spirit of the team was a little below par for not reaching the finals they gave an outstanding performance and are congratulated on their achievements in getting so far.

A special mention should go to **Roy (of the Rovers) Gradwell** who scored in every game that was played, often more than once and kept the team spirit high. Well done to all.

The final outcome of the competition was a thrilling match between Alberts Allstars versus Sappers. The game went into extra time, and eventually the Albert Allstars came out winners beating the Sappers on Penalty flicks.

CROSS-COUNTRY

SHOCK HEADLINE/FLASH MESSAGE; 'Syscon cross-country it, while FofS is away'.

The Syscon team assembled at 1245 hrs local outside the Gym and were all psyched up ready for the start, but they had to wait for an hour due to duff messages with regard to the start time (well done **Paddie Phillips**). However at the appointed time 1345 hrs local they strode forward to do battle with 27 other teams from MPA. The event was a 4 × 3 mile relay race over some rough ground. The team consisted of **Cpl Steve 'Mad dog' Johnson**, who was the first man away and the pace setter. Next came **Cpl Ritchie 'Razorman' Cousins** the body of the team. Third in this merry band of techs was **Paddie 'Snorker or I've got it wrong again' Phillips**, and last, but not least, the anchor man of the team (and the slowest) **Capt Bill 'Goose Green Beach' McCreath**.

At the end of the day the Syscon team wet, cold and tired and fifth last, but still smiling (honest FOS) drag themselves away for a well earned rest, 'four months to be exact'.

BASKETBALL

The Unit held an Inter Basketball competition on a knockout basis over a period of one week. All Dept/Tps/Flts entered a team each in the competition which was to prove a very exciting as a 'JCUFI tie' for each winning team member was at stake (not again). On the last day of the competition two teams took to the floor court of the Gym, JHQ and Riggers/RX A Flt. Both teams were well prepared to do battle on the court. The A Flt team took the lead after the first whistle and continued with an onslaught of well aimed jump shots/free shots. The JHQ team took a little longer to get warmed up, but as soon as they realised that A Flt would be a good adversary, showed after a time out that they were now well disciplined in the art of taking A Flt players out of the game, leading hitters were **WO2 Geoff Armstrong** and **LCpl Chappie Chapman**.

As the game continued JHQ team reduced the deficit to one basket, and with a well aimed throw by **Maj Tony Manders** in the last seconds of the game, the JHQ team equalised, ensuring that extra time was played.

The extra time and the thought of another JCUFI tie, the JHQ team moved up another gear using their height advantage on the rebounds, **Flt Lt Ken Adams** and **Cpl Jim Peat** proved to be the deciding factor in the outcome of the game. JHQ, against a tired A Flt, moved in steadily but surely to take a commanding lead which could only reduce A Flt's chances of coming back. At the presentation by **Flt Lt Mark Aleandri** OC A Flt the following were presented with their ties: **Maj Tony Manders** OC JCUFI, **Flt Lt Ken Adams** SO3 Comms, **WO2 Geoff Armstrong** USM, **Cpl Jim Peat** C/Clk and **LCpl Chappie Chapman** Stores.

HALF MARATHON/CROSS-COUNTRY/ROAD RACE

A quick report on the half marathon/cross-country/road race event which took five runners from JCUFI on a 13 mile jog around East Falklands on 24 June.

There was a total of 93 competitors who took part in almost ideal Falklands weather (cold, wet, windy), and the event was a great success. Members of the Unit took park, not just for the race itself, but for charity as well, and collected a total of £250 which has gone to a good cause: They were:- **WO2 Geoff Armstrong** JHQ, **Cpl Jim Peat** JHQ, **LCpls Gaz Sullivan** C Troop, **Chappie Chapman** JHQ, **WEM (R) Wilson** B Troop.

All runners completed the half marathon in good times and would have been a lot faster had the ground not been so hilly. As they say what goes up must come down. The team was placed eighth overall.

1 Inf Bde HQ and (215) Sig Sqn Tidworth

SQUADRON PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. K. Ewbank**
2IC	**Capt A. J. Madsen**
Adjt	**Maj S. C. Firbank LI**
QM	**Maj H. A. C. Meekings**
Tfc Offr	**Capt R. C. Papworth**
OC A Tp	**Capt R. F. M. Cousins**
OC B Tp	**Lt I. Hooper**
OC C Tp	**Capt B. F. Avison**
TCO	**Capt G. A. Morgan RCT**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) G. C. Air**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) C. S. J. Phillips**
YofS 1	**WO2 (FofS) C. Newby**
YofS 2	**SSgt (YofS) B. Hayward**
Ch Clk	**SSgt (QRSQMS) J. Sharma**

At the last Squadron seem to be settling down with only two major changes recently. We welcome the new OC Charlie Tp, **Capt Bruce Avison**, and his wife **Carolyn** and say goodbye to **YofS Brian Hayward**. **YofS Hayward** leaves Trg Wing (was he ever there . . .?) to go to Radio Group (and undoubtedly the Shooting Team) at the School of Signals.

EXERCISE *BRAVE GROUSE*

July saw the Squadron travel north of the border to Kinlochleven (below Ben Nevis) for two weeks of adventurous training. Climbing, walking, sailing, canoeing and diving were all on the menu, though it seemed at first as though some of the Squadron had lost their appetite. On arrival at the hostel it was immediately apparent that the only way to go was up, yet every morning saw parties disappearing in all directions! The walkers, shepherded along by

CPL BOB FULLER DEMONSTRATES THE SECOND FASTEST MEANS OF DESCENT

Capts Ray Papworth and **Bob 'OK, where's the transport?' Cousins, Sgt Jim Monkman** and **Cpl Johnson** set out to prove that what goes up dosen't necessarily have to come down. The Squadron record for the Ben Nevis ascent changed almost daily, but **Cpl Dillet's** record of 'lost within three minutes of Kinlochleven' still stands. Weather of the kind that only Scotland can provide, coupled with the terrain produced some hard walking, tired walkers and a few blisters. However, most achieved, and some admitted to, a sense of satisfaction, or was it a sense of relief, on return to camp.

Further around in Glen Nevis the Squadron rock climbing cadre introduced both willing and unwilling to Polldubh Crags. **Cpls Tom Allen** and **Bob Fuller** organised top roping and abseiling as an introduction to climbing while **Lt Ivan 'Targets up' Hooper** took two at a time for some 'character building' climbing on the upper butresses. Motivations varied from the Bowskill theorem 'the sooner I get up this the sooner I get off it' to the 'geronimo' of **Sgt Geoff Woodcock** and others. Although there were instances of nine points of contact 'what do I do now?', the general standard was high with groups climbing to very severe standard.

For those with a more aquatic leaning Loch Leven provided the venue for the sailing. Although the wind proved lacking on occasions, messing about in boats on the Loch proved to be a little more energetic than most had anticipated. When the wind did blow however it combined with superb scenery and sun to produce some of the best sailing possible. Having failed to lose the RSM in the hills, or drop him off a cliff, 'dunking' was the next option. It soon became apparent that the RSM **Gordon Air** was no mean crewman and **WO2 (YofS) Chris Newby**'s efforts to put him overboard failed miserably.

As the boats got smaller so did the chances of staying dry. **QMSI George Bryson**—'it's Tuesday, therefore I'm Navy' and **Cpl 'Vince' Vincent** tackled some of the whiter water in the River Nevis. The Shute, a grade 3/4 rapid provided the main challenge to novices and experienced canoists alike. Again standards were high, **Cpl Williams** in particular proving himself a reluctant star.

Below the waters of Loch Leven Q Hannigan and the diving party remained oblivious to the vagaries of the weather. The divers had travelled up four days early, picking up Zodiac inflatables from Hereford en route. The aim was to train novices up to the novice diver standard, with souvenir hunting, fishing and a little aid to the civil yacht club thrown in for good measure. At least two dives per day ranging from 5-20m were done. **Geordie 'I've got my knife on' Fleming** spent ten minutes backing off from a two inch king prawn while **Rob 'the poser' Merrick** coolly smiled for the camera and flooded his mask. In all a very successful week's diving was had, thanks to **WO2 Roy Hannigan** and **Joy** and **Norman Morley**. Congratulations to all who passed their novice course.

VIC GREEN APPEAL

This year the annual Officers/SNCOs vs Juniors cricket match has a dual purpose. As well as providing another opportunity for the juniors to best the Officers/SNCOs the whole Squadron turned out to raise money for the **Vic Gueen** Appeal. As the cricketers battled for sponsored runs, various side shows and stands, ranging from the simple but skilful art of wellie throwing, to various Heath Robinson contraptions for extracting cash from the unwary took place. Not even Gypsy Rose Latham could have foretold the result of the cricket match however—after a promising start, the 'OC's Sqn's Eleven' had taken five wickets in five overs. The juniors then put in **Sig 'Scouse' Clarke** and **LCpl Mick Shaw**. Their score steadily mounted with **Sig Clarke** eventually scoring 50 before retiring. The officers/seniors were left with a score of 140 to beat. The opening pair, **WO1 (RSM) Gordon Air** and **QMSI George Bryson**, made a momentous start, the RSM lasted for eight balls while Q **Bryson** was eventually levered out after six overs for a total score of zero. After some spirited batting from the OC Sqn, **Maj John Ewbank**, and **Sgt Geoff 'the Pay' Prewitt** the score fairly rattled along to 65. It became obvious that no-one wanted to dismiss **Sgt Prewitt** 'lots of claims in the pipeline maybe?' After 22 overs the final score was juniors 140, officers/SNCOs 101, a total of 241 sponsored runs for the Vic Green Appeal. In all the day raised over £700 for the appeal.

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205) Aldershot

EXERCISE *NICKEL MERCURY*

The following people were selected to represent the Squadron on Ex *Nickel Mercury* in the Bahamas, attached to 30 Sig Regt from 20 June-8 July inclusive: **Sgt Dave Catchpole, Cpl Stu (Orion) Couszins, Cpl Eric Udell (The Bloodaxe), Sig Woody Wood, Taff Thomas** (obligatory non para trained rep).

We left sunny Aldershot on Saturday 20 June with hopes of better weather to come. The flights over went well, two travelling by C130 and the remainder by VC10. We all met up again at our final location, the American administered Torpedo Testing Centre at Andros Island. The accommodation and facilities were excellent as you would expect in an American run base.

Our detachment was deployed for four days to a location at the northern end of the island and our task was to provide communications in support of an evacuation operation. The exercise went well and we returned to Base location the day before Airborne Forces Day. We celebrated Airborne Forces Day on 4 July, which coincided with the American Independence celebrations. While the Squadron was busy celebrating in Aldershot, we were doing our best to match them.

Our reasons for celebrating were proudly displayed by **Cpl Eric Udell** who constructed an excellent Airborne Signals plaque while on the Island. The evening was celebrated by a Woody Wood instigated Toga party but Mr Toga refuses to publish the details. Our thanks go to 30 Sig Regt for their welcome and the Squadron looks forward to future 30 Regt 'Swans' if you'll escuse the pun.

Sig 'Woody' Wood and his PRC 320 on holiday in the Bahamas!

Personnel showing that the sun never sets in the Colonies—Cpl Eric Udell Stu Couszins, Sig Woody Wood, Sig 'Taff' Thomas, Sgt Dave Catchpole

EXERCISE *BRAMMER'S FOLLY*
BRAVO TROOP ADVENTURE TRAINING

One Sunday in June, when all the little boys and girls were in their beds, survival **Sid (SSgt Grant Humble)** and his merry men; namely **Cpls John Allan, Tommy Tuckbox Taylor, Fireman Flood, LCpls Tim Langley, LCpl 'I'm an akia' Smith, Steve Hinton, ABBO and Three Wheels on my Wagon Greenwell**, set off to the beautiful area of Keswick in the Lake District for Ex *Brammer's Folly*, the troop's annual adventure training exercise which took place from 14-25 June inclusive.

And so with a wave from the guard, off we went towards Fleet and our first command task, (driving a three-quarter ton and trailer on three wheels). **Sig Geordie Grenswell** came out on top, winning the first prize—a trip back to Aldershot to rejoin us on Tuesday 16 June with the main body.

Finally at around dusk we arrived at what was to be our new home for the next 10 days. With tents up, we went off to explore our surroundings. Having met some of the locals we were able to spend the evening bombarding them with stories of C130 and rigging lines. Pity, the only people interested were the local climbing team. Perhaps some of the older residents had heard it all before!

On Tuesday we were joined by the other half of the Troop led by the ever caring **SSgt Nick Nielsen** (no wonder BR didn't complain about the bergans). Also that day, we were joined by **SSgt Phil Boon, Cpls Mick North** and **John Williams**, all from 11 Sig Regt adventure training Team.

Wednesday and Thursday saw us split into two groups, half went duck hunting in canoes on Derwentwater, the others climbing in Borrowdale. An excellent day was had by all, with **Sig Gratrick** proving to be a formidable canoeist (he's now in search of white water) whilst **Mr Edwards** (on loan from Mars) proved to be a dab hand at climbing!)

Canoeing, climbing or windsurfing was the order for Friday with the OC Sqn **Maj Gordon Shipley** joining us for high tea! Meanwhile back at Base Camp, the three illustrious Cordon Bleu were plotting dastardly deeds with the menu.

Saturday we went water skiing on Lake Windermere with varying degrees of success, failure and bruising.

On Monday after a hearty breakfast prepared by **LCpl 'Why can't I cook' Hindley**, we were off to the hills for a day's walking and navigation led by the Troop Commander **Lt Julian Brammer, SSgt Grant Humble** and **SSgt Nick Nielsen. Sgt Nielsen** manned the first check point with the second, Scafell, controlled by **Lt Brammer** and finally Great Gable with **SSgt Grant Humble** suitably dug in complete with traps and snares.

After a challenging and tiring day, all three groups returned to Base Camp at Braithwaite (one and a half miles from Keswick) to dry off and rest, before finally striking camp and returning to Aldershot on 24 June. The Troop is hoping to return to Keswick next year, but I suppose it really all depends on which part of the country the new OC comes from?

AIRBORNE FORCES DAY 1987

Airborne Forces Day, an annual event, was held on 4 July to commemorate the formation of British Airborne Forces, this year being the 47th year. The celebrations take place in the Home of the British Army and Airborne Forces—Aldershot.

Friday 3 July saw the start of the Airborne Signals celebrations in Arnhem Barracks restaurant, the disco and decorations being laid on by Alpha Troop; well done to **Cpl 'Chris' McGinley** and his hardworking team. An excellent buffet was prepared by **WO2 Steve Holbrook** and his cooks; thank you for all your expertise and hardwork. About 300 people attended the event and a good time was had by all. The disco finished at about 0200 hrs and the bar shortly afterwards to give the barman **Cpl 'Ginge' Border** time to get set up again for the next day's events!

1030 hrs on Saturday saw the real start to Airborne Forces Day parade. This takes place on Montgomery Square and this year troops from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of The Parachute Regiment were on parade. It was reviewed by **Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett KB MC** Colonel Commandant of The Parachute Regiment. The parade was overflown by a C130 from 613 TACP (Tactical Air Control Post).

The Squadron threw open its doors to the public and a team led by **Sgt 'John' Black** offered hot dogs and hamburgers (Porky Scratchings) to the visitors until stocks ran out. **Cpl 'Ginge' Border** again managed the bar. Exhibits and demonstrations were on view at the Depot Para including a RATT det from B Tp showing off the latest signals equipment (T100). A parachuting demonstration by the world famous Red Devils and a demo by 4 Para (TA) (V) on abseiling techniques were just a few of the attractions.

All in all an excellent, weekend was had by all. Well done to all who helped to make it so.

The ultimate jump. The Red Devils posing before a packed arena at Depot. Airborne Forces Day 1987

EXERCISE *JACKSON'S FOLLY* II

This year's adventure training for TM Tp, aptly named 'Jackson's Folly III', took place in Cornwall instead of our usual haunt in the Lake District. Base Camp was made in a disused barn on Penhale Training Area bout two and a half miles from the main camp.

The main training was rock climbing and watersports, with a one day introductory Hang Gliding course at the end. The rock climbing phase was led by **Cpl Rodney Hamish Calder** whose idea of an easy climb is to surmount a vertical sheet of glass 150ft high.

The watersports were, once again, under the watchful eye of **WO1 (FofS) Dave Jackson**. The introductory Hang Gliding course proved a tremendous success with everyone. After spending about two hours running around the beach learning how to balance the glider the moment of truth was reached. **WO1 (FofS) Dave Jackson** was the troop guinea pig and prepared to make the first flight from the sand dunes on to the beach. Under the eye of our instructor **Lester Cruse** and watched with some apprehension by the troop the Foreman (Red Baron) launched himself off the top of the dune and made a successful flight and landing. After this there was no holding anyone and the day provided some memorable flights and landings.

By way of relaxation the Foreman had arranged for a fishing trip out of Newquay. The sea was very rough and in a short time the fishing party of 11 was reduced to 8 very sorry bodies and 3 rods. After only two hours the Foreman took pity on the once cheerful crew and returned them to harbour.

The camp had proved very successful with **WO1 (FofS) Dave Jackson, Cpl 'Matt' Wigley** and **Cpl 'Frap' Chapman** all catching the hang gliding bug and booking up courses for the near future.

EXERCISE *STONE DROP* (OR SPLASH)
by **Cpl Dave Turner** of the QM's Dept (a non para trained person)

On 24 June I and six other non-para-trained members of the Squadron were given the opportunity to 'volunteer' to take part in a water descent, Ex *Stone Drop*.

The exercise was to last two days, giving us a day for ground training and a day to jump into Studland Bay in Dorset. Early on the morning of 25 June we paraded at RAF Pitts Road Aldershot and were led into the torture chamber (the training hangar). Our first task was to get into a set of strange looking straps, known as a flight swing harness. No sooner had the straps been adjusted than our so called mates snatched away the steps and we were left dangling, very uncomfortably, like plucked chickens in a poulterer's window. **Sig Andy Pengelley**, being tall, was okay as he was still able to reach the floor. The remainder of the training consisted of aircraft exit and safety drills.

That evening we were given a final brief at which we were told that 'P' hour (time to jump) was to be 1100 hrs 26 June. Early next morning (everthing to do with parachuting seems to necessitate an early start just to hang around for ages waiting to jump) we set off for Farnborough airfield where we were again trussed up like turkeys, but this time it was for real!

We boarded the Hercules and made ready for take-off and I seem to remember the butterflies taking off at the same time as we did. After about 40 minutes flying time we were over Studland Bay, the drop, or should I say, splash zone. At the briefing we were told our exit would be off the tailgate ramp, it did our confidence the world of good to be told that the tailgate was broken! We would now exit by the port door. The door opened and we stood to check equipment—suddenly everything was serious—then came the order 'Action Stations' 'Red On',, 'Green On' and in sticks of four we were on our way minus the smiles we had been wearing all morning. I left the Hercules and was immediately hit by the slip-stream and after what seemed an age of being buffeted around I felt a tug on my shoulder. I looked up to see my parachute perfectly deployed, what a lovely sight! The jump height was 1,500ft which gave us approximately 40 seconds in the air. This was ample time to really enjoy and savour the sensation of floating gently down to earth, or water in our case. The water suddely got closer and closer and—splash—I was in. Within seconds I was picked up by a safety boat and taken to an LSL; it was over.

The exercise was an experience I will never forget, it certainly made up for a lot of the hours I spend routinely working on the accounts in the QM's.

(For other non-para-trained personnel—there must be a moral here somewhere).

Descending into the briny of Studland Bay

'Red on, Green on...Go!'—I can't believe I'm doing this

19 Inf Bde HQ and (209) Sig Sqn Colchester

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj John Davies**
2IC	**Capt Fraser Grant**
QM	**Capt (QM) Charles Homewood**
AO	**Capt Pauline Lucas WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt Fred Connor**
OC N Tp	**Lt Julian Bunce**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet**
MTWO	**WO1 Graham Jesty RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dougie Brisco**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley**
YosS Des	**WO2 (YofS) Dennis Prince**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Tom Ferry**
AQMS	**WO2 (AQMS) Paul Windsor REME**
CC	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Sandy Campbell**

INTRODUCTION

The Squadron has enjoyed another very interesting two months since this column was last written. Highlights included the battle camp and adventure training at Fremington, Op Adamant, Ex *Long Hop* and the Brigade Sports Festival. Welcome to **WO2 (YofS) Dennis Prince** and good luck to **WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley** on his Arabic course and his posting to Oman. Some guys have all the luck!

FREMINGTON 1987

Exercise *Panthers Trail* was a battle camp and adventure training exercise held in Devon 15-26 June 1987. Participants were entertained in three phases: a patrolling exercise on Exmoor, military training on Dartmoor and adventure training from Fremington.

EXMOOR

The devious minds of **Capt Fred Connor** and **SSgt Brian Mountain** combined to produce an interesting and varied patrol competition on Exmoor. The first day involved a 25km tab with a series of checkpoints, each of which involved a military skills stand. The night was spent in 'bashas' and the next day consisted of slightly more stands and less kilometres, well slightly. Highlights included the lunch stand where patrols were issued with a live chicken! After another night out, the competition ended with a march and shoot. The winners in Group A were **LCpl Tony Waddington's** section of **Sig Louis Plested, Ptes Gaz Barker** and **Kerry**. The Group B winners were **Cpl John Sexton, LCpl Don Mills** and **Sig Russ Thorpe** and **Tony Haley**.

DARTMOOR

'As for the Dartmoor phase, the 2IC is keeping details very close to his chest but I do know it will involve digging a platoon position and involve intensive patrolling.' So ended **Lt Julian Bunce's** brief to GOC EDist prior to the exercise. It turned out to be surprisingly accurate. A platoon led by **Lt Martin Prodger** and **Sgt Steve Rook** attempted to take on B platoon led by **Lt Julian Bunce** and **Sgt Ian Wylie**. Let battle commence!

The route in across Dartmoor was a good warm up for the all night digging that followed. Some unlucky people hit water early on in the dig:

'What do I do now sir?' enquired **Sig (now LCpl) Glen Drew**.

'Bail it out with a mess tin and continue digging!' was the reply from his platoon commander.

By daylight the position was taking shape. Some strange ideas about the use of IPK sheets were rectified and the OC Squadron was even seen holding a shovel. Over in B platoon, several wondered how **Sig Sean Fairfield** and **Sig (now LCpl) Russ Thorpe** had managed such a superb trench in platoon HQ. Surely the commander spent all night asleep?

As your correspondent was crawling into his sleeping bag, the radio finally came to life:

'Orders Night Ambush GR . . .' Both platoons spent the better part of the night in ambush positions which were finally sprung by the DS just before dawn. Why does the RSM never die?

The third day found preparations taking place for the final phase: a night infiltration attack. Meanwhile, patrols were busy chasing away OPs which again seemed reluctant to die when caught. As darkness approached, four man bricks headed off across Dartmoor looking for a final RV. B platoon duly arrived and inflicted a crushing defeat on the enemy. The story of A platoon's attack is best left untold, suffice to say **Cpl Ian Flooks** is now known as 'pathfinder'. We all arrived back at Fremington for a shower, sleep and a day off, some sooner than others!

Dartmoor; the OC Maj John Davies demonstrates the correct use to the shovel GS

'What do you mean, rocks?' Sig Taff Llewellyn attempts to move a little stone from his trench as Sig Craig Watts looks on

SALISBURY PLAIN WITH 9/12 LANCERS

On return from Fremington and afer a well deserved long weekend, rumours began circulating about an exercise with '9/12L'. This seemed too difficult for Monday morning so they were ignored. Yes, it's really true and a team of 19, led by the victorious pair **Lt Julian Bunce** and **Sgt Ian Wylie** set off to support the Lancers. We returned much wiser about life in other units after a 'rather different' week away.

EXERCISE *LONG HOP*

Moving the 2IC **Capt Fraser Grant** into the office next door to **WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley** had several effects. One was Ex *Long Hop*, an HF morse and teleprinter exercise between Colchester and Tidworth. Steered by **Cpls John Sexton** and **Ian Flooks**, comms were maintained for 48 hrs and the exercise proved a very worthwile experience to those taking part.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

All participants on the adventure training were asked to choose either climbing or canoeing except for the chosen few who did sub-aqua diving. The climbers were taught by **SSgt Tim Haynes, Cpl Hoppy Hopkins** and **LCpl Dave Cooper**. A core of lead climbers soon emerged, dominated by **LCpl Oggie Ogden** and **Sig Craig Watts**. Routes of up to Hard Severe were actually led by students and several future potential instructors were identified.

Canoeing was taught by **Lt Julian Bunce** (the author), assisted by **Sgt Colin Mooney** once we could prise him away from the kitchens. The surf at Sauton Sands proved to be very entertaining if rather cold at times. Three people passed the ACU inland proficiency: **LCpl Paul Merrifield, Sig Sean Fairfield** and **Russ Thorpe**. Other notable performances included **LCpl Dave Bronniman** and **Cpl Steve Franks**, after a slow start! Our thoughts are now focused on some serious white water canoeing next year.

Cpl Ian Flooks and **LCpl Dave Cunliffe** ran the sub aqua diving. Once **LCpl Cunliffe** appreciated the importance of fastening his dry suit before taking to the water, all went well and the pupils progressed rapidly, enjoying work on Ilfracombe Harbour, wreck diving off Plymouth and even a night dive. The chosen few namely **Lt Martin Prodger, LCpl Trev Legg** and **Sig Karl Marsland** are now well on the way to a Novice Diver qualification.

Climbing, made easy by Sig Craig Watts (again). Shortly after this the crucial piton fell out

BRIGADE SPORTS FESTIVAL

The climax to the end of term excitement was the Sports Competition held on 22-23 July 1987. Teams were entered in a brigade wide competition including Volleyball, Swimming, Hockey, Cross Country, Basketball, Athletics and Tug-of-War. Despite the poor weather conditions, all went well including a notable performance by the Hockey team which finished second and the Athletics and Swimming teams which were both placed sixth. The squadron finished sixth out of 23 teams.

CRICKET

The Squadron has finally achieved the recognition it deserves for its prowess on the cricket field by winning the Eastern District Minor Units championship and will now play London District in the next round of the UKLF Cup.

A well balance side has produced high batting scores and a good bowling average. **SSgt Bob Berry RCT** has shown his skills in the face of adversity as an all rounder, who when the going got tough, the tough got going under his ability to inspire the team when the occasion demands.

Notable performances came from **Sgt Chris Allen, LCpl Hughie McFee RCT** and **LCpl Dave Bower REME**, but the remainder of the team also performed creditably. Well done!

INS AND OUTS

The Squadron warmly welcomes **Maj John Ambrose, Capt Chris Tosland, WO2 Paul Littler, SSgt Dave Parry, Sgt Harry Atkinson, Sgt George Musselwhite, LCpl Garry Kee, LCpl Alan Perkins, WLCpl Janet Hand, Sig Dave Grieves, Brendan Booth, Gordon Lloyd** and **Stephen Sandeman**.

We sadly say farewell and good luck to; **Maj David Kirkwood, Lt Martin Prodger, Sgt Pete Concoran, Cpl Chris Joyce, WLCpl Maxine Jackson, LCpl Chris Yates, LCpl 'Scouse' O'Brien, LCpl 'Oz' Heward, WPte Susan Jauncey, Elizabeth Barnett, Helen Tedford** and **Sig Danny Ford**.

EPILOGUE

It has been a very busy last six months. This has had varying effects on the Squadron hierarchy; **Lt Martin Prodger** has left to be 'educated' at Blandford and **Yeoman Hawley** now departs for Beaconsfield en route for Oman; good luck to them. **Capt Fred Connor** took the plunge and married. Congratulations **Fred** and **Tracy** and best wishes for the future. Stories about the stag night are still being remembered or invented. We also congratulate **Sgt Bob Drysdale** and his wife **Emma** on the birth of their daughter **Eleanor**. Also **LCpl Roy** and **Jennifer Inns** on their recent marriage. Meanwhile **Lt Julian Bunce** is departing for New Zealand on Ex *Long Look* for what he hopes will be an extended summer holiday this year. Good luck to the next guy who has to write these notes!

227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT) BFPO 18

THE MANAGEMENT

OC	**Maj R. C. Etheridge**
2IC	**Capt C. S. O'Nians WRAC**
SSM	**WO2 A. W. Williams**
SQMS	**SSgt D. Forsyth**
Ch Clk	**Sgt K. C. Hughes**

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We welcome the new arrivals: **Capt C. S. O'Nians WRAC, WO2 G. Willoughby RE, Sgt H. K. Copestake, Sgt A. R. Senior RE, Cpls T. Brand, G. T. Burton, K. J. Graham, R. W. Hannah, P. Tasker, C. S. Williams, LCpls N. G. Bruce, D. B. Saunders** and **Sig P. D. Bird**

Thank you and good luck in you next posting to: **Capt G. Clark, WO1 M. J. Donnelly RE, Sgts J. Copland, D. B. Humphries, D. M. Legg, Cpls D. Cunningham, T. Skee** and **Sig A. R. Glenne.**

Capt C. S. O'Nians ('only one AFG 1033') Capt (now QM) G. Clark ('Yes I've done the course only, one')

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS DINING OUT

On 6 June the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess dined out **Capt (now QM) George Clark** and his wife **Marian, WO1 Mick Donnelly RE** and his wife **Anne, Sgt John S-S-S-S Salter, Sgt Dave 'Don' Humphries** and his wife **Janet**. A good night was had by all at the SNCO Club, Trebeek Brunssum. We say farewell and wish them and their families every success and happiness in their new postings.

INTERNATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD DAY

For the second year in succession 227 Sig Sqn athletes (team manager **WO1 (RSM) R. H. Gladwin**) won the Major Unit Competition held on 18 June. A most exciting competition throughout the day with only one or two points separating the teams until the climax of 4 × 100m relay win to give us victory once more. Let's go for a third win in 1988!

The competitors from 227 Sig Sqn/AWCS who took the competition by storm (and most of the prizes)
SSgt (FofS) Nigel Johnson, LCpl Bob Thomas, WO1 (RSM) Rod Gladwin, SU Peter Hofmann GEA, Sgt Andy Pagdin RAPC, Cpl Jeff Martin, Sgt Roy Grimsley, (absent on leave and WO1 (FofS) Graham Atkinson)

AFCENT INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON 1987

227 Sig Sqn and the Alternate War Communications Sqn each entered a team in the AFCENT International Triathlon held over the 13-14 June at Brunssum.

Following outstanding performances by **Cpl Jeff Martin, LCpl Bob Thomas, Sgt Roy Grimsley** and **SSgt (FofS) Nigel Johnson** the 227 Sig Sqn team rompted home clear winners overall thereby lifting the Nations trophy together with the winning team trophy. **Cpl Jeff Martin** also lifted the individual 4km run winners medal.

For the Alternate War Communications Sqn the team of **WO1 (RSM) Rod Gladwim (FofS) Graham Atkinson, Sgt Andy Pagdin** and **Stabs Unteroffizier Peter Hofmann** all achieved personal best scores and were fourth team overall winning the prize for the best guest team.

Cpl Jeff Martin receiving the team winners trophy from the Chief of Staff Gen de Jong NLA

B TROOP

EXERCISE *FASTBALL*

Ex *Fastball* was an International infantry training exercise designed to practise basic section tactics and battle skills.

The international environment made it an interesting exercise not only for the participants but for the DS as well.

The weather tried its best to lower morale with a torrential rain storm on the first day but the troops remained undaunated.

The exercise covered minor tactics, first aid, NBC, patrolling, ambushes and OP's with the emphasis on International interoperability. It was surprising to see how similar each Nationality's operating procedures were and how quickly the sections began to work together as a team.

After five days of hard exercise the troops were treated to a barbecue and a few beers on the last night with **Sig 'Andy' Glennie** providing the entertainment, **Cpl Kev Cotton** as choir leader and **Capt Coupar** giving a demonstration of 'fire walking'. The Troop exercise proved to be a great success and excellent training for the Squadron Battle Camp Ex *Green Week*.

On Patrol
Cpl Crashley SecComd. Clearing hide

238 (London) Sig Sqn
Chelsea Barracks

At last the dust has begun to settle again after the upheaval of 'Independence Day' on 1 June, and it was quickly back into No 1 Dress for some serious ceremonials! (not to mention the early morning rehearsals). June and July were busy months, with the Queen's Birthday Parade on 13 June, the State Opening of Parliament on 25 June, the State Visit of King Hassan II of Morocco on 14 July, the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties on 8, 21 and 23 July, the Beating and Sounding of Retreats at Horse Guards in early June and assistance with the Royal Tournament. In spite of this hectic schedule the Squadron still managed to 'escape' from London for some of its own exercises.

Sig Colin Whiteway relays the progress of the Queen's Carriage to the Gun positions at Hyde Park and the Tower of London awaiting the signal for the Royal Salute

EXERCISE *TIN JIMMY*

During 19 June-3 July the Squadron held its annual summer camp at Penhale, Cornwall. To get the maximum number away from Chelsea the period was split into two identical weeks, giving all students a taste of canoeing, windsurfing, top roping, abseiling and trekking on Bodmin Moor.

The SQMS, **SSgt 'Smashing' Hales**, had indented for the weather some months previously, so for the two weeks we had persistent rain and cool sea breezes! However, even this could not dampen the spirits of the keen 'stalwarts' of 238 (London) Sig Sqn. As usual with this type of training certain 'characters' emerged from within the small group. The Squadron is certainly not short of them at Chelsea, but it worked out that the 'noisy' lads were on the first week and the even noisier lasses on the second. Unfortunately, the permanent staff were not to have a moment's peace and quiet; however, the SSM (**WO2 Dave Simpson**) obviously foresaw the problem and managed to 'escape' to his family in a local caravan site!

Inexperience, or perhaps over enthusiasm, often provides the most amusing events: **SSgt Gus Hales,** whilst attempting his 'Spider Man' routine managed to abseil upside down.

While others were making their attempts at windsurfing look more like high diving, **Sgt Al Smallwood,** having just mastered the art, realised half way across the reservoir that he had not been taught how to turn around! Fortunately the others realised he was still missing and 'rescued' him from the other bank.

LCpl Julie Baker also tried the 'Spider Man' routine but managed to get her gauntlet trapped in the descender! She was suspended half way down the 170ft drop until a very gallant **LCpl Paul Wooding** came to her rescue. **Pte Lynne Maddeys** managed to fall off the windsurfer before it was on the water! (but it still didn't stop her giggling!) **Pte Karen Ellams** did so much singing (?) on the coach trip down, that she lost her voice and spent the rest of the week 'squeaking' at everyone.

All in all the exercise was a great success due to the enthusiasm and 'have-a-go' attitude of the students, and to the hard work, patience and sense of humour of the instructors, who at the end of the day congratulated themselves and retired the local for a 'Rum and Shrub'.

Thanks to to all the Instructors and their assistants:

Canoeing	**Capt Chris Owen** (from Comms Branch HQ London District)
Windsurfing	**SSgt Kate Woodcock** **LCpl Sammy Anderson**
Top Roping and Abseiling	**Sgt John Gibson** **Cpl Rachel O'Pray** **LCpl Paul Wooding**

and to the behind the scenes people: **Mr Alan Bazeley** (it's good to see you back with us) and the chef, **LCpl Paul Seward**.

Watch out Cornwall—we might be back next year!

The only way to keep warm on Bodmin Moor is to huddle together!
Back row (L to R): Sgt Mich Sheehan, LCpls Kev Jones and Andy Fryer, Sig Colin Whiteway, Cpl 'Bhudda' Martin, LCpl Geoff Croft and Sig 'Doughnut' McDonagh.
Middle row: Ptes Karen Ellams and Lynne Maddeys, Sig 'Racing Change' Flight, Pte Lindsey Ridley and 'Mr and Mrs' Turton
Front row: Pte Pauline Batty, Cpl Kay Gibson, Ptes Anne-Marie Flynn, Julia Smith, Simone Rouse and Karen Herbert

EXERCISE *SEVEN COUNTIES*

In July, nine members of Radio/MT Troop set off from Chelsea, with the intention of canoeing the River Thames from Lechlade in Gloucestershire to Chelsea Bridge. Imagine the scene. Day eight. Shepperton: 115 miles from Lechlade and 25 miles still to do, with only one day left. **LCpl Paul Wooding** is hunched over our fourth (and final) No 2 burner, stirring an all-in stew (again); **Capt Patrick Windsor Brown** is on the vodaphone to Teddington Lock; **LCpl Dave Cutler** is gathering wild flowers and patting small children on the head (some mistake, surely . . .?!); **LCpl Andy Staff** (on loan from 249) is stripped to the waist, frightening wild birds and dazzling passing civilians with his marble-white body; **Sig 'Crow' Webster** is 'standing guard' whilst **Pte Kay Wright** has a shower (how noble) and the rest were asleep—apart from **Sig Martin Flight**, of course, now on Chapter four of that gripping best-seller, 'The Works Escort. From Dagenham to Rio and Back'.

Capt WB: (coming off the phone)—'Well, High Water's at 0600 and 1800 hrs, so it doesn't look as if we'll get much past Teddington, tomorrow . . .'

LCpl Wooding: (frowning—he knew what went into the stew)—'That's a pity, having come so far . . .'

LCpl Staff: 'Don't you all think it's rare to have such a perfect body as mine? (Pity about the hairstyle . . .).

Sig Flight: 'Did you know that **John Phillips** was able to decrease torque by 16 microns without using a compression spanner?'

Capt WB: 'What time shall we get on the water then?—About 0900 hrs?'

LCpl Wooding: 'How about 0300 am?'

. . . (stunned silence) . . .

LCpl Staff: 'I think you must be less than entirely serious'. (That was the gist of it, anyway . . .).

Capt WB: 'You've got something there **Cpl Wooding** . . .

And so it was that **Capt Windsor Brown, LCpls Wooding** and **Staff** climbed into their canoes for the last time at 0500 hrs (we overslept and it was too dark at 0400 hrs anyway) and set off for Teddington Lock and beyond. The ten miles to Teddington were completed by 0710 hrs, and the ebb tide then assisted the three paddlers all the way to Chelsea Bridge, which they reached just before 1100 hrs, considerably fortified by the 'en route catering' provided by **LCpl Fred Kirkpatrick** and **Sig Martin Flight** (Nigel Mansell's alter-ego).

And so to Ex *Seven Counties* was concluded—it began in Gloucestershire nine days previously, and a team of canoeists (who slowly dwindled in number) paddled through Oxford, Abingdon, Reading, Henley, Maidenhead and Windsor to reach London, passing through only two back gardens (scenic detours), and threatening only one lock-keeper (**Andy Staff**—Diplomat Extraordinaire . . .).

Our thanks to 249 Sig Sqn for the loan of the instructor (are all the Bulford barbers psychopaths?), to Oscar Tp for changing their duties around to allow R/MT Tp to get away, and to the Guards Adventure Training Wing, without whom **Capt WB** would get some sleep at nights . . .

The 'paddlers': *L to R:* LCpl Mick Labram, Pte Kay Wright, LCpl Paul Wooding, Sig Phil Morris, 'Crow' Webster, LCpls Dave Cutler, Fred Kirkpatrick, Sig Martin Flight and Capt Patrick Windsor Brown

RADIO TROOP—STOP PRESS

The Insurance Company has refused to insure **LCpl Andy 'The Jinx' Fryer**'s new pair of roller skates . . .

Sig Martin 'Racing Change' Flight has asked someone if he can borrow a book not related to rally driving . . .

Pte Lynne Maddeys is buying washing-up gloves (hasn't she heard of NBC outers?) . . .

The production of **Cpl 'Brummie' Seaton**'s blues has revitalised two cloth factories in a deprived area of South Yardley (that's an area in Birmingham, in case you hadn't twigged . . .).

Capt WB has been seen looking pensively at a map of the Blue Nile . . . can he be serious? . . .

Sig Phil Morris would like to borrow some superglue to secure the VW badges to this Sirocco (gold-spoked wheels—I ask you . . .!) . . . he is unlikely to buy the Beastie Boys LP . . .

DEPARTURES, ARRIVALS AND CONGRATULATORY

The last two months have seen a number of well known faces move on to pastures new. Farewell and good luck to **Capt Phil Castle** and his wife **Denise** who went 'up North' to 2 Div, and **WO2 (SSM) Dave Simpson** and wife **Brenda**, who leave us for 19 Bde HQ and Sig Sqn on promotion to WO1 (RSM)! Other recent departures are: **SSgt Findell** (MOD) to Civvy Street, **Sgt Sean Dillon-White**, to join the old SSM at 19 Bde, **Cpl Bleth Williams** on promotion to the School of Signals (YofS course), **Cpl Tanzy Bower** down the road to 251 Sig Sqn (and congratulations on the recent promotion), **Sig Jimmy Watson** to sunny Cyprus, **Ptes Nicky Thornton** to 233 Sig Sqn and **Sarah Recardo** off to join the penguins in the Falkland Islands.

We welcome our new OC O Tp, **Capt John Isherwood** and wife **Susan** from 30 Sig Regt, and the new SSM, **WO2 Alan Culton** and wife Sandy **who have moved down the road from the University of London OTC. Other new arrivals are: Sgt Geoff** and **Jenny Hodge, Cpls 'Brummie' Seafon** and **'Taff' Williams, LCpls Fred Kirkpatrick, 'Dusty' Miller** and **Nicky Cole**, and **Ptes Sue Webb, Lisa Hook** and **Karen O'Connor**.

Last issue saw the Squadron 'baby boom'; this time everyone is getting married (incidentally, there is no connection!). Congratulations to: **Sgt Andy Tempest** on you marriage to **Angie** (née **Cpl Pledger**) and **LCpl Ian Sutton** and new wife **Dawn** (née **SACW Dyer**). Our young ladies have not missed out on these happy events, but **Ptes Sandy Croft** and **Lynne Maddeys** have decided to leave the army and become **Mrs Hughes** and **Mrs Jackson**, respectively. We wish them all the best of luck in their new roles.

Finally, congratulations to the newest Sergeant in the Squadron, **Sgt Dean Jackson**, recently promoted to the dizzy heights of a SNCO.

243 Sig Sqn
Wilton

INTRODUCTION

Whilst still adjusting to our independence, plans are now well underway for the move of the Squadron to Bulford in September. Although this task has taken a lot of time we have still found it possible to conduct one of our adventure training exercise.

EXERCISE *SIL DESCENT*

(The following report was compiled from the accounts of the exercise written by all participants).

Expedition Members:

Capt Mike Gilyeat	**(Leader, Instructor and time keeper).**
Lt Sionnadh McLean	**(OIC bread, ham and cheese).**
SSgt (FofS) Gig Plumb	**(Admin and duty wobbler thrower).**
Cpl Carlos Smales	**(Recovery, chief demonstrator, failed recce party).**
Cpl Wain Ratcliffe	**(Recovery, White water weir king).**
LCpl Glynis Every	**(2IC bread, ham and cheese, expedition historian and photographer).**
LCpl Clare Burns	**(IC Sunbathing).**
Pte Cath Green	**2IC Sunbathing, 2IC photography, IC choir).**
Pte Chris Hawksworth	**(Chief translator, IC any odd job going).**
Pte Sherri Took	**(3IC Sunbathing, IC recce party provisions).**
Pte Angie Tilley	**(IC being rigid with fear)**
Sig Tomo Thomas	**(Driver extraordinaire).**

Exercise *Sil Descent*, from 15 June-7 July, was a white water canoeing expedition, to Northern Spain, for 12 members of the squadron. The aim of the expedition was to canoe the length of the River Sil starting as close to the source as possible. The aim, however, had to be modified once we arrived at the river.

Planning began in November 1986 with applications for authority, political clearance and financial support being submitted. There were a few minor modifications necessary but by May 1987 political clearance had been given, volunteers and their financial contributions found and substantial allocations from District, WRAC and R Signals funds received.

The exercise began with a provisional training phase in the Salisbury, Weymouth and Blandford areas. **LCpl Clare Burns** and **Pte Chris Hawksworth** doubted they would ever go in a straight line, whilst **Cpl Carl Smales**, later to be known as **Carlos**, began to wonder why he kept volunteering to demonstrate capsize and rescue drills. Having 'mastered' their skills on mill ponds the team had the opportunity to have a go at white water before departing for Spain. Some, **SSgt (FofS) Gig Plumb, Cpl Wain Ratcliffe** and **Cpl 'Carlos' Smales**, tackled it with enthusiasm. The others showed a little caution. Much to the delight of the cautious, however, the enthusiastic capsized with some regularity. The English weather, and a final free for all ensured that no one left without getting wet.

Time for departure was soon upon us. A short trip to Portsmouth, an overnight crossing to Le Havre and we were on our way through France, give or take one or two major diversions. One sight of the clouds was enough to cause **LCpl Clare Burns** to discard her tan lotion in disgust. **Sig 'Tommo' Thomas**, clearly not eager to canoe, managed to lose the canoe trailer on a level crossing, an event that amazed those in the mini bus as they were overtaken by the great orange beast. A sigh of relief, however, echoed around France as the trailer parked neatly on the opposite side of the road. Clearly some had come to do more than sunbathe.

That night was spent in a campsite, south of Bordeaux and the aim for the next day was for the main party to meet the recce group at the River Sil. It was going to be a good day if **Sig Tomo Thomas'** start was anything to go by. As he drove out of the campsite he asked why everyone was on the wrong side of the road.

Hours passed without incident, except for crossing the Spanish border when thoughts of the journey's end came to mind. More hours passed including the provisional RV time. The intrepid leader was being doubted. Did the river really exist? **Pte Angie Tilley's** fairly regular questions, 'Are we nearly there' were greeted with the promise of 'Just round the next bend'. The bends passed in direct proportion to the hours. Morale was getting low.

At midnight, 10 hrs late, the River Sil was still not in sight. In a bid to boost spirits **Pte Cath Green** gave her rendition of 'Slow Boat to China'. Whether it achieved the aim, however, is questionable. Then, a loud cheer, a sign 'Rio Sil'. Once all were in the campsite **Capt Gilyeat** was forgiven, particularly after stating that the following day would be one of rest and recuperation. At least it would enable a full recce of the river to be conducted.

Unfortunately the water level was low. Whilst it looked passable, in practice it required an ability to abseil and a lot of patience. The majority of the river was OK but it became blocked by undergrowth and rocks with monotonous regularity. Another of the now famous recces and the decision to move was made. The aim of the exercise was changed to become 'to canoe on white water'.

The next three days were spent moving and recceing in an attempt to achieve this aim. Having travelled the Spanish plains, climbed the mountains and settled by the sea, the expedition resorted to surf canoeing, well it was certainly white with waves at times up to 5ft high.

During this exploration phase we continued to exist on our staple diet of bread, cheese and ham. Only the men seemed capable of cooking a decent meal.

Eventually the decision to go west, in search of white water was made. By popular opinion and some local knowledge, however, this decision was reversed. As a compromise the expedition went south to the Rio Ason. White water at last. The remainder of the expedition was conducted on this river with the admin area moving as necessary.

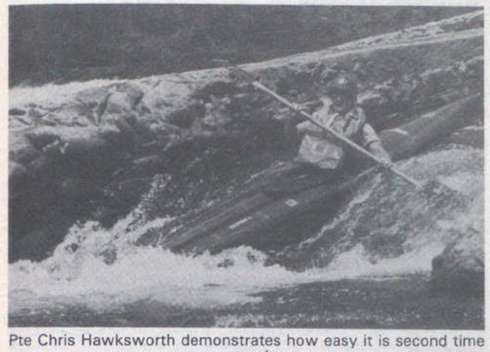
Here, everyone had the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they had accumulated. **Pte Cath Green** and **Sig Tomo Thomas** were eager to impress, entering and completing the first rapid backwards. **Pte Angie Tilley** and **LCpl Clare Burns**, not to be outdone, proved it could be done without canoes and **Pte Sherri Took** had to go at it sideways. Shame the gap was only 3ft wide. Another impressive performance came from the FofS who regularly gave his impersonation of a beached whale.

Having mastered the first four miles of the river it was time to go down river from the camp.

This stretch was even more impressive. It took two days to get the whole party down this eight mile stretch. Despite it being better water, capsizes became infrequent. One to note was **Cpl Carlos Smales'**. All were becoming very confident.

All that was left to do was attempt a four tiered wier with a drop of some 8ft. A quick demonstration from **Cpl Wain Ratcliffe, SSgt (FofS) Gig Plumb** and **Capt Gilyeat** set everybody's minds at rest. It couldn't be that bad! **Pte Chris Hawksworth** almost made it first time but **LCpl Glynis Every** wasn't quite as lucky. **Cpl Carlos Smales** took three attempts. The successful few found rescuing the not so lucky was a greater sport, especially the exhiliration of being swept through the stoppers and sluices. **Pte Chris Hawksworth** was successful second time round as was **Pte Sherri Took**. **LCpl Glynis Every** had two more traumatic attempts before accepting defeat, **LCpl Clare Burns** found

Cpl Wain Ratcliffe quickly rectifies a minor error as he comes out of the weir



Pte Chris Hawksworth demonstrates how easy it is second time round

success first time round as did the final challenger, **Lt Sionnadh McLean**, who returned for a second successful passage.

Time had passed quickly. We were now at the end of our last days canoeing. In order to celebrate, or drown our sorrows, the women decided to go out and enjoy the local cuisine.

All that remained was the return journey to Le Harve. The 'After Sun' was out as bodies began to crack open. We were again fasting upon bread, ham and cheese in between two stops to repair blow outs on the canoe trailer. The journey passed much more quickly with another overnight stop in France. The girls feared the FofS would throw another wobbler (and more pans) but he demonstrated incredible self restraint. The day's sun, or was it the fact that we were on our way back, was taking its toll.

With four hours R & R in Le Havre plus the overnight crossing it was time to adjust our minds to be being back at Wilton.

We drove into camp at 0715 proud of our achievements and sun tans. The latter, however, quickly paled into insignificance as we saw the results of the current heatwave in UK. It was now time to complete the post exercise admin and to recount, with some exaggeration, stories from the expedition.

PRESENTATION OF LS & GC

SSgt Colin Roberts arrived in the squadron early in June, soon to follow him was notification that his years of service had earned him the award of the LS & GC.

The presentation was made in the HQ UKLF WOs' and Sergeants' Mess by the COS **Maj Gen J. H. Learmont** and was attended by the Squadron Officers and SNCO's.

Maj Gen J. H. Learmont presenting SSgt Roberts with his LS and GC Medal

Maj Gen J. H. Learmont and SSgt Colin Roberts accompanied by Mrs Vanessa Roberts, Craig and Sian

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

FOCUS ON DELTA TROOP—MOBILE AIR OPERATIONS TEAMS (MAOT)
by SSgt Grant

Delta Troop is an element of 244 Sig Sqn (AS), which by virtue of its role is located some distance from the Squadron at RAF Upavon, where it can support its MAOT Officers (RAF). Although some may regard RAF Upavon as the original 'Sleepy Hollow', in fact the MAOT crews themselves are very busy with participation in Squadron Training, MAOT Tasking, Standby Duties and AMF/UKMF Exercises. It is not unusual to find the Troop scattered to the corners of the world as was the case in June, with elements of the Troop in Turkey, the Falklands and Norway.

The Troop participates in as many of the Station Sporting events as possible, the most recent of which was the RAF Upavon Station Commander's Basketball Competition, held in May of this year. Training sessions for this event were to take the form of the Harlem Globetrotters Drinking Team, with a certain amount of 'On Court Terrorism' thrown in for good measure. But under the watchful eye of **Sgt Tony 'Padder' Freeman** and coaching from **LCpls 'La-Femme' Long** and **'Robbo' Robertson**, the team became more adept at passing the ball in the right direction. Although rank outsiders, the team was determined to do well and put in a sterling effort to finish Runners-up in the final against the favourities. Their determination and enthusiasm was rewarded by the Station Commander's congratulations for a good effort.

In July the Troop managed to scrape up enough men to go on Ex *Midge Madness* This was an adventure training weekend over the period 10-14 July in the mountain range of Snowdonia. The team consisted of one RAF Officer and seven Junior Ranks, including one RAF Storeman. The party arrived at Helyg Climber's Hut after picking up the weekend supplies of quick and easy foodstuffs from the village shop. After having a quick briefing they departed for the local watering facility, which was to be the focal point for discussing the days exploits. The rock climbing was led by **LCpl Scouse 'Rock Lizard' Jones** whose No 2 was **Sig 'Where's the Hand Holds' Murphy**, closely followed by **LCpl 'Sherpa' Thompson** who actually enjoyed doing an impression of a lemming from a 500ft crag face. The rest of the party was content with 'strolling' across the likes of Mount Snowdon, Horse Shoe Ridge and Tryfan which at some stages verged on rock climbing. The party was led by **Flt Lt Chris Perkins** with the other members being **Cpl Paul 'Old Man Of The Hills' Elkington, LCpl Phil Tonks, Sig Mal 'VS' Maloney** and not forgetting **SAC 'Rocky' Raynor**, who certainly lived up to his name. **Flt Lt Perkins** who not only led but organised the event deserves special mention for the organisation and provision of the excellent facilities which made the weekend really enjoyable.

Well that's all from Delta Troop on this occasion, we hope to make another literary contribution to the *Wire* in the not too distant future.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Changes in the Military telephone system took place on 12 January 1987. As a result RHQ is now obtained via the London District Exchange. The civil telephone number of RHQ is now 01 930 4466 and extension numbers are shown below.

Ext 8240	Regimental Secretary
Ext 8241	Assistant Regimental Secretary
Ext 8242	RHQ Office
Ext 8244	Welfare
Ext 8245	Association
Ext 8246	Editor/Assistant Editor *The Wire*
Ext 8247/8248	Accounts, including all matters relative to *Wire* subscriptions and distribution, change of address etc.

249 Sig Sqn (AMF(L))
Bulford Camp

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE (*JOCOMEX*)
Report by LCpl Ron Powell

It is usual, on returning from an AMF(L) Exercise, such as Ex *Aurora Express*, to have at least two days leave before making the normal post exercise repairs to vehicles and men! Imagine, therefore, my dismay when I returned from Turkey, not feeling one hundred per cent, to learn that in a few hours I was to be ready to join HMS *Brilliant*, off Gibraltar, for a *Jocomex*. Pausing long enough to perform miracles on my uniforms and to be assured that I would get my leave eventually, I was soon on a flight to the famous Rock in the company of **Sig Paul Hornsby**.

Met by the Radio Operators of HMS *Brilliant*, we had five days off duty during which time I was shown all the best entertainments in town and improved my Turkish tan ever further in 100° of heat. Finally, leaving the cool beer behind, we set sail for England and completed the *Jocomex*, which was declared a technical success.

Despite efforts to complete my leave, I have still to obtain the remainder of it. However, these are days I will willingly forgo in exchange for a Mediterranean cruise!

ATHLETICS

Every year, it seems, our exercise commitments prevent us from displaying our potentially strong array of athletic talent against other units, so it is with great enthusiasm that we looked forward to our annual Athletics Day. In order to prevent the 'stars' nicking all the trophies **SSgt (YofS) Terry Crosby** threw in a one-day heptathlon to tempt them away to greater things. **Sig 'Del Boy' Whyman** surprised us all by winning the shot, but it wasn't enough to stop an outstanding overall performance by **Cpl Andy Slack** who won the trophy:

1st **Cpl Andy Slack**	3804 pts
2nd **SSgt (YofS) Terry Crosby**	3321 pts
3rd **Sig Paul Hornsby**	3133 pts

Meanwhile **LCpls Nick Barker, Brian Green** and **Ron Wohler, Sig Titch Casson** and **Ginge Hunt** were all busy packing in 11 events which proved invaluable in taking the team trophy back to Mike/Admin. The individual prize for the day was, in fact, shared between **Sgt Derek Livesey** and **LCpl Simon Tyler**.

The Squadron has been at it again. No, not the Arctic this time, so there will be no mention of skiing holidays amongst the polar bears. Instead we have been putting ourselves and our equipment, to the test at the other extreme—in Turkey where the report starts.

EXERCISE *AURORA EXPRESS*

This year's southern option CPX took place in North Eastern Turkey in the Erzurum Kars area. It is a rugged, mountainous, inhospitable country, sparsely populated and with a very few roads or tracks. Despite the terrain and temperatures as high as 43°C, the Squadron once again excelled itself and produced excellent comms throughout the exercise.

Driver of the Exercise was a close run competition, but Main Troop drivers were not found lacking, as they tried everyway to win this award. **Sig Vince Edes** was at it again with Rebro Recce. On the first day he 'bogged' the vehicle (Yes, he really was driving this time), 9,000ft up a mountain and 25km away from the nearest village. After five hrs digging the vehicle was abandoned as he and the 2IC **Capt Coupland** walked through the night to arrange recovery. After some sleep the next recce mission was in a borrowed Landrover, which was returned the same day with a broken halfshaft. After this offers of a landrover were very sparse. Fortunately **2Lt Bill Fathers** was ready with a map and the LAD. In less than 24 hrs they managed to bog in two vehicles en route and eventually recover the Rebro Recce vehicle from 'Death Valley!'. The award for *Diver* of the Exercise must however go to **Cpl Jim Brehner**, for his route choice in difficult terrain. He bogged his Landrover Rebro in the middle of a fast flowing river. The REME vehicle inspection later produced a list of 'A' jobs, not least of which as the comment 'remove rust from the dashboard!'. Well done **Jim**.

The locals were very friendly and showed us tremendous hospitality. However there were a few notable incidents. **Cpl 'Nobby' Nevill** went missing with his Rebro for two days. When he eventually turned up there was some weak story of being chased by dogs and children. The efforts of **Cpl Dave 'I'm posted soon' Anderson** and his crew of 98C, **LCpl 'Spick' Oldman** and **Sig Steve Cooke** in fostering Anglo/Turkish relations were superb. They not only provided a 'Son et Lumiere' by allowing the local children to burn their cam nets, but they 'gave away' most of their kit. Guy ropes, respirators, magazines, webbing and shovel were all returned when a Turkish LO appeared a few hours later and threatened to punish the children!

Cpl Brehner's efforts win him 'Driver of the Exercice'

Finally our congratulations and best wishes go to the OC **Maj Simon Kidner** and his wife **Debra**, on the occasion of their marriage during the summer block leave.

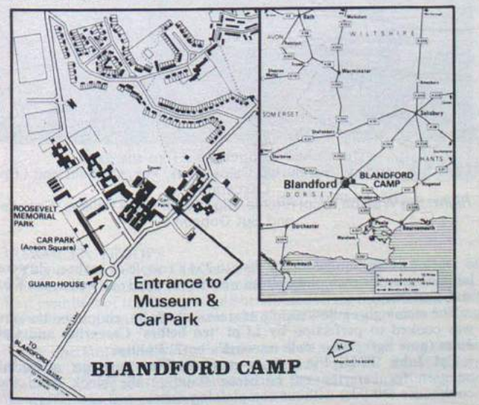
Our CO's marriage is viewed with delightful anticipation by all ranks in the Squadron. **Debbie**, we appeal to you to, please put your foot down! No more Squadron runs at 0700 hrs and also please insist that your husband must be home by 1630 hrs every day!

ROYAL SIGNALS MUSEUM
BLANDFORD CAMP, DORSET

The museum contains items dealing with the history of army communications dating from the Crimean War to the Falkland Islands Campaign of 1982, as well as the history of the Royal Engineer (Signal Service) and the Royal Corps of Signals.

The display contains early telegraphic and radio equipment dating from the South African War, World War I, the campaigns on the North-West Frontier of India, and World War II. There are many colourful uniforms on display as well as the only surviving example of the horse drawn cable laying wagon, also an 8th Army Armoured Command Vehicle in a desert setting. There are a number of examples of military motor cycles used by the Despatch Riders of the Corps and an airborne communications jeep.

Admission: FREE
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 0900 - 1700 hours. Saturday - by appointment.
(Telephone: 0258 52581 Extension 2248)



251 Sig Sqn
Aldershot

SHQ NOTES

At the time of writing the Squadron has just completed two months of independence. The initial euphoria has slowly died down—the squadron jogging tops are now on order—and everyone is settling into their slightly altered routines with a quiet purpose.

One of the major changes to take place was the formation of a Tech Troop led by **Maj (TOT) Don Freeston**. Unfortunately we have to share a workshop with 243 Sig Sqn at Wilton as ours is not yet built.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE

At a small presentation ceremony held at the Signal Wing of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the Commandant, **Maj Gen Simon Cooper**, presented **Mrs Charlotte Studd**, the Supervisor of Camberley Military Exchange, with the Commander-in-Chief's Certificate of Meritorious Service. **Charlotte** has almost completed 25 years all of which as been spent at Sandhurst.

Our heartiest congratulations go to her for a well deserved award.

Maj Gen Simon Cooper with Mrs Charlotte Studd after the presentation at the Signal Wing at the RMAS

FAREWELL TO WO1 WILLACY WRAC

At numerous farewell functions the Squadron gathered together to say farewell to **WO1 Elaine Willacy WRAC** who, for three years, has been CDSO of Commcen Aldershot. **Elaine** joined the WRAC in those heady days of 1964—the summer always seemed so good in those days—as a Commcen Operator. **Elaine** was later posted to Farelf where she became a Lance Corporal which was her first rung up a long ladder.

Her many friends from the WRAC and Royal Signals will remember her with much affection. Our thanks and best wishes go to her as she starts a new life at her home in Lancashire.

A happy WO1 Willacy with WO1 Ribbie Burnett of UKLF Support Unit at her farewell from the Sergeants' Mess Duchess of Kent Barracks

SPORT

In the previous issue of the *Wire* we reported on our success in the South East District (West) Volleyball competition. Here is a photograph of the team.

L to R Top Row: Pte Annette Waggott, Pte Roz Stanners, LCpl Nancy Thorne, Pte Jayne Goldfinch, LCpl Sam Sampson
L to R Bottom Row: Cpl Sue Smith, Pte Sian Rickward

NIJMEGEN MARCHES
by 2Lt Tina Taylor WRAC

On Friday 17 July a combined South East District WRAC contingent left UK for the Netherlands to take part in the First International Nijmegen March from 21-25 July.

The majority of the team were drawn from the Duchess of Kent barracks in Aldershot the remainder from Sandhurst, and Beaconsfield. It is a measure of the training required that out of an original 25 girls volunteering only 11 of us 'qualified' for the march. Our team leader **Cpl Eilean Cunningham** (ex 251 Sig Sqn now at RAEC Beaconsfield) and veteran of the event constantly reminded us that 'It's not at all like this in Nijmegen—the atmosphere and Dutch beer carry you along!' As we pounded around the streets of Aldershot—it didn't seem possible. After three days rest and preparation (actually we went early to enjoy the Nijmegen Sommerfest) the big day arrived and the marches were officially opened at the flag raising ceremony. I was honoured to be chosen as the WRAC representative for the British Contingent. On Tuesday morning at 0430 hrs the march began but there was no need for an early call as some of the girls insisted on washing blow-drying and gelling their hair—all this in a sports hall full of 800 girls required an 0100 hrs start.

As it was my first march everything was new to me and it was indeed tremendously inspiring with so many people lining the route cheering and handing out flowers and 'refreshments'. It was all worthwhile and there were times we actually forgot about our feet! We had a great liaison with the Dutch and American teams and I am sure we outsang them both!

I look back now and reflect on how marvellous the entire occasion was—definitely a must for next year.

From the left clockwise and round the table: 2Lt Tina Taylor, Sgt Liz Obeng, Cpl Vernie Ridge, LCpl Sarah Lister, Cpl Sue Doyle, LCpl Jo Borland, Cpl Nancy Thorne, Capt Elean Cunningham, Pte Debbie Davies, Sgt Carole Marshall

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

TA SUMMER CAMP
A report by LCpls Cascarino and Ritchie

June saw the welcome arrival of 'reinforcements' from 81 Sig Sqn (V)—sent to aid the hardworked, underpaid Telemechs of 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn.

The detachment comprised a few old friends from Germany days and some new faces too. Friendship were quickly renewed and made over the odd gallon of Kokkinelli.

The lads soon got stuck in under the ever watchful eye of **Sgt Steve 'handsome head' Dobson** and the results were soon forthcoming. Jubilee Camp was to undergo a major face lift, but with roughly 280 years telemeching experience between the 14 of them, it was not expected to present a problem!

The only thing that had any real effect on the lads' work were the hectic weekends at Nissi Beach, the late nights, **Cpl Mike 'Larry Grayson' Spencers** never ending routine of corny jokes and the moans about the price of suntan lotion.

Sig Steve 'Mustapha' Oldfield and **LCpl Paul 'Stavros' Meshater** did a wonderful PR job with both Turkish and Greek Cypriots wherever they went

Mind you, I think it had something to do with the fact that they both looked like refugees out on a Sunday stroll—well relaxed!

'The Ladder of Success' From the Top
Left: Sgt Langley, Sig Burke, Caloe, Kerr, Pitt, Oldfield and LCpl Cascarino
Right: Sig Watson, LCpl Ritchie, Sig Lawlor, Cpls Phillips, Spencer and Sgt Dobson

During 81 Sig Sqn 'working' visit to 254 a couple of barbecue's were laid on—one for each phase. Both went down nearly as well as the Keo and Carlsberg.

The seemingly endless supply of steaks, sheftalia, chops and burgers was cooked to perfection by **LCpl 'ten bellies' Cascarino** and **Cpl John (now Sgt) 'Who stole my chef's hat?' Phillips.**

Cpl John 'PMC I'm a busy man' Phillips must get a special mention for carrying the barbecue stand to the block from the cookhouse (30 yds) without complaining once.

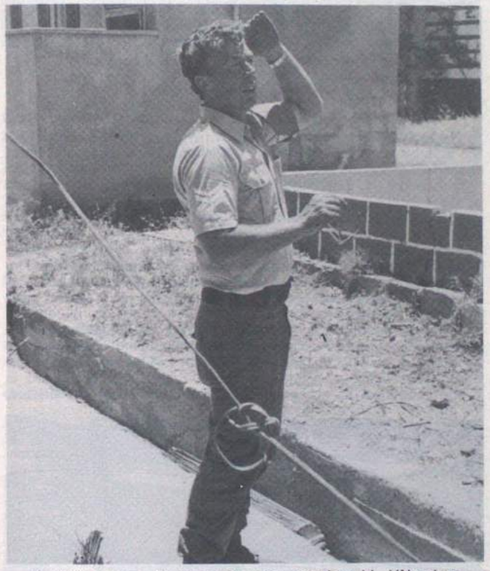
Sgt 'Del Boy' Langley—81 Sig Sqn must be congratulated on his jointing abilities on top of the most rickety pole on Jubilee. In the time it took **Sig Phil 'David Bailey' Caloe** to load another tape into his video camera.

A special mention should go to **LCpl Alan 'Biff' Ritchie** for the way he put up with **Cpl Mike 'Larry Grayson' Spencer's** tales of pole routes across the sun-drenched, scorpion riddled deserts of Libya—(all in three days).

Well we could spout on for hours about our times with the intrepid heros of 81 Sig Sqn (V) but the SSM **Angus 'Head' Whitton** is whingeing about the deadlines etc., so we'll finish now. Thanks very much to 81 Sig Sqn for all the hard work they put in. See you again lads!

Hello to the new lads **Sig Mick 'Sprog' Lawlor**, and **LCpl Dave 'Wotcher Mate' Giles**, hope you have an enjoyable tour with us.

Sad farewells to **Sig Ian 'Muscles' Watson** and **Cpl Scott 'Mad Monk' Henriksson** (Cancon).



Cpl Mike (Larry Grayson) Spencer practises his UN salute

Sig Steve (Mustapha) Oldfield flying his kite

COMMCEN TROOPS

This month sees the Commcen in a new light. After 13 years of waiting, the Commcen refurbishment programme is now completed. Past members of the Troop would be amazed to see the difference. All the old wiring has been torn out and replaced by a smart new ducting system.

The operators can now settle down to their normal working routine after the upheavals of constantly moving around all the operators positions. Credit must go to the shifts for their efforts in ensuring that no traffic was lost or delayed.

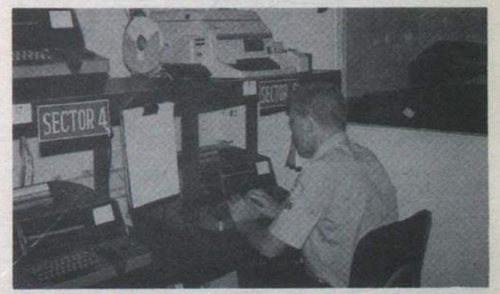
The main outcome of the refurbishment is that the Commcen is now a showpiece. We have had several visits lately, namely the following:

Comd Britcon, **Col J. G. Hamilton-Russell MBE** who spoke with members of the Troop discussing life in Cyprus and the UN in general.

Maj J. Grierson OC 30 Sig Sqn Regt came out from UK on a recce, and managed to pay a visit to the Troop members of his Squadron on detachment. He was given a tour around the Commcen and a beer lunch at which time the Troop members could 'air their views'.

A surprise visit by Comd Comms LFC **Lt Col A. T. B. Kimber**, who is one of the few people that has now seen the Commcen new and old. **Lt Col Kimber** left the Commcen suitably impressed with the change—we hope'!

Sig Jones (DTg) checking the Force Command net in the Radio Room



Sig SImon Jones typing on the Sector printer—not quite a Trend

The unsung workers of the Squadron—girls on the UN Exchange Blue Beret Camp

COMMCEN VISITS

During the past couple of months, we have visited 262 Sig Sqn and had a good look at their role in life. May our thanks go to **SSgt (YofS) Bill Jackson** for a good informative and interesting tour.

In early June we had a games evening against UN AAC Flight. As we were the guests we decided it would not be right to win on the night, so we all enjoyed ourselves and had a good night.

Finally towards the end of July, we had a sports day against Comms Tp 9 Sig Regt. Due to circumstances beyond the control of the

organisers this was changed to another games night. Once again it was most enjoyable and our hosts made us most welcome. Thanks for a good time, and the 'Trophy'. Hope to see you all at the UNPA soon.

SPORT

Since the last report **LCpl Ralph Harris** and **Sig Simon Meadowcroft** have represented the Squadron, Support Regt and the UN at swimming. **Sig Meadowcroft** and our attached SDS driver **Sig Etienne** represented the Squadron in the Support Regt Shooting Competition.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Welcome to: **Cpls Kenny Everett, Bryan Croxford, Alf Marloe, LCpl Mick Ginty, Dave Cox, Stan Stanwick, Simon Jones, Shappy Shahi, Jock Beaton** and **Alan Ward.**

Farewells go to: **Cpl Paul Fowkes**, also congratulations on selection to Sergeant, and **Sig 'Gaz' Ollington**, both of whom have returned to 30 Sig Regt. **Cpl 'Alf' Marlow**, who only managed one month see you again in October!

RADIO TROOP

Imagine clear blue skies, lush vegetation all around, snow topped mountains in the distance and a light cool breeze. Imagining it is all that the hardworking boys of Radio Troop, 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn can do. Except for clear skies, they have no such luck on Cyprus, where the vegetation is brown, not lush because of 50°C temperatures, the mountains have rocks and trees instead of cool snow and the cool breeze is a blast-furnace wind. These are the conditions under which the Troop carried out the planned move and erection of the new Radio Rebroadcast site on Mt Olympus. It was carried out uneventfully except that a lot of sweat was spilt climbing antennas, lugging crates, mounting 353's and cabling. When it was all over a farewell party was held at the old site on Mt Troodos to replace all the body fluids lost during the move. It was a good time, and fun was had by all.

Radio Troop would like to congratulate **LCpl Smith** on his recent promotion. We'd also like to say farewell to **Sig Morris, Hughes** and **Lee** and Hello to **LCpls Clifford, Whyte**, and **Patton** and **Sig Burton** and **Enderby**.

SUPPORT REGIMENT SHOOTING COMPETITION DHEKELIA RANGES

This competition held on 6 July proved to be very close and hard fought. In the Rifle match **WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton, Cpl Tony Scoins, Sig Med Meadowcroft,** and **Sig 'Taff' Hughes** beat all comers to gain first team place. In the SMG match **SSgt Brian Lauder, Sig 'Charlie' Etienne**, and **Cpl Ray Edge** gained fourth team place, leaving the onus on the Pistol team of **Capt Charlie Manning** and **Cpl Neil Cole**. **Capt Charlie Manning** pulled out all the stops with the highest score of the day, but unfortunately this seemed to overawe **Cpl Neil Cole** who had a weapon stoppage, closely followed by a brain blockage ('he's ok wif electric fings honest') but still managed to salvage enough points for them to gain third team position. After the scores from all three matches were totalled, 254 were narrowly beaten into second place overall, with the SLR team winning the SLR team match, and **Capt Charlie Manning** winning the Pistol (individual).

The Team
Back row L-R: SSgt Brian Lauder, WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton, Capt Charlie Manning, Cpl Neil Cole and Cpl Tony Scoins
Front row L-R: Sig Charlie Etienne, Sig Med Meadowcroft, Sig Taff Hughes and Cpl Ray Edge

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Danny McConnel**
2IC	**Capt Peter Cain**
OC HQ Tp	**Capt (QM) Tony Morgan**
OC Epi Tp	**Capt (TOT) Ben Lawson**
OC Afd Tp	**Capt Les Budworth**
OC Mtn Tp	**Lt Jan McKee**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Willoughby**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Clyde Atherley**
Trg NCO	**SSgt Les Allen**
Ord Room Cpl	**Cpl Ken Richards**
Sqn Clerk	**Sig 'Aitch' Harper**

The last few months has seen a busy period for the Squadron with the bulk of our ARU supporting inspections, the implementation of PAMPAS and visits that are too numerous to list.

In June the OC decided to hold his own Squadron Walkdown and at about 0700 hrs five teams of five plus a team of two (OC and 2IC) set off from Troodos to walk the 30km (which turned out to be 30 miles) to the Jimmy Club in Episkopi.

It was a particularly hot day but fortunately there were drinks available at each check point and most of the teams managed to complete the course in about eight hours with the two oldies, **Maj Danny McConnel** and **Capt Peter Cain**, walking in in second place after one or two 'short cuts'?

July saw the arrival in Cyprus of the London University Officer Training Corps and 20 officer cadets from the Signal Section were to be attached to 259 Sig Sqn for four days. The first aim of the attachments being to demonstrate the working role of Signals in Cyprus, commencing with a welcoming brief by **Lt Col Tony Kimber**.

Sgt Paul Steveson demonstrating the Episkopi IDX Exchange to members of the LUOTC with Cpl Don Rodham looking on in the background

Secondly, an exercise (*Earthly Satisfaction*) was devised to test all aspects of military skills and to test their physical and mental abilities. The exercise was obviously enjoyed by all concerned judging by the smiling, sunburned faces on the return to base, and the comments made during the 'social evening' held after the debrief. We enjoyed having their company and we wish them all the best for the future.

The exercise brief being given by SSgt Roy Habergham (second from left), on the left Capt Peter Cain looking on

EPISKOPI TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Capt (TOT) Ben Lawson**
FofS CO-Ord	**WO2 George Blythe**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Keith Leighton**
NCO IC Line	**SSgt Graeme Hillhouse**
NCO IC Radio	**SSgt Roy Habergham**
SQMS SWS	**SSgt Duggie Ward**

For those who do not know the organisation of the Squadron, Episkopi Tp consists of about 40 people, half Techs, half Telemechs, who are responsible for the communication side of life in Episkopi.

Although we are responsible for the communications the troop obviously plays a full part in the Squadron, eg: Hodgson Shield Cross Country; won by Line Section as a team and **Sig Andy Prutton** individually with **LCpl Taff Bazzard** not far behind.

GARRISON TROOPS COMPANY

The Squadron has to raise a platoon every so often to perform IS duties around the Garrison. Most come from Epi Tp, ably led the last time by **Cpl Don Rodham** assisted by **Cpl Mick Spink**. The BATCO was kept so secure they still can't get hold of it.

JIMMY CLUB

Epi Tp continue to lead the way in the ongoing Jimmy Club refurbishment, all goods procured by **SSgt Duggy Ward. Cpl Steve Kemble** returned from leave to find himself nominated as barman, whilst **Cpl Simon Witwicki** has just completed his third stint at the job, is this a Squadron record?

259 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

The ANnual Quiz was again devised by **SSgt Roy Habergham** assisted by Question Master **Cpl Brian Price**, and at the moment it looks as if the team led by **Sgt Steve Johnson, Cpls Scouse Creighton** and **Al Kemp** stand a good chance of winning.

All this has been going on with a tremendous turnover of personnel too numerous to list but I believe the Squadron will be keeping in touch with **Sgt Bob Boxall!**

AIRFIELD TROOP

Since our last report the following changes have occurred in the Troop:

DEPARTURES

Sgt Bob Witherstone to Harrogate 'Training new blood'. **Sig Dave Gough** to sunny Belize and **LCpl Ronny Hirst** to 4 Division investigating Ptarmigan. Farwell! and Good Luck!

ARRIVALS

Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick and **Debbie, LCpl Bill Leyland** and **Trudy, Sig Kenny McQueen** and **Andria** and **Sig Bill Lilburn** and **Bob Durrand** 'Straight from the factory'—Welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS

Hot off the press. Congratulations to **Cpl Steve Brealy** for being selected for promotion to Sergeant, and also to **LCpl Joe McGuinness** on his engagement to **Elaine** one of our pretty PBX operators.

On the entertainment and social scene, the 'Cable Pit' (Airfield Tp Bar) has been under some serious renovation by the 'Dagmar' Crew consisting of **SSgt Billy Allen, LCpl Dave Millington, Sig 'Franky' Muir** and **'Jake' Jacob**. Improvments are being made to an outside bar, patio, kiddies play ground and disco, and dance area. We'll send photos for the *Wire*, for all you past Airfield Tp guys to see.

We also hosted 81 Sqn TA to a games night while they were with us for two weeks.

The talk of the town are our resident DJ's **LCpl Charlie Hanson** (Mr 'C') and **Cpl George Henry** (Dr 'G') who run the Mercury Disco Road Show.

On the sporting scene we are top of the Hodgson Shield Competition after coming second in the Cross Country and being led to victory in the Cricket by OC **Capt Budworth**.

On other sporting scenes **LCpl Charlie Hanson** received Army Colours for Basketball, **Sig Mick May** won the Akrotiri Table Tennis Knock-Out competition with **SSgt B. Allen** runner up beating **LCpl Charlie Hanson** in a fiercely fought match.

Finally, **Cpl Eddie Pluskota** and **Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick** are striving members of the Sub Aqua Club, where **Eddie** is the Diving Officer. **Cpl Pete Cunningham** is the Treasurer of the Angling Club, and our **Allan Prost** and **Nigel Mancell**, are **Sgt Dave England** and **LCpl Derrick Fielding** our Karting members in their 'Willy' Hondas.

MOUNTAIN TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt Jan McKee**
FofS	**SSgt Cy Fawthrop**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Duncan Forteath**
RR Sgt	**Sgt Steve James**
TE Sgt	**Sgt Dave Amos**

After a prolonged winter of exceptionally bad weather, summer has finally hit the mountain with a vengeance. Temperatures up top have reached 90°F convincing the Troop at last they are actually in Cyprus.

Summer has also brought along a renewed interest in the mountain sport with the recruiting drive going all out for the formation of Mtn Tp aerobatics team. A good attempt was made by **Sgt Dave Amos** to show the other lads how it's done by going airborne in his Mazda 323 1500 Saloon and managing a well executed roll before crumpling the car roof. The latest notable recruit to the team is the OC, **Lt Jan McKee**, who showed a shining example in the Yuppie mobile (323 1.6i) managing a total of three complete rolls before getting stuck on the roof on the fourth attempt. Rumour has it that the turtle is all right and will appear in the new car shortly! Both sets of license numbers are now firmly attached to the Sigs Bar walls as fond reminders.

July saw the mountain social event of the year with the wedding of **Cpl Steve Wells** to **Sheena** at St George-in-the-Forest Church, right outside Troodos camp gates. All the troop turned out in their finery for the service at 6,000ft, and now pass on best wishes to both of them for the future.

Since the last write up in the Wire, we have been very busy on the sporting front. First event was the Superstars competition against various RAF teams with the winning trophy going for the second year running to the Army contingent. Next in the station CO's Cup was the Volleyball again with the Army showing the RAF how to play! Well done lads. Also congratulations to the Troop swimming team which came second in the Hodgson Shield Competition which was finally won by Epi Tech. The star swimmers included **Sgts 'Duncan' Forteath** and **Paul 'the Snake' Coombs, Cpls Andy 'Slick' Reberts** and **Fergie RAE**, and **LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson**. A big thanks to **Cpl Andy Roberts** for keeping the pool temperature down all day!

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Welcome to two new Troop members, **Sig Shawn Marriott** and **'Fish' Fisher**. Farewells go to the OC, who is moving on to 262 Sig Sqn and **Sgt Duncan** and **Nichola Forteath** who are off to 21 Sig Regt. Best of luck to you all.

AND FINALLY

Congratulations to **Sgt Steve 'the Bear' James** on passing his SSgts' Course.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

COMMS TROOP
EXERCISE *CYGNET GLOBE* 1987

After five days of practice with various antennas, communications with 30 Sig Regt were claimed at 85% success rate, a great credit to the operators of the Troop. With only a forty watt output they tried everything they knew to maintain communications, although at one stage when greeting one antenna, **Sig (Torchy) Wilson** asked 'What type of antenna is that thing?'. **Sgt Jerry Johnson** has a quick reply for him 'Haven't got a clue, but it works'.

Our thanks go to **SSgt Jim Keeping** and **Sig Davies** who came out from 30 Sig Regt and did a lot of very hard sunbathing with us.

The merry band of Ex *Cygnet Globe*

SQUADRON CRICKET

The season started with a Juniors V Seniors Match in the hope of finding a few Bothams in the cupboard. As it turned out though, the best fielders seemed to be the strategically placed Carlsberg bottles.

The League season started well and half-way through we have won more games than for the whole of last year. Most of the batting has been done by **Sgt Paul Goddard**, and **CSgt Derek Coulson** (late of 3 Para), our resident Ringer. With the main bowler **Sgt 'Knocker' Hardy** out with injury, the bowling has sometimes been lacking in quality but not in effort.

The highlight of the season has been the inaugural 'Double-Wicket' Competition. The Star of the show was undoubtedly **WPte Carry Evans** who managed to carry her partner **Sgt 'Stan' Matthews** to the final. Unfortunately he let her down and the Competition was won by **Sgt Martin Jackson** and **LCpl Mick Linkins**. The Best Fielder Trophy was won by **Sgt Pete Lowe** for his scampering around the field.

We have said goodbye to **LCpl John Leigh** and *Sig Kev 'Teflon' Wade*. Both will be badly missed, especially **Kev** for his regular contributions (in fines) to the Fund. **Cpl Steve Morris** currently holds the record for fines in one game despite stiff opposition from **Kev Wade** and **Pete Lowe**. We're all hoping that his wife dosen't let him hold their new born son for the sake of the baby's health.

Finally a mention for the most important member of the Team, the Big Black Coolbox that was somehow acquired. It has been failed in its duty of keeping the beer cold until the end of the game, probably the most important job in the Team. Now we look forward to the rest of the season in this blistering heat, you people in Catterick just don't know how lucky you are (honest!).

EXERCISE *SUNNY JIM*

After months of preparation, reams of letter writing, gallons of ink and much phoning, Ex *Sunny Jim* finally got under way. Camp Commandant/Chief Worrier/Duty Scape-Goat was **Lt Trudi Sutcliffe**, with her trusty 21C **Sgt 'Lawrence of Cyprus' Tait** to lend her a helping hand. A joint venture with 259 Sig Sqn, it covered two weeks of dinghy sailing, waterskiing, windsurfing, canoeing, karting and rockclimbing. (We work hard and play hard too in Cyprus!)

The first week got off to an excellent start with three generators, one freezer wagon and the speed boat going on the blink and the Brigadier coming to visit. However, the canoeing under **Cpl 'Stan' Staniford** flourished, as did the windsurfing under **LCpl 'Beach Bum' Hartshorne**. Section Alpha under the dynamic leadership of **Sgt 'Having a Whoopee time' Coombs** won the prize for the volleyball.

By the second week the DS were old hands at this game. However, their peace of mind was shattered by the arrival of **Sig 'Mean, Moody and Magnificent' Prutton** and **Sig 'Mine's a Carlsberg' Johns**. However, **Sgt 'Rocky' Hudson** soon sorted them out and they carried on to have a good week.

At the end, a helicopter ride and orienteering exercise was the order of the day. This went extremely well until someone pointed out that the RAF pilot had accidentally flow over the Gunners neatly laid out camp . . . after we had picked ourselves up and stopping laughing, **Lt Sutcliffe** had to explain to very irate cook why his cooking tent was demolished and his pots and pans spread over Evdhimou. **Sgt Hudson**'s team get full marks for showing initiative and swiping the DS pink for the orienteering—they won, needless to say.

So, after breaking camp and clearing up, the Merry Men (and Women) of 262 and 259 wended their way back home, sunburnt but happy.

LCpl Hewings, Sgt Jackson and Sig Armstrong slaving hard on Ex *Sunny Jim*

SHQ

Well, SHQ has resembled Clapham Junction recently with all the arrivals and departures.

WO2 (SSM) Mick Turvey and **Roz** left for Blandford for their umpteenth posting there. **Roz** and **Mick** were hardworking and valuable members of the Squadron and will be sadly missed. We wish them all the best for the future. **WO2 (SSM) Dave Thomas** (Bald Eagle to his friends) with **Jenny, Kriss** and **Reece** are gladly welcomed.

At the farewells to: Lt Trudi Sutcliffe . . .

They arrived from Tidworth and were amazed to see the sun was not an old English myth. **Dave** soon made his mark. **Lt Trudi Sutcliffe** is soon on her way to civvy street, to join Plessey. After a very enjoyable and eventful career, she hands over to **Lt Jan McKee**, who had switched loyalties from 259 Sig Sqn to the far superior end of the Island. We wish her good fortune in her new post!

We also bid a sad farewell to our Super Clerk, **Sgt Neil March, Dawn, Ryan** and **Vicky** and wish them all future happiness.

Congratulations to **Sgt John Salvesen** on his promotion to Top of the Heap Clerk and welcome to **Cpl Mitch Ashley** and his wife **Shirley** (who is fast becoming a cornerstone in the Garrison Swimming Team). We are sure they will love Cyprus as much as the rest of us do.

. . . SSM Mick Turvey and Roz . . .

. . . Capt Norman Patton

The picture below shows **WO2 (FofS) Pete White** from RSRE Defford now serving with 262 Sig Sqn exhibiting the complete procurement cycle of the TACSATCOM SHF Manpack, showing from R—L, RSRE Breadboard which was started in January 1986 (now in Blandford Museum), Ferranti Breadboard, Ferranti Prototype, then the UK/PSC 505 issued in service on 20 June 1986.

– News from Troops –

NATO FSS (Shetland)

VISITS

Life in Shetland is normally quiet; however June proved to be a busy month for visits. **Col Dunsmore**, the DCOS from HQ Scotland spent three hectic days visiting all our sites. This was followed almost immediately by the visit of **Brig Purves-Hume**, the new Commander 51 Highland Brigade and his wife. They enjoyed the Shetland scenery and our hospitality so much that they have promised to pay us a further visit later on in the year! The Commander's visit coincided with our annual NATO Technical Inspection and the Brigadier was much impressed to see **Maj (TOT) Bill Cochrane**, HQ AFCENT, up to his elbows in equipment, not once, but three times (nice one sir!).

We were delighted to receive a visit from our SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**. More so because he was accompanied by **Mrs Alexander** who spent all of her time taking an interest in and chatting to our wives. In fact **Mrs Alexander** was overheard to 'threaten' the OC, **Capt Hails**, that unless he produced a photograph of our wives in this issue she would take matters into her own hands! So we publish these for you with much pleasure **Mrs Alexander**.

Although the visit was regrettably short, the programme was hectic. After arriving at Dingwall airstrip (and that's all it is) the SOinC visited all members and wives of FSS Collafirth Hill, which is the highest inhabited point on Shetland and this was followed by a visit to the most southerly station at Mossy Hill. The evening was spent with our off duty members and their wives in the Maybury All Ranks Club. The SOinC had the opportunity to renew an old acquaintance, namely **Maj (Retd) David Collins**, who produced several nostalgic photographs of their time together in the Far East. Sadly, the visit soon came to an end but we who serve in the most northerly part of Great Britain, would like to thank the SOinC and in particular **Mrs Alexander** for reassuring our wives that they are not the forgotten ones.

FSS Collafirth Hill Club
L to R: Moyra Wray, Mandy Baggaley, Anne Williams, SSgt Ivor Williams, Liz Brash, Rita Hails, SOinC, Mrs Shearer (wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Shetland)

The Ladies who make it all worthwhile
L to R: Liz Brash, Gill Perry, Mandy Baggaley, Mrs Alexander, Rita Hails, Anne Williams, Jan Loates, children Heather and Caroline Brash
Photo taken at FSS Collafirth Hill, the highest inhabited point in Shetland

Maybury Wives Club coffee morning
L to R: Cathy Ried, Mary Baggaley (serving coffee), Kate Freeman, Tina Tucker, Frau Christine Schreibir holding baby 'A. J.' Tucker, Rita Hails, Muriel Twigg and Wendy Geddis

L to R: Pte Anderson, Mrs Brash, SOinC, Maj Anthonisz, Mrs Williams, OC Capt Hails left holding the baby

Finally in August **Oberstleutnat Biener, Hauptfeldwebel Pahl** and **Sgt Barry Geddis** from LCO Senden spent four days visiting their Forward Scatter stations. They were accompanied throughout the tour by **SSgt Ivor Williams** the Site Chief (NCO IC) of FSS Saxa Vord.

Oberstleutnant Beiner's last night in the Maybury Club
L to R: Cpl John Davidson, Pte Ian Anderson, Cpl Woody Wood, Cpl Jim Reid, Sgt Barry Geddis, Cpl Steve Pulman, Mrs Connie Walters, Civilian Admin Officer, SSgt Ivor Williams, Hauptfeldwebel Pahl and Oberstleutnant Biener

NATO Visit
Hauptfeldwebel Pahl, OC Capt Hails, Oberstleutnant Biener prior to their departure

SUMBURGH 'DAFT RAFT' RACE
Report by Cpl 'Robbo' Robson

Once again the Daft Raft Race was held in Virkie Pool and, as usual, the Maybury put in a team. Chief boat builder was **Cpl Jim Baird** who performed miracles with four wooden MFO boxes and a lot of plastic sheeting, with help from the rest of the Maybury. (Honestly Sir, we were not misusing Army property!)

This year the raft was crewed by myself, **Sgt Ian Tucker, Cpls Steve Pulman, Jim Reid** and **Brian Humphries**. The raft was aptly named SS *Unsinkable*, much to the amusement of the OC **Capt Ron Hails** and most of the Maybury.

After a brave and courageous effort and without getting too wet we finished in third place, and were the only Maybury raft in many a year to finish at all. So once again many thanks to everyone who helped. (And the OC lost his bet.)

SOCCER

The OC **Capt Ron Hails** has obviously found a new lease of life on the football field (not playing I might add). As he appears to be the only qualified referee on Shetland, his services have been much in demand. To celebrate 100 years of soccer in Shetland he recently took charge of the following matches: Orkney Select v Shetland Select and Aberdeen FC Select v Shetland. Well done boss, just keep taking the tablets.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Once again the faces and personalities are going through the changes and we would like to say our fond farewells to: **Sgt Jim Miller** in Latina, Italy. **LCpl Neil Paul** who is now firmly ensconced in the 'Iron' Division in Soest (with his bride of a few weeks). A belated congratulations **Neil**. Also best wishes to **Sig Mac McKenzie** who has returned to the cushy life in Edinburgh. Thanks **Mac** for brightening up our life on the top of Moon Base Alpha. Welcome to **Sig Ricky Lodge**, our temporary driver from Edinburgh (at least you will be back on the mainland in time to catch a Christmas duty driver!). To **Sgt Chris Liddle** and **Lesley** (Oh! how the Italian summer differs from the Shetland one!).

To **Sgt Dave** (of amateur radio frame) **Humphries, Janet** and family, and finally to **LCpl Chris Twigg** and **Muriel**. We hope that you all enjoy your tour with us.

PWSST (Main) Blandford Camp

TEAM PERSONALITIES

SO1 (W) PWSST	**Lt Col John Doody**
OC PWSST	**Maj Helier Exon MBE**
SO3 Systems	**Capt Kate Martin**
SO3 WAVELL	**Capt Keith Pritchard**
SO3 Traffic	**Capt Rod Mansfield MBE**
HPTO Systems	**Mr John Davies**
FofS Systems	**SSgt Gordon Marchant**
SSgt TE Tech Systems	**SSgt Gerry D'Alquen BEM**
	SSgt Dave Rodgers
SO Systems	**Miss Lorraine Kirkwood**
SSgt TE Tech Systems	**SSgt Stuart Bromidge**
FofS Equipment	**WO2 Bob Bradford**
FofS WAVELL	**SSgt Dave Smith**
SSgt TE Tech Wavell	**SSgt Tony Byrne**
PTO IR Cell	**Mrs Elaine Jupp**
Admin Officer	**Mrs Pam Rees**
Admin Assistant	**Mrs Maggie Jones**
Typist	**Mrs Bea Thompson**

PWSST (MAIN), BLANDFORD CAMP

PWSST (Main) is now well established in the luxurious accommodation of the Ptarmigan Building and has said farewell to the Portacabins—well almost, two members of PWSST and four members of 9 MAG still occupy two of them and have been given the unfortunate title of 'The Lepers'! This was demonstrated by the occupants themselves at the annual pistol shooting competition (PWSST v 9 MAG) when they appeared as Lepers in sackcloth ringing bells and shouting 'unclean'! The building was formally opened by **Gen Sir Nigel Bagnall, GCB, CVO, MC, ADC**, Chief of the General Staff on 25 November 1986. PWSST held their own informal celebration in December when all members of PWSST and 9 MAG invited families along for an 'At Home' with mulled wine and mince pies.

Formal opening of the Ptarmigan Building

The management of PWSST and 9 MAG at Capt Sue Marriott's farewell luncheon
L to R: Mr Mike Burke, Lt Susie Park (Engr Co-ord), Maj Mike Elkins, Mr John Davis, Capt Kate Martin, Capt Rod Mansfield, Lt Col John Doody, Maj Bob Shotliff, Capt Sue Marriott and Maj Helier Exon

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

December marked the arrival of the School of Signals first and only Scientific Officer **Miss Lorraine Kirkwood,** all the way from bonny Scotland—members of the Team have rapidly tuned their ears to foreign sounding words!

January saw the departure of **Mrs Maureen Bresloff** who has gone to Nottingham with her husband **Maj (Retd) Steve Bresloff** who recently left the Corps to serve with the TA. Our best wishes go with them both. **Mrs Bea Thompson** has moved from the School of Signals typing pool to carry on the sterling work.

In February the Wavell Section welcomed **SSgt Tony Byrne** from 233 Sig Sqn—the section is now fully up to strength—just in time for **Capt Sue Marriott** to leave!

Capt Sue Marriott has left not only PWSST, after three years with the Wavell Project, but also the Army. The officer element of PWSST and 9 MAG gave her a formal lunching out of the Team and the Army in the Corps Room on 5 August. She is leaving the Corps after eight years and moving on to the field of accountancy. We wish her the very best of luck and good fortune. **Capt Keith Pritchard** who arrives in September will lead the Wavell section.

Presentation of 'Jimmy' to Capt Sue Marriott at her farewell luncheon by Lt Col John Doody on behalf of the management of PWSST and 9 MAG

We say farewell to **Capt R. W. Chisholm** who has (temporarily!) left the Ptarmigan world to join the Sloane Square set with 12 Sig Bde (V). **Capt Ron** has been replaced by **Capt Rod Mansfield MBE,** recently returned from the Sangcom Project in Saudi Arabia.

Our Admin Officer **Miss Teresa Beaumont** is leaving the Team to move across to QM (T) in the School of Signals after two years with PWSST. Her successor is **Mrs Pam Rees** moving over from Trials/Engr Wing. Good luck to **Teresa** and of course **Pam**!

And finally welcome to **Mrs Elaine Jupp** who has taken over the Incident Reporting Cell and is quickly learning how the Military Operates!

January-April the BAOR Exercise season ensured that all members of the team were kept busy. Ex *Woodland Flight* was the first exercise of 1987 where PWSST (Main) gave support to PWSST (Fwd) closely followed by Ex *Flying Falcon*. Ex *Fourth Stretch* was successfully carried out in April, the first Ptarmigan modification trial and was the culmination of months of hard work by all members of the Team.

During April we held a military training day when we participated in First Aid, NBC, APWT culminating in the afternoon with a BFT. It was thoroughly successful and a rare opportunity to have all members of the team in one place for one day!

In May time was found from PWSST's busy schedule to go coastal sailing for a week on one of the Corps yachts '*Skywave*'. **Maj Helier Exon** was the skipper with **Mr John Davis** and **Maj Mike Elkins** from 9 MAG providing additional expertise. **Capt Ron Chisholm, Sue Mariott, Kate Martin** (none of whom had ever sailed before!) and **WO2 (FofS) Bob Bradford** all provided the necessary amusement by being far from model sailing pupils.

Maj Helier Exon, Capt Ron Chisholm, Mr John Davis, FofS Bob Bradford and Maj Mike Elkins

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Maj Helier Exon** on receiving not only the award of the Royal Signals Institution silver medal but also the MBE for his contribution to the Ptarmigan Project.

To **Capt Rod Mansfield** for receiving the MBE for his work in Sangcom.

To **SSgt D'Alquen** on being awarded the BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his contribution to Ptarmigan.

Presentation to Maj Helier Exon of Royal Signals Institution Silver Medal by Maj Gen Jimmy Hellier

632 Sig Tp
RA Range Outer Hebrides

VISIT OF SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

Report by Sgt Keller

The Troop was honoured with a visit from the SOinC, **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE** on 24/25 June, he was accompanied by **Mrs Alexander**. After a briefing in the Range Headquarters by Troop OC **Capt Sandy Gallie**, he was taken 12 culture shocking miles to the Control Building of the Missile Range. The exchange and switchboard was also visited. Here he met **Sgt Mick Norton** and **Cpl Pete Wilkinson**. Finding himself on the exchange, the SOinC startled a number of callers who were surprised to find themselves talking to a Major General!

Meanwhile **Mrs Alexander** met most of the wives and families of the Troop at an informal lunch at the OC's house, where the opportunity was taken to present **Mrs Alexander** with a brooch as a memento of her visit. She toured the Island in the afternoon and the following day was able to visit the amenities at Balivanich including the NAAFI, Creche, MMG and a quarter.

In the afternoon the SOinC visited the Families Club where he met members of the Troop and their wives. Rumour had it that the Herbridean sun actually appeared for more than 30 minutes, and the wives, always optimistic, wore summer frocks. The SOinC was then presented with a Troop plaque by **Sig John Dick** to commemorate his visit.

The SOinC also visited Troop offices where he was met by **SSgt Danny Marriott** and one very large Alsatian called Fang. He then toured the West Camp Exchange, Workshops and then **LCpl Dave Lilliaman**'s Store/'Davie Jones' Locker', where he concluded the visit, which was enjoyed and appreciated by all members of the Troop.

Our wives and our children with Mrs Alexander
L to R: Mrs Jane Gallie, Mrs Dianne Dick, Mrs Alexander, Mrs Sandra Marriott, Mrs Maggie Simpson, Mrs Camille Wilkinson and Mrs Tracey Lilliman

632 Signal Troop: On the occasion of the SOinC's visit
Back Row: Sig Dick, LCpl Nelson, Cpl Wilkinson, Baker, LCpl Dedman, Cpl Oates, LCpl Lilliman, Quee, Cpl Carter
Front Row: Sgt Bartlett, Hayes, SSgt Marriott, Major Anthonisz, Capt Gallie, SOinC, WO2 (FofS) Stock, Sgt Norton, Keller

The SOinC giving Sig Paul Monaghan a shock on St Kilda. (48 miles away in Mid-Atlantic)

History being made FofS Kev Stock about to get his hand in his pocket

640 Sig Tp (EW)
Blandford

Capt Andy Goff (*left*) takes over the Troop from Capt John Terrington

Since our last notes quite a few things have occurred and hopefully this report gives an indication to 'outsiders' of the amount of work the Troop gets involved in and other pursuits it undertakes whenever time allows.

Last time we reported the arrival of new members, including four RTg tradesmen direct from the Apprentices' College at Harrogate. This report is produced by **Sig Mundy**.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Having qualified as a class three RTg with very little practical experience of the world of telegraphy it came as quite a shock to find out that three other apprentices and I would soon be on our way to an EW Troop. Our combined response was—Who? What? Where? During the first few days some of the questions were answered, although our heads were still spinning from the amount of 'papers' we had to read, the slides we were shown and the equipment we were allowed to get our hands on. Having been here for a couple of months we now know the answers to Who, Where and What, although we are still puzzles as to Why? After the initial shocks of various flashing lights, noises and activity we are now becoming familiar with our own needs as well as those of the Troop and we all feel very certain that our tour will be interesting and also very educational. We have deployed, as a full Troop, to near Salisbury Plain and that was of benefit to us all. Hopefully there will be more deployments during our three years—perhaps we will even be fortunate enough to go overseas.

EXERCISE *PHANTOM BUGLE*

We deployed to Salisbury Plain in July for the purpose of introductory training for new Unit members as well as allowing the new OC, **Capt Andy Goff**, the opportunity to see the Troop in a field environment. We were able to practise some of our operational procedures and it is obvious that some changes will be effected as a result of this exercise. The next major deployment will be in November in Scotland, so it is to be hoped that the necessary changes will be implemented and practised before then.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Before **Capt John Terrington** finally left the Troop he was able to involve two Unit members on a spot of Adventure Training in Snowdonia. **Cpl Mark Finch** and **Cpl Andy Roberts**, Royal Marines, travelled to Wales and spent a week with the former Troop OC climbing and camping outdoors. Our photos show that **Cpl Roberts** was probably enjoying himself more than the other two and he may even have been further up the hills in order to take some photographs. Modesty forbids comment from him.

OUT AND ABOUT

Trials and training have prevented any great involvement for the rest of the Troop in adventurous training pursuits although **LCpls 'Blue' Nicholson, 'Paddy' Doran** and **Sig Rick Taylor** recently went off to the Carribean on Ex *Nickel Mercury* and found that was an adventure of sorts. For the rest of the Troop they have had to enjoy (?) a spot of sea fishing, organised by our 'friendly fisherman' **Sgt Dave Taylor**. No one has spoken of any catches so I have yet to discover the pleasure involved, especially in consideration of the rough seas and the poor weather at the time of the trips.

During the coming weeks we expect various visitors to view some of our equipment.

SUMMER CAMP

Elements of the Troop were invited to join 242 Sig Sqn Summer Camp outside the village of Kinloch Rannock from 23 May-6 June. Activities included hillwalking, cycling, abseiling and sailing to name a few. Our very own **SSgt Danny Marriott** was the Rock Climbing Instructor along with **Sgt Dave 'Sniffer' Morris RAOC** who took the sailing. The Camp was split into two seperate weeks with **Sgt Ray 'To be sure' Hayes** and **LCpl Luigi 'Teetotal' Dedman** attending in the first week.

Having enjoyed the superb weather and drunk all the beer they made their way home via Glasgow, Oban, Mull (almost) and the rest of the Western Isles!

The second week was attended by **Sgt Paul Bartlett, Cpl Mark 'Veda Head' Baker** and **Sig Paul Monaghan**, who didn't think much of the bad weather but enjoyed the indoor activities nevertheless. A warm thank you is extended to 242 Sig Sqn for the invite.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to **Sgt Simpson** and **Maggie, Cpl Dave Eyre, Cpl 'Smiler' Miles** and **Anne** and to **Cpl Bill Rennie** and **Sarah**. Best wishes to **Sgt Bob Bayly** and **Carol**.

VISITS

Recently, whilst on Salisbury Plain, we were visited by **Col Barry Bradshaw**, of the Australian Army. His visit proved worthwhile and at least it was easier to understand him than our two attached Royal Marines.

SPORT AND SOCIAL

In July we held our first major entertainments function of the year. It was in the form of a fancy dress cum barbecue and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those attending. Censorship prevents the inclusion of any photographs taken on the night. The Troop tries to involve its members in Unit-arranged functions, although membership of relevant messes is still permitted and Troop members happily support mess functions.

On the sporting scene we are able to support 30 Sig Regt and its teams—notably **Sgt Sam Street** and **Cpl Andy Roberts** to Hockey, **Cpl Mark Finch, LCpl Jock Beaumont** and our OC, **Capt Andy Goff** to the athletics team and **LCpl Cos Costello** to the Cricket team. Shortly **LCpls John Hamer, Paddy Doran** and **Sig Billy Bishop** will be called-up to join the Soccer team. **Sgt Graham Miles** continues to play Golf at Corps level and **Sig Sorley** has potential to reach Army level at Rugby.

Despite these budding sportsmen there was only one representative at the recent Blandford Tower run and that was **Mrs Pat Green**, wife of the Troop 2IC. The lads have been spurred into action and are considering running next year—with a log!

In the last issue we were able to show-off our new Troop plaque. We are now in the process of following that up with our own Troop motto and, hopefully, acceptance of a Troop logo. The motto has been selected from a German phrase and translation, if needed, can be obtained from **'Q' Green**, Troop 2IC—'Besser heimlich schlau als unheimlich bloed'. It is appropriate to the Troop and will hopefully become familiar to all Troop members.

We welcome—**Cpl Patton Royal Marines** and **Cpl Churchward**.

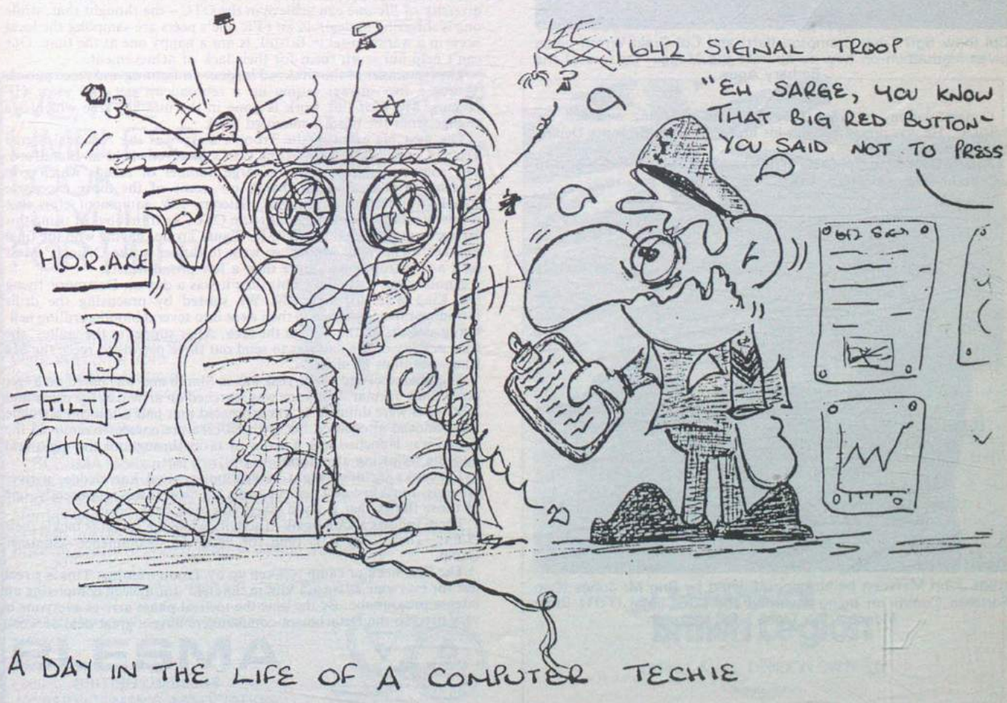
We say farewell to—**Cpls Bowler Royal Marines, Cook, Roberts, Sig Taylor** and **Sig Ryan**. Enjoy your tours of duty and remember us. To **Cpl Cook** and Sig Taylor we wish all the best for their futures in 'civvy street'. We add our congratulations to **Sig Ryan** on his promotion to **Lance Corporal**, also congrats to **Cpl Archie Gemmell** on his recent promotion.

Finally we give notice that half the Troop is absent on leave but will be returning to another busy period of demonstrations, trials and preparations for exercise deployments. Never a dull moment!

642 Sig Tp
BFPO 52

Life here on the Rock has now settled into summer routine which means that the technicians are allowed out from the inner Rock during the afternoons in an effort to add some colour to their pasty features. The three Technicians **Sgts Paul Leighton, Ian Hunt** and **Ian Barnes** spend most of their working day deep inside the Rock managing the computerised Telephone Exchange and working in close liaison with the RAF Operators who man the attendant Console (Manual Board). Working alongside the RAF has its advantages, **Sgt Paul Leighton** managed to get himself first reserve on a one day RAF Parachute Course. He turned up for training at eight in the morning and found himself leaping out of a Hercules aircraft at three in the afternoon. The jump was into the Med just to the east of the Rock. I wonder if life is too boring for him down at the Exchange?

A fairly recent re-shuffle in the Troop has created a new appointment of Records Sergeant, a mammoth task with which **Sgt John Marsden** is slowly but surely coming to grips. **Sgt Tony**



Crampton has been appointed Projects Sergeant which he is just managing to fit in between Sailing and Diving Courses.

The other four Telemechs are (to be honest) the 'work horses' in the Troop. **Cpls Dave Wyldes** and **Vince Castro** carrying out major re-cabling work, and **Cpls Bob Hindle** and **Craig Wrath** trouble shooting on the Upper Rock, and of course there is the odd Duty Controller and PA job thrown in just for good measure. As they have all got good sun tans life can't be all that bad, can it?

The Troop continues its twice weekly PT sessions. Tuesday morning is still a road run at 0730 hrs, only now (with **SSgt Dave Meakin** reconnoitoring new routes) we are slowly working our way up the Rock, maybe in preparation for the Top of the Rock race; who knows! Thursday morning is muscle building time in the multi-gym. It's generally agreed that our activities at such unearthly hours in the morning contributed in some way to our Troop coming overall second in the Minor Units sports competition.

Cpl (now Sgt) Tony Crampton (left) and Cpl Craig Wrath being given instruction on how to operate the Megger by two of the Barbary Apes

Congratulations to **ASgt John Marsden** on being awarded the LS&GC. He was presented with his medal by **Brig M. Jones** Deputy Fortress Commander.

Finally farewell to **Cpl Craig Wrath** and wife **Donna**; best wishes to you both, enjoy your tour with 227 Sig Sqn.

SSgt John Marsden being congratulated by Brig M. Jones (Dep Fortress Comd) on being awarded the LSGC Maj (TOT) Brian Meachin the Troop's OC looks on

Bristol University OTC

DIARY OF A SIGNAL TROOP

A report by

The OTC is probably unknown to most readers so I shall start by describing its function and how the Signal Troop fits into Bristol University OTC.

There are 19 OTCs in the country and they are part of the TA. Each OTC is affiliated to a University and its members are students. Despite this seemingly detrimental background, people who have worked with the OTC have found it hardworking and enthusiastic.

There are five troops in Bristol UOTC, the best of which, of course, is the Signal Troop. There are about 30 officer cadets in the Troop and the training programme, as I will attempt to describe here, is very diverse yet signals based. Training is on Wednesday afternoons; there are also three training weekends and the year culminates in a two week annual camp.

The first weekend this year was held in the Forest of Dean and was largely to introduce the new intake to the delights of camouflaging vehicles; masts and HF communications (most of the VHF work is done in OTC basic training); setting up a hide and, among other things, a night navex which gave everyone a chance to wander aimlessly around the forest for a few hours in the pitch blackness. Although largely a teaching weekend it brings the Troop together—and starts members thinking about the teamwork needed to work in a detachment. It is on the next weekend where this team work will be tested.

The 'tactical weekend' as it has come to be known is held at the height of winter on Salisbury Plain. On the Friday evening the Troop drives down and sets up a hide 'in a rear comms area'. It sounds easy but there are always problems at this point. The mental jerk from sitting in a lecture theatre, mind in neutral, to moving into a location with eight vehicles at night to cam-up just hours later is a bit much for some people. However, after what the Army doesn't call a 'telling-off' everyone switches on (or else!).

Although this part is rather harrowing at the time it does show the diversity of life one can achieve in the OTC—the thought that, while one is shivering to death in an FFR one's peers are sampling the local brew in a warm hostel in Bristol, is not a happy one at the time. One can't help but scorn them for their lack of achievement.

The remainder of the weekend is spent on fighting and recce patrols against a live enemy; setting up a rebroadcast net and using HF comms. Much of this work is done in the infantry role which is a change from the normal mounted work.

The next big event in the Troop's diary was the National Signal Troop Competition with all the OTCs involved, held at Blandford. The competition consists of a large number of stands which give everyone a chance to get 'hands on' some of the more expensive signal kit, (Triffid, Ptarmigan, Satcom, EW equipment etc), that would otherwise be inaccessible to an OTC. As if the joys of using this kit were not enough Bristol UOTC Signal Troop, having won the final log-race was overall winner, so went to dinner in the Officers' Mess with a fine trophy and more than a few proud hearts.

Another red letter day! This time it was a day on Dartmoor flying Sea King with 707 Sqn RN. We started by practising the drills including rope descents and then went into several blood-curdling heli-borne assaults on the Tors in the area. After supper in the 'galley' the final activity of the day was to send out three patrols to recce the Sea Kings positions at night.

The final weekend of the year was in March and was based on a 'get out of that' format. Everyone was searched on arrival at the camp and NBC suits were donned. It was estimated that half a ton of chocolate was removed altogether. So, with all creature comforts removed the Troop was launched into a series of tasks throughout the night and into the following afternoon.

The tasks included night navigation, general knowledge, a river crossing, breakfast of a raw egg and a log race. It was, apparently, one of those things that is good when you look back on it.

There follows a long break in activity while the students tackle their exams. These over it is time for battle to recommence—Summer Camp.

The first week of camp is taken up by Troop training. This is a real test for everyone as we are 'out in the field' for a week completing an intense programme. By the time the tactical phase arrives everyone is very tired so the Detachment commanders have a great deal of work on their hands. It is apt at this point to remind the reader of something. There are girls in the OTC. They do all the work that the men do and they seem to keep going with such spirit that the men are left standing. The tactical phase covered two nights and there were several bloody engagements with the enemy (8 Sig Regt from Catterick). They put in a particularly fierce attack on the evening of the second day while a fighting patrol was out. The returning patrol did not manage to recapture the location so the Troop was taken as prisoners. After escaping and going cross-country to pick up our weapons a dawn attack regained the location.

After a weekend of adventure training the OTC exercise started. The other Troops (Artillery, Engineer, RAC and Infantry) were special-to-arm but the Signal Troop played enemy. This involved sending out many pockets of resistance and snipers. At the final attack the scenario dictated that we all be eliminated but we fought bravely to the end.

I hope by this article I have shown the diversity of our activities but what I can't show is the point which most people who work with the OTC acknowledge and that is the enthusiasm shown by the cadets. These students in uniform perform well, efficiently and with vigour. Whether at a social function or being rained on in a field there is one thing that is standard issue—the DPM suit!

National Competition

National Competition Winning Team

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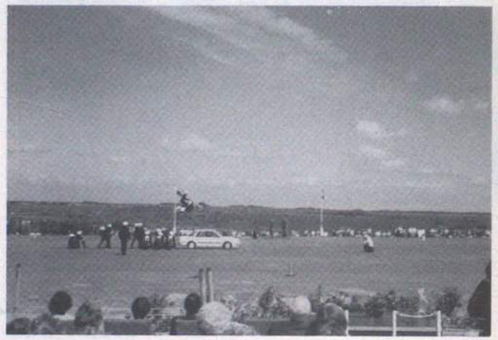
Association News

THE 1987 REUNIONS
BLANDFORD

Over 500 members and guests booked in to attend this year's gathering in Blandford. We were blessed with a nice sunny day except that there was quite a strong breeze blowing through the valley of the Camp. We were made very welcome in both the Garrison WOs and Sergeants' Mess and also the Corporals' Club where thirsts were soon 'wetted' and many tales of days of yore were spun. As usual, there were many static displays of modern day communications equipment and for those who wished to be reminded of the radios and telephones they had used, these could be seen in the Royal Signals Museum. The afternoon programme included a display by The White Helmets followed by a performance of 'Playing Retreat' by the Royal Signals Band. The arena display ended with an evening hymn and a prayer and was closed with the 'Sunset Ceremony'. After tea we dispersed to all parts of the country having enjoyed a wonderful day out.

From left to right: Mrs Stagg, Maj 'Snowball' Stagg, Mrs Tims, Lt Col John Waite, Fred Timms, Ernie Bayley (all members of 3 Div Sigs Reunion Club) and John Everitt (Hon Sec Bath Branch)



CATTERICK

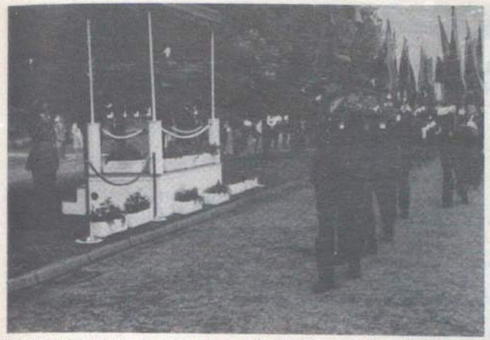
This year the Catterick Reunion was preceeded, on the Friday evening, by a 'Freedom of Richmond Parade', held in Richmond, at which the serving Corps (and a Squadron of Old Comrades) exercised the right to 'March through the streets with bayonets fixed, standards flying, and bands playing'. The parade comprised elements from 8 and 11 Sig Regt, Army Apprentices College Harrogate and Members of the Association. The Association Sqn (under command of **David Greenbrook**) comprised over 60 members plus 13 of our Branch Standards. The parade was reviewed by the Mayor of Richmond who was accompanied on the dais by **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** (Representative Colonel Commandant).

The reunion was attended by over 700 members of the Association. The weather was not kind to us this year but this did not deter both the White Helmets and the Corps Band putting on their excellent performances under adverse weather conditions. They are to be congratulated.

The weekend is reviewed in photographs.

Upon reflection. What a superb performance the Corps Band gave us at the 'Playing of Retreat' on Helles square

'Please do not fill my plate too much as I have a sweet to get through as well'. A member being served with his first course at the buffet in 8 Sig Regt WOs' and Sergeants' Mess



The 'March Past' commanded by Lt Col David Collyer (CO 11 Sig Regt) followed by Capt Tony Hewett (Adjt 11 Sig Regt) and WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir immediately followed by the Association Standards. Reviewing officer Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock (Master of Signals) accompanied by Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson (Chairman of the Association) and on either side of the saluting dias are Maj Gen P. D. Alexander (Signal Officer-in-Chief) and Brig R. F. Maynard (Commander Training Group and Catterick Garrison)

The 'Bowler Hat' squad marches past. *L to R:* Maj Gen J. H. Hild (Rep Col Comdt); Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane (Former Col Comdt); Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle (Chairman Royal Signals Association designate) and Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield (President Indian Signals Association). The right marker is Capt Jean Knight (Sec Aldershot Branch RSA)

A general view of the Reunion Church Service held inside the converted Baghdad Gym taken during the Service. Association Branch Standards can be seen on either side of the altar

Lads and Lasses from Sussex by the Sea (Eastbourne) on their annual visit to Emmerdale Farm country. They all look as though they are enjoying it very much

The smart contingent from our recently reformed branch in Coventry enjoying their first visit, as a branch to Catterick

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE FORTY SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CATTERICK GARRISON ON 28 JUNE 1987

OFFICIATING

Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB	Chairman
Col A. N. de Beetton-Gordon	Assistant General Secretary
D. Greenbrook Esq	Administrative Officer

PRESENT

Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL	Master of Signals
Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE	Signal Officer-in-Chief
Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE	Representative Colonel Commandant
Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE	RSA Chairman designate
Maj Gen D. R. Horsfield OBE	President Indian Signals Association
Maj Gen P. E. M. Bradley CB CBE DSO	Past Master of Signals
Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB	
Brig R. F. Maynard MBE	Commander Training Group and Vice Chairman

and some 175 members of the Association.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the forty-second Annual General meeting for which attendance was up on last year. He especially welcomed **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL**, the Master of Signals and **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, the Signal Officer-in-Chief.

The Chairman congratulated those who took part in the March Past on their excellent turnout and felt that the new arrangements for the march to and from Church, and the Reunion Church Service, were now ideal. He understood that the participation of 13 Branch Standards and a Squadron of 60 plus 'Old Comrades', under the command of **David Greenbrook**, who marched past the Mayor of Richmond, accompanied on the dais by **Maj Gen J. H. Hild MBE** (Representative Colonel Commandant) at the 'Freedom of Richmond Parade' on Friday evening, had been much appreciated.

The Chairman thanked the Commander Training Group, his Staff and members of the Training Group for making the weekend so successful and enjoyable, and congratulated the White Helmets and the Corps Band on the excellence of their performances under adverse weather conditions.

GREETINGS FROM THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

The Chairman read telegrams from the Master of Signals and the Colonel-in-Chief on Princess Royal Day, 28 June 1987, which this year coincided with the Reunion and the Colonel-in-Chief's appointment as **The Princess Royal**.

MINUTES OF THE 41ST MEETING

The Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting were **approved**.

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman thanked the Signal Officer-in-Chief and all members of the serving Corps for the support they give to the Association from the One Days Pay Scheme and in running the reunions at Blandford and Catterick.

He also thanked regular and volunteer units for the day to day support that many branches are given in the provision of venues for meetings and dinners.

BRANCHES

The Chairman reported that there are now 65 Branches (which includes eight Affiliated Unit OCA's). The Manby (Lincolnshire) Branch, and the 3rd Division Reunion Club being the latest.

ACCOUNTS

The Chairman, as Association Treasurer, reported that the Association accumulated funds increased by nearly £2,000 in the year ending 31 December 1986 despite heavy capital expenditure of some £70,000 to support projects for the serving Corps.

Following a verbal summary of the Fund, by the Chairman, the audited accounts of The Royal Signals Association Benevolent Fund for the year 1 January to 31 December 1986 were **approved**.

STAFF

The staff at Association Headquarters were substantially the same as last year namely:-

Mrs Pat Haw	Senior Welfare Officer
Mrs Lea Van den Berg	Assistant Welfare Officer
Mr David Greenbrook	Administrative Officer
Lt Col Ted Andrews	Editor *The Wire*
Mrs Marjorie Riggs	Assistant Editor *The Wire*

Ms Tina Hill had joined the staff as an accountant in January 1987.

Col J. A. D. Francis retires, as General Secretary, at the end of July and will be succeeded by **Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon.**

ROYAL SIGNALS MEMORIAL IN CATTERICK

Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon, the Assistant General Secretary, made a statement about proposals for the installation of a War Memorial, to be sited in Helles Barracks, to commemorate members of the Corps. The proposal is to be taken at the next Central Committee Meeting on the 5 November 1987.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Chairman reminded all those present that, in accordance with Association Rules, the following elections/re-elections took place:-

Chairman & Treasurer	**Maj Gen A. C. Birtwistle CB CBE** vice **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**—retiring wef 27 November 1987.
Vice-Chairman: (1)	**Lt Col R. L. Murray OBE** vice **Brig P. J. Evans CBE**—retiring.
(2)	**Brig R. F. Maynard MBE**—re-election.
Zone 'B' Representative	**Maj R. G. Aitken** (Shrewsbury Branch) vice **Maj M. A. W. Rose TD** (Derby Branch) retiring in rotation.
Zone 'C' Representative	**Maj G. Cowsill** (Dorset Branch) vice **Lt Col J. A. Waite** (Cotswold Branch) retiring in rotation.
Zone 'D' Representative	**J. Johnson Esq** (West London Branch) vice **A. E. Foot Esq** (Reading Branch) retiring in rotation.

After being duly **proposed** and **seconded** the above were each **approved**.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman stated that the format of the 1988 Reunion in Catterick would be the same as 1987 except for the 'Freedom of Richmond Parade' which takes place every other year.

The Chairman then asked Branches to send their comments on the format of the Catterick Reunion to Association HQ as soon as possible.

Mr J. J. Carruthers (Liverpool Branch) spoke of the excessive Hire charges and Insurance for branch meetings in TA Centres. The Signal Officer-In-Chief asked for details to be sent through Association HQ, so that the matter can be investigated.

The Chairman thanked the many Branch officials and Unit representatives for their support to the Association throughout the year. Special mention was made of the Reception Staff in Catterick: **David Greenbrook** (Association HQ); **Alan Foot** (Reading Branch); **Sharon Jackson** (Regimental HQ); after sometime overseas, **Lesley Filmer** (a volunteer helper) and **David Tupper** (Brighton Branch) (Association Shop Manager).

The Chairman of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Branch presented the Chairman of the Association with a Wall Plaque in appreciation of the help from Association HQ.

There being no further business the Chairman handed over to **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**, the Signal Officer-in-Chief, who spoke on the state of the serving Corps which was greeted with warm applause.

Before closing the Meeting the Chairman reminded those present that Reunions in 1988 were to be:

Blandford—Sunday 15 May
Catterick—Saturday/Sunday 25/26 June.

Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB MBE DL, the Master of Signals, then took the opportunity to thank **Maj Gen A. A. G. Anderson CB**, Chairman of the Royal Signals Association, for his hard work over the past five years.

The Meeting was then formally closed.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1986

1985 £	1985 £		1986 £	1986 £
		INVESTMENTS AT COST		
	684,667	Listed (market value £1,186,259, 1985 = £1,167,656)		662,046
	5	Unlisted—Royal Signals Association Trustee Limited		5
	684,672			662,051
	12,828	LOANS		17,051
		CURRENT ASSETS		
6,008		Stocks at lower of cost or net realisable amount	8,587	
4,776		Sundry debtors and prepayments	4,015	
11,362		Income tax recoverable	13,040	
32,744		Deposit accounts at bank	92,734	
37		Cash	81	
54,927			118,457	
		LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
(11,077)		Royal Signals Corps Fund	(1,921)	
(19,816)		Sundry creditors and accrued charges	(63,036)	
(3,555)		Current account at bank	(12,641)	
	20,479	NET CURRENT ASSETS		40,859
	717,979			719,961
		Represented by:		
	717,979	ACCUMULATED FUND		719,961

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION CONCERNING THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

We have audited the accounts 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 1986 and of the excess of income over expenditure for the year then ended.

Price Waterhouse
Chartered Accountants

13 May 1987

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 1986

1985			1986	
£	£		£	£
	183,900	INCOME Receipts from Corps Fund		213,095
		Donations:		
5,936		Individuals and local branches	17,692	
1,530		Regiments and Squadrons	900	
	7,466			18,682
	682	Benevolent grants refunded		—
	54,993	Investment Income (gross)		69,440
6,666		Bank deposit interest	3,965	
270		Subscriptions	346	
61		Receipts from Branches	58	
1,420		Sundry other income (incl petty trading)	(415)	
	8,417			3,954
	255,458	TOTAL INCOME		305,171
		EXPENDITURE		
98,340		Benevolent grants and convalescent holidays	114,196	
35,577		Royal Signals Games Club Grant	39,697	
10,825		Royal Signals Yacht Club Grant	8,404	
		Donations:		
38,000		Army Benevolent Fund	39,000	
6,435		Other	21,687	
—		Grant: Silver Centre Piece, Catterick	7,055	
-		Grant: Mess Extension, Blandford	62,477	
24,120		Cost of publications	31,109	
7,146		Administration Expenses	9,536	
14,912		Salary costs	21,245	
4,821		Pension and gratuity for former employees	4,306	
2,500		Audit fee	2,600	
12,241		Association reunions and Branch Representatives' Meeting	13,391	
	(254,917)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(374,703)
	541			(69,532)
	176,894	Profit on sale of investments		71,514
	177,435	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		1,982
		ACCUMULATED FUND		
	540,544	Brought forward at 1 January		717,979
	717,979	Carried forward at 31 December		719,961

Notes to the Accounts — 31 December 1986

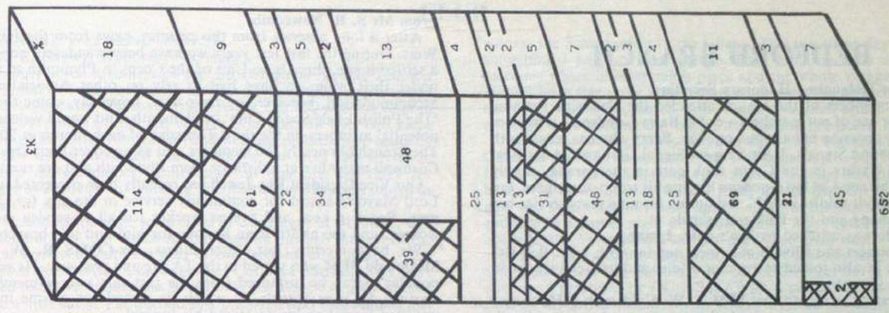
1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

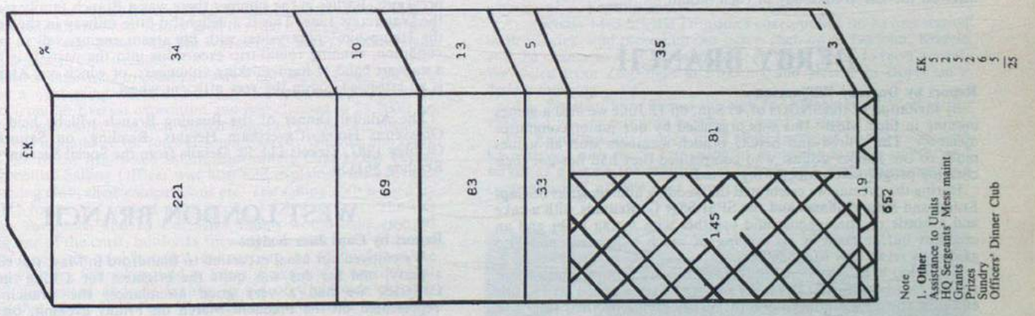
(1) Basis of preparation
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

(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 interest 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 supplmentary payments are charged against income in the year in which the payments are made.





BEDFORD BRANCH

From Trevor Holyoake—Honorary Secretary

Nineteen members of the branch attended the Catterick Reunion this year. For one of our members—ex **Sgt Barry Goodson**—it was not only a happy occasion but a proud one too. **Barry** who has served with 11 Air Formation Signals, 1 Air Support Signal Unit and 54 Sig Regt during his 14 years in the Corps took part in the parade, closely followed by his son **Cpl Ian Goodson** leading his troop of trainees. **Ian** joined as a junior soldier in 1977 and during his nine years service has been in Germany and the Falkland Islands.

The parade was watched by **Ian**'s wife, **Lynne**.

Barry's younger son **Clive** is at present serving with 1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn; he also joined as a junior soldier and has seen service in Canada and Germany.

It is interesting to record that **SSM T. W. Goldsmith MM**, one of our In-Pensioners was present at the reunion and at the church service. **Barry** first met him when he was PSI at Bedford Drill Hall TA Centre.

Branch members were proud to share this historic moment with the **Goodson** family and wish **Ian** and **Clive** success in their army careers; maybe we shall see them in charge of the parade one day giving orders to Dad, just for a change!

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

Our usual meeting place is the Royal Signals bar of 54 (EA) Sig Sqn at Cambridge but because the Squadron is moving to a newly built centre at Cherry Hinton and the move coincided with our May meeting, the Bedford branch very kindly invited us to Bedford for a social evening.

About 25 members made the 30 mile trip and many old acquaintances were renewed. Bedford laid on a buffet and a darts and cribbage match and although I don't know the results of the darts match or the cribbage I know that all the members of the Cambridge branch had a good night and we hope to invite the Bedford branch to our new home in September.

Because we now share the new centre with the Medics who train on a Tuesday evening we have had to change evenings and so we now meet on the last Wednesday of each month.

DERBY BRANCH

Report by Dorothy Williamson

By invitation of the SNCOs of 46 Sqn, on 12 June we held a games evening in their Mess—this was organised by our junior committee members. The retired and SNCO branch members won all games much to the juniors disgust who complained they had not got their cheating programme properly organised!

During the evening we celebrated the wedding anniversaries of **Capt Ernest** and **Meg Williams** and the SPSI **SSgt G. Renolds** with a cake and a bottle of champagne, and together with a stag night and an excellent buffet made it an evening of much enjoyment and also gained us seven new life members.

Cupid has been busy firing his arrows this last month amongst our serving members, **Sig R. Decamps** and **Ann** were married on 13 June and they spent their honeymoon in Turkey saying on their return 'it wern't half hot'.

LCpl R. Westbrook and **Pte Knipe** also **Cpl Dawn Hannell** and **Cpl P. Fletcher** announced their engagements; we congratulate them and wish them all luck.

Our sick-visitors are still visiting members and as the result of a raffle they took a box of groceries and a bottle of wine to one member and a donation to another. **Maj Bill Rose** is still on the sick list and **Dawn Plowman** is awaiting an appointment with Professer Hughes for a major operation for hidradenits supurativ. If any reader has or knows any one with this illness **Dawn** would like to hear from them.

It is with the deepest regret that we heard of the death of our much loved and valued Vice-President, **Col A. K. Haslehurst TD JP** who died on 11 August after a long illness. Joining the TA in 1929, his links with the Corps spanned a period of 58 years.

PLYMOUTH BRANCH

From Mr S. R. Newcombe

After a long absence from this column, news from the far South West. During the last few years we have been wanderers not having a settled home, there is no Unit of the Corps in Plymouth to take us under their wing, so have had to rely on other Associations for accommodation, however, we have now, hopefully, come to rest at 'The Polish Eagle Social Club' in Plymouth, and would welcome any potential members on the third Thursday of each month at 2000 hrs. The Branch has nearly 100 members, but as we cover West Devon and Cornwall many live at a distance from Plymouth and are rarely seen.

Our Vice-President **Reg Jewell** has recently been presented with the Lord Mayor's award for community service in the city for the past year, **Reg** is a keen and tireless worker for all ex-service men and women, and the award is an honour for him and this branch.

We have recently lost, after illness, **Ex-CQMS R. W. 'Mac' McDonald BEM** who served in the TA pre and post war. He was very popular as can be instanced from the fact that two ex-members of wartime 5 Corps Signals, in which he served for a time in Italy, travelled from London to attend his funeral.

The majority of our ex TA members served with 43 (Wessex) and 45 (West Country) Div Signals, and post war with 15 Wireless Sqn and 43 (Wessex) Sig Sqn. We would welcome news of any old comrades, and a visit from any in the area.

Hopefully it will not be too long before we appear in print again. Best wishes to all Association members.

READING BRANCH

This has been a memorable summer for several members of the Branch who were privileged to attend a Royal Garden Party—**Mike Vokes, Alan Foot, Gordon Pickard** and their wives, albeit that on one occasion the weather left much to be desired.

For the first time, an Honorary Chaplain has been appointed to the Branch, the **Revd Eric Essery**, Vicar of Christ Church and Rural Dean of Reading. He has a long association with our Corps and we hope he will join in the various activities of our Branch.

We held an informal dinner recently at the Grosvenor Hotel in Caversham, as its our practice twice a year. We all enjoyed it and have made this the venue for our Annual Dinner in October at which we hope to have the pleasure of seeing members of other branches.

The Branch had a good attendance at both the Blandford and the Gatterick reunions. At the latter we were represented on the Freedom March on Friday evening, and our standard was paraded on all occasions. Earlier in the summer there was a Branch family picnic at the Watercress Line. This is a delightful little railway in the heart of the Hampshire countryside, with big steam engines, all in pristine condition, running round-trip excursions into the past. It is run by a stalwart band of hard-working volunteers, of which our **Alan Foot** is an esteemed cog in the very efficient wheel.

The Annual Dinner of the Reading Branch will be held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Caversham Heights, Reading, on Saturday 17 October 1987. Tickets £11.50. Details from the Social Secretary, Tel: Reading 861130

WEST LONDON BRANCH

Report by Capt Jane Knight

We enjoyed our usual excursion to Blandford in May, travelling as a party, and the day was quite the brightest for a long time. At Catterick we had a very good attendance, the Branch being represented on the Freedom March on Friday evening, on which occasion the Association Squadron was given the strict instruction 'lots of swank' and we hope that we acquitted ourselves well and did not let the serving Corps down. At both reunions we were looked after very well by our host Regiments and appreciate all the hard work entailed.

A party visited HM Tower of London one evening this summer and were happy to have with us members of the Aldershot Branch who enjoyed the occasion as much as we did. One Sunday in May we attended morning service at the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and were joined on parade by a member of Reading Branch. Our standard was paraded on this occasion. We always are delighted to see people from other branches and hope that many will attend functions with us and that we shall have the pleasure of seeing them at our annual dinner in November.

The Annual Dinner of the West London Branch will be held at the Osterley Hotel (near Osterley tube station) on Friday, 20 November 1987. Tickets £13. Details from **Mr Cliff Wood**, Secretary, Tel: Ashford (07842) 41279

3RD DIVISIONAL SIGNALS REUNION CLUB

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND—SOEST

by Mr E. E. Bayley, Honorary Secretary

On 16 July seven members of the 3rd Divisional Signals Reunion Club boarded a 'Transline' coach at Victoria Coach Station to attend the sixth Regimental Weekend with 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt in Soest. At Farthings Corner the change over point in UK, two more members of the party from Bristol and Reading picked up en route by the Cardiff coach increased our contingent to nine. On arrival at Dover two more members joined and on boarding the ferry for Zeebrugge at 2030 hrs our 'missing' member **Peter Munchin** joined us much to our relief.

After a smooth passage we arrived at Zeebrugge at 0130 hrs, and after disembarking, our coach moved steadily through the rest of the night and arrived at our first port of call Iserlohn at 0700 am where the families went to the 'Chatterbox' at Corunna Barracks. We were scheduled to arrive outside the NAAFI car park Soest at 1000 hrs but pulled in a little early. The Second-in-Command **Maj Ron Abbott** met us and welcomed us all before whisking us off in a mini bus to St Sebastian Barracks Korbecke. On arrival at HQ **WO1 (RSM) Rick Licence**, greeted the party and settled the majority of us in the WOs and Sergeants' Mess quarters. **Maj Tim Kelly** and **Capt Arthur Hughes** were guests of **Capt (QM) Steve Marshall**, whom we all know quite well. **Rick Licence** recognised me as we had met at Catterick Reunion in 1986. Twenty minutes later we were in the RHQ Conference Room, and received a warm welcome from **Lt Col Ashley Truluck**, the Commanding Officer who we were meeting for the first time. He also gave us a very interesting up-date of regimental activities and told us that he had attended the ceremonies at Hermanville where the Corps provided the Honour guard both at Le Breche and also the cemetery on 5 to 7 July. There were strong representations of Normandy Veterans of the 3rd Division supported by their Associations, Signals excepted. After being issued with our programme for the weekend and a brief history of the Division, it was drinks with the officers in the Div Study Centre followed by a buffet lunch. We were invited to watch a cricket match between the GOC's team and the Signal Regiment and, though a little jaded after a long journey, it was very relaxing watching an interesting match with the Regiment in a strong position. Our party was in the charge of **Lt Bisley** the Div Cricket Officer. Unfortunately rain stopped play, so we went off to tea in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess. No activities for the rest of that evening should have given us the chance to catch up on sleep but you can never keep an old soldier down, and the mess was alive with activity. Our members travelling by car to Soest via the Dover Dunkirk route arrived just before 1900 hrs that evening and **Maj Ken Smartt, Lt Col Mike Philp, Maj Pip Wheeler** and **Stan O'Dell** brought our contingent to full strength.

On Saturday morning in company with **Capt Simon Lowe**, we were taken on a sightseeing expedition to Soest. **Capt Lowe** had recently returned from an Everest expedition and had climbed to 24,000ft on the Karakoram Range and next March hopes to be the first member of the Corps to stand on the top of Mount Everest. We wish him every success. On to the Mohnesee Sailing Club where **Capt Lewis Taylor** the Regimental Sailing Officer was host and explained the activities of the sailing club, their competitions etc. The sailing club is used by all NATO forces but looked after by the 3 Div Sig Regt. The CO joined us for lunch and **Lt Col Mike Philps** would have enjoyed handling one of the craft, but looks forward to it next time. After the barbecue lunch, the mini bus took the party to the Mohnefest at the Garrison Primary School ground in Soest. Being a nice day the Fest was well patronised and the takings in aid of Children's charities exceeded that of the 1986 Fest. The band of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment entertained everyone with a marching display, The Cannonballs, the RAOC Parachute Team, thrilled us with a free fall and accurate landing followed by RAF Gutersloh Police Dogs, showing obedience training and confidence between man and beast. The show closed with the Grand Draw, wonderful prizes but alas none of our comrades were among the lucky winners. It was 'pub' night in the 'Woes and Joes' that evening in St Sebastian while the Officers' were holding their 'Summer Ball'. Our oldest member **'Pedlar' Palmer** excelled himself in spite of his 83 years ably supported by **Porky Edwards** (81). **RSM Rick Licence** issued some song sheets and it was rasping throats at the end of the day which made Hymn singing on Sunday a little difficult! We were indeed lucky with the weather and after Church Service at St Luke's Salamanca Barracks, an all ranks barbecue lunch was arranged by HQ Squadron. It was soon time to part company with our car contingent of four who set out for Dunkirk and home soon after 1400 hrs leaving the rest of us 'Transliners' to enjoy another day of warm hospitality and the chance of meeting more of the regiment. I was very fortunate in being invited to join a small party going into the village of Stockum near the Mohne Dam to witness the Schutzenfest in the village. This is a three day affair and something I had not seen before. Beer drinking tents and a large marquee where dancing takes place and the whole village is en fete. Houses have flag poles with banners and branches of leaves flying in the wind. There is a march with men and women armed with mock rifles, flowers sticking out of the barrels and preceeded by a band.

A shooting competition is held and the winner becomes the King or Queen of the Fest. I also learnt that the winner has to pay for the Fest. It was a long walk back uphill to the barracks from Stockum pestered by flies as it was quite hot, but I made it with the help of a sit down now and then on handy seats dotted about in the lanes. The evening ended with a games night in the Sergeants' Mess and I think on this occasion the Veterans did not get it all their own way.

Monday saw a cloudy start with some sun later and towards evening a thunderstorm, but the party set off at 0900 hrs for a tour of the Sauerland arranged by OC 2 Sqn. With a picnic luncheon pack for each of us, a visit to the Mohne Dam, caves at Warstein and a visit to the Warsteiner Brewery it was a full and exciting day.

I missed this outing as I visited a German friend in the village of Gunne on the banks of the Mohnesee. The last time I saw **Rudolf Helmke** was at a youth leader's meeting in Vlotho near Herford, in 1946 in connection with my TOC H work. At that time he lived in Hildesheim and later followed his father's profession in teaching and like me is now a pensioner, but is still active in teaching the blind and visually handicapped in Soest. I was taken on a very interesting tour of Arnsberg and visited the Arnsberger Schloss built in 1102, home of the Graf Fredrich der Streitbare, and destroyed in the Seven Year War in 1762. The Corporals' Mess was the venue that evening and they entertained us handsomely and were very generous with their games evening as they allowed the veterans to win hands down! One of the members was an ex White Helmet and he and **Porky Edwards**, an original member of the Corps Motor Cycle Display team, had some very interesting things to say to one another. I feel that we have some potential recruits to our club here.

Tuesday 21 July was the time to bid our hosts farewell and to thank them for a very wonderful Regimental Weekend. After some last minute shopping in Soest, OC 1 Sqn took charge of the party and conveyed us to their club the Woodstock in Salamanca Barracks, for a buffet lunch. A Thank You Order of the Day was left by the Hon Secretary on behalf of the party for publication (with the CO's permission) in Part 1 Orders. **Lt Col Truluck** came to Salamanca barracks to bid us farewell and also carry out a presentation to the winners of a shooting contest.

At precisely 1445 hrs the Translines coach pulled in, having started in Brunswick, and picked up our party, then on to Iserlohn, Krefeld and the change over at Sevenum with an hours break to have a meal. We sailed from Zeebrugge at 0100 hrs and arrived in Dover on a drizzly morning.

3 Div Sig Regt have invited the club for a Regimental Weekend in 1988 and we are certainly looking forward to this.

The Reunion Club is open to all those members of the Corps who have served with the 3rd Division at sometime in their career, and serves as a venue for meeting old friends and much enjoyment. So come and join us! We need you!

Watching cricket with our host 2IC Maj Ron Abbott

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF YOUR ASSOCIATION?
This picture should provoke memories of early Signals days. It was taken at Baghdad Lines, Catterick Garrison between October 1939 and March 1940. Let us hear what you are doing these days.

No. 607 Squad, 1 Depot Battalion, R. Signals

Back Row: Sig Smith, Fosker, Jones, Crellin, McCulloch, Chatfield, Hatton, Norris, Platt
Centre: Sig Parker, Hancock, Crump, Banks, Moorhouse, Harvey, Stone, Moore, Ayrey
Front Row: Sig Spinks, Graham, Rodiguez, Sgt J. Walker, Sig Park, Barton, Wrestler

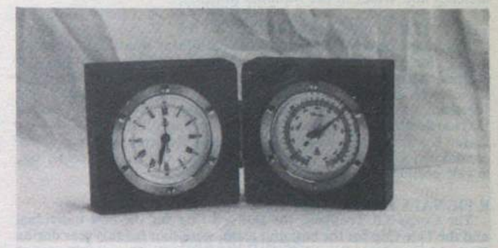
— Sport —

CRICKET

CRICKETERS SAY FAREWELL TO MAJOR GENERAL ALAN YEOMAN

On Saturday 13 June 1987 during the luncheon interval of the Royal Signals BAOR versus Stragglers of Asia fixture **Maj Chris Wright** presented **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman** with a desk top clock and barometer set. The presentation on behalf of all Royal Signals Cricketers was to thank the General for his many years of support, both on and off the field, to Royal Signals Cricket.

Royal Signals BAOR cricket has been expecially strong in the past three years with the Corps winning the Inter Corps Tournament twice and being runners up in the third, this is no small way because the Generals name appeared on the team list! The team shown in the photograph shows the nucleus of players for the 1986 and 1987 Inter Corps Tournament which is played annually in July, a report on this year's Tournament follows.



Royal Signals BAOR Cricket 13 June 1987
Back Row: 2Lt M. Coleman, LCpl A. McWilliam, Sig C. Casswell, SSgt S. O'Dare, Lt J. Egan, LCpl R. G. Charley, Cpl A. R. Howard and Cpl S. Gibbs
Front Row: Maj M. R. S. Stockdale, Cpl P. Gardner, Lt Col J. Roberts, Maj C. L. G. Wright, Maj Gen A. Yeoman, Capt A. J. Rock and Cpl Naylor

SHOOTING

TARGET SHOOTING
Reported by Maj R. J. Evans, Vice Captain of Corps Shooting

1987 has been a year of steady consolidation rather than rapid progress in the Corps target rifle team building process as last year's beginners have come to grips with the sport. **SSgt (YofS) Brian Hayward** exploited his year as a Tyro by winning several prizes and established himself in the Army team. **Capt Jim Body** also won several Tyro prizes and shot for the Army in the Pre-NRA Meeting International Match. **Cpl 'Taff' Alden** and **Cpl 'Taff' Rideout** were on the fringes of Army selection and should make the team next year. **Maj Jim Evans** represented both the Regular Army in the Inter Service matches and Wales in the National Match.

THE INTER CORPS MATCH

The Inter Corps Match shot at the end of May was a disappointing outing for the Corps coming too early in the season for our inexperienced shots to have found their form. With five out of the seven firers travelling to Bisley from BAOR and newly purchased rifles not zeroed the team started at a disadvantage. Only **Yeoman Hayward** had regular practice at Bisley and was in form; he was top scorer for the Corps with 176, a respectable score in the blustery conditions. Overall the team finished eighth out of ten teams, our lowest position for several years.

R SIGNALS AND RASAM TR COMPETITIONS

The Corps TR Trophies, the Bulford Cup for the best individual and the Tate Cup for the best unit team, were shot for this year during RASAM concurrently with Match 100 and 101. **Yeoman Hayward** won the Bulford Cup and the 1 Inf Bde team of **Yeoman Hayward, Cpl 'Tommo' Thomas** and **Cpl Paddy Ireland** won the Tate Cup. **Capt Jim Body** won ARA Bronze medals in both Match 100 and 101 as a Tyro.

NRA MEETING

Seven members of the Corps shot the NRA meeting this year and all but **Maj Jim Evans** were Tyros. Those shooting were:-

Maj R. J. Evans	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Maj R. C. Briant	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt J. E. Body	7 Sig Regt
Maj I. R. C. Brown	HQ SE Dist
SSgt (YofS) B. Hayward	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Cpl P. J. Alden	7 Sig Regt
Cpl S. K. Rideout	16 Sig Regt

During the Regular Army training week prior to the main meeting **Capt Jim Body** and **Yeoman Hayward** both shot for the Regular Army team in the International Match against a number of visiting teams including Canada and Kenya. **Cpl 'Taff' Alden** and **Cpl 'Taff' Rideout** were both selected for Army Target Rifle Club teams in the same match. In the main meeting all the Corps shots suffered from a lack of conistency with some good results marred by some poor ones; the main problems being the wet conditions and lack of familiarity with their equipment. **Cpl 'Taff' Rideout** was selected as a reserve for the Army Long Range team and should make the team shortly. **Capt Jim Body**'s performance fell off after the training week until a loose foresight was discovered and fixed. He made one of the NRA Prize lists to lose his Tyro status. **Yeoman Hayward** lost his Tyro in some style adding the Army Club Championship Tyro Prize to his previous successes and getting into three Prize lists. He was a member of the Army Short Range team in the Inter Services matches. This year he has completed a remarkable triple by representing the Corps in the Inter Corps Small Bore Match, the Inter Corps Full Bore Match and with the service rifle in the Metheun Cup. **Maj Jim Evans** was also in three Prize lists and shot for the Army in both Short and Long Range Inter Service matches. He also represented Wales in the National Match.

SUMMARY

Overall the prospects for the Corps team look good with several promising shots breaking into the Army team. With a little more practice and experience the team should be capable of putting in a performance on the day that will take the Corps back to the top.

TENNIS

REPORT ON THE ROYAL SIGNALS LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987
Report by Capt S. A. Crane—Secretary

The 1987 Championships took place during the period 26-28 June at Blandford. Like Wimbledon, some play was lost to the rain, however, the players were not disheartened and some excellent tennis was played. They should be congratulated on their play and sportsmanship which made the tournament to successful.

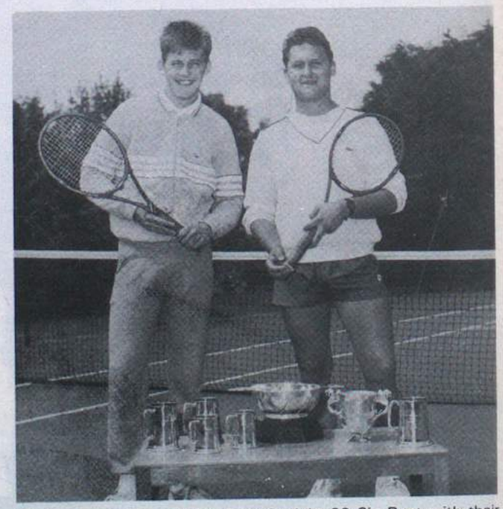
The pick of the games was the Mens Singles final between **Capt Billy Miles** and **Sig Ian Dunworth** with **Ian** winning the first set 12 games to 10.

The ladies too should be thanked for playing some singles and doubles and not just the mixed. Hopefully next year more of you will don your tennis skirts.

Mrs E. D. Mulley, the chairman's wife kindly agreed to present the prizes—cleaned by **Pte Foley**, to the winners and runners up.

The results of the finals are as follows:-

Mens Singles	**Sig Ian Dunworth** 30 Sig Regt Beat **Capt (QM) Billy Miles** 7 Sig Regt
Unit Doubles	**Sig Ian Dunworth** and **Sig Tony Speight** 30 Sig Regt beat **LCpl 'Titch' Davidson** and **Sig Segfield** 8 Sig Regt
Open Doubles	**Capt (QM) Billy Miles** 7 Sig Regt and **Sig Alan Hall** 28 Sig Regt beat **Sig Ian Dunworth** and **Sig Tony Speight** 30 Sig Regt
Mixed Doubles	**Lt Mike Shaw** and **Mrs Nina Crane** School of Signals beat **Capt (QM) Billy Miles** 7 Sig Regt and **Mrs Pat Wyatt** School of Signals.
Ladies Singles	**Mrs Pat Wyatt** School of Signals beat **Sgt I Hunt** 8 Sig Regt
Ladies Doubles	**Mrs Pat Wyatt** School of Signals and **Mrs Sharon Mills** 30 Sig Regt beat **Maj Helen Gilpin** RADC attached and **Mrs Judy Bolt** School of Signals
Plate	**Cpl Tom Pollard** AAC Harrogate beat **Sig Alan Hall** 28 Sig Regt



Sig Ian Dunworth and Sig Tony Speight 30 Sig Regt with their trophies

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Help the Aged
THE TIME TO CARE IS NOW

● SAC Rob Wilson with other committee members presenting Jim Davidson with a station plaque.

● Jim Davidson and Wg Cdr Matson together with both cheques.

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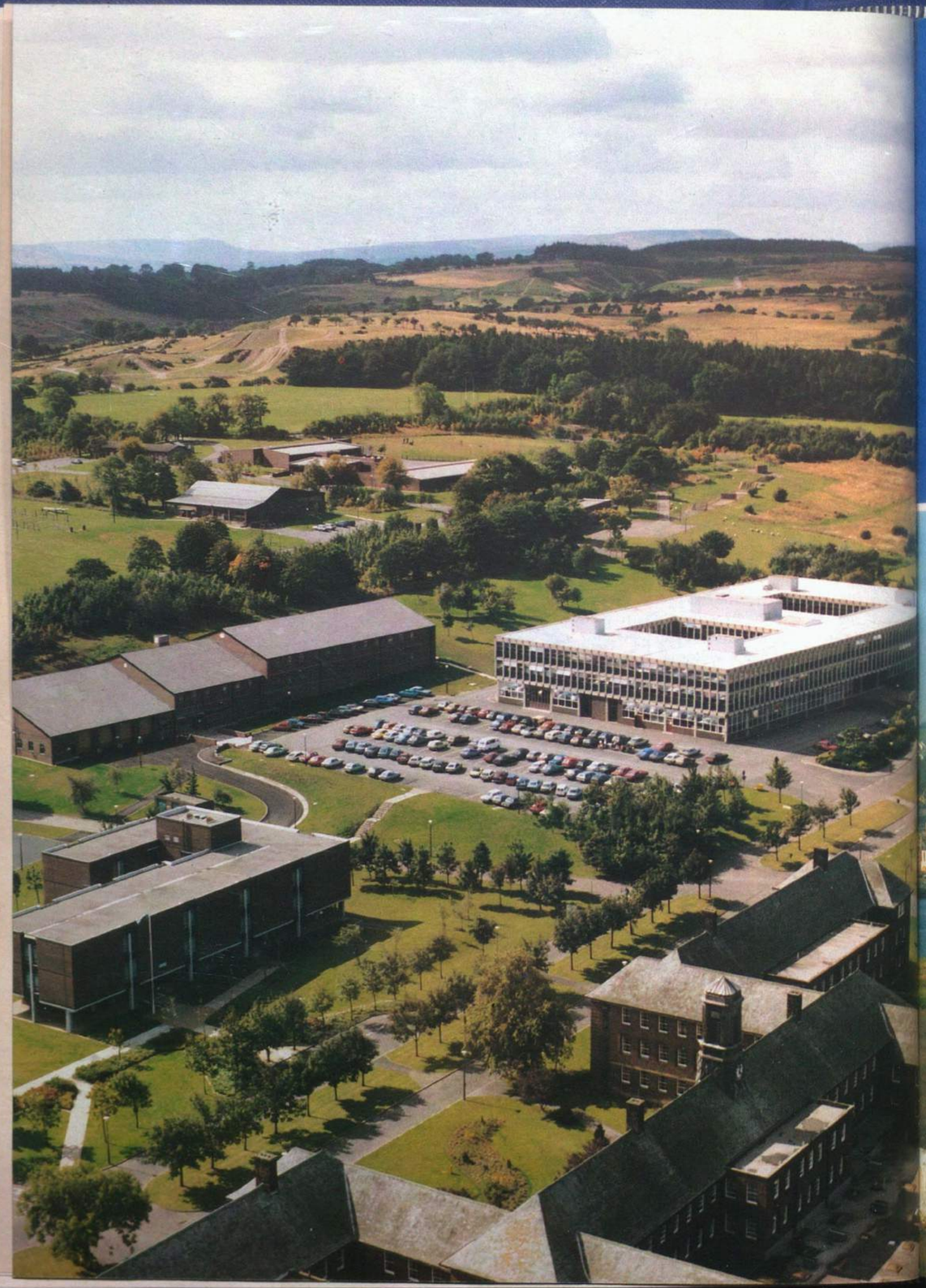

THE wire

The Royal Signals Magazine

November 1987

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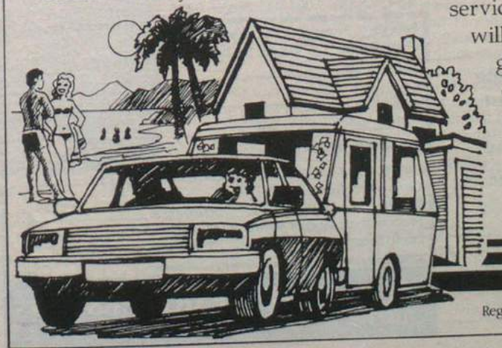

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

The 1,987th Anniversary of Christ's birth is not a particular milestone in history but in our enjoyment of it, we may be reminded of other anniversaries, some Regimental, some of the family and some personal. Last year our affiliated Indian Corps of Signals celebrated its 75th Anniversary; this year the Canadian School of Communications and Electronics (once their School of Signals) celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

But to us in the Corps, the most important Anniversary has been that of our Colonel-in-Chief's 10th year of unstinting support for and interest in her Corps. We thank Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal for her enthusiasm and stamina which is an example to us all and may this be so for many years to come.

And so for the fifth year my wife and I send all ranks of the Corps, serving or retired, our warmest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

AND THE SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

This is the time of year for looking back over the past months and reviewing achievements. In the Corps' professional working life we have much of which to be proud: we are meeting the tough challenges posed by the introduction of new technology, and we are doing so cheerfully and with success. On the sporting field the Corps has moved on to greater triumphs this year, with our Regiments taking two major Army trophies (football and athletics) as well as a number of others, thus maintaining the strong sporting tradition for which the Corps is well known.

But Christmas is a time for thinking of those members of the Corps family who deserve our thanks and support. We should remember those members of the Corps who, even in 1987, will be spending Christmas on unaccompanied tours on operational duty, away from their families. And we should remember their families, too—for without their support (and indeed the support of all our families) the Regular and Territorial components of our Corps would be decimated. Although thankfully 1987 has been a quiet year for dangerous operations, we should still think at Christmas of those who are injured, sick or bereaved—officers and soldiers, Regular and Territorial, serving or retired—and all their families. Finally, we should be thankful for the service of all those who have left the serving Corps (Regular and TA) during this year. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to them all.

During my visits in 1987 I have again been greatly impressed by the strength of the Corps family and the pride and confidence demonstrated by all ranks. From the youngest junior soldiers (and their families) to the oldest and most distinguished members of the Royal Signals Association I have found a strong Corps spirit and comradeship which bodes well for our future prosperity. And of course I need hardly say that in this as in all other things I make no distinction between the Regular and Territorial Corps.

We have one other significant Corps tradition to be noted here: that of genuine hospitality. My wife and I have received generous quantities of it on our visits during the year, and send our thanks to all who have looked after us so well. We also send our warmest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the Corps family.

OUR COVER PICTURE
Rover Group, 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. *From Left to Right: Top Cover:* Sig Jarvis and Sig Lloyd
Middle Row: Pte Cowan, Cpl Speight and Pte Wood (all RPC)
From Row: LCpl McCarthy RPC, Sig Logan and LCpl Haines RPC

NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

We warmly congratulate those named below, whose awards and mentions were announced during October, for service in Northern Ireland.

BEM
SSgt J. A. Streeting

MENTION IN DESPATCHES
Cpl K. D. Smith
Cpl D. Spencer

EDITOR'S NOTE

'O hush your noise, ye men of strife
And hear the Angels sing!'

With Best Christmas wishes to all our readers and their families and especially to our In-Pensioners: **WO2 H. J. Sinclair, SQMS M. Knight, WO2 T. W. Goldsmith MM, Cpl A. T. Nash, Sgt J. G. A. Lamb, RQMS A. F. Townsend, SSM H. R. Hulme, RQMS S. E. Gordon, Sgt C. Creigh, Cpl F. R. W. Hoyle, Sgt S. W. Millen, Cpl E. Whitelaw, WO2 R. G. Morphew, Cpl R. A. Jamieson, Cpl J. M. Weedall, Sig F. V. A. Phillips, LCpl J. C. Hastie, Sgt J. B. Tiffin, WO2 E. Peacock, Sgt G. P. Higgins, Sig F. G. Lee, Dvr R. J. Heritage, Sgt J. T. Tansley, Sgt A. Swift.**

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THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF'S VISITS TO HER CORPS

ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE—JULY 1987

There could be no better way to mark the success of the move and the establishment of the new 'Glasgow Records' than by a visit from our **Colonel-in-Chief HRH The Princess Royal, GCVO,** and to our delight this took place on 2 July 1987, just 43 years since the previous Royal visit on 8 September 1944 by the then Colonel-in-Chief **the late Princess Royal**. Our pleasure was the greater when it was announced that our Colonel-in-Chief had been awarded a new title, making us the very first Royal Signals unit to be visited by **The Princess Royal.**

Rather like our departure from Reading, the Royal Visit seemed to be a long way off for a very long time, but then the sands of time started to run out very quickly. The OIC, **Col David Miller,** began to look ever more harassed as he and **Maj Tony Cheal** (SO2 Co-ord) showed a constant succession of inspectors, visitors and 'fixers' around the MRO in the lead up to the great event. Here in Kentigern House we are not in our own 'camp', but are just one of some dozen units, and we had throught that this might cause difficulties. To our delight this proved to be no problem at all and the building staff were quite splendid in the way they joined in to ensure that everything about the visit was 'just right'. Our thanks go to **Alan Sturmey, George Gruber** and **Bill Johnston** for their help.

As with all such events we decided to have a rehearsal the day before, with **Mary Louden,** wife of **Lt Col Mike Louden,** (Deputy OIC), standing in for the Colonel-in-Chief, escorted by her daughter **Alison** as the Lady-in-Waiting. **Mary** and **Alison** played their parts brilliantly, but the rehearsal was universally agreed to have been an unmitigated and thoroughly embarrassing disaster. The timings went completely awry, the lift did not work, everyone from the OIC downwards got their lines wrong, the staff were completely tongue-tied and the tea-party was a shambles. The entire MRO agreed that at least the real-thing could not possibly be worse!

On 'The Day' the MRO staff arrived in their normal working-dress: jeans, T-shirts and the 'wind-swept' hair-do's predominating, as always. But then, at about 1000 hrs, things began to move into a higher gear. Mysterious men 'swept' every last corner of the MRO, black Labradors sniffed in dark corners, and the Master of Signals and the Signal Officer-in-Chief arrived at 12 noon to carry out their own checks. But, at about 1500 hrs the real transformation took place, jeans-clad, 'wind-swept' figures disappeared upstairs and smart, neatly dressed, fashion-plates returned—and that was just the men! The girls were quite delightful—a joy to behold, as they say.

The OIC makes a firm point (Note the photograph of The Princess Royal when visiting Caversham in 1944!)

Angela McKenzie gets the visit started in good style

Despite pessimistic forecasts, the DHSS at Rutherglen released **The Princess Royal** on time and at 1555 hrs precisely the Rolls-Royce pulled up outside the Main Entrance, the Royal Standard was broken by **Ronnie Weir** (B Wing) and we were 'on'. The OIC put his entire military career in the balance by taking **The Princess Royal** up in the most notoriously unreliable lift in Glasgow (it worked perfectly) and then 'The Visit' started with signing the Visitors' Book and then on to Manning Control Wing. The most memorable feature of the visit was the intense interest **The Princess Royal** took in all the staff she met and her wide knowledge of the Corps and its affairs. As a result everyone who was presented had a grilling on their work, how they dealt with the soldiers of the **Princess Royal's** own Corps and on their own background.

The staff, who only 24 hours previously had been nervous and tongue-tied, handled the whole proceedings with total confidence, and **The Princess Royal's** progress could easily be monitored by the laughter which could be heard. What secrets were revealed! **Dennis Maxwell** (A Wing) revealed at last who it was who had upset the

inhabitants of Caversham by playing the bagpipes at midnight. **Clinton Craigie** (D Wing) gave a demonstration of the use of the VDU and **Christine Aird** revealed some of the problems of dealing with the Band (upon which the **Colonel-in-Chief** is very knowledgeable, by the way—Band President and Director-of-Music please note!) **Andrew Heraty** (Colour Service Wing) discussed his previous existence with William Hill, the bookies, although he lost on his 6-to-4 wager against the lift working properly! Also, **Jim Stevenson** (Discharge Wing) and **The Princess Royal** had a long, intellectual discussion on the relative merits of being unemployed and of being employed in the MRO!

The generosity of the staff manifested itself in the presentation of a cheque for £200 for the Save The Children Fund, which was presented by **Mrs Roberta Young** (Discharge Wing).

The final event was a tea-party in the OIC's office where **The Princess Royal** was entertained by **Gail Wilson** (OIC Reserves Wing) and members of her staff. The animated conversation and the reluctance of the Princess to leave indicate the success of this particular element of the Visit.

All-in-all the **Colonel-in-Chief's** visit was a splendid success. It went exactly according to plan and it was a most enjoyable and memorable experience. But, it was more than that, because it set the seal on the approval of the 'New, Glasgow MRO' in the Corps, and it was an event which reflected the greatest credit on the new Glaswegian staff.

Reserve Wing 'caught' in the middle of a tea break

Maj (Retd) John Davies keeps his fingers crossed that he will remember the names

Roberta Young prepares to present 'The Cheque'

With Manning Control Wing, HRH meets Miss Gillian Freckleton

TRAINING GROUP CATTERICK—SEPTEMBER 1987

It was in July that word was given confirming the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief to Catterick in September to undertake the opening of the Ptarmigan Wing and set a final seal on the completion of the largest single training project for the Corps since the School of Signals moved to Blandford in 1967.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO also agreed to take the Recruits Pass Off Parade at 11 Signal Regiment, to present prizes to the Best Recruits, to unveil a commemorative plaque in the Ptarmigan Wing and present **Lieutenant Colonel T. McK Stoddart MBE** with the Silver Medal of Royal Signals Institution. **Her Royal Highness** then attended a reception and luncheon with the Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers of the Training Group.

The setting for the arrival of **Her Royal Highness** was at the Recruits Pass Off Parade in Helles Barracks. As might be expected in Catterick, earlier bad weather and discouraging forecasts tested the decision to proceed with the dry weather programme! Thankfully the threatened rain dispersed and in a blustery wind the sun broke through over the Parade on which troops of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate and Iron Troop of 11 Signal Regiment waited before a large crowd of spectators. The colour of the uniforms and dresses, the awnings, flowers and of the flags waved by the children all added to the spectacle.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL ARRIVES

The Royal Helicopter arrived close by in Vimy Barracks where **Her Royal Highness** was met by the Master of Signals, **Major General J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL** who presented the Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), **Major General P. D. Alexander MBE**, the Regimental Secretary, **Colonel (Retd) A. N. de Bretton-Gordon** and our Commander, **Brigadier R. F. Maynard MBE**. Her Royal Highness in a red suit and a brown hat and wearing our Corps Brooch arrived at the dais by car.

THE PARADE

The Parade was commanded by **Major Alan Griffiths**, Officer Commanding 3 Squadron, with **Lieutenant Bob Howie** Commanding Iron Troop.

Also on Parade were four Troops representing the Squadrons of the Army Apprentices' College, Harrogate and Commanded by **Lieutenants Gordon Anderson, Neville Thompson, Lawrence McCourt** and **Mark Billingham**.

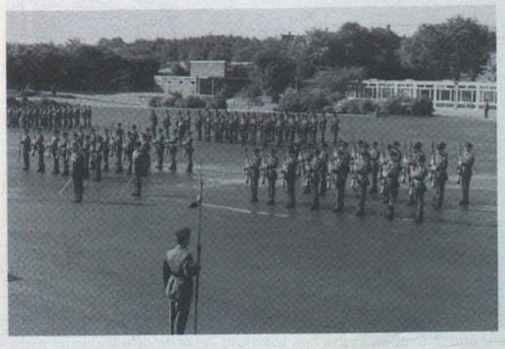
To the accompaniment of the band of the 14/20th Royal Hussars, **Her Royal Highness** attended by the Commanding Officer 11 Signal Regiment, **Lieutenant Colonel David Collyer** and Regimental Sergeant Major **WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir** inspected the Parade and talked to a number of Troops.

The Parade had attracted the national media and also live coverage by BBC Radio Cleveland our local Radio Station. Expert advice and a 'Dimbleby' commentary (their words!) was given live on air by the Quartermaster, **Major John Ient**, who occasionally admits to having attended the odd parade or two.

The parade was also marked by the final appearance of **WO1 (RSM) Tom Muir**. This was a particularly fitting occasion as **Mr Muir** had 'brought' the first Junior Signalmen intake from the disbanded Junior Regiment at Ouston to Catterick in August 1985.

HRH arrives on the parade

Iron Tp Inspection Lt Bob Howie, HRH, *Left to Right*: J Cpl Ian John, J Sig Peter Rodrigues, J Sig Adrian Castaldi and J Sig Mark Knowles

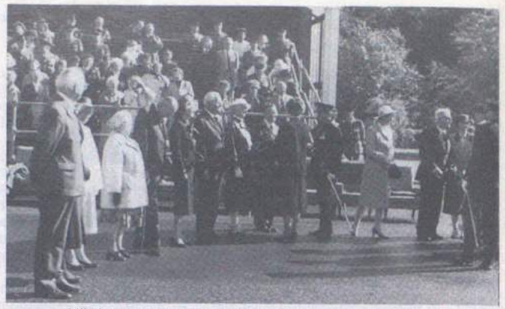


Parade gives a Royal Salute

HRH Inspects the Back-up Troops

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS MEETS RETIRED CORPS MEMBERS

After the Parade **Her Royal Highness** moved to the side of the dais. **Colonel C. T. Garton**, Commandant of the Army Apprentices' College then presented past members of the Corps, including **Major General P. E. M. Bradley CB, CBE, DSO, Major General A. C. Birtwistle CB, CBE, Brigadier W. M. Ponsonby** and **Colonel J. P. North CBE** and their wives. The Chairman of Richmondshire District Council, **Councillor Mrs A. Harris**, the Mayor of Richmond, **Councillor Mrs E. G. Buckle** and her husband **Mr Geoff Buckle** (ex Corps) were also presented. Departing on foot for the prizegiving **Her Royal Highness** delighted the watching children by stopping frequently to talk to them and acknowledge their waves.



HRH meets retired senior members of the Corps

THE PRIZEGIVING

In the Junior Ranks Club, the **Colonel-in-Chief** met members of the Permanent Staff of 3 Squadron and their wives. **Her Royal Highness** then presented the following prizes:

Best Shot	**JSig Philip Hughes**
Military Studies	**JSig Thomas Buchanan**
Champion Section	**JSig Steve Leyland** for 2 Section
Best Junior Soldier	**JCpl Peter Watts**

Before departing for 8 Signal Regiment and the Ptarmigan Wing, the **Colonel-in-Chief** met many of the families of Iron Troop, including the parents of the prize winners and also ex Corps members **Mr John Stenchion**, grandfather of **JSig Sean Walsh**, and **Mr Robin Harber**, father of **JSig Craig Harber**.

Top recruit J Cpl Watts

Top shot J Sig Hughes

Best Section Cpl Avery and 2 Section

Military Studies prize J Sig Buchanan

OPENING THE PTARMIGAN WING

Her Royal Highness was greeted by the Commanding Officer of 8 Signal Regiment, **Colonel P. B. Webster** who presented **Lieutenant Colonel George Finney**, Officer Commanding Trade Training School. Before formally opening the new Wing the Chief Instructor Ptarmigan Wing, **Lieutenant Colonel Tom McK Stoddart** and **Mrs Stoddart**, his **Wing Sergeant Major (SGM) R. W. Bush** US Army Signal Corps, the Managing Director Plessey Defence Systems, **Mr C. F. H. Teed** and **Mrs P. B. Webster** were also presented to **Her Royal Highness**. To mark the opening of the Wing, our **Colonel-in-Chief** unveiled the Wall Plaque set inside the main foyer. **Lieutenant Colonel Tom McK Stoddart MBE** then came forward to receive the Silver Medal of the Royal Signals Institution from **Her Royal Highness**. He was awarded this rare honour 'to mark the attainment of an outstanding professional achievement in the Royal Corps of Signals' namely for his contribution to Ptarmigan Training in bringing the Ptarmigan Wing project with all its size and complexity successfully to fruition.

During a short tour of the Wing afterwards, **Her Royal Highness** was shown some of the intricacies of the equipment and discussed aspects with **Staff Sergeant (YofS) Mick Drewett** and other Instructors **Corporal Kevin Raistrick, Corporal David Buckley** and **Mr Mick Timson** as well as meeting some of the students.

Her Royal Highness left the Wing and emerged to bright sunshine and cheers from the children and parents waiting outside. It was not until **Her Royal Highness** had been presented with a bouquet of flowers from **Miss Katie Ducker** that her car departed for the Reception.

RECEPTION AND LUNCH

The Regimental Sergeant Major 8 Signal Regiment, **WO1 (RSM) Mike Kerr** greeted **Her Royal Highness** outside the mess and started the proceedings at the reception in which over 80 members of Training Group and their wives had the opportunity to meet and talk with our **Colonel-in-Chief**. The PMC of the Mess **WO2 (SSM) Dick Heppenstall** escorted **Her Royal Highness** to the Royal table at luncheon where a further 200 members were present. The Mess Committee had prepared everything magnificently with silver laid out amongst the tables bedecked with flowers.

AND FAREWELL

All too soon the visit came to an end as **Brigadier Maynard, Major General Badcock** and **Major General Alexander** took leave of our **Colonel-in-Chief** outside 8 Signal Regiment Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

ENVOI

Now as this is written, it is all over, a memorable visit by our **Colonel-in-Chief** and the first visit to Catterick as **The Princess Royal**. A title which will no doubt stir memories amongst the longer serving members of the Corps. The chapter should not close without recognising that such successful events do not just happen. There were many unnamed who planned, protected and helped in so many ways. Many thanks to them all for all their hard work throughout the visit.

HRH unveils the plaque in Ptarmigan Wing

HRH presents Lt Col Tom Stoddard with the Royal Signals Institution Medal

Miss Kate Ducker presents a bouquet of flowers

Farewell to the Families
HRH leaving Ptarmigan Wing past school children and families

UNITS IN CYPRUS—SEPTEMBER 1987

HRH The Princess Royal GCVO at mid afternoon on day three of her visit to her units in Cyprus, touched down in a Wessex helicopter of 84 Squadron RAF in Happy Valley. HRH was welcomed by Commander Communications **Lieutenant Colonel Tony Kimber, Mrs Liz Kimber, Major** and **Mrs Stephen Galpin** and **WO2** and **Mrs Mick Willoughby**. The Master of Signals and Signal-Officer-in-Chief (Army) had arrived just ahead of the Princess. After **Sutina Bright** had presented a posy, the Colonel-in-Chief went straight on to visit a colourful tented arena of sporting, extramural activities and families displays provided by the three independent squadrons in Cyprus: 254 (UNFICYP) Signal Squadron from Nicosia commanded by **Major Ruairidh Rutherford**, 259 Signal Squadron from Episkopi, Akrotiri and Troodos commanded by **Major Danny McConnell** and 262 Signal Squadron from Dhekelia and Cape Greco commanded by **Major Nigel Cory**. Also present were soldiers from 574 Rear Link Detachment with IRRF and families from 602 Signal Troop. HRH is President of the Royal Yachting Association and Patron of the Riding for The Disabled and stands from these organisations in the Sovereign Base Areas were also included.

A feature of the UNFICYP Signal Squadron tent was a display by Canadian signallers of the Squadron who share HRH as their Colonel-in-Chief. The Staff Band of the Royal Signals played throughout. Representative groups of Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts lined part of the route.

Once the Colonel-in-Chief had toured the displays, Commander Communications escorted HRH to North Paramali to prepare for the evening events. At 1800 hrs HRH arrived to a fanfare by her Corps trumpeters at the forecourt of St John's School Episkopi to hear a concert by the Corps Band. An open air arena had been built to provide sea views as the sun set over the Pissouri coastline.

Comd Comms, Lt Col and Mrs A. T. B. Kimber welcome the Colonel-in-Chief in Happy Valley Episkopi

After an excellent programme of music which included marches, an overture and concert soloists, HRH met members of the band and the Headmaster **Mr Geoff Walker**, who had not only provided the site, but agreed to basket ball nets being cut down to improve the view!

After the concert, it was on to the Garrison Sergeants' Mess for drinks with some eighty Warrant Officers, SNCOs and their wives. Many had travelled from as far as Cape Greco, Nicosia and Troodos for the occasion.

At 2000 hrs the Colonel-in-Chief was escorted to the HQ BFC Officers' Mess for dinner with sixty serving and retired officers, and others associated with the Corps. A small number of military guests included CBFC, **Air Vice-Marshal Ken Hayr**, CLFC, **Brigadier** and **Mrs Andrew Myrtle** and the Garrison Commander, **Colonel** and **Mrs Nigel Mogg. Padre Tom Hiney**, the Senior Chaplain said Grace.

Miss Hayley Ashley daughter of Cpl Ashley of 262 Sig Sqn presents a posy to HRH

HRH meets members of the Canadian element of 254 (UNIFICYP) Sig Sqn

After an overnight stay in North Paramali Day Four started early. HRH chose to go sailing and was taken by **Lieutenant Colonel Kimber** to Tunnel Beach Episkopi where the Commodore of the Inter Services Yacht Club **Lieutenant Colonel Rob Yeomans** the RYA Principal **Mr Ray Clarke** and **Major Stephen Galpin** already had a selection of dinghies rigged by the water. HRH took a Laser single-handed boat and spent an hour and a half sailing privately in Episkopi Bay. The wind, usually absent at that time of the morning blew sufficiently strongly to make quite lively sailing.

After this interval the programme restarted exactly on time when the Colonel-in-Chief arrived at the 259 Signal Squadron compound to be updated by Commander Communications on the work of the Signal Squadrons and detachments. From the Colonel-in-Chief's questions it was clear that HRH had a good understanding of the Corps role in Cyprus and some of the technical detail of its operation. After the briefing came a signing of a commemorative scroll to mark the visit to the various Units.

Outside several civilian staff had been brought in from various parts of the island.

First HRH presented a 40 year service certificate to **Mr John Yianovkos**, the Cyprus Telephone Authority liaison officer. Then **Captain Peter Cain** Second-in-Command of 259 Signal Squadron presented: **Mr Alan Bramley** from Communications Branch, **Mr J. Joannides** from Dhekelia exchange, **Mrs P. Christosorou** from Nicosia exchange and **Mrs P. Anastasiou** from 259 Signal Squadron.

This was followed by a brisk walk to view military and communications displays from the Squadrons and Units. Each involved men, women and equipment from all over Cyprus to represent the varied communication and support activities.

After the displays, it was on to visit the main Episkopi telephone exchange, and radio relay system control. Finally HRH paid a short visit to the SSVC Television studio. Here the General Manager **Mr John Campbell** and local engineer **Mr David Young** briefed HRH on the service.

At 1100 hrs HRH drove on to the NAAFI Sovereign Club where the Quartermaster of 259 Signal Squadron **Captain Tony Morgan** had assembled some 40 Junior NCOs and their wives from all over Cyprus, **Miss Hayley Ashley** presented a posy to HRH, before the Manager **Mr Andreas Theodorou** offered coffee. Finally it was back to North Paramali for a private lunch hosted by **Lieutenant Colonel** and **Mrs A. T. B. Kimber**.

Just before 1400 hours Commander Communications escorted HRH to Air House where members of all the visit support agencies were presented. CBFC then escorted HRH to a Wessex Helicopter for the short flight to RAF Akrotiri. On arrival Commander Communications took leave of the Colonel-in-Chief and HRH went on to mount the steps of the Queen's Flight BAC 146 for the return flight to UK.

Sgt Prior of the Cape Greco detachment of 262 Sig Sqn explains tropospheric scatter to HRH

Members of 574 RLD with 1 RRF explain their role in Cyprus

LCpl Bullivant of 262 Sig Sqn demonstrates the jointing of a 100 pair cable

Lt Nick Coldrey of 259 Sig Sqn on the RYA stand talks about dinghy sailing at Episkopi. Mr Ray Clarke, the RYA Principal looks on

– From our "In" Tray –

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM

1987 has been the Diamond Jubilee Year for the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team—The White Helmets.

In addition to being a very busy year, it has also been a very high profile year starting with an appearance on Blue Peter. Next came a demonstration of the Team's skill and Colgate-white teeth in a much screened petroleum advert.

In July, came a three week appearance at the 1987 Royal Tournament, two shows a day, including the honour of performing on separate occasions in the presence of **Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty The Queen Mother**, and **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO**. The White Helmets, came on immediately before the finale; many described them as the 'Top of the Bill'. During the Tournament the Daily Express published a half page photograph of **Jean Rook** on top of the 22-man pyramid. This lady then devoted the rest of her page to an amusing description of broken limbed and gap toothed young men of the White Helmets. She also paid handsome tribute to those 'Wonderful Gentlemen on their Ancient Machines', the septuagenarian riders of the 1937 Royal Tournament Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team, who, during the performances for **Her Majesty The Queen Mother**, and **HRH The Princess Royal** were included in the White Helmets' programme.

The White Helmets' contribution to the Royal Tournament was televised as, two weeks later, was their performance at the 15 day Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo, before their **Royal Highnesses The Duke** and **Duchess of York**.

Possibly the greatest compliment to the daring and skill of the White Helmets in their 60th Year was reflected in the two half hour programmes on BBC (North East) TV, screened in October and titled 'The White Helmets'. The Beeb's original intention had been to make three half hour programmes, on the same lines as their previous series on the makings of paratroopers, RM commandos and RAF pilots. However after the four man BBC production team had accompanied the White Helmets to the Rhine Army Show and on their tour of Berlin, which included filming in both East and West Berlin, it was decided that there was enough material 'in the can' (by then 27 hours) to produce a series of six half hour shows.

But then it was realised that the planned dates for screening would coincide with party political conferences so the project was drastically reduced to two half hour programmes. It was a great shame, more for the four BBC men who had worked extremely hard and got to know every one of the White Helmets and, unlike a lot of the media, had shown themselves prepared to rough it with the Team, in all weathers, at all hours, including sharing the barrack accommodation and messing on some occasions. On the trip to Berlin, when the cameras were put away for the day the men from the Beeb spent their evenings on the town with the rest of the boys.

Judging from the poor response to the call for volunteers for the 1988 Team, a lot of Corps members may not be aware of who or what the White Helmets are.

The Team comprises a captain, a sergeant and up to 35 other riders. All potential members undergo a two week arduous selection course on the gruelling Yorkshire Moors at the beginning of November each year. This is followed by five months of pre-show training, starting on the airfield at RAF Catterick and once the new boys have learnt to steer a bike, narrowing their area of activity down to an arena of 100m by 50m. This training culminates in the Opening Show during which the successful newcomers are awarded the coveted White Helmet by Commander Training Group.

Surprisingly the type of man who succeeds in attaining his White Helmet is rarely a 'bikie'. As the BBC commentator, **Martyn Lewis**, said during the televised showing of the Royal Tournament, just after the Team had executed one of its more frightening rides: 'You need not worry about meeting these gentlemen on the road on your way home tonight, only seven of them have a licence to ride a motor cycle and only one possesses his own bike'.

The basic requirements are: to be Class 2 at Trade, to be keen, reasonably fit and agile, well co-ordinated with quick reactions, to possess an even temperament, an abundance of common sense and to be willing to live out of a suitcase for about four months every year. If you meet most of these requirements and even if you've never been on a motor bike in your life, you may be the man the White Helmets are looking for.

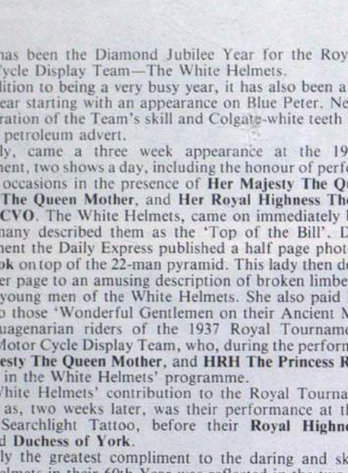
The White Helmets are part of the Royal Signals Demonstration Team, (RSDT) The Quick Silver Teams and, from the 1988 season, the Blue Helmets, the Corps' Free Fall Parachute Team are the other components of the RSDT.

The White Helmets' bookings contracts and accounts are looked after by **Lt Col Freddie Lockwood OBE**, who prior to retirement commanded the RSDT and before that 11 Sig Regt, when the White Helmets were based on that Regiment.

Lt Col Lockwood's own vast experience of the county show scene is reinforced by having in support **Mrs Sonja Ledger**, who has been with the White Helmets for 18 years and **Mr Lionel Brown** who has spent five years with RSDT.

Apart from the salaries of its members, the White Helmets have to be largely self financing and rely heavily on sponsorship. This is the reason why it is not possible to perform at no cost at many shows of a charitable nature, much as all members of the Team would love to do so.

In the course of the season, the White Helmets travel thousands of miles, all over England, Scotland and Wales and to the Continent, using the team bus (which urgently needs replacing—any offers please?). The Team's Triumph Twin 750cc ride and trick bikes, its two Armstrong AMX 500cc jump bikes and the lone Matchless, recently presented to the White Helmets by the makers of the Triumphs, all travel in a 20 ton trailer pulled by a British Leyland T45 tractor. The T45 is very generously loaned for the duration of each season by British Leyland. The third item of Team transport is the Austin Montego; a new model is kindly provided every season by Austin Rover. This features in the car jump at every show.



The wheel's fallen off—mechanics LCpls Gary Hall and Jim Neaves at the Rhine Army Summer Show

Sgt Gary Elliston and LCpls Rick Holmes, Gary Hall and Jim Neaves at Brands Hatch

When the Team is on tour, it has no ancillary staff whatsoever, thus there are no drivers as such for the bus and the Leyland T45, no mechanics, no loaders and no admin staff. All these jobs are done by the riders and the knowledge they acquire in executing these duties for a season or more is then passed on to newcomers. The mechanics quite often have to carry out major surgery to one or more bikes, sometimes between performances.

Ideally a performance by the White Helmets is made up of a mix of very fast (nailbiting) crossover rides, skilful balancing tricks and spectacular jumps (the fire jump and the car jump). Regrettably, on occasions during the 1987 season, some arenas, such as the Berlin Ice Stadium, the Berlin Armed Forces Parade and the Portsmouth Guildhall were not suitable for fast rides and the effect of such limited performances leaves most riders with a feeling of dissatisfaction at not having shown the spectators what they are capable of.

But who were the men who were in the Diamond Jubilee Team, who gave over 100 performances during the 1987 season and how did they perform under the spotlight and with such a barrage of publicity? A large number of very distinguished and worldly wise gentlemen have placed on written record their view that the 1987 Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team is the best they have ever seen in 20 to 30 years of watching performances. The producer and the officer responsible for organising the Royal Tournament have both said that this year's Royal Tournament performance by the White Helmets was the best that they had seen. So the young men who were thrown into the limelight seven months ago have lived up to the high standard and best traditions that their forebears established 60 years ago.

A newcomer to their scene is instantly impressed by their modesty and quiet self-assurance, their professional approach to improving their individual and the Team's performance, and their tremendous Team Spirit, the result of having to rely so much on each other throughout every show.

THE PERSONALITIES

The Team Captain is **Capt Jonathan Turner**, a batchelor, who passed a selection course in 1986 with the other 14 newcomers to the White Helmets. In his first year, the Team Captain does not ride but does the commentaries. **Capt Turner** has done the fire jump at a number of shows and was the top man in the ten-men-on-one-bike 'Bouquet' during the Royal Tournament.

The Team Sergeant is **Sgt Gary Elliston**, in his second year of his second tour with the White Helmets (he was the Team Corporal last year). He is the largest man in the Team and his experience, personal example in most of the fast rides and in a large number of the balancing acts coupled with a natural ability to achieve excellence from others by gentle persuasion, sheer personality and size, have made his a major contribution to the Team's success throughout this important year in its history.

Cpl Charlie Brown the Team Corporal, another second tour man, has also been a stalwart. He too has taken part in all of the rides and several of the balancing tricks. He had a few nasty falls but always managed to get up and get back on his bike. He is an ideas man and with **Capt Turner** and **Sgt Elliston** could be described in the 'credits' as the Team's principal choreographers. They will all three wince at the description.

The saddest feature about any successful team in any sport or activity is that the time always comes to say goodbye to some team members. Unlike a normal unit, where one may well say, under one's breath 'good riddance to X, thank goodness he's leaving . . .', in the White Helmets any man who is not up to it will have departed long before the end of the season. Remarkably enough, in 1987 not a single rider left the Team after initial successful selection.

It is therefore true to say that nine who are due to leave the Team, on posting or leaving the Army altogether have all, by their experience, skill, courage and all those other qualities highlighted earlier, made a magnificent contribution to the Diamond Jubilee Year. They are; **LCpls John Brend** and **Ossie Grady**, and **Sig Dave Torrie**, who seem to prefer sitting on the handlebars of their bikes rather than on the saddles (without holding the said handlebars), **LCpl Jim Neaves**, car jumper extraordinary, mechanic extra-extraordinary and veteran wearer of the black peak (the last man to fall off his bike during any show wears the black peak until someone else does likewise), **Sig Gary Cave** and **Kevin Richardson**, both of whom have amply demonstrated with their wheelies that riding on two wheels is one too many, **Steve Gillard, Chippy Joiner** and **Taff Jones**, who have all been enthusiastic and invaluable experts in the fast rides, and lastly **Sig Jack Torrible**, seen throughout the 1987 season looking the picture of contentment, sitting no hands, facing backwards on the front wheel of his bike, reading a newspaper puffing away at a cherrywood pipe.

In addition to the riding knowledge that they have passed on to those remaining, they are due thanks for all the other skills that they have imparted.

Before the 1987 show season started the choreographers put together a 25 minute programme of fast rides, balancing tricks and jumps for the critical appraisal of **Brig Russell Maynard MBE**. They must have got it right as the Brigadier was satisfied with the programme content and thus the 1987 Show was born and first seen in public at the Official Opening Show at Catterick on 8 May (VE Day—a good omen?). This was, as always, given to an audience of the White Helmets' sponsors and Catterick families. During the show the small 13 man pyramid comprised entirely of first year riders,

Sunny smiles on a sunny summer's day at the seaside (Eastbourne) prior to team briefing

Capt Jonathan Turner on the wrong side of the Brandenberg Gate, with *(right)* our resident BBC camera team

The White Helmets reinforcing the Guard on the East German War Memorial in East Berlin

approached the saluting base, halted, dismounted and were awarded their White Helmets by **Brig Maynard**. The new riders were **Cpls Sean Raftery** (who unfortunately sustained an injury in training and is still receiving treatment), and **John Rea** (second tour), **LCpls Jim Barrie, Paul Boughey, Tony Everitt, Gary Hall, Rich Holmes, Harry Rowden** (second tour), **Mick Raddie** and **Gary Welsh, Sig Peter Hepple, Chris Hayes, Dewi Jones, Martin Kerfoot** and **Darren Parkinson**.

The other members of the Diamond Jubilee Team are **Cpl Paul Kedzierski, Sig Don Brebner**, who achieved a world record of some sort when at the Rhine Army Summer Show he jumped, using only a take off ramp, 20 motorbikes and two cars; **Neil Evemy**, who spends most of his arena time upside down hanging from ladders or standing on his head; **Harry Freeman**, a fast rides expert, and **Geordie Johnson**, who prefers to go around an arena standing with his arms outstretched with both feet on the same side of his bike.

The season is over. Perhaps some of the most poignant compliments that the Team have received have come from people who have been ardent supporters of the Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team for well over 50 years. People like **Brig Henry Crawford**, now 80, who, with the late **Brig Henry Firth**, as subalterns, ran the Corps combined Horse and Motor Cycle Disply in the early 1930s. **Brig** and **Mrs Crawford** were VIP guests at the Opening Show.

Mrs Firth was thrilled with the performance of the combined 1937 and 1987 Teams during the Royal Tournament. In 1985 she had expressed dismay that an RAF Motor Cycle Display Team and not the White Helmets was to perform at the 1985 Royal Tournament. She was assured that the RAF act was totally different from the White Helmets and that she would be invited to come to the Royal Tournament on the next occasion that the White Helmets were to perform; by courtesy of **Lt Col Alec Jackson** of the Royal Tournament organisation, **Mrs Firth** had a seat in the Royal Enclosure for the matinee performance given in the presence of **HRH The Princess Royal**.

The final comment on the Team comes from the grand old men of the 1937 Team who, in expressing their appreciation for the friendly welcome they got from the White Helmets, said '. . . when you meet a bunch of blokes like that—you realise there's not much wrong with the young men of today'.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS—EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS

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

'The Master of Signals, Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army) and all ranks of The Royal Corps of Signals send their warm greetings to the Representative Colonel Commandant, Director and all ranks in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals for their Corps Day on 10 November. We cherish our long friendship and are confident that this will continue for many more years. It is always a pleasure to be visited by members of your Corps and the Master of Signals is hoping to return to Australia for a visit in the not too distant future. Meanwhile we are sure that your Corps Day will, as always, be a happy and enjoyable family reunion'.

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THE 1937 ROYAL SIGNALS MOTOR CYCLE DISPLAY TEAM RIDES AGAIN

For 50 years, a group of the Old Comrades have met regularly over lunch to enjoy each other's company. They are all ex-Dispatch Riders (DRs) and are the surviving members of the Motor Cycle Display Team which performed at the 1937 Royal Tournament.

Over one of their more recent lunches they decided it was time to perform again, at the Royal Tournament, before they and their 1937 Rudge motorcycles became too old. The outcome of this decision is best reflected in the extract of a letter reproduced below.

'. . .28 July 1987 was the day on which it was arranged for surviving members of the 1937 Royal Tournament Royal Signals Motor Cycle Display Team, provided that year by the 56th (City of London) Signals, Territorial Army to make their first appearance at the Royal Tournament for 50 years. In the event the 28th was to be their second performance, their first was to be for **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** on the Tuesday of the previous week, 21 July.

The story of how these splendid gentlemen came to be giving their twice-a-century performance is quite amusing. In May this year, four of them, **Benny Bennett, James Law, Arthur Overton** and **Robin Thyer**, made an appointment to call on the Regimental Colonel, **Col Michael Jennings**, to discuss the possibility of appearing at the 1987 Royal Tournament. **Col Jennings** summoned me to be present.

'Well perhaps we could get some of you into the arena somehow to take part in the final salute' was our opening position, although we were even worried about the implications of that.

'No! No! We want to take part', they replied.

'What exactly have you in mind?' **Col Jennings** asked.

'Well, we've got a 1937 Rudge motorbike which one of us used to ride around the arena and, without stopping, pick up another nine. Suppose we try that again?' the leader of these erstwhile gentlemen, **James Law**, suggested.

'You must be joking' and under our breath 'they're out of their minds'. 'What's the average age of these colleagues of yours?'

'Between 71 and 75' was the reply.

'Impossible. I'll think of some way to get you all into the arena on the backs of the White Helmets' bikes' said I.

'Well at least you might come and look at us performing in Robin's field' (at Henfield in Sussex).

Col Jennings looked at me and I realised I was the one who was going to do the looking. So I made an appointment to visit **Robin Thyer**'s field. I was told wives would be present so I took **Sue** along. There were 11 of these ancient motorcyclists, one complete 1937 Rudge and one incomplete 1937 Rudge. The field had not been cut and I thought that was that. No way!

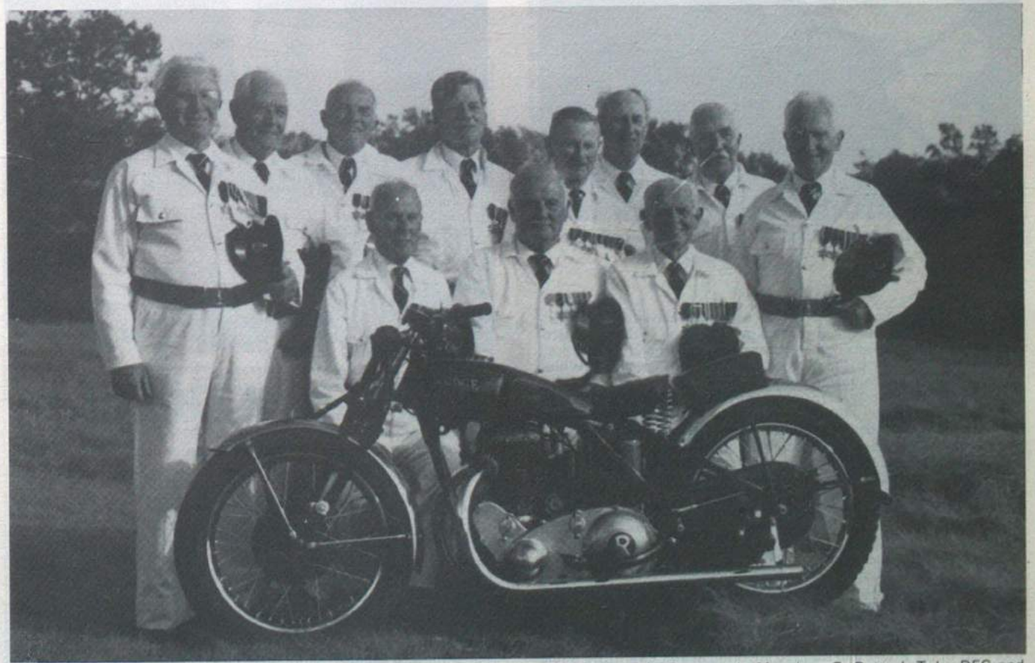
'We'll use **Robin**'s lawn' said **Jim Law; Robin** nodded happily. And that is what happened at that first of many rehearsals. In no time at all, four of the 'lads' climbed upon the bike, one driving, one sitting on his shoulders, another on the pillion and the fourth sitting on the front mudguard, legs were neatly wrapped round other bodies, and round the narrow lawn they went with not a suggestion of difficulty, it was as though there had not been a 50 year interval since their last ride together.

'Super' said I 'you can ride a four-man bike round the arena. The other seven of you to come in on the White Helmets' pillions for the salute'.

'If you come back in two weeks time, we will have six of us on the first bike and another four on the second' said **Jim Law**. We then adjourned for tea, thin sandwiches and cakes, with their very charming, very loyal and 100 per cent supportive wives, who had gathered from all over the South East of England and, in one case a dear lady on crutches, from Worcester.

On my second visit, all 11 were on parade again, although they had conceded that the 11th, a 75 year old, who had a bad motor cycle accident back in 1939 might well come in and out of the Royal Tournament arena in the White Helmets' team car rather than on a Rudge.

Still the field had not been cut, again we were on **Robin**'s lawn, again the girls were there in support. A 'six-up' was soon roaring round the lawn, four men mounted as before with two more perched precariously, one each side of the bike sitting on a piece of wood balanced on the rear mudguard.



Left to Right: A. Bennett, E. Kennard, R. Thyer, A. Overton, B. Barry ISM, J. Law, L. Gasson, A. Meacher, G. Putt, J. Tyler DFC and N. Evans

The remaining four potential riders then demonstrated their ability on the first Rudge. The second Rudge was still minus a petrol tank and its engine was fed, courtesy of a lawn mower petrol tank, held above it like a metal drip feed.

'We'll get a tank for the second bike from somewhere', **Arthur Overton** assured me.

'OK' said I 'a six-man bike and a four-man bike', although the crew of the latter looked decidely shaky at that point. 'Now the question of dress, I'll try and scrounge some helmets for you and . . .'

'We're not wearing helmets, we didn't in 1937, why should we now?' (why indeed?)

'We'll scrounge some Sussex special constables' hats, remove the chequered headbands and get some pre-war cap badges from somewhere'.

In the event, the 'boys' purchased their own boots and white overalls, 11 Sig Regt provided Corps buttons for the overalls and new Blues hats with two chin straps. The Army Apprentices' College Harrogate loaned black plastic belts. The biggest problem was acquiring pre-war cap badges. **Maj Alan Harfield**, the Corps Historical Officer, tried everywhere and found two. **Lt Col Fred Orr** kindly lent two from the Catterick Corps Museum and the 'boys' begged, borrowed or stole the rest.

The subject of personal insurance cropped up, 'we don't need insurance'. On behalf of their wives I insisted they have it. A company was eventually persuaded to insure the 'boys', on the days of performances only, against loss of an eye or a limb and death. The broker laughed for five minutes when I asked about cover against lesser injury; he reminded me we were talking about 70 year old stunt motorcyclists.

Two more gatherings were held at Henfield for rehearsals, again those lovely ladies provided the menfolk with superb apres rehearsal picnics.

Photo courtesy of Brighton Evening Argus

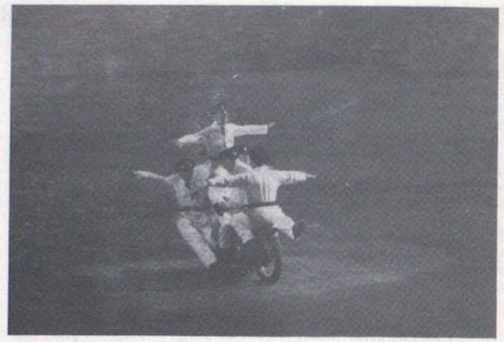
Jim Law gives the final polish to the '37 Rudge before the show for The Queen Mother

The 'boys' then came to Earls Court for three days of rehearsals. Unfortunately we could not always get into the arena so they practised in a very small area outside it, with increasing skill and confidence, much to the amazement and growing admiration of spectating White Helmets and Horse Gunners.

We decided that the 1937 Team's contribution would consist of one circuit of the arena by both Rudges, which would take place as the White Helmets built their big pyramid. For the finale the six-man bike was to re-enter the arena, immediately behind the White Helmets' two flag bikes, which in turn would follow **Capt Turner**'s bike. Five of the 'boys' would then dismount and stand smartly to attention behind their machine, leaving **Jim Law** still astride it.

It was planned that the other five members of the 1937 Team would enter and leave the finale in the White Helmets' team cars. They would pile out and stand to attention as the Armstrong bike jumped over both cars, in concert with all riders rising to attention and revving up their bikes, and **Capt Turner** giving the salute.

After all this 'breath-taking choreography', two of the five 'boys' standing behind the six-man Rudge would double off sideways to the left to mount the pillions of the nearest White Helmets' bikes and two to the right to do likewise. The fifth would climb back on to the rear foot rests of the Rudge and stand to attention as **Jim Law** drove it out of the arena behind the two flag bikes and **Capt Turner** with the other 16 ride bikes following behind.



Six of 'The Magnificent Men on their Ancient Machines' show The Queen Mother that they are as good as when she last saw them at the 1937 Royal Tournament

Photo courtesy of Brighton Evening Argus

The Sussex Contingent *L to R:* Ex Sgt Robin Thyer, Ex Sig/Ex Sqn Ldr Jack Tyler, DFC Ex Sgt Jim Law, Ex Sig Eric Kennard

Sunday 26 July was scheduled for the dress rehearsal, two days before the big day. However all our plans went up in the air when I popped round to the BBC with a script for the televised production that was to be filmed on 21 July.

'Pity you can't have your cameras there on the 28th' said I 'when I've got a team of 70 year olds performing for the Princess Royal'.

'What? You must get them there on the 21st as well', said the 'Beeb'. 'The Queen Mother would love to see them, particularly as she saw them when they last performed in 1937'.

'Can't be done' said I 'the Producer would not allow two performances, and anyway I'm not seeing them until Sunday 26th'.

'We'll handle Michael Parker' said the 'Beeb', 'You get the old boys there and make sure they do two laps of the arena and not just one'.

I rang up **Jim Law** who said the boys would be honoured and delighted to give an extra performance, especially for the Queen Mother. So I ordered them on parade for 1100 hrs on Tuesday 21st (with needles and white cotton to sew their buttons on) and we had a dress rehearsal two hours before curtain up.

Some of the original 1937 team of 30 went separate ways to fight in World War 2. At least three went into the Royal Air Force; one died as a fighter pilot in the Battle of Britain, another died as a navigator, but a third, a bomber pilot, survived and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. He is **Sqn Ldr Jack Tyler**, who was the pillion rider on the six-man bike.

Of the other nine that rode again in the arena this year, two escaped from Dunkirk to fight again, six were with Monty's 8th Army in North Africa, four of those got the Italy star as well, two others got the Burma Star, and the ninth man, the France and Germany star. Naturally all 10 have 1939-45 Stars, TA Efficiency Medals and their Victory and Defence Medals. So you can see, they are a very distinguished bunch.

As none of these modest gentlemen had ever got around to having their many medals sewn onto the appropriate ribbons, let alone being strung together into the correct sequence, it was decided, prior to their first performance for **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother**, that medals would not be worn.

However, as the White Helmets then received belated orders to wear their medals, I telephoned the boys and asked them, please, to wear their medals for **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal**. One of them, **Benny Bennett**, turned up wearing his in two rows, like a Russian.

'Don't worry, I'll just wear the top row' said **Benny**, and that looked impressive enough.

Prior to their performance for **The Princess Royal**, I arranged for six of the 1937 Team to be included in the line up on the red carpet for the arrival of HRH who was amazed to hear from 73 year old **'Tubby' Gasson**, a Dunkirk and 8th Army veteran, that he was actually going to ride a motor cycle in the arena with three other elderly gentlemen clinging to him. Incidentally the whole of the White Helmets' Team, lined the red carpet for HRH's departure that afternoon.

Their performance almost brought the house down. The applause was deafening as they rode around the arena on those two 1937 Rudges. Perhaps the highest accolade these 10 gentlemen received and one they will remember, came from the White Helmets who, to a man, had quietly walked into the arena and stood in a line applauding the 'boys' at the end of their first lap of the arena. At the end of the White Helmets' performance, the applause as the final procession left the arena almost drowned the commentator's words, it was a magnificent sight, **Capt Turner** leading, two flag bikes, **Jim Law** sitting bolt upright on the Rudge, with **Benny Bennett** standing straight as a ramrod on the rear foot rests, followed in file by the White Helmets, the first four bikes with white overalled, blue capped, grey-haired gentlemen as pillion riders, sitting rigidly to attention as the 'young' carried them from their scene of triumph, out of the arena for the last time or perhaps not the last time, you never know with this lot*.

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Immediately after the performance the Old Comrades Association of the 56th (City of London) Div Sigs gave a cocktail party at Earls Court. Among the guests, were our Colonel-in-Chief, the Master of Signals, the SOinC and **Brig Firth**'s widow, **Mrs Firth**.

All the 'ancient performers' attended, still wearing their white overalls and black belts (one of these days I hope to get those belts back to Harrogate). A lot of the Team instantly recognised **Mrs Firth**. After all **'Capt' Henry Firth** and the late **Sgt Maj (later Major) Angell** had been the founders of the 56 Regt Motor Cycle Display Team. **Mrs Firth** chatted to every one of the 1937 Team, and was still full of energy at the end of the Party.

You will be pleased to hear that the Corps was very quick to recompense the 'boys' for the cost of their overalls, boots and insurance, although they were not expecting it.

That, I think, is all the news. The 1987 White Helmets continue to prove that they are, as so many people have written and said, perhaps the best Team the Corps has produced in the last 20 to 30 years. Alas, the season will soon be over and we shall be losing some of these superb young men back to Regimental duty or out of the Army.

* They were to ride again. They appeared in front of the Portsmouth Guildhall with the White Helmets as part of the preview for the Royal Marines Searchlight Tattoo. The members of this evergreen team are **Bill Barry ISM, Benny Bennett, Norman Evans, Tubby Gasson, Eric Kennard, James Law, Alf Meacher, Arthur Overton, Geoff Putt, Robin Thyer** and **Jack Tyler DFC**.

ROYAL SIGNALS DIARY 1988

Stocks of the 1988 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 calendars for 1987, 1988 and 1989, listing of European holidays 1988, an Inter City Rail Plan and the London Underground Map.

The cost of the diary is £1.50 for orders within the United Kingdom, and £1.30 for overseas orders. Please use the order form when placing your orders.

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TOP GIRL CADET FOR 1987— MERSEYSIDE ACF

Top Girl Cadet for 1987 at Merseyside ACF, **Cdt Cpl (now Cadet SSgt) Livens** and **Cdt Cpl Rebecca Hastie**, both R Signals and aged 17 years, are two of the dedicated cadets with Merseyside Army Cadet Force.

They attended Annual Camp at Culltybraggan during August where they were visited by **Brig M. Marples OBE**, Comd 11 Sig Bde.

On their first Army Camp **Cdt SSgt Clare Livens** writes:

'By January 1988 I shall have been in the ACF for four years. During that time I have done a variety of things I never thought possible, such as, rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, rock scrambling and even the Krypton Factor Assault Course.

The subjects covered in the cadets such as Map and Compass work and Fieldcraft are taught in as much depth as they are in the regular Army and even more so than in the TA. Unfortunately, we do not have as much time as we would like to practise them.

A new recruit joining the ACF would expect to go immediately into, drill, history of the ACF, and Skill-at-Arms.

I would recommend any person to join the ACF. It has given me self-discipline and confidence to the level where I now instruct other more junior cadets.'

Cdt Cpl Hastie writes:

'Every year there is always something different at camp, and Cultybraggan was no exception. We were able to try out new Canadian canoes, and senior cadets were instructed on the new cadet rifle. This is an adaptation of the Regular Army's SA80, which most professional soldiers have not had the chance to use. I also went abseiling for the first time. A few years ago, I would have been terrified, but the work builds up self confidence and brings out qualities you never thought you had. Team work always prevails and you find that you are able to overcome even the greatest of difficulties.'

The ACF is not preparation for the army, but it is good grounding both for military and civilian life. Cadets learn new skills, self-discipline, leadership qualities and they build up their confidence whilst being able to enjoy themselves with new friends.

Merseyside Army Cadet Force has three detachments that are badged Royal Signals, and outstanding, is 2 (Royal Signals) Cadet Tp, at the TA Centre, Edge Lane, Liverpool. Commanded by **2Lt Pat Woods**, 50 per cent of the detachment are girl cadets and they prove, every time, that they are at least as good as the boys! **Miss Woods** joined 33 Sig Regt (V) in 1980 and trained as a data telegraphist with 59 Sqn. She became an officer cadet in 1981 and had the honour of being appointed ADC to our Colonel-in-Chief when she visited the Regiment in June 1986. Due to heavy civilian employment commitments **Miss Woods** transferred to the Cadet Tp in February 1986.

Cdt Cpl (now Cadet SSgt) Claire Livens (Aged 17), Top 4 Star Cadet, Top Girl Cadet 1987, Merseyside ACF

Cadet Cpl Rebecca Hastie (Aged 17), Abseiling for the first time at Culltybraggan Camp, Scotland

Visit by Brig M. Marples *(Right)* Comd Merseyside Garrison, Comd 11 Sig Bde at Culltybraggan Camp, Scotland with *(4th from right)* Commandant Merseyside ACF, Col C. G. Davidson and *(5th from right)* Deputy Commandant Lt Col T. E. Jones

Annual inspection of the Detachment
Maj A. P. Groves TD R Signals, SO2 TA Comms HQ NW Dist, seen inspecting the excellent Detachment results with Lt Pat Woods

NORTH TO ALASKA

Off the Pacific coast of North America, in an area of spectacular scenery and virtually unlimited adventure training opportunity, lies Vancouver Island. Running parallel to the West Canadian mainland, this 450km long island covers 3,175,000 ha of ocean beaches, magnificent mountains, lakes, rivers and valleys. This was the venue for Ex *Silver Orca*, an attempt to canoe 1,000km of largely uninhabited coastline.

The organisation began at AMTC Silberhutte with **WO1 Tony Ford**'s idea to take a team on an offshore canoeing expedition. It was to start from the township of Gold River on the west coast of the island and go north to the small fishing village of Prince Rupert, on the southern edge of the Alaskan Panhandle. Everything needed to survive would be carried in or on the canoes. He advertised in the BAOR Canoe Newsletter and the final group that went with him were: **SSgt Don Chester** from the Training Wing at 2 Armd Div; **LCpl Alan Williams** Royal Hussars; **LCpl Nigel Emmerson** and **Pte Ginge Rossiter** both serving with the Devon and Dorsets.

The outward journey took us from Gutersloh via Iceland to Calgary in Canada's southern Alberta. In Calgary we boarded a Greyhound coach for the 14 hour trip to Vancouver. A quick change onto an 'islands' coach took us across on the ferry and then to the town of Campbell River on the east coast. Here we were met by **Gary Richardson** (ex Royal Signals) who drove us across the island to Gold River.

At the local store we bought three weeks of provisions which included an assortment of tinned fish (coals to Newcastle!) and 'jerky' (thin strips of dried beef). These provisions plus equipment were unpacked, waterproofed and re-packed into the 17ft long sea canoes. When laden these canoes can only comfortably be lifted by four men. Charts, batteries and other essentials were posted 400km on to Port Hardy, a fishing village at the northern tip of the island, to cover the journey further north to Prince Rupert.

At 0530 hrs on 27 May 1987, we left the safety of Gold River for the uncertainties of the Pacific Ocean. After paddling for two hours **SSgt Don Chester** remarked that we hadn't seen a bear yet, and if things didn't improve we was going home, so the forest obliged and shortly before beaching at our first camp site, we sat in awe watching a black bear feeding on the undergrowth. Then the bear became aware of our presence and watched us for a short while, before lumbering off into the forest. Was it my imagination, or was there slight reluctance to go ashore that day?

The high winds turned into the forecast gale force winds that finally pinned us down on a tiny island named 'Catala'. We made home in a cave on the cliffs and waited for the wind, rain and unpaddleable seas to subside. **LCpl 'Alf' Williams** specialized in fresh caught sea food which most of us sampled but declined 'seconds'. Whilst on the island came the now immortal line, 'who's coming for a walk?' It was **WO1 Tony Ford**, doing the Rambo impression. We set off at around 1100 hrs suitably armed with some boiled sweets and a packet of nuts, secure in the knowledge that soliders don't get lost on a tiny island measuring no more than 1km by 2km. After coming across some human bones (omens? no, indian burial grounds) we hacked our way through the jungle-like interior and waded through swamp after swamp for hours before dead reckoning, tinged with a little luck, brought us out onto a recognisable stretch of beach. **LCpl Nigel Emmerson** and **Ginge Rossiter**, those two human outboard motors, trudged off ahead to the cave to light the fire. We returned to the cave at 1700 hrs to find no one home; were they still lost? Two hours later they got back having completed two more laps, such energy.

SSgt Chester passing a Canadian Coastguard ship

The weather eased but stayed overcast and windy to provide our first 'epic' voyage on Day nine. The plan that morning was to round Brooks Peninsula and land on the far side but as we rounded the point the full effect of the Westerlies hit us, as we climbed wave after wave. Any hope of landing was out of the question, as we could see and hear the waves breaking from three miles out. We were forced to continue. At 1930 hrs we made land at Heater Point having paddled 33km. Morale had taken a knock having had to make such a long open passage on a quartering sea.

Day 13 saw the ever present wind escalate to storm force and we cautiously entered Lowrie Bay to take refuge. Three days and three nights of continuous rain, awesome storm, surf and a tiny stream, proved too much for one tent, which collapsed; two were washed out, while the remaining two were removed to a clearing in the forest. Despite the rain we managed to observe the niceties, one of which was having a strip wash, stood at a make-shift bowl supported by branches, ankle deep in water at the edge of a rain forest with surf dumping just feet away.

'So who's coming for a walk?', we should have known better, after a quarter of an hour's hike, **Pte Ginge Rossiter** was up to his waist in swamp, the rest of us were up to our knees; accompanied by rain and high winds we hiked through the forest to Sea Otter Cove. There was nothing in the cove except two trawlers sheltering from the storm but, the break from the enforced inactivity had done us good, and before long, the weather had eased and we were back at sea heading for Cape Scott.

Cape Scott is a rugged rain forested area on the lonely northern tip of the island, first inhabited by the Kwakiuti Indians. Violent winds and rain storms defeated turn of the century settlement attempts by hardy Danish pioneers. Now, this area's sole inhabitants are sea birds and mammals, including elk, bear, cougars and wolves.

Rounding Cape Scott in large seas we surfed gratefully into Experiment Bight to make camp. A visit to the lighthouse keeper produced stories of cougars, of a wolf that had taken two of their dogs, and evidence of bears scratching on his front door. There was also news of two fishing vessels that had gone down in the previous two days gales. Part of the two and a half mile hike to the lighthouse was along an old wooden road, built during the war to serve a radar station. **LCpl Nigel Emmerson** is now the only person who, sober, has fallen off a road.

Back out at sea and many nautical miles later we crossed Nahwitti Sand Bar, which is notorious in the area, causing the canoes to bounce through boils and steep waves before spending the night at Jephter Point.

Jephter Point proved interesting because of our first encounter with a bear. It came into the camp site to share breakfast; it left with some gentle coaxing (and without breakfast).

By now we had covered 375km of sea, taken 21 days to do it, but nine of those days were waiting out gale and storm force winds. Pulling into the camp site at Port Hardy, thoughts of a hot shower were uppermost. Because we were nine days late in arriving at Port Hardy the Post Office had thoughtfully sent our parcels back to Gold River, and because of industrial action quoted a probable four day return journey. Without charts and running out of time, our target, Prince Rupert was beginning to look out of reach.

Plan B was put into action. This was to carry on around the coast of Vancouver Island to Robson's Bight, as we still had charts for this area, a coastline dotted with small islands.

On Cormorant Island can be found the Nimpkish Reserve, and everywhere there are examples of powerful Kwakiuti Indian art on totems and paintings. Also found here is the worlds tallest Totem pole, towering to 173ft. Then disaster struck, **LCpl Nigel Emmerson**

SSgt Chester putting back out, after a dinner break, into some worsening weather

and **Pte 'Ginge' Rossiter** came down with food poisoning and were bed ridden for a day, time we could ill afford. Gone was our plan to return to Port Hardy today, with two of the crew sick we would not make it, plan C swung into action, stay put.

Those of the team who were not ill went fishing and while fishing spotted the Killer Whales, rubbing themselves on a pebble beach in a small bay. A good 15 minutes were spent watching them. A further three pods were sighted that day, and were photographed by two of the group.

When our two patients felt stronger we returned through Goletas Inlet, strong flood tides giving some exciting rides. More Killer Whales were sighted, a Minke Whale passed by and one overnight camp was made in an abandoned Indian village. We arrived in Port Hardy, the final stop. The charts arrived but it was too late now, we would never get to Prince Rupert in time to make the return trip to Calgary.

A place was found to store the canoes until next year's expedition and it was now time to clean and pack the equipment ready for the return to Germany. We left Port Hardy and travelled by coach to Victoria, the capital of British Columbia which was established in 1843 by James Douglas, as a Hudson's Bay Company Fort. The following day, with memories of the wilderness crowding our thoughts, we boarded the Canadian Pacific Railway, ready for the 12 hour trip to Calgary, and the flight home.

Silver Orca had been designed to be demanding as well as instructive and amply provided both. Our time at sea had tested everyone's endurance, up to, and over our limits, both physically and mentally. The wilderness taught us a lot about ourselves, expedition work and the need for flexibility. Living closely with others had shown how differently people see and react to danger, either real or supposed. The experience was invaluable and provided fuel for future expeditions.

Vancouver Islands west coast is a place of breathtaking beauty. Green mountains plunge deep into inlets and the Pacific shoreline is dotted with hundreds of rocky islands, where the swells of the ocean break in clouds of spray. Vancouver Island's separation from mainland British Columbia by Johnstone and Georgia Straits has resulted in many mammal species common to other parts of the Province not being found on the island. Rabbits, foxes, grizzly bears and coyotes are absent, while species such as Roosevelt elk, marmots, wolves and the black-tailed deer are different from their mainland relatives. Wolves and Cougar, though present, are seldom seen. The ministry of Forests and Lands manages over 1,800km of trails and several inland canoe routes.

Birds of the area include the chestnut backed chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, the winter wren and the kinglet, as well as the grey jay, stella jay and band-tailed pigeon. The island also has a unique white-tailed Ptarmigan. The bald eagle—emblem of the United States of America—can be seen everywhere along the coast, diving for herring, or basking on the rocks.

Three of the sophisticated native groups of the Pacific Northwest, the Kwakiutl, the Nootka and the Coastal Salish, divided the land between them for hundreds of years. The rich sea and land resources enabled them to develop complex societies and the intricate art forms such as Petroglyphs which are pictures carved into the rock that are now much acclaimed. Then both the British and the Spanish became deeply involved in the exploration of the island and its surrounding waters, an involvement that is reflected in the number of islands and waterways bearing British and Spanish names. In 1792 Spain ceded her interests in the area to Britain. Some 50 years later in 1843, the British Hudsons Bay Company built Fort Victoria, the first lasting European settlement to be established on the island.

Finally in 1871, British Columbia joined Canada. Chinese and Japanese joined Scandinavian and British on Vancouver Island in the mining, timber, fisheries, agriculture and railroad industries. These key ingredients in British Columbia's history have all been important in the development of the island.

GRADUATION DAY AT THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Seen here with the SO-in-C and members of the Directing Staff on Graduation Day, officers of the Corps who have successfully read for Shrivenham (Cranfield Institute of Technology) degrees during 1987 *(left to right)* Lt J. W. Dakin, Lt M. D. W. Alexander, Lt N. J. Borrill, Lt A. H. Campbell-Black, Lt A. H. Mullan, Lt C. C. Richards. *(In front)* Lt K. Whitehead, Capt D. E. A. McAllister

EXERCISE *PACIFIC QUADRANT*

200 (20 ARMD BDE) SIG SQN
Expedition to the Pacific Northwest

During July and August 1987 eight members of 200 Sig Sqn took part in Ex *Pacific Quadrant*, based North of Seattle, Washington, USA. The exercise involved three and a half weeks trail building, creating part of the Pacific Northwest Trail.

THE UNITED STATES TRAIL SYSTEM

For the past 50 years the United States Government, under the guidance of the Department of National Resources (DNR), has been encouraging groups of volunteers to build and maintain a series of long distance hiking trials. Of these trails, two; The Pacific Crest Trail (on the West Coast) and the Appalachian Trail (on the East coast) have been completed. A third trail The Pacific Northwest Trail, running from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean is now in the process of creation. Whilst planning an expedition to walk part of the Pacific Crest Trail, members of 200 Sig Sqn were challenged to help pioneer this new trail.

The PNT is currently made up of a number of old footpaths and dirt roads, ranging from 19th Century Indian trails to early 20th Century logging tracks. In other areas of the projected trail route there are no paths or roads of any sort. Such an area was the west side of Chuckanut Mountain, overlooking Puget Sound, 100 miles north of Seattle.

The party comprising—**Lt Graham Norton, Cpls Andy Ewing, Dave Gold, LCpls Martin Avins, Dave Riley, Wayne Simcox, Dave Watts** and **Sig Ivan Walker** travelled to Seattle via RAF Brize Norton and Washington DC, where they were met by members of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, who had very kindly offered the group accommodation in a barn. After a short rest the team spent a day in reconnaissance of the proposed trail building site. Members of the association had prepared the majority of the route, by staking out a two and a half mile section up the side of Chuckanut Mountain. The following day the trail construction commenced.

TRAIL BUILDING

The DNR provided the expendition with sufficient axes and digging tools for the task. The Trail Association had informed the group of the requirements that the Government makes for a Trail to be recognised as a 'National Scenic Trail'. The main two requirements are:

- The trail must be flat-bedded and at least 3ft wide (not including spill).
- The average gradient per mile must not exceed 1:10.

At first sight these requirements did not appear to be particularly exacting, however, when the expedition was confronted by Chuckanut Mountain (average gradient 1:4) it was immediately obvious that trail construction was not as straightforward as had been hoped. This initial problem was compounded by the fact that the whole side of the mountain was thickly wooded and where there were small clearings the ground was all but sheer and extremely rocky. In the early stages of construction one member of the team was detached in turn to stand on the main road below the trail on 'rock patrol', ensuring that the occasional cars that did pass by were not hit by falling debris. This problem diminished after a few days as the ground became less rocky higher up the hillside.

In order to fulfil the requirements one man was detached from the main group as the initial 'trail blazer'; his task, to remove brush and overhanging trees and plan the exact trail route to avoid excessive gradient and possible land slide areas. He was followed by a team of five diggers who did the main construction work, chopping down trees, removing large boulders and digging in up to 4ft into the hillside. The final two team members followed up providing the 'quality control' element, levelling out and ensuring that all the requirements were met.

During the building the group was interviewed by two television channels and was fortunate to appear on the National Evening News. The unedited videos, featuring over an hour's footage were given to the team, and this is currently being transferred to the British system, in order to create an adventurous training video.

Three and a half weeks, two and a half miles and three switch backs later the 'Gauntlet Trail' named after the Squadron's emblem was complete. The trail has now been opened to the public and is used by local hikers and horse riders, to view the beauty of Puget Sound and Vancouver Island.

'200 Sig Sqn Trail Building Team'
Back Row L to R: LCpl Dave Riley, Matt Carrig (Trail Association), Cpl Dave Gold, LCpl Wayne Simcox, LCpl Dave Watts and Sig Ivan Walker
Front Row L to R: Cpl Andy Ewing, LCpl Martin Ains, Mrs Mary Millard (Exped hostess) and Lt Graham Norton

HIKING AND R AND R

After completing its trail building the expedition spent a few days hiking in the Olympic National Park, walking parts of the PNT that were already in place. The area is outstanding for its challenging hikes and wonderful scenery, and all members of the group thoroughly enjoyed this short phase. After 10 day's rest, (including baseball games against local teams) in and around the Seattle and Vancouver area, the expedition returned to Detmold, again via Washington DC.

FOLLOW UP EXERCISE

Plans are currently afoot to complete a follow up exercise in 1988. The Trail Association have staked out a short length of trail provisionally named the 'Mercury Trail' and hopefully a team will travel to the Pacific Northwest again, in August next year.

Although not a conventional adventurous training expedition, Ex *Pacific Quadrant* proved to be a great success. Each member of the group, left with a sense of achievement at having made a permanent mark in the United States.

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LT COL T. P. O'CONNOR RETIRES

After over 50 years of being firmly wired into the Corps, **Lt Col Terry O'Connor** finally broke loose and retired properly on Friday 2 October 1987. He was given a fond farewell by the staff of Headquarters Training Group at Catterick, where he worked as SO3 G3 Training (TA and Cadets) for the last 10 years. Celebrations began early, his birthday on the following Sunday had to be dealt with as well, and were rounded off by a lunchtime buffet and the presentation of a print of the Headquarters building to remind him of home, and a Black and Decker Workbench to help keep him out of trouble in his retirement.

Terry O'Connor began his career in the Corps at Catterick with F Coy (Boys Training Company) in 1937, where he was still serving at the outbreak of war. In 1940 he moved to Number 1 Command Sigs and thence to 9 Armd Div Sigs. It was there, whilst part of **Gen Eisenhower**'s Bogus Army for Normandy, that he began his attempts to fool some of the people for some of the time; starting with Hitler.

In 1943 he moved to India and served in the 6 and 36 Indian Divisions, then in the Line of Communications Sig Regt poised for the invasion of Singapore. 1946 found him in Singapore, having arrived without getting his feet wet. The exotic attractions of the Far East were soon exchanged for the more restrained pleasures of the School of Signals where, from 1946 to 1951 he served in the Wireless Equipment Group, Tactics Wing and Sig Cen.

The following 10 years saw **Terry O'Connor**'s career advance through SQMS and SSM in No 1 Wireless Regt in Munster and as SSM in the COMCAN Sig Sqn in Malta, to RSM of 1 Trg Regt at Catterick. At the end of his time there, his 'swan song' as RSM was the parade amalgamating 1TR with 12 Sig Regt to form 8 Sig Regt. Subsequently from 1961-1963 he served as RSM of 41st Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment TA in London.

In 1963 **Terry O'Connor** was commissioned and appointed Quartermaster of 66 Ulster Sig Regt TA, a position he held until 1966 when he was posted to Malaysia to form the new Malaysian Army Signal Equipment Tp. A period in Germany followed during which time he was Technical Quartermaster of 4 Div HQ and Sig Regt and SO3 Equipment at Headquarters BAOR during the deployment of the Bruin System. His final post as a serving officer was as the Staff Officer (Quartermaster) at Ministry of Defence Sig 36b where he dealt with Equipment Management.

On retirement in 1977 **Lt Col Terry O'Connor** took up an RO3 post at Headquarters Training Group. He was SO3 G3 Training TA and Cadets and did sterling service for the Royal Signals Territorials and for the Royal Signals Games Club of which many will know that he was Secretary. He is now Vice Chairman of the Catterick branch of the Old Comrades Association and Vice-Chairman of the Richmond Amateur Operatic Society.

Terry O'Connor will be greatly missed around Headquarters Training Group. His irrepressible sense of humour and his helpful approach were of great value when the outside world got a little trying. We, along with many others around the Corps, wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

— Movements —

Officers

OCTOBER 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Capt (QM) R. I. Buckley	22 Sig Regt
Lt I. P. Birleson	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) R. L. Holt	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt (TOT) W. Lawson	MOD ADCIS
Capt G. M. Lewis-Taylor	30 Sig Regt
Maj (TOT) A. B. McMullen	642 Sig Tp
Maj K. K. W. Parsons	QG Sig Regt
Maj V. T. Smedley	HS 11 Sig Regt (Depot)
Capt K. Taylor	School of Signals
Capt (QM) J. N. Turner	8 Sig Regt
Col M. G. Taylor	HQ BAOR
Col G. C. Verdon	QMG's London Staff
Capt S. P. Wallis	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp (International)

NOVEMBER 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
Lt A. R. Blackwell	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt K. W. Bowers	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt R. F. W. Chapman	7 Sig Regt
Maj R. A. Clague	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
2Lt A. Clarke	21 Sig Regt
2 Lt P. S. Cubbin	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Capt M. J. Dent	HS 11 Sig Regt
Brig A. F. Eastburn	HQ Trg Gp and Catterick Garrison
Maj J. M. Edgar	HQ BFFI
Lt M. S. Edwards	School of Signals
Lt K. L. Evans	249 Sig Sqn
Lt P. R. M. Evans	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt W. D. Fathers	22 Sig Regt
Lt M. J. Finch	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt D. B. Hudson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
2Lt G. Inglis	244 Sig Sqn
Capt G. A. James	LSP Oman
Maj (TOT) M. Langford	HS 11 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) G. A. Letori	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
Capt (Tfc) J. E. Lovell	MOD DSS(A)
Lt S. J. Macleod	16 Sig Regt
Lt Col M. J. Macklin	34 Sig Regt (V)
Col A. R. Martin	DSS (AD)
Maj (Tfc) B. McAneny	SANGCOM
Maj (TOT) B. A. Meachin	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt V. V. K. Pandya	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt J. Perrett	7 Sig Regt
Lt P. V. Pople	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt M. J. Prodger	16 Sig Regt
Capt (Tfc) W. Ritchie	21 Sig Regt
Capt A. P. R. Roberts	Misc Appts (Home)
Lt A. H. Rodgers	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt N. P. Selby	7 Sig Regt
Maj V. T. Smedley	CLM Korea
Maj J. W. Stabler	HS 11 Sig Regt
Lt A. J. Stringer	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt J. S. Stuart	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Maj W. P. B. Thomas	School of Signals
Maj P. A. Treseder	243 Sig Sqn
Lt I. P. F. Vingoe	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Lt D. J. Wheatley-Price	28 Sig Regt
Capt D. L. Wise	School of Signals

WOs and SNCOs

OCTOBER 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 (FofS) D. L. Edwards	242 Sig Sqn
AWO1 J. S. Bailes	29 Sig Regt
AWO1 M. Heaney	Manchester and Salford UOTC
AWO1 (YofS) M. D. McCarthy	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 (FofS) S. A. Rogers	22 Sig Regt (Corps Rear)
AWO1 (YofS) R. L. Secker	HQ 2 Sig Bde
AWO1 (YofS) A. D. Turner	RMAS
WO2 (YofS) N. H. Colville	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 R. L. Grant	8 Sig Regt
WO2 (YofS) G. C. McAvoy	233 Sig Sqn
WO2 (FofS) B. L. Randerson	School of Signals
WO2 (YofS) A. M. Sullivan	38 Sig Regt (V)
WO2 (YofS) A. D. P. Shaw	7 Sig Regt
WO2 W. T. J. Woodmason	28 Sig Regt
AWO2 M. J. Campbell	13 Sig Regt
AWO2 G. Douglas	Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC
AWO2 (EWOp) R. Pickup	13 Sig Regt
AWO2 (YofS) L. S. Pilling	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO2 P. M. Watson	233 Sig Sqn
SSgt R. A. Bailey	School of Signals
SSgt J. G. Hillhouse	21 Sig Regt
SSgt D. M. Gaffney	School of Signals
SSgt J. R. Holcombe	7 Sig Regt
SSgt P. J. Honey	21 Sig Regt
SSgt M. James	251 Sig Sqn
SSgt K. J. Leighton	22 Sig Regt
SSgt G. W. Smith	ACDS(OR) Land Systems
SSgt R. J. Stone	HQ BAOR
SSgt J. Topping	22 Sig Regt
SSgt J. P. Wright	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASSgt M. Cox	School of Signals
ASSgt D. J. Edgecombe	262 Sig Sqn
ASSgt K. G. McKenzie	5 (AB) Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt P. Addison	SHAPE
Sgt T. Ainsworth	RMAS
Sgt P. J. Alford	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt B. G. Appleyard	633 Sig Tp
Sgt R. M. Auton	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt S. T. Bennett	225 Sig Sqn
Sgt K. Bickerstaffe	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt B. D. Boomer	251 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Bray	38 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. T. Broadbank	2 Inf Div HQ FWD Element
Sgt G. Clifford	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. M. Cole	22 Sig Regt
Sgt G. R. Dawson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt M. R. Edwards	Int & Sy Gp (NI)
Sgt A. Foster	30 Sig Regt
Sgt C. C. Gardner	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. H. Garner	QG Sig Regt
Sgt J. Howel-Walmsley	244 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. L. Hudson	7 Sig Regt
Sgt C. H. Jacobs	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt A. M. Jenkins	13 Sig Regt
Sgt S. L. Jones	AFCENT
Sgt K. J. Lewis	21 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Morecroft	7 Sig Regt
Sgt K. M. Munnelly	14 Sig Regt
Sgt B. L. McAndrew	9 Sig Regt
Sgt P. Newman	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. J. Piper	21 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Pritchard	21 Sig Regt
Sgt P. L. Reynolds	13 Sig Regt
Sgt H. Richardson	238 Sig Sqn
Sgt J. A. Rose	608 Sig Tp
Sgt P. Salmon	School of Signals
Sgt W. J. Smith	HQ 2 Sig Bde
Sgt D. Styles	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt A. Tempest	30 Sig Regt
Sgt B. F. Walker	7 Sig Regt
Sgt C. S. Warnes	28 Sig Regt
Sgt W. D. Weatheritt	AFCENT
Sgt G. E. Webb	233 Sig Sqn
Sgt V. A. Wilby	33 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt A. A. Wood	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt T. M. Wynn	262 Sig Sqn
ASgt S. R. Brown	8 Sig Regt
ASgt F. C. Campbell	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt D. A. Deegan	11 Sig Regt
ASgt A. N. Eley	8 Sig Regt
ASgt K. E. Emerson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt M. Fairclough	26 Fd Regt
ASgt D. E. Hudson	21 Sig Regt
ASgt S. J. Hughes	249 Sig Sqn
ASgt P. S. Huzzey	40 Sig Regt (V)

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ASgt R. A. Pickering		251 Sig Sqn
ASgt J. D. Ryan		16 Sig Regt
ASgt S. Shaw		Army Apprentices' College

NOVEMBER 1987

Rank and Name	*Unit to which posted*
WO1 A. Crabtree	QG Sig Regt
WO1 (FofS) R. J. Walton	BDLS Australia
AWO1 (FofS) L. F. Brown	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
AWO1 P. J. Doherty	9 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) M. S. Forster	264 Sig Sqn
AWO1 (Supvr R) J. A. Leivers	9 Sig Regt
AWO1 (YofS) J. H. Williamson	28 Sig Regt
WO2 P. Aitken	JCUFI
WO2 (YofS) N. J. Hammett	UNFICYP (BR) Contingent
WO2 (YofS) M. J. Hawley	LSP Oman
WO2 J. E. O. McConnon	9 Sig Regt
WO2 (ORQMS) R. Parkinson	9 Sig Regt
AWO2 (FofS) M. Flaherty	JCUFI
AWO2 A. J. Hibberd	71 Sig Regt (V)
AWO2 (YofS) S. J. McMahon	71 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt (YofS) J. R. Arkley	SANGCOM
SSgt D. Beattie	37 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt M. Bonham	34 Sig Regt (V)
SSgt S. J. Fisher	7 Sig Regt
SSgt W. L. Gordon	225 Sig Sqn
SSgt W. J. Ironside	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt P. J. Rixon	14 Sig Regt
SSgt K. M. Sanderson	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
SSgt D. J. Tennich	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
SSgt D. Wood	2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt J. N. Ardern	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt S. Campbell	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt F. Hutchinson	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt D. W. Mills	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASSgt A. Sampson	239 Sig Sqn
Sgt M. Applegarth	8 Sig Regt
Sgt A. Balderstone	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt P. M. Bartlett	1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
Sgt S. J. Beswick	16 Sig Regt
Sgt R. F. H. Brent	3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt A. G. Burns	632 Sig Tp
Sgt P. R. Cox	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt C. J. Dubique	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt N. M. Godbold	633 Sig Tp
Sgt N. P. Green	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
Sgt D. R. Hall	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. Hopkinson	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. N. Hughes	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt R. H. Ibbotson	Army Apprentices' College
Sgt R. G. Jenkinson	Sennelager Trg Centre
Sgt P. Kerr	HQ AFCENT Sp Gp
Sgt J. E. Miller	28 Sig Regt
Sgt J. A. McRoberts	School of Signals
Sgt S. J. Nickless	22 Sig Regt
Sgt J. P. Ogburn	9 Sig Regt
Sgt M. J. Purdy	9 Sig Regt
Sgt Y. Rouse (WRAC)	13 Sig Regt
Sgt F. D. Shingler	35 Sig Regt (V)
Sgt J. C. Simm	13 Sig Regt
Sgt M. P. Waclawek	QG Sig Regt
Sgt G. Whale	8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
ASgt M. Alexander	8 Sig Regt
ASgt P. Atkinson	HQ 4 Sig Gp
ASgt N. C. Bailey	1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt A. Birchenough	594 RLD
ASgt S. Bullimore	ACIO Leicester
ASgt S. E. Davison	533 RLD
ASgt L. Flooks	562 RLD
ASgt M. Henley	30 Sig Regt
ASgt K. G. Jenkins	4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
ASgt R. W. Oakely	39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
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Hong Kong Signal Company Branch	£ 5.00
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The following donations were gratefully received during October 1987:

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NOTICES

DEATHS

Brown—ex WO1 G. K. Brown—served 1935-1960—died 11 September 1987.
Castle—In-Pensioner H. Castle—served 1922-28 and 1939-45—died 2 October 1987.
Channell—ex WO1 P. G. Channell—died 8 August 1987.
Forbes—Maj F. C. Forbes TD—died 13 September 1987
French—ex Sig J. J. French—served 1941-45—died 30 September 1987
Fry—ex WO1 H. J. Fry—died 18 August 1987.
Funnell—Maj G. R. Funnell—died 26 October 1987.
Gallagher—ex WO1 F. C. Gallagher—served 1942-64—died 21 September 1987
Garbutt—LCpl A. Garbutt—served 1953-71—died 23 August 1987.
Grant—ex Sgt A. D. Grant—died 13 September 1987.
Grigg—Col T. H. C. Grigg—served 1937-72—died 8 October 1987
Lea—Maj J. H. Lea—served 1931-66—died 10 September 1987
Leonard—ex Sgt W. J. Leonard—served 1929-46 and 1952-63—died 16 September 1987
Manners—Maj W. Manners MBE—served 1934-45—died 30 October 1987.
Parkin—Maj J. A. Parkin MBE—served 1942-77—died 20 August 1987
Phillips—ex WO1 J. Phillips—served 1935-46—died 11 September 1987.
Pirie—Capt J. F. Pirie—died 24 June 1987
Rees—ex Sgt H. D. Rees—died 24 August 1987.
Rochester—Capt J. M. D. Rochester WRAC(V)—served 1948-68—died 19 October 1987.
Rowe—Maj A. Rowe—died 25 May 1987
Souter—ex Sig D. R. Souter—served 1938-45—died 7 October 1987
Stephenson—ex Cpl W. Stephenson—served 1949-71—died 5 September 1987.

OBITUARIES

Davies—SSgt (YofS) R. E. Davies. We regret to announce the death of **SSgt (YofS) Robert Eric Davies** on 30 October 1987. At the end of Ex *Keystone*, **Robbie** was seriously burned when his tent caught fire. Although everything possible was done for him he passed away some six days after the accident, at the Krankenhaus Oststadt in Hannover. He was buried in Berlin on 6 November 1987.

Born in Birkenhead on 27 December 1956, **Robbie** lived there until he enlisted on 21 October 1973. Having been trained as a Data Telegraphist, he was posted to 16 Sig Regt. Subsequently he also served in 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, 7 Field Force HQ and Sig Sqn and 229 Sig Sqn, which later became 29 Sig Regt. It was while serving in Berlin that he met his wife, **Ute**. He later served in 249 Sig Sqn before attending No 39 YofS course after which he was posted to 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt in July of this year.

Robbie made lots of friends in the unit and his keen sense of humour was an inspiration to many of us. He was never downhearted and threw himself into his new post enthusiastically. He quickly established himself and was all set for an excellent career. He was well known as a Corps Soccer player.

We extend our sincere sympathy to **Ute** and the rest of **Robbie**'s family particularly his brother **Trevor**, also serving in the Corps and presently with 9 Sig Regt. He is a sad loss to all of us and we will miss his lively and happy outlook on life.

Day—Sig R. Day. It is with deep regret that the School of Signals reports the tragic death of **Robert 'Daisy' Day** following a road traffic accident on Friday 30 October 1987.

Sig Robert 'Daisy' Day joined 1 Sqn of the School Regiment in January 1986 and quickly established himself as an excellent Combat Powerman Driver in Radio Exercise Tp. He had a strong sense of humour which never failed him and when the going got tough he could always be relied upon to raise the spirit of everyone around him.

Sig 'Daisy' Day was very keen on motor sports and as a direct result of his efforts, Radio Exercise Tp entered a team in an Army Road Rally earlier this year. He was also a very keen cyclist and would often set off with his friends in the evenings and weekends to cover huge distances.

'Daisy' had an immense personality, a sense of fun and lived life to the full. He will be sadly missed by everyone in his Troop, his Squadron and all his friends in the Corps. Those members of the squadron who attended his funeral expressed their deepest sympathy to his mother and family.

Hankins—LCpl Roy Hankins. It is with deep regret that 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt announce the tragic death of **LCpl Roy Hankins** in a motor cycle accident on 25 October 1987. **Roy** joined the Corps as an Apprentice at Harrogate in September 1984 in Rawson Sqn. Graduating in September 1986 as an apprentice technician he was posted to 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, and then joined 206 Sig Sqn in July this year. He was an excellent tradesman and soldier and will be much missed by all his many friends in the Regiment.

We offer our sincere condolences to his parents, **Sgt** and **Mrs David Hankins ACC**, and to the whole family.

Haslehurst—Col A. K. Haslehurst TD JP—born on 25 June 1909 and educated at Derby school **Arthur Haslehurst** was commissioned into the TA in 1929 and served in the North Midlands Corps Signals. In May 1939 he was instrumental in raising a unit which eventually became 4 Corps Signals. Following the evacuation from Dunkirk the regiment changed its role in 1941 and became 11 Armed Div Sigs, **Arthur** held the appointment of Second in Command. He was later transferred to 1 L of C Signals and took part in the invasion of North Africa; this was followed by a number of staff appointments including that of CSO L of C North Africa.

After the war he returned to Derby where he entered business becoming President of the Derby Chamber of Commerce, a Tax Commissioner, a Magistrate and a member of the Police Crime Prevention Committee. He also played an active part in Association matters and was President of the Derby Branch. After a long illness bravely borne he died at home on 12 August 1987.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends and our sincere condolences are extended to his widow **Betty**, their children and grandchildren.

Rose—Maj M. A. W. (Bill) Rose TD who died on 18 September 1987 aged 68 will be remembered with great affection by his many colleagues and friends in the Association and Lloyds Bank. **Bill**'s service with the Corps during the second world war—principally in the Middle East and Italy—was supplemented by several years as a Territorial prior to 1939 and post war. Thereafter he was a tower of strength in the North London Branch of the Association and an enthusiastic supporter of the Derby Branch when he moved North with his wife, **Pat**, following his retirement from the Bank. Prior to 1986, when his general health deteriorated, **Bill** had served twice as a Member of the Assoication's Central Committee and gave much valuable honorary help to the Accounts Section of the Association. All who knew **Bill** will remember his great affection for the Corps and his expertise and good humour.

Thewlis—Capt Ann Carol Thewlis (nee Leach). Ann was educated at Wakefield Girls High School and joined the Army as an Officer Cadet in 1970. She was commissioned into the WRAC in the same year and spent her first year of service as a Troop Commander at the WRAC Centre, Guildford. She then passed the WRAC 'Q' Course at the School of Signals and was posted to 242 Sqn in Edinburgh where she was responsible for the operation of all switchboards in Scottish Command. She also distinguished herself there by being elected an Honorary Corps Bandsman, after having played clarinet with the Corps Band at several concerts in the city.

In 1974 she was posted to 16 Sig Regt, serving first as a Duty Signal Officer in the infamous 'Hole' and latterly, on promotion to Captain, as 2IC of 1 Sqn. It was at Krefeld that she married **Capt John Thewlis** and shortly thereafter, resigned her commission to become a 'Corps wife'. A great cricket fan, she turned her attention to umpiring and qualified as a grade 2 umpire, being elected a member of both the Army and RAF umpires'associations. In addition, she was a permanent fixture as the BAOR Corps scorer during the late Seventies.

John retired from the Corps in 1984 and **Ann** quickly set about getting civilians organised. When illness struck her earlier this year she was working as sales manager for a computer installation firm as well as running a Beaver Scout Colony, teaching music at the local school and participating actively in the Ladies Circle. She also had time to be a wonderful mother to her sons, **Michael**, aged 8 and **Andrew**, aged 6. During her illness her outstanding bravery and cheerfulness won her the respect and admiration of all who came into contact with her. Her death is a great loss to her family, her friends and the local community.

Wilson—ex SSgt J. M. Wilson WRAC(V). It is with deep regret that Liverpool Branch report the death of **Jean Wilson** on 12 October 1987. **Jean** was a life member of the Association and a much liked and admired friend. She served with 42 Sig Regt TA at Liverpool, later transferring to 59 Sig Sqn (V) (33 Sig Regt (V)). She will be much missed.

FOR SALE

10 Signal Regiment—Bargain Items—A number of 10 Signal Regiment crested items are still available for sale and are now offered at a much reduced rate:

Regimental Ties—£2
Kagoules—£10
Sweatshirts—£4

Please forward orders to **Capt K. L. Scott WRAC**, HQ UKLF Support Unit, Wilton, Salisbury. Cheques made payable to Central Bank HQ UKLF.

DISPOSAL OF OFFICERS' UNIFORMS—RMA SANDHURST

In the past the Signal Wing at the RMA Sandhurst has been prepared to try to sell second hand items of Officers' uniforms on an occasional basis. This has proved to be so popular that the RSMI Camberley Mil Ext 2431 or Camberley (STD Code (0276) 63344) has formalised a Signal Wing Shop on 'thrift club' lines.

He is prepared to advise on prices and would be happy to hear from anyone with surplus items of uniform. The following are especially popular and sell quickly:

Service Dress, Sam Browne belts, mess kits, hats (No 1, No 2 and No 4 Dress), mess wellingtons, spurs, and British Warm overcoats.

Unfortunately storage space is limited and only good quality items of 'in-service' equipment can be accepted (no battle dress blouses please!). In addition they reserve the right to return items that remain unsold for 12 months—this has never been a problem as demand continues to outstrip supply. Please note that items of clothing should be dry cleaned before submission to the Signal Wing.

ROYAL SIGNALS GLIDING CLUB

Corps glider and hang glider pilots are reminded that individual claims for grants from the Corps Games Club towards expenses during the period December 1986 to November 1987 are now overdue. Outstanding claims should be forwarded without delay to **Maj S. G. Falla** at the School of Signals, Blandford DT11 8RH and include details as outlined on page 491, September issue of *The Wire*.

PERSONAL

Miss Eileen Hobson, an ex Warrant Officer in the WRAC, was discharged from the Army on medical grounds last year. A Data Telegraphist by trade, she served alongside members of the Corps throughout her career. She is now a long term patient in the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital (QEMH) at Woolwich.

Eileen would love to hear from members or ex-members of the Corps with whom she has served. She is always pleased to receive visitors at QEMH and letters from old friends. Unfortunately she is no longer able to write in reply but a letter or a visit would be greatly appreciated. For information she served with the following units:

1969-1970—10 Sig Regt (Hounslow)
1970-1972—252 Sig Sqn
1972-1975—16 Sig Regt (Bielefeld)
1975-1976—233 Sig Sqn
1976-1978—Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn
1978-1979—28 Sig Regt
1979-1980—8 Sig Regt (course tutor)
1980-1983—262 Sig Sqn

CAN YOU HELP?
NO 1 COY AIR FORMATION SIGNALS

Mr Stephen Birtles would like to obtain a copy of the photograph of No 1 Coy Air Formation Signals, reference number 89405 taken in April 1944 by Panora Limited, 56/58 Eagle Street, London WC1.

Any reader in possession of this photograph may like to write to **Mr Birtles** at 7, Squires Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 0JX.

4 COMMANDO—19 AUGUST 1942

Some 250 men of 4 Cdo attacked a battery of guns at Varengeville near Dieppe on 19 August 1942; amongst them were three men from the 'Phantom Group'—one of them a **Capt Sedgley**.

A history of this action is now being compiled and it is hoped to include the names of those involved. Anyone knowing the names, numbers and parent Regiment of the Corps personnel involved is invited to get in touch with **Mr E. W. Jones**, 5 Pentre Dwr, Rhos, Wrexham, Clwyd, North Wales.

CAN YOU HELP?

The sisters of 2345826 **Sig Harold Clifford**, or **(Cliff) Jones** would like to hear from any one who remembers him or served with him in 10 Corps Arty Sigs CMF. They would especially like to know of the details of the campaign in which their brother was mentioned in despatches in the London Gazette of 19 July 1945. Please forward any information you may have to the Editor, the *Wire* at RHQ.

Mr Manderson is trying to obtain a copy of the December/January 1973/74 *Wire* and would be grateful to any reader who is able to help him. His address is 2 Northfield Terrace, Chirnside, Berwickshire TD11 3XY.

REUNIONS

REUNION AFTER 60 YEARS

Early in September 1987, there was a Reunion in Salisbury of some retired officers who entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, (familiarly known as 'the Shop'), in September 1927, as Cadets. 13 ex-Cadets out of the original 84 were present, comprising one Sapper, eight Gunners and four Signals. The Royal Signals representatives were **Brig R. B. Ridley-Martin, W. B. Rowett, Col R. N. Seddon** and **Lt Col W. A. Purser**.

PLANNED REUNION AT WOOLWICH

The Secretary of the Royal Artillery Institution has intimated that a gathering is planned to be held in the buildings of the former RMA at Woolwich on 2 September 1989, to commemorate its closure as a training establishment in 1939.

4 COMPANY WRAC SINGAPORE
ALL RANKS GRAND REUNION

Calling all members of 4 Coy WRAC who served in Singapore from January 1969-December 1971. There will be a Grand Reunion, hosted by **Col Nan Robertson MBE** and **WO1 Dorothy McFall**, on 19 March 1988.

We would be delighted to see you and your families at this Reunion.

Depending on the response and numbers it is proposed that the Reunion take the format of a Dinner or a Buffet Supper. Accommodation will be available.

Those of you wishing to attend please write to **WO1 D McFall WRAC**, WRAC Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford GU2 6HQ by 30 November 1987, enclosing your name, address, telephone number and stating numbers plus accommodation required.

SITUATIONS VACANT

VACANCY FOR NON REGULAR PERMANENT STAFF (NRPS) AFF SERGEANT SQMS 71 (YEOMANRY) SIGNAL REGIMENT

A vacancy will exist from 6 December 1987 for a Staff Sergeant (NRPS) SQMS in 71 (Yeomanry) Sig Regt. This vacancy will be with 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Sig Sqn at Windsor.

Terms and conditions of service are detailed in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Part 4.

The present daily rate of Pay for NRPS Staff Sergeant is £30.23.

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 are to forward the names and address of two referees and a curriculm vitae to the following address by 15 January 1988. Adjutant, 71 (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment, Phoenix House, TA Centre, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7QQ.

All applicants will be notified by post if they have been selected for the short-list for interview by the selection board, which will be held in January 1988 on a date to be decided.

NRPS SERGEANT VACANCY—RADIO TECHNICIAN (MOULD CONTROLLER)

A vacancy will occur on 1 April 1988 in 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (Volunteers) for a suitably qualified radio technician to take up the post as the controller of Mould Network in Scotland and the Islands.

The duties working from 32 Sig Regt (V) in Glasgow under the supervision of the FofS include basic trouble shooting and:

The day to day interrogation of the network and re-configuration as required from the Mould Control Cell.

Liaison and tasking the Contractor responsible for maintenance of Hill Top Sites.

Responsible for the training of the Regiment Mould Tp and occasionsl radio users.

Control and Telephone Interface facility (SP CS 1000).

Liaison with REME workshop for repairs outside the terms of Contract and re-crystalling where necessary.

On Mould matters.

Running the Mould System Control Cell on exercises.

Applicants should have served in the Regular Army as an SNCO and qualified Radio Technician Grade 1, the post carries the rank of Sergeant with daily rates of pay of £26.93.

The terms and conditions of service are set out in TA Regulations 1978, Chapter 6, Para 4.

Applications, including Curriculum Vitae and details of two referees should be forwarded to: The Adjutant, 32 (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), 21 Jardine Street, Glasgow G20 6JT.

Closing date for applications is 1 January 1988. Short list applicants will be expected to appear before a selection board prior to appointment.

RETIRED OFFICER VACANCY IN HEADQUARTERS LONDON DISTRICT HORSE GUARDS

A vacancy exists for an RO3 Tels appointment in Communications Branch HQ London District. Working in a pleasant environment on Horse Guards, the duties cover the whole range of static telecommunications including planning, accountancy and managerial aspects. The vacancy is available from January 1988 and the Appointee will be assisted by a telecomms Network Manager.

Full details of the post can be obtained by writing to Commander Communications HQ London District, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX.

LETTERS

From: Mr Frank Mather

Dear Sir,

The 'France & Germany Star Association' has been formed recently in Warrington, Cheshire, as founder I am trying to get this Association known.

It is open to all ex-service personnel (male or female) who hold the 'France & Germany Star' for service in Europe between the dates 6 June 1944 to 8 May 1945, this includes Allied Personnel who served with the British Forces, during this period.

Most of these people will now be pensioners or in their early 60s, I felt they might have a little time on their hands, and possibly like the opportunity to renew old friendships with comrades with whom they served during the war years.

It is hoped that through the efforts of Members by Raffles, Socials, etc, to form a fund to assist other Members of the Association, who may need it.

We would like to see Branches formed in other parts of the Country, so that a Central Fund could be started, to help subsidise trips to places of Remembrance in Europe or places of interest in the UK.

We are honoured that **His Worship the Major of Warrington** has agreed to be our President.

The membership fee is £2 per annum, a Newsletter will be sent every month to members, also every six months a full list of members. Who knows, you may find friends you lost touch with over the years.

The address to write for information is given below.

Yours faithfully
Frank Mather

23 Swallow Close
Oakwood
Warrington WA3 6PE
Tel: (0925) 819198

From: Capt B. T. Lord MSM
Dear Sir,

Between 1968-70—a then SSM of HQ Sqn 16 Sig Regt received from a relation in the UK, a newspaper photo of the crash of an allied bomber on the main square of Bradbury Barracks, in 1943/44.

In an attempt to help further the history of the Regiment, would the (then) SSM please contact either **Capt B. T. Lord MSM**, or alternatively **Capt M. F. Tucker**, R Signals who is currently Regimental Historian for 16 Sig Regt.

Yours sincerely
B. T. Lord

Chopinstraat 2
5802 HA Venray
The Netherlands

From: ex WO1 H. Craig
Dear Sir,

I have been a reader of the *Wire* since the early war years (when at one time I was *Wire* Notes Correspondent for the Boys Training Coy at Catterick) and continued to subscribe since my retirement from the Corps in 1965.

At first, after my leaving the army, much of the writings were of great interest as names were always being mentioned of Officers and Senior NCO's with whom I was acquainted. Now, of course, with very few exceptions no-one is known to me.

It has occurred to me that a large proportion of your readers must be in the same category as myself, and that perhaps a greater interest could be generated if you introduced a Correspondence Section for ex-members of the Corps.

The sort of thing I have in mind is, say, letters from retired members indicating their experiences on returning to 'Civvy Street', ease or difficulty of finding employment, whether their Signal Training helped, unusual jobs, success stories etc.

Yours faithfully
H. Craig

43 Wellesley House
Churchway
London NW1 1LL

REPORT FROM ULSTER

8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 807

An action issue this month. The front cover showing our Rover Group armed with SA80 is supported by an article from Comms Troop, whose members comprise the Rover Group teams. We move on to a VIP visit, a report from Technicians and Riggers and end this issue with a promising article on our football team progress. We could well be in for some trophies this season. But first, to business.

ROVER GROUP
A report by 2Lt Hutchinson

The last four months in Londonderry have been extremely busy for our Troop and especially for Rover Group. Battle Camp is now over and the winter months are drawing in. This is the time when Rover Group get down to some serious training.

Rover Group consists of 16 men, divided into two shifts, four men in each vehicle. They are Royal Signals or RPC badged. They are armed now with SA80 and are the first Royal Signals unit to be so equipped.

Every Monday and Tuesday, the 'off shift' can be seen training in preparation for a week long shift. Under the watchful eyes of **LCpls Mac McCarthy, Kev Haines** and **Derek Hoggart**, the Rover Group is put through its paces practising anti-ambush and anti-sniper drills. IAAG are a particular concern at the moment though pose no immediate threat. In addition to practising drills, revision has to be done on terrorist recognition and the use of the blue and yellow cards. Once the training period is over the Rover Group is thrust onto the streets of Londonderry fulfilling its main tasks of supporting the Resident Battalion and acting as the Commanders' 'Green Team'. In recent months 'harmless' pink paint missiles are the worst the lads have faced though in April/May the acid bombs started. Stoning is quite common place and as mentioned, the IAAG is coming to the fore. Alertness is obviously a qualification required!

Whilst on duty the life of the crew is not easy. They are on call 24 hours a day, the price you pay for being at the sharp end. However all those who participate find it is a demanding job but enjoy the interest and challenge it brings. Even the OC has been seen to don his combats (Yes, he does possess some) and do a stint on Top cover.

The job then is exacting but immensely rewarding and satisfying. Could you meet its demands? Ask for a posting to us.

VISIT BY GOC N IRELAND

On Tuesday 22 September, the GOC NI, **Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe KCB, MBE,** visited a hill top site within the Brigade area. He was met by the Sqn Comd, **Maj Hope** and the RQMS, **WO2 Redman** (Will the RSM ever be around on a visit?)

Throughout the morning preceding the visit we were all praying for good weather. However once on the hill top site the wind blew and then blew harder and there were a few sighs of relief once the GOCs helicopter had landed safely. After watching a brief rigging demonstration the GOC was led into the warm confines of a work hut where he was briefed by **Sgt Cumming** on the flexible use of transportable talkthroughs in our area.

The floor was then handed over to **Sgt McKittrick** who, supported by **Cpl Hornby,** demonstrated the uses of a Tac HQ. From the Tac HQ the GOC proceeded by vehicle, chased by the RQMS on foot (if only the camera had worked) to meet the Cordon Troops commanded by **LCpl McCarthy** and **Sig Scott.** By now the weather was starting to close in and as the OC bade farewell to the GOC, the rain came.

MIKE TROOP
A report by Cpl C. J. Brown

As usual Mike Tp has been kept very busy. Apart from our normal work the TE Techs and Line Section have brought Brinton on line and taken over responsibility for Vengeful maintenance and repair. Radio and Rigging Sections have not been standing still. Repair and maintenance of all Cougar sites in the TAOR, support to outside agencies and assisting in the installation of Phase 4 all make for a very complete day's work.

Notwithstanding the work load, Mike Tp has still been able to send people on courses. Is there no end to its adaptability? **Cpls C. J. Brown** and **Stevie Nix** have had a harrowing four weeks of EPC. **Cpl Andy 'MT' Foster** still has this dubious pleasure to come. **LCpls Sean 'Miami Vice' Boyd** and **Andy Dawson** are off soon for his two week's rest doing Brinton Conversions. **Sgt Ian 'Zippy' Drinkall** is at present doing his RSSSC in 'Sunny' Catterick (our definition of Sunny is a place where it only rains for 364 days a year). **Cpl Jim McNaught** has successfully completed the CASC at the same holiday camp enjoying many a good run ashore into Lincoln into the bargain. **Cpl 'Drill-Mad' McNulty** is soon to go on his RSDCC, we wish him luck—may his gods, and the drill he used to such devastating effect whilst doing some DIY on a car, go with him. If this leaves you scratching your head, you'll understand when we state that the owner got nine gallons to the mile before he found out what had happened. Was he furious! Finally to show all courses haven't been work related, **Sgt Andy 'I never get leave' Johnson** and **Sig 'Fatboy' Drummond** spent a week sailing and **WO2 (FofS) 'Noddy' Baugh** is soon to spend time running around the mainland with a compass in hand, orienteering.

Congratulations go to the following—**Sgt Mick Brown** and **Cpl Jim McNaught** on their well earned promotions. To **Cpl Jim McNaught** (again) and **LCpl Andy Dawson** on forthcoming nuptials and to **Sig Tony 'Nuts' Squirrell** on the birth of a baby Squirrell.

We won't say hello's and goodbye's except to mention that we've lost our first (and the 2IC says the last) earring merchant.

FOOTBALL
A report by SSgt McMillan

The Squadron has not as yet played a single game in the NI League. Our first match is on Saturday 3 October in the NI Minor Units League against 175 Pro Coy at Clooney Base. The Squadron has however played in four friendly matches and competed in the NI Six-a-Side Competition.

The fixtures and results are as follows:

Versus 655 Sqn ACC: Won 4—1
Versus HQ Coy 1 Green Howards: Won 3—1
Versus 176 Pro Coy RMP: Won 3—2
Versus MT Plt 1 Gren Gds: Won 6—1
NI Six-a-Side Competition: Quarter Finalists. Beaten on penalties

As can be seen from the results alone the Squadron hopes to give a good showing in the NI League this year and have a fair-sized squad. This is essential as it is unusual to be able to field the same team regularly because of the Squadron's operational commitments. The squad to date is as follows: **WO1 (RSM) Hudson** (manager); **WO2 (FofS) Baugh** (Coach); **SSgt McMillan** (Gofor); **SSgt (ORSQMS) Wood; Sgt Parkes; Cpls McNaught, Jackson, Oakley, Speight, Branson; LCpls Bloyce, Cameron, Haines, Wallace; Sig Ptes Gambino, Goodhand, Hollingsworth, Petre, Squirrell** and **Batten.**

Hopefully there will be a lot more success to write about or have we spoken too soon?

AND FINALLY

We ran a caption competition a few months ago and received a good response. This one is No 110. Returns to QM 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt. Our caption which typifies our often 'seat of the pants' lifestyle, is under the photo. Incidentally, farewell to our QM, **Capt Brian Young** and his smashing wife, **Judith.**

'Quick Jim, the ruddy wallpaper has struck to my fingers and the SOinC will be here in 5 minutes.' (True story)

39 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn
BFPO 801

OPS SUMMARY

It has been a quiet autumn for the Squadron with at least 25 per cent of the manpower in Barracks at any one time. With the lull in operations we have taken the opportunity to carry out much needed repair and maintenance work throughout the Brigade area. Despite this, Heli-Tele has been regularly deployed and Comms Tp teams have been extensively employed in trials in South Armagh and Belfast.

With the recent (and impending) arrival of new Roulement Battalions the Squadron is gearing itself up to deal with the questions and minor problems generated by new arrivals. This is an inevitable factor due to the 'learning curve' involved with a unit meeting Cougarnet for the first time.

SHQ TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Hugh Hancock**
2IC	**Capt Nigel Wood**
AO	**Capt Ivan Patrick**
RSM	**WO1 Mal Boor**
YofS Ops	**WO2 (YofS) Joe Haldone**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt Alan Fiddes**
Trg Sgt	**Sgt Andy Waldron**
Clerks	**Cpl 'Nobby' Clarke** **LCpl Paul 'Toyboy' Wicks** **Sig Alan 'Geordie' Jones**
Typist	**Miss Annette 'Snopake' Campbell**

We would like to welcome **Sig 'Geordie' Jones** who recently arrived from 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and say farewell to **Sig Phil Timmins** on his discharge and wish him the best of luck in his future career.

Congratulations are in order for **LCpl Paul Wicks** who has recently passed his driving test at his first attempt, but see the Footnote!

WO1 (RSM) Mal 'I've got a suntan' Boor recently attended and passed his rugby referee's Course and is now doing the circuit around the Province closely followed by **LCpl Paul Wicks** and **Sig Phil Timmins** who are Football Association Referees. This causes a problem for the Chief Clerk **SSgt (ORSQMS) Alan Fiddes** as his manpower spend more time on the football pitch than in the office, but he can still consult the Oracle **Cpl 'Nobby' Clarke** (when he is not in the Horseshoe Club fixing the fruit machines).

FOOTNOTE

The Chief Clerk and **Cpl Clarke** are trying to stop smoking (without much success). After passing his driving test **LCpl Paul Wicks** signed a vehicle out from the MT and duly dented it trying to get out of the parking space much to the disgust of the MT Sergeant.

RQMS'S DEPARTMENT

We are hoping for a quiet period, as we say goodbye to **WO2 (RQMS) Terry Hughes** and his wife **Lyn;** we wish them all the best in their new posting to 21 Sig Regt. Goodbyes also include **Sgt Peter Laing** and family who have rejoined the RAOC.

We welcome in a new form of management in **WO2 (RQMS) Fred Payet** and **Sgt Martin Stevens RAOC** and hope they have a successful tour.

Happiness blooms for **Sig Neil 'Frankie' Franks** who has recently tied the knot with **Sharon** and goes on posting to 262 Sig Sqn in October.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

A special congratulatory message must go to the Squadron's cricketers this month, as they continued to beat all comers in the Northern Ireland Minor Units League and take the title at the season's close. They celebrated by beating (slaughtering!) their close rivals 233 Sig Sqn by seven wickets shortly after the culmination of the league.

The Squadron has formidable soccer, hockey and rugby teams and should be a match for any minor unit in the province this winter.

The Squadron took an active part in the Garrison Fete this year, by entering a team in the 'It's a Knockout' Competition and running various stalls in the arena. This included a special stand in which members of the management were placed in stocks for all to throw wet sponges at.

RADIO AND POWER SECTION

The section has had a few interesting jobs of late and members handled themselves well in all cases. Two communications trials have been a prominent feature.

Firstly **Lt Beard** and **Cpl 'Mitch' Mitchell** ably assisted by **Dog Prinz** patrolled the undergrowth in the Camlough Ward, to sort out the problems that 1 RGJ were having.

Secondly those two war veterans **Cpl '1033' Ferris** and **LCpl 'Taff' Donne** spent several days and nights aiding 2LI in West Belfast. Well done.

LCpl 'Taff' Donne (he has been on duty) and **Sig 'Spike' Harding** were deployed to Slieve Croob this month to provide emergency power for the talkthrough site (it must be their electric personalities). **Sig 'Titch' Colquitt** has been happy at work being looked after at NIRTT for the last month.

Heli-Tele has recently made headlines and not only for the invaluable assistance that it gives to commanders on the ground, but more recently in gaining the hearts and minds of the locals in West Belfast. The vehicle seemed to take a course of action on its own as the 'owner' **Cpl Dave Whittaker** struggled to pick up the pieces of a once serviceable mast much to the amusement of the locals.

ROVER GROUP

Rover Group has been out and about collecting bricks and bottles from the locals in West Belfast and even some polite comments from the Chief of Staff, HQNI. This was a hectic round to introduce the new Deputy Commander, **Col Colin Denning,** to the patch.

During the last two months the following have been members of the team: **Sgt Bunt, Cpl Mellett, Cpl Roundtree, Cpl Young, LCpl Cooper, LCpl Molyneaux, LCpl Burton, LCpl Baker, LCpl Williams, LCpl Pronger, LCpl Wardman, LCpl Eaton, Pte Beckett, Pte Mottley, Pte Graham, LCpl Skeels, LCpl Clark, LCpl Cockbain.**

Some of the more active members of the group are again in the news with three making headlines. **LCpl 'Stud' Clark** must be the only member to wear his INIBA jacket at all times. **Pte 'Swiftly' Mottley** is the only man to get a Golden Blanket Award while on escort duties; in his defence we can say that he had already been up for five hours. **Pte 'Katz' Beckett,** one of the few with an open leave pass—he needs the rest after all the sleepless nights his football teams give him.

COMMUNICATIONS TROOP
SYSTEMS SECTION

All departments are ticking over smoothly under the eagle eye of **SSgt (YofS) Jones.** With the busy period of the marching season over, we now move into a state of transition whilst RTgs are replaced by DTgs for Commcen working.

Remaining RTgs, will in their tour, also try their hands at an EOD course to fulfil the posts in our brigade area.

The Cougarnet system is now well and truly tried and tested and is performing well, and the technical team managing to keep on top of the faults. Strangely, the quietest period seemed to be whilst the YofS and FofS were both on leave.

The Commcen under the guidance of **Cpl Phil Fluck** manages to keep up with the rejected messages that the AMS keeps churning back.

The Crypto Cell says goodbye to **Sgt Jimmy Johnston** who departs for Hong Kong via the Falkland Islands. Also congratulations to him and his wife **Dale** on the birth of their daughter **Katie**. Goodbye also to **Cpl Keith Emmerson** to Hohne on promotion to Sergeant, which leaves **Cpls Dan Locker** and **Paul 'Cissa' Carr** to carry on the golfing tradition.

More departures in this transition period are **LCpl Kev 'Red' Jones** to 14 Sig Regt. **Sig 'YofS's right hand man' Stan Ogden** to 22 Sig Regt on promotion. **LCpl Neil Stewart** and wife **Trudy** to 2 Inf Div, **Sig Al Perrie** to 211 Sig Sqn on promotion to Lance Corporal and wife **Beth,** and lastly **Sig Dave Churchward** and wife **Nikki** to civvy street.

Congratulations to **George Best** on promotion to Corporal and **'SAS' Maclean** on promotion to Lance Corporal.

TM TROOP

Business has been brisk as we tried to complete a lot of work in the summer—at the same time as everyone tries to get their leave.

TE SECTION

The section has become busier as work gets re-allocated from across the sports pitch. Welcome to **Cpl John Ramsdale** from 22 Sig Regt and congratulations to **Sgt 'Bucks' Buckingham** on his recent engagement to **Julie.** It was good to catch sight of **Sgt 'Dinky' Tatman** between adventure training 'swans', sailing and canoeing. The workers—**Cpls Vince Connolly, Dave Covey, Les Dawson, Taff Morris** and **LCpl Mick Simcock,** even interrupted their card games without complaint to respond to operational calls.

Congratulations also to **Cpl Les Dawson** on his promotion and we hear **Cpl Vince Connolly** is now out of quarantine.

RADIO SECTION

Firstly, farewell to **Sgt John 'Overhang' Walmsley,** good luck to both him and **Julie** on their posting to Brize Norton and to **Cpl 'Boy' Dave Evans** who escapes on his T1. Congratulations go to **Sgt Keith 'Stumpy' Wilkinson** and **Sharon** on the birth of their daughter **Lindsey,** to **Sgt Ian Horton** and **Allison** on their marriage and best wishes on the Foreman's course **Ian,** also to **LCpl 'Sprudel' Murphy** on his much worried-over promotion—it was the hypnosis that did it. Congratulations **WO2 (FofS) Tony McMahon** on repairing your blow drier, but how will you get your beret on?

Quietly working away has been **LCpl Gordon Mundie** and when caught—'What me again?'—**Cpl Danny Boon.** We would also like to welcome back from Jamaica **Sgt John Hagger, Cpl Taff Morris, Cpl Jock Dear** and **Sig 'Big Jim' Gibbins**—the sun tans aren't very covert though lads—not to worry they'll soon fade in Ireland.

Finally a mention for the Troop Staffie—**SSgt Mick 'How much do you thinks it's worth' Partridge** cooking the books efficiently in the workshops, whilst endeavouring to keep the AO, **Capt Ivan Patrick** on his toes.

TELEMECH SECTION

The overworked and underpaid section of TM Troop is having a hectic time at the moment and has had to pool its resources with the rigging section on several occasions. But when it became so spread out that **Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell** was the only one left to do Fort Whiterock piped video, he scoured the Squadron for a crew. He came up with two helpers, **WO1 (RSM) Mal Boor** and **Sgt Keith 'Stumpy' Wilkinson.** In between eating enough for the whole crew **WO1 (RSM) Boor** and **Sgt Wilkinson** did good impressions of ferrets in the roofs of Fort Whiterock tracing cables. (Works Report: Not bad workers with the correct supervision).

While this was on **LCpl Jimmy Fearon** and **Sig 'Touche' Hadfield** were busy doing car fits in Bessbrook and Armagh (**'Touche'** was also busy leaving half the van behind in Keady!). **LCpl Willie Morgan** was away on 'another' resettlement weekend and **LCpl Mac McGowan** was away getting married to **Sarah**—congratulations and welcome.

Also during the period the section has intalled new intercomms at Armagh and Holywood; put cables in for 233 'Sssh—you know who' Sig Sqn again at Armagh; redone the video system at Keady (hence the paint job on the van); fitted in Intercomm/Barkway faults at the Maze, Crossmaglen, Lisburn, Bessbrook, Windsor Park, Broadway Towers and still made it for the Happy Hour!

RIGGER SECTION

Sad days these for the riggers, as the small section is totally posted in the space of a couple of months—farewell, thanks and best wishes to **Cpl Kev Smith** and **Jan, LCpl Mark Sala** and **Tracy** and **Sig Martin Breckenridge. Cpl Steve Coulson** and **Sig Jim Gibbins** are staying for a couple of months to show all the new lads around. The riggers are the guys who see most of the province, in often appalling conditions—Cbt Lmn with Ptarmigan will never be the same again.

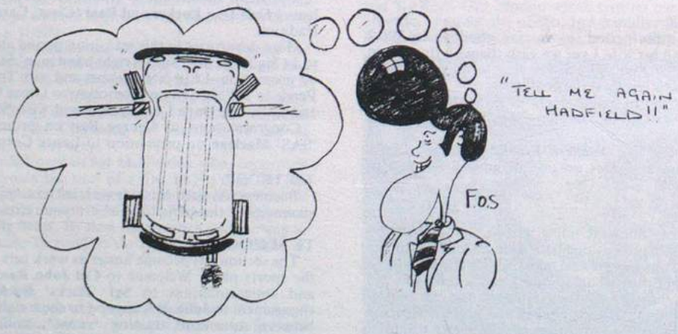
ROYAL SIGNALS SERGEANTS MESS DINNER NIGHT

An event unique to the Province took place on Friday 25 September in the Lisburn Garrison WOs and Sgts Mess. A Sergeants Mess Dinner Night was arranged by **WO1 (RSM) Mal Boor** and **WO2 (SSM) Pete Doherty** of 233 Sig Sqn. A total of 85 WOs and SNCOs from various units within NI sat down to dinner with the guest of honour, **Lt Col M. W. H. Roberts MBE,** Comd Comms Northern Ireland. Even the musical entertainment was supplied by a Corps unit, that is the flute band of 40 Sig Regt (V).

Before sitting down to dine a commemorative photograph was taken to mark the occasion. After wining and dining **Lt Col Roberts** reminded his audience of the long and distinguished part which the Corps has played in Ulster.

No doubt inspired by this, the post dinner mess tug-of-war was hotly contested, with the Commander's select team being runners up to 233 Sig Sqn's team. It was unanimously agreed that the event was a great success and that it should become an annual event in future years.

Cpl 'Yogi' Cauldwell and Sig Big Jim Gibbins putting up an antenna at Divis Flats



233 Sig Sqn (NI)
BFPO 801

FROM THE ASHES OF VICTOR AND WHISKY TROOPS—INDIA TROOP EMERGES

Victor and Whisky Troops paraded for the last time at 0845 hrs on Tuesday 1 September 1987. The parade was taken by OC Sqn, **Maj Parfitt,** who inspected both troops and then made a short speech in which he mentioned the contribution made by both troops to the security of the Province and the campaign against terrorism. On the OC's word of command **Capt Kevin Taylor** and **SSgt Dave Vince,** OC and Troop Staff Sergeant of Whisky Troop, then marched off the parade and the remainder formed India Troop. **Maj Parfitt** said a few more words to mark the formation of the new Troop and then everyone present fell out for photographs and a glass or two of sherry.

The OC asks Pte Pinder how she feels about giving up the Whisky and becoming an Indian!

The work of the new Troop will be identical to that done by Victor and Whisky, and the old Troops live on as Victor and Whisky sections, each of which will have its own Yeoman of Signals. The most obvious effect of the amalgamation so far has been the unprecedented success of India Troop in the Squadron summer sports competition, with the possibility of toppling sporting giants such as Admin Troop and Tech Troop.

The choice of a name for the new Troop was a difficult and controversial one, and the reasons underlying the choice of 'India' and the rejection of proposals such as 'Bravo', 'Beetle', 'Eagle' and so on will be left for discussion and analysis in the Squadron Club during the long winter evenings to come. The official explanation of 'India' is that the initial letter stands for Information Technology which is what the Troop is about. The new plaque will depict an eagle clutching a rat in its talons, the eagle coming from the Victor Troop plaque and the rat being associated with the nickname for a Whisky Troop equipment. This motif will be printed in the *Wire* just as soon as somebody has been found who can draw it—the current version looks like an eagle flying off with a sock!

VIP VISITS

September was a busy month for the Squadron with two VIP visitors coming to see the unit at work. On 2 September the outgoing COS HQNI, **Col C. M. S. Kaye OBE,** made his final visit to the Squadron. Despite last minute changes—a usual occurrence on these occasions—the visit went well and **Col Kaye** saw as many of the workers as possible. He was presented with a print of the Divis Mountain radio site as a memento of his tour. Following closely on this visit we then hosted the GOC Northern Ireland, **Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe KCB, MBE,** on 22 September, as part of a day spent seeing

The OC, Maj Peter Parfitt, presents the outgoing COS, Col C. M. S. Kaye, with a Divis print—Capt Ted Flint stands by ready to help him

India Tp on parade. Note well as it may never happen again!

all of the Royal Signals units in the Province. After touring the elements of the Squadron in Lisburn the GOC was hosted to lunch on Divis by the Officers. Thanks to the stalwart efforts of the AAO, **Lt Denise Carter,** the lunch was a great success. One footnote to this visit, which cannot be left unmentioned, is the OC's recce to Divis on the previous day. Access to the site was by helicopter only at this time and the OC, **Maj Peter Parfitt,** had managed to secure a lift up to check on the arrangements for lunch. As the afternoon wore on the mist began to close in and half-joking comments were made that perhaps the OC might not get down that day. At about five o'clock a distraught 2IC walked into the SSM's office. 'I think we had better run through tomorrows programme Sergeant-Major—the OC's stuck on Divis!' As it turned out the weather cleared and the boss was returned to civilisation by courtesy of the AAC later that night. The 2IC had proved that praying sometimes has the desired effect.

HANDOVER OF SSM

We should take this opportunity to say farewell to **WO2 (SSM) Pete Doherty** who moves on promotion to 9 Sig Regt in pursuit of sand, sea and the quiet life. We wish him well in his new posting and offer our thanks to both him and his wife **Jackie** for their unstinting hard work and loyalty over the last two years. To mark the occasion a buffet supper and social evening was held in the Peake Inn for all of the Officers, WOs and SNCOs of the Squadron. The Senior Ranks presented him with a crystal decanter and glasses, and the Officers gave him his first tool with which to carry out his duties as RSM—a Filofax! It is hoped that this will allow him to organise all his free time to best advantage. Another presentation was made from all ranks of the Squadron at a happy hour in the Peake Inn on Friday 9 October. **Cpl Chris Meehan** handed a silver letter tray to the SSM, who, for once, was almost lost for words. The Squadron also extends its welcome to **WO2 (SSM) Pete Watson,** newly arrived from 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt, and wishes him all the best for his tour.

RANGE DAY—MAGILLIGAN TRAINING CAMP

The 2IC and training officer, **Capt Ian Westerman,** having meticulously prepared this years battle camp, wept inconsolably as his well laid plans fell apart owing to operational commitments. However, rather than cancel the battle camp in its entirety it was decided to run a training day at Magilligan camp which would encompass grenade throwing and a search awareness lecture/demonstration courtesy of our friends from 33 Field Sqn (RE) at Antrim.

As usual the weather made itself felt. Fortunately the engineer presentation was indoors and after a number of bangs and a series of gory videos the soldiers were well prepared for their session on the grenade range.

SSgt Bob McMahon, fresh from his Warminster course, was keen to ensure his first grenade throwing practice went off without a hitch. The soldiers were treated to one of his usual one-man comic shows and demonstrations of how it should be done.

'Now throw it away'—the SSM supervises the grenade throwing at Magilligan

With **SSgt Bob McMahon** orchestrating affairs and **WO2 (SSM) Pete Doherty** conducting and throwing, the afternoon progressed steadily and uneventfully until the 74th grenade out of the batch of eighty was thrown. There was that eerie silence that every grenade range conducting officer dreads—the blind. The silence was broken by some words uttered by **SSgt Bob McMahon** as he climbed slowly down from the relative safety of the tower to tackle the offending grenade. Needless to say **SSgt 'Guns' McMahon** dealt with the blind admirably and we all returned safely to Lisburn. However, for several weeks after we had to suffer the endless telling of the tale with much gusto of how the blind had been dealt with by **'Guns' McMahon.**

WRAC INTER UNIT SKILLS DAY

'Must be time to organise this year's Drill Competition Ma'am', came the cry from the GSM. For the past three years, as many ex 233 girls will remember, the main WRAC Inter Unit Competition for the year was indeed a drill competition, which involved many off-duty hours of practice and which reached an all time high in last year's competition. Could we possibly better that this year? Would **Sgt Karen Wooding** ever forgive me if, after fighting to get her husband posted here, we insisted she spend an hour each night drilling the team? The answer to both came back in the negative; therefore the idea for the WRAC Inter Unit Skills Day was born. After canvassing the various units, experts were found in all sorts of areas and the date for the competition was set at Saturday 12 September 1987. At 1000 hrs on that particular day, the co-ordinator found herself standing alone on a very wet and muddy sports pitch and unfortunately the decision had to be taken to cancel the event, as difficulty would have been found in keeping the barbecue fires alight. Back to the drawing board and plan B! Luckily everything was well organised, so with a new date, Wednesday 23 September and a much firmer wet weather programme, we were off! The 233 girls team were well motivated, several of them having been grabbed during the lunch hour to take part and **LCpl Sue Kilbride** led the team to the first stand, the WRAC P1 obstacle course. We were a little worried that all of the clothing involved, particularly the NBC trousers and the size 9½ wellies actually fitted **Pte Fern White,** while poor old **LCpl Dawn Painter** was having to hang on to everything as she faced the obstacles, but everyone joined in the fun and got the day off to a good start. The girls then moved on to the orienteering competition, which involved finding your way to various land-marks within the Garrison area answering questions of WRAC Corps history. On then to the Tyre Changing Stand, which was extremely well organised by **Cpl Harry Roberts** and **Sig Ian Speight,** of our own MT. Dear me girls, even though the lads loosened a few of the nuts for you, you still didn't quite attack it with force. Not one of our best stands! A quick secret briefing from the OC WRAC and the girls were off to the Searching Stand, where two vehicles full of Irish ladies and various pieces of bomb making equipment were waiting. The general feeling from the DS? The Signals girls were far too nice to them and subsequently didn't find all the things which were hidden in some very strange places, but a good de-brief from the DS of 175 Pro Coy showed where they had gone wrong. The last stand was a First Aid incident, involving

The almost successful WRAC Inter-Unit skills team.
L to R Top Row: Pte Pinder, LCpls Bolder, Davis, Ptes Norman and White
L to R Bottom Row: LCpl Kilbride, Ptes Chilcott, Shield and LCpl Painter

the scene of an alleged traffic accident. It must be admitted now that the girls did have a bit of prior training in this from **Sgt John Bell** in Commcen Tp, and this certainly showed in a well controlled evacuation and casualty treatment sequence. Unfortunately our girls were not be be amongst the prize-winners on the day, the honours going to 176 Pro Coy RMP from Londonderry, but there is no doubt that they learned much from the very professional DS on each stand and thoroughly enjoyed the day to boot. Any requests for the return of the Drill Competition?

SYSTEMS 233

Report by SSgt Pete Preen

With the arrival of the new software for the five nodal exchanges, Brinton II—the transfer of all local telegraph to the Brinton system—looms ever closer. So far Brinton has worked extremely well, barring a few hiccoughs caused by software or landline failure. These failures themselves have helped to prove the worth of our supervisory system REMSDAQ.

REMSDAQ is now Province wide and well capable of keeping the systems controllers up to date as to individual or group problems through the system. This success is due to the hard work and long hours put in by **Sgt Kev Bickerstaffe** and the Forward Repair Teams. **Kev** has now left the Province, on promotion, for a well-earned rest in the 'Costa-Del-Soest' and we wish him well for the future.

Systems 233 has undergone several other changes recently with the implementation of the new manning levels. The RTgs have disappeared for an indefinite holiday in India Troop, and we are now working a new two-man three-way shift system. This is rotated between departments to allow everyone a chance to see the real world at least once in their tour!

TECH TROOP SOME PERSONALITIES

Tony 'Whirlwind' Woolaston who is busy at the moment checking the SWR of all our Receive Antennas . . .

John 'Iron Man' Jolly whose violent reaction to a soldering iron burn (gained whilst doing a car fit) was to smash the windscreen . . .

Harry 'Brain Boggling' Board who still wants to know where in the province is Boddington!

John 'Gorgeous Gus' Garner who, when asked by a WRAC operator if she could use the techs micro-wave (to cook a pie) asked her which channel . . .

Martin 'Sootie' Sutcliffe who is surprised at the drop in one way speech problems he has encountered since we got rid of the pressel switch on his phone . . .

And finally, anyone seeing **WO2 (FofS) Colin Mitchell** in the province is to complete MOD Form 2001 'FofS Siting Report' as required by unit Standing Orders. The format for these reports is contained in JSPs!

EXERCISE *LIMBLESS WARRIOR*

Report by Sgt John Bell

Exercise *Limbless Warrior* was a Squadron First Aid competition held at Ballykinler Training Camp on Friday 9 October 1987. The aim was to assess, through competition, first aid standards within the Squadron. After weeks of preparation and planning by **Sgt John Bell** and **Sgt (Calum) Downie** Friday 9th finally arrived. The competition started with a kit weigh-in and inspection under the eagle eye of **WO2 (RSM) Pete Doherty** performing one of his final duties with the Squadron, ably assisted by his replacement **WO2 (SSM) Pete Watson.** The inspection teams then had a written test of 36 questions in five minutes before moving on to the first incident stand. After a briefing they moved out into the CQBR(U) (Northern Ireland's Tin City) moving as tactically as only Signals know how! A bomb was detonated and the teams went into action, treating casualties with various types of injury. After a quick debrief on the incident they set off on a forced march around a predetermined course instructed to react as first aiders to an incident which they may come across.

The stands consisted of a road traffic accident with multiple casualties and an explosion involving an arms cache retrieval with multiple casualties. They then had simulated casualty evacuation over a 500 metre course. The casualty in this case was two sandbags, a 20 litre water container and five eggs. Bad luck to the team from newly formed Chapatti (India) Troop who dropped their stretcher with two yards to go, smashing three eggs and gaining a 30 second penalty as a result. After a three minute breather each team member was assessed on exhaled air resuscitation combined with external cardiac compression on a resuscitation doll, before finishing off with a final inspection and weigh-in.

A special thanks must go to **Sgt 'Ginge' Philips RAMC** who with his colleagues ensured realistic casualty simulation. The casualty acting award must go to **Pte Annette Norman** who almost succeeded in breaking **LCpl Graham Keith**'s nose whilst he was restraining her. Special mention must also go to **Sgt (Calum) Downie** who in his haste, to defrost the entrails, used very hot water and succeeded in half cooking the liver!

A final thanks goes to all the DS and casualties who stood around freezing for the benefit of the players.

All teams thoroughly enjoyed the day, it was a very close competition with Commcen Troop running out clear winners with India Troop taking the runners-up slot. A final mention goes to the WRAC team who, after almost fainting at the first stand, managed to complete the whole course.

Cpl Spike Spurr is allowed out of the Squadron Office for a day—only to be blown up six times so that the teams could mend him again

— News from Headquarters —

HQ Afnorth
BFPO 50

ROYAL SIGNALS CONTINGENT
HQ AFNORTH BFPO 50

Excuse me sir . . . how come the Signals contingent never appear in the *Wire*? Good question staff . . . fix it will you!

This was a conversation overheard in the sports complex one lunchtime back in June between certain senior members of the Corps here at AFNORTH. The following brief resume is the result . . .

There are currently 20 Royal Signals personnel serving here at the HQ in Oslo; we often wonder if records are actually aware of this! The historical group photograph you see caused great consternation among both our UK and international colleagues in the HQ as apparently no one has ever seen so many of us together at any one time before . . .

As the Colonel often points out to us we are the largest UK contingent here and the sporting reputation of the Corps is very well upheld in this international environment where, due to the nature of the HQ, sporting events are the only times when all personnel and nations come together.

The Corps is represented in almost every sports teams fielded by AFNORTH, both local and NATO wide competitions, as is evident by our current 'Gladiator List'.

Soccer
NATO XI
SSgt Smithurst (Capt)
SSgt Leyland
Sgt Barlow
Sgt Miller
Cpl Barker
Cpl Holmes

Rugby
Oslo RFC
SSgt Leyland
Cpl Munson

Oslo Marathon
SSgt Smithurst
Sgt Cross

March & Shoot
SSgt Leyland
Cpl Fowler

Social XI
Sgt Skinner
Sgt Strachan
Cpl McCafferty
Cpl Hamlet

Without a doubt the highlight of the AFNORTH sport and social calendar is the sports day held annually in August. This takes the form of an international track and field meeting involving all personnel and dependants. The UK team retained the trophy and every member of the Corps contingent took part in at least one event. They all performed with great credit and there were notable successes by the following . . .

SSgt Dave Leyland	Bronze—Javelin.
SSgt Mark Smithurst	Gold—5,000m, Gold—800m, Silver—4 × 400 Relay.
Sgt Hugh Sullivan	Silver—High Jump.
Cpl Ian Barker	Bronze—400,. Silver—4 × 400 Relay.
Cpl Jon Anglesea	Gold—Shot, Silver-Discus.
Cpl Paul Holmes	Silver—4 × 400 Relay.

A special mention must go to **Sue** (ex WRAC/R Signals) wife of **Sgt 'Scratch' Skinner** who entered the maximum four events and collected gold medals in all of them, well done **Sue**! **'Scratch'** is now selling your signed photographs!

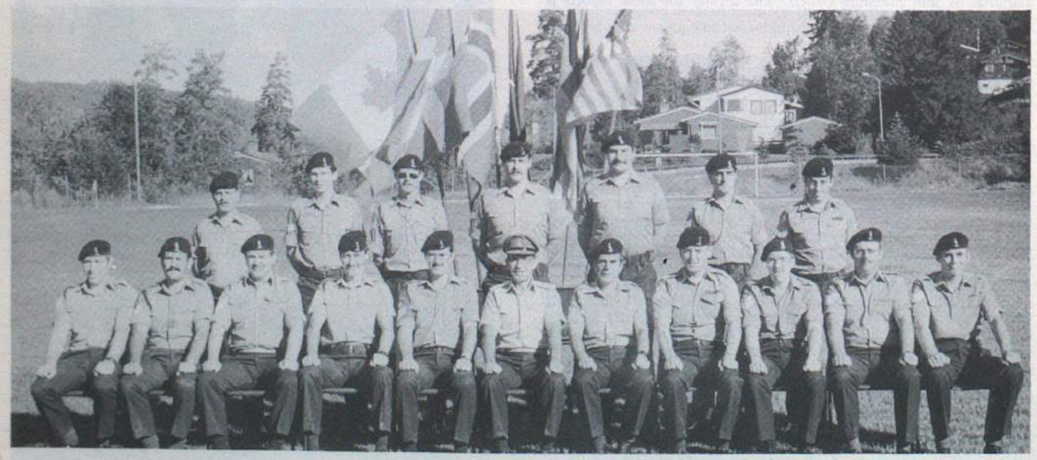
Well as these notes come to an end, and before you all rush off to submit your preference postings, we must point out that it's not all sport and LOA counting here in Norway—we do work hard . . . although we do ask ourselves does **SSgt Jimmy Gilmour** actually possess any uniform?

FAREWELL

This month we bid a sad farewell to our only officer **Lt Col Alan de Bretton-Gordon** on his posting to the AA College Harrogate. The Colonel will be sadly missed and we would like to wish him and his family best wishes for the future. We would also like to welcome his replacement **Lt Col Ian Hamilton** and hope that he and his family will have a happy tour in Norway.

CONGRATULATIONS

All AFNORTH Corps members would like to congratulate **Sgt Chris Barlow** and **Mary** on the birth of their daughter **Laura** on 30 August 1987.



Back Row: Cpls Barry Blain, Ian Barker, Sam McCafferty, Jon Anglesea, LCpl Bowser Munson, Cpls Paul Holmes and Mark Hamlet
Front Row: Sgts Chris Barlow, George Strachan, Scratch Skinner, SSgts Mark Smithurst, Fraser Kerr, Lt Col A. P. de Bretton Gordon, SSgts Jimmy Gilmour, Dave Leyland, Sgts Graham Cross, Hugh Sullivan and Dave Ross

School of Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset

EXERCISE *JOLLY ROGER*

Troop Commander	**WO2 J. Drake**
Troop Sgt	**Sgt G. Ledger**
Instructors:	
Canoeing	**SSgt C. Butt REME**
Coastal Walk	**SSgt J. Easterbrook**
Windsurfing	**Sgt B. Branson**
Windsurfing	**Cpl S. Brian**
Sailing	**Sgt D. Hassell**
Rock Climbing	**LCpl P. Waterson**

Systems Exercise Troop of 1 Squadron set off from Blandford for Tregantle Fort near Plymouth in high spirits and eagerly looking forward to a week of adventurous training activities. The adventure element started quicker than was expected when a vehicle driven by **Cpl Barry Watkins** (Taff 1) and assisted by **Cpl John Butterworth** broke down but as is usual on these occasions he conveniently picked a good spot, directly outside a cafe. **LCpl Paul Blades REME** soon had the vehicle repaired and on arrival at Tregantle **WO Drake** (the Boss) soon had the Troop organised and the tented camp erected.

It soon became apparent that the camp was going to be tougher than some had expected! The sick list contained casualties covering a wide range of ailments some of which were more serious than others. **Sig Ian Preston** and **Sig Paul Monaghan** (Dich and Dorf) reported sick with sprained ankles, **Paul** sustained his injuries however whilst attempting to become the John Travolta of Plymouth. **Sig Mark Taylor** was damaged by **Sgt (Big Foot) Anderson** who for reasons best known to himself tried to ram a buoy. **LCpl Ray Bridge** had a little difficulty and found himself stuck half way up a cliff, the rescue people sorted that one out. Never mind, the weekend would soon arrive!

Saturday arrived and **Sig Mark Taylor** had to report sick for more treatment, **(Cuddles) Kenneth McCausland** had a sore throat (too much wet beer) and down he went.

Sunday arrived but no let up in the activities (or casualties), **Cpl Neil Brockett** reports sick; **'Cuddles' McCausland** is kept in dock but **Sig Mark Taylor** is released. The Troop at this point pays tribute to the medical staff at HMS *Raleigh*.

Monday and the OC **Maj S. G. Falla** and SSM **WO2 J. Smith** arrive to see what is going on. During their trip around the various activities the Troop Commander **WO2 Drake** is 'conned' into having another go down the abseil cliff. The OC and SSM decline the invitation on the grounds that they were not suitably dressed. It was a particularly memorable day for **LCpl Steve Milburn** and **LCpl Stu Pett** who were both told by the OC of their promotion to Corporal.

Tuesday and a full turnout, including **'Cuddles' McCausland** recently released from dock. Another promotion to Corporal was announced and our congratulations to **LCpl (now Cpl) Mick Leslie.** The CO **Lt Col Stutchbury** paid a visit and managed to see everyone at the various activities.

Thursday came too quickly and it was time to return to Blandford and back to work. Thanks to everyone who contributed and made the camp such a success.

Section 2
Cpls Charlie Rigg, Pete Butler, LCpls Neil Fraser, Steve 'Piggy' Prendercast, Sig Baz Chidley and Chris 'Cherry' Malcolm before the days climb, afterwards they were not available for comment

CO School Regt	**Lt Col A. C. Stutchbury (Hockey Retired)**
2IC School Regt	**Maj Ben Bolt (Nearly Retired/Tree Surgeon)**
Adjt School Regt	**Capt Bob Fortune (Cross-country Retired)**
RSM School Regt	**WO1 Mick Pawlak (Rugby Retired/not old enough to play golf/Dinghy 'L' Driver)**
Chief Clerk, School Regt	**WO2 Mick Price (Ladies Retired (?))**
A/SSM HQ Sqn, School Regt	**Sgt Jamie James (I wish I could retire!!)**
RSM's Clerk, School Regt	**LCpl Jim Storey (The Worker)**

Report by the School Regiment Scribe

In July 1986 I received the good news that on 5 January 1987 I would be posted to the School of Signals in Blandford, HQ School Regt to be precise. Like all good soldiers I set about the task of finding out about my new unit, and where better to start than the *Wire* magazine. However, after weeks of going through back issues I was none the wiser!

Apart from a few paras from 2 Sqn (Trials) and 1 Sqn (Training Support) it looked as though they were independent units or perhaps my posting order was a 'wind up'?

After my then OC assured me RSM & RO was serious and that I would enjoy life in the sunny South West, I duly reported for duty **(Maj 'Paddy' Crowley** is obviously a PR man for RSM & RO).

Having served 10 months in the Regiment and still awaiting the return of my predecessor for a handover/takeover, I now understand why few previous notes have appeared. Much to the amusement of the rest of the Corps I am sure, I will say that those who can write are simply too immersed in reams of paper to be able to put together the many happenings that occur in Blandford (between block leave, that is).

However as I have a few free moments I thought I might as well let everyone out there know that we are still here and that there is life outside the classrooms.

HQ SCHOOL REGIMENT

The School of Signals is often described as an 'Amorphous Mass'. Being RD this actually meant very little to me but after wandering its corridors (usually aimlessly) I decided that it was more like the 'Hydra' (a many headed snake, for **J. T. Edson** fans).

HQ School Regt being the body of the beast and the many Wings and Departments (Instructional, Planning and Engineering Wings, ORLO, CPD, PWSST etc etc) being the heads. After settling into life in the School it soon became apparent that just like the Hydra, the heads function independently but we in HQ School Regt know where the Brain actually is!

Led by the indomitable **Lt Col Alan Stutchbury,** ably supported by **Maj Ben Bolt** (who in turn is assisted by **Wilf** the Gardner) the occupants of Steel Block (HQ) keep the unit admin ticking over. (Fortunately the suspension just about copes with a frequently lumpy road surface).

WORK

SOinC's Conference, Corps Lunch, SOinC's Inner Cabinet, Garrison Cocktail Party, RSA Reunion, Engineering Symposium, Contractorisation, ARC, Staff College Visits. These small functions have helped to fill in what would be quite an unexciting working year administering the YofS and FofS course. Tfc and TOT refreshers, and the myriad of other courses that the School runs to keep the Technical expertise of the Corps up to standard (and let's not forget the never ending challenge of Young Officers Sword Drill).

The visits of VIPs from as far afield as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Canada, Wimbledon FC and numerous other countries provide that extra dash of interest to an already colourful itinerary.

Fortunately our never ending supply of manpower to support all these activities makes life easy as I am sure SSMs 1 and 2 Sqns will testify!

SPORT

School Regt provides teams for most of the sporting activities and these take part in regular fixtures.

ORIENTEERING

This is enthusiastically led by **WO2 (FofS) Lou Lawton** whose constant encouragement and example inspires a good team performance in the local league.

CROSS-COUNTRY

This was under the control of **Capt (Suntan) Martin RM** ably assisted by **WO2 (RSM) John Smith** (his real name). With a little luck and some kind programming from Instructional Wing, the rivalry with 30 Sig Regt could produce a Corps winning team for the SW District League.

FOOTBALL

Capt Peter Smurthwaite has assembled a useful looking squad (with a little help from above, I believe) and already the team is leading the local league and cruised through to the Army Cup 2nd Round.

Stop Press: The team has just won the Army 6-a-side competition.

ATHLETICS

As the season has just finished a short resume is in order.

After an intensive selection competition (Standards) the non-playing team Captain, **WO2 (RSM) Mick Pawlak,** was able to select his team for the West Area qualifying competition. A mixture of young and old talent and effort gained a very satisfying 2nd place and qualification for the Zone B finals. Further glory was denied us though as we could only manage to finish fifth despite a spirited effort from all concerned.

A rather damp but successful Sports Day unearthed even more talent and the RSM was able to select a strong team to venture into the unknown (Middlesbrough I think?) to take part in the Morrison Cup UK. However homework, injury, baby-sitting and 'travel sickness' gradually took its toll and the team that eventually travelled was a mixture of the tried and trusted, and a few who would have a go!

A steady start saw the team in fourth position at the lunch interval, but a string of five seasons' best performances pulled School Regt into second position ahead of 8 Sig Regt with only the 4 × 400m relay to go. It was at this stage that the non-playing team Captain realised that no matter how he permed his depleted team the only choice for the 400m was **Cpl Britton** (17 stone shot putter), the Coach Driver (National Coaches) or himself!! Drawing his trusty spikes, which he always carries with him, from his bag and inspired by the efforts of **WO1 (FofS) John Turvey** (still doesn't look a day under 30) the RSM marched himself around the 400m track sufficiently quickly enough to help the team to a safe third place and thereby holding onto an outstanding second place overall in the Morrison Cup. This was a true team effort but special mention for outstanding individual performances must go to: **WO1 (FofS) John Turvey**—1,500m, **Capt Paul Martin RM**—800m, **LCpl (Admiral) Shergold**—Long and Triple Jump and 100m Relay, **LCpl 'Mitch' Mitchinson**—High Jump, **Cpl Andy Saunders**—Pole Vault and Triple Jump.

SERGEANTS MESS

It has been a busy year in Blandford. The dining out of **WO1 (RSM) Ian Cairns** in January followed by the dining in of **WO1 (RSM) Mick Pawlak** followed by the dining in of the Garrison Commander, **Brig A. H. Boyle** in February. These auspicious occasions being followed by the dinning out of two YofS Courses and one FofS Course (April, May and June); a Ladies Night (July); Summer Ball (July) and a Regimental Dinner for practice (September). It makes buying your mess kit worthwhile!

In the last 10 months we have also presented 11 LS and GC medals and said farewell at informal functions to 32 WOs and SNCOs leaving the Army at the end of their 22 years' service.

Anyone who has attended the Mess in the last few years will be pleased to know that the saga of the 'back bar' is now over. Thanks to a healthy GPF and the assistance of the RSA a brand new bar has been built and was opened by **Col De Bretton-Gordon** on 11 July 1987.

The Sergeants Mess versus Officers Mess cricket match produced a resounding win for our Mess on the pitch and in the celebrations afterwards it was an honourable draw. Unfortunately the Officers Mess claimed their revenge in the Annual Golf Match. Claims that the team was blinded by **WO1 (YofS) Mick Freedman**'s bright yellow trousers (with just a hint of a flare?) are rife.

The Mess also hosted the Blandford Sergeants Mess 6-A-Side Football Competition for the Wilsons Trophy. This was the inaugural competition of what is hoped will be an annual event.

Sponsored by Wilsons Hogg Robinson Insurance Brokers, who donated the trophies, we invited all Sergeants' Messes in the SW District to take part in a day long league and Knockout Tournament. The festivities were accompanied by the Mess providing tented catering for over 400 people near the sports pitches and in the Mess after the prize-giving.

A long hard day's play resulted in the Plate Trophy being won by 16 Fd Amb 'A' Team and the main competition final decided by a penalty shoot-out after a tremendous match between Junior Leaders RCT/RAOC and Blandford Sergeants' Mess 'A' Team.

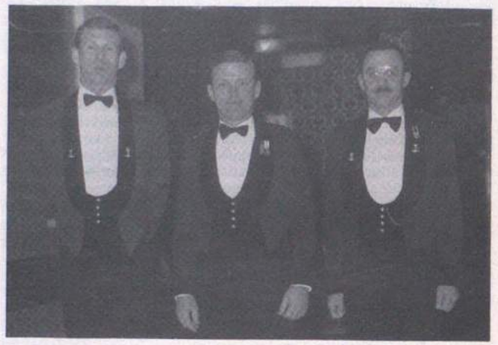
The fact that **Sgt Steve Hodgeson** missed the final deciding penalty causing his team to lose the trophy to the JLR RCT/RAOC Mess should not affect his career. (He now hasn't got one!).

Fine performances on the pitch by **Sgt 'Shuggy' Barclay** and **SSgt (FofS) 'Nice Legs' Taylor** were only made possible by the efforts of the organisers, **SSgt Tony Byrne** and **Sgt (SI) Paul Mallo,** who put the idea to action.

A final 'well done' must go to the PMC, **WO2 (SSM) Phil Lee**, and the Mess staff for their hard work preparing for and during a very busy weekend.

CONCLUSION

I hope you have enjoyed these notes from School Regiment; I also hope that I won't get 'jiffed' to write them in future.



On the occasion of the dining in the Sergeants Mess, Blandford of Brig A. H. Boyle, the Commander of the School of Signals
L to R: WO1 (RSM) P. K. Sutherland (Vice President), Brig A. H. Boyle and WO1 (RSM) M. E. Pawlak (President)

Presentation of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals by DSOinC, Brig F. R. Maynard
L to R: Sgt Tony Myers, Sgt Terry Hague, Mrs Audrey Smith, Capt Bob Fortune (Adjt), Mrs Mary Deoweneley, Sgt John Smith, Mrs Virginia Howell, DSOinC, Sgt Howell, Sgt Deoweneley, SSgt Sue Bunce, Lt Col Stutchbury and WO1 (RSM) Pawlak

Col A. N. de Bretton-Gordon and the President of the Sergeants Mess, Blandford, WO1 (RSM) Pawlak, toast the new bar
Larry the Barman and Rhona the Mess Manageress think it's a pity there wasn't enough money left to afford champagne!

ROYAL SIGNALS MANNING AND RECORD OFFICE GLASGOW

The past two years have been a period of almost constant change and hard work for the Royals Signals MRO ('Records'). In October 1985 it seemed that the much-discussed plans to leave our long-time home at Caversham, just outside Reading, would become a reality as the first 'Glaswegians' arrived to start learning the job from our 'Reading' staff. But, from then on the momentum of events gradually increased as more Glaswegians arrived, 'Readingites' departed to other jobs, plans of our new home in Glasgow were pored over to try to fit ourselves in, and the Pickfords men came to assess our movement requirements.

There were also a number of farewell parties. The first—the 'official' farewell—took place on 13 June 1986 with a garden party in the grounds of Balmore House. The Corps Band played and those attending included every former member of the Reading staff that we could find (some 300 in all), together with the Signal Officer-in-Chief and the Mayor of Reading. 5 AB Bde Sig Sqn ran the party for us, with considerable style—greatly appreciated. the second party, the 'unofficial' farewell, took place on a boat on the Thames and has gone down in MRO history as the 'booze-cruise'.

Finally, on 3 September we held our own private ceremony as we all gathered at the flagpole and **Maureen Campbell**, the youngest member of staff, lowered the Corps flag at Caversham for the last time and that particular chapter in the Corps history was closed. Next day the removal vans arrived. On 6 September we formally closed down after 47 years at Reading, and on Monday 8 September we reopened in Kentigern House, Glasgow. This really was the moment of truth, because right up to the time we left Reading we had at least 20 'Readingites' around to give advice and help, but none of these went with us to Glasgow and now we were totally on our own. The story of the following 10 months is one of unremitting hard work to establish ourselves in a completely new environment, in a brand-new building, and with a staff whose longest serving member arrived in Reading in October 1985. In military terms we carried out the equivalent of our first 'Change-in-Command' in 47 years, with 500 miles between 'Main' and 'Step-up', and changed 99 per cent of our staff in the process!

One sad event occurred in May when **Lt Col Norman Gallyer** left us for well-earned retirement. With 44 years continuous service in the Corps—the last 14 in the MRO—he was a much-respected and loved figure and certainly does not look old enough to retire. In his many years of service he made numerous contributions to the well-being of the Corps, but perhaps few as significant as the calm and wise way he helped manage the run-down at Reading and the build-up at Glasgow. **Norman**'s charm and consideration for others are sadly missed.

Lt Col (Retd) Norman Gallyer

Don't be disappointed!

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

2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt York

1 SQUADRON FUN DAY

Report by SSgt Jim Graley

Once upon a time I had an idea for a small troop party, with a few silly games in the 'It's a knockout' style, to give the families a day out. This however quickly escalated from a troop day out to a Squadron day out consisting of an inter-Troop competition during the day to be followed by a barbecue in the evening.

SSgt Chippy Chambers and the eager members of 49 Bde Sig Tp took on the task of tentage, disco and power whilst I, with my merry band of helpers, sorted out the games.

After a rather dismal start weather-wise, the day eventually brightened up and proved to be very enjoyable for both participants and spectators.

15 Bde Sig Tp were the eventual winners, by a large margin, led from the front by **SSgt Clive Blackburn.** The wooden spoon went to Alpha Tp Herfies also by a large margin.

The whole event was admirably controlled by our Master-of-Ceremonies **WO2 Bill Garner** and proved to be a most enjoyable day.

LCpl Taff Shane runs the gauntlet of soggy sponges in the obstacle race

Pte Debbie Spicer retrieves a sweety from the bowl of flour

Sgt Pete McCormick and 2Lt Patterson prepare to fight for a golf ball in the swimming pool

The victorious 15 Bde team negotiating the maze

SUPER TEAMS

Report by 2Lt McGinty

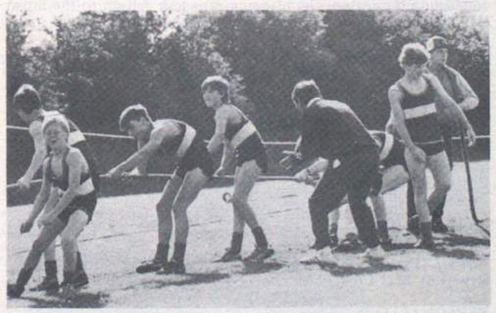
This year's Regimental Superteams competition was held on Friday 4 September with teams entered from all the departments of the Regiment along with a guest team from Stockton Hall School who also demonstrated how each event was run during the pre-competition brief. The teams, under a non-playing captain, assembled in the morning sunlight dressed in light-weights, boots, team shirts and ready to compete.

Competition centred around two main activities—a Tug-of-War and a Volleyball competition, this being run on a straightforward knockout basis throughout the day. In between each round of the main games, all the teams had to compete in a series of 12 mini-activities. These were in fact the real meat of the competition and included a timed run, a target golf competition, leg raises, pokey drill and a whole range of other events designed not only to be tests of skill and endurance but good fun as well. Included in these events were two involving the use of an ergonometer. This fiendishly named device turned out to be a rowing machine and certainly was a torture to use. Indeed, the three minutes best effort event was probably the longest three minutes of the day.

As the day's competition came to a close several teams appeared to be in with a good chance of becoming Regimental Superteam. The Sergeants' Mess was in a very strong position having won both the Tug-of-War and the Volleyball, whilst both the teams from the LAD were high in the running. At the end of play, however, Alpha Troop was judged to be the winner by a narrow margin. The MT team was notable for being the only team unable to complete the '4-Tonner Push' competition, whilst the Officers' Mess deserve mention for coming in the 'Wooden Spoon' position.

Thanks must go first and foremost to **Lt Col Hodgetts** and his staff for the excellent organisation, to all the PT and Regimental staff for having refereed the games so well, the cooks for an appetising barbecue and all those others who made this such a successful and enjoyable day for all those present. Special thanks must also go to **Brig Hollands,** our Garrison Commander for presenting the prizes.

The Regimental Superteam 1987. *Back Row L to R:* LCpl Henry, SSgt Graley and Sig Warburton. *Front Row L to R:* Sig Hutchinson, Lt Birleson and LCpl Gillanders



The Stockton Hall team relaxing at the Tug-of-War . . .

Brig Hollands, Garrison Commander presents a Regimental plaque to 'Davey' from Stockton Hall School as a thank you for their help

Whilst the Officers' Mess seems to be having a little more trouble . . .

SERGEANTS' MESS
Report by SSgt Jim Graley

September was quite an eventful month in the Mess. On 4 September the RSM's 'chosen few' entered the super teams competition, and came in as runners up, just missing first place by a few points.

Sergeants' Mess Superteam
Back Row L to R: SSgt Benny Grossmith, Sgt Ian Tepielow, WO1 (RSM) Todd O'Brien, Sgt Eddy Mooney
Front Row: SSgt (FofS) Andy Hockley, SSgt Lee Hodds, SSgt (YofS) Steve Rose, SSgt Pete Jackson
Absent: Sgt Pete McCormick

On 7 September the Garrison Commander, Brig Hollands presented the LS and GC Medal to WO1 Peter Bromley

Brig Hollands and WO1 Pete Bromley sipping champagne after the presentation

On 16 September WO2 Ben Barnett received his LS and GC presented by Brig Alexander

WO2 Ben Barnett dunks his Medal
L to R: Lt Col Elford, WO2 Ben Barnett, Brig Alexander and Capt Campbell

RUGBY—2 DIV RUFC
PERSONALITIES

OIC Rugby	**Lt Sandy Aitken**
Team Capt	**WO1 (RSM) Tod O'Brien**
Vice Capt	**Sgt (Wally) Wallace**

Over the last season Rugby in 2 Division has taken off from having no team to becoming runners up in the Northern Command Area Cup and getting to the fourth round in the Army Cup. After successfully completing the season, the planning of a tour fell on to the broad shoulders of the RSM. It came as no surprise to the rest of the squad when we ended up in his own town, London. Leaving early on 28 August proved difficult, taking an hour to get the squad together and issue red noses. Our illustrious Captain then suggested a training session on arrival; this proved to be a bit too much for some, but the carbohydrate intake afterwards alleviated any aches and pains.

The first match on Saturday 29 August proved the team was coming together. After a shaky start the team eventually defeated Harrow 12—10 and also made a bigger pyramid. Sunday came all too quickly and we reinforced the success of the day before by beating the Postal Courier Depot RE and London District 54—12 in a very close fought match!

The season has now started once again and with two full teams and substitutes we hope for a successful team.

FOCUS ON 15 INF BDE SIG TP
Report by SSgt Clive Blackburn

PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**Lt Sandy Aitken**
2IC Tp	**2Lt Martin Barnes**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Clive Blackburn**
YofS	**SSgt Sean Sutton**
BQMS	**Sgt Moss Wright**
TE Tech	**Sgt Steve Smith**
DTg Sgt	**Sgt Mick Alcock**

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

We would like firstly to welcome the new arrivals to the Troop which include **Sgts Mick Alcock, Steve Smith, Cpl Horobin, LCpl Alan Tuckey** and family, **LCpl Lee** and family and **Sig Harrer** and **Gathercole.** The Tp says good luck and goodbye to **Cpl Bobb Duff** and **Mrs Duff, Cpl Ian Thorburn** and family, **Cpl Allan Sallis** and family, **Sig Andy Mortlock** and family and last but not least, **Sig Howie Howard.**

YORK ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT ASSOCIATION RAFT RACE

The York Annual Raft Race held in aid of the National Lifeboat Association took place on a cold, windy 4 July. 15 Inf Bde's theme for the raft was 'Vikings' with the raft being named 'Rape and Pillage'. The raft was crewed by **Lt Sandy Aitken, SSgt Clive Blackburn, SSgt (YofS) Sutton, Cpls Pat Patrick, Sear, LCpl Mac McInnes** and **Sig 'Pig Pen' Garth.** In spite of winning no prizes the team managed to raise £60 for the RNLI.

KAPE TOUR 7-17 JULY 1987

This year's KAPE team was selected from 15 Inf Bde Sig Tp and commanded by **Lt Sandy Aitken.** The team prepared themselves for the assault on the North East of England by polishing their boots and practising their patter. On Tuesday 7 July the KAPE tour hit the road and headed for Stockton-on-Tees which was to be the base for displays at ACFs and fetes throughout the region; notably, Middlesborough, Hartlepool, Norton and lest we forget, Lightwater Valley where the team passed four pleasant days fending off souvenir hunting children.

OIC KAPE, Lt Sandy Aitken (smartest I've ever seen him) pointing out the various personalities we had with us

LCpl Stait explaining that the top end of the handset is for listening. Cpl Pat Patrick looks on in amazement

EXERCISE *KINTYRE EXPRESS*

This year's adventurous training was held at RAF Machrihanish on the Mull of Kintyre. The Troop was involved in various adventurous activities such as hill walking with **Sgt Mick Alcock,** rock climbing and abseiling with **2Lt Martin (Digger) Barnes** and canoeing with **LCpl Taff Martin,** achieving various levels of success.

The sections managed to keep the local inhabitants amazed and amused with their attempts at rock climbing and abseiling in addition to the feats of underwater canoeing supervised by the Troop's U-Boat Commander, **LCpl Taff Martin** (they do say practice makes perfect although some beg to differ).

During our stay in Machrihanish the Troop took part in the local Highland Games which proved to be amusing and, in some cases, profitable for those competing. **SSgt Clive Blackburn** came runner up in 'throwing the ball' and third in 'tossing the weight' winning a total of £7. **Sig Steve Golton** and **Sig Welch** came runners up in 'tossing the weight' and the 400m respectively, each winning £4. **Lt Sandy Aitken,** a man of many talents tried his hand at every event but was unsuccessful (he must be good at something!). It was concluded that 15 Inf Bde have no budding Daley Thompsons, however there are quite a few candidates for the 100 litres. After all the days of working and playing hard, a leaner and meaner Sig Tp returned to York ready for the forthcoming exercise season.

INTER-TROOP 7-A-SIDE RUGBY

On 26 August **Cpl Malvern** organised an Inter-Troop 7-a-side rugby competition for the Regiment. 15 Inf Bde's team were favourites for the title alongside Oscar Tp's team. 15 Inf Bde competed succesfully against first the MT winning 10—6 followed by the LAD 14—3 and finally A Tp 18—6 in the semi final. However the final was a different story. The final was against Oscar Tp, a very strong team including some Regimental players. The final was fast and furious with Oscar Tp scoring first, but 15 Inf Bde hit back with a try from **LCpl Eric Frances,** expertly converted by **SSgt Clive Blackburn** giving 15 Inf Bde a lead of 6—4 at half time. The second half was all change with Oscar Tp scoring three more tries making them worthy victors. 15 Inf Bde's courageous team consisted of **Lt Sandy Aitken, 2Lt Digger Barnes, SSgt Clive Blackburn, SSgt (YofS) Sutton, Cpl Ian Thorburn, LCpls Taff Martin, Mac McInnes, Dave Baldwin** and **Eric Francis.**

SSgt Clive Blackburn and Sig Steve Golton suffer the endurance stage of SLRs at arms length

SUPERTEAMS '87

Superteams '87 was once again a very well organised and entertaining day which saw 23 teams compete for the Superteam of 2 Div '87. 15 Bde did exceptionally well with a very hard earned sixth place; the team members were **LCpls Eric Francis, Dave Baldwin, Cpl Ian Thorburn, Sig Steve Golton, Cpl Steve Erskine, SSgt Clive Blackburn** and **LCpl Mac McInnes.**

KRYPTON FACTOR ASSAULT COURSE

SSgt (YofS) Sutton organised a day out to the Krypton Factor assault course (as seen on TV) in early September. The day started with an individual competition followed by a team event with the Troop being divided into six teams.

The winner of the individual competition completed the course in a staggering time of 2 min 15 sec followed by **Sig Steve Golton** in 2 min 32 sec and **LCpl Taff Martin** in 2 min 33 sec—a very close race for second and third place.

The team event was again a close run event with team three (**LCpls Taff Martin, Porky Aston, Sig Hippo Harrier** and **Walley Welch**) gaining first place with a combined time of 12 min 47 sec. The day proved to be a great success and a good time was had by all.

Back Row L to R: Sig Gathercole, WO2 Harburn, LCpls Smith, Stait, Cpl Horobin, Sig Baldwin, Beel, Dutton, Cpl Erskine, Sig Garth, Cpls Nesbitt, Sear, Burton, Sig Golton, Garr, Butler, LCpl Francis, Cpl Jeffries, SSgt (YofS) Sutton, Lt Aitken, Sgt Wright
Front Row L to R: Sgt Alcock, Sig Lambie, Pringle, Harrer, Cpl Aston, LCpls McInnes, Martin, Sig Welch and LCpl Dutton

210 (24 Inf Bde) Sig Sqn
Catterick

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paddy Crowley**
2IC	**Capt David Burden**
AO	**Capt Mick Besant**
OC O Tp	**Lt Andy Duncan**
OC P Tp	**2Lt Andrew Fletcher**
SSM	**WO2 Al Gibbons**
YofS	**WO2 Douggie McTaggart**
FofS	**SSgt Bob Nicholson**
SQMS	**SSgt Graham Butler**
CC	**SSgt John O'Donnell**

POSTINGS

Two big farewells this month to long standing members of the Squadron. **SSgt 'Staff' Dave Edgecombe** was finally rewarded for his months of badgering the Chief Clerk when he received his posting order to 262 Sig Sqn. It just goes to show that if you tell enough people that you're going to Cyprus on your next tour someone's bound to post you there eventually. Congratulations too on the promotion to Staff Sergeant. **David**'s wife **Linda** will also be missed, the Wives Club will never be the same again. The second exit this month is by **WO2 'Mick Campbell** our SQMS who leaves, again on promotion, to become SSM Trg Wing at 13 Sig Regt. The upside of the Q's departure is that we no longer have to take an AA Road Atlas on Friday runs, the downside (no, make that two upsides) is the loss of the famed **Campbell** and **O'Donnell** folk duo. All the best to **Mick** and **Cathy** in BAOR.

Other departures this time were **Cpl Roy Messenger** to a six month tour in Belize (and promotion again), just when the Squadron needed his cadence calling for the USA, and **LCpl Scotty Scott** who goes to 16 Sig Regt. Arrivals include the new Q, **SSgt Graham Butler** and his wife **Sharon**, and **Sgt Pete Russell** on loan from the Ordnance Corps as our supply specialist.

THAT WAS THE MONTH THAT WAS

August was successfully written off by block leave, but the Squadron returned refreshed and ready to face two weeks of military training and skills testing masterminded by **Sgt Dave Edgecombe. 2Lt Andrew Fletcher** found a novel way of avoiding the rigours of this fortnight by getting married and going off on honeymoon. Congratulations to **Andrew** and **Alison** from all in the Squadron. Congratulations also to **Cpl Tommo Thompson** on being awarded the BEM in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours. The medal was presented to him by **Maj Gen Guthrie LVO, OBE**, GOC 2 Inf Div when he visited the Squadron on 23 September.

The rest of September has been taken up with Inter-Troop competitions and the odd exercise. The lull before the storm of Ex *Keystone.*

GOC 2 Inf Div with Cpl 'Tommo' Thompson and Mrs Shirley Thompson

BRIGADE BATTLE GROUP TRAINER (NORTH)—BBGT(N)
Report by LCpl 'Nige' Donohue

In the centre of Catterick in what was the old Sandes Home resides an organisation known amongst the staff as 'Bag tit'. The Brigade and Battle Group Trainer (North) has been used by infantry battalions for quite a while as a Bn CP training aid. Recent enhancements have now enabled the facility to be used by Bde HQs, and 24 Inf Bde was the first regular Bde HQ to use it.

'After a day of practice and planning, Oscar Tp deployed with great haste to BBGT(N) for a day spent 'playing (war) games'. The majority of the Troop were shuffled down to the 'orchard' to man the pretend complex overseen by computer, while **LCpls Mickey Dyer, Guppy Singh** and **'Nige' Donohue** were sent into the war room as 'assessors'. This entailed feeding co-ordinates of friend and foe, vehicle types, rates of fire, etc, into a computer and giving the staff a result in the form of casualties, failures, and success. We sat perched high, feeding results to the board game movers below. One unknown gunner was seen to have his own little war and seemed to forget about his Immediate Staff Officer who was meant to decide the moves, whilst other movers built their own little LEGO models.

The game flow continued for most of the day with the majority of the staff engrossed in their own private game of Risk. Then came the chemical attack, alas the majority of the staff had forgotten the required respirator so answered their telephones and radios with pinched noses and muffled gasps. Meanwhile down in the orchard **Sgt Terry Gigg** reached for his respirator, 'whoops'—something was amiss, no canister! Unperturbed, a nearby **Sig Brian Hyde** provided the answer, and was soon relieved of his canister.

At last a satisfactory conclusion to the battle was reached and world peace was declared. Hometime. One bemused Major who during the course of the battle had lost three sections of Armd Recce was however slightly impressed by the fact that one Fox had destroyed four T64s and several BRDMs. 'Invincible', he cried. If only he knew about the fumbling fingers of **LCpl Dyer**.'

INTER-TROOP RUGBY
Report by LCpl 'Snowy' Snowdon

'A red hot Wednesday afternoon on a sports field in the middle of Catterick, the Squadron and its bar had turned out for a 'gentle' game or two of rugby sevens. The first two teams onto the battlefield were Papa A versus Oscar A. A strong team on Papa's side put them into an early lead which was held throughout the game to end with Papa 7—4 up.

Next to the slaughter; Oscar B versus Papa B. An all star line up from Papa, and with our half hour training the day before we were onto a winner. After the first half our suspicions were confirmed. Oscar can't play rugby. **LCpl Scouse Barker** (team backbone) told us to ease up as we still had another game to play. So with some more polished performances from **Cpl Col Dennis, Trib Slaney,** and **Scouse Barker** we coasted home to a 22—0 victory. Now that all the teams were 'crackered' HQ decided to put in an appearance. It was Papa B back on against HQ B. We were now against the heavys (**LCpl Steve Brammer** and minders) but despite the weight disadvantage we fought hard and won 22—0.

Both HQ teams then went on to play Oscar's teams, winning both, which brought us to the final league game, HQ A versus Papa A. A match which brought out the best in both teams. Some fine aerial tackles from **LCpl Eddy Edwards** and **Sgt Jim Pattison** on the OC, who then tackled the corner post. Brave attacks also came from **Paul 'Wildthing' Wildish,** who appeared to have come off worst in all of them (although the OC would probably dispute it). The match drew to an end, with HQ through to the final, winning 9—8.

The Final: HQ A versus Papa B (Giant Killers). With both teams tiring the pace was slower. **Cpl Trib Slaney** was cautioned now and again, and again . . . Papa pulled into the lead in the second half and looked sure of winning until **FofS Bob Nicholson** wormed through a weary defence to get the try. The conversion followed and the match ended in a draw. The winner was to be decided by a sudden death play-off. It was only a matter of minutes before HQ surged forward and **Sgt 'Mac' McAlpine** scrabbled through the defence to get the try. Papa defeated, HQ the victors and the winners of the rugby trophy, with both teams left wondering how Oscar could win the Controller's Cup when they couldn't play a delicate (!) game of rugby.'

INTER-TROOP HOCKEY
Report by LCpl Stevie Brammer

'The first game of the Inter-Troop Hockey competition was Papa versus Oscar. **Cpl Trib Slaney** pushed off for Papa, but was soon sent off by the umpire (the one with the white stick who happened to be the OC). **Sig Eddie Friar** took over from **'Hacker' Slaney,** but Papa still did not score. The second half went to Oscar Tp who put four goals past **Cpl Terry Cole** to win 4—0.

The second game was between Papa and HQ Tp. The game went well with outstanding efforts from **Terry Cole** who saved at least 10 shots. **2Lt Andrew Fletcher** made about ten attempts to hit the ball, but hit HQ's dazzling winger **Sgt Tony Playford** in the hand instead. **Tony,** being a brave player, dropped the stick and ran off, but HQ came back by a lucky goal from **FofS Bob Nicholson** and another from **YofS Douggie MacTaggart.** HQ 2, Papa 0.

The final match was between Oscar and HQ Tp. The match started and it was soon obvious that it was going to be a long game. Oscar broke through HQ's defence to score, but the umpire gave offside (thank you linesman). The first half ended with no score. The second half started with **'Slogger' Andy Munro** tapping **'Q' Butler** on the ankle. After that ten minute ordeal (and a possibly Oscar winning performance), HQ stepped up the pace and with a Foreman goal and a **LCpl Cossy Costello** goal HQ were set to win, but **LCpl Percy Parkin** and **LCpl Steve Haresign** then built up a chance for **LCpl Rab Arthur** who scored a lucky offside goal which the umpire (the one with the dog) gave. So the game ended 2—1, and yet another Inter-Troop competition bit the dust to HQ Tp.'

The other Inter-Troop competitions played recently were Swimming and Shooting. The Swimming was held in the open air pool at Ripon on a wet and miserable day. The usual freestyle, back-stroke and butterfly races were supplemented by relays with lead weights and battle swims. The AO, **Capt Mick Besant,** put in a fine performance, but couldn't make up for **LCpl Scotty Scott**'s loose fitting swim trunks or **Sgt Dave Edgecombe**'s submarine impersonation. The final battle swim decided the competition. HQ Tp's team of **Sgts Bryan Hayles** and **Steve Beverley,** and **Cpls Stu Kingdon** and **Colin Griffiths** managed to complete the task with the least amount of wet clothing, and the trophy was in the bag.

The Shooting competition took place on a fine Catterick afternoon. A number of non-standard and standard shoots were conducted with SLR, SMG and LMG; ever fired an SMG from the prone position at 75m? Papa Tp looked likely winners with **2Lt Andrew Fletcher** hitting everything in sight. However the second SMG shoot saw HQ pull into a commanding lead which the LMG team consolidated to deliver another trophy into HQ Tp's hands.

MILITARY TRAINING

In amongst the sports and exercises, we do occasionally fit in some military training. However it was arranged over a weekend so most of the Squadron was away! To avoid disappointment for **WO2 (SSM) Al Gibbons, Sgt Terry Gigg** and **Cpl Al Higgins** the '210 Terrors' agreed to stand in for their husbands—they were definitely all volunteers.

A session on the indoor range passed off without incident despite a fit of the giggles and thanks to some advice from our professional instructors (the husbands actually—it was like teaching your wife to drive!). After an introduction to camouflage (and cam cream courtesy of the husband's team) the Terrors hurled themselves over the assault course. The assembled muddy, wet, tired but happy Terrors were then treated to an all-in chewy stew. Thanks to some unusually kind Catterick weather and a gentle sense of disorganisation a good time was had by all.

The Terrors on parade

The Water Jump (or Dive)

656 Sig Tp (Fwd)
BFPO 107

'656 who?, you may well ask. As the Forward Signal Troop for 2 Inf Div, we directly support the Forward Divisional Headquarters and have 22 Sig Regt attached for administration and discipline (or is it the other way around?).

As always there have been several personnel changes of late. Recently we have said goodbye to **Sig Martin Green, Bobby Phee, LCpl (now Mr) Jobes** and **LCpl Bobby Roberts.** We extend warm welcomes to **Cpls John Douglas** and **Tel Fleet** and their families. Goodbye has also been said to the entire Troop hierarchy! **SSgt (now WO2) Bill Heelan** has been posted to London UOTC and our best wishes go with him and his wife **Sandy. Sgt John Andrews** has left for sunny Catterick on a 'Staffies' course followed by a trip to Blandford to learn 'Foremanese'. **Capt Mark Edwards** has left the sackcloth and ashes of Div Recce Officer behind and fled to Gibraltar with **Erica** to throw buns to the apes. Last, but by no means least, **Maj 'Uncle Jack' Wraith MBE** has left on promotion to SANGCOM for a life of sand, sun, sand teetotalism and sand. Our best wishes go to him and **Margaret** and the offer of a sand yachting holiday is gratefully accepted (by the whole Troop!).

The new OC is **Capt Phil Osment** and congratulations to both him and **Sally** on the birth of **Matthew** (proves he can do something right!). **SSgt Dave Smy** takes over the hot seat as Troop Staff Sergeant and we are now fully accustomed to seeing him wobbling around Churchill Barracks on his bicycle, desperately trying to stay upright with only one stabiliser.

The Troop has had a varied, if hectic, time recently. A celebration of the Divisional Battle Honour, Kohima, was marked with a presentation of the battle and a full formal dinner afterwards. During the dinner **Maj Wraith** and **SSgt Heelan** were both given farewell presentations and invited to pay the last instalment of their Troop subs!

Anglo-German Public Information meetings stretched the Troop in their combat barman and cocktail mixing skills. **Cpl 'Geordie' Laverick** deserves a special mention for his 'gin and tonic surprise' (the surprise is no tonic). We now look forward to another one in September.

Life has not been all play. A mini battle camp, Ex *Super Run*, tested a number of areas including HF and VHF skills, tactics, NBC, mental agility and physical fitness. The ACOS, **Lt Col Draper OBE LI**, visited in the field and was entertained to a 'whirling dervish' routine from **LCpl Drury, Cpl Steve Ellis** and **Sig Stu Ward** as an alternative method of NBC casualty treatment. **Cpl Craig Jones** and **LCpl Ray Orange** did their own bit for morale by repeatedly dashing off into the woods looking for the 'damned trots'. **LCpl Jack Frost** is to be congratulated on his recent promotion and perhaps he will now reveal what did happen to the dead dog he found on *Supper Run.* **Messrs Jones** and **Orange** are equally curious.

A final 'stop press' to congratulate **LCpl Orange** on his promotion to Corporal and to **Cpl Paul Ellis** on his to Sergeant and farewell as he heads to Dortmund and the Gunners.

Cpl (now Sgt) Paul Ellis having found something that works is 'Through'

LCpl Jack Frost tuning in the little known 'Billcliff Dipole'

3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 106

HQ SQUADRON

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Joe O'Gorman Queen's Regiment**
CSM	**WO2 (SSM) Barry Camille Queen's Regiment**

SQUADRON RAFT RACE

The annual HQ Sqn raft race was once again successfully held at the Mohnesee Sailing Club in August. Full marks to **SSM Barry Camille** for the organization of the event and picking the only day in August that it didn't rain.

There were many more rafts entered this year due to the Division Staff moving from 2 Sqn to HQ Sqn since the last event. Also this year's rafts and crews had to have a theme and were judged prior to the race for the best made raft.

The other change to previous years was the fact that each raft had to be crewed by six people, two more than before. However, the big day arrived and crews were reduced to four people, apparently due to the shortage of life jackets! Departments with a successful six seater have said the managment was bribed. Whatever the case it left some rafts with a problem in the fact that they were too big for four.

The race started promptly at 1500 hrs **Maj Joe O'Gorman** acting as official starter. Some departments immediately discovered design problems as they watched their rafts sink. From the gun LAD took up an enormous lead with their welded superstructure of oil drums. Places didn't change much during the race and first place went to LAD, second to Artillery Intelligence (there's a contradiction in terms) and third place to the Chefs. The first signals raft in the TM Tp who came fourth.

Our photo shows TM Tp winning best made raft with their entry Banana Boat. *Left-Right:* Sgt Flash Gordon, Mrs Kaz Robson, Cpl Tim Entwistle and Sgt Steve Casey

TM Tp paddling into fourth place

TM TROOP

PERSONALITIES

TOT	**Capt (TOT) Ray West**
FOS	**WO1 (FofS) David Ellis**
TP SSgt	**SSgt Ray Cory**

EXERCISE *TECHS TREK TRIANGLE*

On 26 July TM Tp closed up shop for one week and departed to Kempten in Bavaria for a week's adventure training organized by **SSgt Ray Cory**. The Troop was split into three teams to attack the activities of Mountain Walking, Canoeing, Rock Climbing, Abseiling and Bicycle Rallying on a round robin basis over five days.

The mountain walking was a mere 2,200m climb up the Nebelhorn. Unfortunately two teams reached the summit only to find that they were surrounded by thick cloud and could not take in the spectacular view, this produced many one liners such as 'What the *** did we climb up here for'.

The canoeing proved a challenge as the rain we've had this year made the river very fast indeed. **Cpl Easter** had all students gain confidence and practise capsize drills on a lake prior to the test of the river. **Sig Edwards** managed 6ft from the bank before his bottle went and he called it a day. **Sgt 'Flash' Gordon** kept the instructor busy by capsizing five times in two minutes. **LCpl Robson** proved the best of TM Tp at canoeing (we knew he must be good at something) and became a useful assistant for **Cpl Easter**.

Rock climbing and abseiling proved a disappointment as the continuous rain made the rock face too dangerous for novices. Luckily the rock face **Cpl Day** and **LCpl Tim Jones** had selected was a good 1,500m up another mountain so the days were not entirely wasted. On the abseiling front **LCpl Tim Jones** saved the day by finding a disused autobahn bridge which allowed all members a go at a 90ft free abseil.

Unfortunately the TOT **Capt Ray West** could not partake, despite trying to do so; he found out the grill outside the Ops Room isn't to stop people from wandering in but to stop him from getting out! Super FOS **WO1 David Ellis** also couldn't make it as he was too busy winning the 3 Div Regatta.

Cpl Drew Collins abseiling on the Gaillands Crag

SSgt Ray Corry, LCpl Woody Woods and Cpl Andy Garrett on top of the Nebelhorn

FAREWELCOMES

There have been a few movements over the last few months and sadly we say goodbye to **Sgt Keith Tillman** on posting to Ace High via Naples, **LCpl Davies** on posting to 14 Sig Regt and **LCpl 'Iron Man' Blenkinsop** on posting to AFCENT.

We are happy to welcome **Sgt Barry Parkinson** from Hong Kong, **Sgt Ian Moss** and **Cpl 'Knocker' Bennett** both from 8 Sig Regt. We hope you and your families have an enjoyable tour with the Iron Division.

1 SQUADRON

EXERCISE *BANANA TRIANGLE*

The sky was blue and the sun shone, as a bunch of lads from 1 Sqn drove their yellow Landrovers south towards the French Alps. Ex *Banana Triangle* was finally under way led by **Lt Peter Smith**. The exercise was based around the Chamonix area of the French Alps. The aim of the exercise was to walk and climb around the slopes of the Mont Blanc Massif.

Everyone had the opportunity to learn or revise his multipitch rock climbing skills. **Cpl Drew Collins** performed Elvis Presley dance impressions all the way up the rock face. **Sgt Phil Atkinson** led **Sgt Bonnington Griffiths** and **LCpl Bertie Robins** to the summit of the Aiguille de l'Index (2,595m). Unfortunately, further attempts on the summit were prohibited by adverse weather conditions.

Whilst experiencing the luxury of an 'Alpine Bivouac' in the vicinity of the Aiguille de l'Index, the team was called upon to assist in the rescue of an injured British climber. The stretcher party was eventually met by a helicopter rescue team which, in turn evacuated the unfortunate man to the hospital in Chamonix. The man had been struck on the head by a rock, dislodged by a chamois (wild mountain goat) on a small ledge high above him. The incident was a sharp reminder of the serious nature of the high Alpine environment.

Meanwhile, back in the valley, with temperatures reaching 30°C, **Sig 'Vinny' Vincent** and **Sig 'Fitz' Fitzgerald** both did their utmost to prove 'Darwin's Theories', whilst performing on the rock faces. **LCpl 'Roth' Rothery** was totally convinced that his climbing rope would snap at any moment. **Sig 'Fergie' Ferguson** managed to find time to

LCpl Bertie Robins on the Aiguille de L'Index

acquire the most expensive designer T-shirt in Chamonix. The rest of the team was 'impressed' and admired the garment with 'much enthusiam'.

Overall, the exercise was a great success and there was much regret when the time arrived to point the Landrovers Northwards and 'floor' the accelerators.

202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 16

SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP—
EXERCISE *MAIDEN TRIANGLE*

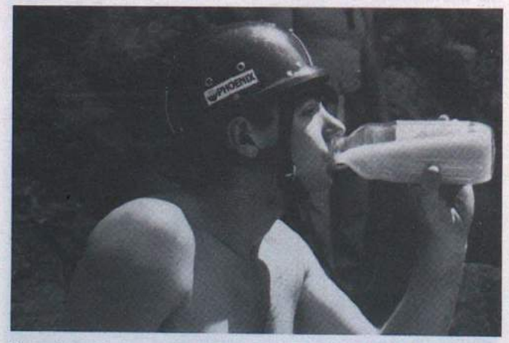
This year's adventure training pursuit camp was planned as a fortnight at the American Leave Centre in Garmish-Partenkirchen in the Bavarian Alps. 60 members of the Squadron looked forward eagerly to two weeks of sun, relaxation, and sport . . .

The first problem was how to get there—Easy, I hear you say, write a movement order. Three movement orders and three annexes to Squadron daily orders later, the 2IC, **Capt Gary Mason**, isn't so sure. He now sits in a corner, muttering quietly to himself, and quaking at any mention of the phrase, 'military transport'.

The Squadron did (finally) arrive, tumbling wearily out of Landrovers with sunglasses at the ready. We were confronted by weather that a meteorologist might describe as 'inclement', though more descriptive phrases were used. Undettered, and led by the fine examples of **Cpls Greg Doughty, Taff Nelson** and **Frank Spencer**, the Squadron embarked on a series of new sports such as 'volleyball-in-a-puddle', 'mud-throwing contests', and 'finding a person with dry clothes on and immersing him in a pool of water'—the latter game being mainly aimed at the Troop Commanders! By the end of the fortnight the camp site resembled the Somme—only it was muddier!

Regardless of the weather, our doughty heroes embarked on a series of adventurous training activities. **Sig 'Shep' Shepherd**, one of the windsurfing instructors, provided much amusement with his inability to windsurf, whilst **LCpl Edgar Egan** has something to say about **Sgt Dougie Dorian**'s route selection to the summit of the Alpspitz, after hanging by one hand over a 400ft precipice without a safety rope! And as if everyone wasn't wet enough already, the caneoists braved the Arctic temperatures of glacial rivers, whilst the mountaineers experienced abseiling into a lake!

Overall it was a thoroughly enjoyable exercise—**Cpl Taff Nelson** didn't get into trouble (almost), **Sig Marv Marvel** didn't punch anybody (almost), whilst the SSM, **WO2 Phil Budden** stayed teetotal throughout (almost). Finally **LCpl Ian Stringer** would like to say a big thank-you to **Claudia** for making him feel so welcome. Now about next year's exercise, **Gary** . . .



Capt Gary Mason refreshes the parts other orange juices can't reach

Lt Nick Pope posing again

EXERCISE *CERTAIN STRIKE*

The biggest exercise of its kind since the war, the adverts said. It certainly was for 202 Sig Sqn when deployed to man an Umpire Area Control Cell, (co-located with 2,000 Americans) and umpire the Dutch Divisional Headquarters.

The days passed quickly, a typical forecast of events running as follows:

0500 hrs Comms Ops. **Lt Mark Eaton** sits hunched gnome-like over a week-old copy of the Sun, surrounded by empty coke cans and sweet papers. A fly buzzes around the panzer, settling on RCU2. **Lt Eaton** glances up at the loudspeaker suspiciously. Surely nobody could be on the net after his efforts at rebro placing and frequency allocation? The silence continues. Satisfied at last, he settles back contentedly to his reading . . .

0800 hrs R/Relay Location. 200ft up a chimney stack **Sgt Chris Warnes** sits, soot-covered, erecting band one antennas. Heights and gains tests to engineer the shot!

0900 hrs Bde Comd's Lynx—Airborne. **LCpl Tony Jenner** has a problem. 2,000ft up, squashed behind a secure CNR rig with not a sick bag in sight, he gets progressively greener with each tactical manoeuvre. Not 2ft in front of him the Commander is engrossed in the battle. **Cpl Des Dolan**'s tool-kit bag is hastily emptied and comes to the rescue. The Commander remains ignorant of the proceedings. The Corps' honour remains umblemished—which is more than can be said of **Cpl Dolan**'s tool-kit bag!

1130 hrs The Tech ERV. The door of the ERV bursts open. **SSgt (FofS) Jim Martin** stands exposed to the world, clad only in an old pair of Y-fronts and pink carpet slippers. Behind him the slug-like recumbent forms of **Sgt John Webb** and **Sgt Bill Mackie** could vaguely be discerned through the sweaty, hazy interior of the ERV. The foreman yawns and scratches himself contentedly, fully prepared for another 24 hours off shift . . .

1225 hrs The Area Control Cell 3 Cookhouse. **Sgt Chris Bird** and his band of cooks, having just returned from a quick 25 mile sprint, have just been informed that the feeding strength has risen by yet another 100 bodies, **Sgt Bird** stares gloomily at a 10 man compo ration box, Menu C, wondering if it will stretch that far. Meanwhile the SQMS, **SSgt Nigel Sloane** and his Black-hand gang swop the Squadron's laundry (combat suits, socks etc) for US camp-cots.

1400 hrs The Complex—is deserted. After their midday siesta Ardenne Tp are preparing for rugby training and football against the Americans.

1500 hrs. The SSM (Squadron Sign Maker) **WO2 Phil Budden** is worried. After his daily round of golf, squash match and game of volleyball, he has run out of things to do. The OC, **Maj David Proctor** approaches him. 'I need 20 more benches for the briefing room, SSM.' The SSM brightens visibly. 'Certainly sir, I'll go and steal, I mean borrow some from the Americans—they've got hundreds, sir, and I'm sure they won't miss a few!'.

1800 hrs Fwd. At the other end of the war, Fighting Forward (Rhine Tp) are busy umpirng 4 (NL) Div. The Chief of Staff, **Maj Robert Baxter** has re-designed the complex layout for the twenty-fifth time that day. **Lt Nick Pope** sits in Comms Ops trying in vain to look important, whilst **Sgt Steve Barrington** and **Cpl Des Dolan** do all his work. **Cpl Greg Doughty** sleeps soundly during his day shift whilst **LCpl Tony Jenner** trudges round the Dutch headquarters reaffliating (yet again!) their subsets. The Dutch are so pleased with Ptarmigan that they manage to persuade Corps HQ to retain our services to reorganise at Endex. We wonder if they have any Comms at all. In the SAS/MC **Cpl Kev Jarvis** tries to discover what all the knobs and switches are for, while **LCpl Geordie Robinson** stops talking for a whole 87 seconds.

2100 hrs. Night time falls on the exercise, **Maj Gordon Ironmonger** 'guards' all the chocolate night rations. All in all it was rather a splendid little war!

SPORTSDESK
TENNIS

Having finally found a sport in which he is good enough to represent the Squadron, **Capt Gary Mason** has resurrected phoenix-like the Squadron tennis team from the ashes of last year's side. (He normally represents the Squadron at seven sports). Ably supported by **LCpl Ally Simmons** (3 Armd Div Individual Runner-up and 3 Armd Div Doubles Champion!), **Sig Pat Gray** and **LCpl Mark Webb**, the team marched through to the final of 3 Div Minor Units Cup where they comfortably beat 3 Ord Bn three games to one.

This qualified them for the BAOR semi-finals where they beat a high ranking 207 Sig Sqn team (Comd, COS, DCOS and OC Sqn!) 3—1. In the final the team were matched against 211 Sig Sqn who proved unable to match the serving talents of **LCpl Ally Simmons**, the team again winning 3—1, thus becoming BAOR Minor Unit Champions.

SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

Comd 33 Bde, **Brig Alex Harley** was the guest of honour at the 202 Sig Sqn Sportsman's Dinner, a chance to celebrate the sporting achievements of the Squadron throughout the previous year. The whole Squadron attended, those excused did the serving. **Sgt Chris Warnes** did an excellent job laying the table out all Officers' and Sergeants' Messes like. **Cpl Les Stimson** and his team did an excellent job making sure that the gravy is on your plate and not in your lap. Sportsman of the year was (not surprisingly) **Cpl Kev Jarvis**, closely followed by **Sgt Charlie Foster** as runner-up, whilst most promising sportsman award went to **Sig Sean Wilkinson**.

Team of the year, by popular vote, went to the Tug-of-War team, for a fine combination of endeavour and results.

HELLO'S/GOODBYES

The Squadron says a sad farewell to **SSgt Dave Gaffney** and **Sgt Kirpal Singh** who have both been in the Squadron (and the Army) for longer then they care to remember. We wish them both well in their respective new postings at Blandford and Catterick.

We welcome **Sgts Stu Layton** and **Nick Hawley** and hope they enjoy their tours in the Squadron.

Keep your unit notes
SHORT!

206 (6 Airmob Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 106

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Andy Grey**
2IC	**Capt Viv Thatcher**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) McAleer F**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Parry I**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Boxhall D**
Chief	**Sgt Glossop B**

FAREWELL AND HELLO'S

The Squadron has recently said goodbye to the following personnel on posting and wish to take this opportunity once again to thank them for all they have done for the Squadron and to wish them well in their new jobs: **Lt John Field** to 16 Sig Regt, **SSgt (FofS) Paul Gaffney** to 7 Sig Regt on promotion, **Sgt Jim Masson** to 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, shortly to complete 22 years of service, **WO2 (YofS) Tharme** to 7 Sig Regt also on promotion, **Sgt 'Head Otter' Trev Leach** to 518 Coy RPC to serve his last six months in the Army, **Capt Jan Rowley** to the sunny climes of Belize, **Sgt Stu Read** to 19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn, **Sgt Ken Lewis** to 21 Sig Regt, and finally **Cpl Nick Hawley** on 202 Sig Sqn on promotion to Sergeant.

We would like to welcome the following into the Squadron and hope that they have a rewarding and enjoyable tour with us: **Capt V. J. Thatcher, WO2 (YofS) Parry, SSgt (FofS) Boxhall, Sgts Bannister, Treen, Webb, Driver, Pilkington, Jarvis, Wilson RAPC, Spicer RPC, Cpl Gillespie, LCpl Hilson, Sig Barr, Large** and **Hill**.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the SSM, **WO2 Frank McAleer** and **Mrs McAleer** on the birth of their daughter. To **WO2 (YofS) Pete Tharme** on promotion to WO1, and **SSgt (YofS) Paul Gaffney** on promotion to WO2.

LIFE IN GENERAL

The Squadron has seen a large change around of key personalities these past few months, yet it is still doing extremely well on the sporting front. The club 'Rhino's Rest' is in the process of being renovated and a special mention must go to **LCpl Robinson** and **June**, for all the hard work they have put in over the months and to **Sig Camm** and **Findley** for all their efforts too.

ATHLETICS

Special congratulations to **(FofS) Paul Gaffney** on leading the Athletics Squad to second position in the Morrison Cup—look out for us in 1988.

EXERCISE *TOTY TRIANGLE*

With a small gap in the year's programme and a little help from **Maj Ian Campbell RCT**, the Squadron and Brigade HQ were able to book two huts at Vogelsang Camp for use as a base for some welcome adventure training.

Two week long programmes were organised including the usual activities. **Capt Paul Bailey** kindly led the climbing and abseiling for the first few days until **Lt Jim Morley-Kirk**, OIC exercise took over. The crags near Nideggan were the stage for many classic performances; notably **Sig Greg Gregory** for showing off with his backward somersaults. **Sig Andy Cartlidge** demonstrated his advanced driving skills by his close encounter with a coach that jumped across the road. As ever he chose his moment carefully, with the OC Sqn and **Maj Campbell** in the back.

Gnr Chris 'smoothboy' Setan of 19 Fd Regt RA provided his services as an excellent canoe instructor. After a morning of basic instruction on the lakes the groups paddled down the river Ruhr, shooting the rapids forwards, backwards and sideways. Even our most budding marine-boys still made it to Aberden. Many thanks to **Chris Setan** for his fine PR job—say no more. Congratulations to those who were awarded their ACU Inland proficiency for their efforts on the water.

On the trekking phase the joys of 'compo' and canvas were rediscovered. The route ran around the main lakes to a bivouac site on the training area near Ein. Some groups found it all too much and became honorary sea scouts for their efforts to save on boot leather. Early rains transformed the bivi site into a paddy field, and a 'night under canvas' became a night in the gents. Dampened spirits were lifted by **Cpl Eddie Bulters** admin runs—anything to boost bar sales. **Cfn Lee Cowell** and **Pte 'Schultz' Shilton** had the fortune of an extra day in the field as **Sgt Alistair Duncan** of R Anglian Regt and **Cpl Pete Scott** extolled the joys of the outdoor life.

Lt Mike Stapleton instructed in boardsailing for week one. **Sig Greg Gregory** was again outstanding as the only man to get third degree burns while spending most of his day underwater. **Lt Gavin Spinks**, AAC, took over instruction for week two, and started in fine style by being thrown off the lake, with his natural ingenuity and chat he managed to find another location, complete with sandy beach and an improved view, besides, this probably helps explain **Sgt Ken Lewis**'s re-kindled enthusiasm for water sports.

The cycling provided a day out and about the local area, incorporating a small competition that guaranteed a saddle sore return—for most. **Sgt Stu Read** engineered a magical change of two

Members of Ex *Toty Triangle* basking in the sun

LCpl Rushton wondering what is so funny (love that hat)

wheels to four, while the OC Sqns group beat the Marchan hills by hitching a ride on a passing low—loader. Meanwhile **Sig Simon Chandler** had the classic brake failure careering downhill and finally bailing out over the handle bars. The two weeks provided an excellent break with much worthwhile training, many thanks to the instructors and to **Cpl Nick Nicholson** ACC, for working his way so far into the resident Brigade larder. We had much assistance from 42 Pzer Inf Bde (NL) and our thanks to them also. We look forward to next year's adventure training and maybe a change from Rocky IV.

RIVER LIPPE NON-STOP CANOE

While travelling back from Vogelsang, having gained a large handful of 'proficient' canoeists, **Lt Jim Morley-Kirk** thought it a good idea to put their new found talents to use.

At 0300 hrs on Saturday 8 August, the first team of canoeists entered the water at Lippborg to begin leg one of a non-stop canoe to the River Rhine.

Three teams of three men went in relay throughout the night, into the daylight and back into the night. The legs were of between one and two hours duration depending on access/exit points.

Although a fairly quiet river, there were a few surprising stretches of rapids, but all managed to keep their heads above water. The canoes were finally lifted out of the water at Wesel at 0015 hrs on 9 August—150km completed. It proved good experience for all involved and the group was sponsored for its efforts. They hope to have raised several hundred DMs towards educational equipment for the Mohne School, Soest.

Team members of the non-stop River Lippe canoe relay

MOHNEFEST

The 3 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt's Summer fund raising event, the 'Mohnefest' took place on 18 July at the Mohne School Soest. 206 Sig Sqn had been allocated the Grand Draw to organise as their contribution to the event. After several weeks of organising, teams of 206 personnel descending on unsuspecting Saturday morning shoppers, extolling them to part with their cash for charity and a chance to win one of the prizes donated by local firms. The day itself proved to be a success, due to the large number of people who attended to enjoy themselves in bright sunshine at the many stalls and sideshows set up on the school playing fields.

The 206 Draw ticket sales teams were again in evidence. By the end of the afternoon they had been gathered in, and the winning tickets were drawn from the drum in the time honoured way.

The team included: **SSgt Clive Soutar, Cpls Pat Violet, John McBride, Mac McKenzie, Sig Steve Gore, Paul Shand, Pte Glen Suttenwood** and **Sig 'Mad Dog' Murdoch**.

SQUADRON RUGBY

At the close of the 1986/1987 season, the Squadron rugby team finished well by putting in a good performance at the Corps Seven-a-Side. The 'A' side reached the semi-final of the main competition, eventually being stopped by the host side, 22 Sig Regt, by only 8—0. The final tally was played 7 won 6, 132 points for, 36 against. The team followed up by winning the plate competition of the Divisional Seven-a-Side.

With a number of key players due for posting, we wondered if we would be able to make a full side, let alone defend our title as Divisional Minor Unit Champions. However, the Squadron managed to win the Regimental Inter-Squadron rugby competition in August. With the arrival of **WO (YofS) Parry** and **Sgt Ian Wilson** the team looks set for yet another good year.

INTER-SQUADRON FOOTBALL

The Inter-Squadron football competition took place on 17-18 August at Salamanca Barracks. Although missing several key players, the team put up some fine performances.

First opponent in the league was 204 Sig Sqn. Although drawing 1—1 we won through on corners. A convincing 3—1 win against 202 Sig Sqn carried us into the semi-finals to play HQ Sqn. After 30 mins we were 2—0 up with two superb goals from **Pte 'Junior' Rosegreen-Walters**. From then on things went downhill as **LCpl Paul 'I can't catch' Davis** dropped two balls into his own net—never mind **Paul**. Eventually we were beaten 3—2 and entered the plate final against 204 Sig Sqn yet again. The game was played in a very friendly spirit and we came out winners 3—1. Congratulations to all those in the team who fought hard to win. The cup hasn't materialised yet—maybe we'll receive it before next year.

EXERCISE *GREAT HOLIDAY*

With the final leave period looking so devoid of major activity. The RAF kindly invited us to join them for a quick exercise at RAF Gutersloh, and named the exercise appropriately.

Fresh from Larkhill, the Yeoman of Signals soon got to grips with RAF comms. All the same, he still insisted on sending dets to Brakhell—but we didn't have the map sheet.

LCpl 'Latex' Davis and his merry crew of **Pte 'Jo' Joseph** and our **'Scouse' Grey** found their vocation blowing up rubber tanks and hiding from Harriers in mud-fields.

Two 'not quite' airmobile signallers were also uncovered. As the RAF did their upside-down flying routine **Sig 'Seb' Wiles** found a novel use for the Load Masters map, while another pilot offered to land as **Sig 'Taff' Pikes** face changed colour yet again. Fortunately **Cpls Terry Watton** and **Jim Hanlon** took it in their stride so at least there was somebody to talk to at the other end.

After several days of joint service co-operation both on exercise and off, it was hard to trade in the Gutersloh life style—just as we were getting used to it, for sunny Salamanca.

EXERCISE *CORRIE LOCHLAN*

Ex *Corrie Lochlan* was a fast flowing three day's exercise for the Squadron providing comms for the 1 Gordons FTX. Of course not much can really go wrong in three days but it was especially noted that every vehcile **Sgt 'Vic' Bannister** got into failed to work, and to that point his co-driver who tried to revive said vehicle, **Sig 'You're sweating a lot all of a sudden' Pike** learnt the basics of arc welding. But the most fascinating fact of the exercise is how the 206 REME took approximately nine hours to complete a journey that took the rest of us only 40 mins.

On returning from the field the Squadron then had to do a complete turn around for Ex *Certain Strike*. It was so complete that **Cpl 'Terry' Watton** had to convert his Landrover from soft top into a hard top, with a total internal refit—just when we thought it was safe to close the garages!

4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt
BFPO 15

RHQ
PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col Adrian Schuler**
2IC	**Maj Ian Strong**
Adjt	**Capt Mike Lithgow**
Asst Adjt	**Lt Mandy Tindall**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Glenn Harwood**
SC	**WO1 (SC) Tim Craven**

It is many a long month since RHQ had a mention in the *Wire*. We like to think we are the 'Heart' of the Regiment, as indeed we are.

The Adjutant's office, when you can find someone in, is still running smoothly. The Adjutant, **Capt Mike Lithgow** spends a great deal of time riding, but I am told that that is what Adjutants are supposed to do.

The Orderly Room is a hive of activity, with **WO1 (SC) Tim Craven** sitting behind his desk pretending to look busy but still finding time to monitor how many people are abusing the photocopier, which constantly appears to be 'Out of Order'. **Sgt Dave Ellis,** Orderly Room Sergeant, keeps good control over the clerks although that is only one of the many things I have heard him call them. **Cpl Ray Pritchard** our long suffering Discipline Clerk answers the telephone for the ORS. **Cpl Katie Sweeney** and **Pte Shirley Stoddard** sit at the far end near the coffee room and make coffee for the Super Clerk. **Sig Taff Davies** books flights, changes flights, cancels flights, re-books flights, cancels them again. It is a wonder anyone manages to fly out of Germany on time and to the correct destination.

Sig Alan Stevens is unfortunate in that he works closest to the Super Clerk (but at least he rarely has to make the coffee). He does, however, take it in turns with **Sig Taff Davies** for the mid morning snack run to the YWCA Canteen—the Adjutant does enjoy his daily 'Corn-Dog' roll.

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Away on an Upgrading Course at the moment is **Sig 'Slug' Ellison** who always seems to be on leave or courses but, nevertheless, has found time to pass his BFT, if only at the ninth attempt.

The latest excitement for RHQ, and that is a real rarity, was a visit to the Inner German Border. Ably guided by **Lt Mandy Tindall** they left RHQ at the sociable time of 0900 hrs and were driven to Helmstedt by a German driver who quickly obtained the nick-name 'Stirling Moss'. The day was a great success, and apart from a couple of 'deliberate' detours through towns, we visited the border at the four designated points. The highlight of the day was lunch. We stopped at a remote Gasthaus and everyone had Bratwurst and Chips apart from **Sig Taff Davies** who ordered a 'delicious' local delight—raw bacon, fried egg and gherkins. He was not amused!

Well that's all from RHQ.

RHQ at the Inner German Border

1 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj P. J. Grey**
2IC	**Capt A. W. T. McComb**
OC K	**Lt A. D. Burgin**
OC C	**Lt D. P Hix**
OC P	**2Lt P. Bosher**
SSM	**WO2 Halstead**
FofS	**WO2 Thomas**
YofS	**SSgt Evans**
SQMS	**SSgt Cottingon**

Well, the time has drifted by and whilst sitting in the OC's office the conversation turned to the *Wire* notes.

OC: 'We need some *Wire* notes!—who did them last?'

Subbies in Chorus: 'I did!'

OC: 'Right then RHIP takes precedent. **Tony** you first, then **David** oh! and then you **Paul!**'

Where did RHIP come into that?

The Squadron is in a turmoil at the moment; the imminent arrival of a new Trunk Node has unhinged everybody, not least the 2IC, who is having recurring nightmares about moving a TN with 20 men!

We have been extremely busy of late with the normal exercise commitments and Ex *Reforger/Certain Strike* has tested the mettle and sense of humour of everyone to the utmost. A 'well done' must go to all those who were 'volunteered' to go at short notice.

With no immediate break on the horizon due to Battlecamp and Keystone it will be Christmas before we know it.

Despite heavy commitments the Squadron performed well in other areas. The football team was runner up (for the second time) in the Inter-Sqn football competition. We came a very close third in the 'It's a Knockout' competition. Thanks must go to all the wives, children and seniors who took part.

The Squadron SAAM, organised by **Sgt Nicholl,** was enjoyed by those who attended. There was no doubt that Kiwi Tp deserved to win overall! However, the pistol relay proved to be a talking point with the 'Bods' team, **SSgt Hopper, Sgts Waclawek, Gill** and **SSgt Garn** narrowly winning over Kiwi Tp. **Sgt Hurst** is just about talking to people again! A special mention must go to **Cpl 'Dodgenus' Davies** who emerged as overall champion. However, it was noted that he did not drive the landrover down to the ranges!

On a more serious note the Squadron says farewell to a number of very familiar faces. **FofS Andy Roberts** and **Bev** leave for Saudi Arabia, **YofS Andy Baron** and **Anne** leave for Harrogate, **SSgt Alan Hibberd** and **Sue** leave for Hammersmith and **Sgt Martin Waclawek** and **Karen** leave for Hong Kong.

Also **Cpl Adams** on promotion to Sergeant, **LCpls Newman, Clark, Sig Johnson, Wood.** The Squadron wishes them all the best and good luck in their new posts.

Congratulations go to the following on their marriages. **Cpl Pope** to **Lesley, Sig Langley** to **Anja** and **Sig Tomlinson** to **Silvy.** Good luck and all the best for the future.

FOOTNOTE

With the departure of **SSgt Hibberd** from Cheetah Tp, **SSgt Hopper** has slipped quietly into the chair and is at the present moment trying to pinpoint the whereabouts of the Tp OC. A photofit picture is published.

OC CHeetah Tp, Lt David Hix
The Missing Link?
If you see this man please contact 1 Sqn, 4 ADSR immediately

2 SQUADRON

The Squadron has had a hectic time with different taskings taking a seasonal acceleration forcing all sorts of willing bodies out into the exercise field. We sent a few potential soldiers to the Regiment's infantry platoon for *Medicine Man IV* in Suffield. The rest of the Squadron trundled off to the Chiemsee for a week's adventurous training, where they were camped amongst the Americans and made many new friends. A mixture of sailing, hiking, abseiling and, rock climbing, canoeing and sight-seeing was enthusiastically embarked upon and somewhat erratically completed. Preparations for Ex *Reforger/Certain Strike* have occupied most of the intervening time and as we go to print, apart from the obligatory road sweeping party and the boxing team (which is busy looking for the team brain cell) the remainder are hiding in various lumps of undergrowth around Soltau.

A1 TROOP'

SSgt 'Posted' Nicholls was highly relieved to see the return of his dearly beloved Troop OC coming back from an arduous duties tour in Cultybraggan; he can now get back to concentrating on being his normal helpful and constructive self. Those who returned from a canoeing expedition in Norway were soon found work. The weather was its predictable self and most of the work on the tank park was restricted to swimming from vehicle to vehicle, guessing which one the LAD had not broken the locks off or VOR'd. The horde of technicians which has invaded the Troop was spotted talking about doing some work over yet another cup of coffee in **SSgt Hughie Allison**'s office, but **Cpl 'Jes' Kidby** an old A1 Tp hand managed to talk them out of it. **Cpl Steve Cherry** was promoted to Sergeant. Another first for A1 was managed this month when **SSgt Nicholls** let **Sig 'Cheesie' Chivers** go on a course. Some leave was eventually allowed to a percentage of the Troop, but only because the weather was too bad for exercise. A1 Tp's natural sporting prowess has shown itself to the full—with the Troop being knocked out of every competition played to date. **Sig John Hastie** managed to go a whole month without getting into trouble, though the seasonally adjusted figure still shows him in the red.

Sig 'Cheesie' Chivers and **Sig 'Geordie' Leask,** using escape plan B, tunnelled their way back to the Troop and are more than welcome on their return. **Sig 'Master' Bakes** came, saw, and was immediately dispatched to the Falklands, he did not even have time to fill in an arrival proforma. A new joy was added to the vast repertoire of in-camp activities, repainting the parking lots. The camp is now successfully covered in a suitably smeared colour coded system. **Sig 'Punctual' Lovell** has promised to arrive on time in future, just for a change.

A1 Troop say a sad farewell to **Sgt 'Brummie' Stewart** who leaves, posted to a pub in bonny Birmingham, and **Cpl Chris Mountain** (now Sgt) sold out to RHQ and has now swapped sleeping in the Wavell for sleeping in the Ops Office. **Cpl 'Shrug' Harris** has sloped off to a secret Nissen hut in Blandford. **LCpl 'Whingeing' Winning** hobbled off to Berlin. **LCpl Bob Donaldson** having had his 5 AB Bde posting turned down went off to work in the PRI. Those others who have deserted the sinking ship are: **Cpls Kev Robinson, Russ Clark, LCpl Stevie Burns, Sig Paddy Bunting, Tim Dodd, C. J. Jenner** and **Al Payne.**

The new lambs to the proverbial slaughter who have yet to get over the euphoria of arriving are: **Sgt Steve Talbot** (who is soon to be posted on to A3), **Cpl Malcolm Harradin** and **John Morris, LCpls Ron Hirst** and **'Mac' McCormick, Steven Witty** and **Fielding** and **Sig Tim Shears, 'Master' Bakes, 'Scouy' Scoufield** and **'Columbo' Falkner.**

IT'S A KNOCKOUT

After weeks of secret training and team planning the Squadron 'It's a Knockout' team came out narrow victors in the Regimental competition. A somewhat chaotic series of competitions, where sheer luck was the major winning factor, were enjoyed greatly by all. **YofS Pete Stoddart,** the team captain, gambled all on the joker using him on the dirtiest game he could think of. Then **Lt Andy Munday,** using all his prestigious thinking power was let loose on the marathon competition, with a hand picked team of elitists and several hours of detailed planning behind him he was confident of a good placing. He came last. Despite this set back and **SSgt 'Stripper' Selkirk**'s attempt to re-enact several scenes from the latest Rocky film on the last game, 2 Sqn squeezed home narrow victors. A special thanks to all the wives who participated for being so willing to have a go.

Finally a mention for **SSgt 'Stripper' Selkirk** who had a highly successful day at the Regimental Bowling Competition, winning 11 trophy's all told and generally sweeping the board.

EXERCISE *ODIN HEAD*

The second leg of the dual exchange trips between 2 Sqn 4 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt and 1 HQ Coy Jutland Bde took place between 30 August and 4 September with 2 Sqn arriving on what was to be the start of Denmark's summer weather. A hectic timetable of events had been arranged and no sooner had the soldiers debussed before they were hurtling round the Regiment being shown all the interesting nooks and crannies and discovering that it is not only the British Army that sweeps vast areas of tarmac.

After lunch, a tour of the local town of Fredricia's old battlements was organised with a Major who took us through the history of the area. Scarcely had the Squadron returned to camp before it was generously entertained by their hosts.

Tuesday brought a host of competitions, the first of which was an obstacle course in the local swimming pool which the Danes won. However, in assaulting each other with polystyrene blocks 2 Sqn came out victorious. The shooting brought the one victory in a week of defeats for us when **Sgt Talbot** won the individual pistol shoot by one point. Otherwise the rest of the shooters were thoroughly trounced by a well trained and professional Danish side.

That night saw the patrol exercise and here we, at least, proved that we were up to it. We had a great time wading through bogs, finding electric fences, falling in streams and getting hopelessly lost as well as putting in an assault on a rocket site and dinghying across a fjord. When morning came a tired and sodden crew gladly shuffled off to their beds.

The morning brought a highly imaginative, but difficult obstacle course through the ruins of a small hamlet. Some excellent times were recorded with a Danish superstar winning convincingly, but the

Squadron put up a very satisfying performance. The rest of the day was spent sightseeing in the town of Fredricia.

The final day brought a fresh range of competitions that the Danes could beat us at. It started off with their on-camp obstacle course which was exceedingly tough and demanding (which the Danish superstar won again), but which was also highly enjoyable. This was followed by a grenade throwing competition in which 2 Sqn worried most of the targets, but hit few. Then came the tug-of-war in which both Squadron teams demonstrated the correct way to lose. Finally a football match was organised for the afternoon and after 2 Sqn had scored the opening goal the Danes struck back with a vengeance and after a flurry of penalties and some sound skills by the Danes the final score was 5—2.

That night we were seen off with a feast of barbecued pork and a few beers. All the Squadron had a thoroughly good time and enjoyed a programme of events that had been excellently planned and smoothly executed and was a credit to 1 HQ Coy Jutland Bde.

Cpl Mark Richmond tries to understand a blast of fluent Danish and fails miserably. LCpl Ian Lawton tries to look mean and moody in the background

LCpl 'Jacko' Jackson set to paddle with a rather nervous Sig Paddy McLaughlin acting as ballast

3 SQUADRON

OC	**Maj Alan Jones**
2IC	**Capt John Walker MBE**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) John Dent**
SQMS	**SSgt (SQMS) Steve Toms**

SHQ

Between the two of them, the OC **Maj Alan Jones** and 2IC **Capt John Walker** have managed to spend a lot of time away from here for a variety of reasons which included *Snow Queen* recces and sailing for the OC and secret exercise planning and some strange activity called 'leave' for the 2IC. The Squadron has, however, been under the watchful eye of the SSM who has managed to get the most slothful out for his early morning runs.

A2 TROOP

OC	**Capt Jim Wood**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Tony Giles**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Geoff Hawkins**

In August the Troop was treated to a week's adventure training in the Harz Mountains. **Capt Jim Wood** was in charge of throwing members of the Troop off an assortment of cliffs of varying heights and **Cpl Dave Devine,** our full-time canoe instructor, actually spent some time with the Troop, for a change. The canoeists were treated to the ice-cold water of the Oderstausee and during capsize drills **Sig 'Moose' Moakes** went in and out so fast, he did not even get wet. **LCpl Mick Curtis** and **Sig Robbo Roberts** showed the locals a thing or two on a windsurfer and **Cpl Steve Burrows** is now a fully qualified bridge-jumping instructor. Those canoeists who felt up to the strain were treated to a morning of moving water and **LCpls Norrie Crook** and **Carl Smith** decided it was all far too easy and went down backwards and/or without using the paddle—it only gets in the way of waving madly for help! **Sig Neil Wellings** showed us how to go down upside down and ended up with his wrist in plaster.

On the cliff-face **LCpl Clint Eastwood** was perfecting climbing with 10 points of contact and **Sig Gaz Currie** had a severe case of disco-leg halfway up. Forward abseiling was tried by nearly everyone and became a popular tourist attraction. **Cpl Andy Dick** took so long to get down because he did not want to mess up his hair.

Early on, the Troop were looked after by a local shooting club and although we did not do too well at the shooting, we certainly beat them at the singing afterwards. The OC and **Sgt Geoff Hawkins** took part in another shooting competition over the weekend and we hope to continue links with the club. A good time was had by all and **Cpl 'Herbie' Herbert** will be remembered for years to come for his skill on the dance floor—**Michael Jackson** watch out!

B TROOP

OC	**Lt Graham Complin**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Martin Smith**

The Tp OC **Lt Graham Complin** disappeared again—this time to get married—best of luck to them both.

The Troop was away for a week's adventure training in the area of Cochum. Coincidentally at the same time as the wine festival but this had no influence on planning at all! **Lt Graham Complin** put to good use his skills as Unit Fitness Officer by taking PT each morning. A lot of time was spent canoeing in the Mosel and even **SSgt Martin Smith** managed to get in a canoe for some of the time. Amongst other activities climbing, orienteering and trekking amongst the vineyards were included.

L TROOP

In the capable hands of **Sgt Pete Duffy,** Line Troop went to the Harz Mountains for a week's adventure training. **Sig John Powell** and **Acty Atkinson** were like goats running up cliff faces and even **Sig 'Buzz' Busby** was getting up some difficult climbs by the end of the week. After spending a few hours crawling around underground, a very muddy **Cpl Chippy Davies** decided he much preferred abseiling and vowed not to go underground again. The canoeists, under the capable guidance of **Capt John Walker,** soon perfected the Eskimo roll in the cold reservoir water.

EXERCISE *LONG STRIDE*

After the OC decided it would be a good idea to carry out a military training exercise away from camp, the 2IC and SSM were soon away on mysterious recces. It became clear that the exercise was going to be special and the rumours started about the distance to be covered and the tasks to be done.

Winning patrol on Ex *Long Stride*
Sig Mac McGowan, LCpl Billy Atwell, Sig John Powell, Ted Dexter, Pte Paula Gill and Cpl Chippy Davies (Patrol Commander)

The Squadron moved out in the beginning of September and set up camp at an airfield to the South of Meschede. Helicopters were used to deploy the five-man patrols to their various start points and the exercise started. Under an intricate plan devised by **Capt John Walker,** each patrol visited a number of stands over three days, covering the ground between as best as they could. This was achieved with varying degrees of success with some of the patrols deciding on the more scenic routes. At each stand the patrols were marked for their efficiency at the task. These included an attack on a 'Comms' site run by **Sgt Mick Kindness,** (the nearest he had been to signal equipment for a long time), and a number of ambushes 'controlled' by **Sgts Jack Overton** and **Alec Porter** on the dreaded **2Lt 'Commandant' Dave Hix** and his 'evil' band from 1 Sqn. The river crossing was a welcome break for weary legs, although paddling assault boats is not quite a rest, and all the patrols lowered themselves and their equipment 100ft into a quarry before moving off again.

After three days, the patrols were airlifted back to base camp and were treated to a barbecue provided by the SQMS. With a variety of experiences, and lots of blisters, the exercise provided enough war-stories to last until Regimental Battle Camp.

FOOTBALL

Led by **Sgt Alec Porter,** the Squadron football team was victorious in the inter-squadron competition beating 211 Sig Sqn (5—2) and HQ Sqn (2—1) to get into the final. The team put in a fine display to beat 1 Sqn (8—2) with leading goal scorers **Cpl Andy Dick** and **Sig Jock Milne.**

200 (20 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 41

EXERCISE *MAINBRACE*

Ex *Mainbrace 87* was a Divisional CPX where 200 Sig Sqn became part of 20 Tank Regt. **Sgt Mick Tanser** was excused this as he spent the majority of his time in his sleeping bag. He is currently trying to get hold of a German bag, which has arms and legs, so that combat kit can become a thing of the past and he can then walk to meals in his maggot.

There were two main highlights of the exercise, firstly the ERV crewed by **SSgt John 'Wiggy' Wright** and **Cpl Dave Gold** did not get bogged in. Secondly the 'A' in 'A' Tp was renamed 'accident' thanks to the hard work and effort from **Sig 'Smasher' Duggan** and **Sig 'Rover Roller' Challiner**.

EXERCISE *HARD ROVER*

Report by Sig Martin Avins

It was obvious that this B Tp Military Training exercise was going to be a bad one, because the sun was shining and none of the vehicles broke down on deployment. On arrival at Stappel 'picnic' area the weather decided to break.

After a morning of military skills we saw the arrival of a Lynx from 4 AAC and proceeded to carry out helicopter landing drills. This was, of course, interrupted due to the weather conditions.

After tea saw the deployment to a rather overgrown harbour area, but this little problem was soon solved by the skilful driving of **Chris 'Path Finder' Wilks**.

Night time called for a number of recces to be completed, one of which ended with one of the troop, **Sig Ivan 'Who mentioned sleep?' Walker** catching mild hypothermia. Rumour has it that he's now OK but the rest of Bravo Tp are not convinced.

During the early hours of the last morning we were given an objective to complete. This was nearly foiled by **Sig Neil 'Deno' Cawthorne** again complying with convoy drills. Working on the rumours that the section attack was going to be hard **Sig Chris 'Skiver' Wilks** decided to try and get out of the attack by throwing both tracks on Comms Ops, alas, this was foiled by **Cpl Paddy 'Norway' Lynch**'s knowledge of splitting tracks. The section attack passed quite uneventfully apart from the enemy, consisting of volunteers from Alpha Tp, being totally wiped out by Bravo Tp's 'Elite Forces'.

Endex brought a few smiles to the members of Bravo Tp who immediately on arrival at Hobart Barracks decided to take part in a synchronised session of Egyptian PT.

EXERCISE *STOMPING QUADRANT*

During Ex *Mainbrace* the OC Squadron decided that Summer Camp should be 'different' this year. So armed with their beloved Squadron Training Objectives the Officers and SNCO's produced a programme which was definitely unlike normal challenge pursuit camps. The exercise was divided into three phases.

PHASE 1 THE TRAINING PHASE

This was devised by Alpha Tp and the Squadron was divided into six sections and then offered a choice of adventurous training activities to practise. Under the guidance of **Lt Matt 'Yes it's all jacked up!' Hanson,** and **SSgt 'Are you sure sir!' Rutter,** the groups performed various tasks which might be of use to them later in Phases 2 and 3. These included climbing, canoeing and windsurfing among the more normal activities. Other tasks were target golf, cooking in the field and assault boat handling. Once trained the sections move on to Phase 2.

PHASE 2 MOVE TO BAVARIA

Report by Cpl Dave Gold and LCpl 'Queenie' Watts

This phase of the exercise involved a move to Kochel am See via Kassel and a night stop in Nurnberg, the sections having to complete a number of tasks en route. You could tell it was going to be an interesting phase when section six led by **LCpl Dave Riley** of the MT managed to come last in the vehicle fault finding task. At this point the Squadrons star map readers come to the fore, where a long time Squadron record for getting lost was finally deservedly won by **LCpl Neil Trengrove**. As a somewhat confused team member said 'I've never seen so much effort going into such a simple task, with such incredible results. Getting lost on an autobahn certainly deserves a mention in *The Wire*, especially as it was done between two junctions'.

Nevertheless, after a number of river and lake crossings, the sections managed to arrive safely in Bavaria on Friday afternoon.

PHASE 3 THE GAUNTLET CHALLENGE

On arrival in Bavaria the following conversation took place:

OC Sqn: 'Can you give me and the 2IC a quick brief on this phase?'
OC B Tp: 'Certainly'

Three quarters of an hour later:

OC Sqn: 'Do you play three dimensional chess often?'
OC B Tp: 'No, why?'
OC Sqn: 'Can you please tell me what's happening on this phase?'

What happened on this phase would probably take up the rest of the year to relate, but if any reader should ever visit the **'Sgt Steve Piggins** Home for Mentally Confused Signalmen' then they are sure to find enough members of the squadron to get a rough idea of what the Gauntlet Challenge was all about.

Basically the Challenge was to visit up to 30 checkpoints over the space of two days in the mountains around Kochel. At each checkpoint there was a mental, or physical test, which, if successfully completed, would result in a prize being awarded. This would either be in the form of money to enable the team to travel on the bus driven around the area by **Cpl Robbie Luckhurst,** or equipment, to enable the team to complete a final series of tests which led to the Gauntlet.

The exercise, designed to test physical fitness, was won by the 'Belly' section, featuring **LCpls Baz Brooks, Oscar Martins, Sig Chris Wilks** and **Deno Cawthorne** and **Dvr Clown Gray** who walked the course with cans in hands!

WELCOMES, FAREWELLS AND CONGRATULATIONS

The Squadron has recently said farewell to **WO2 (YofS) Crilly, SSgt Taff Ward** (REME), **Cpls Paddy Lynch** and **Joe Marsden, Sig Nobly Norman** and we wish them all well in their new jobs.

The new arrivals are **SSgt (FofS) Taff Griffiths, Sgt Steve 'Pick-up' Piggins** and **Sig 'Jennifer' Hart** and **'Tommy' Vance** and we hope they enjoy the tour with us.

Finally congratulations to **Cpl Oscar Martins** and **LCpls 'GT' Hunt** and **Dave Watts** on their recent promotions.

211 (11 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn
BFPO 29

The late summer saw the Squadron involved in numerous activities ranging from Battle Group Training in Soltau to Battlefield tours in Italy.

EXERCISE *SWEET MEDICINE*

For two periods, each of two weeks, a large contingent of the Squadron deployed to Soltau to provide umpire vehicles/taxis for the Brigade Staff enabling them to umpire the various battlegroups in the brigade as they prepared for Suffield.

Under the expert command of **WO2 (YofS) Steve Whytock** everything ran smoothly and the exercise was enjoyed by all who took part.

EXERCISE *MEDICINE MAN 6*

The Squadron provided a Defensive EW monitoring team to support this exercise, which under the capable leadership of **Cpl Tony Slaney** performed well. All members of the team appeared to enjoy the trip especially the R&R in the USA.

MINOR UNITS TENNIS

1987 was a fairly successful season for the Squadron Tennis team. In the Divisional Championships a convincing 4—0 victory over 6 Ord Bn in the final secured the Divisional Minor Units Title. This also qualified the team to enter the BAOR Championships where after reaching the final a 3—1 defeat was suffered at the hands of 202 (33 Armd Bde) Sig Sqn.

THE TEAM

Sgts 'Boz' Shead, Sgt 'Trev' Taylor, Cpl 'Don' Anderson and **WO1 Davis RAOC.**

RESULTS

4 Div Minor Units versus 54 Sqn RCT—Won 3—1
4 Div Minor Units versus 6 Ord Bn—Won 4—0 Final
BAOR Minor Units versus CPO BAOR—Won 4—0
BAOR Minor Units versus 202 Sig Sqn—Lost 1—3

FAREWELLS

Sadly we say farewell to **Capt Brian Peel** and wish him, **Barbara** and family all the best at Krefeld. Also we say goodbye to **WO2 (SSM) Derek Boyd** and wish him, **Sue** and the family all the best in Verden.

Goodbye also to **Sgt Pete Cornes, Cpl 'Bob' Jonas** (best of luck on the YofS Course), **Sig 'Swanny' Clark** and **Sig 'Micky' Gabriel.**

WELCOME

Recent arrivals to the Squadron include; **WO2 (SSM) Roger Fairfield, Sgts Andy Bullock, Frank Jolley, LCpl Parkes** and **Sigs Petrie, Davis Cawthorne** and **Hawkins** who are welcome and wished a happy stay with the Squadron.

Capt Brian Peel is towed out of camp 'on board ship'

WO2 (SSM) Boyd *(Right)* hands over the squadron halberd to WO2 (SSM) Fairfield

STOP PRESS . . . EXERCISE *HALBERD QUADRANT*

As this report is compiled, 12 members of the Squadron have just returned from a Battlefield Study in Italy.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

RHQ is obtained via the London District Exchange. The civil telephone number of RHQ is now 01 930 4466 and extension numbers are shown below.

Ext 8240	Regimental Secretary
Ext 8241	Assistant Regimental Secretary
Ext 8242	RHQ Office
Ext 8244	Welfare
Ext 8245	Association
Ext 8246	Editor/Assistant Editor *The Wire*
Ext 8247/8248	Accounts, including all matters relative to *Wire* subscriptions and distribution, change of address etc.

7 Sig Regt
BFPO 15

7 SIGNAL REGIMENT RE-VISITED

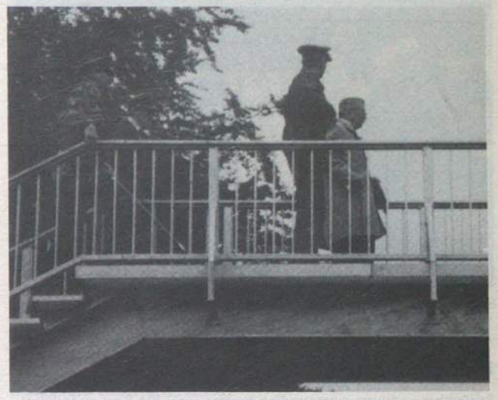
An historic event took place at 7 Sig Regt on 29 September.

After 28 years **Lt Col (Retd) B. H. P. Barnes OBE** returned to his old Regiment to open the Mk2 Barnes Bridge. The original Barnes Bridge was built over the busy Herford Bad Salzuflen Road by Royal Engineers in 1958 to enable soldiers to move safely between north and south camp. The original bridge was condemned as unsafe and was dismantled in May of this year by PSA and has now been replaced by a new one.

The CO introducing Col Barnes to the Officers prior to the opening of the bridge

During his visit **Col Barnes** was given a 28 year update on the role of the Regiment and its equipment, 2 Sqn commanded by **Maj Joe Moreland** demonstrated a trunk node for him.

Throughout his visit he seized every opportunity to talk to everyone and kept them amused with anecdotes of life in the Regiment when he was the CO.



Lt Col (Retd) B. H. P. Barnes with the CO QM(A) and RSM inspecting the new bridge

AROUND THE REGIMENT
VISIT OF THE CORPS BAND

On Thursday 8 October the Corps Band visited Fleming School located out in the sticks at Enger. The band was up to its usual high standard and their antics certainly kept the children amused.

The Corps Band performing Old MacDonald

VISIT OF COMD COMMS 1(BR) CORPS

On 6 October **Brig Tim Waugh MBE** visited 7 Sig Regt.

Sgt 'Q' Deeming (4 Sqn) attempting to hypnotise Comd comms into approving a quick posting

BAOR ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The BAOR Road Race Championships were held at Bunde on 12 September and were a resounding success for 7 Sig Regt as follows:-

1st Individual: **Sgt Carr**: Team Event: Ladies Team Event.

Photograph Show: The Team Winners:- Left to Right: **Andy Hickling, Frank Worrel, Alan Gold** and **Ray Bruce**.

The Team Winners

Left to Right: RSM Andy Hickling, Maj Frank Worrell, SSgt Alan Gold and Sgt Ray Bruce

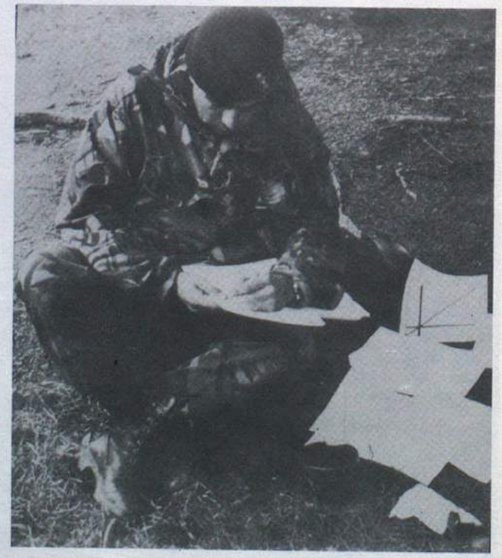
EXERCISE *FISHERS JEST*

We soon learnt that Ex *Fishers Jest* had just been sprung on us to test the junior officers mental and physical stamina. We had two hours to return in combats and full kit while the non-players would be briefed on their task as directing staff.

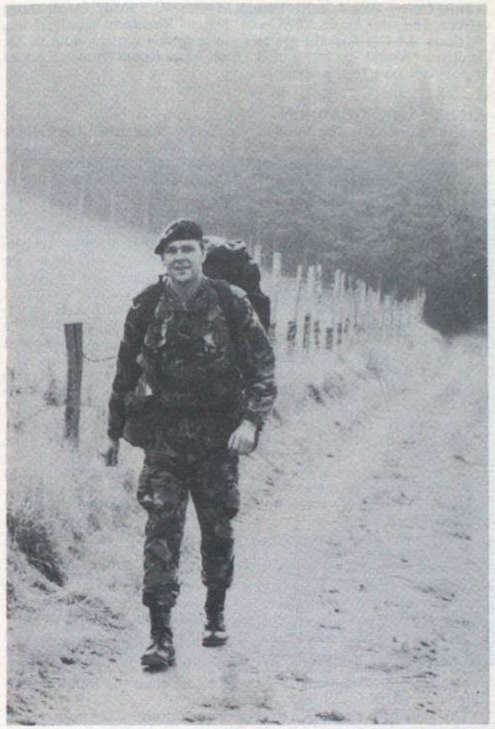
After a two hour drive we were dropped off individually to make our way to the first of what would be many check points. It took about four hours of walking to arrive at Check Point 1 which happened to be on the summit of a large hill (it turned out that they were all on the tops of hills). **2Lt Murray (tracker) Coleman** proved that a late night makes one rather slow next day. There we had to complete a word quiz against time and decode an encrypted message before setting off for the next check point. The route consisted of seven legs punctuated with small mental puzzles at each check point. It made those who were capable of completing the puzzle have a 48 hours compulsory stop although **Lt Dave (road-runner) Kenyon** attempted to arrive at each check point before the DS and **Lt Adam (my yacht is already booked) Hearn** tried to do the opposite. **Lt Matthew (I have done P Coy) Edwards** impressed everyone with his ability to become immediately lost, he then dropped his torch and re-discovered the use of the electric fence (to inflict pain on those wandering in the dark without any torch).

The end result of the exercise was 28 blistered feet and many threats of revenge. it certainly proved to be very testing physically (painful) and the DS thought it was a complete success although the players did not look back with such enthusiasm. By the time you read this operation Sublterns Revenge should have been actioned **(Maj Fisher** happens to be on the top of the list of players).

Lt Paul Pople looking as though he had planned something for Neil Fisher



Lt Adam Hearn plotting the course for the yachting holiday that he missed



Lt John Egan still looking for checkpoint 3 two days after everyone else had gone home

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF AN ATTACHMENT

by 2Lt J. D. Forrest

Before leaving Sandhurst, I was informed that I was to be attached to 7 Sig Regt before commencing the Troop 'commanders' course. All I was told about the Regiment was that it was 'a fairly big regiment' and that I would be kept 'quite busy'.

I arrived on 7 September, to find most people out of camp; a common occurence as I was to discover later. On this occasion, the Regiment was providing umpire communications for Ex *Certain Strike*. I was quickly introduced to those members of the Regiment who were still around and was told I was to deploy the next day! This I did and learnt a great deal about the Ptarmigan system in the remaining two and a half weeks of the exercise.

On returning to barracks I was immediately launched into the Page trophy competition—a series of inter-squadron sports events—which took up two days after which I was looking forward to a relaxing week before deploying on site guard. Fate had other things in store for me. Under the guise of an Anglo-German day the officers of the Regiment gathered in the mess one Saturday morning. When **Maj Neil Fisher** arrived in combat kit instead of blazer and tie, a few eyebrows were raised, and some choked into their coffee, as we were told to pack our kit and return within two hours for a briefing.

We spent three days on Ex *Fishers Jest*, a rather testing exercise consisting of a wee jaunt in the Sauerland of approximately 100km with mental tests at a series of check points. A great deal was learnt and well worth the blisters!

Next I deploy with the Squadron on site guard before moving to Blandford. An enjoyable and busy time for which I will have fond memories, especially of the lads of trunk node 024 who looked after me so well.

2 SQN

PERSONALITIES

OC Sqn	**Maj J. Moreland**
2IC	**Capt R. N. Clapp**
OC B Tp	**Capt A. K. Trimble**
OC 024 Tp	**Lt D. Raleigh**
2IC 024 Tp	**2Lt J. D. Forrest (On attachment)**
OC 025 TP	**Lt M. Woodham**
OC 026 Tp	**Lt J. Egan**
SSM	**WO2 RAH Melville**
FofS	**SSgt S. Meachin**
YofS	**SSgt S. W. Catterall**
SQMS	**SSgt G. Knight**
MT Sgt	**Sgt N. Middlecoate**

A BUSY PERIOD

The Squadron is currently going through a busy period, in fact these notes were written by the newly arrived 2IC, **Capt Robin Clapp** and Yeoman **Steve Catterall** whilst the remainder of the Squadron was on site guard. Despite the commitments and the recent change in the heirarchy, we have managed to participate in many sporting activities during the last few months including the Page trophy competition in which we came second.

Over to you, Yeoman . . .

EXERCISE *CERTAIN STRIKE*

During the month of September the Squadron deployed for three weeks on Ex *Certain Strike*. OSC 136 and its associated trunk nodes deployed to their field locations and remained there for the duration of the exercise.

The OSC (in its wisdom), blistered on to trunk node 026 amidst groans of 'Oh no not the cling ons again!' **SQMS Gerry Knight** came up trumps (no pun on the OCS bridge circle intended) with the worst choice of videos available.

A special mention must go to trunk node 024 who spent the entire exercise in a quagmire. The troop paid its respects to its node commander, **Capt Dave Raleigh**, and threw him into a rather deep pool of oozing mud with cries of 'That will teach him to brag about this being his last exercise'. Even though the exercise turned out to be generally static, a lot of valuable experience was gleaned in management and engineering techniques especially in respect of SCRA.

Capt Robin Clapp presenting the cup to Sig Richie Pearce the Captain of 025's winning inter Troop hockey team

AND FINALLY

Can anyone really explain why **Capts 'Pathfinder' Trimble** and **Clapp 'the map'** were seen near the IGB when on a visit to SEP on Ex *Certain Strike*?

3 SQUADRON
Report by SSgt 'Willy' Ironside

PERSONALITIES

SHQ	
OC Sqn	**Maj Neil Churches RA Signals**
SSM	**WO2 Mike Duffin**
FOS	**WO2 Chris Wilkie**
YOS	**SSgt Trev Gower**
SQMS	**Sgt Alan Marsden**
TN 027	
OC	**Lt Paul Pople**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Neil Ardern**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Terry Foster**
TN 028	
OC	**Lt Patrick Evans**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Willy Ironside (TE Tech!)**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Ron Brent**
TN 029	
OC	**SSgt Stu Campbell**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Charlie Dubique (Do Be Quiet)**

By the time this goes to print, 3 Sqn will have ceased to be—or at least, SHQ will have gone! November will see the demise of the Squadron with the three Trunk Nodes becoming part of the three BAOR Divisional Signal Regiments. The reorganization will result in the Nodes being renumbered as 071, 073 and 074 respectively in line with their new Divisional identities. OSC 137 has already fired its last shot in anger, not having deployed since Ex *Flying Falcon*. The OC says this is because it was too cold for his Australian constitution.

DISBANDMENT

The Squadron has undergone massive changes in manpower as the planning for the moves gained momentum. A point for all Divisional Commanding Officers and Rugby and Cross Country Officers to note—don't expect to see any Corps or BAOR standard players in the new Nodes! The posting plot tried to take into account personal preferences where ever possible and RSM&RO bent over backwards trying to please everyone. The first positive indication that the disbandment was actually going to happen was when the Corps Band played 'Auld Lang Syne' as the Squadron slow marched through the Regiment. Once the parade was over the hard work started with an All Ranks Lunch in the Spearhead Lounge followed closely by a Regimental Dinner in the Sergeants' Mess attended by Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps, **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE**, OIC RSM&RO **Col David Miller** and the three Divisional Signal Regiment Commanding Officers. **Lt Col Richard Holmes**'s memorable parting quip to the audience 'Would you buy a used Trunk Node from this man?' added a poignant note to the evening.

LIFE IN THE SQUADRON

Life has remained busy for the Squadron since return from Block Leave at the end of August with Ex *Certain Strike* threatening to drown at least TN 027. It is rumoured that TN 028 managed to 'buy' a few US-issue items from their collocated American Radio Relay Detachment: the Squadron OC is still waiting for his Camp Bed, Staff Ironside! The exercise was followed by an external PRE of all vehicles and generators which made life for **Cpl Mark Bateman** in his role of acting MT Sergeant fairly busy; he managed to cuff-it with some help from the sick, lame and lazy MT section of **Cpls Jim Green, Dave Pick** and **Mark Shrives** (when not training the Squadron Swimming, Water Polo and Boxing Teams!), **Cpl Eric 'Paddy' Clyde** and the rest.

We would like to congratulate **WO2 (SSM) Mike Duffin** on his recent promotion and appointment as the SSM and, after reading the last issue of *Wire* (Ex *Paddington Diamond*), we now have some idea of how he spends his time away, when not on leave or sailing.

Block F living-in members would like to use this opportunity to pass on their thanks to **Sig 'Tojo' Gilbert** for the companionship of his pet dog, but would he give them some prior warning in future when he wants to leave him in their care!

Although 'pressure of work' stopped the Squadron from competing in the Regimental Page Trophy we did manage to field the winning team in the Inter-Squadron Boxing Competition. **Cpl Mark Shrives** ably captained both the boxing team and the runners-up water polo team; we believe that success has gone to his head with his request for a posting to 4ADSR.

There really are too many people moving to mention everyone by name but anyone interested in knowing were **Maj Neil Churches** and his big cat (Jaguar XJS) are going after the last Trunk Node drives the long distance to Hammersmith Barracks on 19 November and before his return to work in Australia on 2 February, should send postcards to Sweden, Egypt and any other warm place en route.

The final social occasion for the Squadron is planned to be a Halloween Party for the evening of 31 October and we hope to renew many old friendships and acquaintances—if the rumour of the Corps Active Edge for beginning of November are true, the following day should be worth forgetting!

The Squadron would like to take this opportunity to say au revoir to all past and present members of Commcen Zulu, Kilo Army, Trunk Nodes 027, 028, 029 OSC 137 and SCRA Tp and wish you well in the future.

8 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

A GRADE PRESENTATION

LCpl Innes receives his 'A' grade award from Lt Col (Tfc) Waumsley

GUARDROOM'S 24 HOUR DARTS MARATHON
Report by Cpl Stew Jones

The Corporals' Mess Games Room was the setting for the 24 hour Darts Marathon held in aid of the Mentally Handicapped Children's Hospital, Balderton, Newark. **LCpl Bruce Lee** came up with the idea.

The eight team members threw darts continuously for the 24 hours using all the normal competitive games and many variations of them. We were visited by **Lt Col George Finney** who had a few games and parted with a few pounds (sterling). The team of seven Provost Staff and one Honorary Member of the staff (just for the marathon) threw darts from 1200 hrs 4 July to 12 hrs 5 July 1987.

Back: LCpl Ian Gray, Cpl Stew Jones, Lt Col Finney, LCpl Eric McLachlan (Scorer) Cpl Tony Hoare and Sig Arthur Daly
Front'; Cpl Bob Evans, Sig Baz Norman, LCpl Bruce Lee and LCpl Paul Bunyan

During the marathon and the day preceeding it, raffle tickets were sold for the 17 gifts donated by local traders, a total of £149 was raised by the raffle. Sponsor money is still coming in and we hope the final figure will be in excess of £600.

Special thanks to **Cpl John Donachie BEM**, our Corporal's Mess Manager for all his help and background assistance.

GORDONS CUP
by Maj J. A. Freebairn WRAC—OC 2 Sqn

The Gordons Cup was presented in 1979 to 8 Sig Regt by the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders. It was given to mark the excellent and professional performance of members of the Regiment who completed a tour of duty with the Gordons in Northern Ireland. The idea is that the cup is competed for annually by troop teams to ensure that the high level of military skills is maintained. This year was no exception and the competition included an assault course, map reading, NBC, shooting, weapon handling and stretcher run. Teams were also inspected at the end to make sure they had not 'lost' anything on the way round!

With little modesty, 2 Sqn reports that it won the competition—yet again! In spite of efforts to stop us, hard graft, appropriate training and a modicum of confidence made sure the cup returned to us.

2 Sqn came first and second and this time modesty does prevail—we shan't let on by how much. Just to confuse you, the **'B'** team came first and the 'A' team were second. Of course we are proud of them—particularly **SSgt Trevor Smith** who organised the training. The CO was generous with his congratulations—especially to the 'old men' who had taken part—**Lt Martin Corcoran** and **SSgt Trevor Smith.**

PS, Rumour has it that they are trying to make it more difficult for next year to stop 2 Sqn winning—yet again!

PPS, From OC 2 Sqn. Tell them not to bother—we'll still win!

Winners—2Sqn 'B Team'
Back Row: Sigs Hodges, Carpenter, Fox, Isaacs and Hook
Front Row: Cpl Taylor, SSgt Smith, Cpls Campbell and Kennedy

Runners Up—2Sqn 'A Team'
Back Row: Sig Hudson (Res), LCpl Howarth, Sig Ariss, Berry Smith (Res), Tinnion (Res) and Wood (Res)
Front Row: LCpls Camilleri, Shalley, Bridgwood and Sig Vaughan

11 Sig Regt
Catterick Garrison

EXERCISE *PRONTO'S GALLOP*

Members of 1 Tp 1 Sqn which is a combined R Signals and REME Course held a sponsored run on Sunday 27 September raising £1,500 for the Childrens' Ward of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The idea stemmed from, **Cpl Chris Carling**, when the Troop OC, **Lt Jim Dodds BEM** asked the Troop, for runners he was inundated with volunteers.

The 80km course was run in relays with the team being welcomed at the hospital by head Consultant Dr Ed Eastham on behalf of the Children's Ward.

Front Row, Left to Right: Lt Jim Dodds, Cpl Chris Carling, Staff Nurse Jenny Myles and Staff Nurse Jill Hearn
Second Row: Sig 'GI Joe' Ord, Cfn 'Cosmo' Kemp, Cfn 'Harry the Sheep' Peacock, Cfn 'Wild Bill' McMahon, Sig 'Gogs' Firth and Cfn 'Woolyback' Heath
Back Row: Cfn 'Powder Puff' Graham, Cfn 'Mad' Caddy, Sig 'Stormtrooper' Bindin, Cfn 'Knobby' Knowles, Sgt Keith Fisher, Cfn 'Mad Dog' McLoughlin and Sgt Graham Wilde

3 SQN
PERSONALITIES

CO	**Maj Alan Griffiths**	
2IC	**Capt Roger Harris**	
Trg Offr	**Lt Gordon Mather MM**	
SSM	**WO2 Doug Dougan**	
SQMS	**SSgt Dave Ward**	
KOHIMA Tp	**Lt Bob Parry-Jones**	**Sgt Tom Benson**
Iron Tp	**Lt Bob Howie**	**Sgt Eddie McDonald**
Ulster Tp	**Lt Mat Fensom**	**Sgt Colin Tough**
Battleaxe Tp	**Lt Mike Nott**	**Sgt Darrel McCluskey**
Trg Wing	**SSgt Barry Stephens**	**Sgts Dave Henry and Colin Alexander**

This has been a busy period for the Squadron with, in particular, Iron Tp working hard for a memorable Pass Off Parade on 10 September 1987 reviewed by our Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO**.

The Iron Tp formed in March and their claim to fame was achieved at RASAAM under the guidance of **Capt David Craig RAEC**; This same team competed in the Regimental SAA and eventually went on to beat their instructors, 3 Sqn Permanent Staff, in the final of the Falling Plate. Best Junior rifle shot at the meeting was **JSig Tom Buchanan**. The Champion Section Competition, for this troop was won by **Cpl John Avery** and 2 Section.

Kohima Tp is at present working its way quietly through the programme but with further external leadership training and battle camp they still have much to do. The troop sergeant, **Sgt Tom Benson**, spends much of his time encouraging his troop to run, and it was fitting tribute to him that in the recent Regimental Cross Country the first three across the line were **JSig 'Judas' Holland**, **Mark Hobson** and **'Brassie' Braysford**—all Kohima. Battleaxe Tp, however, won the Permanent Staff team prize and 3 Sqn took the Inter Squadron trophy.

All Troops are now in full training with the bulk—150 junior recruit soldiers—spread between Ulster, Iron and Battleaxe and looking a long way ahead to their pass off in March 1988.

The Military Studies Wing appears to be back to 'normal' with **Maj Duncan Bell** back at the helm as SEO having commanded the squadron for some six months. In support are **Maj Tim Bevan** and **Capt David 'Croc' Craig**, both RAEC. There are also three ex Ouston Burnham Lecturers—**Messrs David Baldwin, Tony Dobson** and **Tom Docherty**.

For the uninitiated the MSW looks after the Junior Soldiers education and map reading. The Wing was recently honoured by a visit from **Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester**, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Army Educational Corps. During the visit **Her Royal Highness** met all members of the Wing Staff and also Junior Signalmen of Kohima and Battleaxe Tps undergoing training.

Finally, the Squadron extends, on behalf of the Regiment, a very warm welcome to our new WRVS lady, **Mrs Shirley Henderson**, and wish her a very happy tour.

Map Reading Instruction—Ninth day of training!
HRH The Duchess of Gloucester with Capt David Craig and JSig Paul Green (Battleaxe Tp)

HRH The Duchess of Gloucester talking to Cpl Nigel Heathcote. The SEO, Maj Duncan Bell is on the right

RSSSC NO 256/257

Another 'Staffies' Course has come and gone and now we are gearing ourselves for the TA Staff Sergeants Course.

256/257 distinguished itself on two notable counts. It was the first course for many years in which all students who arrived passed the BFT section of the Intake Tests.

Secondly, despite the constraints placed on the course by a cut in our ammunition allocation, the final results produced a number of very good grades, the best of which was by **Sgt M. A. Fielding**, School of Signals, who achieved an excellent 'A' Grade—only the second such awarded in the last 10 years. Congratulations also to **Sgt R. K. Perry**, School of Signals, who was Top Student of his course with 'B+' Grade.

During the course, the students had the honour of carrying out security duties during the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO**—a task they took on with enthusiasm and completed professionally. This was 'on the job training' at its best!

5 TP REGULAR RECRUIT COURSE NO 8702
TROOP CADRE

Tp OC	**WO1 S. M. Jones**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Monk**
Tp Cpls	**Cpl Conway**
	Cpl Crawford
	Cpl Swan
	Cpl Wood

Adult Recruit Course 8702 formed up very apprehensively on 7 June and began training in earnest. A mixture of physical training, the drill square and the new boot combat high meant that the troop was quickly slimmed down.

The remainder, however, dug in and persevered. They were lucky enough to have their own before and after men in **Sig 'I can lift heavy weights' Dyer** and **Sig 'I want a body' Ody** which gave every one something to aim for. Although **Sgt 'Chippy' Monk** was heard to ask **Cpl Ian Swan** who was going for what.

The nine weeks training quickly passed in a blur of activity until suddenly it was time for the Troop party. **Sig 'Just 'cos I talk posh' Isaacs** ran evening classes in break dancing while **Sig 'See what I can do with a piece of cotton' Winkle** rehearsed for the cabaret.

Pass Off week was held in front of the unresenting eye of the camera until finally 7 August arrived. After the Troop had passed off under the keen eye of **Col Webster**, **Sig Pollock** was awarded the honour of Best Shot while **Sig Knight** that of Best Recruit.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

On Friday 9 October **WO1 (RSM) T. K. Muir** relinquished his appointment as RSM. He is seen here handing over the pace stick of the Corp's RSM to **WO1 (RSM) H. C. Britton**. The tradition of having the names placed on the stick was introduced by **Lt Col F. Orr** when he was the Regimental Sergeant Major.

WO1 (RSM) T. K. Muir handing over the coveted stick to WO1 (RSM) H. C. Britton *(right)* outside the Corps Sergeants' Mess

Photo by Joseph Krieger

Back Row, (Left to Right): Dyer, Pollock, Wilson, Gunther, Isaacs and Pattinson
Third Row, (Left to Right): Jones, Cupit, Knight, Quilter, McCollum, Ody and Paterson
Second Row, (Left to Right): Lewis, Paveley, Spurrier, Burgum, Winckle, Wilkinson, Hook and Edmond
Front Row: (Left to Right): Cpls Crawford, Swan, Sgt Monk, Maj A. B. Hill, WO1 S. M. Jones, Cpl Wood and Cpl Conway

13 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

TRAINING WING
ROYAL SIGNALS DETACHMENT COMMANDERS COURSE 5/87

The course took place from 12 July to 7 August 1987. It was a unique course for three very special reasons:

The Inspecting Officer was none other than **Brig S. Cowan OBE** Comd 1 Sig Bde and Comd Comms 1 (BR) Corps.

The 1st Battalion The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) provided the Band and the Bandmaster was **WO1 A. Hodgetts**.

Last but not least it was the final parade for the wing SSM **WO2 Paddy McConnon**.

The course produced a fine parade which was favourably commented upon by the Brigadier.

LCpl Burke of 22 Sig Regt receives the Top Student plaque from Brig Cowan. He gained a B Grading

Brig Cowan discussing the finer points of the base drum with its owner. Maj Peter Todd and Capt Peter Clarke acted as interpreters!

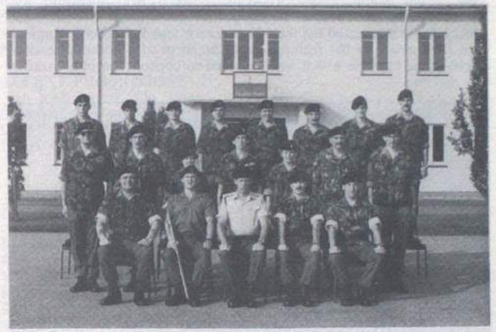
RSDCC 5/87

RSDCC (TA) 1/87

36 Sig Regt (V) sent 15 of their members on a course here in Birgelen. Suffice to say that the following results were achieved:

Top Student: **LCpl Wright** 'B' Grade
Second: **LCpl Neat WRAC** 'B' Grade
Third: **Cpl Kingstone** C+ Grade

A mixed course of 3 female and 12 male soldiers, two of the WRAC were placed in the top six.



RSDCC (TA) 1/87

3 SQN
ATHLETICS TRIUMPH

On 17 August 1987 3 Sqn Athletics team won the Berlin Infantry Brigade Minor Units Athletics Championships for the first time. In a closely fought competition the Squadron just managed to hold off the challenge of 29 Sig Regt and 38 (Berlin) Field Sqn RE.

The day had begun like a nightmare for team captain **SSgt Chels Facer**. At 1000 hrs when events began he had only himself and four other athletes available to contest the high jump, javelin and the heats of the 100m, 200m, 400m 400m hurdles and the 4 × 400m relay. Having scratched from the high jump in favour of the track events, qualification was achieved for the finals of all but the 400m. **Sgt Mick Keech** finished a creditable third in the javelin followed by another third placed in the 5,000m by **SSgt Facer**. Anything man, **SSgt Rick Morris** finished seventh in the 400m heats in between triple jumps in which he was also seventh. The Squadron's first victory of the day fell to **LCpl Pat Coxen** in the 200m. **Sgt Steve Oliver** was fourth in the 400m hurdles heats after just one training session for that event. The most exciting event of the morning saw **Sgt Pete Ridlington** claw back a 20m deficit on the last lap of the 800m to achieve dead heat for first place in a Brigade Record time of 2.6 mins. Despite the early traumas the Squadron reached the lunch break in third place only six points off the lead.

The afternoons events began with a well timed victory in the 1,500m for **Sgt John Gower**. **LCpl Paul Foody** had an excellent double win in the discus and the shot. **LCpl Coxen** was a disputed third in the 100m and in the long jump **Sgt Ridlington** was pushed back into second place by the final jump of the competition.

SSgt Chels Facer receives the Berlin Minor Units Shield from Brig Powell

So to the final event, the 4 × 400m relay, with the Squadron holding a slender half point lead over 29 Sig Regt with 38 Field Sqn still in it a further seven points adrift. Lead off man **LCpl Coxen**, in his sixth race of the day, did well to hand over a deficit of about 10m behind 29 Sig Regt Individual 400m winner. **SSgt Morris** took over and ran a storming leg to cut the lead to 5m. **Cpl Kenny Swaine** cut further into that lead to give **Sgt Ridlington** a real chance on the last leg. That last leg was pure 'Chariots of Fire' as **Sgt Ridlington** closed the gap down the back straight before easing into the lead off the crown of the final bend. The winning time of 3.44 mins was immaterial, but it did ensure an overall 3 Sqn victory in this competition for the first time since its inception in 1954.

SAILING
R SIGNALS OFFSHORE REGATTA

Crew
Sgt Al Moyes—Skipper
Sgt Cliff Knighton—Mate
Lt Col Bill Minns—Crew
Lt Col Brian Cleaver—Crew
Capt Les Rix—Crew

A mature but experienced crew set off with high hopes of achieving a better result than last year (third position), but foul weather, high winds and disappearing marker bouys proved to be our downfall.

Out of the four races we came eighth, seventh, fifth and in the final race (the homeward leg) we came a very good first. Our overall position for the regatta was fifth out of nine boats. Next year we intend to eat fewer Danish pastries, less bread, drink less beer and concentrate more on the sailing.

The homeward leg and we are in the lead. *L to R* Lt Col Bill Minns, Capt Les Rix, Lt Col Brian Cleaver and Sgt Cliff Knighton

GOLF

Whilst the rest of the Regiment was fixing bayonets to repel Spetsnaz forces, **SSgt Ian Knight** was competing in The Belfry Classic at the Belfry course in the West Midlands. We congratulate him on winning the competition and returning to the Regiment with the coveted Raffles Silver Rosebowl trophy.

FAREWELLS

We say a sad farewell to **WO2 Paddy McConnon**, his wife **Anne** and three daughters. We wish them well in Cyprus and thank them for their excellent support in the past two and a half years.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to **WO2 Mick Campbell**, his wife **Cath** and their new baby. We are sure you will have a splendid tour, your second in the 'Gateway to Holland'. It's all happening in Trg Wing; it must be due to the many honeymoons on return from Haltern.

16 Sig Regt
BFPO 35

R SIGNALS AND ARMY SPRINT AND MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS/CANOE

For the first time the Corps held its own Sprint and Marathon Championships at Monmouth on 11-12 July 1987. The competition was good and 16 Sig Regt, although only having a team of three, managed to gain second place in both competitions.

After a very successful first weekend the team went on to train hard during the next week with 2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt. The Army Championships were held the weekend of 17-17 July. The turnout was excellent and most races had heats and semi-finals so by the end of the first day the team was extremely tired. For a first attempt at the competition the team did very well. The most creditable performances came from **Cpl Shane Wright,** first in the SNRC Marathon; **Sig Paul Haigh,** second SNRC K1 1,000m and **Lt Alison Mann,** first in Ladies K1 500m.

The team has now retired from sprint and marathon until next years competition. However, the team Captain has still got another two weeks of gruelling training at the Inter-Services at the end of August.

RESULTS OF R SIGNALS SPRINT AND MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPRINTS
K1 500m: Mens—**Cpl Wright** 1st, **Sig Haigh** 3rd. Ladies—**Lt Mann** 1st.
K1 1,000m: **Cpl Wright** 3rd, **Sig Haigh** 4th.
K2 500m: **Cpl Wright/Sig Haigh** 2nd.
K2 1,000m: **Cpl Wright/Sig Haigh** 2nd.
WNR 300m Ladies: **Lt Mann** 1st.
Slalom 500m Ladies: **Lt Mann** 1st.
Team Competition: 16 Sig Regt 2nd.

MARATHON
K1 Novice 12 miles: **Cpl Wright (Sig Haigh** 2nd).
Ladies 5 miles: **Lt Mann** 1st.
Team Competition: 16 Sig Regt 2nd.

SPRINTS
K1 500m SNRC: **Cpl Wright** 3rd.
K1 1,000m SNRC: **Sig Haigh** 2nd.
K2 500m SNRC: **Cpl Wright/Sig Haigh** 2nd.
K2 1,000m SNRC: **Cpl Wright/Sig Haigh** 3rd.
K1 500m Ladies: **Lt Mann** 1st.
K2 500m Ladies: **Lt Mann/Pte Lloyd** 3rd.
K2 500m Mixed: **Lt Mann/Cpl Heath** 1st.
WWR 500m Ladies: **Lt Mann** 2nd.

MARATHON
K1 SNRC 12 miles: **Cpl Wright** 1st.
K2 SNRC 12 miles: **Sig Haigh/Sig Manson** 4th.
WWR Ladies 5 miles: **Lt Mann** 2nd.

CHARITY CYCLIST

WO1 (RSM) Marsden presented **Bob Gluck** with a Regimental Plaque prior to his further travels around Garrisons in BAOR. **Bob,** together with companion **Iain Grant,** visited 16 Sig Regt whilst on their BAOR charity cycle tour in aid of handicapped children of service personnel.

EXERCISE *MIXED METAPHORS*

The Regiment spent the first week of September on Military Training on Ex *Mixed Metaphors*. Troop sized groups spent the first part of the exercise doing a round of stands both in barracks and on local training areas. The training was co-ordinated by the Ops Officer, **Maj Palmer,** aided and abetted by **WO1 (YofS) Len Harvey.** Activities included: vehicle maintenace run by **WO2 (AQMS) Pete Dominey**; vehicle recovery and cross country driving skills supervised by **WO2 Tony Hands;** road driving and map reading headed by **Sgt Pete Cornes**; command task problems devised by **Maj Johnstone**; and procedures in the field, covering patrols, defence, movement and sentry duties instructed by **WO2 Rick Lewis** and **WO2 Dave Hogben.** The final phase of the training took the form of a communications deployment exercise which was designed to consolidate phase one of the exercise.

The CO *(2nd from right)* Lt Col Lowe and the RSM, WO1 Marsden, try to remain calm and collected as LCpl Bob Frew bogs in another vehicle during the cross country driving skills period

Golf Troop prepares to get lost (as usual) at the map reading/driving stand, on Ex *Mystery Tour*

Lt Max Tait gives an enthralling presentation to Sierra Troop on the subject of terrorism

RECENT MOVEMENTS

The following have been posted: **Cpl Lyn Saville** to 28 Sig Regt, **Cpl Sue Cotterell** to Colchester, **LCpl Ady Batty** to Cyprus, **LCpl Helen McElhinney** on discharge, on marriage, **Pte Donna Clarke** to 28 Sig Regt—on promotion, **Sig Dennis Corner** to Northern Ireland—on promotion, **Pte Alison Fraser** on discharge and Pte Lyn Fox to 13 Sig Regt.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following and hope they have a most enjoyable tour: **WO2 (YofS) Ron Allan** and wife **Chris** in from the Ptasrmigan Introduction Unit (now disbanded). **Sgt Shane Larkin** from 633 Sig Tp, **LCpl Lyn Goodall** from Hong Kong, **Sig Jason Budding** from the Factory and **Pte Steph Gray** from the Factory.

RECENT PROMOTIONS

In addition to the above, we would like to congratulate the following on a well deserved promotion: **Sgt Max Inman, Cpls Karen Cable, John Taylor, Sandy Buckle, LCpls Joy Shelmerdine** and **Judith Chapple.**

OSCAR TROOP

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Capt (TFC) Geoff Downey**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Ron Allan**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Tony Sarginson**
SSgt Commcen	**SSgt Marion Amos**
SSgt Syscon	**SSgt John Graves**
SSgt Crypto	**SSgt Dave Price**
DSO A Shift	**Sgt John Fradley**
DSO B Shift	**Sgt Fiona Beardwell**
DSO C Shift	**Sgt Steve Grantham**
DSO D Shift	**Sgt Brenda Cox**
NCO/IC Emblem	**Sgt Steve Crosthwaite**
NCO/IC Dortmund	**Cpl Bill Blaikie**
NCO/IC Dusseldorf	**Cpl Karen Cable**
Tp Cpl/Stats	**Cpl Pat Millar**

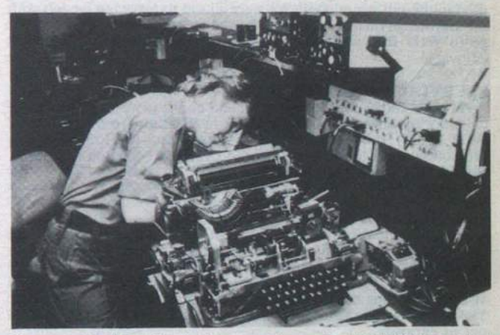
Ptarmigan Training on the Apple Computer. SSgt Marion (I follow photographs around) Amos trying to 'crack' Ptarmigan

'Trendy' Operators' operating our new Trend Teleprinters are LCpl Lyn Goodall *(left)* and LCpl Joy Shelmardine *(right)*

TROOP ROLE

Oscar Tp is mainly responsible for HQ BAOR Commcen but also has detachments in Emblem (Belgium), Dortmund and Dusseldorf. At the moment its strength is over 100, which makes it one of the largest Troops in the Royal Signals. Communications at all of these locations are provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and consists not only of Commcen signal message traffic, but also DSSS and Bruin (Ptarmigan in '88). In addition to this we provide technical cover for these systems covering a 500km radius stretching from Laarbruch to Munich. If you want to practise your trade and you are a TE Tech or DTg then come to this Troop.

Up to her ears in messages but Pte Tish Beswick still finds time to laugh — she's probably reading about someone's posting



Newly arrived Pte Steph Gray wonders why the FofS has asked her how many bits there are in a T100!

Where shall we hang this one? Dortmund is awarded another Comm Star. Pictured here are *(left to right)* Cpl Bill Blaikie, Pte Jock Ward, LCpl Mandy Lupton, Cpl Kim Naylor, Pte Alison Fraser, LCpl Dave Williams and Cpl Nobby Knights

TROOP ACTIVITIES
PHANTASIALAND OUTING
Report by Sgt John Fradley

30 members of the Troop set out on an overcast day towards Phantasialand. **Cpl Lyn Saville** assured us that sun has been ordered, so she has been posted! On our arrival, the mood was one of excitment as **LCpl Mitch Salmon** proceeded to buy our tickets. Without causing any diplomatic incidents and in her best German, she succeeded in obtaining tickets for us all. After that she issued us with our orders for the day, and we all 'bomb burst' to the various rides/stands.

The most popular ride was the Log Ride during which the wet T shirt competition was won by **Cpl Karen Turner** and **SSgt Marion Amos**. The day ended at 1800 hrs when we all returned to the coach for the usual sleep on the way back. A special note of thanks must go to **LCpl Mitch Salmon** and **Cpl Lyn Saville** for organising such a memorable day out. PS: There is no truth in the rumour that I put on two stones in weight.

SWIMMING IN GIBRALTAR
A report by Mandy Lupton

I was selected to swim for the WRAC and as a lead up to the Inter-Services Swimming Championships, it was decided that the WRAC team should represent the Army in Gibraltar. We were hosted by the Royal Anglian Regt who made us very welcome.

We trained extremely hard during the visit but we also managed to fit in some sight-seeing and some sun bathing. We enjoyed the sight-seeing and the local male population enjoyed our sun bathing (say no more). One of the funniest trips was the obligatory visit to see the Barbary Apes. One of the team is RMP and she had the audacity to have a go at the poor old monkeys! We also had a tour inside the rock which was very interesting.

The final day of the tour consisted of a gala against our hosts who narrowly beat us. We put this down to the fact that they were more used to the salt water pool! We were all sad to leave but we left with the knowledge that we have been invited back next year. Thanks must go to **WO1 Rosewell WRAC** who made the trip so successful and enjoyable.

RECENT DEPARTURES

All good things must come to an end and it is with regret that we must say goodbye and wish good luck in the future to the following: **WO2 (YofS) Don Wilson** and his wife **Joan**—to Hong kong on promotion. **Sgt Steve Croot** and wife **Lynn**—251 Sig Sqn Aldershot. **Cpl Jackie Oliver** to Northern Ireland.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Due to the circuits we maintain in BAOR Commcen we have forged strong links with the Live Oak Sig Element. Through this association we have managed to organise some 'liaison' visits to SHAPE and Berlin to meet the operators on the other end of these circuits. These visits are proving so popular that the Officer Commanding and the Yeoman of Signals have been forced to organise a visit for themselves out of curiosity.

We are also involved heavily in Military Training with lots of commitment coming our way such as two day courses with Rheindahlen Garrison, Regimental Battle Camp, Mini Mash and an IMM Recognition Competition.

CCF VISIT
Report by Cpl Mackenzie

Recently 3 Sqn had its numbers boosted by an influx of talent from the Worksop College Cadet Force, which visited the Regiment for two weeks training.

During their stay they received on the job training from a variety of departments within the Regiment.

The lads spent the first phase experiencing such delights as drill, the assault course, weapon handling and a simulated river crossing in the Regimental outdoor pool all under the watchful eye of **LCpl Steve Bartleet**.

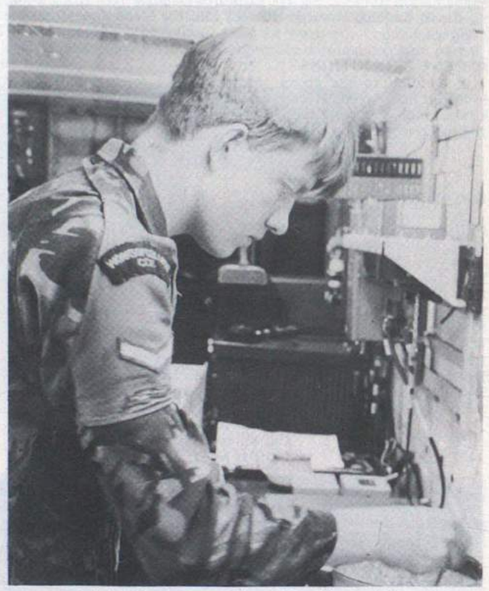
Following a restful weekend visiting local sights in Venlo, Holland and Phantasialand, phase two began with the cadets being divided into five-man groups. Each group was allocated to an HF radio detachment from Alpha Tp and prepared for Ex *Worksop Warrior*, a local HF radio exercise organised by OC Alpha Tp, **Capt Nigel Gill**.

The exercise began midweek with crew commanders demonstrating skills such as setting up vehicles, power, camouflage, antennas and basic radio skills. At tea time the lads were given the ingredients to make an all in stew. Afterwards they settled down for a quiet night—or so they thought! Under the cover of darkness a move was ordered but this time it was the turn of the cadets to carry out all the drills they had been shown. But things look so different in the dark. Once set up in location everyone got a few hours kip before a rude awakening to the sound of gun shots as their location was attacked in the morning.

After a wash and breakfast it was time to put on some camouflage cream and do some infantry work. At the end of the exercise and on the final night a 3 Sqn barbecue was held as a finale to an enjoyable two weeks in Germany.

In addition to this we will be providing operators in support of Ex *Plain Sailing* a large RCZ/COMMZ/TA exercise.

We will still be providing our *usual* service to our staff and those left behind will just have to work that little bit harder, but in Germany's busiest Commcen we wouldn't have it any other way.



John Bateman practises his culinary skills

Sig Smith supervises Andrew McKay at his radio skills

21 Sig Regt
BFPO 42

BRISTOL UOTC VISIT

Recently the Regiment hosted 15 Officer Cadets from Bristol University during a fortnights' attachment. The aim of the attachment was to give the Cadets an insight into the life and role of the Regiment in particular and the Corps in general. For the initial part of their visit they were hosted by **Lt Kit Lewis** of 2 Sqn. Within a short time of their arrival the Cadets were discovering at first hand exactly what we do, and were shown the bewildering array of equipment and vehicles that we use within the Squadron. The Cadets soon got 'hands-on' experience with the detachments and this was to stand them in good stead when they were dispatched into the field as part of the Squadrons deployment on Ex *Hazel Flute/Reforger*.

Whilst it is fair to say that few of the Cadets had any previous experience of Trunk Comms, what they lacked in experience they made up for in determination and a sense of humour. Whilst on exercise they were able to meet our 'masters' in the RAF, and several of them were persuaded to go on patrol with the 'Rocks' of the RAF Regiment. After four days out, they returned to RAF Wildenrath for an intensive programme of military training sponsored by our own Training Wing.

At the end of the fortnight the Cadets returned to Bristol and it is hoped that, commitments allowing, we will be able to sponsor similar attachments next year. Those Cadets who had not had the good fortune to meet the Corps before, departed with a good impression of what we are and what we do. Thanks are due to **LCpl Jim Hawkins** who played his part of chauffeur extremely well in a variety of vehicles, and also to the gallant lads of the Training Wing, who remained in Camp throughout the exercise in order to instruct our visitors in the fine arts of Fieldcraft and Weapon-Handling!

2 SQN

SUMMER CAMP 1987

This year, the 2 Sqn Summer Camp was held at Winnigen on the Moselle. The Squadron, ably led by **Capt Harwell**, participated in such varied activities as Abseiling, Windsurfing, Orienteering, and for the first time were able to have a go at Sub-Aqua work under the guidance of **Capt Duncan McAlistair** and his charming wife **Penny**.

Other activities centered around the Volleyball court and the Beer tent. For those of a more intellectual 'bent' there were cultural visits to Cochem and Koblenz, as well as several informative and interesting sessions of Wine Tasting!

All in all the Camp was an unqualified success and our thanks must go to all those who put in much hard work to ensure that everything worked and who scrounged on our behalf. Especial thanks are due to **Cpl Wikeley** from the SQMS's dept, who took his job of Camp QM so seriously that he brought his wife and children down for the whole fortnight. Dedication indeed!

DELTA TROOP—MOVE TO 1 SQUADRON

This is to be the last issue of the *Wire* to carry a report from Delta Troop under a 2 Sqn heading. In a few weeks the Troop will have been transferred to 1 Sqn, and our long association will come to an end. Those of us remaining in 2 Sqn would like to wish all members of D Tp all the best for the future and we look forward to hearing from you on exercise!

DELTA TROOP

The last few weeks have seen much upheaval within the Troop as we finally bid farewell to our old Troop OC. **Lt Matt Fensom** departed the Troop after an emotional farewell. In fact he now holds the record for the greatest number of farewells given by the Troop. There was the trip to Monchengladbach, the too-numerous-to-mention happy hours in the Train Bar, and to cap it all, his marvellous send off whilst on exercise. **SSgt Bull** still believes that the swill looked better on the OC than it did in the bin! But all joking aside the Troop wishes **Lt Fensom** all the best in his new posting to 11 Sig Regt, and look forward to receiving the first 'Trained by **Fensom**' Signalmen in the not too distant future! Our new Troop OC joins us from 11 Sig Regt via the Falklands. We hope **Lt Kit Lewis** enjoys his tour here as much as the last OC did . . .!

Other farewells include **SSgt Geoff Graham, Sgt Jim Kane, Cpls Graham Lamberton, Eric Ergan** and **Sig Chris Mudie** (on promotion to Lance Corporal and thus being moved to E Tp—Congratulations!). Our thanks to you all for the help and support that you have given the Troop throughout your tours. All the best in your new postings.

On the other hand welcome to **Sig Lloyd, Reason** and **Robertson**. We wish them well in the Troop.

EXERCISE *CERTAIN STRIKE 87*

TN037 (The 'Friendly' TN) deployed to a Wood, 'somewhere in Germany' for the duration as a non-Tac member of the Umpire forces. It was to be our last deployment before moving to 1 Sqn, and we were under command of our new OC for the first time, **Lt 'NBC Kit' Lewis**. He promptly put himself on the night-shift to avoid all the visitors and the awkward questions that occur in the daytime. For the last time Node Command was ably run by **SSgt Geoff Graham** who spent much of his time in a tracksuit preparing for the Berlin Marathon. His 'apprentice' **Cpl Derek Clifford** soon got used to it! On the night-shift, **Cpl Ernie Bergan** promptly got the 'sack' when the OC realised that there wasn't enough room for both of them to lie down!

Being a resourceful person, **Cpl Bergan** started work at his 'real' job of fixing Radio Relay equipment and was soon hard at work under the guidance of **Sgt 'Bev' Beverley**. Due to the fact that we started the exercise with a sick switch, we were lucky enough to borrow one from 16 Sig Regt which came complete with four crew. **Cpls Tony Baines** and **'Faz' Farrell** and two members of the fairer Corps, **WPtes Sandy Hewitt** and **Annette Holden**. This was certainly a novelty for TN037 and **Cpl 'Rab' Dunseith** was not slow to put himself on shift with **Pte Holden**. However, by the end of a fortnight he wished he hadn't, as he immediately became 'duty-target'!

Down in the Admin area our ever efficient team of **SSgt Mel Bull** and **Sgt Lew Brice** were joined by **Cpl Tony Axten** who, embarrassed by the mass of switch operators, decided to brush up on his Admin Skills.

Our non-Tac evenings were filled with watching videos and playing dominoes. **LCpl Pete Horne** managed to keep us well fed, as ever, and even managed to provide a certain Staff Sergeant with his porridge every morning!

Once more **LCpl 'Where's my second?' Connor** managed to run two detachments as **LCpl 'Jonah' Jones** was attacked by his sleeping-bag on day one and was not released again until endex. **Sig Andy Lloyd** and **'Boss' Hogg** found an interesting variant on volleyball that requires a football, minetape and about a foot of mud.

Our switch? Well, eventually PWIST managed to fix it, despite the efforts of **Cpl 'Hovver' Smith** to put a centrem or two in the works . . . Any rumours that he is the first Tech to crash a switch just by looking at it may or may not be true . . .

BEST WISHES

We would like to close by wishing **Sandy Hewitt** and also **Annette Holden** all the best on their forthcoming marriages. You know where to send the invites!

F TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Lt David Pratt**
Tp SSgt	**Alec Hamilton**
Tp Sgts	**Owen Evans**
	Jeff Jones
	Pete Madeloso
NCO IC Stores	**Dave Philpot**

Now fully settled into the cramped confines of Hangar 7, F Tp has enjoyed a 'fun' time on Summer Camp (especially the wine tasting!), various exercises and the never-ending game of 'Where's the OC?' A very successful TACEVAL saw the Troop thwarting the attempts of the DS to upset Comms as well as providing our usual excellent service.

Many new arrivals and a few departures should also be mentioned here, as well as our congratulations to three members of the Troop who have finally managed to persuade their girlfriends to marry them. So welcome to: **Yvonne Radzimierski, Elaine Stewart** and **Sandra Hearn**.

The new additions to the Troop 'family' are: **Zoe** to **Mrs** and **Cpl Courtney** and **Louise** to **Mrs** and **LCpl Freeman**.

STOP PRESS

Finally, welcome to these new Troop members: **Cpl George Shaw** (ex 22 Sig Regt), **LCpl 'Flatface' Robertson** (ex 3 ADSR), **Sig 'Ginge' Kavanagh** (ex 1 ADSR), **Sig 'Lanky' Landels** (ex 19 Inf Bde) and from Catterick, **Sig 'Panda' Wingate** and **Morris Woodward**.

3 SQN

The last two Summer months have seen members of the Squadron involved in various sporting pastimes. The first of which was the annual Test match between the Officers and the Sergeants of the Regiment. The 3 Sqn element consisted of **Capt 'Stonewall' Shawyer** and **Sgt 'Duck' Dyer** with OC 3, **Maj Bob Bates** a 'neutral' umpire. The match resulted in yet another glorious win for the Sergeants Mess.

After cricket came football in the form of the Roetgen five aside competition, unfortunately Golf Tp failed to qualify in extremely hot conditions and it was left to Roetgen to challenge Catering in the final. Despite **Sgt 'Doglover' Ramsdale**'s efforts Catering won at a thrilling final. Thanks to the Roetgen det for a great day out.

Having tried our hand at cricket and football we decided that maybe tennis was the sport for us. 3 Sqn entered two double pairings in the Regimental Inter Squadron competition, we played well and managed to clinch fourth place amidst some tough opposition. Congratulations to 2 Sqn who won with a mixed doubles pair! After exhausting all sporting possibilities we were forced into activities of a military nature in the form of the Fiskel Trophy, the 3 Sqn Inter Troop military skills competition.

We have had some promotions in the Squadron and our congratulations go to **Cpl Gary Gillings** of K Tp and **Cpl 'Blod' Godwin** from the SQMS department.

INTER TROOP COMPETITION
(Submitted by H Tp — who would have guessed?)

The 1987 Inter Troop Competition was once again held a the holiday airport of RAF Wildenrath. This multi task competition has in the past been dominated by L Tp, however, this year was to be different as H Tp submitted far superior multi task competitors than ever before; so the stage was set for a showdown between the Troops from the front line fighting airfields before the competition ever began. Some events and names worthy of mention are as follows:

H Tp was subjected to a steroid test after easily winning the 10 pr field cable obstacle race. This examination proved negative and only showed the Troop's physical fitness was unquestionable.

Following **Sig Macpherson**'s rejection from the Krypton Factor he set out to prove his physical capabilities. He suppressed all doubts by a Herculean effort which saw him raising the 40ft clark mast to its full extent without the aid of compressed air.

L Tp brought along a 20 pr joint which was set up to test the fault finding capabilities of the various Troops. By the end of the day L Tp had gleaned sufficient knowledge from the trade tests to return to Laarbruch with complete confidence to repair their own numerous cable faults.

K Tp supplied a one and a half ton landrover onto which was put a known number of 'A' jobs. After a rigorous examination by **Cfn Smith**, who found twice the number of jobs specified, the rover was deemed unroadworthy. Following K Tp demise in the TOW competition they were last seen pulling the vehicle to the LAD for repair.

During the TOW competition the minor airfields were easily disposed of leaving the larger Tornado strike wings to fight out the final. This was narrowly won by L Tp solely due to the fact that they rearranged the terrain making it heavy going for the superior H Tp.

The main competition of the day was won by H Tp and the presentation duly followed. Although still on leave the CO, **Lt Col Ian Turner**, jetted in from his holiday home for the presentation of the prizes of 3 Sqn's answer to 'It's a knockout'. The winning team of **Cpl Paul Gorman, LCpl John Egan, Sig Alan Price, LCpl Jacko Jackson, Sig Benny Bennett** were suitably congratulated and went on to celebrate in style.

By the end of the day it was clear that all the exertions had taken their toll, with Troop members all very relaxed. The OC **Capt Keith Russell**, now recovering from the nervous tension he had earlier experienced, could not find the words to express his delight as the evening drew to its conclusion.

QUOTE OF THE COMPETITION—At the landrover stand, searching for 'A' jobs:-

H Tp Team—'The indicators don't work.'

K Tp MT—'No, they're supposed to be like that.'

H TROOP ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We start these notes as we enter into our exercise season, aren't we lucky? Well I thought so too, until given the prized task of writing these notes before endex!

Firstly a welcome to our returning Falkland 'Vets'.

Cpl Derek 'I was there' Carman, LCpls 'Johno' Johnson, 'Mick' Mottram and **Jim Wainwright** who managed a four month holiday at Ascension as well.

Best wishes to their poor-trodden replacements: **SSgt Steve Hilton, LCpl 'Headroom' Maxwell** and **Sig Ritchie Gathercole**.

On the arrivals and departures scene, we say hello to **Cpl Tony Quinn** and his wife **Janet, Cpl Neil McKenzie** and goodbye to **Cpl 'Jizzer' Gorman** and wife **Hazel, Sig 'Geordie' Maughan** and **Clare**. We also lose **SSgt 'Tannoy' Taylor** and **Eileeen** to K Tp.

As a closing note the marriage rate has increased with the marriage of **LCpl Rabetts** to **Liana** and **Sig Steve Lewis** to **Nicky**. Best wishes for the future and in the words of the Troop prophet 'Cheers easy'.

EXERCISE *INDIAN BACKSTOP*
4 SQUADRON SUMMER CAMP

India Tp organised this year's Challenge Pursuit Training Camp, which involved a wet 10 days in Bavaria. Planning for the camp began at the end of last year, when **SSgt Steve Buxton** negotiated the dates with the powers that be, and began to look for suitable accommodation. The 1 RHA Hut was hired and the hard work of acquiring canoes, climbing equipment and such like, as well as requesting clearances, seeking funds and recruiting instructors began. After a great many phone calls, almost as many memos, and the inevitable last minute changes, the road party left Wildenrath on the night of 19 July. The remainder of the participants, which included a quartet of RAF Regiment 'Rocks' from 10 Sqn RAF, flew down to Bavaria in a Chinook from 18 Sqn, RAF Gutersloh.

The programme allowed for four days, during which groups would rotate through the main activities of canoeing, hill walking, rock climbing and wind surfing. The remainder of the camp was designed to allow participants to spend time on the activity of their choice and gain maximum experience and if possible a qualification. Time was also allowed for recreation visits, sports and sightseeing. Despite the poor weather, the activities went well, and everybody had a chance to try each activity, whilst the evenings provided entertainment of the type much liked by most soldiers.

The rock climbing and abseiling produced a few epic moments, with **Sig Dave Edwards** finally beating his fear of heights (or succumbing to peer group pressure?) and completing an abseil, whilst **Sig Paul Banerjee** learnt all about a rope stretch whilst climbing a severe on a top rope (he also beat the climb).

The canoeing began with an introductory day on a local lake, after which the instructor **Bdr Jason Prokopwycz**, from JHQ gymnasium, took the keen ones onto moving water. Some found conventional canoeing a bit boring, so they tried to do it upside down. Unfortunately the lack of snorkels prevented a fuller trial of this worthwhile innovation. By the end of the camp, four had passed their ACU Proficiency Certificate. The hill walkers, led by **Sgt Duncan Clarke** from 12 Flight AAC, covered many miles over the hills of Bavaria, but unfortunately, could not try some of the higher peaks, due to the bad weather and low snow.

Cpl Ricky South and **Sig Kev Rowe** did a sterling job masterminding the administration and running the bar. As a reward they took some time off to visit Munich, along with **Cpl Ian Druce, Sig Nigel Ingram** and **Paul Banerjee**, where they sampled the delights of the better known Munich watering holes.

The camp went well, and was enjoyed by all who took part, including the Squadron 2IC **Capt Bob Lockwood**, and the SSM, **WO2 Brian Dalton**, who came on a long weekend visit to sample the fresh mountain air.

WIVES TRAINING DAY

How many times have we heard wife to husband, or vice versa, 'You never do anything, just try doing my job for a day'. So on a wet Saturday in June, 4 Sqn decided to put it to the test.

Whilst the husbands stayed at home catering to the whims of the children, the Squadron wives paraded at 0900 hrs prompt, outside Squadron Headquarters, for a day's training.

The amount of preparation by the ladies was obvious by the very high standard of turnout achieved, although some seemed totally unaware of the clothing normally worn by soldiers.

The new all female Squadron split into manageable sections and set about their work, which included the following tasks:

BASIC VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

This was organised and controlled by **Cpl Jim Moody**, the Squadron MT Corporal, and included basic vehicle maintenance using a Landrover which was treated (with rather reluctant fingers) to a few wheel changes and the odd oil check. **Cpl Moody** assures us that the only breakages were to a few nicely manicured finger nails.

FIRST AID INSTRUCTION

This was organised by the SSM, **WO2 Brian Dalton**, and concentrated on EAR and safety in the home. In one lesson **Mrs Sue Birchenough** was heard to murmur a few words cursing the sharpness of Resusi Annies teeth. The first aid lessons were greeted with enthusiasm and all the ladies agreed that it was an important subject and would like to improve their knowledge in this area.

SHOOTING

Sgt Colin Riddell and **Cpl Dickie Tredwell** organised an interesting shoot on the Station 30M Range using the SLR duly converted to .22 to prevent too much bruising and the star shot of the day was **Mrs Sharon Prince**.

DRILL

Probably the most amibitious of the subjects attempted. **SSgt Phil Clifford** and **Cpl Steve Welding** were given the task of converting a lady into a co-ordinated member of a drill squad. After much loud encouragement the standard achieved was very commendable. However, **SSgt Phil Clifford** was seen later in the day setting fire to his drill manual saying 'Drill will never be the same again!'.

After all the sections had been through each activity, the ladies were informed that after a further 30 minutes instruction on the drill square, they would be taking part in a small parade which was to include a march past in the presence of the CO, **Lt Col Ian Turner**. The SSM does not wish it publicised that his wife, **Joan**, nearly fell over whilst negotiating a right turn.

The day culminated with a barbecue in the Regimental club, with husbands rejoining their wives and handing back the children to their Mums (with obvious relief). The **Sgt Chris Spencer**, who has been recording the earlier exploits of the ladies on video, put on a film show for everyone.

One wife has asked her husband 'Is that all you do all day?'. So 'Sarn't Major', it's back to the drawing board.

Rumour has it that after a little editing, a copy will be sent to the Training Brigade for inclusion in the introduction process for new recruits.

SSgt Phil Clifford, with his wife Anne 'She doesn't listen to me at home, so I've no chance here'

Post-shooting-depression, *L to R:* Miss Danette Copestake, Mrs Lynn Trevis, Mrs Ruth Copestake and Mrs Heike Dixon

Super shot. Mrs Sharon Prince with her 'Best Shot' medal

Cpl Jim Moody, with extended dip stick, pointing out the 'important bits'

22 Sig Regt
BFPO 107

PERSONALITIES

CO	**Lt Col Jerry Barrett**
2IC	**Maj Charles Kemp**
Ops Offr	**Maj Bob Binham**
Adjt	**Capt Gordon Rafferty**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Trevor Johnson**
SC	**WO1 Roger Iredale**
YofS	**WO1 (YofS) Brian Greenwood**

CHANGES IN RHQ

August saw a change in the RHQ staff. The 2IC, **Maj Mike Martin** was posted to MOD and in his place **Maj Charles Kemp** arrived fresh from Northern Ireland. The Irish connection was continued a week later with the arrival of our new Adjutant **Capt Gordon Rafferty** also fresh from the Emerald Isle. **Capt Colin Burtenshaw** departed for JDSC.

To ensure that the new 2IC and Adjutant were not in any doubt that BAOR is where the real soldiering is done they were despatched to Vogelsang to run the Battle Camp. Despite this 'deep end' start, it did offer the two new arrivals the opportunity of meeting a lot of the Regimental 'stars' in different and, at times, demanding circumstances. On return from Battle Camp, CO's inspection week and a host of visits were arranged to keep them both busy. These included a visit by GOC 3 Armd Div: **Maj Gen G. E. W. Jones CBE** and two days later the new Commander 1 Sig Bde **Brig T. I. M. Waugh MBE**. So the new team is now well and truly 'in'.

All of RHQ would like to wish **Maj Martin** and his wife **Dorothy** and **Capt Burkenshaw** and his wife **Lindsey** all the best wishes in their new postings.

The new Commander Comms 1 (BR) Corps, Brig T. I. M. Waugh visiting the Regiment
L to R: Adjt, Capt G. J. T. Rafferty and RSM WO1 T. Johnson

1 SQN
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Robin Cuthbert**
2IC	**Capt Stuart Gray-Cowan**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Derek Brown**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Steve Rogers**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Chris Rogan**
OC A Tp	**2Lt Graham Deans**
OC C Tp	**2Lt Jim Prior**

The last two months have seen maximum number on leave with those remaining attending battle camp at Vogelsang and/or preparing for the CO's inspection week.

BATTLE CAMP

Being the smallest squadron we had to import men from other squadrons and also a W OCdt from Leeds UOTC, **Miss Helen Black. Helen** acquitted herself extremely well and impressed her fellow team members and permanent staff alike with her determination and physical stamina. She did everything that the men did and competed well. Well done **Helen**.

2Lt Graham Deans took the first platoon down to Vogelsang and set the example for the rest by winning the 'mystery event' on the Sunday. This turned out to be an uphill trailer race. On the Tuesday he and his platoon won the NBC day. Although this team didn't win overall they did very well considering that **Graham** and most of the team had not been to Vogelsang before.

The second platoon was led by **2Lt Jim Prior** who quickly realised that he wasn't going to be in the running for any major prizes and so took bets on all the non qualyfying events: He wiped the board in this respect, probably because the winnings were Herfie 10 packs (to be collected after battle camp, I hasten to add).

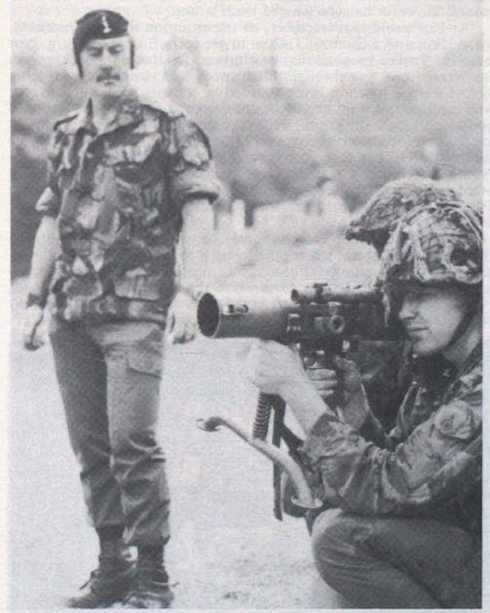
All in all those who participated at battle camp learned that training for war is not easy. They came back tired, but with a good team spirit, high morale and a sense of achievement.

The NBC phase on the Regimental Battle camp in September this year

The Adjutant Capt Gordon Rafferty adopts the Napoleon pose

2Lt Jim Prior and his platoon rehearsing for a night river crossing

Sig 'Bush' and 'Thatch' on patrol



LCpl John McKillock firing sub calibre 84mm Carl Gustav, WO2 (SSM) Harkin looks on

CO'S INSPECTION WEEK

Preparations for the CO's inspection were sporadic due to Battle Camp and leave. The worry of it all forced the Squadron Commander to pack his bags and, with his family on a plane ahead of him, drive off into the sunset heading for the UK and then Tenerife until all the work had been done! Fortunately the emphasis of the inspection changed from a 'Royal Visit' type inspection to one of Operational readiness. This allowed us to concentrate on our vehicles, installations and stores procedures. In addition the RSM carried out a kit check and the Traffic Officer and the Adjutant carried out checks on our internal squadron procedures.

We were scheduled for the second day and were thus able to pick the brains of 3 Sqn who were inspected first. In the event the squadron did extremely well and the inspection team was thoroughly impressed by the cheerfulness and eagerness with which the det comds showed off their dets. The very good inspection report was, in the main, due to the high morale generated at Vogelsang spilling over and manifesting itself into yet another good performance by 1 Sqn.

DEPARTURES

Unfortunately for us the end of CO's week marked the departure of three of our staunchest workers namely: **WO2 (FofS) Steve Rogers, Cpl Kev Winkles** and **Cpl Chris Hardwidge** (now WO1 and Sergeants respectively). However our loss is the gain of HQ, 2 and 3 Sqns as they are all staying in the Regiment.

ARRIVALS

Although we have had a few arrivals the one worthy of a special mention must be **Sig Robert Barnes** who joined us from Catterick at about 2000 hrs one Friday night and found himself in Vogelsang by 1200 hrs on the Sunday. Immediately upon his return he was detached to 4 Sqn on Ex *Reforger*. Now after five days of comfort he is off on Ex *Keystone* for three weeks. There's one young soldier who is in no danger of being misemployed or bored! We also welcome our new FofS **Alex Kennedy** and **Cpls Dave Wood** and **'Wilkie' Wilkinson**.

2 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Paul Gorford**
2IC	**Capt Tim Wadey**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Maurice Harkin**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Peter Barron**
OC D Tp	**Lt George Odling**
OC E Tp	**Lt Neil Longley**
OC F Tp	**2Lt Tony Urwin**

EXERCISE *SWISS TRIANGLE*

This was a Regimental Expedition endeavouring to walk across Switzerland in ten days carrying minimal kit. From the original party of fifteen only eight set off to trek the 300 kilometre Alpine Route from Montreux on the side of Lake Geneva, to Sargans on the Liechtenstein border. As a result of the reduced numbers, the whole group was able to travel down in 'Hercules', an ex-German Army VW bus.

So with 'Hercules' laden to the gunnels the group left for ten hours 'luxury' travel to the first site. Once we had negotiated the Montreux Grand Prix circuit to quote **Lt 'Jon' Fraser,** we arrived at Villeneuve. It was a small and crowded site and like the rest of the town closed at ten! There is always an exception to the rule and we stumbled across the local house of good repute. Once inside **Cpl 'Jock' Stott** offered to buy the first round of seven beers and his coke—unusual for a Scotsman, though his response to the bill was not—SF 104 (£42)?

The first day was one of leisure enabling the Boss and **Sgt 'Jim' Perry** to check with the authorities about the route and the weather, then to do the daily shopping. The final job was to issue the day sacks and pack them ready for the first days walking, and the rest of the day was spent starting on the sun tan. After supper the group completed a round of crazy golf, then having learned the lesson of the night before we set of for Montreaux. Where **Cpl 'Jock' Stott** still determined to further his education went into the Casino. Here he dazzled the croupier with his Glasgow Rangers shirt and left with over SF 100 in SF 5 and SF 2. The taxi service also shuts at ten and so he had to walk the 6km with his loot back to the camp site.

UNDER STARTERS ORDERS!

Day one of the trek started with **Cpl 'Pete' Oldham** setting the walkers off with one of his many hearty breakfasts. The route from Villeneuve to La Lecherette is 29km and a climb of 1,475m. The whole group soon realised that this was no Sunday afternoon stroll. Climbing up the Col-de-Chaude Pass seemed like an eternity, with **Sgt Jim Perry** (Life but not as we know it) leading the way up the never ending zig-zag. Meanwhile **Lt 'Bomber' Fraser** played tail-end charlie, happily snapping away as the expedition's photographer. With Villeneuve getting smaller behind us, we reached the pass by one o'clock and had yet another stop, this one was for lunch. By this time most of the group had changed out of their really firm walking boots and into a more flexible pair of training shoes; **Cpl 'Geordie' Houghton** had also developed a nappy rash. The afternoon descent was very quiet, except for the occasional sigh as the finish to a hard first day's walking came into sight.

La Lacherette is a one pub town, and the camp site a short walk away. So after the first day, the evening was spent around a roaring camp fire drinking beers. While we were busy keeping the fire going, we were visited by a wild fox who was not afraid at first. As the evening went on though it became obvious that he was not afraid of anything (except the odd flying ice axe), as he re-visited us several times during the night to plunder our stores. The fox's meal consisted of peanuts, sugar, bacon and **Cpl 'Jock' Stott**'s stopper from his Lilo! Or so he claimed the next morning.

The second day from La Lecherette to Zweisimmen, was as much of a climb but this time not along the punters route. **Sgt Jim Perry** described the route as a short bimble and a quick nip over the pass

there in the distance! It turned out to be a knife edge and the climb up to it was rather steep with several shouts of 'Below!'. There was a convenient ledge just down from the edge for our lunch break, in fact so comfortable, that come the time to move off again, **Cpl 'Scouse' Horabin** did not want to move, anywhere! The pale faces from the knife edge slowly began to regain their colour—blood colour, as a result of the scree we were walking over. With **Cpl 'Surefoot' Horabin** spending as much time on his behind, as his feet!

The third day was from Zweisimmen to Kandersteg via the punters route, all 33km of it and a climb of 2,385m. It was the only dreary day of a sun-drenched fortnight, thus giving **Cpl Crofts** a chance to wear his mini-skirt-styled waterproof jacket! It was very tame after the previous day's walk and held few excitements for the walkers, but the admin crew made not one, nor two, but three trips to the Co-op to get free beer and gifts off the Warteck beer stand!

If that day had seemed long and a hard climb for the group, then day four from Kandersteg to Lauterbrunnen was off the scale! It was without doubt the hardest day of the expedition with three peaks, two of 2,800m, one of 2,600m and a total distance of 31km! It was a deceptively easy start with a chair lift to take us to 500m off the first peak and several kilometres from the 'Blausee'. Murphy's law states that in the Alps if you greet a fellow walker in one language then the reply will be in another, 'good morning'—'Bonjour' or 'Bongiorno'—'Guten Morgen' . . . Eventually it was abbreviated to a simple 'Allo'.

The walk was very demanding as between the two main peaks, the group had to descend to a height of 1,400m, but the spirits were kept up by **Cpl 'Jock' Stott.**

After a much needed lie in, day five was nothing more than a hop (up the mountain), a skip (along the top) and a jump (down the other side), to use **Sgt Jim Perry**'s words. Just over 15km long and a climb of 1,100m to get from Lauterbrunnen to Grindelwald, with several stops on the way at the restaurants for coffee and cakes. The Boss, **Lt 'Bomber' Fraser** provided some entertainment by packing his yogurt in the top of his day sack, only to find that when he stopped for a coffee at the middle cable car station, it had exploded inside, coating the contents with dairy fruit!

Day six and seven were spent in and around the Grindelwald area at leisure and recovering and preparing for a second week.

The second half of the walk on day eight began in earnest; where in Switzerland is earnest?! The walk of 24km and a climb of 1,961m from Grindelwald to Innertkirchen was supposedly the first day of the easy end of the route. This assumes that you find walking 30km+ easier than climbing above 2,000m. The entertainment started at breakfast with **Cpl 'Thermos' Crofts** breaking his third flask since start-ex! The walking group then met up with groups of snap happy Japanese as they climbed up and away from Grindelwald, towards the 'Grosse Scheidegg' pass. The only explanation that the group could come up with for these snap happy Japanese was that they were gathering proof for their version of **'Clive James'**. Ah So! We make people back home walk up mountains too! When we paused for a coffee at the top, **Cpl 'Jock' Stott** fell for the oldest trick in the book as far as radios are concerned. We had agreed to call admin at that time, and so being an eager technician he picked up the radio and moved to the edge of the pass and said, 'Hello admin, you are very faint, I can hear your pressel only.' This continued for several minutes before he turned round to see **Sgt Jim Perry** key-ing away on the spare radio.

On day nine from Innerkirchen to Engelberg, we covered a distance of 30km and a climb of 2,207m over 'Jockpass'. It also taught the group that when a herd of Swiss cows comes past on the way to being milked, you should all stay on the right hand side of the track. Needless to say that by the time the third herd came past we were one close group on the right! We also found that every packet of Swiss crisps contains a small toy; **Sgt Jim Perry**'s was appropriately a turkey which he strapped to his shoulder strap. Not only this but he also collected everyone elses, some of which were small model kits, which proved a little harder for him to put together! Is there a resettlement course in Lego Construction for this man?

Sgt Jim Perry, left, and Cpl Graham Sadd on the knife edge of Gummfluh, 2,320m

The route from Engelberg to Altdorf was only 26km and a climb of 2,291m, in fact day ten was easy and rather quiet.

The penultimate day's walk from Altdorf to Euthal was another short day, only 25km and a climb of 1,460m. The plan was sound enough, walk over the first mountain and then use a cable car up the second mountain, then walk down to the next camp site. Alas the maps proved to be just a bit inaccurate; the cable car marked was no longer there. So the group walked several kilometres to the next village, where there was supposedly another cable car. This had also been dismantled and so the group was 'forced' to use public transport to get round the second mountain. We finished the days walking early again and settled at a camp site on the side of another lake. The group continued to improve their tans on the shore while the Boss got onto a surfboard. The other members of the group thought the only reason for this was so that he could talk to the young lady who owned the board. However he soon proved them wrong.

'At Last', said some members of the group on the final morning; only 32km and a climb of 1,420m to get from Euthal to Murg. Not even the Turkey knew all that was in store for that days walking. As we weaved our way through thick woods and marshland, we came across a track junction being guarded by a Swiss Soldier. 'No sorry you can't go this way' he said, it is being used as a range today!' No problem thought the group, we'll take the other path that is marked on the map. It was on the ground as well, but only for the next four kilometres! It was then so overgrown that it was decided that we would descend via a stream. This provided a very enjoyable end to what was a very satisfying expedition. All the members of the group had completed the trek and without serious injury—only the odd blister.

At Murg the final camp site, which was on the edge of the Walensee, we had our last supper which was an all-in-stew, and very good. It was then down to the 'local' to use up all our Swiss small change prior to our return. After which the Boss **Lt 'Bomber' Fraser** was given a traditional dunking in the lake, dampening clothing, but not the elation of having completed the expedition, *Swiss Triangle '87.*

Left to Right: Cpls Crofts, Houghton, Stott, Horabin, Sadd, Sgts Perry and Lt Fraser at the Col de Chande monument at 1,621m

3 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Mike Hanrahan**
2IC	**Capt Alex Wilson**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Brian Cullen**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Parker**
OC G Tp	**2Lt Phil Harlow**
OC H Tp	**Lt Jon Fraser**
OC I Tp	**2Lt Tim Carmichael**

REGIMENTAL BATTLE CAMP 1987 VOGELSANG

Regimental Battlecamp reared its head in the form of Vogelsang this year. It took place from 21 August to 4 September when, fortunately, the weather was fine and almost warm.

Much had been planned during the week and the co-ordinators had a hard task ensuring that the programme was followed. The first week turned out to be as much a learning experience for the Directing Staff as for the Troops on the ground. The Camp was started gently with a few 'friendly' platoon attacks and another couple of non-pressure ranges before venturing onto some of the more exciting ranges and activities. The third day included the Potted Sports and the Assault Course competitions. The men responded accordingly. Spirits were high and everyone put a lot of effort into all the events. A few people discovered that they could do just that 'one more' press up, and that 'one more' effort on the assault course. A rather ambitious NBC exercise followed two days later. The platoons are taken in Company size strength to the Droveheide Training area and deployed in a wood clearing exercise under an NBC environment. Most of the normal eating and drinking drills were carried out including a most unusual event: we were all allowed to cut our NBC suits off and undergo a complete suit change. It was a great chance to cool down as it was a rather warm day. The camp ended with a Company size infiltration using a mixture of yomping and assault craft rides followed by an assault on a village to rescue hostages held there. Under the able leadership of **Capt Alex Wilson** the attack proceeded successfully and all were saved.

To conclude, the camp was a success in that it taught us all a lot about the life of an infanteer, something we should all remain aware of. A large amount of the mandatory training was completed. Also all participants of the camp were able to have the chance to handle, and fire, a wide range of weapons including the 84mm sub calibre, the 66mm sub calibre, the 66mm HEAT, the GPMG and a few others. In addition FIBUA was practised. Most enjoyed it immensely.

Two officers of the Regiment, were lucky enough to travel to Canada for a lecture tour. One of the participants has given an insight to their visit, hopefully tongue in cheek!

FOLLOWING IN HUDSON'S FOOTSTEPS

Now it's not often that you will find a Second Lieutenant lecturing a Squadron Commanders' Course at a School of Signals. It is even more rare for a 'Rodney' to lecture potential Majors at the Canadian School of Signals, but this actually happened in September (well, almost . . .). **Maj Mike Hanrahan,** who is both Royal Canadian Signals and OC 3 Sqn, accompanied by a subaltern, was invited to talk to his fellow countrymen, at the Canadian Forces School of Communications and Electronics in Kingston, Ontario. It sounds like quite a mouthful, in fact it is a hybrid mixture of Blandford and Catterick, transported some four and a half thousand miles to a much sunnier site on the edges of both the St Lawrence River and Lake Ontario.

The young officer who was to accompany **Maj Hanrahan** had a tough task facing him. He had to possess the following qualities to enable him to survive a harrowing week on foreign soil!

Knowledge

He had to be able to bluff his way through searching questions on the Ptarmigan System, the subject of the lecture.

Stamina

He had to be fit enough to endure a packed timetable of official receptions, wine-tasting functions and 'Happy Hours'.

Bi-lingual

As Canadians also speak French, he required a fluent working knowledge of the essentials ('Two beers, please', 'Deux bieres, si vous plait').

The officer chosen was **2Lt Tim Carmichael.** The pressures of such an exacting week were not lost on him and his reluctance to face up to the challenge was evident in the conversation that took place when he was first asked to make the trip:

Maj H: 'Wanna go to Canada for a week?'

2Lt C: 'I'm already packed'.

And so it was that our two intrepid heroes ventured forth on a journey beset with excess baggage, delayed flights and the traditional Canadian war-cry: 'Have a nice day!'

On eventual arrival at CFB Kingston (BFC Kingston, for you Francophones), they were met at various times by a procession of officers, amongst these was **Capt Pete Grogan,** who is on attachment to 1st Canadian Signal Regiment.

Almost at once **2Lt Tim Carmichael** was cruelly abducted by subalterns from the Regiment and was not seen again until two days later, having suffered a cruel programme of torture, involving happy hours, parties and nightclubs. **Maj 'Master Plan' Hanrahan** meanwhile struck up fierce negotiations with the powers that be concerning his career, a possible exchange and his MMA claims.

The lecture took place during a lull in our two warriors' respective battles. The Canadian officers were intrigued both by the concept of Corps communications in Germany, and by **Mr Carmichael**'s contented smile. The next day saw the end of the visit to Kingston, and after such a harrowing experience the OC took **Mr Carmichael** to the capital, Ottawa, for a weekend's R&R.

After a 24 hour delay, in which they were on several occasions reminded of their duty to 'Have a nice day' the two travellers returned, via Gatwick and Lahr, to Lippstadt: **Maj Hanrahan** to face the vagaries of the Army's newest bouncing generator, and **2Lt Carmichael** to face an inquisitive troop.

Troop (ensemble): 'What have you been doing, Sir?'

Mr C: 'Working hard, lads, damned hard . . .'

4 SQUADRON
PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Rob Carter**
2IC	**Capt Ian Dudding**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Bill Hutton**
YofS	**SSgt (YofS) Bill Ruthven**
OC J Tp	**2Lt Graham Addley**
OC K Tp	**2Lt Roger Cotterell**
OC L Tp	**2Lt David Drinkall**

EXERCISE *REFORGER*

4 Sqn deployed on Ex *Reforger* at the beginning of September to its various locations in the North East of the Corps area. Our aim was to provide access to the Ptarmigan network for the exercise umpires and selected players.

Our move into the 3 (US) Corps Main Headquarters was somewhat delayed. This gave some members of the crews a chance to pursue their main exercise pastime, memorising 'Trivial Pursuit' answers; next step Mastermind!

Once in location we quickly settled in and having conquered the language problem, best achieved by planting a cigar firmly between your teeth before speaking, we were able to start bartering. We found the 'Yanks' eager to swop anything for our 'compo'. When we went to their cookhouse we found out why!!! We came to the conclusion that it was Lasagne that kept 3 (US) Corps going!!! Having survived the evening meal on the first day we then had to face breakfast on the second. To us 'Brits' bacon and eggs presented in cubes is sacrilege. We can't tell you whether the breakfasts improved in the cookhouse but what we can confirm is that our ability to make egg banjos did. To round off the day of culinary delights we were introduced to the MRE (Meal Ready to Eat). Like our Ration Packs the contents varied depending on the letter stamped on the outside, or so they said. We viewed our taste of American food as something that should be put down to experience. One American officer was heard to say 'I wouldn't feed this stuff to my dog', come back ACC, all is forgiven.

International relationships were promoted by certain members of the crews, notably those by **Sig 'Beaker' Briggs** and **LCpl Ian Foulkes. Sig 'Beaker' Brigg**'s approach to the problem of international relations leaves a lot to be desired. Plunging oneself into the depths of Dannert wire, even though the young American medic is very pretty, is an original way of asking her out, but in future the more traditional approach may be less painful.

After the weeks on *Reforger* everybody is looking forward to the more conventional exercise of *Keystone.* We learned a lot about the Americans and the way they operate, and no doubt they learned a lot about us. It was an interesting fortnight as well as being great fun. Some advice for those who find themselves in the same situation next year: Avoid 'T' rations; Avoid MREs; Don't trust an American with a map of Germany; American cots are better than British camp beds; You can swop an American cot for two berets; and 'War is hell Sir!'

Sig Barry (Gadge) Gargett first dabbled at canoeing whilst a Junior Leader and only took up competitive canoeing this year, and in his first season he has become BAOR Intermediate Slalom Sprint Champion, Corps Long Distance Novice Champion and Army Slalom Senior Class C Champion. An impressive record for an 18 year old Signalman currently serving as a RR Op with 4 Sqn 22 Sig Regt.

Sig 'Gadge' Gargett

REGIMENTAL RUGBY TOUR OF NW ENGLAND

The Regimental Rugby Team left Lippstadt for NW England on a warm Sunday afternoon halfway through September led by our coach, **Maj 'Geordie' Gainford.** He assured us that he 'was good to us lads' and that we were to 'cherish these moments'. No one could have envisaged the diabolical plot he had thought out for us, but, soon it was all too clear what Il Duce had in mind.

On the journey over one of our minibuses became known as 'Swamp 1'. Not only was it carrying all the 'valuable supplies' but also the forwards. It was noticed that the 'valuable supplies' were much depleted and the forwards much happier when the Zeebrugge ferry steamed out into the calm English Channel. On landing at Felixstowe morale was soon lowered when customs and excise officers called upon the forwards to show the contents of their kits bags. After a brief stop at one of **Maj Gainford**'s favourite haunts, a quaint little restaurant perched on a scenic lorry park overlooking Bury St Edmonds rubbish tip, it was onward towards our Base Camp, Altcar, near Southport.

Our first game was on the Tuesday night against West Park, the top junior clubs in the North West. Some points to note are that we had suffered numerous injuries prior to this game and although the forwards played well against a larger pack we lacked pace, skill and talent and morphine and were soundly beaten 38—0. Many said that we were lucky to get the nil. Despite everything we were all well hosted after the match. We finished the evening off with an Oriental meal at a local restaurant. **Cpl 'Chi-Chi' Price** and **Cpl 'Pig Pen' Anderson** are still waiting for the after dinner speeches. We knew the next game would be harder. The Merseyside Police were finalists in The UK Police Trophy and were renowned for their hard no-nonsense play.

We played well in the forwards with **Cpl Price** crashing over for an excellent try which was converted by **Cpl 'Blowpipe' Hughes.** However the Police side was too strong in the backs and were worthy winners. The Police were excellent hosts and the night ended in one of Liverpools Hot-Spots known as 'Pickwicks' where the team witnessed the most astonishing battle between two hen parties.

Finally to Waterloo, the premier club in the Northwest which was hosted by the Regiment last year and where many friendships have been made. We were given a rapturous welcome and made to feel very much at home. We played our game on the Sunday. With the team still hit by injury we had to borrow five players before the game could commence. As usual the pack pressed hard forcing Waterloo over their own twenty two metre line, however their defensive play was well drilled and even the presence of an international trialist could not force a mistake from 'Loo'. Special mention must be made of **SSgt 'Q' Gilder** who, in the face of a barbarian No '8', didn't flinch (until the Doctor put his dislocated finger back into joint). **LCpl 'Tank' Sherman** also did well against an international prop. **Tank** was heard to say to the referee that he wasn't doing anymore scrums until he heard his opponent speak English.

Twenty minutes into the first half the 'Loo' side had built up a healthy lead and it looked like another disaster when **Sig 'Mungo' Jones** ran down the 'Tramlines' from his own half to score a fine try. **Cpl Matt Hughes** converted this as well as two penalties. The game was allowed to flow and everyone agreed it was a very enjoyable match played in true rugby spirit. In the second half **Maj 'Geordie' Gainford**'s nephew scored a fine try which had the crowd cheering. They didn't stop from then on because the 'Army' side, as they called it, was pressing all the time. The verdict was that it was a very good game to watch and much appreciated by the crowd and players. The final score was 44—16. Thanks must go to the minibus drivers **Kev 'China' Tunstal, Brummie Clare, Ginge** and to **Maj 'Geordie' Gainford** who thought up the whole thing.

3 DIVISION TRIATHLON
'ALL IN A DAY'S TRAINING'

The first day of October saw the temporary conversion of the Regimental biathlon ski team into a triathlon team. For the first time in their history the Regiment entered the 3rd Division Iron Man Triathlon Competition. The events included a chilly 800m swim across the Mohnesee, a shooting practice using .22 calibre converted rifles and a gruelling 10km cross country race. **LCpl 'Stevie' Burke, LCpl 'Smudger' Smith** and **Sig 'Quad' Harland** were nominated for the team whilst 'just back from leave again'. **Capt Phillip Brown** entered as an individual. **Cpl 'Bob' Anderson** the team manager ensured that everything went smoothly.

The winners of the 3 Armd Div Triathlon Competition:
L to R: LCpl's 'Smudger' Smith, Stevie Burke and Sig 'Quad' Harland
Kneeling: Capt Phil Brown and Cpl Bob Anderson

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The swimming event was the team's weakest event but they all managed to get across successfully. In fact, thanks to a particularly good swim from **LCpl 'Smudger' Smith** the team found itself in the very respectable position of fourth. Fortunately there was plenty of time to prepare for the shooting event where everyone scored well enough to pull the team up into second place. Suddenly, what was originally a training day, was turning into a meaningful competition with the prospect of some rewards.

Running was probably the team's strongest event and so it proved. **LCpl 'Stevie' Burke** powered home into third place and the remainder all finished in the top 12 places. Of the 80 starters, **LCpl Burke** was fourth overall closely followed by **LCpl Smith. Sig Harland** was seventh just ahead of **Capt Brown.** With such good individual results the team overhauled the leaders to become the very proud Third Division Triathlon Champions.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Regiment has a healthy squad of runners of varying degrees of ability, but the most important facet of a runner's character is enthusiasm, and in this department we are certainly well endowed.

The cross country season got underway on Tuesday 8 September with the Inter-Squadron race held at Eringerfeld. Maximum participation was the order of the day, and a field of over 320 runners took part! This number was undoubtedly swelled by the efforts of our new 2IC **Maj Charles Kemp** who left no stone unturned to ensure that even the most recalcitrant athletes 'toed the line'. A week of heavy rainfall preceded the day of the race, and floodwaters on a low-lying part of the four mile course had receded to leave a layer of mud inches deep. Perhaps this caused the lower order runners to take a detour—(could that be the reason we had to send a search party for **Cpl Donny Brough**?) but the leading runners were undeterred, and 21 min 34 sec from the gun **Sig Archie Gemmell** crossed the line some 50m or so ahead of the weary organiser **WO2 (RQMS) Les Wood.**

To enable a fair representation the team race results were calculated on the first 25 finishers from each Squadron, and after some rapid calculations by the stats clerk 4 Sqn was adjudged the winner by a clear margin over HQ Sqn which was second.

The race was an excellent opener for the season, enabling the RQMS to spot newly developed talent and also acting as a rehearsal for the 3 Armd Div League race which we hosted recently.

The League began on 16 September with a race at Sennelager, and with 6 finishers in the top 16 and an overall points score of 70, 22 Sig Regt gave notice of its intentions to all other units hopeful of a successful League season.

The second League race on 30 September was our home fixture organised by the RQMS, **WO2 Les Wood**, and **SSgt 'Scotty' Handibode,** recently arrived in this unit from the Ptarmigan Introduction Unit. Run over a two lap course (a revised version of the Inter-Squadron route) on a glorious day, the race gave the Regiment another resounding victory. Just under 200 runners set out, and after a hard slog through the damp woods of Eringerfeld the RQMS in third place led the team home. The points total was again 70, but with **Capt Phil Brown** returning from leave to finish sixth scorer in a lowly 25th position, it was obvious that the remaining runners had all run exceptionally well.

Everything looks good for a win in the Divisional Championships, but with so many of our top runners doubling as Nordic Skiers the emphasis must be on training and encouraging the middle order runners, and developing the talent which undoubtedly exists within the unit.

Cpl Bob Anderson receives the cup on behalf of the winning squadron on the Inter Squadron Cross Country Competition from the CO's wife Mrs Sue Barrett

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NEWS FROM REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

In September, the Headquarters was reduced to minimum manning as the bulk of RHQ deployed on Ex *Certain Strike* to form 'Diamond'. This consists of the Regimental Command Post Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess, Cookhouse and Administration Area. As usual, the daily news sheet 'Fran Diamond News' (FDN) was soon reporting on all items of news and interest, courtesy of the editor, **Cpl Robertson.** Few people escaped a mention in this extremely popular newsletter.

2Lt Alison Gordon WRAC, who is currently on a three month attachment to the Regiment prior to her Troop Commanders course in November, was soon a regular feature in the FDN!

During the exercise, the Regiment hosted many important visitors including COMNORTHAG, **Gen Sir Martin Farndale**—Comd Comms, BAOR, **Maj Gen A. Yeoman**—and Comd WRAC BAOR—**Col A. A. Kelly.** On the occasion of COMNORTHAG's visit, the Chief Clerk also appeared at the exercise location having travelled up from St Tonis. FDN published the following:

'VIPS AT DIAMOND CAUSE MASS CONFUSION

An accidental double booking of VIPs caused severe embarrassment to certain members of 'Diamond' yesterday. Whilst the location was hurriedly preparing for a rare visit of the Rt Hon Chief Clerk, the Comd Northern Army Group turned up! Unaware of who he was to meet, **Reuben the Trout** gave **Gen Sir Martin Farndale** the Red Carpet treatment that was originally planned for **WO2 (When I was a lad) Martin.** Red faces were easy to find in CP 28 when the Chief of Clerical Maintenance had to clamber up the hill in a rusty landrover, and upon arrival was offered a cup of tea in a plastic mug and a NAAFI Bourbon biscuit. Both VIPs were escorted in opposite directions around the location to avoid a 'Clash of **Martin**'s' which would have caused even more embarrassment to the already trembling hierarchy. The Rt Hon Chief Clerk was invited to stay overnight in a basha but declined the offer as it was 'over generous'. He left shortly afterwards vowing never to don a pair of combats again. Never mind, at least his cheese and onion sandwiches were fresh.'

On the sporting front, many members of RHQ contributed to the Regiment's success in numerous hockey and cricket matches. Much of the Regiment's cricket achievement this year (Rhine Area League Champions, Rhine Area Major Unit Knock Out Cup Winners) was due to the captaincy of our own **WO1 (RSM) Ponton.**

NEWS FROM SUPPORT SQUADRON

September was dominated by Ex *Certain Strike,* with the Regiment being fully deployed. Support Squadron took its full share, leaving only a Barrack Guard in Camp. Diamond, under the command of **Lt (Christine) Knipe** WRAC continued to have its head in the clouds, being situated at Bad Iburg on top of a hill 340m high.

Rogues Gallery?
Left to Right: OC ACRS Maj M. Johnston, OC 13(BE) Cie TTR Maj M. Rodolf, Dep Comd NSSG Lt Col H. Bonaker, COMNORTHAG Gen Sir Martin Farndale, Comd NSSG Col A. Barten, OC(NL) Sig Sqn Maj E. Van Noordtwijk, Comd 840 (GE) Fm Bn Lt Col Dreher, Comd 28 Sig Regt Lt Col B. Chubb

'Col Kelly Comd WRAC meets WPte Bird'

'For services rendered . . . Heinz Hartwig, the friendly German farmer who put up with B Tp for three weeks during the exercise—receives a Regimental plaque'

'A' Echelon had a three week course in cement making, under the guidance of 'Anneliese Zementwerke', while 'B' Echelon, under the command of our new QM **Capt (George) Clark** continued in the mould of **Maj (Phil) Noble,** secure in the knowledge that if all else fails, it's 'Otherenditis'! Despite the Commander having warned us that this would be a reasonably quiet exercise and other activities would have to be found to occupy the soldiers, the MT did manage to deliver 35,000 litres of fuel and cover some 30,000kms, the LAD completed 23 major vehicle repairs, the QM issued 475 items and the caterers delivered some 12 tons of assorted foods. On a lighter note, we also competed in various Multinational Sports Activities, and congratulate **Sgt (Nige) Spragg** and **Sgt (I'm going in the Clothing Store when we get back) Kendall** on winning the NORTHAG Signal Support Group Orienteering Competition. OC Support and his Merry Men also hosted the families to a very successful barbecue on the second Sunday during the exercise, despite **SSgt (Jim) Lewington**'s attempt to sabotage **Mrs Chubb**'s coach, culminating in a three hour delay on the Autobahn!

SOME QUOTES, VOTES AND QUESTIONS FROM THE EXERCISE

Cpl (Paul) Lincoln (UAO): 'What is a stand-to(?)—I get dizzy if I stand up too long'.

Sig (Jock) Millar (MT): 'The reason I am always late for stand-to sir, is the rest cheat by getting dressed before the whistle goes'.

The most popular military man on the exercise, voted by 2 Sqn, was the Paymaster, **Capt (Vic) MacDonald-Evans** of Denovan, for his cash re-supply run.

The most popular civilian was **Herr Betson** for allowing 'A' Echelon to use the Cement Work ablutions and toilets.

Maj Boyle OC WO2 (SSM) Parkhill, Herr Betson and Lt Nelson (RMTO)

WEDDING

Sig (Cressie) Cresswell finally got the girl he wanted and tied the knot on Friday 9 October. Congratulations and best wishes to him and **Martina** for the future.

NEWS FROM ONE SQUADRON
ALPHA TROOP (SWITCH BRAVO)

In September 'A' Troop deployed for three weeks on Ex *Certain Strike.* It was to prove a very wet and muddy experience.

After the initial setting up, where there was not a lot of sleep to be had, we soon settled down to maintaining what is widely recognised as 'a very intricate international system'. The main difference between this exercise and our normal procedures, being the presence of 3 US Corps, within West Germany.

Needless to say there were (as this was the first time we had worked to the actual Corps troops) some teething problems. These were soon ironed out though, by a couple of hit squads being deployed by the troop. The first squad, comprising **Sgt (Adrian) Downs** and **Cpl (Paul) Marshall** worked for a solid 18 hours before being replaced by **(Steve) Stackwood** and **Sgt (Brian) Jenkinson.** At last, 3 US Corps was finally integrated into our system.

It was then time to sit back and wait for faults to occur, which apart from a few, or a lot, of 'uncontrolled' outages on our TAREs (which I hasten to add, are still in the development stage) never really happened. This proves that although you can't teach an old dog new tricks, you can make old equipment work well.

The switch was honoured by a number of VIP visitors including COMNORTHAG **Gen Sir Martin Farndale KCB,** who despite delay, due to bad weather, managed to gain an insight into most aspects of switch life and to meet a lot of our people.

The exercise went well and a lot of useful instructional training was carried out for new personnel. All in all it was a long, dirty, but worthwhile exercise.

We say hello to the following new members of the troop: **WO2 (FofS) (Tom) Sharp, Sgt (Bob) Pullan, Sgt (Chris) Hartley** (and congratulations to him and **Sue** on the arrival of a baby boy), **Sgt (Andy) Le-Billon, Cpl (Mack) McKinnel, LCpl (Craig) Raine, Sig (John) Forbes** and **Sig (Tommo) Thompson.** Sad farewells to: **Cpl (Scouse) Kelly** to 8 Sig Regt on his T1 and **Cpl (Craig) Jones** and **Cpl (Mick) Press** off to civvy street.

NEWS FROM 1 SQUADRON
BRAVO TROOP (SWITCH ALPHA)

Bravo Troop is Switch Alpha and Alpha Troop is Switch Bravo. Simple to understand? The reason why the Troops are like that is because it is Alpha's year to be 'Executive Switch', while Bravo plays the 'Non-Executive' role. This means that the Sqn 2IC, **Capt David Gilchrist** is OC Switch and **SSgt (SQMS) Ian Stewart** is Switch SSM, assisted by Line **Sgt Jennings** and **SSgt (FofS) Pennington.**

The above mentioned have now worked together for almost one year, and recently oversaw the smooth, successful running of Switch Alpha during the long, arduous Ex *Certain Strike.* This lasted for three weeks and involved moving into location, setting-up, tuning-in, maintaining comms and the morale of the troops, and most importantly the good nature of the farmer in whose barn courtyard we were standing.

Any fool can be uncomfortable and the little pleasures in life which we had there, (like being able to use his immaculate toilet facilities, and sleeping in his barn, using his water etc) all helped to make our stay a little bit easier. Once Comms had been established and were being ably supervised by Tech controllers **Sgt Graham Wolverson** and **John Gaskill,** routine then evolved around entertainment and how to vary it. Running through the three weeks was a Trivial Pursuit Competition, organised by **Capt Gilchrist.** Nearly all the Troops were split, quite fairly, into six teams of five. What was not fair, however were the questions; some teams appeared to get 'baby-boomer' questions, and others received 'dog-end' questions (to quote one participant, **Pte 'Snudge' Smith** of the ACC).

The seniors entertained us all with lecturettes; **SSgt Pennington** did one on 'Alcohol Abuse' followed closely by **Sgt Wolverson's** 'Wine Labels and Wine Tasting'. There's logic there somewhere. There was an international Military Skills Competition held at 22 Sig Regt which involved six teams, three British, two German and one Dutch, undertaking an assault course, SMG stand and Command Task. **Cpl Marty Bunkle**'s team won, closely followed by **Cpl (now Sgt) Guy Whitfield**'s team. All participants received a certificate from **Capt Tuscheau** of 840 Battalion, and an international dinner was held after the event.

Our thanks go to **Capt Gilchrist** for organising the event, and also to chef **Cpl Paddy Burke** who always provided us with good meals, and catered for that special occasion.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

2Lt Dave (The Boy) Chattaway for bravely assuming command of Switch Alpha with one week left to go; **Sig Hay**'s accident with a tin of boot polish, which possibly has a connection with **Sig 'Dustcloud' McGrath**'s sewage problem in his respirator and finally, congratulations to **Sgt Paul** and **Laura Sixsmith** on the birth of their new son.

NEWS FROM VICTOR TROOP
EXERCISE *VICTOR BACKSTOP*

Victor Troop held its annual Summer Camp at the Mohnesee Sailing Club from 8-27 June 1987.

With the aid of instructors from various Royal Signals units and the permanent staff at the Sailing Club, they were able to participate in: Dinghy Sailing, Canoeing, Board Sailing, Rock Climbing/Abseiling, Orienteering.

The first day of Summer Camp arrived and everyone set off in high spirits. On arrival at the Mohnesee they were met with the happy news that they had to set up their own accommodation. This took a while to achieve as certain members kept wandering off to the Club House for light refreshments!

The activities began the following day, bright and early, when everyone was split up into groups. One of the groups, consisting of **Ptes Debbie Corbett** and **Sue Harrison,** was sent off to do some dinghy sailing—however this did not last too long— when **Pte Harrison**'s head came into contact with the boom, and left her unconscious, a dent in the boom and **Pte Corbett** trying to rescue her from the rocks!

On another day, whilst on rock climbing/abseiling, **LCpl Karen Freeman** stunned everyone with her impersonation of Tarzan, by swinging in to a group of trees!

The shift arrived by bus, dressed in loud beach wear and assorted hats that made a day out at the Ascot Races look positively drab! D Shift was soon into the swing of things and found the refreshment building. Later **Sig Dave Dougans** decided to go for a moonlight swim—as **Sgt McSorley** was about to shout 'Get out', he missed the pier and promptly joined **Sig Dougans** in the water.

Cpl Jill 'climb every mountain' Boddie, was conscripted by our instructor **WO2 Benny Bingham** to assist him in rock climbing and every evening in the bar her stories about the size of the rocks ended up like the proverbial fish that got away.

Pte Emma Hammonds decided to take the next day off, but to her dismay found herself hoisted out of her sleeping bag and introduced to the Mohnesee lake; needless to say she was up bright and early from then on.

On a more serious side a good summer camp was had by all. We would like to thank all the members of staff and instructors who helped make it all possible.

NORDIC JOYS
A report on a Unit Canoeing Expedition to Norway
by Cpl McCallum

On Tuesday 25 August, six intrepid canoeists: **Cpl (Jock) McCallum, Cpl (Scouse) Swain, LCpl (Al) Gray, Sig (Mark) Coulson, Sig (Stimo) Stimson** and **Pte (Jeff) Jeffries,** with their intructor, **Capt Paul King,** set out from Francisca Barracks on their journey to Norway. The six had just completed a one week basic canoeing course

and were now moving to BOBC Norway for Phase 2—introduction to white water and skills improvement. After an exhausting 24 hour trip on minibus, train, ferry and coach the party finally arrived at the bleak looking base-camp with everybody wondering what they'd let themselves in for! No time to think as 'next of kin' cards were handed out to be completed—did they know something we didn't?

After being given our canoeing kit we were shown to our 'luxury' eight-man cabins a short mountain climb from the cookhouse! Straight into action before lunch with our first taste of the Nordic Waters to practise what we'd been taught in the safety of 16 Sig Regt's swimming pool. What happened to **Sig Mark Coulson**'s admin day?

A light lunch then into some real action with us being introduced to a Grade 2 river at Vennesla. No paddling down stream, but paddle up against the flow. **Cpl McCallum** was heard to voice his 'surprise' to say the least. There were more techniques to learn before we were released to stumble back for a lecture then to bed and sleep.

Wednesday saw us up with the lark, into a Rover and off to Birkland River for the day. Birkland River is a Grade 3 with fast flowing water, rocks, stoppers and holes—our faces dropped; we thought you only got 5ft waves on the sea! Most of us spent a most enjoyable day swimming with our canoes in tow. The Adjutant has a warped sense of humour.

LCpl Al 'Why didn't I bring a snorkel?' Gray tried changing the colour of his canoe every five minutes to see if it would help: it didn't. **Cpl Scouse Swain** began to find his 'water wings' and probably stayed in his canoe the longest. A long day.

Back at camp that evening **Sig Mark Coulson** and **Pte Jeff Jeffries** demonstrated their skill at cards. **Sig Stimson** must also be mentioned for his exceptional card playing abilities!

Thursday saw us getting up early again and into the Rover to drive to the river at Flatten. These rivers get worse every day; more huge waves with a variety of rocks of all shapes and sizes. Possibly a little less swimming and a bit more canoeing; there's hope yet. All of us personally introduced ourselves to the rocks, some several times! **Capt King** managed to keep his head above water with just a bit of posing to impress the lads. Then, sun still shining, we returned to camp for a well earned night's rest.

Friday we were back at Birkland and familiar water to practice our new found techniques, with everyone's confidence growing by the stroke.

Saturday again at Birkland to practise, an ideal location. What more could we ask for?—sun and white water.

We broke camp early on Sunday to move to our new location at Gautestad, stopping on route to make a 'Seal Entry' at Bjelland Gorge. Surprise! Surprise! No seals, only a few weary canoeists and seven canoes. (A seal entry, for the uninitiated, is when some hairbrain canoeist finds an 18ft cliff with water pounding along beneath it and decides to push himself over the edge to plummet nose first into the water—hoping to get to get a 'pop-out' if he's lucky). Some got it right, some didn't. In the afternoon it was off to a big raging torrent, the river Syrtveit. Big being the operative word: big waves, big rocks, big stoppers and plenty of fast water.

First, we were shown stopper drills then we all had to have a go? Who am I to argue with authority? We were told 'paddle towards the stopper, get your balance, lean downstream and then someone will jump in and pull you and the canoe out'. Fine in theory. We sailed down the river upside down. We all managed in the end however—each being pulled out by the rescue crew, when they weren't rescuing themselves. A totally exhilarating day, finished off in the new camp at the bar with reasonably priced beer.

Monday brought a new week, and after playing in the Syrtveit's stoppers we were introduced to the infamous 'Washing Machine'. This is a stretch of river where the water shoots over some rapids and into a cauldron of angry swirls. Again we were briefed with the immortal words 'Just paddle through it'. Most of us did some washing whilst in the machine (the lucky few getting through with just a rinse) and were left wringing wet to drag the canoe back to the river bank. Canoeing in Norway is not for the lighthearted, but is a guaranteed cure for insomnia.

Reprieve came on Tuesday in the form of another trip to Birkland, this time two hours away. We arrived with **Cpl McCallum** looking green—car sick again. By now we could all keep our heads above water and were able to indulge in a spot of posing. Isn't that what it's all about? **LCpl Al (Battleship) Gray** did a mating gorilla dance, call it what you will, for the appreciative audience of local natives.

Wednesday—the mighty bunch of, by now, hardened canoeists returned to conquer the Syrtveit. A few stoppers to start with then onto the washing machine, to go where only the brave dare. **'Camouflage'** our local marine DS demonstrated how to do it, and then proceeded to direct us into the machine. I marvelled at his confidence in us, to actually go where we wanted to go. A proud band of men that day!!

Thursday we had an early day back at Jsefjaer trying out some sea

Is it a bird? . . . No, it's Sig 'Stimo' Stimpson leaping into Bjellard Gorge

canoeing and swimming amongst the jelly fish.

Finally, all the kit handed in, off we went down town for a beer or two. No-one realised quite how expensive Norway was (approx £3 a beer). There was no staggering back that night.

Late Friday we arrived back at camp having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, with some hope of competing in the Army Surf Championships in Cornwall later this year (Novice, of course).

NEWS FROM 2 SQUADRON

August was another busy month for the Squadron. Most people were trying to get some leave and find the sun. While some were away the rest decided to play.

Ex *Canoe Caper*, led by **Cpl 'Freddie' Hawkins** took place on the River Hohne. Fourteen members of Papa Tp learnt to canoe and we believe some managed to stay upright long enough to view the local scenery. The exercise included a cultural visit to a local castle and museum.

Another damp exercise was Exercise *Fran Splash* where a further six members of Papa Tp attempted to learn the art of windsurfing. **Cpl 'Andy' Elliott** managed to create six posers on the dry simulator, but when water and free movement were introduced, different positions were found by all! As the weather improved so the local population came to the lake and the lads tried to look more dignified. Funny what female presence can do sometimes!

At the end of the month it was back to the serious stuff; Active Edge kit inspections, vehicle inspections and tasks were the order of the day. It was soon discovered by most, that the inside wheels of NATO trucks can be changed whilst wearing NBC kit! On return to the camp after the deployment, it was straight into full CEFO and NBC kit for a short run, the Assault course and TOETs. A hard but busy day and we wished it had been raining to cool us all down!!

September brought us Ex *Certain Strike*, which was the CPX and FTX phases of Ex *Reforger*. The Squadron was split between Fallingbostel and Munster, providing the NORTHAG HQs for Comd NORTHAG. Oscar Tp spent three weeks at Fallingbostel and did some military training in between shift work. Papa Tp spent only one week in Munster and then returned to assist with Rear Details.

PAPA TROOP'S HELLOS, GOODBYES AND CONGRATULATIONS

To: **Sgts Kev Munnelly, Rick Shingler, Andy Le Billon, Cpls Ian Curtis, Jabber Ker, LCpls Dewy Dewhurst, Daz Jones, Sig Joe Jordan** (now **LCpl**) and **Andy Clewes**, all the best in postings. Welcome to **SSgt Harris** and family and **Cpls Yates** and **Clarence Giles** and **Sig Vince Vincent** and **Rick Rear.**

Congratulations to **Andy Le Billion** and **Bob Hope** on promotion to Sergeant, to **Geoff Hymas** on promotion to Corporal and **Bob Bazley, Jenny Hall** and **Chris Braund** on promotion to Lance Corporal.

Well done to **Gaynor Braund** on the birth of a daughter and **Zillah Bennie** on the birth of their second son. Finally, **Sig Chris Smart** has tied the knot with **Nicola**, congratulations.

30 Sig Regt Blandford Camp

EXERCISE *CYGNET VENTURE*
Report by Capt Sean Dexter

On 18 August the infamous blue Escort slid out of its illegal parking space at the front of HQ Mess to join the PRI minibus on its way to the Pyrenees with 14 members of the Regiment for three weeks adventurous training.

After two hot sweaty days driving, the team arrived in Espot at the edge of the National Park Aigues Tortes where they were to spend the next two weeks. Ominously it started to rain!

After two days in and around Espot, where **Sig 'Clint' Clinton** established himself as a dab hand at dislodging Land Rover sized boulders and **Sig Mars 'Are you thick or what?' Marsland** as the expedition linguist, it was time to set off for the first four day expedition.

The trekking group was led by **Lt Finaly MacLennan**, the climbing and mountaineering group by **Capt Sean 'We'll be back for lunch' Dexter** ably assisted by **2Lt Dave Robson** and **Cpl Mick 'more fuel boy' Stanyer**.

Four days in the mountains and the groups reappeared; no serious injuries, just dinner plate sized blisters on the feet of **Sig Jack Sweeney**.'

Two days rest and recuperation followed, during which **Cpls John O'Connell** and **Bob Vowles** discovered what had been missing in their lives—a cough mixture called Ratafia! The owner of the local disco also discovered that having a free San Miguel evening was not an economically viable exercise with British soldiers around!

Suitably rested, it was time to return to the mountains for a further five days. The climbing group undertook some serious mountaineering, successfully climbing a number of peaks. **Sig Jason Garvey, Taff Jones** and **Clint Clinton** showed a natural ability for falling off boulders into the surrounding lake. **Sig Brew Brewing** took a sudden interest in swimming when he noticed a couple of bathing belles.

A day in Andorra to stock up on **Capt D**'s 'Wild Ones' and the expedition moved on to start its attempt on Pic de Aneto at 3,404m high, the highest peak in the Pyrenees. Despite a few heart stopping moments on the glacier, 10 members of the expedition successfully reached the summit.

Remembering the rushed two day trip to Spain, four days were allowed for the trip back to the UK, in the hope of attaining a badly needed suntan!

Sig Taff Jones preparing to abseil off the mountain. Sig 'Mars' Marsland isn't so sure while Cpl Bob Vowles is just 'rock-happy'!

L to R: Sig Jas Garvey, Cpl Mick Stanyer, Sig 'Mars' Marsland, Cpl Bob Vowles, Sig Taff Jones and 2Lt Dave Robson on the summit of Pic de Bassiero 2,800m

REGIMENTAL ATHLETICS COMPETITION
Report by 2Lt Dave Robson

The annual Regimental Inter Squadron Athletics Competition on Tuesday 21 July was held under the usual Blandford sunny skies surrounding the large black clouds that hang permanently over the camp

The weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of the competitors, all of whom are to be congratulated for their performances; a special vote of thanks should go to **Cpl Chalkie Atkins** for his 'smashing' performance in the pole vault and to **SSgt (FofS) Terry 'Go Faster' Inman** for finally revealing his hidden sprinting talent.

The main inter Squadron competition ran concurrently with the Tug-of-War and a number of childrens' events. (The CO wishes it to be known that there is no truth in the rumour that most of the under fives put up better times over 100m than the veterans!)

One of the highlights of the day was the Chain of Command Race, a particularly arduous event involving short sprints and a boat race—lemonade and bananas!

The overall result was a win for 3 Sqn with 1, 2 and HQ gaining the remaining places. It was an unfortunate oversight by the recorders, the gym staff or Athletics Officer (more than likely!), that the individual results are last seen nailed to a GS table under a piece of talc, and have at present disappeared without trace; if found on the forthcoming exercise please return to 2IC forthwith.

WHEELCHAIR PUSH—RAF LOCKING
Report by Capt Barry Keegan

As readers will be aware, the Regiment, in various guises, has been heavily involved in fund-raising activities with the aim of providing financial support for **Sig Vic Green**—one of our number who became severely disabled last year.

The annual British Sports Association for the Disabled wheelchair marathon at RAF Locking provided an 'ideal' opportunity for more fund raising and two teams from the Regiment were duly entered. The

'The Vic Green Pushers'
L to R: Sgt Lenny Mills (on bicycle), LCpl Ray Dunn, Sig Paddy Dickson and Sig Vic Green in wheelchair

event rules required teams comprising three 'pushers'. To induce some competitive spirit into the proceedings, there were prizes (whoopee) for the fastest service team and the team with the most pledged sponsorship. The 'Vic Green Pushers' lead by **WO2 (SSM) Bernie 'The Terrible Temmen**, followed by **LCpl Ray Dunn** and **Sig Paddy Dickson** and 'coached' by **Sgt Lenny Mills** (on his bike!), decided to go for the former prize and 'Keegan's Krawlers', led by committee and followed, in no particular order, by the Adjutant—**Capt Barry Keegan, WO1 (YofS) Percy Beynon** and **WO2 (ORQMS) John Pape** decided to let them try. In any case, the event turned out to be well subscribed (over, depending on your viewpoint) by our webb-footed brethren from the Royal Marines, who with six teams clearly intended to win something!

Having recovered from the trauma of an 0800 hrs start on Sunday morning, we arrived at RAF Locking raring to go. The 'Vic Green Pushers' had no problems with pre-start prep however 'Keegan's Krawlers' were without a 'pushee' until 10 mins before the start! Matters soon resolved themselves when the team hijacked a pushee. (The fact that he was 11 years old and weighed only 6 stones was not considered to be an advantage).

Starters orders were finally called with the first pushers and pushees eagerly awaiting the signal to go. This arrived shortly after 1100 hrs.

Unfortunately the Regiment was not among the prize winners although very good times of 3 hrs 20 mins and 3 hrs 9 mins were achieved by 'Vic Green Pushers' and 'Keegan's Krawlers' respectively. Needless to say a team from the Paras took first prize with an excellent time of 2 hrs 38 mins.

A number of additional facilities were also available to competitors and spectators alike with all profits donated to the Disabled Fund.

Organisers are to be congratulated on putting together an excellent day's outing for all involved. Let's hope that the enthusiasm will remain and their efforts to help those less fortunate than most will never go unrewarded.

'Keegan's Krawlers'
L to R: WO2 John Pape, Capt Barry Keegan and WO1 Percy Beynon

SUMMER HOCKEY SUCCESS
Report by WO2 (RQMS) Brian Mower

Having recently won the SWDIST Winter League the Regimental hockey team moved on to further success to win the Summer League. The final was played against 94 Loc Regt RA who lost 3—0 to give the Swans the Summer League Trophy to complete the SWDIST double.

The Swans entered the annual six-a-side tournament held in Blandford Forum but unfortunately lost to Bournemouth Hockey Club in the semi-final.

The team welcomes new members: **SSgt Derick Payne** and **Sig 'Boris' Roberts** and looks forward to the coming season.

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LIFE — MOTOR — PENSIONS

31 Sig Regt (V)
Hammersmith

RHQ

After a brief post-camp lull (to tend our gardens before the neighbours start complaining again) training has hotted up with adventure training, a Regimental and Bde FTX, not to mention the imminent joys of the audit boards and the UEI inspections.

Shiny new Triffids continue to appear and Ex *First Triffid* held at Pirbright and Ex *Autumn Lad* in the Midlands was our chance to prove that we really did know how to make them work; fortunately, all went well, and even some of the more reluctant telegraph circuits behaved themselves, for once.

Squeezed into all this activity, thirty officers attended the annual 11 Sig Bde (V) Study at Blandford, in early September. Our presentation on trade training was clearly unappreciated by a member of the audience but it was good to see one of the main presenters, **Capt Stephen Potter** (OC B Tp) collect the coveted Greenhill Trophy, against heavy competition.

Finally we are very sorry to say farewell from RHQ to **Miss Lisa Adkins**, our clerical officer, who moves on a thoroughly deserved promotion to MOD Q Mov and thank her for all her hard work over the past two years.

PROMOTIONS

Our ranks of Warrant Officers continue to swell with the recent elevation of **WO2 (FofS) Dave Fraley** (HQ Sqn) and **WO2 (FofS) Ray White** (41 Sqn). HQ Sqn now has a new SSM with **WO2 Bill Hatton** succeeding **WO2 Derek Gale** who moves to the Mil Trg Team at RHQ.

POSTINGS

In the course of transferring to the Regiment we welcome **Lt Mike Atkinson** to 47 Sqn (from 35 Sig Regt) **Lt Gillian Hayward-Bamber** to HQ Sqn (from 33 Sig Regt) and **2Lt Mike Lansdown** on attachment to 41 Sqn from Liverpool OTC.

In addition we are very pleased that former **WO1 (YofS) Joe Farndon** is re-enlisting and once commissioned we look forward to putting his traffic skills to good use.

EXERCISE *PEAKS CHALLENGE*

Early September saw 45 members of the Regiment under the command of **Lt Kendal Withers** head north to Anzio Camp near Leek for nine days of adventure training and with the able support of **Sgt Colin Mackay** (M Tp), **Sgt Frank Vaughan** (41 Sqn) and **Sgt Ian Jackson** (HQ Sqn) a variety of tempting pursuits were on offer.

With canoeing instruction in the capable hands of **Gdsman Derek Capper** IG and **LCpl Paul Woodings** (238 (London) Sig Sqn) the waterborne football match on Lake Rudyard saw **Sgt Sue Healey** and the girls team from 41 Sqn navigate to victory. Not quite so fortunate on the white water stretch of the River Derwent were **Cpl Rudy Harding, LCpl Marc Gilfrin** and **LCpl Simon Loftus** who all managed to capsize in equally spectacular fashion.

In the horse riding event **LCpl Gunner Metcalfe** not only managed to eject safely but also rescued **Pte Angela Bishop** when 'her brakes failed'. Whilst on the rock face **Pte Judith Williams** overcame her fear of heights and even the CO **Lt Col Colin Stenning** unexpectedly discovered the delights (well, he stayed smiling) of abseiling.

Finally, on the two day expedition **LCpl Nick Tuck** (41 Sqn) earned himself the immediate nickname of 'Yomper' for the biggest backpack anyone had seen in years.

Ex *First Triffid*—Sgt Vicki Farmer and Cpl Dave Summers packing up at RCP

Ex *Autumn Lad*—OC 47 Sqn Maj Chris Mote tries his hand at the 40/160; his anxious tutor is WO2 (FofS) George Johnston

Ex *Autumn Lad*—Cpl Graham Richards and LCpl Jim Wright (47 Sqn) power up at Switch Hotel

SIGNING OFF

Saying farewell after a total of over 37 years of service, **SSgt Jack Mileham** has retired after masterminding the recruit reception at 41 Sqn for the past nine years. Known for his thoroughly conscientious approach to every one of his previous posts—ranging from radio relay Troop Sergeant to SQMS, **Jack Mileham** has a caring nature coupled with a gentle sense of humour and he will be sadly missed.

Mid September saw many of his serving and former colleagues gather at the TA Centre Coulsdon for a special farewell dinner and the best wishes to **Jack** and **Ann** which were expressed so well by **Col Peter Thompson** (a former CO and OC 41 Sqn) are echoed by us all.

32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V)
Glasgow

The Regimental Pipes and Drums carried out a very successful tour of the American zone of Germany during the period 27 June to 11 July. They performed at various USAF and NATO bases and at numerous local civilian venues. The touring party consisted of:

ADMIN PERSONNEL
OIC Maj (Retd) 'Paddy' Henry

(THE GROUPIES)
2IC SSgt (NRPS) George Fraser, Co-driver, **Sgt Martin Hutchinson** (Video Camera Operator) and Driver, **LCpl Andrea Sauguign**, (410 TPT TP, RCT).

THE BAND
Pipe Maj Stewart, Drum Maj Lyle, SSgt Eaton (Pipe Major 211 Sqn, RCT), Pipe Cpl Mortimer (now Sgt), LCpl Amarbauadur Limbu (QG Signals), Pipers Dickens, Lewis, Warrander, Kane, Drums Cpl Reid (211 Sqn, RCT), LCpl Brannagan, Drummers Begg, Dow, Low, Manson, Noble and **Rennie**.

The band left Aberdeen at 0730 hrs on 28 June to travel by Army bus to Maidstone, Kent. We were fed and accommodated by 36 Engr Regt, RE at Maidstone—the food tasted like a 'Ritz splendid' after 12 hours of motorway food and sandwiches—it is amazing how the food at these cafeterias improves the longer you are on the road.

Breakfast the next day was at 0800 hrs, then it was on to the ferry where we watched **Pipe Cpl Mortimer**'s exploits as an extra in the film 'The Battle of Waterloo' in the video lounge (at this time he was a regular in the Gordon Highlanders). The temperature on the continent was well above 100°. It later transpired that it was one of the hottest days of the year—indeed the weather continued in a similar vein throughout the tour. This may sound appealing, but when playing engagements in full No 1 Dress (No 3s would have been more appropriate) it is disheartening to say the least. At one particular stop **Piper Lewis** was discovered examining a road map intently—he commented 'I'm looking for Ausfahrt—it must be a big place!', he was duly corrected. Upon our arrival at our destination, Neubrucke near Ramstein, we were subjected to a terrifying speech by **SSgt Fraser** about US discipline etc. Luckily it turned out to be more like Butlins than Barlinnie.

Tuesday was occupied mainly with unpacking and cleaning kit—one keen member taking six hours to complete the latter. In the evening, various parties went out to recce the local area. Discipline, as previously explained, was pretty free and easy—no midnight curfew.

1 July saw a relatively easy day spent practising and rehearsing.

First Performance. This was Beating Retreat at Neubrucke USAF base. All went splendidly including the Figure of Eight and Slow March. The only mishaps were the P/Ms drones acting up during the flag lowering ceremony and the rendering of 'Yankee Doodle', the looks were quite unfriendly. The band on parade must have been quite a spectacle—we had 14 in red grant tartan (four of whom were women), 1 Gurkha with No 1 dress trousers and a No 3 jacket, the RCT Pipe Major with a saffron kilt and a drummer from the same band in Royal Stewart tartan. Indeed this was the case throughout the tour.

On Friday 3 July the band played for the American Independence Day festivities at Neubrucke. Particularly impressive was the special effort made by **Piper Cpl Mortimer** and **Piper Dickens** to cheer one of the NATO assigned RAF personnel was was hospitalised. At the end of a long, hot day in uniform, both volunteered to take their pipes to the hospital and provided a touch of home for an injured 'Jock'. The band was invited to the 'Brit Club' in the nearby town that evening, and had a most enjoyable time there playing for them.

The Pipes and Drums performed the Beating Retreat ceremony at the American Independence Day fete at Vogelweg (near Ramstein) which delighted our audience. A quick dash back to Neubrucke and thence to the town square of Birkenfeld where we met up with the Mayor and Council and led them, and what appeared to be the entire population of the town, to the site for the opening of the local Waldfest. After the official opening we gave our first performance to the local populace.

On Sunday an engagement in a local village on the football pitch at the Sportsfest. The hospitality was excellent and all agreed that they had eaten the finest steak they had ever tasted. These steaks are the speciality of the region, cooked on a swinging grill over an open charcoal fire. We were then scheduled to play again at the Birkenfeld Waldfest. The Pipe Major told everyone to 'get on the bus!', **LCpl Amarbahadur Limbu** (our Gurkha companion) looked at the Piper questioningly, 'get on the bus?'. So **LCpl Amar** obliged and climbed on to the roof of the bus!, there he sat with a perplexed expression, at this the Pipe Major went timidly into the bus.

The next day the Pipe Major was taken to hospital with swollen ankles, so **Pipe Maj Jim Eaton** had to stand in for him at another engagement at the Waldfest. After playing we were invited to a tea party. Although it was a kind thought, and much appreciated we would have welcomed something stronger after a hard day's playing.

The big finale on Tuesday 7 was Beating Retreat at Ramstein—a large American Base. We put on an excellent performance in spite of the band being almost drowned out by the noise of nearby jets and helicopters.

The last few days of the tour were spent in a haze due to the overwhelming hospitality of our American hosts, which was a feature of the visit.

We returned on 10/11 August after a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable tour.

The Regimental Pipes and Drums performing on tour

FOND FAREWELLS

We would like to take this opportunity to say 'bon voyage' to the following personnel: **Maj Jack Fiskel** who left September 1987 for the quieter world of Comms and Sy Gp UK. **WO2 (YofS) John Mackenzie** who left the army in September to take up the appointment of regional manager with the RAC in the Glasgow area—'is he going to return to the TA?'. **Cpl Douglas McRitchie** (ex CO's driver) who has left the army to concentrate on his garage business in partnership with his

uncle in Cairneyhill. Discount MOTs perhaps! **Miss Kate McColloch** who, after 17 years in the Regiment, is moving from the Admin Office of the QM's department, to an EO appointment in Kentigern House, Glasgow. A stalwart of the Regiment who will be sorely missed.

Cpl Douglas McRitchie being presented with his quaich from the CO, Lt Col Paddy Hughes. Is that a 'get your haircut look' from the RSM, WO1 Steve May?

51 (HIGHLAND) SIG SQN

VISIT OF SIGNAL OFFICER-IN-CHIEF

At the end of June, the Squadron was honoured by a visit from **Maj Gen P. D. Alexander MBE**.

51 (Highland) Sig Sqn is descended from 51 (Highland) Div Sig Regt during the restructuring of 'the old TA' in 1967 and this has been the first visit by an SOinC for 20 years.

Maj Gen Alexander was welcomed by **Lt Col D. P. 'Paddy' Hughes**, CO 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt and **Maj Dougie Bartlett TD**, OC Sqn.

A hectic and whirlwind programme showed aspects of the Squadrons' work from recruit selection and training to military skills teams and morse telegraphy.

The SOinC keenly questioned Squadron personnel on the recently introduced FMVT training package (echoes of TTS Catterick) and was interested in its application in training and conversion to RTg (home defence).

Touring classrooms, garages etc, at breakneck pace, the SOinC regularly left half his retinue behind and bets were being placed as to where he would turn up next.

After having nearly out run the military skills team, the SOinC paused for breath on introduction of our fledgling 514 Tp currently being raised in Brechin and thence to Beating Retreat on the square by the Regimental Pipe Band.

All the while, **Mrs Alexander** was escorted, at a more sedate pace, by **2LT Linda Duncan WRAC**.

Following Beating Retreat and the march past, the SOinC toured all messes in the station.

The SOinC chats to LCpl Karen Cormack WRAC while having caught up, the retinue file in. *L to R:* Sgt Audrey Farquharson WRAC, Capt George Findlay, Lt Col Paddy Hughes, Capt Saddiq Ahmed, Capt Peter Campbell (Adjt), Maj D. Bartlett, while SSM Donald Webster vainly tries to hide

Foreground L to R: SOinC chats to LCpl Amarbahadur Limbu while OC 51 interprets and Lt Col Paddy Hughes chats to Cpl (now Sgt) Mortimer

In the JRC the SOinC was presented by OC Sqn with a memento of his visit of a unique plaque depicting the headress badge worn by the officers of 51 Sqn mounted on red grant tartan and inscribed '51 (Highland) Sig Sqn'.

Next stop was the Sergeants' Mess where the SOinC met barman **Peter Tyers** (ex SSgt R Sig, now Sgt RAMC TA) and **Arnie West** Sqn Clerk (Ex SSgt R Sig TA).

Then on to the Officers' Mess and after a lively discussion on a variety of fascinating subjects the SOinC admitted that he had a penchant for things Scottish, especially liquid! Thank you sir for a truly memorable visit and haste ye back!

SOinC chats to ex SSgt Peter Tyers

Maj Dougi Bartlett OC 51 Sqn introduces ex SSgt Arnie West to the SOinC

HANDOVER OF 51 (HIGHLAND) SIGNAL SQUADRON (VOLUNTEERS)

On 17 September **Maj Doug Bartlett** handed over to **Maj Saddiq Ahmed**. **Maj Bartlett** joined the Squadron in 1962 and was commissioned from the rank of WO2 in 1974, he then assumed command in August 1985. A stalwart of the Regiment, with a wealth of experience, we can thankfully continue to use, as he is moving on to assume the rebuild of the Regimental Pipes and Drums until May 1988. Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to **Maj Ahmed**.

Maj Doug Bartlett handing over the Squadron to Maj Saddiq Ahmed

The CO, Lt Col Paddy Hughes, addressing the Squadron

61 (CITY OF EDINBURGH) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

Even though the past few months have included 'stand down', 61 (City of Edinburgh) Sig Sqn has been busy. Highlights included the Regimental open day and the South of Scotland KAPE. **Sig Al MacPherson** decided to do something for the open day! Here is his report:-

THE EDINBURGH—GLASGOW WALK

As our Regiment was holding an open day in Glasgow, I thought a sponsored walk from Edinburgh to Glasgow would be challenging and different from the normal activites. Having successfully found three other willing victims (**Cpl Steve Switzer, Sig Derek Addison** and **Sig Andy Davis**), we departed, with radio manpack, from the TA centre on the Friday evening amid a rousing send off by other members of the Squadron and followed by **Lt Jan MacClean** and **Cpl Ian McKay** who were driving our support vehicle. We completed the first stage of the 48 mile walk just after midnight, resting by the roadside on the outskirts of Armadale, awaiting daylight before we could eagerly (?) continue our journey.

After leaving at 0445 hrs we breakfasted in Airdrie and reached Alexandria Parade, on the outskirts of Glasgow, around 1000 hrs. We found this road endless and very tiring, with our feet now aching painfully as we stumbled through the centre of Glasgow. Our exploits, which we passed by radio were relayed to the large expectant crowd by Tannoy and we faced a tremendous welcome of shouts and cheers as we walked through the gates at Jardine Street TAC, just after 1400 hrs.

My thanks go to my fellow walkers and support team, the medic who soothed our aching feet and massaged my aching shoulders back to life, but especially to all our generous sponsors who helped raise approximately £200 towards our ski fund.

THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND KAPE

During the holiday period, the Squadron was only one of a small number of TA units chosen to produce a static display at the recent KAPE, held in the beautiful grounds of Holyrood Park. Among the many attractions were the Parachute Regiments 'death slide', an RAF Tornado Aircraft and a Chieftan Battle Tank.

Our display consisted of a receiver vehicle containing two T100R teleprinters. These were 'looped' through to a third machine in our nearby tent, which also housed the Trend electronic printer, the eventual replacement for the faithful old Siemens. A Clansman PRC 320 Radio was also available to the public and was linked to other displays. One of these was the RAF Signal detachment which was the old home of **SAC** (now Sig) **Al MacPherson**.

Despite the competition from the Paras etc, our display was extremely successful and the equipment proved very popular with youngand old alike. The KAPE also produced around 17 people (both male and female) who showed more than a passing interest in joining us; this brought a smile to the face of our recruiting officer, **Capt Brian Murray**. Some of these people have passed the recruit selection and will be joining shortly!

The success of our involvement in the Kape was due entirely to those members of the Squadron who gave up their free time to man the display on a shift basis, namely: **Sgt 'Biff' Williamson, Fiona Morris** and **Norrie Anderson. Cpls Steve Switzer** and **Ian McKay. LCpls Sandy Edmonds, Jimmy Heron** and **Anne McKenzie, Sig George Popp, Al MacPherson** and **Keith Marshall**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sgt Norman Heinemeier** who was presented with the 'John Brown' Trophy. This trophy is awarded annually to a soldier for his outstanding contribution towards the Squadron.

CONCLUSION

The adventure Training weekend took place in beautiful weather, which the midges loved. But, if anyone wants to upset the OC, just ask him about disappearing roads!

33 Sig Regt (V)
Liverpool

REGIMENTAL SAAM

The Regimental skill at Arms Meeting took place at Altcar Ranges, on 19 and 20 September, and to ensure that maximum use was made of training time, a comms plug up exercise was run at the same time.

Because of the exercise commitment each Squadron was limited to entering two teams of men and one of women, however, this did not dampen the competitive spirit of the event and as can be seen from the overall results, the honours were fairly evenly divided.

After the team leaders briefing an early start was made on Saturday morning. With just 11 teams, each team had plenty of time in between events to compose themselves and be ready for the next event. By the time the last event, the Falling Plate Match took place, the points were tight, with the Pistol Result deciding who would win the overall trophy.

The results were as follows:

Roupel	80 Sqn—Chester
Moving Target	42 Sqn—Manchester
SMG	59 Sqn—Liverpool
LMG	42 Sqn—Manchester
Pistol	80 Sqn—Chester

The overall winner was HQ Sqn—Liverpool.

The individual honours were shared as follows:

Best shot SLR male	**Sig Paul Williams** HQ Sqn
Best shot SLR female	**Maj Catriona Millar** 80 Sqn
Best shot SMG male	**Sig Steven Reilly** 59 Sqn
Best shot SMG female	**Pte Heather Bartrop** 80 Sqn

Falling Plate Competition—Winners 42 Sqn.

The presentations were made to the winners by the CO, **Lt Col R. F. Willsher**.

The plug up exercise was also successful which left everyone with a feeling of achievement from the weekend's activities.

Individual SAAM winners:
Left to Right: Best SLR Shot (Male) Sig Paul Williams HQ Sqn, Best SMG Shot (Female) Pte Heather Bartrop 80 Sqn and Best SLR Shot (Female) Maj Catriona Millar 80 Sqn

SPORT

On Sunday 27 September HQ Sqn took part in a preliminary round of the North West District TA Football Competition when they were drawn to play against 208 Fd Hosp based in Liverpool. At the start HQ Sqn seemed well in control and took the lead after six minutes

Lt Col R. F. Willsher presents the trophy to the winner of the moving target—42 Sig Sqn Manchester

Overall Competition Winners—HQ Sqn Huyton
Left to Right standing: Cpl R. Beard, P. English, Sig T. Lane, J. Monilue, Cpl F. Male and Sig M. Downey
Left to Right kneeling: Cpl P. Hughes, Sig P. Williams, Sgts A. Meakin and E. Buchanan

through **Cfn Evans** with 208 playing the offside. The ball was played through **Cfn Evans** who ran through their defence, rounded the goal keeper and scored. After this HQ Sqn sustained long periods of pressure before later in the second half making the score 2—0 after 62 minutes, through **LCpl Hale**, a well taken individual goal and thoroughly deserved because of his perseverance throughout the match. 208 Fd Hosp then pressed men forward and with five minutes to go scored a consolation goal. The man of the match was **LCpl Dollard** from HQ Sqn with a fine performance which no doubt pleased the new manager **Cpl Marshall** who thinks that on this performance there is no reason why the team cannot go on and win the competition.

Well done HQ Sqn.

After the rigours of our Annual Training exercise at Scarborough, the Regiment, and in particular the permanent staff has settled back into the monthly routine of preparing TA training schedules and ARU inspections.

To ease the pressure of these events each Squadron takes part in a Summer Camp weekend every year.

This year members of 42 Sqn based in Manchester, took to the hills of Snowdonia and based themselves in Capel Curig Training Centre.

The weekend was intended to be a weekend of leisurely activities, enjoyment and relaxation and for the vast majority of those who attended it proved to be just so.

The weekend started on Friday 31 July with the arrival of the advance party who quickly took over the camp. Later that day the main party arrived by coach from Manchester.

Left to Right: Sig Ward and Sig Wheeler both members of 42 Sig Sqn Manchester taking to the water in Snowdonia

Saturday started with a delicious breakfast after which members of the Squadron departed for a day of pony trekking, canoeing, rock climbing, walking, caving and orienteering. Although the day was overcast it did not prevent everyone from enjoying themselves. The day ended with a barbecue at Capel Curig Training Centre followed by a relaxing evening in Betws-Y-Coed.

Sunday was another enjoyable day for everyone as the activites continued until lunch time. After lunch it was a short wait for the coach to arrive and as everyone boarded the coach they all felt it was a good weekend and a pleasant start to the Summer break.

PRESENTATIONS
HQ SQUADRON—HUYTON

As outlined in our March 1987 report members of HQ Sqn were involved in giving assistance to the local residents of Huyton when a gas explosion ripped through a block of flats adjacent to the TA Centre.

For their efforts two members of HQ Sqn were awarded citations by the GOC North West District, they were **WO2 Marie Watkinson WRAC** a member of the Permanent Staff and **WO2 (SSM) John Morrison** who is the Squadron Sergeant Major of Headquarter Sqn. On Thursday 23 July 1987, the GOC North West District, **Maj Gen C. T. Shortis CBE** visited the Regiment to present the awards to both Warrant Officers. The event took place in the TA Training Centre at Huyton where members of HQ Sqn formed a parade to mark the occasion. The event was also attended by **Superintendent R. Hopley** of the Huyton Police Department. The evening concluded with drinks in the Sergeants' Mess.

Maj Gen Shortis presents citations to WO2 Marie Watkinson and WO2 (SSM) John Morrison in the Sergeants' Mess Huyton

34 (Northern) Sig Regt (V)
Middlesbrough

The main event of the past two months, indeed of the year, has been Annual camp in BAOR, getting ready for it and recovering from it. Rather optimistically, perhaps, the exercise was called *Plain Sailing*. This of course inspired a host of nautically-named exercises leading up to it. We had one in the UK in August, called *Second Voyage*, when we proved that our portion of the Euromux System would work. The real question was—would it all work in Germany and would it work when we hooked up with 36 and 40 Regiments? In the end we were able to say 'Yes' to both—but we had a good deal of hard work and a lot of fun finding out.

GETTING THERE

Some went by North Sea Ferry . . . The Quartermaster, **Capt Jim Allen**, with a posse of RQMSs, **WO2s Dave Courtenay, Colin Dadson** and **Dick Grainge**, and the other members of the elite group known as the Advance Party, travelled in comfort—and quickly.

Some went by LSL . . . The CO, **Lt Col Graham Mitchell** and 249 other members of the Regiment travelled in the LSLs *Sir Bedivere* and *Sir Percivale* from North Shields to Zeebrugge—in comfort but slowly. The weather was kind and all the theories about how much LSLs would roll were not tested! The real test on an LSL is driving up the ramp to the upper deck—and even more so coming down! The expression on the driver's faces ranged from severe apprehension to sheer terror! Thanks to the organisation and detailed planning by the two MTWOs, **WO1 (NRPS) Dave McGurk** and **WO1 (SVWO) Dave Sparks**, the road move went well.

Some went by air . . . The 2IC, **Maj Mary Nicholson**, and some 120 others, travelled courtesy of the RAF, via South Cerney and Brize Norton, with long waits just about everywhere.

AND WHEN WE WERE THERE

The Regiment deployed immediately to its exercise locations. Commcens Mike and Oscar headed for their familiar woods, checked out that most of the trees were still where they had been in years gone by, and settled themselves in. Echelon headed for Krefeld where it was a guest of 16 Sig Regt—and very well looked after too. RHQ and Lima Tp moved into Caernarvon Barracks at Dusseldorf where they set about preaching the joys of Euromux to the staff of HQ (BR) RCZ. The other AMCs went to the various garrisons and ordnance depots. Relays disappeared into more remote places. **Cpl Steve Tinkler** and **LCpl Scott Denham** of 50 Sqn were at Roetgen where it seems they became unofficial members of 21 Sig Regt! They were made very welcome, so much so that a few days later they sent a request for a relief crew to take over for a while so that they could attend somebody's stag party! They repaid some of the hospitality by supplying spare fuses to the Ace High detachment to keep it on the air.

And Euromux worked! After so many years of painful working from exchange to exchange it was a delight to be able to dial through instantly to the far end of the system. And the staff gave us plenty of traffic to handle. The tape relay operators at Commcens Mike and Oscar handled more messages than ever before.

TALE OF A BOXBODY

90 Sqn discovered a new variation of Murphy's Law. If you have to lose a vehicle it is bound to be a vital one! On the road move through Belgium the Commcen Oscar Euromux vehicle, one of only two in the Regiment and vital to the whole system, lost an argument with a tree. Fortunately neither of the crew, **SSgt Hugh Haselden** and **LCpl Kevin Pountain**, was hurt, but that could not be said for their vehicle. The truck was a write-off and the precious box ended up on its side in the road. This is the sort of thing that causes nightmares for commanders, but is a challenge which the TA relishes.

With the help of 36 Regt's recovery vehicle and a lowloader from the RCT, the box was recovered to Krefeld. The techs, **WO2 (FofS) Phil Berry, SSgt John Pritchard** and **Sgt Brian Pollard** assisted by **Cpl Walker** of 16 Regt set-to to sort out the electronics. The LAD, under the direction of **SSgt (AQMS) Barry McGuinness** and the PSI, **SSgt Pete Sherburn** stripped down another four-tonner and devised a way to secure the damaged box to it. They were successful, and 36 hours after the wreck arrived in Krefeld the box was in circuit at Commcen Oscar, not quite weatherproof but functioning.

Meanwhile Bde HQ had found that another Euromux vehicle did exist, undergoing trials back in England. So, as a precaution, an expedition was sent back to fetch it. **WO2 Dick Grainge, Sgt John Hughes, Sig Dave Lane** and **LCpl Keith Chambers** of the LAD had

an unexpected early return to the UK and then back to Germany. So the Regiment got a TSB, but in the end it was never needed.

Somewhere in Belgium, WO2 (FofS) Phil Berry, SSgt (FofS) Carl Butler, Sgt Brian Pollard and SSgt John Pritchard amidst the wreckage of the Commcen Oscar Mux vehicle. It's being so cheerful that keeps us going!

Three days later, in location, in operation, the same vehicle is inspected by Gen Farndale, seen here talking to Sgt Pollard and WO1 (FofS) John Latham

VISITORS

The Camp Visitors programme was very complicated, and working it out provided many happy hours of entertainment for the Adjutant, **Capt Grace Harrison**. By skilful juggling of transport and itineraries she ensured that only rarely did more than two parties of visitors arrive simultaneously at the same location from different directions. Even on the last day of the exercise we could cope with a sudden decision that two Major Generals and two Brigadiers would descend on us!

Early on we were pleased to welcome the Commander-in-Chief, **Gen Sir Martin Farndale**. After a brief introduction to Euromux at Bde HQ he visited **OCdt Clive Chisholm**'s Interface Detachment in Krefeld and then flew over to Commcen Oscar. Here his helicopter was guided down by **Pte Jill Robb WRAC**, (who was taking a break from her duties in the cookhouse), under the expert guidance of **SSgt Ray Georgeson**. The Commander-in-Chief was given a brief tour of the Commcen by **Maj Peter Forster**, OC 90 Sqn. Purely by chance, the soldier guarding the complex, **Sig Carl James**, turned out to live in Brotton, the ancestral home of the Farndales. The Commander-in-Chief was shown the battered but functional Euromux vehicle and met some of those who had repaired it.

Also arriving by helicopter was Comd Comms, our old friend **Maj Gen Alan Yeoman**. In his day with us he visited more than half of our locations. While he was on the ground his helicopter pilot gave 'familiarisation flights' to as many as possible of the eager applicants, about 20 altogether. Keenest of all to go up was the CO's driver **Cpl Gwen Tipton**, although it is rumoured that she did ask the pilot not to do any power dives! But she obviously enjoyed it and announced that she 'wanted one of those'. **Maj Gen Yeoman**'s successor designate, **Brig Peter Davies**, spent a day with us. We also had visits from the Chief of Staff BAOR, **Maj Gen Edwin Beckett**, his deputy **Brig Andy Evans, Brig Peter Palmer** the Commander (BR) RCZ and from the GOC London District **Maj Gen Christopher Airy**.

And of course our own Brigade Commander, **Brig Tom Wheawell** was a most welcome visitor.

Watched by OC 90 Sqn, Maj Peter Forster, Gen Farndale talks to Sgt Cliff Jones ACC in Commcen Oscar's cookhouse

The CinC discovers that Sig Carl James comes from the same village as the Farndale family

MORE VISITORS

Our Honorary Colonel, **Col Mike Stewart**, spent several days with us, and claims to have come close to his objective of talking to every member of his Regiment!

Our next Commanding Officer, **Lt Col Mike Macklin** spent a day getting a feel for the Regiment before he takes over in November.

It was nice to see **Col Roger Thompson**, Commander 4 Sig Group, who dropped in from time to time, and **Lt Col Cliff Walters**, SO1 in Comms Branch BAOR, who spent a day at Commcen Oscar to find out about Euromux and how we use it. **Col Bill Roper** brought a team from the School of Signals to check on the performance of the new equipment . . .

Not really a visitor, because he was with us throughout the fornight, was **Maj Mark Zaremba-Tymieniecki** of 31 Sig Regt (V). He did a good job for us as a watchkeeper in the HQ (BR) RCZ Comms Ops Cell, and also found time to look around the Regiment and its equipment. Also attached for camp were five members of Leeds University OTC, **OCdts Crooks, Hsu, Tariq, Wills** and **Woolvern** who were employed in 49 Sqn, where, hopefully, they got some insight into how a TA Signal Regiment operates.

So many things go on during a BAOR camp that it is impossible to record them all. The Regiment was never all together in one place, so the CO had to make his end of camp speech twice, first to the Air Party and then to the Road Party in its final concentration area at Egelsburg. And then it was back home. Somehow the journey is always quicker. Even the LSLs went faster! It is rumoured that Juliet Tp was reluctant to leave the comforts of Viersen where they had access to saunas and other facilities. The Adjutant, **Capt Grace Harrison**, was the clear winner of the competition for the most shopping done in Germany. There is however no truth in the rumour that it took a whole four-ton cargo vehicle to carry her purchases back home.

AND ALL BECAUSE THE LADY LOVES . . .

Newly-married **Cpl Jackie Thompson WRAC**, one of the Orderly Room clerks, left her husband **Cpl Alan Thompson** in Herford to come to join the Regiment in Krefeld. Some days later she was invited out to the helipad because 'there might be a chance of a trip in a chopper'. Sure enough a helicopter landed and out stepped . . . her husband—carrying a box of a well known brand of chocolates. It is said that her first reaction was that she had been conned, because she didn't get a flight!

CONGRATULATIONS

To **2Lt Alison McNab** on passing out from Sandhurst to become a Squadron Subaltern in 90 Sqn.
Sgt Jeff Ashton of 50 Sqn and **Cpl Babs Cornfield** of 90 Sqn on their recent marriage.

34 SIGNAL REGIMENT BAND

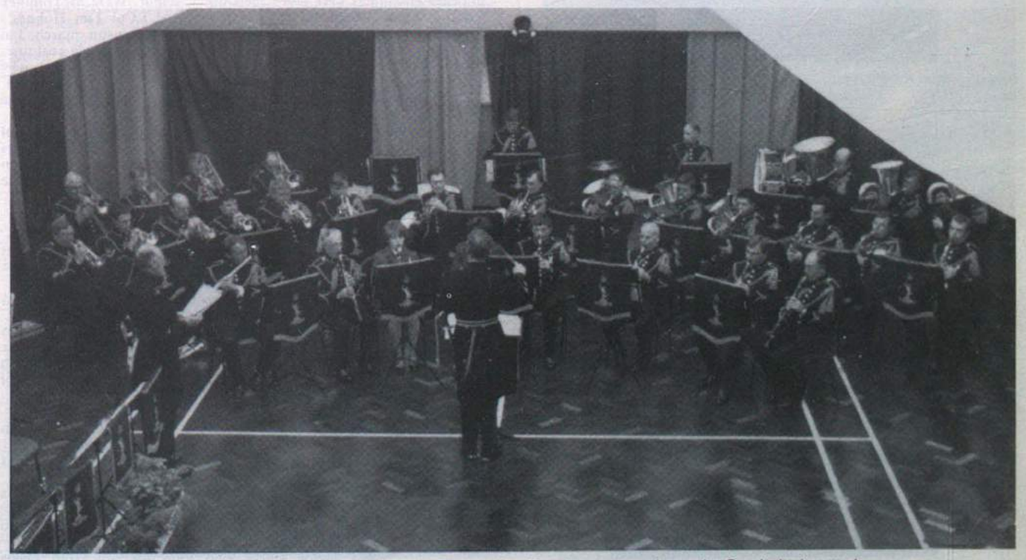
Once every five years every military band is subjected to the 'Kneller Hall Inspection', a thorough inspection by the Inspector of Military Bands and the Director of Music. 1987 was the year for the 34 Sig Regt Band. Preparation has been going on for months, in between the Band's many playing engagements and the intensive training as the Band personnel prepare for their war role as Regimental Medical Assistants. But whereas previous Kneller Hall inspections had taken place at Kneller Hall itself, this time the band was to play at home, at the Brambles Farm TA Centre, and families and friends would be there to watch and to listen.

SSgt Jim Robinson (*left*) keeps an eye on the 'Oompah Band'

For the first time ever the Band, which now has TAVR Group A status, has a two-week Annual Camp. The first week was spent on musical training, while the band enjoyed the hospitality of the Army Apprentices College in Harrogate. Here most of the preparation for the Kneller Hall inspection took place. During the second week the members of the Band attended a medical course at the RAMC Training Centre at Saighton Camp, Chester. Many of the Band already held medical qualifications from previous Regular service, but of the 11 who had not, nine passed the RMA 3 Trade Test. **Bandsman Malcolm Dunston** passed as the top student.

On the day before the inspection the sun shone and the final rehearsals took place in ideal weather. On the day itself of course it rained steadily all morning and it was still miserable when the inspecting officers, **Col Ewing** (the Inspector of Army Bands) and **Lt Col Beat** (the Director of Music) arrived. But, as they stepped out of their car for the opening fanfare it seemed that **Bandmaster Derek Farrington**'s prayers had been answered—the rain stopped. There then began a rigorous three hour examination.

The Inspector of Army Bands gives WO2 Brian Scarlett the once-over



The Director of Music pays close attention as the Bandmaster conducts the Band playing scales

'We've only just begun'—the 'Large Dance Band' make their public debut at the Kneller Hall Inspection

Bandswomen Karen Watts looks anxious as the Director of Music examines her clarinet

Col Ewing interviewing Sgt Jim Smith with his tuba

Firstly, the inspection; this was no mere walk around the ranks. The inspectors talked to every man—and woman, and the Director of Music examined every instrument. For the Band's two newest recruits, **Bandswomen Kath** and **Karen Watts**, mother and daughter respectively, this was perhaps the most nerve-racking part of the day as neither had ever been on a parade before!

Then came the marching display—wheels and countermarches—fast and slow time, to an international variety of tunes, 'This is the Army', 'The Toreadors March', 'The Luftwaffe March' and finally 'Begone Dull Care'. The inspectors watched and listened, the audience listened and looked anxiously at the inspectors for clues to their reaction. But the inspectors had done it all before and were giving nothing away! The testing continued. The audience and the Band went indoors for the concert part of the inspection. The Bandmaster, changed from his parade scarlet to his frock coat, took his place and conducted the prepared piece, 'The Shipbuilders Suite' by **Peter Yorke**. And then the Director of Music put them through their musical paces, first with scales, easy scales, harder scales, chromatic scales and harmonic scales, faster and slower. He tested them on transpositions, on sight reading, he took away the Bandmaster and put up the Band Sergeant Major, **WO2 Mel McTominey**, to conduct a rehearsal. He even quizzed them on Italian musical terms, to check that they knew their Largo from their Allegro. He listened to their rendering of the Corps March and then the National Anthem ('Don't stand up' he told the audience 'it's just a test').

Finally the Band's entertainment value was tested. Two previously unheard ensembles were given their public debut. **WO2 McTominey** led the 'Large Dance Band', which featured **LCpl Tim Holmes**'s Flugel Horn solos, and then the PSI, **SSgt Jim Robinson**, marched in with the German 'Oompah' Band, complete with suitable costumes (borrowed from our good friends at the Apprentices College). The last item of all was **Sgt Henry Smith**'s tuba solo, 'The Tartan Tuba' the composer of which turned out to have been none other than the Director of Music!

It was over, and those who had been through it all before like **Cpl Battler Britton**, reckoned it had gone well. One who had no doubts was the man who had been Band Sergeant Major at the last inspection five years ago, ex **WO2 Bob Smith**. He thought it was great! And the final verdict? Very good—well above average for a TA Band.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Farewell to

SSgt John Pritchard who has moved to 21 Sig Regt after two and a half years hard and successful labour looking after the Regiment's crypto.

WO2 (AQMS) Don Hall, the LAD PSI, who has moved to 7 Armd Bde Workshop REME in BAOR.

The QM's moustache. **Capt (QM) Jim Allen** sold his moustache at the HQ Sqn party for over DM500—which he gave to the **Mandy Lee** Fund. Both fund-raising and shaving were supervised by **Cpl Jackie Waugh**.

Welcome to

SSgt Peter Sherburn REME, the new LAD PSI.

Sgt Dave Griffin who has joined the Technician Team.

Sgt Dave Hanlon who is to spend his last six months with the Gateshead Detachment.

LCpl Mick Neal the new staff car driver who has arrived from 71 Regt.

Cpl Peter Kneeshaw of the Royal Tank Regiment who is attached for his last six months.

2Lt Jackie Curry who joins 49 Sqn from Leeds UOTC.

35 Sig Regt (V)
Sutton Coldfield

For most Regiments August and September are usually quiet periods, and after a busy Summer Camp at Crickhowell the Regiment thought it might have a rest too! But this was not to be as the new Commanding Officer arrived, **Lt Col David Dobson** and his wife **Judy**, closely followed by a new Adjutant, **Capt Suzy Reed**. So most of the Regiment spent these months explaining to them why they do it and how it works!

The autumn exercise season started in style with a successful Ex *Volunteers Folly* followed by a confident effort on Ex *Autumn Lad* and the less said the better about the Training Major, **Maj David Elson** and the Adjutant who couldn't find the location which resulted in having to spend the night in a very cold Landrover. Nobody in the TA had any problem but then they are rather familiar with the location, I mean who needs grid references? In fact the Yeoman, **SSgt 'Radar' Whitehead** couldn't find the way into location either and **WO1 (RSM) George Hedge** put it down to his excellent supervision of the camouflage.

It poured with rain and the MTO, **WO1 Ian McSherry** was heard to mutter something about the loss of his 110 Series Landrover to the CO but the CO's driver **Sig Willie Wilby** thoroughly enjoyed the exercise as he spent most of his time in his deluxe bash.

All in all Ex *Autumn Lad* was a great success for the Regiment and left the thoughts of Crickhowell far behind, but 58 Sig Sqn's authoress, **Capt Jane Hubbard** put pen to paper and camera to eye to record some fond memories for posterity.

58 SIGNAL SQUADRON (NEWCASTLE)

'Whose idea was it to start camp on the thirteenth'—well, we hadn't time to think before UK Camp was upon us . . . and Crickhowell was the place of tranquil streams, green pastures and colourful trees—colourful trees? Since when did trees have red, yellow and white plastic leaves?—since one of the Joint Services hang gliders decided to give an impromptu demo of 'How not to land a hang glider'. Many thanks to PSAO **Capt Roger Breese** for the 'in-house' entertainment outside the Officers' Mess. Well, at least the local fire brigade gained a first in hanglider rescue!

Bags still packed, we deserted the creature comforts of Camp to deploy on a three day Military Skills exercise. 10 man teams yomped, tabbed, trogged and bimbled—over, round and through Welsh hills.

SSM Bill Lambert's definition of a hill—It's a hill if there's grass on it'.

Mentioned in despatches: **FofS Alan Kirk** forgot how his first gear works on his Caram 250cc and discovered the joys of clutchless motorbikin'—downhill at 40 mph! **Sgt Mike Stewart** for his **'Barry Sheen'** wheelie, **Cpl 'Filthy' Johnson** for his 'horse talk' and **Sig Steve Ellison** for the can.

We hacked it—no problem, but then a real test of madness. March and Shoot back to Camp with a little itsy bitsy assault course thrown in . . . oh, assault course in NBC kit of course. **Pte 'Yomper' (alias Yosser) Hughes** strained at the leash when she caught sight of 95 Sqn team—very nearly wore out **Sgt Karen 'Mountain Goat' Ingle.** And that assault course proved no problem—after all, what's an 8ft wall with a 12ft ladder? Thanks to NRPS **Stew Waring**—disqualified, but top marks for initiative.

'58 Heliborne and Its A Knockout Sqn'

Waterborne

A FIRST FOR THE SQUADRON

Back to Camp for a couple of days 'relaxing' you say . . . No! Just another first for the elastic Squadron . . . Soft Ball Champs 1987!

Finally a free afternoon and some intrepid bods placed their lives in the Squadron's only glider pilot **Lt Mike Atkinson** . . . braves of the sky SSM, **2Lt Chris Edwards, Sgt Ingle, SSgt Kirk** and **LCpl Sharon Capel** all thought the long drive was worth it. It gave them a taste for the high life . . . adventure training. At Vauxhall Camp, Monmouth . . . quite a way to walk we thought; so **Capt Breese** kindly arranged a Gazelle out of camp on the Saturday and a Lynx into camp on the Sunday. Signallers do need emplaning and deplaning skills.

Lt Mike Atkinston and LCpl Sharon Capel 'But Sir I'll never fit into this Dinky Toy'

Met on site by cousin **Cpls Paddy** and **Nidge Knowles**—and another 'don't do as I do, do as I say' demo.

After drying off we were ready for the Squadron barbecue. **WO1 Dave Simpson, Sgts Kevin Robinson** and **Geoff Harriman, LCpls Gary Scott** and **Capel**—all popped down from 'Castle' to wish the birthdays the best—Happy Belated Birthday **LCpls Andy Elson, Eddie Voller** and **Martin Slinn.**

The last two days saw a hectic Regimental deployment with all sorts of cross postings! Finally a parade taken by the Honorary Colonel and it was a proud moment for 58 'Detties' **LCpls Rob Shone, Kevin Mountford** and **Sig Phill Parton**—for they were the first to be inspected.

At last Camp endex and we all looked forward to the first Monday at work—for a rest—of course.

PROMOTION AND COURSES

Congratulations to:

Capt Jane Hubbard on her promotion.

SSgt Skip Whalley on a B grade in Map Reading Instr.

Cpl Bill Macquire for proving he is still a B1?

NEWS IN BRIEF

SPORT

Congratulations to **Karen Ingle** (1 hr 14 mins in DMs) in the 10 Mile Michelin Road Race . . . providing the comms for the race proved far less strenuous for the rest of the Squadron.

PERSONAL

Well done **LCpl Phil Muni** and **Sig Dave Watson**—proud fathers, at last!

Sgt Mick Stewart—how many 1st's at the Leek Show?

WO1 Dave Simpson—a welcome or goodbye? Let OC *Wire* notes know.

HELLO AND WELCOME

To **Capt Helen James** (2IC)—she has joined the elite at last.

SSgt Mal (Eyes) Linton as SQMS.

And does the Civvie Clerk know what she has let herself in for—watch out for Rumcon **Lorraine Johnson.**

GOODBYES

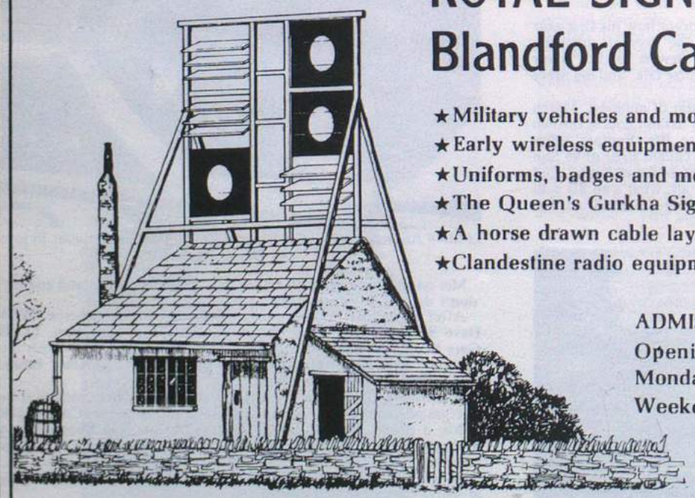
Pte Lynn Jervis. Fancy joining the regulars! Still you'll be back for the Squadron Christmas Dinner or else!

Goodbye **Capt Chris Cummings**—we'll miss your polish parades—does HQ Sqn know what it is getting?

Watch out 31 Regt—'cos **Lt Mike Atkinson** is on his way down—good luck in the new job.

And finally goodbye to **Mrs Ivy Dudley** our civvy Clerk for so many years. Many, many thanks for all your hard work, loyalty and support—we will miss you.

10 Mile Michelin Road Race, Sgt Karen Ingle and Sig Rob Hughes



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36 Sig Regt (V)
Wanstead

HEADQUARTER SQUADRON

FOCUS ON MT

PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt Jim Preston**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Phil Goss**
Tp Cpl's	**Cpl Ron Hill**
	Cpl Reg Gregory
	LCpl Martin Hull
Workers	**Sig Keith Skedd**
	Pte Suzanna Batty
	Pte Louise Walker

TRANSPORT

Prestons' 'Taxi Service' still continues to provide support to all and sundry, thanks to the efforts of our 'Technical Maintenance Engineer' (Nuts 'n Bolts fitter) **Mr Bill Law**. Spit and polish is mainly attributed to our 'Vapour Augmantation and Distribution Operative' (nut case with a paint spray gun) **LCpl Martin Hull** and the 'Mobile Automobile Specialists' (B3 drivers) **Messrs Skedd** and **Batty**. A final mention must be given to those behind the scenes who ensure that the MT functions smoothingly and efficiently—**WO1 (MTWO) Mick Moffatt,** CO's Driver **LCpl Johno Johnson** and our civilian driver **Mr Tony Jordan.**

LORRY DRIVER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

MT Tp entered a three man team in the 1987 Lorry Driver of the Year competition held at RAF Uxbridge in June. **Cpl Keith Williams, Cpl Reg 'Pork Chop' Gregory** and **LCpl Martin Hull** made a good first time effort against 150 of the areas best HGV drivers—tests included Highway Code, road safety theory, road drive, map reading and various manoeuvring exercises. They finished a respectable 19th, 20th and 23rd at the end of the day. **Cpl Williams** was heard to say—'we will return', **Cpl Gregory** was hungry and **LCpl Hull** went home feeling cab happy.

EXERCISE *MAIDEN VOYAGE*
(Through the eyes of an observer)

Ex *Maiden Voyage* took place during the weekend 17/18/19 July 1987. A fairly low key affair as far as MT was concerned. With the usual instructions—get the vehicles there and bring them back and in between you can spud bash, clean pots and pans, do guards etc—**Sig Skedd** was heard to mutter 'that's the life **Jim** but not as we know it'!

The Techs insisted as usual in transporting themselves to the exercise location. They broke down on the way, surprise, surprise.

Sgt Phil Goss almost gained the 'golden blanket award' but was pipped at the post when this highest of accolades went to **Cpl Reg Gregory**—a worthy winner.

The Troop was blessed and indeed honoured by the presence of **Cpl Ron Hill** and although he contributed very little (having forgotten everything he had ever been taught) he did however promise that the knowledge gained during his waking hours would stand him in good stead for the next exercise, we can't wait.

Maj (QM) Frank Jepson and SSgt (SQMS) Pat Baker dance a jig round the new field kitchen

WARRANT OFFICERS' DINNER

The Warrant Officers held a dinner in the mess on Friday 2 October and welcomed two new mess members, **WO2 (RQMS) Trevor Jones** and **WO2 Wendy Hooton WRAC** who have joined our training wing.

We were also saying farewell to two warrant officers who have been with us for a while. **WO2 (FofS) Bob Walton BEM** who has been posted to the land of the Amber Nectar, a posting which is the envy of the Regiment. We wish **Bob** and his family all the best in 'Oz'.

The other farewell was to **WO2 (SSM) Ralph Collingridge** who has been with the regiment for about 15 years and now having reached that magical age is retiring before being invited to do so!

Fifteen of the regiment's 21 warrant officers were able to attend what is becoming a regular (in the TA sense!) event, and we were pleased to welcome **WO2 (SSM) Mel Johns** who has recently been promoted to Squadron Sergeant Major of 56 Sqn at Eastbourne. Congratulations also to **WO1 (FofS) Clive Dawes** on his recent promotion. The Regiment now has five Warrant Officers Class One; is this a record?

The RSM, **WO1 (RSM) Tom Taylor** is improving on the speech front, and the Senior Volunteer Warrant Officer **WO1 (SVWO) Dave Watson** has promised to get his part right next time. **WO1 (MTWO) Mick Moffatt** promises that he won't be on leave and **WO2's Pete Minshall, Lloyd Drakes** and **John Cousins** promise to remember to be there next time.

At the Warrant Officers' Dinner
Back Row: WO2 (RQMS) Trevor Jones, WO2 (SSM) Mick Stone, WO2 Tony Hindle, WO1 (FofS) Colin Hooper, WO2 (SSM) Mel Johns, WO2 Eddie Baldwin and WO2 Ken Radley RAPC
Front Row: WO2 (SSM) Ralph Collingridge, WO1 (SVWO) Dave Watson, WO1 (RSM) Tom Taylor, WO2 (FofS) Bob Walton BEM, WO2 Wendy Hooton WRAC, WO1 (FofS) Clive Dawes and WO2 Derek Howell

54 (EA) SIGNAL SQUADRON (V)

There have been rumours that 54 Sqn has been disbanded as nothing has been heard from us in *The Wire* recently—the truth, however, is that we have been working too hard to put pen to paper, but now the story of our first six months of 1987 can be told.

January 1987: those of you with long memories will recall the terrible weather in East Anglia in January. During this time, 755 Tp Norwich, gave four of its vehicles to be used for the benefit of the local community. Personnel involved included **Sgts Barry James, Kevin Barnard** and **LCpl John Gale**—the operation included

Farewell salute to Maj Roy Gransbury on Ex *Cold Heath*

delivering essential supplies to hospitals, cut off by the snow, rescuing abandoned vehicles, snow plough recovery and general work under the instruction of the Norfolk County Council. A total of 733 miles was driven during the three worst days of the big freeze and all included are to be congratulated on their efforts.

7/8 March 1987: Ex *Spring Call*, a Squadron Mobility Exercise. This was our first major mobility exercise for some years and included checks on all records, vehicles, kit, equipment, the works! So successful was the planning before and during the exercise that by mid-day on Saturday only five personnel had not been accounted for. The exercise included a lengthy convoy drive at night with a tactical move into a training area; needless to say it was snowing at the time.

25/26 April 1987: Ex *Cold Heath*, a Squadron Comms Exercise. This was, unfortunately, the last major weekend for our old OC, **Maj Roy Gransbury**, who has left the TA for business reasons. His farewell from our WRAC personnel will be remembered for years to come.

May 1987: The Lyke Wake Walk. A dedicated team of ardent spirits (some more ardent than others) under the guidance of **Sgt Tony Hulme** decided to walk 40 miles across the North Yorkshire Moors for fun (?) and under the benevolent guidance of **Capt Nigel Deaves** and **WO2 Ralph Collingridge** heading the support party they did just that. Mention must be made of the following:

Cpl Martin Darley and **LCpl David Bartram**, for being the first home.

Capt Julie Black WRAC for marching across (just) to the strains of 'Colonel Bogey'.

Sgt Andy Patey whose experiences at the A1 are now part of Squadron folklore.

25/28 June 1987: Ex *High Living 87*, an adventure training weekend in Snowdonia. As on all our adventure training weekends this was a weekend of discovery, in particular for

Sgt 'Twiggy' Elborn who discovered that he could not read a Welsh map.

Cpl Brian Dodd who discovered heights.

Sgt Alan Newbery who discovered a lot of bogs.

A lot of people who discovered canoeing and enjoyed it.

A lot of people who discovered abseiling (some didn't enjoy it).

LCpl David Cooper who discovered what it was like to be involved in an air/sea rescue helicopter (after three years of trying).

All in all, another example of our resilience—take people from the arid plains of East Anglia to the wet mountains of Snowdonia anc we communicate, (we think).

Add all these weekends to our normal training commitment, so far this year of two Brigade Exercises, Regimental weekends, Range weekends, trade training, inspections and our own Troop training; no wonder we haven't written anything for a while!

Now we are looking forward to our Annual Camp, BAOR this year, with new equipment—no one knows how this will all work but, as ever, we are hopeful.

Why are these people so happy? Is it the 54 Sqn influence?

38 Sig Regt (V)
Sheffield

KERNOW ANNUAL CAMP

A great Camp! This appears to be the consensus of opinion on every aspect—trade and military personnel training advancement, outdoor and overnight section team exercises, sports and social and not forgetting the regimental parade. The ingredients were well chosen and the pot expertly stirred by the Trg Maj—**Maj David Podevin**, the Tech Adjt—**Capt Dennis Trayers**, the Yeoman—**WO2 John Chilcott** and the RSM—**WO1 Don McLennan**. (NB Kernow is Cornwall in the Cornish language).

Maj Terry Phillips receives his TD at Annual Camp

OFFICERS' MESS PIPE-OPENER

Traditionally Camp is properly started by, what has come to be known as, the Second-in-Command's Evening. Last year's setting was a planters' night in some far off oriental part of the world with Tiger beer, chota pegs, Singapore slings and late curry tiffin together with the inevitable concert party à la Noel Coward. This time the setting was Greece for a Hellenic Evening where all sorts of expatriate literary folk, including pretentious poets and poetasters, authors and other Byronic types, gathered together for a night of readings, odes and songs—accompanied by Retsina, Ouzo, Moussaka, Shish Kebab and Turkish Curry. The distaff members of the Mess were beautifully adorned but chronologically incorrect in dressing up as vestal virgins with their male counterparts dressed in modern Mediterranean Rig with huge flowery and lacy bow ties, flowing silken sashes worn cummerbund fashion, the odd over-large beret spilling over one ear and shoulder—and the occasional long cigarette holder. Talk about Lotus Eaters! A great pipe-opener to Camp which set the scene for more serious work and achievement in the following two weeks.

REGIMENTAL SMÓKER

A brand new feature of camp, this concept by the CO—**Lt Col Steve Coltman** (who manfully resisted the urge to initiate another inter-Squadron competition—the Coltman Cup for Comedy, Characterisation and Concert Capers!) proved to be a super venture hugely enjoyed by the entire Regiment and our visitor of the evening—**Brig John Russell**, Comd 2 Sig Bde. Each Squadron had planned and practised their party pieces in great secrecy—the hierarchy felt a little apprehensive at the possible outcome of this pioneering function but, in the event, we could have all taken our (modern) maiden aunts to the revue. Each of the acts was wonderfully

received bringing great credit to every single one of the performers who ranged from the beautifully cast **LCpl Vera Hamilton** as Snow White with her seven dwarfs (**Sig Mark Cliff** equally well cast as Dopey) to OC 46 Sqn—**Maj David Etherton** with his 2IC—**Capt David Rigley** and PSAO—**Capt Cliff Webb** dressed in tutus performing Swan Lake to enormous acclaim. By unanimous agreement the hit of the evening was the very professional drag act by **Sig John Liddle** of 93 Sqn although the clairvoyant's tipsy assistant performance by **Pte Debbie Chappel** of 64 Sqn ran him a very close second.

SPORTS

The very comprehensive sports programme, organised by **Maj Ron Toft** (HQ), was very enthusiastically supported by the entire unit. Orchestrated cheerleaders, USA grid-iron football fashion, accompanied ever match particularly the female tug-of-war events. Honours were evenly spread over the unit with 93 Sqn winning the Brenda Cottage Memorial Inter-Sqn Shield. Other honours were won by:

Sig Mark Dunn (64) Male Cross-country
SSgt Diane Feest (93) Female Cross-Country
93 Sqn—First team Cross-Country
HQ Sqn—Male Tug-of-War
46 Sqn—Female Tug-of-War
Sig Mark Cotton (87) Male Orienteering
Pte Sheila Aubrey (46) Female Orienteering
87 Sqn—Team Orienteering
93 Sqn—Male Volleyball
64 Sqn—Female Volleyball
64 Sqn—Rounders
93 Sqn—6-a-side Football
87 Sqn—Small bore Shooting
87 Sqn—Clay Pigeon Shooting
HQ Sqn—Golf

Our left footed hierarchy! Lt Col Toby Seymour (2IC), Fr Tony Franey (RC Padre) and Lt Col Steve Coltman (CO)

The winning HQ Sqn Tug-of-War team
Back row: WO2 Carl Clark-Derby, Cfn David Williams, SSgt Barry Pinches, Sgt Eric Wilde and LCpl Gary Bennett
Front row: LCpl Sprocket Cairns, Sgt Frank Delaney, LCpl Dave Gelsthorpe and Cpl Stuart Dolby. The supporters are Cpl Jill Cundy and Cpl 'Cookie' Crofts

Our departing Yeoman, WO2 John Chilcott, comes a very good second in the Regimental Cross-country

TICKLE TEST TROPHY COMPETITION

The unit participated in the nation-wide TA Tickle Test competition for the unit with the largest percentage of its at-camp members passing the BFT time standards. With 91 per cent the unit achieved a very creditable result although only time will eventually reveal our place in the UK table. However the Squadrons' results form our own in-house competition for the Hawksworth Tickle Test Trophy which was won this year by 64 Sqn who received the trophy directly from its donor **Col Alan Hawksworth**, our Honorary Colonel.

TEAM MATE

Each year the unit feverishly engages in fierce masochistic military skills contests for two days including overnight patrols at both attack and defence. This formed the third and last phase of our camp programme; the first was the individual trade training and the second phase covered an exercise providing practical training in military and communication skills on a team basis in the field over two and a half days. The Regimental Team Mate Trophy was won by 93 Sqn—in whose trophy cupboard this award has customarily rested since its inception in 1981—apart from the last two years—when, to encourage greater efforts in the rest of the unit, the Squadron loaned it to two other worthy Squadrons . . . Other awards were won by:

SSgt Stan Fitzgerald (93) Best Male Individual Competitor.
2Lt Vanda Leary (87) Best Female Individual Competitor.
Sig Robin Fitzpatrick (93) Best Young Soldier and recipient of the Richard Warburton Memorial Trophy.

46 Sqn for the best team trophies (team was led by **Capt Jim Crotty** who would have won, on a weight for age basis, the Best Old Soldier award had we had one!).

SOCIAL TO AND FRO

Camp saw its packed social programme culminating in the well organised Squadron socials in the second week which provided a very welcome break between phases two and three. The hectic dancing belied the facts of missed sleep during the two overnight stages of the phase two programme. Earlier, the officers entertained the members of the WOs and Sgts' Mess at a Curry Evening which was reciprocated by the WOs and Sgts' at a function in their mess immediately following the Regimental Smoker concert. Similarly the WOs and Sgts entertained the Corporals of the Regiment at a very well received function. The Officers at their Regimental Dinner hosted the SOinC—**Maj Gen Paul Alexander**, the Comd 2 Sig Bde—**Brig John Russell**, Dep Comd 2 Sig Bde—**Col Peter Myhill** and our Honorary Colonel—**Col Alan Hawksworth** and his wife **Barbara**. They were also joined by old friends: **Maj Mike Francis** late of 87 Sqn and now of Tintagel, **Maj John Rose** (who had something to prove) lately OC 46 Sqn and now of the Derby branch of the Association, **Capt Ernest Williams** also Derby branch, **Capt Keith Headland** ex-QM (TA) of the Regiment and now a member of the Sheffield branch of the association. It is now an accepted custom of the unit for old friends of the Regiment and of the Corps to join us from their branches of the association for the middle long weekend of Annual Camp. As well as the officers mentioned above we were delighted to see: **Mr D. Young BEM**, **Mr Jim McKinnon** and **Mr G. H. (Bill) Bailey** of the Preston and Blackburn branch; **Mr Neville Horton JP** and **Mr Bob Patterson** (lately PSI of 64 Sqn) of the Sheffield branch and **ex-WO2 Dot Williamson** of the Derby branch. Long may these real links between the Regiment and our old friends and comrades continue!

LADDER OF SUCCESS

Each Annual Camp sees earnest, enthusiastic and proficient members of the unit ascending the ladder of success. This year saw the following well deserved promotions: To **Maj David Etherton** (46), to **Capt Helen Burrows** (46), **Mike Petty** (87(, **Alan Whittle** (93); to **Sgts Paul Todd** (93), **Ken Bolgere** (93), **Barry Crewdson** (93); to **Cpls Jim Walshe** (93), **Piers Merritt** (87), **Mark Adams** (46), **Mick Bryan** (93), **Bev Connolly** (HQ), **Stuart Dolby** (HQ), **Sharon Mitchell** (46); to **LCpls Phil Taylor** (46), **Darren Snow** (46), **Stuart Sinclair** (64), **Dave Gelsthorpe** (HQ), **Dave Hawley** (64), **Sprocket Cairns** (HQ), **Dave Stevenson** (64), **John Marsden** (64), **Andrew Wragg** (64), **Steve Webster** (93) and **Aiden McGenagle** (93). Congratulations to all concerned.

Capt Mike Petty, 2Lt Kate McConachie, OCdt Mary Hall and OCdt Richard Taylor discuss promotion prospects in 87 Sqn (Mike looks pleased!)

VALE

Sadly we have to report the departure of two major stalwarts of the unit. **WO2 (YofS) John Chilcott**, after two years of well rewarded effort, is off to the Gulf on secondment. He is replaced by **WO2 (YofS) Gus Colville.** At the end of Annual Camp **Lt Col Toby Seymour** handed over the 2IC portfolio to **Maj Terry Phillips** lately OC 46 Sqn. **Toby Seymour** joined the unit as a regular officer in 1969 then in 1972 he retired after nearly 27 years boy's and man's service and immediately joined the TA. Now some 15 years on, which included six years as OC 64 Sqn, he moves on to yet another military career. He has been promoted to Colonel and appointed Commandant of the Yorkshire ACF—the largest county force in the UK.

Lt Col Toby Seymour (2IC) who left the unit shortly after Annual Camp on his promotion to Colonel and appointment as Commandant Yorkshire ACF

39 Sig Regt (V)
City of London

At the time of writing the Regiment has just returned from Annual Camp and consequently there is little time to prepare an article for inclusion in this issue of *The Wire*.

Camp did include a number of major changes, with the first operational use of our new transmitter vehicles, which the Tech Tp has, under the direction of **Capt (TOT) Tim Southall**, spent the last year designing and building.

Whilst the period prior to Camp was relatively quiet, we did participate in a few military activities.

RECRUIT TROOP: COURSE 1/87
THIRD AND FINAL WEEKEND
Report by Pte Geraldine Joyce (1 Sqn, London)

After 17 gruelling weeks of military training there was only one more weekend of PT, tests and field exercises to go. How the eight of us would cope with our tasks ahead no one could answer, as we were the first 'guinea pigs' to be tested under the new recruit training syllabus, with the third weekend being primarily a field testing exercise.

After a few classroom periods, we set off on Saturday 4 July at around 1100 hrs for our first field task, which was to be an orienteering exercise, entailing cross country marching, wading through rivers, and crossing dense undergrowth with full pack and rifle, all on a sweltering hot day. We managed to complete this exercise minus a few pounds.

For Phase one, we were broken down into four couples, comprising of **Sig Steve Swainbank** and **Pte June Smith** (both 1 Sqn), **Sig Martin Seymour** (HQ Sqn, London) and **Pte Karen Chapman** (1 Sqn), **Pte Alison Hazel** (5 Sqn, Banbury) and **Pte Michelle Bullard** (1 Sqn), and **Pte Margo Ellis** and myself, **Pte Geraldine Joyce** (both from 1 Sqn).

For Phase two, we bivvied up in a wooded area with plenty of trees and undergrowth to set the imagination running wild during the black night which lay ahead of us. For this phase we were led by **Cpl Lindsay Frost** and **Pte Kim Waite**, both qualified Detachment Commanders from London, and hanging around somewhere in the background was **Lt Paul Willmott** who was the DS from the Recruit Training Team. We all turned in at 2000 hrs as we were pretty whacked from the days events. Alas, the long awaited attack, by some of the Regiment's parachute Troops came at about midnight (Zulu time of course!), with thunderflashes and blanks all going off around us—just to set our hearts beating. We didn't move. This surprisingly turned out to be our lifesaver as the 'enemy', alias **2Lt Eric Blyth** (2 Sqn, Dundee), **Cpls Les Eldridge, Tony Wells** and **Darryl Frost** (all from the Recruit Selection and Training Team based in London) hadn't quite got our location right! If we had moved the light from the flashes would easily have silhouetted our shapes, and that would have been that. However, the paras didn't go away without their bit of fun. Before attacking us thunderflashes and blank rounds could be heard from just down the road, our attackers had indeed found a target—the Royal Engineers!,

Recruit Tp: Course 1/87
Back Row L to R: Sig Steve Swainbank (1 Sqn), Pte Margo Ellis (1 Sqn), Pte Karen Chapman (1 Sqn) and Sig Martin Seymour (HQ Sqn)
Front Row L to R: Pte Alison Hazel (5 Sqn), Pte Geraldine Joyce (1 Sqn), Pte June Smith (1 Sqn) and Pte Michelle Bullard (1 Sqn)

who left in much haste soon afterwards. The rest of the night passed uneventfully, and we were all glad to get back to base the following morning.

After a clean up, we were put through our paces on the drill square ready for our passing out parade in the afternoon. Then came our proudest moment, being presented with our Cap Badges. At long last the hard slog of 18 weeks was over for us. We had made it, all eight of us paraded proudly on the drill square with the relief that we had come this far, and with no doubts that we would have lots more fun and excitement on joining our new Squadrons.

RMP AND CITY OF CHICHESTER INTERNATIONAL MARCH

The weekend of 6 and 7 August saw 21 members of the London based Squadrons participate in the Annual Chichester March. In all two teams were entered, one attempting the 40km distance, and the other the 25km.

The Saturday night however, saw us playing an active role in the social scene, joining all other participants around the bar tents and disco. An area in which we are particularly qualified! Naturally, a great time was had by all, and a number of friendships struck up with members of visiting allied armies. Particular mention should be made of **Ptes Karen Chapman** and **Karen Brandon** who actively went out of their way to meet other British and foreign competitors. However, whether they were actually trying to promote international friendship, or create diplomatic incidents is a different matter. (By the way, does anyone know Mr Hitler!, and whether it is true, or not, that 'red hat' means 'no drawers'?). Despite asking loads of questions we did managed to break the ice at the disco by getting the dancing going.

Anyway, no one got arrested, despite the number of policemen around, and we all managed to meet up on Sunday morning, sore heads and all, for the start of the big event. The 40km competitors departed first, at a run, with the aim of getting around as quickly as they could. The two-fivers left a little later, in a much more military manner, with the aim of marching the distance as a team.

Both teams did exceptionally well, with all entrants successfully completing the distance, and as we nursed our blistered feet and rubbed our aching muscles we learnt that we had won the Hargreaves Sports Trophy for the best overall mixed team. It made the whole trip worth it.

The successful teams comprised the following personnel: **Lt Paul Willmott, Sgts Veronica Grace** and **Janet Flowers, Cpls Mark Lawrence, Joe Samuel, Lindsay Frost** and **Darryl Frost, LCpl Sylvester Hack, Sig Mike Seaman, Jim Griffiths, Martin Seymour, Dave Shelly** and **Steve Swainbank, Ptes Karen Brandon, Karen Chapman, Margo Ellis, Geraldine Joyce, Christine Manning, Phillipa Rose, Jane Wellsteed** and **Sandy Williams.**

Chichester March 87
The 25km'ers en route for the Hargreaves Sports Trophy

40 Sig Regt (V)
Belfast

EXERCISE *PLAIN SAILING*—BELGIUM
85 SQN'S VERSION

For **Maj Gerry Fleming** Annual Camp 1987 was a huge undertaking. To begin with, it was his first major exercise as OC 85 Sqn, and secondly, the officers and men under his command were for the first time, using untested equipment in the largest brigade exercise since *Lionheart 1984*.

Despite a few minor problems before deployment, the move out of Emblem was successful, the squadron deploying one COMCEN, two area message centres, and two radio relay relays. Additionally, one area message centre belonging to 66 Sqn was deployed with 85. With the exception of the Commcen all sites were known locations and well serviced. Credit must however be given to **Lt David Brown** for his efficient handling of the set-up and running of the Commcen. REME, ACC and Medics also contributed to a successful exercise. Area message centre commanders were **Lt Cathy Sutherland, Lt David Given** and **2Lt Michael Kennedy**; **Lt Joe Fallows** controlled the relays.

It should be noted here that a large commitment was made by our regular permanent staff instructors, **SSgt Alan Garvey, Sgts Steve Greaves, Steve Cocksedge** and **Dixi Dixon**. Incidentally **Sgt Steve Greaves** leaves the Regiment shortly to take up a new posting and we wish him good luck for the future.

The exercise lasted nine days during which both equipment and operators where tested to their fullest extent. Despite many problems Comms were established and circuits proved.

NOTABLE PERSONALITIES

Maj Gerry Fleming	That well known double act: Tom and
Maj Tom Adams	Gerry
Lt David Brown	Who developed a manic phobia towards a lonely little bucket (with its own seat)
Lt Joe Fallows	The only guy we know who can map read with his eyes closed
Lt Michael Kennedy	Not me again! aaaaagh . . .
Lt John Blemings	What sleeping bag?
SSgt Tommy Caines	As soon as I get home I'm taking time off
SSgt Ellen Williamson	Founder—Belfast naturist appreciation society
Cpl Sammy Fisher	We known he's in Belgium but where?
LCpl Colin Malone	Chinned by a tent peg
LCpl Nicola Corkin	Cyclops Mark II

Finally, a point to RCP. We don't think the swap of **Lt Robert Kelly** for **Maj Tom Adams** was a fair one.

Lt Cathy Sutherland explains the layout of the AMC at Ostend, to our local reporter Ian Malcolm and at the same time, manages to pose for the camera

What a life, Cpl Margaret Boyd and Jacqi Kelly pose at Zeebrugge

EXERCISE *PLAIN SAILING*
THE HQ SQN INPUT

Saturday, 5 September saw the Regiment back in Belgium again for the first time in three years, back to the comfort of Olen Camp?—Not likely.

The three squadrons were housed in tented accommodation in Emblem Camp, a big shock to the system for some of the old sweats who are used to more comfortable conditions.

The technicians and telemechs got their first experience of a full Regimental exercise with Euromux. They worked a 24 hour three-shift rota under the watchful eyes of **WO2 (FofS) Joe Long, SSgts Pete Pollock** and **Brian Nesbitt-Clarke**.

At this camp for the first time MT Tp, QM Dept, Pay Office, Orderly Room and Echelon CP worked together under one roof in the gymnasium at Emblem.

The various departments of HQ Sqn under the command of the phantom major **(Maj Jenny Wilson)** provided round the clock services to the various detachments of the Regiment spread around Belgium and Holland.

'Do they get paid as well?' The pay team at Emblem

'Work at last'. Cfn Pete Newell recovers a Triffid at Burtonwood

VISIT BY GOC N IRELAND

The GOC, **Lt Gen Sir Robert Pascoe KCB MBE** paid his second visit to the Regiment on Sunday 23 August. A Regimental exercise was taking place during his visit which gave him a chance to see the new communication equipment recently received by the Regiment.

His visit started in the RCP where he was briefed by the Training Major, **Maj Ian Grant** and the ops officer, **Maj Harry Squance**.

He then visited Commcen Echo and was met by **Maj David Baxter** who showed off the new 'Tape Relay Vehicle', and then on to meet **Maj Gerry Fleming** at one of 85 Sqn's AMCs.

After visiting HQ Sqn and the LAD he was entertained to lunch in the Officers' Mess where he had a chance to chat to all the Regimental officers.

Maj Gerry Fleming does a 'Larry Grayson' act for the GOC whilst the CO gasps in horror

'Walk this way'. Maj Gerry Fleming guides the GOC into his AMC

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Maj David Baxter** and his wife **Alice** on the arrival of their baby daughter **Marion Louise** in September.

On 21st birthdays to **Pte Pamela Matthews** and **LCpl Karen Wilson**.

To **Sig O'Neill**, MT Tp, who on the last day of camp, volunteered to take part in a four nation sports day, he finished 15th out of a field of over 40 in the cross country event. Other sports included water basketball, Tug-of-War and Football.

News from Squadrons

1 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (215 Sig Sqn) Tidworth

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj J. K. Ewbank**
2IC	**Capt A. J. Madsen**
Adjt	**Maj S. C. Firbank LI**
QM	**Capt S. Hargreaves**
Tfc Offr	**Capt R. C. Papworth**
Trg Offr	**Capt N. R. Davies**
OC A Tp	**Capt R. F. M. Cousins**
2IC A Tp	**2Lt N. D. Fraser**
OC B Tp	**Lt I Hooper**
OC C Tp	**Capt B. F. Avison**
TCO	**Capt G. A. Morgan RCT**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) G. C. Air**
FofS	**WO1 (FofS) S. J. Phillips**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) C. Newby**

For all those who thought that the busy (silly!) season was about to start—wrong—it's here already.

EXERCISE YORKSHIRE ROSE
by Capt Bruce Avison

Battle Camp notes? By the time we docked, aboard RFA *Sir Geraint*, in the middle of the North Sea and returning from Ex *Broad Band* there was little to remind me of Catterick Training Area except the weather . . . and the hills . . . and the lack of talent . . . and . . .

The two weeks were to be divided into a range period, a FIBUA exercise and the Turner Trophy competition. Nine sections took part in the first and last periods and the troop commanders became platoon commanders for the FIBUA exercise, a Company grouping in the Whinny Hill FIBUA complex.

The exercise was intended to be naturally competitive, prizes awarded included 'Best Section', Assault Course, March and Shoot and of course the Turner Trophy. As **LCpl 'Scouse' Harper** was overheard to say 'Naturally Competitive? More like "Naturally killing".'

Comd 2 Sig Bde **Brig Russell** joined the Squadron for the first day of the range work and toured stands including sniper drills, an NBC shoot IBSR (very well done to all range staff—45 times up and down the range!) and fieldcraft. The next two days were slightly less hectic, except for the section attack live firing which caused OC Charlie Tp more than a few headaches. Particular mention must be made of **Sig Ghadaffi Rowan** for his notable performance as a live target. **Sig Gunner Barnes** also deserves praise for an excellent LMG shoot during the tracer demonstration.

The Squadron was visited during this phase by **Brig Thomson**, Comd 1 Inf Bde who was the guest of honour at a dinner night in the Officers and SNCOs mess.

At the end of the range work phase the prize for the best section went to C Tp 1 led by **Cpl Al Edminson**. After a hard fought competition the Assault Course and March and Shoot competitions were won by Charlie Tp, teams 3 and 1 respectively.

After a little R & R, we deployed into the FIBUA complex for Ex *Catterick Cobb*. Urban Ops produced some notable performances. **Sig 'Budgie' Falconer** threw himself into the fray well (but someone dropped a brick). **LCpl Gillfillan** alias 'the schermuley kid' gallantly defended his bedspace while **Cpl Tam Bennie** again took away the Sandbagger of the Year award. Bravo Tp's 'dirty tricks' department included some surprising initiatives from **Sig Keith Parsons** and **Cpl 'Paddy' Ireland**.

The fortnight culminated in the Turner Trophy, an arduous 8 mile (15 if your section commander wished it!) tab with stands including river crossing, AFV recognition, 'foreign' weapons, radio cache and section attack. The winning section was Charlie 1 (yawn!). Would the TCO care to drop off the 'medicine' with OC Charlie Tp as discussed.

Battle Camp having been hard fought and of great value concluded with a few well deserved beers. All worked extremely well and deserve credit for their professionalism.

EXERCISE *WILTSHIRE SWAN*

Ex *Wiltshire Swan* was a Squadron signal exercise held on Salisbury Plain from 21-25 September. The aim was to practise comms and admin in the field and in particular to introduce new members of the Squadron to the set up. Despite an impromptu ambush of Alpha Tp by elements of the Parachute Regiment and slight 'chronological embarrassment' in Bravo Tp 'exactly which Z time are we working to sir?' initial deployment went well. After a 36 hour Troop phase the Squadron exercise began. As Main, Step Up and FMA were put through changes of command and night and day moves, lessons were learnt and faults rectified—a useful warm up for the exercise season.

COMMANDERS CUP

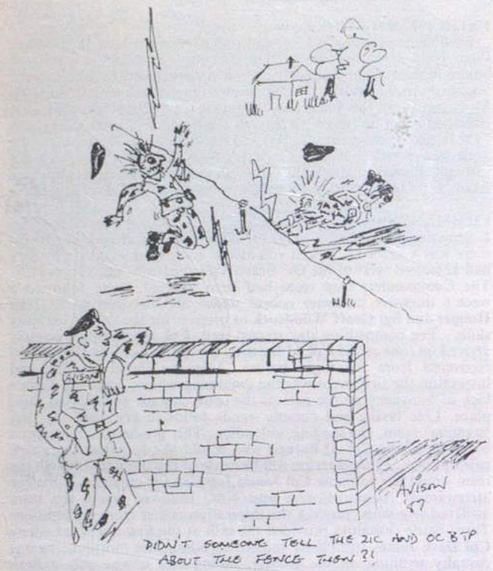
Sometime between Ex *Wiltshire Swan* and Ex *Broad Band*—yes there was a gap—15 'picked volunteers' paused to wonder why they had answered 'yes' to the OC Bravo Tp's question 'can you swim?'. The Commanders Cup team had been selected, there followed a week's intensive crammer course under the direction of **Lt Ivan Hooper** and **Sgt Geoff Woodcock** to prepare for the day of 'military skills'. The competition day started well, **Cpl John Forbes** actually arrived on time as did **Cpl Al Barnett**, though as usual he had not yet recovered from the night before. After an initial briefing and inspection the first event was the swimming where, despite a distinct lack of buoyancy on the part of the team captain we achieved third place. Line laying and comms stands followed and then the first 'stamina' event, the loading/unloading. This produced good efforts by all especially **Cpl Al Barnett** who would like to indent for a new pair of knees! Little mention will be made of the shooting (though the team would like to thank **Cpl Jonno Johnson** for the beers in the bar afterwards!) Assault Course and NBC followed where the team achieved two wins, proving the inspiration comes from desperation. Three battle casualties provided the task at the first aid stand where **Cpl Dave James** steadfastly refused to administer morphine to one casualty writhing on the ground, noting that it was only a flesh wound! The day ended with the speed march and prizegiving and a creditable fourth place for the team. The other more competent team members not mentioned above were **Cpl Steve Casson, LCpls Al Rowe, Mark Senior** and **Tony Taylor**. Thanks also to the reserves and initial sqad who trained for the event, plus all those in the Squadron who helped in the previous week. Special thanks go to **WO2 (QMSI) George Bryson** for destroying what was left of the team in the Bradley Club after the competition.

A clear round for Cpl Sincock of A Tp

EXERCISE *BROAD BAND*

In October the Squadron deployed to the Schleswig-Holstein area of West Germany for Ex *Broad Band*, another exercise designed to test comms at formation level and practice co-operation with Danish and German forces.

After a luxurious and lively deployment, courtesy of DFDS and a warm welcome from the locals of Hamburg, 60 members of the Squadron deployed to the initial location at Boostedt. Despite any reservatioins we may have had about the location it proved popular with RAF and Bundeswehr alike, who arrived in droves. As the 2IC **Capt Alan Madsen** and **WO1 (RSM) Gordon Air** watched the Bde HQ



swell to Div proportions, others dealt with cam, comms and comforts in true Corps tradition. However, by the time **Sgt Geoff 'the pay' Prewitt** had worked out the complexities of a cam net; **WO2 (YofS) Chris 'carrier only' Newby** had demonstrated the singing loop, and **Capt Bruce Avison** had gone off stag in the Line Suit, it was time to move.

The next location proved hazardous. **Capt Alan Madsen** (OC heads), **Lt Ivan Hooper** and one unknown but loud German quickly discovered the electric fence, while **Sgt Mick Watson, Cpls Mac Mackenzie** and **Dave James** fell prey to the concrete mantrap. Endex finally arrived—'at last, only five days to push', and the LSL *Sir Geraint* provided a fitting climax to the exercise.

Aboard LSL Sir Geraint
RQMS 'Pugwash' Clark finds out that there is nothing that is half so much fun as messing about in boats

5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (205) Aldershot

ALPHA TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Capt Colin McGrory**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt John Cakebread**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Nidge Barnett**
	Sgt Dave Catchpole

After a well-earned summer break the new look Alpha Tp crashed straight into a hectic round of activities planned by the ever helpful Training Wing. NBC, First Aid, TOETs, finishing off with a 10 mile tab in full SOP kit over the South Downs. All this, of course, on day 1 of our return from leave! Needless to say the cobwebs were well and truly shaken out. The weekend 5/6 September saw many of the para-trained lads joining the annual reunion of the 1 AB Div Sig at Caythorpe in Lincolnshire. (See separate note).

Next activity was a Squadron tab on the Brecon Beacons, over a mere 50km route! Sections moved out at 0430 hrs and the last section was in at 2000hrs, on the same day. The weather could not have been better, but nevertheless it was a good hard slog. Ex *Fast Buzzard*, a 5 AB Bde Logistic exercise, saw the Troop spend a week on New Zealand Farm, Salisbury Plain. Not a memorable experience. Next on the agenda is Ex *Purple Warrior*, a three week FTX in Scotland in November, where we will certainly not require suncream or paludrine.

NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome our new OC **Capt Colin McGrory** from Blandford, our new Troop Staff Sergeant, **John Cakebread** from the RLD with 7 RHA, and **Sgt Dave Catchpole** from Bravo Tp.

COURSES

LCpl Chris Brown completed his military free fall course at RAF Brize Norton, **LCpls 'Buck' Rogers** and **Bob Labrum** are enjoying (?) their respective upgrading courses at Catterick and finally congratulations to **LCpl J. D. Hogg** on passing P Coy, welcome to the brotherhood.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **LCpl Tom Keville** and **LCpl Bob Labrum** on their first rung of the ladder.

Last but not least, a word of thanks to **Sgt Nidge Barnett**, who, over the last 18 months or so, has been acting Troop OC, Staff Sergeant and Sergeant, all-in-one. The Troop has been extremely busy throughout this period and with the assistance of the odd blunt instrument now and then, he has led them, fed them, and kept them very well. With his groundwork, and fresh leadership, the Troop feels it can only go from strength to strength until the ultimate goal is achieved . . . all para trained. Volunteers should apply through their Orderly Rooms (AGAI Vol 2 Chap 43 Annex M) or contact our Press Gang direct, c/o The Pegasus, Aldershot.

BRAVO TROOP

Tp OC	**Lt Andrew Smith**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Grant Humble**
Tp Sgts	**Sgt Bob Nixon**
	Sgt Geordie Harvey
	Sgt Gaz Cripps

After block leave the troop returned, with the rest of the Squadron, to refresher military training and a tab on the sunny reaches of the South Downs. A few days later, bored with the scenery, it was off to Brecon for another longer tab. Welcome back to work, lads. The autumn has seen quite a lot of juggling of Troop characters and personalities. We welcome **Cpl Owen** (yet another recruit from 7 Sig Regt) and **LCpl 'Q' Rose**, as well as the members of the Para Bn RLDs. **Lt Julian Brammer** has gone 'back to school' to RMCS (to play rugby he thinks!), and has been replaced by **Lt Andrew Smith**. We bid farewell to **LCpl Ginge Morgan** (28 Sig Regt), **LCpl Steve Hinton** (7 Sig Regt) and **Sig Sean Miel** (Int & Sy).

Having survived Ex *Fast Buzzard* the Troop is preparing for the forthcoming Ex *Purple Warrior*, when our 'wings' are to be temporarily replaced with paddles.

COMMANDERS CUP 1987

This competition, open to teams from all units within 2 Sig Bde area, is the annual attempt by the rest of that Brigade to 'beat the Paras' at their own game. However, this year was no exception and the team from Airborne Signals was victorious, again. The Team: **2Lt Steve Wheatley, Sgt John Cakebread, Cpls Alan, Banner, Chilcott, Archer, Smith, Kurthausen, Bernstein, O'Driscoll, LCpl Weaver** and **Sig Baker**.

Unfortunately, due to Ex *Fast Buzzard*, the team had little time for training and preparation and for various reasons they were a wee bit longer in the tooth than in previous years. It was felt that our experience could possibly overcome the lack of preparation, which it was believed the other units had enjoyed. So, on the 30 September, with some of the ageing lions wondering just how much longer they would be participating in events like this, the team travelled to Tidworth to do battle with the 'conventional ground Troops'.

The opposition numbered teams from 30 Regt, 244 Sqn, 249 Sqn, 1 Inf Bde Sqn, 19 Inf Bde Sqn and 640 (EW) Tp, with a couple of green berets lurking in the background. The immediate effort on the team was to staighten the backs and ease the bones, and the poor marines were fixed with 'death from the skies' stares. The competition involved swimming, water jerrycan loading (?), shooting, NBC, assault course, first aid, line laying, comms and a six mile march. For the record the team finished with four firsts, three seconds and two thirds. The comms stand included BATCO, where they were surprised to be informed by the officiating YofS that they alone had managed to send the message correctly. One up to **SSgt (YofS) Steve Roden**.

The Assault Course Obstacles

Assault Course Finish

The Winning Team

However, at the six miler, the team realised that maybe they had gone too much for the old 'n bold when they finished a disappointing third, to the racing whippets of 244 Sqn. Nonetheless, the team won the overall competition comfortably by 10 points and retained the cup for another year. 1988 should see our attempt to win all the competition events, when our racing snakes hope to train for slightly longer beforehand, and perhaps include some of the younger Squadron members. It might also allow the other units to practise their BATCO!

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN REVISITED
by Cpl 'Ginge' Hurford

On the evening of Friday 18 September whilst the majority of the Squadron deployed on Ex *Fast Buzzard*, and the rear party settled down to watch 'A Bridge Too Far' on TV, **Cpl 'Ginge' Hurford** and **LCpl 'Taff' Rowlands** went one better and set off for Finchley Drill Hall to RV with 10 Para (V) for the annual pilgrimage to Arnhem. In the early hours of Saturday morning aircraft chalk numbers were allocated and NOK details recorded. By zero dark thirty the chalks were heading out for USAF Base Mildenhall where they loaded three American C130 aircraft for the flight to RNAF Base Deelen in Holland. At Deelen parachutes were drawn and fitted and the chalks boarded for a short flight and a 1200 hrs P hr. After an American style 'Red On' of 10 minutes, the green light glowed and the aircraft loads of Troops were despatched onto Ginkelsheide DZ, west of Arnhem. They were received by crowds equal in size to any Madonna concert, and rapturous applause to boot. The Troops then marched off the DZ to the memorial where a short service of remembrance was held. The remainder of Saturday was spent in various local places of refreshment meeting the local populace. Reveille on Sunday was somewhat early at 0530, in order that all concerned were ready for the memorial service at Oosterbeek cemetery. This years pilgrimage was led by **Gen R. E. Urquhart CB DSO**, who commanded 1 AB Div in Arnhem in 1944. Now in his 85th year, the General read the lesson at the Anglo-Dutch Service, before flowers were laid on all the graves by the hundreds of Dutch school children, in the presence of many British and Polish Arnhem Veterans gathered there. There were more than a few 'Jimmys' on parade worn proudly by the veterans of 1 AB Div Sigs Old Comrades Association. After the service the Troops visited the Airborne Museum at the Hartenstein Hotel in Oosterbeck and then went onto 'The Bridge' itself in Arnhem town. Thus ended a memorable weekend, with new friendships made, and history brought to life. Leave passes have been filled in for the next pilgrimage in September 1988.

1st AB Div Sigs Reunion Party from 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn

On left—Cpl Ginge Hurford with Frank Young, Arnhem veteran (1 AB Div Sigs), and on right LCpl Taff Rowlands

CAYTHORPE 1987

The annual reunion of the 1 AB Div Sigs OCA is held in Caythorpe Lincolnshire, where the veterans were billeted before they flew to Arnhem on Op Market Garden, 1944. For some years now, with interruptions here and there, the current AB Sig Sqn has attempted to maintain a presence at these reunions, to keep the links with its predecessors and to celebrate its heritage in the Airborne style. This year a small party from the Squadron led by **Capt Peter Gillespie**, our dashing 2IC, was scheduled to 'jump' onto Spittalgate DZ near Grantham, to be watched by the Arnhem veterans. Meanwhile a solitary Pathfinder in the guise of the AO, **Capt Dick Hamilton** had already recc'd the DZ and checked out the local hostelries. Unfortunately, at the appointed hour, the wind across the DZ was gusting a severe 50 knots with driving rain, when the Squadron party, minus 'chutes' clambered onto the coach for Caythorpe. The Troops ancient and modern, met-up in the village refreshment points and competed throughout the afternoon to see who could continue to imbibe and still tell the tallest tale of derring do. It must be reported that when it comes to a serious competition there is no equal to the Arnhem veteran, on either count. More so because his tales are always long and incredibly, true, and, of course, they've had a lot more practice at imbibing than most of the Squadron (not counting the AO!) Anyway, while the lads repaired to a farmers field for the evening Chimpanzees tea-party (steak, chips, nettles and cowpats), the OCA sat down in Caythorpe Court, the Agricultural College, for their annual dinner. **Capt Hamilton**, an honorary veteran, and **Capt Colin McGrory** joined the Old 'n Bold and their wives and were the recipients of many kind words said about the young lads; what a shame they couldn't jump today, how they were reminded of themselves and their chums of so many years ago by the style and patter of the modern 'Tom', and how pleased they were that the Corps had given us time off to join the reunion weekend. After the dinner everyone returned to the village where once again Airborne warriors old and young gathered and united in peaceful revelry. It was a long night.

Carefully, in the morning, the young ones donned their best parade dress for the church service, and marched, almost on tip toe, to the village church, where they lined the path to the door, together with the Standard Bearers of the local branch of the Royal British Legion, Royal Signals and Parachute Regiment Branches. The large gathering of veterans and their wives sounded as if they had all had an early night without a drop of the amber nectar; not a hangover in sight! The church was full. **Mr Frank Young**, who was a Signalman at Arnhem read the names of the Fallen. Last Post and Reveille was sounded by **Cpl Mick Fleming**, from 3 Cdo Bde, and the sermon was preached by the **Rev Hugh Middleton**. After lunch the Squadron bade farewell to the veterans at the end of another reunion.

As long as 1 AB Div Sigs OCA meet in Caythorpe, serving members of AB Sigs will be honoured to attend. Already preparations for 1988 are well advanced.

AIRBORNE SIGNALS OFFICERS PAST AND PRESENT DINNER 1987

The mailing list, held by the AO, of past and present officers of AB Sig, runs to about 104 names. It comprises retired Masters of Signals, (with wartime experience) and newly commissioned 2Lts, who first felt slipstream this year. From this elite some 37 gathered for dinner on 18 September in the Officers' Mess HQ 5 AB Bde to enjoy a good meal, fine wine, music from the Pegasus Band of the Parachute Regiment, and, of course, the company of their brother officers, old and young, from near and far. The senior, serving officer was **Maj Gen C. M. Last OBE**, presently Vice-Master General of the Ordnance, while the senior, retired officer was **Maj Gen W. T. Macfarlane CB** a former Colonel Commandant. Other guests travelled from as far afield as Catterick and BAOR and all agreed that it was a grand evening and another successful reunion.

19 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn (209 Sig Sqn) Colchester

PERSONALITIES	
OC	**Maj John Davies**
2IC	**Capt Fraser Grant**
QM	**Capt (QM) Charles Homewood**
AO	**Capt Pauline Lucas WRAC**
OC O Tp	**Capt Fred Connor**
OC N Tp	**Lt Julian Bunce**
OC P Tp	**Sgt Steve Rook**
RSM	**WO1 (RSM) Dave Simpson**
MTWO	**WO1 Graham Jesty RCT**
FofS	**WO2 (FofS) Dougie Brisco**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Dennis Prince**
RQMS	**WO2 (RQMS) Tom Ferry**
AQMS	**WO2 (AQMS) Paul Windsor REME**
CC	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Sandy Campbell**

INTRODUCTION

Undoubtedly the highlight of the period was three weeks block leave in July/August. Unfortunately either side of this break was the normal rush of exercise followed by exercise followed by inspections etc.

Just prior to block leave we had a week of Brigade sponsored events. A sports festival showed that the Squadron could do well (sixth out of 19) even though only competing with a half strength team. **LCpl Andy Stanway** was the star of the team.

Also during the week the White Helmets performed for the Squadron and the local population, a family barbecue was held, there was a Garrison Open Day and so on. All in all a major PR week leading up to three week's well deserved rest. Some members ended up instructing or helping out on various cadet camps during the break. **LCpl Dave Cooper** enjoyed working with them so much he is now pressing for a posting to a Cadet Trg Team.

EXERCISE *PANTHERS CHARGE*

The fateful day came at last when three weeks of uninterrupted bliss ended and we all had to go back to earning our pennies. Within 36 hrs of returning to work the Squadron was on its way to Standford PTA for the second Squadron comms exercise of the year. This one was slightly different however, as the training area was so crowded we had to make special arrangements to share locations with infantry units. In a piece of masterful co-ordination the OC, **Maj John Davies** managed to tie us into an exercise between his old Regiment—1 PWO—and the Mercians whose war role is defending comms sites. This led to many interesting incidents, including the ambushing of the Squadron as it was crossing a reserve bridge demolition. It certainly made a change having convoy escorts and guards provided by an infantry unit. No exercise can now take place without an NBC phase. This one was slightly different as the two Troops raced in NBC 'high' to tear down their separate Bde HQ's and line up in a holding area. November Tp were looking odds on for a win until it was noticed that **Cpl Russell Parker** and **Cpl Tim Hayter** were missing from the line up. Oscar Tp eventually turned up and were declared winners, a good 15 minutes before the sheepish pair reappeared having gone astray on the way to the holding area.

Having shaken out the block leave blues and cobwebs the Squadron returned to barracks; five days to go before the start of Ex *Panthers Cub*.

EXERCISE *PANTHERS CUB*

Ex *Panthers Cub* was a 19 Bde concentration on Sailisbury Plain lasting three and a half weeks. The national radio warned the public to keep away from our overnight route as 700 vehicles made their way from Colchester to 'The Plain'. By 28 September the entire Brigade had taken over the whole plain and started on a series of Bde HQ directed exercises. The Bde HQ and all of the comms support was naturally provided by the Squadron.

We settled into a daily routine of PT followed by training or shift work. Early morning PT was taken by **LCpl Tony Bennett**, after a couple of sessions he joined the Squadron's most wanted man list. Towards the end of the exercise, **SSgt Bob Berry** took over, much to everyone's relief, but unfortunately this was short lived as the PT became even more strenuous under him!

Once settled into life at Westdown Camp the OC took a motley crew of 16 makeshift operators to Sennybridge to provide comms support for Ex *Welsh Wizard*. This crew consisted of pioneers, powermen, techs and the odd RTg or R Op who could be spared from the main commitment. Between them they manned a total of four makeshift RRB's and an Ops Room. The Ops Room was manned by 'real' operators and after hearing a series of blow tests, on the net by less experienced operators came up with: 'Hello unknown station this is Zero. My radio is fully inflated, thank you. Out!'.

Meanwhile back at Salisbury Plain the training was varied and unusual, including sessions on Sawes, CQBR, BHE, and lessons on tactics. This was interspersed by the highlight of hearing about **LCpl Dave 'Days to do' Cunliffe** repairing a telephone line to the ammo compound on a daily basis because Chieftains kept using the cable to fill in the gaps in their tracks.

A Squadron RRB spent the entire period camped just above the Kiwi at Bulford making our NZ Officer **2Lt Dave Smylie** feel at home. This was ably manned by **LCpl 'Recce Droid' Morgan** and **Sig Phil Carrington-Moule**.

As the days progressed the exercise became old hat to the Squadron Ops Staff as each was repeated three times, once for each Battalion. To keep the mind active and to save on writing paper, **Sig Jonathan Lloyd** commenced an epic letter of 56 sheets of shiny army toilet roll. Towards the end of the exercise a team of gladiators was picked from the Squadron and dispatched to Sennybridge to commence a weeks training. A series of Signals and Brigade competitions in the coming months required a fit team and where better to beast your body than in Wales?

The selected few took a few days well earned hard labour under **SSgt Dave Parry** ably assisted by the Squadron 'fitties' **LCpls Ian Ormerod** and **Mark Rouse**. Orienteering rambles of 12 miles followed by eight mile tabs soon took their toll on old war wounds, so a day off was announced—just a run today, no logs!

As the week wore on the highlight of a race up 'Pen Y Fan', a mere 886m was announced, to groans from the team. To increase morale after such a race all were rewarded with a beer or two in the local pub at the end of the day. So as not to miss the chaos of endex the team returned to Salisbury Plain in time to help packing up. More training in Colchester should lead to a good result in the Bde Inf Section Cup in November.

AFTER *PANTHERS CUB*

We returned to Colchester hoping for a bit of a rest—no chance. Within five working days PRE, RSIT and the Commanders Cup Competition were to be upon us. shortly followed by Ex *Keystone* and *Purple Warrior*. No rest for the wicked. Just to fill in a weekend four members of the Squadron led by **Cpl 'Hoppy' Hopkins** embarked upon a hastily organised Ex *Panthers Climb*. **LCpls Mark Rouse, Oggie Ogden** and **Cpl Ian Noble** all had a fine time pot-holing and climbing in North Yorkshire. It was an undoubted success and will be repeated as often as possible.

GOODBYES AND WELCOMES

Something definitely seems to have gone wrong at Manning and Records, have you forgotten that we exist! Approximately 50% of the Squadron has been posted out since July, with only two replacements so far.

Farewells can't be said to everyone, but just to save my hide I'd better mention the departure of **WO1 (RSM) Alex Gavillet** now on his way to 1 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt on commissioning—congratulations, and to **WO2 (YofS) Mick Hawley** who leaves to go to Oman on loan service. They have how been replaced by **WO1 (RSM) Dave Simpson** from 10 Sig Regt and **WO2 (YofS) Dennis Prince** from 36 Sig Regt (V); welcome to you both. Hopefully, by now, the new boys have been in their offices long enough to recognise their desks; don't get too comfortable though, there's another exercise coming up soon!

81 Sig Sqn (V) Middlesbrough

PERSONALITIES	
OC	**Maj John Watson TD**
2IC	**Capt Bernard Harrison TD**
PSAO	**Lt Col (Retd) John Elliott MBE**
TOT	**Capt Norman Burton**
OC 786 Tp	**Capt Rod McConnell TD**
OC 854 Tp	**Capt Bill Lane**
OC 855 Tp	**Capt John Mainwaring-Taylor TD**
OC 856 Tp	**Capt Neil Parkes**
OC 857 Tp	**Capt Paul Hinson**
SSM	**WO2 Jim Rodger**

OUT OF CAMP TRAINING 1987

The 1987 training year opened in April in customary fashion with the volunteers of this 'Specialist Unit' of the TA coming together from all corners of the UK at Bulniston Barracks, Scarborough for their annual four-day out of camp training session. This is a particularly important occasion for the SHQ element as it provides the only occasion during the year for the exercise of the management and control of the Squadron as a body. The Troops usually carrying out their 15-day training periods independently in BAOR. Accordingly a lot has to be packed into the Scarborough session.

Forward planning and organisation paid handsome dividends and we are particularly indebted to our Admin Officer, **John Elliott**, and TOT, **Norman Burton** (congratulations on his promotion from WO2) for the advance preparations which made the training go so successfully.

Training for all ranks concentrated on Weapon Handling, NBC, First Aid, Drill and Fitness with upgrading and Basic Signalling Skills as required. The climax of the period was a day on the Strensall Training Area and ranges, when all the dry training was put into practice with all ranks firing the SLR, SMG and Pistol; NBC training using CS gas and a very realistic first aid exercise completed a busy but stimulating day's training, which was visited by the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen J. M. W. Badcock CB, MBE, DL**.

The Master of Signals with the OC at Strensall Ranges

The officers were particularly pleased to entertain the Master of Signals as guest of honour when they dined out with retiring Honorary Colonel, **Col Peter Dixon ERD** and the retiring TOT, **Maj John Roberts TD**. The occasion was all the more memorable thanks to the presence of the 34 Sig Regt (V) band.

Our sincere thanks go to both **Col Peter** and 'JR' for their invaluable contribution to the well being of the Squadron. At the same time we welcome **Lt Col Malcolm Sanderson TD** as the new Honorary Colonel. **Col Malcolm** is no stranger to the unit, having commanded it during the period 1975-79.

On the social side, the Squadron was very pleased to see ex **SSM Jeff Humble**, who was being dined out by the SNCOs and WOs; and the officers were splendidly entertained by the SNCOs and WOs at a 'back to front party'.

An important feature of the training period was the 'admin'—Pulheems; interviews; promotions; briefings for small parties selected to carry out additional training in the form of project work in BAOR and Cyprus; inter-troop postings; audits; document checks and updates; kit exchanges; etc. Additionally the OC was able to visit a number of JNCOs who were undertaking a Detachment Commanders course at Catterick.

Finally, to complete the picture of the Out of Camp Training session, mention must be made of the Recruit Selection Weekend run by **Capt John Mainwaring-Taylor**—an invaluable opportunity to put potential recruits through their paces and assess them for suitability. As a result 12 new recruits have been taken on strength or will be when suitable vacancies occur.

It's amazing what you can squeeze into a 'four-day weekend' if you really try!

CYPRUS VISITS

The Squadron is fortunate in that visits to Cyprus occur every few years and 1987 is one of these years. Seven groups each of about seven members of the Squadron visited the island for two weeks during the summer to assist in maintenance and project work at various places.

The first group with the SSM, **WO2 Jim Rodger** in charge visited 259 Sqn's Airfield Tp at RAF Akrotiri during early May and spent most of the time in the Medical Centre, not as patients, but re-wiring the place.

The next three groups with **SSgt Sam Chiffey** in charge of Party two, **Sgt Brian Sharp** in charge of Party three and **Cpl Penn**, Party four visited 262 Sqn at Dhekelia. P's dominate their visit, Pergammos, Pony Club and Poles, but Nissi beach also figures in their unofficial PXR!

The next two groups with **Sgt Derek Langley** in charge of Party five and **Sgt Brian Adcock** in charge of Party six visited the UNFICYP 254 Sig Sqn at Nicosia, again spending much of their time working on overhead cabling projects at Jubilee Camp.

The final group visited RAF Akrotiri in July and with the sun climbing high in the sky, the air conditioned telephone exchange was a cool spot for much of the work done by this final group.

Everyone who visited the island had a marvellous stay and particular thanks are due to HQ Comms Cyprus, 254, 259 and 262 Sqn's for making it all possible.

Present Arms! The final Group in Cyprus. SSgts George Johnson, Steve Russell, Sig Chris Wright, Capt Rod McConnell, Sig George Livesey, LCpl 'Lol' Farrell, Sig Mike Barker and Sgt Alan Lockey

SPORT

After an absence of 10 years the Squadron ventured into the realms of Corps Sport by entering a team in the Royal Signals Autumn Golf meeting held at Catterick on 2 and 3 September 1987. The team comprised **Lt Col (Retd) John Elliott, SSgt Stew Beveridge, Sgts Alan Lockey** and **Norry Carse** aided and abetted by **Maj 'now fully retired' Ivor Smith**.

The rigours and subtleties of Catterick Garrison Course coupled with the might of 8 and 11 Sig Regt was a little too much to contend with; however, we gave a good account of ourselves and came a creditable third out of 12 teams competing. **Alan Lockey** played particularly well to collect third prize in the 36 hole scratch competition and first prize in Division one—18 hole handicap. **Norry Carse** was slightly intimidated by the occasion and particularly the Golf Course which he likened to the Cairn Gorm Mountains.

All the members agreed that a return to this event next year is on the cards, hopefully with more than one team.

243 Sig Sqn
Wilton

Reorganisation of the Squadron continues with the successful move of SHQ and all single members of the Squadron to Bulford where we have also established an Ops Room. U Tp quickly reclaimed the accommodation SHQ had forced them out of during transition and the speed with which they moved in it was lucky none of their stores ended up on the transport moving SHQ.

Apart from the move, the Squadron has had a very busy period.

NOTES FROM U TROOP

The Troop continues its high turnover of personnel. The following left us over the last few months and we wish them well in their next tour, courses or civilian employment: **SSgt 'Millie' Jeffries, Sgt Paul Anderson, Cpl Jane Harris, LCpl Scouse Arnold, Ptes Louise Hodge, Angela Curran, Angie Tilley, Taf Lewis, Ellis Stokoe, Cpl Gail Russell, LCpls Clare Burns, Sharon Millward** and **Pte Nicky Rennie**.

In their places we welcome **Cpls Ruth Jarvis, Andy Parker, LCpl Simon Richardson, Ptes Cheryl Smith, Carron Spike, Renet Siddall, Tracy Kerry** and **Mandy Hamilton-Starr**. We hope you all enjoy your tour.

GETTING BOUNCED FOR GOOD CAUSE

In an effort to raise money for **Sig Green** (30 Sig Regt), seriously injured playing rugby, members of the Squadron were asked to provide ideas for a sponsored event. After discarding the impossible, and the near impossible we came up with a winner—a 12 hour continuous sponsored bounce. the OC and SSM rushed to indent for straight jackets but they were not required as the bouncing, in this case, took place on a trampoline.

There was now one of those rare opportunities to see the chain of command go into action. The OC tasked OC U Tp, **2Lt McLean**—and why not?—a perfect choice. With her ability to spot three tapes across a 2ft table the task winged its way to the ever capable **Sgt Lester Piggott**. Realizing the chain must stop somewhere he immediately tasked **WCpl 'Windy' Russell** and a group of able bodies to get on with it, whilst OC U Tp signed his leave pass.

A perfect blue sky enabled us to have the Trampoline outside and by 0730 hrs bouncing had begun, **Pte Lorna Nicholls** leading the way. Over the next 12 hours the bouncing continued with numerous members of the Squadron taking part. Thanks to you all. Those worthy of a mention are: **Ptes Kate Gifford** and **Kath Rodgers**, who impressed us all with their somersaults and back flips, the disappointed look on **Cpl Pete Allen**'s face (please let me go on) when told to changeover. **Cpl Wayne Ratcliffe**, determined to keep his personal stereo on so as not to miss the football results. **Cpl 'Skippy' Hammond** for ensuring the safety of all the bouncers and controlling the changeovers through the day. **Cpl Dick Rutherford** for providing first aid cover and **WSSgt Milly Jefferies** for collecting the most in sponsoring.

The night was rounded off with a disco and barbecue, enjoyed by all. With some sponsor money still to be collected a sum of nearing £200 will have been raised. The event certainly changed the fate of some participants:

2Lt McLean was promoted, **WCpl 'Windy' Russell** was posted to Cyprus (nice to see someone rewarded for effort), and **Sgt Lester Piggott** produced *The Wire* notes (well you can't side step everything).

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to the following on their promotions: **Sgt Kim Neilson, Cpls Gail Russell, Glynis Rogers** and **LCpl Angela Murphy**.

We also congratulate the following: **Cpls Dick** and **Diane Rutherford, Cpl 'Titch' Nicholls** and **Pte Lorna Nicholls (Nee Key), CSgt Paul Rogers** and **Cpl Glynis Rogers (Nee Every)** and **Sgt Colin Swann** and **Carol** on their recent weddings.

NOTES FROM THE OPS ROOM

The establishment of a Squadron Ops Room certainly made a lot of sense. Two of its staff, **Sgts Kim Neilson** and **Jan Garnett** even thought it would make a nice change but then the move drew closer. Before moving in it had to be prepared, floors swept, walls washed and furniture arranged. Who was it who said that, a womans work is never done? Having completed their task it was time for Pickfords to move in (**Cpl Rick Merry** and **LCpl Malcolm Yates** ably watched by **Sig 'Thomo' Thomas**). These were soon followed by Mr Fix-It, **Capt (Tfc) John Nichols** who proceeded to turn the place upside down. It didn't take long to train him, however he has now been seen washing coffee cups before re-using them. The fourth member of the Ops Staff has also undergone vigorous training. **Mr Alistair Steel**, our Fastnet

controller, previously employed in the Navy can now fill, plug in, switch on and satisfactorily employ an electric kettle. Next step is to show him a tonto.

We all now look forward to the completion of the Ops Room and the arrival of our fifth member **SSgt Dennis Usher**, the SWDIST NRPS Mould controller.

DINING OUT OF MAJOR AND MRS BINGHAM

Like the move of the Squadron to Bulford the OCs departure details changed with the weather. Finally a posting order was confirmed and arrangements to say farewell were in hand. **WO2 (SSM) Mo Carmichael** took on the task and tactfully, after inviting the RSM, asked if it could be held in the WOs' and Sergeants' Mess. This was our first Squadron dinner night, some may hope its the last, but all will agree it was a success.

Initial photographs, reception and dinner over it was time for the speeches. The 2IC, **Capt Mike Gilyeat** started with references to the OC's eloquence, his out-standing physical fitness and his ability to argue his case. Just to prove the point the OC's return speech lasted 15 minutes. The evening also proved the ideal opportunity for one or two other presentations. Firstly the outgoing OC was able to present **SSgt (FofS) Gig Plumb** with his Corps rugby colours and the SSM on behalf of the Squadron SNCOs presented the Mess with a signed print of 'San Carlos Water'.

Our thanks go to all those who assisted the SSM in preparing for the function and to those who worked throughout. Particular thanks to **WO2 Terry Jinman** (Mess Manager) and **Cpl Rick Merry, LCpl Clare Burns, Sig 'Thomo' Thomas, LCpl 'Scouse' Lister, LCpl Malcolm Yates, Pts Kate Gifford, Taff Lewis, Gillian Wakerley, Bridget Hucker, Sheryl Bragg, Tracy O'Toole, Denise Ashby** and **Ina Anderson** who all volunteered (its true) to assist. Your efforts were appreciated.

DEPARTURE OF THE FOREMAN

Anyone who knows him will appreciate why we sighed with relief on **SSgt (FofS) Gig Plumb**'s last day in the Squadron. We thank him for all his efforts during the year and wish him and his family all the best for the future. Good luck 3 Division.

The OC presenting SSgt Gig Plumb with his Corps colours for rugby. The shorts were in keeping with the event, they were the fashion when he played rugby

'The Final Handover' The OC presenting the new Squadron Pennant to Capt Mike Gilyeat

244 Sig Sqn (AS)
RAF, Brize Norton

FOCUS ON DEPARTMENTS

SHQ TROOP PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj R. D. Symonds**
2IC	**Capt M. S. W. Olive**
SSM	**WO2 (SSM) Smiley**
YofS	**WO2 (YofS) Reynolds**
Chief Clerk	**SSgt (ORSQMS) Morrissey**
Pay Sgt	**Sgt Giles RAPC**

Since the last report from SHQ Tp, the clerical line-up has changed once again. **SSgt Terry Morrissey** is now firmly in the chair and we recently said 'goodbye' to **LCpl 'Frey' Romain**, who departs for 'sunny' Catterick on promotion to Corporal. SHQ Tp welcomes **LCpl Mick Preston** who joins us from 14 Sig Regt.

The clerical staff have had a hectic year with exercises in Norway, Schleswig-Holstein and Battle Camp in Weymouth. The installation of PAMPAS and more recently, a successful Documents Inspection were thrown in for good measure to keep the clerks on their toes. We are now looking forward to a month in Cyprus on 'Rest and Recuperation' named Ex *Lion Sun*, (although it is rumoured that the 2IC may have something to say on this!)

On the sporting front, SHQ won the Inter-Troop Hockey Competition, easily beating all the opposition from the other three Troops and are now looking to win the Cross Country event in December. (There is no truth in the rumour that the OC is cross-posting all the runners to SHQ!)

Finally, congratulations to **WO2 (SSM) Jim Smiley** and wife **Christine** on their latest addition to their family—a daughter named **Jennifer Anne.**

From the SSM's 'Too Difficult' tray, the next 'Red Hand Gang' Reunion will be held during 27-29 May next year.

RQMS DEPARTMENT

The department is back in full swing with everyone refreshed after the summer break. We wish **LCpl John Dunning**'s a speedy recovery from his knee injury (throw those crutches away); congratulations to **Sig Peter Barber** on his recent marriage to **Miss Jill Trickett** and all the best for the future.

Cpl Brian Gibbons is in Denmark on Ex *Accord Express*. Preparations for Ex *Lion Sun* are under way—sunshine, kebabs, Radio Sonde here we come! (Who has forgotten to pack the 2IC's Sleeping Bag?) Our RAF counterparts should read this copy of *The Wire* as the RQMS would like to move to his new stores accommodation before tourex (1989).

MIKE TP
HELLO'S AND GOODBYES

We would like to welcome **Sgt Molly Collins** to the Troop; he has recently joined us from Northern Ireland.

Good luck and best wishes go out to **Sgt Bill McConnell** and to **Sig Dean O'Kell**, who have left us for civilian life. Finally welcome back to **Sig Martin Warne** who has returned to us from a six month tour/holiday in Belize.

The Troop has had a hard time in the last few months trying to sort through stores. **LCpl Paul Irwin** has done his best to ensure that we will have sufficient for the next 100 years. **Sgt Martin Smyth** has discovered that there is a difference between the metre and the centimeter thanks to a few careful whispers in his ear from the Foreman.

Our congratulations go to **Sgt Martin Smyth** on his selection for FofS Training and also to **Cpls Andy Gilpin** and **P. J. Paterson** on passing their T1 Entrance Exam. **Cpl Gilpin** is now on holiday in Bicester supposedly doing his EPC, whilst **Cpl Paterson** is relaxing on his Commanders Cup Training. Good Luck to both of them.

Congratulations are also in order to **LCpl Paul Irwin** on his recent marriage to **Lyn**. Best of luck for the future.

The Troop is at the moment preparing to deploy to Cyprus for Military and Adventure training, which promises to be interesting, if not fun.

254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn
BFPO 567

VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL GCVO, TO ROYAL SIGNALS IN CYPRUS 17/18 SEPTEMBER 1987

On 16 September the majority of 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn deployed to Episkopi to prepare for the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Roal GCVO**.

The visit was spread over two days, with the first afternoon being dedicated to families and extra mural activities. At 1410 hrs **HRH** arrived by helicopter, and on landing on the lush green surroundings of Happy Valley received a posy perfectly presented by **Sutina Bright**, aged 3, daughter of **Sgt** and **Mrs Bright** of 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn.

With the Master of Signals, **Maj Gen Badcock**, and the SOinC **Maj Gen Alexander** in attendance, **HRH** began her tour of the many and various stands from three independent Signal Squadrons on Island. On arrival at the 254 (UNFICYP) Sig Sqn stand **HRH** was met by the OC **Maj Ruairidh Rutherford**, who after presenting his wife **Colette**, then escorted **HRH** throughout our 'patch'. **The Princess** was impressed with the colour and variety of the display, especially the flags, for which much credit must go to the Canadian Element of our Squadron, with **Sgt 'Scrounging' Serge Archambault** spearheading the procurement party.

HRH took time to shake hands and speak with each and every person on our stand which consisted of seven Canadian soldiers and eight wives, with displays of photographs and posters depicting extra mural and recreational facilities after which **HRH** left to perform other public duties for the evening.

Sutina Bright (aged three) Posy Presenter Extraordinaire

L to R: Lt Col Kimber, HRH, Maj Rutherford and Mrs Rutherford

Next day, was dedicated to military displays, which were held in the area of HQLFC in Episkopi Garrison giving Squadron members the opportunity of displaying their trade skills, equipment, and Military activities within UNFICYP. This time a further 22 soldiers had the honour of meeting **HRH** and explaining their own particular role within the Squadron. **The Princess** took a very keen interest in all she saw and was highly impressed with the professionalism of the displays and calibre of the soldiers manning them.

All too soon however the visit was over and Squadron members found themselves 'lining the route' to say a traditional farewell as **HRH** left for the rather coldier climes of UK. For most of our soldiers this was the first time that they had had the honour of meeting and speaking to **The Princess Royal** and it is a privilege which they will remember for years to come.

L to R: HRH, Sig Jones, and OC

L to R: Sig Mark Weatherby, Cpl Ray Fairweather, Sgt Serge Archambault, Lt Kev Ferguson, MCpl Claude Banville, Sig Randy Clark and Cpl Craig Winsor

L to R: Maj Rutherford, HRH, LCpl Thomas and Sgt Dobson

L to R: Cpl Robertson, SOinC, SSgt Lauder, OC, HRH, Sig Cordery and Sig Furniss

SHQ LINE UP

PERSONALITIES	
OC	**Maj R. F. Rutherford**
2IC	**Capt C. J. Manning**
YofS	**WO1 R. L. Waller**
SSM	**WO2 B. E. Whitton**
FofS	**WO2 R. A. Downie**
SQMS	**SSgt B. Thorp**
Chief Clerk	**Sgt H. J. Ripley**
FSO's Clerk	**Mrs Jinty Major**
Typist	**Ms Larraine Latimer**
MT Cpl	**Cpl A. Garner**
SDS Dvr	**Sig G. S. Etienne**
Dvr	**Sig P. T. Higgins**
Tech Stmn	**Sig S. West**

Here we go, I thought I'd done well, eight months in the job and this is the first time the 2IC's asked to to do some *Wire* notes on SHQ Tp. Don't forget to mention SQMS Dept and MT, 'OK', well I've done that, if they want more they can write their own. Oh yes—I'm not supposed to mention anyone winning DM50,000, so I won't.

Rather than go into a load of nonsense about how SHQ fatties beat R Tp (Canadians) in the five-a-side Football Competition, and about how busy we are in SHQ that I never set foot outside the office door during working hours and why do they call me SLJS (silly little jobs Sgt)! I'll give a brief on each of our personalities in SHQ Tp.

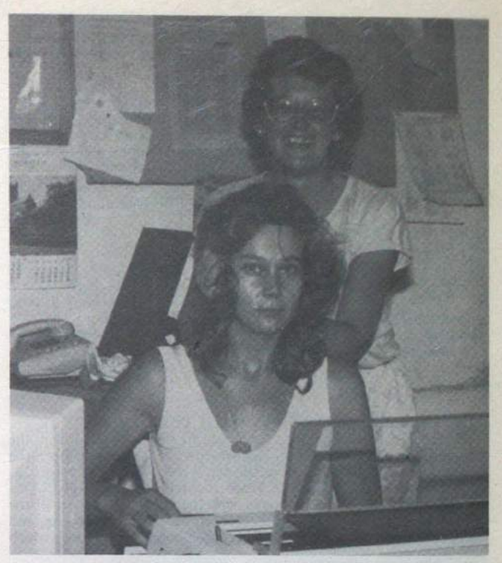
OC—Well he's a busy man (I was told to say that—it's report time) always attending Conferences or Chairing them (I'm sure people get 'Conference pay' over here as Conferences are so popular).

2IC—What can I say 'Mr Fixit', the Squadron account holder. he recently arranged a dream families weekend at a French 'Butlins' in Larnaca at vastly reduced rates (UN Discount). This was a highly successful weekend which everyone enjoyed and I know lots of them who are still on odd weekends (still with UN Discount). Back in the office the 2IC wants to know why it is when he wants coffee, the pot is always empty. It's okay Sir, we're getting a larger pot soon.

On to our SSM, **Angus Whitton**, a likeable chap for the job. He's never around, always sorting out some crisis or other (there's never a problem). 'Come in, sit down me old son, sit in the comfy seat—how much do you owe me?' For those of you who know **Angus**, yes he's still wearing Army socks with everything. I'm sure he's got more pairs than Donnington and believe me he gets full use out of them.

Our SQMS, **SSgt Barry Thorp**—ready to help out with anything (he runs open house so if any of you want a holiday in Cyprus you will know where to go!) Oh yes, and his accomplice **Sig West**, not long arrived but settling us all into his routine (I know what I'd have done if I'd won DM50,000!)

Now for the two loveable girls—**Jinty Major**, who frightens all the UNMP Det into paying their telephone bills and acts as our saviour with inside information on Speed Traps. And last but not least, **Larraine Latimer**, our dulcet toned typist who has the six monthers drooling over her voice on the telephone. **Larraine** has the guys coming to pay their telephone bills, using it as an excuse to meet the woman behind the voice.



Jinty Major and Larraine Latimer—'Cover your ears Larraine, it my be rude'

Finally, to all those of you in the not so hot sunny climes—Gosh it's hot!

Oh yes—I didn't mention the YofS or FofS once in my notes—well they get too much coverage anyway from the Troops.

MT have decided they can provide better notes themselves, so **Cpl Trucky Gardner** will no doubt sing the virtues of his two assistants, **Sig Etienne** and **Higgins** in the following paragraphs (and if not, they got a mention anyway).

Squadron presentation *L to R:* Mrs Anne Manning, Mrs Pam Phillips, SSgt Barry Thorp and Mrs Marion Thorp

IN RECOGNITION OF 22 YEARS LOYAL SERVICE

By the time most SNCO's reach their 22 year point, they're practically 'civvies'—on their last six months resettlement at Catterick. However, this 22 years service celebration took place in the United Nations Protected Area, Nicosia, Cyprus, with all Squadron Officers, WO's and SNCO's on station present. The dress and mood was informal, as the 22 year point covered in this article is 22 years service, not to the Army, but to the better half.

SSgt (SQMS) Barry Thorp and his wife **Marion** celebrated their 22nd anniversary on 18 July (one day late) in a mixture of Cyprus (barbecue) and British (knees up) styles. The evening was a roaring success continuing well into the morning with sustenance provided by honorary Master Chef **Sgt John Phillips**, dancing lessons by **Mrs Colette Rutherford**, music!? by **Mrs Ann Hossell**, and an impromptu but monotonous quiz by the OC Sqn **Maj Ruairidh Rutherford** which consisted of 'has anyone seen the song sheets' repeated at 15 minute

intervals throughout the evening—nobody had, of course, (least of all **WO2 (SSM) Angus Whitton**—well known for his love of community singing and who managed to restart the barbecue fire with ease, much to our relief.

Notwithstanding the loss of song sheets, a search party still had to be mustered to retrieve the 2IC, **Capt Charlie Manning**, and his fellow climbers from the barren wastes of 'Sunshine Mountain' which is apparently just down the road from old Macdonalds farm.

The presentation was made by **Mrs Anne Manning** and **Mrs Pam Phillips** on behalf of us all, a set of crystal glasses and a silver wine basket, which promised to be used with more frequency than the last presentation, (the LS and GC Medal award proper).

COMMCEN TROOP
PERSONALITIES

OC Tp	**WO1 (YofS) Waller**
Tp Sgt	**Sgt Hartshorne**
Day Cpl	**Cpl Everett**
Shift Commanders	
Cpl Bridges	**A Shift**
Cpl Meachin	**B Shift**
Cpl Croxford	**C Shift**

OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW

September saw a visit to the Commcen by the CPD team from the School of Signals, Blandford. This was for the conversion from the now antiquated T100 printers to the new Trend Word Processors, as **FofS Provart** from the CPD Team insisted they be called. This affected the Commcen in two ways, with the younger members of the Troop now becoming experts, having seen the Trend in training, and the older members left scratching their heads wondering which buttons to press.

Thankfully the CPD Team set up a training rig in the Commcen so the operators could familiarise themselves with the new printers oops! 'Word Processors' (sorry Foreman) before the actual conversion date the majority of the Troop members were suitably impressed with the Trend and its capabilities and in time younger members can hopefully get the old sweats amongst us competent on these new 'word processors'.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This month sees quite a large turnover of Troop personnel with farewells to: **Cpls Ritchie Cookson, Al Marlow, LCpls Jim Bowring, Paul Harris, Sig Dave Howells, Simon Meadowcroft, Mark Jones, Chris Nelson, 'Scouse' Barton** and **Sig Jock Gibb.**

We would also like to say welcome to new members: **Cpls John Bridges, Meach Meachin, LCpl Steve Gill, Sig Dan Burdus, Lee Turner, Phil Hewish, Andy Major, Geordy McKnight** and **Pete Messenger** (welcome back).

VISIT OF COLONEL IN CHIEF
by LCpl Mick Ginty

On 18 September **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO** visited Cyprus in her capacity as our Colonel-in-Chief. This visit involved all the Signal's Units on the Island. Commcen Troop's commitment for the visit was to show our Signals Dispatch vehicle and three of the Commcen Staff. **LCpl Mick Ginty** gave **HRH** a quick brief on the fact that we supply the last surviving Signals Dispatch Service. **Sig Simon Jones** informed the **Princess** that the Squadron is also responsible for a cable TV system that supplies all the quarters on the UNPA. On this system it is the SDS responsibility to run the SSVC video tapes and films each evening. The Colonel-in-Chief then viewed the SDS vehicle and spoke to **Sig Giles Etienne** about his work. The visit was greatly enjoyed by everyone and it took us a little while to settle back into our normal routine.

TECH AND LINE TROOP

August, September and October have been busy months for the entire Squadron, and Tech and Line Tp in particular.

ROYAL VISIT

Of course, the visit of our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO**, took months of planning and hard work from everyone. **Sgt Steve Dobson** headed the Tech and Line stand, supported by **LCpls Daz Bailey, Taff Thomas** and **Cpl Tim Hope**, one of our Canadian linemen. The Troop OC, **WO2 (FofS) Bob Downie**, was involved in the SHQ stand, and just had to pray that the lads remembered their lines!

BRITISH CONTINGENT MEDAL PARADE

Immediately after the Royal Visit, the Medal Parade kept everyone on their toes. **LCpl Dave Giles** was presented with his UN Medal by the Force Commander, **Gen Greindl**, while **Sgt Graeme Hossell** switched on the microphone with precision. The FofS was in action hosting our Australian visitors. The rest of the Troop acted as ushers, car park attendants, fatigue men, flag bearers etc.

SWEDCON WITHDRAWAL

Regular readers will be saddened to hear of the imminent withdrawl of the Swedish Contingent after more than 20 years in UNFICYP. The reorganisation of the Force, and its communications, is well advanced, although the FofS is going steadily grey trying to co-ordinate a constantly changing scenario involving Swedes, Austrians, Canadians and the two local Telecommunications Authorities. Well, no more 'swans' down to the Duty Free in Larnaca anymore!

WORK

In between the various parades and rehearsals, conferences and more rehearsals, we have been busy on the work side.

We finally managed to phase out the CST 1+4 No 3, replacing it with a (slightly) more modern equipment.

The Commcen leapt into the 1980's with assistance from the CPD team of **WO2 (FofS) Mick Provart** and **Cpl John Gardiner**, ably directed by our very own **Sgt Derek Bright**.

The cable TV system is still alive, and in fact behaving very well, with everyone who is supposed to be getting TV getting it in glorious technicolor! This is due to the untiring efforts of all the technicians, who gave up valuable sunbathing time, for the common good. On the Line Side, well, it appears that no one can put a shovel into the ground here without cutting into a telephone cable.

For the fifth time this year **Sgt John Phillips** and his jointing crew have had to make emergency repairs to broken cables.

Once the whole of HQ UNFICYP, including the Force Commander, lost the use of their telephones . . .

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

But it's not all work out here in sunny Nicosia. The Troop takes part in all, and any, sporting or social occasions. We celebrated the Royal Visit with a Squadron party in the car park, organised by **Sgts Derek Bright, John Phillips** and **Graeme Hossell. Sgt Phillips** is gaining a considerable reputation for his prowess as a chef, and has been in great demand as a barbecue organiser.

Cpl Ray Edge represented Support Regiment in a fun run from the Platres Trout Farm, up the side of Troodos Range to the Troodos Leave Centre. **Cpl Edge** swears he did not see any of the alleged flat bits, and says he will stick to Triathlons in future, they are easier.

So now we are all preparing for the rainy season, when cables which have dried and cracked in the sun start to snap and take in moisture, and the Line Tp are constantly fixing telephones while the Techs work on the Cable TV. When for a day or so, we are all glad that the heat has passed, before we start dreaming of hot days at Ayia Napa—next year perhaps.

RADIO TROOP
WITH REGRET

Radio Tp is mourning the loss of the most valuable member of the Troop. On 30 September, the Radio Rebroadcast Station in the Troodos mountains was closed.

The re-broadcast station was manned by a detachment of four personnel, two British and two Canadian. For the past two years, it was rumoured that the station would be closing soon, but it wasn't until the automatic re-broadcast station on Mount Olympus became operational that rumours became reality.

The Troodos re-broadcast station will be missed because it was a place far away from the normal daily hassles of working in a Troop. It was cool in the summer and not too far away from the ski hills in the winter. Troodos was also a place where other members of the Troop could go for a relaxing weekend and to get away from the heat of Nicosia. We will all miss the re-broadcast station in Troodos.

ARRIVALS/DEPARTURES

Radio Tp has had a large turnover during the past couple of months. We would like to say welcome to the following new arrivals. From the Canadian Signals: **Lt Kevin Ferguson, Cpls Ray Fairweather, Rick Woolsey, Tim Hope, Pte Dave Burneau, Ptes Randy Clark, Bob Turner** and **Mark Weatherby**, and on the British side: **Cpl Robertson, LCpls Donnelly, Cook, Sig Saunders, Enderby** and **Sig Cordery.**

We also said farewell and good luck to the following British: **Cpl Hunt, LCpls Patton, Hunt, Winship, Smith, Sig Morris** and **Hughes.** Canadian: **Lt Burke, MCpl Pike, Cpl Barber, Ptes Walsh, Foote** and **Altieri**.

259 Sig Sqn
BFPO 53

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Danny McConnell**
2IC	**Capt Peter Cain**
SSM	**WO2 Mick Willoughby**
CC	**SSgt Clyde Atherley**
Trg SNCO	**SSgt Les Allen**
ORC	**Cpl Ken Richards**
Clk	**Sig 'Aitch' Harper**

The Squadron Headquarters has been particularly busy during the last few months, preparing for the visit of the Colonel-in-Chief and various ARU Staff inspections. Although busy we still found time to take part in the monthly Squadron Hodgson Shield events. The rumours that 'Aitch' was glad to get out of the office to play Hockey are not true.

HEADQUARTER TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Capt Tony Morgan**
SQMS	**SSgt Stu Mullen**
MT Sgt	**Sgt Steve Owen**

EXERCISE *WET HAUL*

The following took part in this exercise: **Lt Andy Walker, OCdt Robin Butler Queen's UOTC, OCdt Joe Watling Tayforth UOTC, Sgt Steve Owen, Cpl Stan Staniford, LCpls Rory McCormick, Taff Roberts, Sig Scott Cain, Mick Howard, Ed Roberts** and Video: **SSgt Les Allan**, Camera: **Cpl Steve Kemble.**

The rumours of shark infested waters off Akrotiri Mole did not cause a shortage of volunteers for Ex *Wet Haul*. The aim was to give 84 Sqn RAF practice at air sea rescue. There was a practice winch on dry land and then everyone boarded a 10 Port Sqn RCL. Even the 'killer dolphins' spotted close to the RCL did not prevent **Sgt Steve Owen** from being first to leap into the water. He gave an encouraging cry of 'It's freezing' and then drifted off to wait to be rescued. In fact the water was fairly warm and everyone was winched to safety before the 'killer dolphins' could reach them.

Back L to R: Sgt Owen, Lt Walker, OCdts Butler, Watling and Cpl Staniford
Front L to R; Sig Howard, LCpl McCormick, Sig Cain, LCpl Roberts and Sig Roberts

AKROTIRI RAFT RACE

After extensive repairs and modifications (**Sig Ed Roberts** and **Sig Mick Howard** adding six new nails) the HQ Tp raft was relaunched at the Akrotiri raft race. The five highly trained crew members were **Lt Andy Walker, SSgt (SQMS) Stu Mullen, Sgt Steve Owen, Cpl 'Staniford** and **LCpl Taff Roberts.**

The team got off to a flying start, only to be sabotaged by the RAF Regt team. In the ensuing mêlée, one of the scientifically designed paddles, a spade, was lost. **Sgt Steve Owen**, then revealed his true identity, 'The man from Atlantis' and dived to the bottom of the harbour to recover it.

With a little help from a motor launch the team rescued their maiden in distress, **Miss Sarah Thomas**. The crew then powered the raft home to finish second behind the WARA team.

EPISKOPI TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Lt Nick Coldrey**
FofS	**WO2 George Blythe**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt 'Duggie' Ward**
NCO IC Line	**Sgt Sam Coster**
NCO IC Radio Relay	**SSgt Roy Habergham**
SQMS SWS	**SSgt 'Duggie' Ward**

Just to prove that it is possible to get involved in other activities in the run up to the Colonel-in-Chief's visit **Lt Nick Coldrey** was tasked to organise the admin and safety back up for the Lions of Limassol Charity Walk between Colossi and Limassol Castles.

To get in the mood and start the event our intrepid Lieutenant dressed in period costume, he did however draw the line at appearing on horse back. The period time piece, reference left wrist probably cannot be claimed as authentic.

The obvious push to sell Squadron track suits failed miserably. We are happy to report their efforts to sell the T-shirts etc in support of Muscular Dystrophy were considerably more successful.

Along the route the happy walkers were looked after and comforted by **Sig 'Scouse' Gain** and **Sig Gary Bradshaw.**

The event highlight was a grand procession along the sea front at Limassol which ended at the local Wine Festival. A good time enjoyed by all.

The Limassol Charity Walk
L to R: Sig Luckman, Sgt Farrell, Cpl Creighton, Sgt Higgins, LCpl Roberts and Sig Dickinson

AIRFIELD TROOP
PERSONALITIES

Tp OC	**Capt Les Budworth**
Tp SSgt	**SSgt Billy Allen**
Internal Maint	**Cpl Steve Brealey**
External Maint	**Sgt Kev Fitzpatrick**

September proved to be a busy month for Airfield Tp, with many personnel involved in the preparations for the Colonel-in-Chief's visit. The Troop was represented at Episkopi by **Sgt Neil McKie, LCpl Joe McGinness** and **Sig Bill Lilburn** who were all presented to **The Princess Royal.** Also presented at the Sovereign Club were **Cpl** and **Mrs Henry, Sig** and **Mrs McQueen, Sig** and **Mrs Bradley, LCpls Cascarino** and **David** and **Sig Durrand.**

No sooner had the Colonel-in-Chief departed than preparations for the RAF Akrotiri Open Day got under way, with the Troop providing a stand which demonstrated some of the work carried out by Royal Signals on the airfield.

On the sporting front the Troop had an overwhelming victory in the Hodgson Shield volleyball competition and were unlucky not to fare better in the hockey which was held on the same day at Mount Troodos.

Finally, this month sees the departure of two members of the Troop who will be sorely missed. **Sgt 'Rocky' Hudson** leaves for 21 Sig Regt (via the Falkland Islands), and **LCpl Dave Millington** departs for 13 Sig Regt on promotion to Corporal. Congratulations to **Dave** and best wishes and good luck to both in their new postings.

262 Sig Sqn
BFPO 58

PERSONALITIES

OC	**Maj Nigel Cory**
TOT	**Capt Colin Bachelor**
AO	**Lt Jan McKee**
SSM	**WO2 Dave Thomas**
YoS	**SSgt Bill Jackson**
CC	**Sgt John Salvesen**

Since the last write-up the Squadron, visits have abounded, ranging from OCdts to our Colonel-in-Chief, **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO**. No one believes our Yeoman of Signals, **SSgt Bill Jackson** when he tells us how desperately busy he is!

VISIT OF OUR COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

After much preparation by all Corps units in Cyprus the day finally dawned when the stands were to be exposed and go on view on the occasion of the visit of **HRH The Princess Royal GCVO**. Trying to remain cool, **SSgt (YosS) Jackson** fussed around the extra mural stands and breathed a sigh of relief when all went well during the visit. Thanks go from him to **Cpl Katrina Watson** and **Mrs Mandy Fitzmaurice** for producing the hockey stand, **Sgt Bob Lee** (Tech) and **Sgt 'Martin' Davies** for rock climbing, **Cpl Trev Cotter** for the Cyprus walkabout stand (did you have a nice stroll!), **Sgt Pete Fitzmaurice** for water skiing and finally (pause for breath) **Sgt Paul Goddard** and **LCpl Mike Millsopp** for canoeing/boardsailing. Congratulations **Mike** on your recent engagement to **Sally**. Does she know what she's letting herself in for, I wonder! Last but not least **Sgt Phil Tait** and **Sgt Bob Orchard** for our contribution to the RYA Sailing stand.

The second day was in the hands of **WO2 (FofS) Pete White** and his carefully nurtured stands. **The Princess Royal** was shown most of the equipment the Squadron uses, on a day-to-day basis, including pieces of Strowger exchange, T 100 R, Trends, Radios, Cable jointing and Klystron Valves from Cape Greco.

Thanks go to **WO2 (FofS) Brian White** (Greco), **Sgts Sharon Ley, Jerry Johnson, Mike Dighton, Sean Prior, Bob Orchard, Cpls Mick Keeble, Gary Hewings, LCpl 'Bully' Bullivant** and **Pte Jackie McCorry** for a very good display.

And finally congratulations on yet another engagement, that of **LCpl 'Bully' Bullivant** to **Cpl Jo McBroom**—the Commcen hasn't been the same since the flowers started to arrive!

25th Birthday celebration in the Squadron. Maj Cory and Liliane, and SSM Thomas and Jenny cut the cake surrounded by members of the Squadron

NEWS FROM COMMS TROOP
by Sgt Jerry Johnson (Tp Sgt)

After a fairly hectic exercise season in which the Troop has given radio support to 3 LI, the Coldstream Guards, Cheshires, 3 Para, and 244 Sig Sqn, who have all visited our lovely island on exercises, we are now thinking of Battle Camp. Yes, even as I write half the Squadron is thoroughly enjoying itself on that well-known tourist spot Akamas. No rest for the 'Rent a Det' Rebro which is there for the duration of the Camp. **Cpl Taff Francis, LCpl Taff Greenway** and **LCpl Mel McCorry** are having the time of their lives stuck up there on a hill and on their own. Some people do have all the luck!

We take this opportunity to welcome the new Troop OC, **Lt Jan McKee** who travelled far to come to us, all the way from Mountain Tp, 259 Sig Sqn at the other end of the island. Hard luck 259, your loss is our gain! Welcome also to **Cpl Nick Smith** from 3 RRF, and **Pte Jackie McCorry** from 16 Sig Regt.

Congratulations to **Cpl Stu Hartshorne** and **LCpl Mel (Mick) McCorry** (AIPT extraordinaire) on their recent promotions. We've given you that first tape; can you make PT easier now?

– News from Troops –

NATO FSS
(Shetland)

LS & GC PRESENTATION

On 4 September 1987 **Sgt Bob Freeman** was presented with his LS & GC Medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Shetland **Mr Magnus Shearer**. The presentation was attended by the Military personnel of NATO FSS (Shetland) and their families. During **Sgt Freeman**'s 15 years' service he has served in Northern Ireland, Canada, Cyprus and West Germany.

He joined NATO FSS Shetland in July 1986 and is due to depart to Northern Ireland.

DINING OUT WO1 (RSM) BAGGALEY

On 14 August we said goodbye to **WO1 (RSM) Baggaley** and his wife **Mandy** on the completion of his tour on Shetland and 22 years service. The diners, who included 60 military and honorary civilian members, were called to table by a local piper and to a superb meal prepared by **Sgt Bob Freeman ACC** and his cooks.

Sounding more like a Thomson Holiday Brochure at times, the OC, **Capt Ron Hails**, recalled some of the RSM's postings over his 22 year career. He then presented him with a canteen of cutlery on behalf of the men of FSS and the RSM presented the unit with a framed photograph of one of the beautiful sights of the Shetland Isles.

As elected spokesman for the many people who, over the past year, had lost their lighter to the RSM (he was always losing his own), **WO1 (FofS) Lee Brown** presented the RSM with a giant 'Zippo' lighter and challenged him to lose it.

Later, after retiring to the Maybury Club bar, and to the accompaniment of the piper, **Mr Baggaley** was ceremoniously hoisted above the shoulders of the SNCOs and thrown out of the Club!

We offer our best wishes for the future and every success in his new posting at the School of Signals, Blandford.

The Giant 'Zippo'
L to R: Mrs Rita Hails, WO1 (RSM) Baggaley, OC Capt Ron Hails and Mrs Mandy Baggaley

THE GREAT SHETLAND RELAY RACE

The Great Shetland Relay Race is an annual sponsored event to raise funds for handicapped people in Shetland and other local charities. The idea is that teams of 12 runners complete a route as a relay between North Roe, a village on the north-west coast of 'Mainland' and Maybury, home of NATO FSS (Shetland), in the south.

The first five miles of the race is run by one runner only. For the next 60 miles teams can baton-change as often as they wish—with the exception of the Lerwick stage which must be run by an over-45 year old; and two laps of the Lerwick running track which must be run by a female competitor.

Team transport in our case was the unit minibus with the rear doors removed. A team member would debus, sprint for 40-50m, hand over the baton to the next 'debussed' runner then jump back into the minibus and await his next turn. This went on . . . and on . . . and on.

The day of the race was, by Shetland standards, ideal for running. No rain and only a slight northerly breeze. **LCpl Chris Twigg** ran the five mile stage. He claimed to have gone flat-out but when he came to hand over the baton we were in seventh place. Bad news, as there were only nine teams competing. Meanwhile **Capt Ron Hails** had surprised us all by managing to fall asleep.

After 20 miles we had worked our way into fourth position. Overtaking had been difficult due to hilly terrain. **Capt Ron Hails** 'encouraged' us with the battle-cry 'Maybury eats hills' which, with three members of the ACC aboard was quite apt.

The ladies' section was run by **Angelina Still**. She also provided cups of Lucozade and lots of encouragement to the team.

At the 50 mile point people were starting to get tired and cramp became more of a problem but spirits revived when we passed the Mossy Hill ACE High Station which told us that we had only six more miles to go.

The final 200m was a team dash, with **Sgt Tom Tucker** racing off with the baton. The Maybury team finished fourth, in a time of 5hrs 15mins. Afterwards a buffet was held in the Maybury Club where the Lord Lieutenant of Shetland presented medals to the competitors and a good time was had by all. All-in-all a satisfying day and with the proceeds going to a worthy cause.

THE TEAM

Capt Ron Hails, Sgts Danny Still, Tom Tucker, Chris Liddle, Cpls Steve Pulman, Mac McDonald ACC, LCpl Chris Twigg, Pte Steve Lusty ACC, Pte Steve Gaughan ACC, Mr Mick Byrnes, Mrs Angelina Still and **Mr Howard Loates** (ex SSgt R Sig).

The minibus driver was **Sgt Steve Rowe** who found he had a load of back seat drivers on his hands.

The Maybury Shetland Replay Team
Back L to R: Sgts Tucker, Liddle, LCpl Twigg, Pte Lusty, Cpls Pulman, McDonald, Mr Loates and Capt Hails
Front L to R: Pte Gaughan, Mrs Still, Sgt Still and Mr Byrne

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We also say goodbye to **Sgt Bob Freeman ACC** and **Kate** posted to 8 Inf Bde HQ and Sig Sqn and **LCpl Bob Pott** joining 1 RHF in Edinburgh. The two latest arrivals are **Sgt Jim Sturgeon ACC** and his wife **Hazel** from 1 Queens and **LCpl Tom Anderson** and **Linda** from 40 Field Regt.

CONGRATULATIONS

These are extended to **Sgt Steve Jones** on his marriage to **Dee** on 3 October and to **Sgt Paul Wordsworth** and **Julie** on the birth of their son **Ryan** also on 3 October.

640 Sig Tp (EW)
Blandford

Despite a period of summer (?) block leave there is a lot to report on, so without further ado . . .

INS AND OUTS

We welcome to the fold **Cpl Harris** and his wife **Carol, Cpl Cooper** and **Sig Jenkins**. Hope your stay with us is enjoyable and varied.

We say farewell to **Sgt Sam Shaw**, wife **Chris** and children. He popped his head in to say goodbye after returning from a stint in the Falklands and whilst on the move to AA Coll. Best of luck for the future and many thanks for the involvement in and support to the Troop during its formative years.

ATTACHMENTS/DETACHMENTS

The two Royal Marines in the Troop are so much a part of the everyday life that we no longer feel they are attached!

During August four Troop members were detached to Comms & Sy Gp (UK) and gave a good account of themselves whilst there. Well done **Cpls Finch** and **Marchant, LCpl Beaumont** and **Sig (Now Mr) Taylor.**

Another Troop member detached in August was **Cpl 'Archie' Gemmell**—who joined up with C Tp 30 Sig Regt for a short exercise.

EXERCISES

Some of the exercises held during the past few weeks were purely for the benefit of Troop training—particularly for the newer Troop members.

Ex *Royals Ramble* I was organised by **Cpl 'General' Paton** and **Cpl 'Taff' Roberts** our 'bootnecks' and was based on a trek across Dartmoor training area by sections. There was a long drive to the exercise location and the mist did not encourage a good response from those particiating. Despite the weather conditions the sections set off with good intentions but after a few hours the exercise had to be called off, for safety reasons. Most of the participants remarked favourably on the concept and planning of the exercise, so much so that a second Ex *Royals Ramble* is planned in mid-October.

Ex *Long Shot* was a Troop DF training exercise held locally and mainly for the benefit of the newer members. **LCpl 'Smiler' Hamer** now seems more confident in his abilities, although his map-reading still needs polishing up.

Ex *Wiltshire Swan* was organised by 1 Inf Bde and involved just four detachments from the Troop, under command of **Sgt Dave 'Dad' Willis**. ECM concepts were introduced for the benefit of 1 Inf Bde members and such was the success of the Troop's efforts they actually returned to Troop lines earlier than planned.

TRIALS AND DEMOS

The Troop's own version of a KAPE tour—known as EWTAT (EW Troop Advisory Team)—continued with a display and demonstration of the capabilities of the Troop and its equipment to some of the staff and students at AA Coll at the end of September. **Capt Goff** took charge of the detachments that visited the College and the reception was good, albeit rather tiring considering the long journey involved. The EWTAT display is covered by the Ex name *Open Watch* and two more are planned during October—firstly as part of preparatory training for Ex *Purple Warrior* and also for the benefit of 2 Sqn 30 Sig Regt and the second for staff and members of 5 AB Bde HQ and Sig Sqn. The Troop is now becoming a familiar organisation, recognised by more and more in the Royal Signals.

Also held in September and involving the Troop OC and **Sgt 'Happy' Hayward**, TE Tech, was the annual Engineering Symposium. Some of the Troop's equipment was dismounted from vehicles to set-up on 2-3 stands at the Symposium. There were many visitors over the three days of the symposium and EW was well presented by the Troop's two representatives.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

In a continued effort to emphasise our independence of 30 Sig Regt, the Troop entered teams in both the Truscott Trophy (Blandford Camp cross-country event), and the Commander's Cup (a 2 Sig Bde annual event). Our runners in the Truscott Trophy were **Cpls Finch, Churchward, LCpl Hamer** and **Sig Bishop**. We had included our two bootnecks but it would appear they were unable to locate the start point! Despite this the Troop finished half-way up the final table. Next year, the OC and 2IC insist, more Troop members will be entered.

Truscott Trophy runners—Cpl Churchward (eyeing up the opposition)

There was more panic setting-in for our involvement in the Commander's Cup, particularly as most of the team were absent for much of the period that would have been set aside for training. Although there were no SNCO's in the team and also, at one stage, the team was withdrawn from the competition, we still ventured to enter the Troop and gave an excellent account of ourselves in the process. Many tales have come back to the Troop about the whole day but overall the team members enjoyed the experience and are now more aware of the requirements for next year's competition when, with a lot more time dedicated to training, we may well threaten the Regimental and Squadron teams that took part this year and will probably take part next year. In the spirit of the Olympics the importance of the day was 'taking part' not winning. We managed maximum points for team spirit and overall effort and left 2 Sig Bde with a good impression of the Troop. The 'Gladiators' were—**Cpl Roberts (Team leader), Cpls Churchward, Finch, Gemmell, Cpl Paton RM, LCpls Beaumont, Hamer, Sig Bishop, Campbell, Jenkins, Mundy** and **Sig Smith**.

Commanders Cup Team on completion of the days competition
The Team
L to R Rear: LCpl Hamer, Cpl Paton RM, Sig Campbell, Jenkins, Cpls Churchward, Roberts RM, Sig Smith and Cpl Gemmell
L to R Front: Cpl Finch, LCpl Beaumont, Sig Bishop and Mundy

On the social front we submit this report from **LCpl 'Mouldy' Greene**:-

It was decided at a recent Troop meeting (democratic vote, show of hands, etc) to hold a Skittle/Conker night. **Sgt Mitchell** did most of the organising and was obviously so tired by it all that he decided not to join-in the mayhem. A local pub bowling alley was booked and conker trees were stripped of their prize possessions for use on the night. The rules for the night's events were quite simple, bowling involved merely throwing the ball down the alley and knocking down as many skittles as possible, without harming anyone. As for conkers—they were not to be treated in any way prior to the competition, although **'General' Paton** was allowed to get away with his excuse of dropping his conker, purely by accident, in the microwave at home. String was to be of a reasonable length and the nut held between 8 and 15in from the hand, not like **'Archie' Gemmell** who held his 2in off the ground in the hope his opponent would smash his conker on the ground. Dress for the night was, well, silly! Those playing with their conkers wore shorts and school ties—in fact, it's surprising how they were allowed entry in to the pub and then allowed to buy beer! It is difficult to say who won the conkers competition because some of the rules were either overlooked or just not understood at all. More fun seemed to be had from making contact with items other than an opponents conker—eg windows, tables, fruit machine, glasses, etc. Various shouts were heard during the course of the night—'ow, me elbow!' 'pick up your bits!' etc. Meanwhile the bowling was going along nicely with the wives proving to be better players than the men and also proving to be more discreet in their overall behaviour. By the end of the night it was obvious that everyone had enjoyed themselves and if it is necessary to have a seasonal theme to coincide with a 'Troop do' I would like to suggest a 'snow-ball' competition in January.

The fisherman's friend—Sgt Dave Taylor

A LOOK FORWARD

Having reported on what appears to be a busy season, there is still a lot ahead of us. We have two exercises planned to prepare us for the major deployment of 1987—Ex *Purple Warrior*. The majority of the Troop are currently undergoing LPD familiarisation in Plymouth Sound, courtesy of 3 Cdo Bde HQ and Sig Sqn RM. A report will be featured on that, especially as I shall produce the notes in comfort and as I look out of my office window and witness the heavy downfall of rain and hailstorm—I shall wonder how the English Channel (and our lads) are fareing.

Bristol University OTC

Report by WO2 (SSM) Warburton

To many people taking on 16 Officer Cadets and 1 PSI for a two week attachment must seem a daunting task. However, this is what 21 Sig Regt did. With a great deal of help from **Capt Heath**, who I might add, was posted to the School a couple of weeks before, (crafty one might say) and 2 Sqn, the visit went ahead. Below are two small articles written by the officer cadets.

It is clear from their remarks that it was a great success and must show the Corps in good light. Well done 21 Sig Regt. Now that they have set the ball rolling it's up to you. Can you offer the same—whether it be Div, Bde or RCZ it doesn't matter—we will be there! If there are any offers, the address is below, but I warn you we will snap your hands off.

It is worth noting that the Officer Cadets paid their own way over so they are keen—are you? **WO2 (SSM) Warburton** Royal Signals PSI, Bristol University OTC, The Artillery Grounds, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LG.

No-one would wish to condemn any regular unit to the task of entertaining a group of 15 students from a University Officers' Training Corps. However, 21 Sig Regt based at RAF Wildenrath were brave enough to invite such a group from the Bristol UOTC over to Germany for a two week attachment. It must be said, however, that although most of us were members of the Signal Tp in our OTC we did not really know what to expect of the trip. Luckily due to the way the two weeks were organised we were able to spend time with both the officers and the men of the regiment and gain a clearer insight into its role.

We were initiated in the workings of the Ptarmigan system by **Lt Lewis** and the men of 2 Sqn. It all seemed a bit baffling at first, especially to a non-scientist like me, but in the two weeks we managed to pick up the basic knowledge of how the system operated. We also had the opportunity to see Ptarmigan in action while on exercise for three days on the Harrier sites which was of great interest to us particularly as in the OTC we are brought up on exercises where no sleep and complete exhaustion is the name of the game if only for a couple of days. Needless to say we are very grateful to the men who looked after us in the field for those three days.

A Shattered Team—after the Gas Chamber—before the assault course Competition

We were entertained for a lot of the time also by the Regimental Training Wing, who put us through our paces on a number of activities including NBC training, aircraft recognition and orienteering. In the last of these it wasn't only the officer cadets who showed ineptitude with a map!

Many thanks must go to **Sgt Strefford** and **Cpl Watts** for putting up with our ignorance and witty repartee during our time with them. It only remains to reiterate our thanks to the officers and men of 2 Sqn and to our driver **LCpl Jack Hawkins**; we had an enjoyable stay.

OCdt Mark Turner

At the end of August, 15 of our members and our PSI **SSM B. Warburton** travelled to Wildenrath for a two week attachment with 2 Sqn, 21 Sig Regt. We paid our own fares to Munchengladbach where we were met by **Lt C. Lewis** and **Lt D. Pratt**, both of whom we were to see a great deal in the next week.

For the first week our time was split between 2 Sqn and the Regimental Training Wing. 2 Sqn, through a Landrover mounted VHF exercise, checked our knowledge of voice procedure, BATCO and map reading. They also introduced us to Ptarmigan; most of us managed to grasp the basics of the system by the end of two weeks. The Regimental Training Wing, under **Sgt Strefford**, gave us instruction in weapon training, including live firing on the ranges, orienteering and NBC training. **Cpl Watts**, in particular, took great pleasure in ensuring we all got gassed after being at the wrong end of our sharp wit after this terrible map reading mean't he was at the wrong checkpoint during the orienteering.

We were fortunate to be there while the RAF were starting a two week Harrier exercise at Sennelager. So at the start of our second week we moved out to spend two full days on the flying sites. We split into groups of two or three to join the Royal Signals detachments on each of the sites. Due to the nature of the exercise there was little for the Ptarmigan dets to do and so even less for us. However, taking full advantage of this situation we were able to study the RAF in action with visits to the flying control centre, a look at the RAF Regiment positions around the sites, and a good look at a Harrier. Many of us can now say that we have sat in a Harrier although none of us was able to get a flight.

Back at Wildenrath we were faced with a vacuum due to 2 Sqn still being on the exercise. Thankfully the Training Wing stepped into the breach and kept us busy, arranging a survival demonstration by the RAF and a visit to the Rapier dome, amongst other visits.

Of course, it wasn't all work and we had several pleasant evenings in the Officers' mess at Wildenrath. There was also the Station barbecue and a sports afternoon against the men of 2 Sqn.

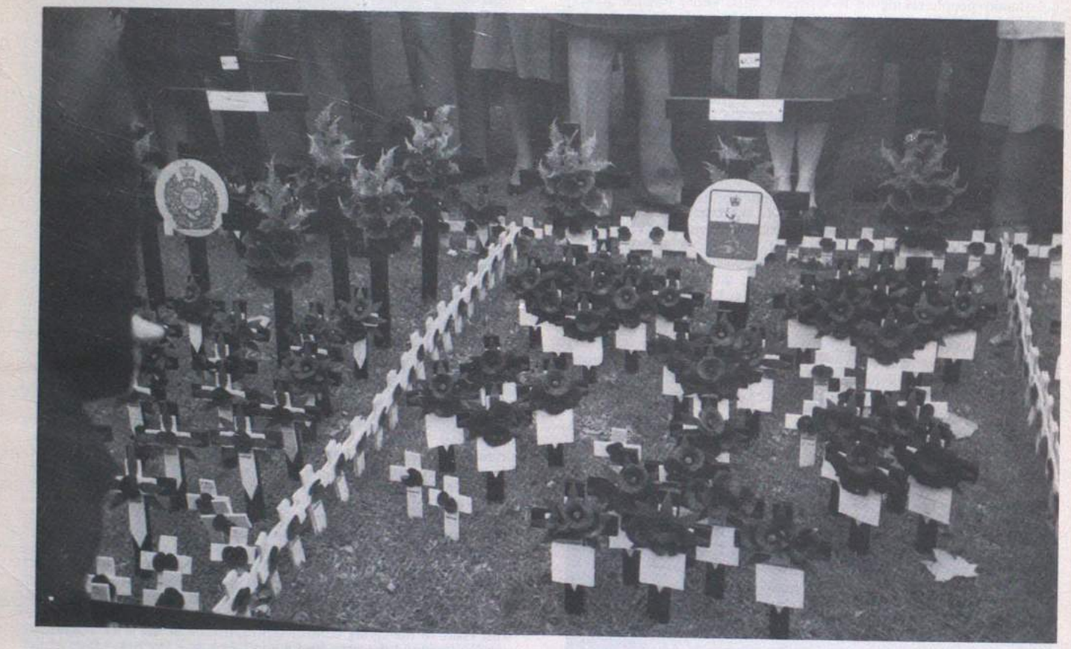
The visit was enjoyed by all. Finally, I would like to thank 21 Sig Regt and particularly 2 Sqn and the Regimental Training Wing for inviting us and subsequently putting up with us.

OCdt Colin Edwards

ADVERTISING

Notices and advertisements, other than those related to a business interest, will be published free of charge to serving members of the Corps, and to those retired members who subscribe to *The Wire*. All matters for publication must reach the Editor by the 12th of the month preceding publication. All other advertisements should be forwarded to our advertising managers, Service Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 4, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7LR (Telephone 0252 515891) who will advise charges.

The Field of Remembrance 1987



CARDIFF

The Branch meets once a month at Echo Troop (V), 244 Sig Sqn at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff. We are indebted to **Capt Shaun Swithenbank**, OC Tp for letting us use the Troop's facilities and for much support.

1987 has been an eventful year for the Branch. In January, our Chairman, **Mr Ted Bolton**, was awarded the BEM in the New Year Honours List. In July he was granted Honour Membership of the Royal Signals Association by the Central Committee in recognition of his service to the Association and the Branch. Cardiff members were, needless to say, very delighted by these awards. Also in July, one of our members, **Mr Ted Murch** received an invitation to attend HM The Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 28th. This invitation came through **Ted**'s links with the 'Not Forgotton Association'. **Ted** has been a patient off and on over the years at Rookwood Hospital in Cardiff, as a result of war service in Burma. **Ted** spent four days in London and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Once again the Branch organised coaches to take members to the Blandford and Catterick reunions where a good time was had by everyone.

Looking ahead, the Branch will hold its Annual Dinner at the end of November and the AGM will take place in January 1988.

Mr Ted Bolton BEM

DERBY BRANCH

Report by Dorothy Williamson

Sadly I report the death on 18 September of Maj M. A. W. Rose TD (Bill). We, his fellow committee members, were so hopeful of his recovery and are deeply grieved for his wife Pat and family.

Four of our committee members received an invitation from 46 Sqn to their Annual Camp at Penhale. Meeting up with Association members from other branches and serving friends makes an enjoyable weekend. They bring back memories, keep us in touch with the Regiment, and although we are ageing, with a few puffs and pants we manage to keep up the pace.

On Sunday 8 November, Remembrance Sunday, at the Kingsway Training Centre Derby, members of the Association, together with 46 Sqn, entertained **Mrs Haslehurst** (widow of **Col A. K. Haslehurst TD JP**) and her family at lunch and presented her with a suitably inscribed crystal rosebowl in recognition of his 58 years service and dedication to the Corps and to the branch.

'K' Company, Liverpool 1925-28

A personal reminiscence from ***Maj (Retd) C. W. Catt*** whose last contribution to The Wire *appeared in 1938. He now lives in Miami.*

At the time, 35 boys aged 15-17½ from F Company and destined to be classified as 'Operators, Line' were trained at the Head Post Office in Liverpool. They were accommodated in two rooms at Seaforth Barracks, the Depot of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment.

A married R Signals Sergeant was in charge. First **Sgt Noonan** then **Sgt Leath**, with **Sgts Herbert** and **Murray** as reliefs during leaves.

The days were regular and fully occupied. We would be out of bed at 0630 hrs every day. On Mondays and Thursdays we did PT from 0800 hrs till 0900 hrs under the Depot PT Staff then, with no more than a rub-down, were at the HPO from 1030 hrs till 1445 hrs, having an excellent lunch in the restaurant. I've no note or memory how that was paid for, but certainly not by us boys personally.

On Mondays we returned to the barracks for a lecture by the Sergeant on some aspect of military training or E&M and on Thursdays we went swimming in the baths at Bootle.

On Tuesdays and Fridays we were at the HPO from 0900 hrs until 1445 hrs, again lunching there. On Tuesdays we returned to barracks for educational classes, most obtaining the Army 1st Class Certificate while at Liverpool. 'Lorna Doone' and 'Hereward the Wake' were set books during my time. Friday afternoons were devoted to 'interior economy' prior to inspection by the Depot Staff on Saturdays. Each boy handscrubbed his bedspace with soap and water from the wall to the centre of the room, and each had a task allotted for the cleaning of coal tubs, fireplaces, forms, lavatories, tables, washroom and windows.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays we did 10 minutes drill then were at the HPO from 0900 hrs till noon. On Wednesday afternoons there was an organised game for those good enough to be in a team. Those not good enough got no practice to enable them to improve, but were expected to support. Saturday afternoons were free, although often there would be another organised game. We played against schools in the area.

We travelled from Seaforth to Liverpool by the overhead railway, using season tickets, dressed in jackets buttoned to the neck, riding breeches, heavy boots with studs, puttees wound downwards from four inches below the knee to the ankle, and leather bandolier (later replaced by a belt). Spurs were not worn to work. We had to attend church on Sunday mornings, dressed as for work with the additon of spurs. Sunday afternoons were free.

On Tuesday evenings those professing CofE faith attended religious instruction at the local vicarage. When I first went the Vicar was 'going through' the Prayer Book. We'd to sit in chairs very close together in rows very close together and those in all but the front row read books of their own choice. A new Vicar confessed he'd not been told of this task and asked for suggestions. It was agreed we'd study the religions of the world, starting from the Far East. He seated us differently and 18 months later we still were in the Far East.

Other evenings were free. Those before workdays were spent mainly in cleaning for the next day. Boots highly polished black, bandolier/belt and chinstrap highly polished brown, cap and collar badges, jacket buttons and shoulder titles of brass polished, while 'grips' on the inside of legs of breeches, and puttee tapes, had to be blancoed khaki. During any evening we read, yarned, argued and raided the cookhouse in the dark, the last unnecessary had those responsible realised that 15-18 year old boys are hungry animals.

A few boys were selected to be in the Depot PT Display Team, appearing at garden parties and fêtes in the neighbourhood and, in a display during one of the King's Regiment's battle honour days, some had to act as Afghan tribesmen, causing a mild sensation for several days after because we darkened our skin with permanganate of potash.

Pay was 7/- (seven shillings—35p) a week, of which 4/6d (22½p) was left to credit till holiday time and we were given 2/6d (12½p) cash. 1/6d (7½) was spent regularly, 9d (3.75p) for laundry, 6d (2½p) for swimming and 3d (1¼p) for barrack cleaning material. Typically the remaining 1/- (5p) might go as 6d for cinema and 6d for a fish and chip supper, but blanco and polishes had to be bought periodically and some boys smoked.

At the HPO we were trained with a similar number of civilian boys and girls. The School Superintendent (**Tommy Waring**) and his two assistants were fantastic telegraphists. About 12-15 months were spent practising the sending and receiving of the morse code by key and sounder, learning to punch tape and to use the Wheatstone transmitter and receiver. When a morse key was depressed the armature of a sounder was pulled down and when the key was released the armature sprang up. It was the length of pause between the two clicks which constituted a dot or a dash—quite different from the length of noise heard from a buzzer or the radio. The morse code on transmitting tape (paper about ½in wide) was represented by two holes opposite each other for a dot and at a 45 degree angle (with the nearer hole to the right) for a dash. The tape was fed into a contrivance having three buttons punchable downwards. The operators held a metal 'punch' (shaped something like the small handle of a file, with a rubber pad at the end) in each hand then hit the left button for a dot, the right button for a dash and the centre button, usually with the right punch, for a space. Great fun! When put through the transmitter at high speed, tape came out of the receiver with actual dots and dashes thereon which had to be transcribed.

One then went into the Instrument Room, where Liverpool was connected in the telegraphic network with telegraphic offices all over Great Britain. At first it was a chaotic noise from hundreds of sounders in their wooden hoods. One spent some time alongside an expert, then went alone on to circuits working the local telegraph offices and eventually graduating to the busy and fast circuits to and from the larger cities.

We had enormous respect for the experts, who would finish their sentence chatting to a neighbouring expert, or their row of knitting, before apparently attending to the clicks from their sounder, and then would write down what had been received.

A misdemeanour of some of us boys was to change slightly the affectionate message a commercial traveller sent to his wife daily.

Bringing and collecting the telegrams to and from telegraphists were 'check' girls. Fresh from school at 15-16 and thus employed while waiting to start training as telephone switchboard operators. Friendships formed between these girls and some of us boys, were actively encouraged by the Sergeant; such friendships helped. All the PO girls were attractive and pleasant and although, so far as I know, associations didn't last more than six months after a boy left Liverpool, there is no doubt that the girls, the parents and homes were a very good influence on us boys.

Boys returned to 'F' Company Catterick when 17½ years old to complete training prior to joining the ranks at 18.

CRICKET

CRICKET 1987 SEASON
Report by Maj I. W. Griffiths

1987 was a season of mixed fortune, firstly the weather affected several games although only the RAC match was abandoned. The wicket at Blandford continues to deteriorate, such that winning the toss becomes the most important part of the game. In the event we won four, lost four and drew three, several new players emerged this season and we played a new fixture against GOC NE Dist XI during their cricket week at Strensall, York.

For the first time in many years the Corps had two quick opening bowlers in **Sig Taylor** and **Cpl Glean**. They took over 40 wickets between them and their efforts were the main contributions to the Corps success this season. They were ably supported in the bowling department by the evergreen offspin bowler **WO2 (RQMS) Taylor**. Sadly the batting proved to be frail at times and the team had to rely on the experience of **Lt Col Coltman** (88 versus RMAS, 119 versus RA and 54 versus RAPC), **Sgt Gilbert** (53 versus REME), **SSgt Grossmith** (63 versus REME and 49 versus RAOC) and **Capt Luckett** (51 versus RE). When the more experienced batsmen failed, the team generally was unable to capitalise on winning positions that had been created by the bowlers. The fielding was sound, at times brilliant but on the occasions it let us down the opposition went on to make big scores. Team morale has been high throughout the season and it has been a pleasure to Captain the side.

The future of the Corps Cricket Team is looking good, for in addition to **Cpl Bascombe**, who toured the Caribbean with the Army, we have **AT Johns** at Harrogate who has played several matches for the Army this year, although I failed to get him to turn out for the Corps. **Sig Lenny** (8 Sig Regt) has been selected to represent the Welsh U19 on a forthcoming tour to Barbados. He had a promising opening season for the Corps including a highly creditable 6—38 bowling spell against the RAF. **Lt Beard** recently commissioned into the Corps has been chased by the Army all year but his attendance on his Troop Commanders Course has made it difficult to play a lot of cricket this year. Lastly **AT Pickles** of AAC Harrogate played against the Corps for GOC NE Dist XI and returned the figures of 2—6 and looks an exiting prospect for the future.

Special mention must be made of a resounding win over the Sappers for the first time in 10 years (that's as far back as the score book goes!)

Secondly many thanks to **Cpl D. Ryan** (School of Signals) who has been the club scorer over the last three seasons. His scoring has been meticulous and colourful, it is always a pleasure to look through the book and see his work. He has also been called upon to play occasionally and I think he has attended more matches in the last three years than any of the players.

I write this report knowing I am posted to BAOR in December, **Capt David Luckett** will be assuming the role of secretary but the position of Captain is yet to be decided.

Colours were awarded to **Sig Taylor** and **Cpl Ryan**.

Royal Signals-v-RAOC
June 1987

Back Row L to R: Sgt I. Gilbert (10 Sig Regt), LCpl R. Charley (3 Div Sig Regt), Cpl I. Pinsent (16 Sig Regt), 2Lt F. MacLennan (30 Sig Regt), Cpl P. Collins (30 Sig Regt), Sig M. Taylor (School of Signals), Sig I. Lenny (8 Sig Regt) and Cpl D. Ryan (School of Signals *(Scorer)*)
Front Row L to R: WO1 (SC) F. Dempster (MOD), Lt Col S. Coltman (38 Sig Regt (V)), Maj I. Griffiths (School of Signals *(Captain)*), Capt K. Barrett (School of Signals) and SSgt B. Grossmith (2 Div Sig Regt)

RESULTS
P12 W4 D3 L4 No Result 1.

RMSA Sandhurst	169—7 dec	**Sig Taylor**	3—43
		WO2 Taylor	3—32
R Signals	165—9	**Lt Col Coltman**	88
	Match Drawn		
R Signals	181—5 dec	**SSgt Grossmith**	63
		Sgt Gilbert	53
REME	90	**Sig Taylor**	4—22
		WO2 Taylor	3—8
	R Signals Won by 91 Runs		
RAF Signals	171	**Sig Lenny**	6—38
		Sig Taylor	3—30
R Signals	83		
	RAF Signals Won by 88 Runs		
R Signals	116	**SSgt Grossmith**	49
RAOC	120 for 4		
	RAOC Won by 6 Wkts		
ACC	57	**Cpl Charley**	3—6
		Cpl Glean	3—18
R Signals	61 for 2		
	R Signals Won by 8 Wkts		
RCT	124	**Cpl Charley**	3—29
R Signals	85—6	**Sig Lenny**	35 NO
	Match Drawn		
RAC	38—2		
	Match Abandoned Rain		
R Signals	222—5 dec	**Lt Col Coltman**	119 NO
		Cpl Collins	38
RA	163	**Cpl Charley**	5—26
		Cpl Glean	4—39
	R Signals Won by 59 Runs		
RE	151	**Cpl Barnett**	3—30
R Signals	152 for 6	**Capt Luckett**	51 NO
		SSgt Knight	33
	R Signals Won by 4 Wkts		
R Signals	1st Innings		
	128		
	2nd Innings		
	199	**Lt Col Coltman**	54
		SSgt Knight	48
RAPC	1st Innings		
	187 for 9 dec	**WO1 Balding**	5—80
	2nd Innings		
	143 for 6	**WO2 Taylor**	3—63
		Cpl Glean	3—49
	RAPC Won by 4 Wkts		
R Signals	201 for 8	**Lt Col Coltman**	48
		Sgt Watts	36
RMC	161 for 4		
	Match Drawn		
R Signals	107		
NE Dist	111 for 1		
	NE Dist Won by 9 Wkts		

The following have represented the Corps this season:

Name	*Unit*
Col Garton	AA Coll
Col Carr-Smith	MOD (Army)
Lt Col Coltman	38 Sig Regt (V)
Maj Griffiths	School of Signals
Capt Barrett	School of Signals
Lt MacLennan	30 Sig Regt
Lt Beard	School of Signals
WO1 Balding	RMAS Sandhurst
WO1 Dempster	MOD (Army)
WO2 Taylor	AA Coll
SSgt Grossmith	2 Inf Div Sig Regt
Sgt Gilbert	10 Sig Regt
Sgt Watts	AA Coll
Cpl Collins	30 Sig Regt
Cpl Glean	School of Signals
Cpl Ryan	School of Signals
Sig Taylor	School of Signals
Sig Lenny	8 Sig Regt
Cpl Charley	3 Div Sig Regt
Cpl Barnett	1 Inf Bde Sig Sqn
Cpl Pinsent	16 Sig Regt
Cpl Howard	204 Sig Sqn
Cpl Bascombe	School of Signals
Capt Luckett	AA Coll
SSgt Knight	30 Sig Regt
Sgt Hodgeson	30 Sig Regt
WO2 Hales	School of Signals
Lt Whimpenny	2 Div Sig Regt
Lt Gale	2 Div Sig Regt

LEADING AVERAGES

Batting	Innings	Not Out	Runs	Highest Score	Average
Lt Col S. Coltman	9	1	338	119*	42.50
SSgt B. Grossmith	4	0	133	63	33.25
SSgt P. Knight	4	0	115	48	28.80
Cpl M. Glean	5	3	55	25*	27.50

Bowling	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Cpl R. Charley	25	9	61	11	5.50
Sig M. Taylor	85	18	208	16	13.00
WO2 D. Taylor	74.1	14	192	13	14.80
Cpl H. Glean	150	41	377	24	15.70
Sig I. Lenny	65	18	176	9	19.60

Catches

Maj I. W. Griffiths	15
Cpl P. Collins	4
WO1 B. Balding	4

GOLF

Report by Maj (QM) J. E. Ient

On Friday 4 September 1987 the Royal Signals GS (North) under the captaincy of **Maj Bill Price** played the RAOC GS. The match was played at the Fulford International GC York with a first tee time of 0930 hrs. A strong southerly wind but, otherwise, conditions were perfect and after a coffee battle commenced. During the morning the foursomes (greensomes) produced a 3 to 1 result in our favour and after a light lunch the singles 4½ to 3½ to the RAOC. Final result Royal Signals 6½ RAOC 5½.

AM Greensomes

Lt Col Waumsley & Cpl Boyd	Win 6 to 5
Maj Price & SSgt Paterson	Win 1 up
Lt Col Elliott & Lt Col Hall	Win 1 up
Maj Vigus & Maj Ient	Lost 3 and 2

PM Singles

Cpl Simon Boyd	Half
SSgt Max Paterson	Win 3 and 2
Lt Col John Elliot	Lost 4 and 2
Maj John Ient	Half
Lt Col Derek Hall	Win 5 and 4
Maj Gus Vigurs	Lost 2 Down
Maj Bill Price	Lost 2 Down
Lt Col Les Waumsley	Half

The competition was followed by an excellent supper in good company and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Goods Available from Association Headquarters

The following items are available from the Association

Any telephone enquiries to London District (STD (01) 930 4466) Ext 8245.

	Overseas £	UK £
'Jimmy' in bronze. Height 11½" including plinth. Produced by Peter Hicks for the Association	39.00	43.70
'Jimmy' in solid bronze. Height 6½" including plinth in presentation box	28.75	32.70
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)	20.00	23.00
Corps table mat (large) 15" by 11½"	6.30	7.15
Corps cocktail mats (set of six)	6.50	7.40
Corps wall plaque (scrolls 'Royal Corps of Signals' or blank)	9.00	10.00
Corps cuff links (revised pattern)	4.60	5.00
Blazer badge	5.10	5.85
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, metal disc with enamelled Corps badge, leather tag	1.25	1.40
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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	1.20	1.40
small	1.15	1.30
Association lapel badge (new pattern, members only)	0.40	0.45
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Corps crest on foil. Framed and glazed	5.00	5.65
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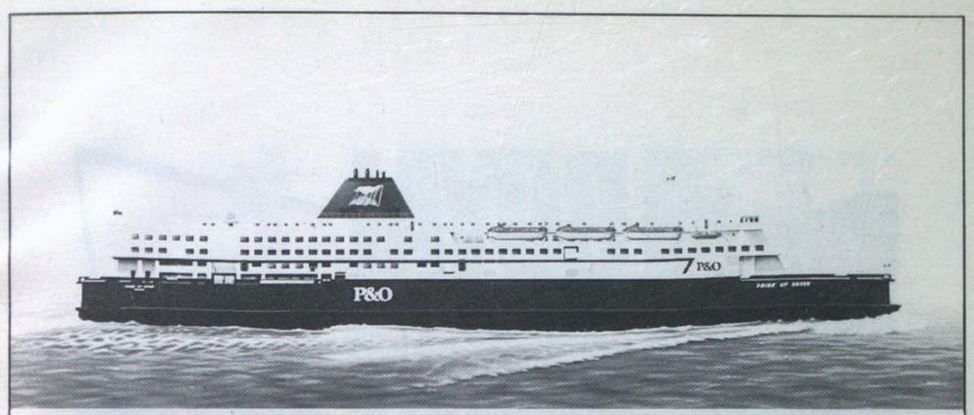

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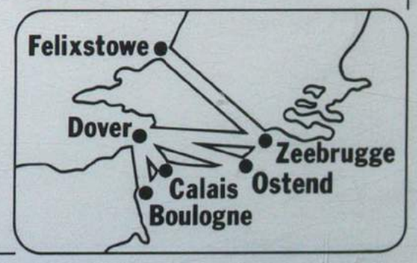

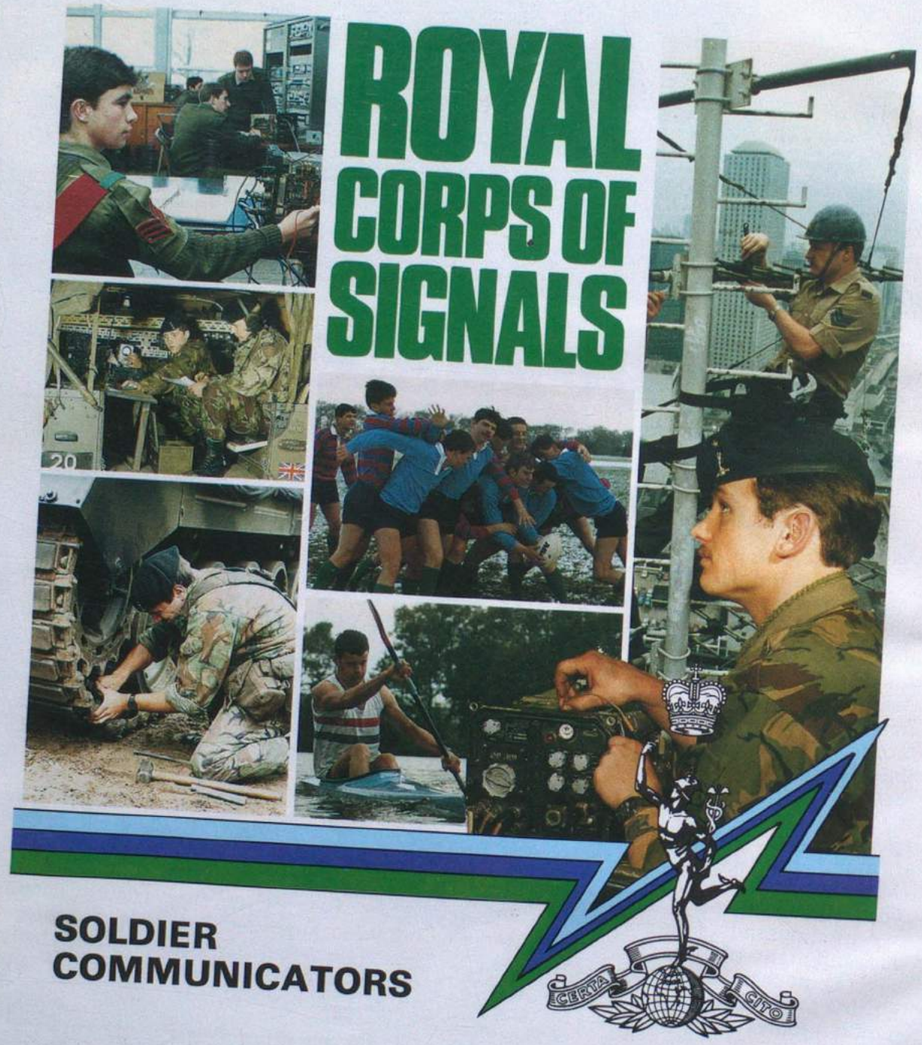

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